



U.S. Embassy Mbabane

Warden Message – April 8, 2011

Demonstrations in Swaziland

As reported in the local media, teachers, labor unionists, students, and political parties are planning demonstrations in Mbabane, Manzini, and Nhlangano next week, possibly April 12-14. April 12 is the anniversary of the 1973 Decree, which banned political parties in the kingdom and consolidated political power for the king.

You should avoid travel to these city centers on the dates mentioned. In the meantime, continue to monitor your local media sources for updates regarding exact locations and times of the proposed demonstrations.

The Embassy reminds U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can quickly and without advance warning turn confrontational and escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid areas of demonstrations and especially to not cross picket lines.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the [U.S. Embassy Mbabane website](#). 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_1031.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 live in or travel to Swaziland, please enroll 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 allow your friends and family to communicate with you in an emergency. Remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or when updating information to include your current phone number and current email address so you can be reached in case of an emergency.

[U.S. Embassy Mbabane](#)

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