



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Colombo (Sri Lanka) Protest

Other

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12/9/2011

A protest is scheduled to be held today, December 9, 2011, after Friday mid-day prayers at the Jumma Mosque in Town Hall (opposite Odel) to display solidarity with Pakistan after the recent border incidents involving U.S. forces. Initial reports suggest about 200 people will be there, but the crowd could be larger.

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and unpredictable and therefore we strongly recommend avoiding the streets and being in the vicinity of Town Hall today early afternoon. The protest is likely to cause significant traffic congestion near Town Hall. U.S. citizens should monitor media coverage of local events and the U.S. Embassy Colombo website and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

U.S. citizens should consult the Department of State's Country Specific Information for Sri Lanka, and the Worldwide Caution. U.S. citizens living or traveling in Sri Lanka are encouraged to enroll with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll at the Embassy. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad". Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Colombo is located at 210 Galle Road. The telephone number is +94 11 249-8500. The number for after-hours emergencies is +94 11 249-8888. The fax number is +94 11 249-8501. The Consulate's e-mail address is colomboacs@state.gov and its internet web page is <http://srilanka.usembassy.gov>.