Embassy of the United States of America
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

EMERGENCY MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS
October 5, 2011

U.S. Embassy in Riyadh advises U.S. citizens considering travel to Qatif, Awamiya, Safwa and Saihat in the Eastern Province to exercise caution and be aware of the potential for protests. On successive nights this week, groups of protesters have clashed with government security forces. Press reports indicate that some protestors fired weapons and threw incendiary devices.

U.S. citizens are advised to avoid large crowds or public gatherings. While demonstrations may appear peaceful, the potential exists for rapid escalation of a situation. Regardless of where you are, it is always advisable to keep your security and situational awareness levels high.

Please follow these good personal security practices:

Avoid crowds or large gatherings when traveling in public;

Know where you are going and have a plan of what to do in the event you encounter demonstrations or violence;

Identify safe areas (for example police stations, hospitals, Saudi Government buildings) in your area and how to get to them quickly;

Tell co-workers or neighbors where you're going and when you intend to return;

Minimize your profile while in public;

Always carry a cell phone and make sure you have emergency numbers pre-programmed into your phone such as U.S. Embassy in Riyadh (01-488-3800), U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran (03-330-3200) and U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah (02-667-0080). The emergency number for the Saudi Police, Fire, and Rescue is 999;

Be prepared to postpone or cancel activities for personal safety concerns;

Report concerns you may have to the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, or the Consulates General in Dhahran and Jeddah.

U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the [U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website](), where the current [Worldwide Caution](), [Travel Warnings](), [Travel Alerts](),

and Country Specific Information can be found. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review "A Safe Trip Abroad," which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad. Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook as well. You can also download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App to have travel information at your fingertips. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or outside the United States 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).

U.S. Embassy Riyadh
Telephone: (966) (1) 488-3800
Fax: (966) (1) 483-0773.

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Earlier **Messages to U.S. Citizens** are available at http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/amcitmessages.html.
ACS Website: http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service.html