

UNITED STATES MISSION RUSSIA

SECURITY MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS: DEMONSTRATIONS

August 17, 2012

The Embassy informs U.S. citizens that a demonstration related to the recent trial of a Russian punk-rock group is expected to take place on **Friday, August 17, 2012**, in the vicinity of the Khamovnichesky District Court in Moscow. Activists responding to online appeals are expected to begin demonstrating by **2:00 PM**, an hour before the judge is to issue the verdict in the aforementioned case.

Although specific venues have not been identified, demonstrations also can be expected elsewhere in Moscow and in other cities throughout Russia.

While these events are not expected to be violent, large gatherings can cause significant traffic disruptions. U.S. citizens should be mindful of the possibility for counter-demonstrations and spontaneous protests to appear throughout Russia, as well as a larger-than-usual police presence at these demonstrations. Please note the following guidance from the U.S. Department of State's [Country-Specific Information Sheet for the Russian Federation](#): "U.S. citizens should avoid all public demonstrations, whether properly authorized by local officials or not, and avoid any large crowds and public gatherings that lack enhanced security measures."

Review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security. For additional information, please refer to "[A Safe Trip Abroad](#)."

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Russia enroll in the State Department's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). Enrollment gives you access to updated information about areas abroad and makes it easier for the U.S. Embassy or Consulate to reach you or your designated contact in case of an emergency.

You can get global updates at the [U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs](#) web site, where you can find the Worldwide Caution and current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have Internet access, you can call 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 U.S. federal holidays). You can follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) as well. You can also download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

American Citizen Services Unit of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow assists U.S. citizens in Russia. We can help you with passport issuance and renewal, voter assistance, notarials, and registering a child born abroad. We also provide emergency services for American citizens in case of a disaster or in case of illness, arrest, death or destitution while in Russia. Appointments are required for all non-emergency services; you can make an appointment by calling the ACS Unit at 7 (495) 728-5577, or you may click [here](#) to schedule an appointment online. To contact us with questions, please write to moscowwarden@state.gov. The Embassy's website is <http://moscow.usembassy.gov>.

Emergency Contact Information in Russia:

U.S. Embassy Moscow:

American Citizens with an emergency during regular office hours (M-F 9am-6pm, excluding Russian and U.S. holidays) are welcome to visit the ACS Unit at the U.S. Embassy, 21 Novinsky Blvd., Moscow.

Tel: (7) (495) 728-5577 - 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, weekdays

After Hours Emergencies Tel: (7) (495) 728-5000 - after 6:00 pm, weekends and holidays

U.S. Consulate General St. Petersburg:

The U.S. Consulate General in St. Petersburg is located at 15 Furshatskaya Street. You may contact the Consulate's ACS unit by e-mail at StPetersburgACS@State.gov, by fax at (+7) (812) 331-2646. The consulate's website is <http://stpetersburg.usconsulate.gov>

Tel: (+7) (812) 331-2600

After Hours Emergencies Tel: (812) 331-2600 and listen to the recorded message for the Duty Officer's cell phone number.

U.S. Consulate General Vladivostok:

Tel: (+7) (4232) 30-00-70

U.S. Consulate General Yekaterinburg:

Tel: (+7) (3432) 793-001

The Embassy offers information about travel to Russia on our [website](#), and we also encourage you to read the [Country-Specific Information Sheet for the Russian Federation](#) provided by the Department of State.