



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Kidnapping Threat

Kidnapping; Threats

Near East > Saudi Arabia > Riyadh

9/28/2011

U.S. Embassy Riyadh released the following Emergency Message to U.S. Citizens on September 28, 2011:

U.S. Embassy in Riyadh advises U.S. citizens in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that we have received information that a terrorist group in Saudi Arabia may be planning to abduct Westerners in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh reminds all U.S. citizens to exercise prudence and enhanced security awareness at all times.

Regardless of where you are, it is always advisable to keep your security and situational awareness levels high.

Please follow these good personal security practices:

Do not be time and place predictable. Vary your routes and times to and from work. Do not frequent the same shops with regularity;

Know where you are going and have a plan of what to do in the event you encounter demonstrations or violence;

Identify safe areas (for example police stations, hospitals, Saudi Government buildings) in your area and how to get to them quickly;

Avoid crowds or large gatherings when traveling in public;

Tell co-workers or neighbors where you're going and when you intend to return;

Minimize your profile while in public.

Always carry a cell phone and make sure you have emergency numbers pre-programmed into your phone such as the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh (01-488-3800), U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran (03-330-3200) and U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah (02-667-0080). The emergency number for the Saudi Police, Fire, and Rescue is 999.

Be prepared to postpone or cancel activities for personal safety concerns.

Report all concerns you may experience to the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh or the Consulates General in Dhahran and Jeddah. 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. You can also download our



free Smart Traveler iPhone App to have travel information at your fingertips. 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).