



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Cairo (Egypt), Clashes in Abbassia

Other Threat / Incident

Near East > Egypt > Cairo

5/2/2012

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, May 2, 2012, protests in Cairo's Abbassia neighborhood erupted into serious and deadly clashes between pro-SCAF (Supreme Council Armed Forces) and anti-SCAF groups. These clashes have carried into the afternoon within the Abbassia area, which is also the location of the Ministry of Defense. Media reports have stated as many as twenty protestors may have been killed and many more injured. The clashes have involved the reported use of Molotov cocktails, tear gas and possibly live gunfire. There are reports that the Egyptian Armed Forces (or Central Security Forces) will deploy in an effort to clear the area and that other anti-SCAF protestors may conduct marches to Abbassia later today. The Embassy's medical research facility, NAMRU-3, which is located in the neighborhood dismissed staff early today due to the unrest. As the clashes were confined to the Abbassia area, no other facilities or personnel have been impacted. This remains, however, a situation that requires close attention. U.S. citizens are encouraged to monitor local news reports if traveling near of through the Abbassia area of Cairo.

The Embassy reminds all U.S. citizens to avoid areas where large crowds are assembling, including the downtown area. Even demonstrations or events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens caught unexpectedly near a march or demonstrations should try to depart the area or seek shelter in a safe place until the crowd has dispersed.

The Embassy reminds U.S. citizens to review their personal security plans and remain alert to their surroundings at all times in Egypt. For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website where the Worldwide Caution, Country Specific Information for Egypt, Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts, including the current Travel Alert for Egypt, can be found. You can also follow the Bureau of Consular Affairs on Twitter and on Facebook. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers outside of the United States and Canada, on 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).



U.S. citizens are advised to maintain valid travel documents and enroll with the Department of State or the U.S. Embassy Cairo through the State Department Smart Traveler Enrollment Program website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. For further information, U.S. citizens may call the Embassy's American Citizen Services Unit at 2797-2301 during business hours, Sunday to Thursday from 1:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. For emergencies after business hours and on weekends and holidays, U.S. citizens can contact the Embassy Duty Officer via the Embassy switchboard at 2797-3300. Please refer to the American Citizen Services Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/USEmbassyCairoACS. The Embassy is located at 5 Tawfik Diab Street (formerly known as Latin America Street), Garden City, Cairo.