

U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal
Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens

Possible Opposition March in Dakar Wednesday, February 15th

February 15, 2012

This message is to inform U.S. citizens in Senegal that the “M23” opposition movement has announced plans to march from the Place de l’Obelisque and/or from the office of Radio and Television Senegal (RTS) in downtown Dakar to the Place de l’Independence on February 15th despite the government’s current ban on demonstrations and protests in the downtown area. Depending upon the size of the turnout, there is the potential for violence should the police try to enforce the ban and the protestors refuse to disburse. Organizers have called for the march to start at 11am, but recent demonstrations have started much later in the day. Students at the University of Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Dakar may also join in the march as their grievances over an extended teacher’s strike have not been addressed by the government.

Given the uncertainty of exactly when and how large the demonstration and march in the downtown area may be, U.S. citizens are encouraged to exercise caution if traveling in this area of Dakar (from Place de l’Obelisque and RTS to the Place d’Independence) on Wednesday. Demonstrations could quickly turn violent. Stay tuned to media reports, maintain situational awareness, consider alternate travel routes in case of blockage and avoid demonstrations should you come upon them.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Dakar web site (<http://dakar.usembassy.gov/>). You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warning, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1013.html). If you don't have internet access, you can get current information on safety and security by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP - <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on at Avenue Jean XXIII, Dakar; the mailing address is B.P. 49, Dakar, Senegal. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to consulardakar@state.gov. The Embassy telephone number is +221 33 829-2100. For After Hours Emergency, please call Tel: 33-829-2209 and ask to speak to the duty officer.