

United States Embassy Dakar, Senegal
Security Message for U.S. Citizens
Return of President Wade and Closure of Gambia-Senegal Border

April 23, 2014

The U.S. Embassy alerts U.S. citizens that former Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade is reportedly returning to Senegal this afternoon between the hours of 1400 and 1600. His arrival could result in traffic congestion in and around the airport as large numbers of supporters gather to greet him. Additionally, supporters and/or critics of President Wade may stage demonstrations over the next couple of days as a result of his return. The U.S. Embassy is actively monitoring the situation and reminds everyone to avoid large crowds or demonstrations, which can turn violent with little warning.

Please ensure that you and your family members carry a reliable means of communication at all times. If you find yourself in the midst of a demonstration, exit it as quickly and safely as you can and work your way to a secure location.

Unrelated to the return of President Wade, the Government of The Gambia has closed its land border with Senegal to vehicular traffic. The reasons for the closure remain unclear and it is unknown how long the closure will last. The flights between the two countries remain open.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Senegal or Guinea-Bissau enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the [State Department's website](#), where you can find current [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and the [Worldwide Caution](#). Read the [Country Specific Information for Senegal and neighboring countries](#). For additional information, refer to the [Traveler's Checklist](#) on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on Route des Almadies and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +221 33 879 4444 and ask to speak to the duty officer. You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy [website](#) or sending an email message to DakarACS@state.gov.