

U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal  
Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Holiday Security Habits  
10December 2013

The U.S. Embassy received reports December 9 of two recent security incidents along the Corniche. The first incident was a robbery along the Corniche between the International School of Dakar (ISD) and Ebbets Field. The lone victim was accosted December 7 around 10:00 p.m. by two assailants who brandished a knife. No injuries resulted but the victim lost a sum of money and cell phones.

The second incident occurred December 9 at 2:00 p.m. during daylight hours. There was an attempt by two assailants on a scooter to steal the backpack of the victim also on a scooter who had stopped in front of ISD. They were unsuccessful but the victim received minor injuries in the incident.

The U.S. Embassy continues to encourage U.S. citizens in Senegal to practice good security habits during all holidays as an increase in crime usually coincides with these holidays. In particular, crimes such as pickpocketing, purse snatching, thefts from vehicles, snatch and grab, etc., tend to increase. In past years, there have been increases in residential break-ins and thefts of unsecured items from garages and yards during holiday periods.

The Embassy recommends the following steps that will help increase your personal security:

- In Dakar, do not walk along the Corniche during hours of darkness, especially between Ebbets Field and the Mosque de Ouakam, including the area around ISD, and be cautious in other areas when visibility is diminished.
- Remain aware of your surroundings at home, in your car, and when walking in public places.
- Refrain from carrying purses or backpacks that may attract unwanted attention, including while on scooters or motorcycles; do not carry excessive amounts of cash or flaunt expensive accessories.
- Travel in groups if at all possible, plan ahead of time, and know how to reach your destination without getting lost.
- Give preference to well-lit establishments that offer a security presence.

**Stay in Touch with the Embassy**

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You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the [U.S. Embassy Dakar](#) 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 Warning](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well, or you can download our free Smart Traveler App, available through [iTunes](#), and the [Google Play](#) store, to have travel information at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access, current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers from other countries, 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).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)). If you enroll, we can keep you up to

date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on Route des Almadies, Dakar, and is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to [DakarACS@state.gov](mailto:DakarACS@state.gov). For after hours emergencies, please call Tel: +221 33.879.4444 and ask to speak to the duty officer.