

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

July 21, 2011

This emergency message is being issued by the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, Senegal for U.S. citizens in Senegal.

On Saturday, July 23, 2011, both pro and opposition political parties have planned political rallies in and around Dakar. The pro-government rally is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. on the Voie de Deggement Nord (VDN) at the Parti Democratique Senegalais (PDS) Headquarters. The opposition has also scheduled a rally in the morning at the Place de l'Independence, but has not yet been issued a permit. Major roadways into Dakar may be blocked by opposition groups to prevent pro-government supporters from reaching their rally. As a result, sporadic clashes between demonstrations and protestors may occur throughout Dakar.

Due to the potential for violence, U.S. citizens should avoid political gatherings and street demonstrations in Senegal. While most demonstrations in Senegal are non-violent, the recent demonstrations of June 23rd and 27th quickly turned violent without much advanced warning. U.S. citizens are, therefore, encouraged to stay informed, avoid demonstrations, and to practice good situational awareness while moving about in Senegal. U.S. citizens should modify their travel plans to account for the possibility of protests and/or ensuing delays in affected areas. 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 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) 33-829-2109 and ask to speak with the duty officer.