

Disposition of Remains Report

REF: 7 FAM 260

The following information is submitted in accordance with the referenced requirements.

Part I. Name of Country: Niger

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

The U.S. Embassy is located on Rue des Ambassades, Niamey, Niger. The U.S. Embassy mailing address is B.P. 11201, Niamey, Niger. Telephone numbers are: (227) 20-72-26-61 through 64 and fax numbers (227) 20-73-31-67 or 20-72-31-46. The Embassy's after hours emergency number is (227) 20-72-31-41. Embassy's Internet address is <http://niamey.usembassy.gov>.

[Consular Information Sheet](#),

[Register With the U.S. Embassy](#)

Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors.

Religions: Islam (99%); remainder traditional and Christian.

Most Nigeriens are Moslems, but there is a Roman Catholic Church that holds services in French. In addition, there is an International Christian Fellowship, and English Protestant, English/French International Protestant, and French Assemblies of God worships. There are no scheduled Jewish services.

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in the Host Country

There are no funeral directors or morticians in Niger. In cities, humans' remains are immediately transported to the morgue located at the nearest hospital where the body is cleaned according to Muslim custom and buried within three days. In rural areas, a local Imam will clean the body before burial. Nigeriens do not embalm or cremate human remains. Funeral ceremonies are religious in nature and are centered on family visitation. Individuals are buried in cemeteries. Grave sites are marked, but there is no funeral industry in Niger.

Part V. Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains.

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Niamey, Niger assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

Requirements for international shipment of mortal remains from Niger to the United States involve the acquisition of special official documents and arrangements to meet regulations laid down not only by Niger, but by France, the country through which remains are likely to be shipped. Under the best circumstances, a five-workday-period is the normal time required to obtain documents and arrange for transportation of mortal remains from Niamey. If death occurs outside Niamey, disposition and repatriation of remains will be problematic as there are no interurban flights. Embalming is done only by the university hospital in Niamey. There are no facilities for autopsies or cremation in Niger.

A. A. Maximum period before burial

By Nigerien practice human remains are immediately transported to the morgue located at the Niamey National Hospital and buried within three days

B. Embalming

Embalming is available at the National Hospital in Niamey (Tel.: 20-72-22-53, 20-72-23-26, or 20-72-24-42). The point of contact is Mr. Djibril Mahamadou, Ext. 183.

C. Cremation and autopsies

Although Niger law permits cremation and autopsies, there are no facilities. Local medical centers are not equipped to perform autopsies and there are no funeral homes/crematoriums in Niger.

D. Caskets and containers

Niger law establishes the following requirements for international shipment of human remains from Niger (Decree No. 17/SP of 02/04/57 and Decree of 07/29/51):

1. The remains must be laid in a zinc shell, one millimeter thick. Pulverized charcoal, sawdust, and a disinfectant (ferrous sulfate or copper sulfate) must be spread into the shell.

2. A filter must be set or fixed atop the zinc shell to reduce the pressure and purify the putrefaction gas. After the remains have been placed in the zinc shell, it must be soldered closed and airtight.
3. The zinc shell must be put into a casket made of hardwood, 4 centimeters thick, containing sawdust at the bottom. After the zinc shell containing the remains has been put into the casket, it must be completely covered with sawdust before closing the casket.
4. The casket must be solidly closed using 10cm screws.
5. All the above steps must be completed in presence of a police officer who immediately seals the casket by melting wax onto the screws and impressing the seal of the National Police into the wax.

NOTE: There is very little expertise in Niger in this area. The two individuals listed below have worked together on previous cases involving the preparation and shipment of remains for shipment to the United States:

Coffin making: Mr. Younous Kangdi, Tel. 93-81-72-66 and costs anywhere from 100,000 cfa to 500,000 cfa

Post-embalmmment preparation of remains: Mr. Ohoussou Désiré, Tel. 20-72-21-08 or 96-29-73-09 who works under the auspices of the Catholic Church. They do preparation of the human remains, dressing of the human remains and can provide the coffin when requested.

E. Exporting remains

The following documents are required to ship mortal remains from Niger through France to the United States.

Niger

1. *Constat de deces / Permis d'inhumer* (Death affidavit/burial permit). Issued by the attending physician, this document indicates the name of the deceased, provides the cause of death, and, and authorizes burial of the remains.
2. *Extrait d'acte de deces* (Certificate of registration of death). Based on the *Constat de deces* and a declaration of particulars by the deceased's family to the local civil registry (Directorate of Birth and Death Registration), this document is the official death certificate.
3. *Certificat de non-contagion* (Contagion-free certificate). Generally issued by the same physician who issues the *Constat de deces*, this document indicates that the body is free of clinically identifiable infectious disease.

4. Arrete du Ministere de l'Interieur (Order of the Minister of Interior). This serves as a special permit from the Minister of Interior to allow transport of mortal remains across international borders.
5. Certificat de mise en biere speciale (Certificate of Special Coffining). Completed by the police officer overseeing the preparation of remains for international shipment, this document attests it was done in conformity with the above-described regulations and that the coffin contains only human remains for which a Ministerial authorization has been granted for its shipment.

France

Air France Cargo in Paris requires only the *Certificat de mise en biere speciale* regarding the contents of casket (packed in a case) for onward shipment to the United States.

F. Costs

CFA Francs (US\$1 = CFAF 500)

Local coffin and burial	190,000
Embalming (best estimate)	100,000
Preparation and shipment to the US:	
Casket (w/in sealed container)	1,100,000
Air shipment from Niamey to US:	13,500/kg*

*Containers with the remains of an adult in a coffin generally weigh about 240 kg.

NOTE: As stated above, due to the lack of facilities, neither cremation and shipment nor cremation and local burial are available options in Niger.

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