

U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal
Warden Message: Demonstrations

June 22, 2011

This warden message is to inform U.S. citizens about possible demonstrations surrounding the meeting of the National Assembly on Thursday, June 23rd. Likely locations for possible demonstrations include the National Assembly, Place d'Independence, the University of Cheikh Anta Diop, the Ministry of the Interior and the Presidential Palace.

On Thursday, June 23rd, the Senegalese National Assembly is scheduled to begin deliberations on a new bill that will amend the Constitution with respect to Presidential elections. This bill is controversial and has garnered discussion in the press since its introduction. Already there have been impromptu demonstrations by opposition political parties and individuals in Dakar. It is possible that similar demonstrations will occur in the coming days. U.S. citizens are encouraged to stay informed, avoid demonstrations, and to practice good situational awareness when moving about in Dakar.

Travel plans should be amended to account for the possibility of protests and/or ensuing delays in these affected areas. 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 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 surrounding at all times.

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, 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) 33-829-2109 and ask to speak with the duty officer.