



## Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Lilongwe (Malawi) Violence Reported Downtown

Political Violence

Africa > Malawi > Lilongwe

2/7/2012

The U.S. Embassy in Lilongwe reports clashes yesterday between vendors and police, as well as looting, in Old Town Lilongwe and surrounding areas. There continues to be a heavy police presence. It is possible that such disturbances continue as the City Council continues the process of evicting street vendors as announced in local media. In addition, possible strikes announced by government sector and private sector employees could disrupt services throughout the country over the next few weeks.

Please stay tuned to local media sources as the exact location of these disturbances may change quickly. We urge U.S. citizens to avoid the areas listed above, as well as any other large groups or gatherings. If you are in an area where you feel threatened, leave the area immediately.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Lilongwe web site. 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 Malawi, 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.

U.S. Embassy, Lilongwe, Malawi

Area 40, Plot 24, Kenyatta Drive, Box 30016, Lilongwe 3

Telephone: 1773166

Emergency after-hours telephone: 0999960178