



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Lilongwe (Malawi), Potential for Unrest Due to Political Tensions

Riots/Civil Unrest

Africa > Malawi > Lilongwe

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The U.S. Embassy in Lilongwe alerts U.S. citizens to increased political tensions due to the recent arrests of opposition political figures in Malawi. These tensions have already resulted in demonstrations and rioting, like on Sunday, March 18, 2012 at a police station in Lilongwe. At the moment, large numbers of demonstrators are congregated around several areas in Lilongwe, including around Maula Prison, Old Town and City Center. As locations of demonstrations and/or potential rioting may swiftly change, we urge all U.S. citizens to please stay tuned to local media sources as the exact location of these disturbances may change quickly.

We urge U.S. citizens to avoid large groups or gatherings. If you are in an area where you feel threatened, leave the area immediately. We remind you that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can change quickly and potentially escalate into violence.

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.

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