



Senegal 2011 OSAC Crime and Safety Report

Crime; Fraud; Insurgencies; Stolen items; Terrorism; Theft; Threats

Africa > Senegal > Dakar

4/10/2011

Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Crime Threats

Dakar is a high-crime city according to the number and frequency of crime incidents. Like most large cities, the full spectrum of criminal activity can be found in Dakar. Official Americans, businesspersons, and visitors are victimized primarily by crimes of opportunity, e.g., pick-pocketing, purse-snatching, theft of valuables from vehicles, assaults, and residential burglaries. Due to the high crime level, walking outside at night is not recommended. There have been incidents of violent attacks using knives or machetes during robberies. Americans walking in downtown Dakar are often approached by aggressive vendors and street criminals looking to sell something for an inflated price or a potential victim. Credit Card/ATM card fraud is a major concern in Dakar, and the U.S. Embassy recommends that its employees avoid use of credit/debit cards. If you must use credit/debit card, accounts should be closely reviewed for fraud.

Road Safety

The most prevalent danger posed to Americans in Dakar is vehicle accidents, especially at night. Drivers in Dakar are aggressive, unpredictable, and untrained. Poor traffic markers, changing traffic patterns, and road construction throughout the city confuse even the savviest of drivers. Taxis and buses are often in poor working condition. Road conditions outside of Dakar can be more dangerous.

Political Violence

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Historical Perspective

Senegal is considered one of the most stable political democracies in West Africa, and it has had generally peaceful relations with its neighbors since gaining independence from the French in 1960.

Regional Terrorism and Organized Crime

After several years of relative quiet in the Casamance, there has been a marked increase in armed banditry and fighting between rebel separatists and the Senegalese military. Throughout the history of the insurgency, there have been a few incidents of fighting within the city of Ziguinchor and the resort area of Cap Skirring. Land mines remain a serious concern in the Casamance. Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) appear to be better armed and more willing to confront the Senegalese military.

There is no organized crime, as it is generally understood, rather the government of Senegal, under the Presidency of Abdoulaye Wade, has become increasingly corrupt and opaque, especially in terms of its financial dealings.

International and Transnational Terrorism

There exists a real and growing threat of terrorism regionally. Thus far, Senegal has been spared any direct terrorist attacks but does remain vulnerable due to porous borders, increased regional instability, and the increased terror activities of AQIM (al-Qaida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb).

Civil Unrest

Senegal is considered one of the most stable political democracies in West Africa. Public protests, demonstrations, and strikes occur regularly and often become violent. Americans should avoid large political gatherings, as riot police may quickly resort to batons and tear gas as a means of crowd control.

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Post-Specific Concerns

Environmental Hazards

During the rainy season (June-October), heavy rains have been known to cause severe flooding and loss of life.

Industrial and Transportation Accidents

There have been no recent major industrial and/or transportation accidents affecting the expatriate community.

Kidnappings

The threat of kidnapping (primarily by AQIM) does exist, particularly in the border areas between Senegal, Mauritania, and Mali.

Drug and Narcoterrorism

Primarily from Guinea and Guinea Bissau, Senegal has become a pass-through point for West African drug trafficking. Some small, indigenous marijuana cultivation also exists in Senegal.

Police Response

In addition to the U.S. embassy, victims of crime can contact Senegalese Police by dialing the emergency number "17." The central police number is 33.823.7149. In the event of any emergency, call the embassy at 221 33-829-2100, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 221-33-823-2209 after hours.

How to Handle Incidents of Police Detention or Harassment

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If arrested, ask to contact the U.S. Embassy. This request is not always honored expeditiously and may need to be repeated. Do not ignore a policeman's lawful or reasonable orders. Becoming belligerent will only exacerbate the situation and prolong detention.

Medical Emergencies

Several hospitals and clinics in Dakar can treat a wide variety of injuries and illnesses. Public hospitals do not meet U.S. standards, but several private clinics are at the level of small European hospitals, and even approach U.S. community hospital standards. The Embassy maintains a list of physicians and other health care professionals who will see U.S.-citizen patients. The Embassy does not guarantee their services or recommend any of the physicians. Medical facilities outside Dakar are limited.

French medications are more readily available than American medications, and the limited selection of American drugs in stock are often listed under the French trade names. Medications may be obtained at pharmacies throughout Dakar and in other areas frequented by tourists. Travelers should carry a supply of any needed prescription medicines, along with copies of the prescriptions, including the generic name for the drugs, and a supply of preferred over-the-counter medications.

This list is based on information available to the U.S. Embassy medical unit. The U.S. Embassy Dakar assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the individuals listed below.

Family Physicians

Dr. Ulrike Ochs Drame, Nord Foire Lot #19, Tel: 33-820-8726; 33-836-5622; and 77-549-0651, Speaks excellent English .

Dr. Hassan Bahsoun at 29, Rue Docteur Theze & Thiong, Off: (+221) 33 821 3614/ (+221) 33 821 3030. Cell: (221) 573-0107. Speaks some English. (Visa Panel Physician) .

Dr. Madji Kaouk 144, Rue Joseph Gomis & Kleber, off. (+221) 33 823 4679. Home (+221)33 822 2917, Cel. (+221) 33 638 4848.

Dr. Christiane Moreira at Mermoz villa nr 7376 just behind IAM school. By appointment Monday through Friday 10h30-12h00 and 16h00-18h00. She is able to provide home

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consultations early in the morning. Off. (+221) 33 824 31 31.

Ambulance and Emergency Services

SOS Medecin: Baie de Soumbédioune, rue 62 x rue 64, BP 731 Dakar 33 821 3213 or 33 889 1515 staffed 24 hours. They have a mobile doctor service that will see you at your home. They can provide care for relatively minor problems at home, e.g., suturing, earaches, evaluation of fevers, etc. If necessary, they provide patient transport to a local hospital. English speakers available 24/7.

S.U.M.A. at Blvd. Cheikh Anta Diop, Off. 33 824-2418/ 33 824-7191, Dr. Babacar NIANG Hm. (+221) 33 820-0440, Cell. (+221) 33 648 5400 Monday – Friday from 9h00 –12h00, consultation possible after 5:00pm on Tuesday with Pr. Amadou Gallo Diop Cell. (+221) 76 680 5297. They also have a mobile doctor service and can provide assistance at home.

Sapeurs Pompiers (Fire Department): (+221) 33 823 9314/ (+221) 33 823 0355 / (221) 33 823-0559 – l’Etat Major des Sapeurs Pompiers, SAMU Municipal de Dakar Tel: 33 628 1213 – Emergencies 24/24- Well equipped ambulances to handle medical emergency. They provide home visit for all types of consultations and they can also provide transport patient to local hospital, POC: Dr Sega Diallo 33 867 0534 Secretariat

Dentists

Dr. Alain and Joelle Vautier at 15, Rue Foch, off. (+221) 33 821 3416 Hm. (+221) 33 821 6673

Dr. Gerard Drouet at 180, Ave. President Lamine Gueye, Tel. (+221) 33 821 1158.

Dr. Mac Hoi Chang, 62 Rue Carnot Tel (221) 33 842 0420, Cel:(221) 639-9777

Private Clinics

Clinique du Cap, Avenue Pasteur, near old Palais de Justice, tel. (+221) 33 889-0202.; Fax: (221) 33 821-6146 Reanimation Room (Near old Palais de Justice.)

Clinique de la Madeleine, 18, Ave. Des Jambaars, Tel(+221).33 821 9470/(+221) 33 821 9476/ (+221) 33 821 9478/ (+221) 33 821 9479), (221) 33 823-0745/ 33 823-3913, Dr. Mamadou Ndiaye, (anesthesiology), Cel. (+221) 634 7986, Radiography: Dr. Ghozayel@ 16,000CFA

Clinique Casahous, 5, Rue de Thiong, B.P. 2102, Tel. (+221) 33 821, 3030 / (221) 33 821-3614. Emergency #, (+221) 33 821-5436(+221), 33 821 3614, Dr. Abdou Kane Diop Cel.

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(+221) 633 5251. Dr Hussein Bahsoun: Hm. (+221) 33 821 3122 and Dr Hassan Bahsoun.

Public Hospitals

Hopital Principal at Ave. Nelson Mandela & Roume, Tel. (+221) 33 839-5050. Fax: (221) 33 839-5002. Chief of the Emergency Department – Colonel Mapathe Seck (221) 33 839-5489. Go to Emergency Room at main entrance. (Major trauma Hospital.). e-mail:

hopitalprincipal@hpd.sn Web: [Http://www.hopitalprincipal.sn](http://www.hopitalprincipal.sn)

Hopital General de Grand Yoff- HGGY (Centre de traumatologie), Tel:(+221) 33 8694050; Fax (+221) 33 827 6149, Director of the Hospital- Saliou Diallo (+221) 33 869 4042, Emergency department (Service des Urgences Medicales) (+221) 33 869 4078, e-mail:

hoggy@sunumail.sn

Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Fann, (known as Hopital Fann) avenue Cheikh Anta Diop, Tel(+221) 33 8691818, Director of the Hospital Daouda Diene, emergency department (Chef Service d’Urgences) Dr. Alioune Dieng: Tel (+221)33 8691820

Hopital Aristide Le Dantec, Plateau avenue Pasteur, Tel: (+221) 33 889 3800, Emergency : (+221) 33 889 3877

****American traveling to Senegal should purchase medical evacuation insurance. Most U.S. based health insurance will not cover overseas healthcare. Contact your insurance provider for more information. Most visitors will require extra immunization and malaria prevention medication.**

Air ambulance services

SOS MEDECIN – SENEGAL

1, Rue J. Mermoz z Av. Pasteur – TEL: (221) 889 15 15 FAX: (221) 823 33 98, Email: sosmeddk@sentoo.sn

U.S. AIR AMBULANCE

Worldwide air ambulance and airline medical escorts, 5919 Approach Rd, Sarasota, FL 34238, TEL: 941-536-2000, FAX: 888-633-5384, Toll-Free: 1-800-633-5384 (within the United States), www.USAirAmbulance.net

AFRICA AIR ASSISTANCE - SENEGAL

Aéroport Leopold Senghore – Dakar, TEL: 221-33-820-3388, TEL: 221-77-307-2547,

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FAX: 221-33-820-3387, Email: airassistance@sentoo.sn

Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. If you must carry cash, break it up and place it in different areas on your person. Do not carry credit cards unless you plan to use them on a specific outing. Senegalese law requires that you have valid identifying documents on your person at all times. Make photocopies of your passport, driver's license, and other ID and carry copies while on the street. As a rule, the police do not distinguish between original documents and photocopies. Place original documents, including passports, into secure storage at your hotel or place of business.

Do not wear expensive jewelry, or necklaces of any value, as these are targeted for snatch-and-grab type crimes. Do not carry backpacks or fanny packs, as they brand an individual as a tourist. Carry bags with short straps that can easily be placed under one's arm. Never accept anything from anyone on the street unless you are planning to buy the item. This is also true for anyone presenting you with a "gift." This is a favorite ploy of street criminals, who will then request money in return. Minimize your verbal contact with anyone other than legitimate contacts you may have. Just say "no" and be persistent and forceful.

Never walk alone at night or drive into unfamiliar areas. If you do drive and park, it is common practice for a street person to offer to watch your car while you shop or eat in a restaurant. Paying the equivalent of roughly 20 cents (100 CFA) can deter mischief directed at your vehicle. Park your car in well-lit and well-traveled areas, if possible. Always negotiate a price before getting into a taxi. Although difficult given the current construction situation, have the driver use only the main roads into town, no shortcuts, and never get into a taxi that is already occupied. If the cab stops to pick up someone else, tell the driver that you will not pay him. The driver may be trying to set you up to be pick-pocketed.

Contact Information

U.S. Embassy Switchboard (24/7) – 221-33-829-2100 or 221-33-829-22209

Regional Security Officer – 221-33-829-2258

Consular Affairs/American Citizens Services – 221-33-829-2206

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Country Specific Information Sheet:
http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1013.html

OSAC Country Council Contact Information

Dakar does not currently have an active OSAC Country Council.

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