

U.S. Embassy Brussels, Belgium
Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Police Raids in Brussels
June 17, 2016

The U.S. Embassy cautions U.S. citizens that Belgian authorities continue to investigate new and ongoing terrorist threats. Recent arrests and police raids have been widely reported in the media. OCAD/OCAM, the Belgian Coordinating Unit for Threat Analysis has maintained its terrorism threat rating at Level 3.

U.S. citizens are reminded that the Level 3 rating indicates that a terrorist attack is probable and are advised to avoid large gatherings of people. Further, the most recent State Department [Europe Travel Alert](#), dated May 31, 2016, warns of the risk of potential terrorist attacks in Europe targeting major events, tourist sites, restaurants, and commercial and transportation centers.

The Alert suggests the following measures be employed:

- Exercise vigilance when in public places or using mass transportation.
- Be aware of immediate surroundings and avoid crowded places.
- Follow the instructions of local authorities, especially in an emergency.
- Monitor media and local event information sources and factor updated information into your travel plans and activities.
- Be prepared for additional security screening and unexpected disruptions.

For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and [Belgium Country Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.
We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Belgium 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, (including the Travel Warning for Belgium if appropriate), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution, Read the Country Specific Information for Belgium. For additional information, refer to Traveler's Checklist.

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 from within 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).

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The U.S. Embassy in Brussels is located at Blvd du Regent 27, 1000 Brussels and is open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except U.S. federal and Belgian holidays). If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is: 02-811- 4000.

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- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).