



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Lae (Papua New Guinea) Sees Spike in Violence

Crime Political Violence

East Asia & Pacific > Papua New Guinea > Port Moresby

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U.S. Embassy Port Moresby issued the following Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens on November 8, 2011:

U.S. Embassy Port Moresby advises U.S. citizens traveling to, or residing in Papua New Guinea to exercise a high degree of caution due to ongoing threats of serious crime. Clashes between protesters have occurred in the city of Lae in Morobe province since Friday, November 4, 2011, and at least six persons have died in violence-related incidents. Additional police have been dispatched to the area, and further violence could occur. Lae is the second largest city in Papua New Guinea, located approximately 180 miles north of the capital, Port Moresby.

Pay close attention to your personal security in Papua New Guinea at all times, and monitor the media for information about possible new safety or security risks. Since June 2011, there have been a number of violent incidents in Oro Province and Central and Southern Bougainville. Avoid large crowds and public gatherings as these may turn violent. Ethnic disputes continue to flare up around the country. Disputes can quickly escalate into violent clashes which may promote a general atmosphere of lawlessness and an associated increase in opportunistic crime.

We encourage U.S. citizens to maintain updated profiles in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at www.travel.state.gov. Free STEP enrollment allows the U.S. Embassy to better assist you in emergencies such as natural disasters, unrest in foreign countries, or lost/stolen passports overseas. STEP can also help your family and friends reach you in an emergency.

Stay up to date by bookmarking our website, www.travel.state.gov, or downloading our free Smart Traveler iPhone App for travel information at your fingertips. Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook as well.

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, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available



from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Papua New Guinea is located on Douglas Street, adjacent to the Bank of Papua New Guinea, in Port Moresby. You can reach the Embassy by calling +675 321-1455 or by emailing ConsularPortMoresby@state.gov. The emergency after-hours emergency telephone number is +675 7200-9439.