



## Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Dakar (Senegal), Planned Demonstrations Feb 24 Elections

Africa > Senegal > Dakar

2/21/2012

This message is to inform U.S. citizens in Senegal that demonstrations are expected to continue in Dakar throughout the week and demonstrations in other major cities of Senegal are also likely. In addition to ongoing calls by the "M23" opposition movement for demonstrations to oppose President Wade's candidacy, the tear gassing of a mosque in Dakar belonging to the Tidjiane brotherhood (the largest Muslim brotherhood in Senegal) has injected a religious element into demonstrations. The level of violence accompanying this past weekend's demonstrations has increased, with protestors burning tires, blocking major roads and throwing rocks at passing vehicles. Security forces frequently used tear gas, water cannons, rubber bullets and acoustical devices to disperse large crowds. Media sources report two people were killed in demonstrations across the country over the weekend.

Opposition political candidates, who have been campaigning around the country the past two weeks, will now start to focus rallies in the Dakar area. Today (Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012), several opposition candidates have called for a demonstration at the Place de l'Independence to start at 15:00 and others are expected to follow suit during the week. The Tidjiane brotherhood has called for nationwide demonstrations during the week to protest the tear gassing incident last Friday, to culminate in a protest in downtown Dakar on Feb. 23rd. And the ruling PDS party has called for a major rally in Dakar outside PDS headquarters (located in Ouakam near the end of the VDN) on Friday, Feb. 24th, to show support for President Wade in advance of the presidential elections on Sunday. Other demonstrations could occur after Friday in the run-up to the first round of elections on Sunday, Feb. 26th.

Given the uncertainty of exactly when and how large demonstrations may be and the potential for violence, U.S. citizens are urged to exercise caution if traveling in the Dakar area, particularly in the Plateau district downtown, over the next few days. Be aware that demonstrations could also occur in other metropolitan areas across Senegal without advance notice. Demonstrations could quickly turn violent. Stay tuned to media reports, maintain situational awareness, consider alternate travel routes in case of blockage and avoid demonstrations should you come upon them.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Dakar web site (<http://dakar.usembassy.gov/>). 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



([http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1013.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1013.html)). If you don't have internet access, you can get current information on safety and security 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 Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP - <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> ). 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.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on at Avenue Jean XXIII, Dakar; the mailing address is B.P. 49, Dakar, Senegal. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to [consulardakar@state.gov](mailto:consulardakar@state.gov) . The Embassy telephone number is +221 33 829-2100. For After Hours Emergency, please call Tel: 33-829-2209 and ask to speak to the duty officer.