



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Harare (Zimbabwe), Potential Protests Downtown

Riots/Civil Unrest; Other

Africa > Zimbabwe > Harare

1/18/2012

News reports indicate that there may be large protests and demonstrations in downtown Harare throughout the day on Thursday, January 19, 2012. These protest activities are in relation to an organized civil servant strike that is to be held in the downtown area.

At this time no specific locations or timings have been identified for the protests, the following areas have been utilized during similar strikes in the past:

- The National Social Security Authority building (or NSSA house) which is at the corner of Second Street and Julius Nyerere way;
- The Finance Minister's Office at the corner of Fourth Street and Samora Machel Avenue;
- Harare Gardens/Africa Unity Square directly across from the Embassy.

Historically, these strikes and related protests have the potential to turn violent. Police have routinely utilized tear gas and batons to disrupt similar protest activities in the past. Therefore, all U.S. citizens should avoid all non-essential travel in the downtown area on Thursday, January 19.

Remember even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can quickly turn hostile and escalate into violence. Avoid all areas of demonstrations. If you are in an area and begin to feel unsafe, leave immediately.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy in Harare. 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 Warning, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook as well or you can download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App for travel information at your fingertips. 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 Zimbabwe, 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.

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