



*Embassy of the United States of America  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

## **SECURITY MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS**

***March 6, 2014***

Because there is frequent travel from Saudi Arabia to Bahrain among our U.S. citizen community, this is a message in that context. The information is also available on the U.S. Embassy Bahrain website (link below). And if you wish to receive messages directly from the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain, we encourage you to add Bahrain to your STEP enrollment as well (see below).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama reminds everyone that there will be increased protests, attempts to disrupt traffic, protests near economic centers, suspicious packages planted, tire fires and additional clashes against police in Bahrain through the month of March 2014. These incidents may not be restricted to restricted areas.

**There has been an increase in the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) throughout the country during the January and February time period. Additional uses of IEDs through March 31st are highly likely. The IEDs have been hidden along certain neighborhood streets and common streets throughout the restricted areas. Avoid areas where the Ministry of Interior (MOI) security forces are gathered due to the threat of likely pending anti-Government of Bahrain (GOB) activities. Do not attempt to drive through or otherwise remove debris strewn across roadways. Use caution during this time period and alter your daily routes of travel to avoid known problem areas.**

**Unknown actors have recently targeted Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs). Recently, MOI disarmed an IED placed near an ATM during the late evening/early morning hours. Use caution when approaching ATMs, particularly at night and early morning, by scanning the area for items that are out of place or suspicious to the area in general.**

**In light of recent events, the Embassy recommends you increase your general situational awareness while present in Bahrain. Certain violent, anti-Government of Bahrain (GOB) groups, and pro-Government of Bahrain groups are calling for continued protests. The violent anti-GOB groups are calling for increased activities throughout the country. These acts will likely take place inside of the restricted areas, but they could spill over. Pro-Government groups will likely protest in areas outside of the restricted areas. Anticipate that the Budaiya Highway corridor will experience increased acts along its length through March 31st.**

These disruptions may appear around the country and at all times of the day. These disruptions may have an impact on the morning, afternoon, and evening commute. Anticipate that alternate routes

established by the Police may be used to protect all citizens. Develop your own alternate routes given your daily schedule. Utilize GPS devices to their maximum extent. Maintain your situational awareness.

**There have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens to date.** We recommend that you continually exercise the appropriate level of security awareness in regards to anti-U.S. activity or events. Spontaneous and, at times, violent anti-government of Bahrain protests continue to occur, particularly at night and on weekends. These protests have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and the establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Protestors have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used homemade weapons to include improvised explosive devices and shotgun like projectile launchers. To counter these acts the Ministry of Interior will utilize crowd control measures, such as tear gas, stun grenades, and birdshot. Violent clashes between security forces and protestors can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in certain areas. We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

**Restricted areas are outlined on a regularly updated map located on the U.S. Embassy Bahrain website at <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov/demonstration.html> . Areas shaded in red are off-limits to U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members at all times. U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members are permitted to travel in the areas shaded in yellow during daylight hours only. The Embassy advises all Americans to avoid travel within red zones as a general rule whenever possible. Please use this link to access U.S. Embassy Manama security and demonstration notices for the latest information regarding protests and restricted areas in Bahrain. In addition, please ensure that you have the U.S. Embassy Manama emergency contact information provided below prior to traveling to Bahrain.**

The Department of State encourages U.S. citizens to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. As part of your preparation for travel anywhere in the world, please enroll in STEP.

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. 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).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the after-hours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The Embassy's website,

<http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. The Consular Section can be reached at [ManamaConsular@state.gov](mailto:ManamaConsular@state.gov).

**The U.S. Embassy is located at:**

Bldg 979, Road 3119, Block 331, Zinj  
Kingdom of Bahrain

**S-03/2014**

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Telephone: (966) (11) 488-3800  
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[U.S. Consulate General Dhahran](#)

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[U.S. Consulate General Jeddah](#)

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