



## Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Libreville (Gabon), Legislative Elections and Security Advice Elections

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10/3/2011

U.S. Embassy Libreville released the following Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens on October 3, 2011:

The U.S. Embassy in Libreville wishes to advise U.S. citizens that the Government of the Gabonese Republic plans to hold legislative elections before the end of 2011. The Embassy expects an increase in political activity in preparation for the elections. We remind you that even political events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational. We urge U.S. citizens to avoid political events and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any large gatherings. Please review the Embassy's standard security advice:

Remain vigilant, stay current with media coverage of local events, and be aware of your surroundings at all times. Use your household locks and alarms, limit access to your residence to trusted individuals, and lock up valuables out of sight. Travel with your car windows up, doors locked, and items of value hidden from view. Avoid marginal neighborhoods, poorly lit streets, and unfamiliar areas, especially at night. Do not walk, run, or stay on the beach alone or in groups after dusk. When dining in restaurants or visiting markets, carry a minimal amount of cash and avoid wearing flashy jewelry. If you are the victim of an attempted robbery or carjacking, you are encouraged to comply with the attacker to avoid injury and to report all incidents to the police and the U.S. Embassy.

If you are stopped by police or immigration officials, you should remain calm and cooperative. They may ask to see your residence permit (*carte de séjour*), work authorization (*autorisation d'emploi*), and work contract (*contrat du travail*). The driver of the vehicle may also be asked to show his or her driving license (*permis de conduire*), vehicle registration (*carte grise*), proof of insurance (*assurance*), proof of vehicle inspection (*visite technique*), fire extinguisher (*extincteur de feu*), triangles (*triangles*), and first aid kit (*boite de soins de premiers secours*). You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the web site of U.S. Embassy Libreville. 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 Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information for Gabon or São Tomé & Príncipe. 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, 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 Gabon or São Tomé & Príncipe, 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 Libreville is located in Centre Ville on the Boulevard du Bord de Mer, and may be reached at +241 76-20-03/04, during business hours.

For after-hours emergencies, U.S. citizens should call +241 0738-0171, and ask to speak with the duty officer.