

Subject: Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Possible Unrest in Guinea-Bissau Following Death of President Sanha

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January 9, 2012

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This message is to inform U.S. citizens in Guinea-Bissau that media sources have reported that the Head of State of Guinea-Bissau, President Malam Bacai Sanha, has died. President Sanha has been in France for medical treatment since November. Following his death, there is an increased potential for political instability and civil or military unrest in Guinea-Bissau. U.S. citizens are urged to use caution in the coming days should unrest ensue and to avoid demonstrations should they come upon them.

U.S. citizens are encouraged to stay informed and to practice good situational awareness when they are moving about in Guinea-Bissau. Travel plans should be amended to account for the possibility of civil or military unrest and/or disturbances. We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can quickly and without much advance warning turn confrontational and escalate into violence. The U.S. Embassy, therefore, urges U.S. citizens to avoid crowds, political gatherings, and street demonstrations, even if they appear to be peaceful, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations. U.S. citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

There is currently no permanent U.S. diplomatic or consular presence in Guinea-Bissau. The U.S. Embassy in Dakar, Senegal is accredited for all diplomatic and security concerns. The U.S. Liaison Office in Bissau (BLO) can provide limited services to U.S. citizens in the event of an emergency. However, all security and consular services should be coordinated through American Citizens Services Section and the Regional Security Office at the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, Senegal. The U.S. Liaison Office is located at: Edificio SITEC, Rua José Carlos Schwarz 245, Bairro d'Ajuda (Telephone: 245-325-6382).

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Dakar website (<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 Warnings, 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, we have a call center for updates--1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on 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 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 emergencies, U.S. citizens should call (221) 33-829-2209 and ask to speak with the duty officer.
