



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Bratislava (Slovakia) Demonstration, February

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2/2/2012

On Friday, February 3, 2012, a demonstration is scheduled to take place on Namestie SNP between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m. The demonstration has been organized to call on the Slovak Government to investigate more thoroughly the allegations raised during the "Gorilla" scandal and express disapproval with the overall levels of corruption in politics. At this time, sources anticipate that as many as 10,000 people will participate in the gathering, though the number could be smaller due to the frigid winter temperatures. Smaller protests on the same subject are scheduled at the same time in cities across Slovakia.

While demonstrators will initially gather at Námesť SNP, there will be a subsequent march from Námesť SNP to the Government Office of the Slovak Republic located at Námesť slobody 1. Although no streets are scheduled to be closed during the march, should you need to travel through this area by car or by public transportation, please be prepared for possible delays.

While this is scheduled to be a peaceful demonstration, during a protest held last week on the same topic, there were reports of minor property damage. As such, please exercise caution should you be in the area during the event and remain aware of your surroundings. Even peaceful protests or demonstrations have the potential to become violent and unpredictable.

You can get global updates at the **U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs** website, where you can find the Worldwide Caution and current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have Internet access, you can call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the U.S. and Canada, or a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444 from overseas. U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad are also encouraged to maintain valid travel documents and to enroll in the Department of State's **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)** to receive the latest travel updates and information and to obtain updated information on travel and security issues.

The **U.S. Embassy in Bratislava** is located at Hviezdoslavovo námestie #4, between the Czech Embassy and the Hotel Carlton. To reach the American Citizens Services unit during business hours, please call +421-(0)2-5443-0861, or send us an e-mail at



consulbratislava@state.gov. In an emergency, you can call the Duty Officer at tel: **421 (0)903 703 666**, or tel: **421-2-5443-0861**, and press "0" to speak with an operator.