



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Antananarivo (Madagascar), Possible Demonstrations in Downtown Antananarivo (May 12-13)

Political Violence

Africa > Madagascar > Antananarivo

5/11/2012

The Embassy has received reports that there is a possibility for demonstrations or protests to occur from May 12-13 in downtown Antananarivo. May 13 marks the 40th anniversary of the violent repression of student protestors by security forces and some groups have said that they plan to mark the occasion. Opposition groups have also called for separate protests. Public marches have frequently seen security forces use tear gas and tactics that have resulted in the injury and even deaths of civilians.

We encourage U.S. citizens to be particularly vigilant during this period. We continue to recommend that you avoid large gatherings and demonstrations. The Embassy has advised its personnel to stay away from downtown from Saturday morning through Sunday evening. Check news services for the latest information on events.

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can quickly and without much advance warning turn confrontational and escalate into violence. The U.S. Embassy, therefore, urges U.S. citizens to avoid crowds, political gatherings, and street demonstrations, even if they appear to be peaceful, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations or apparent fighting. U.S. citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

You can obtain Embassy updates by checking the website of the U.S. Embassy in Antananarivo. 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 and Canada, 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).

All U.S. citizens in Madagascar are urged to register online at the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). Registering gives U.S. citizens access to updated information on travel and security within Madagascar and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact citizens in case of emergency. Please note the following contact information:



U.S. citizens traveling to the country can contact the U.S. Embassy in Madagascar located at:
Lot 27 A Point Liberty
Andranoro-Antehiroka, Antananarivo, Madagascar
Telephone: [261] (20) 23-480-00 (available 24 hours in case of emergency)
Fax: [261] (20) 23-480-35
Web site is <http://www.antenanarivo.usembassy.gov/>