



Security Message: Riga (Latvia) Demonstrations

Riots/Civil Unrest

Europe > Latvia > Riga

3/15/2012

Security Message for U.S. Citizens – Upcoming Demonstrations

U.S. Embassy Riga, Latvia

15 March, 2012

The Embassy alerts U.S. Citizens to planned demonstrations in Riga on Friday, March 16, 2012, which is a symbolic date for various World War II veterans groups and their supporters. Commemorative marches have sparked protest activity in the past. There will be a heavy police presence in the Old Town area of Riga, as well as near the Freedom monument.

Demonstrations are possible beginning at 10:00 am.

Even demonstrations that are meant to be peaceful can become violent and unpredictable. You should avoid them if at all possible. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to what the local news media has to say.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the Embassy Riga website. 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 Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have internet access, we have a call center for updates --1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

We encourage U.S. citizens living or traveling in Latvia to register with the U.S. Embassy in Riga through the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to obtain updated information on travel and security within Latvia. By registering, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. U.S. citizens without Internet access may register directly at the U.S. Embassy in Riga.

The U.S. Embassy in Riga can be reached in an emergency 24 hours per day at +371 6710-7000. The Embassy is located at 1 Samnera Velsa iela, Riga, in the Pardaugava neighborhood on the main route from the airport to the city center.