



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Skopje (Macedonia), Potentially Violent Demonstrations (May 11) Riots/Civil Unrest

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As a follow up to the Demonstration Notice issued on May 10, 2012, the U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia, would like to advise U.S. citizens that there is a possibility that some level of violence will occur during the demonstrations planned for today in Skopje.

Because of expectations that the May 11th, 2012 demonstrations will take place near the area known as "air" or Old Town, the U.S. Embassy advises U.S. citizens in Skopje to avoid that area on May 11th. U.S. citizens should also avoid the area around the Skopje headquarters of the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) political party located near the "airchanka" shopping mall today as well.

Below is the text of the Demonstration Notice issued on May 10, 2011:

Macedonia is still experiencing reaction from the Smiljkovsko Lake murders and the subsequent arrests of multiple suspects as part of the Ministry of Interior's police operation, "Monster". On Friday, May 4, a sizeable demonstration took place in Skopje, which was accompanied by a few isolated cases of violence and destructive behavior. The demonstration was organized on various social media sites.

Social media sites are asking individuals to gather after the Friday, May 11, 1:00 p.m. prayer service held at mosques in Skopje, Tetovo, Kumanovo, Gostivar, Struga, and Kicevo. Possible demonstration locations include police stations, government buildings, and court buildings.

Social media sites are also calling for a counter demonstration this Saturday, May 12th, 2012. Supporters have been asked to gather in front of the government building in Skopje starting at 4:00 p.m.

Similar demonstrations are expected to take place periodically for the foreseeable future. Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Macedonia from time to time in response to world events or local developments. We wish to remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations. 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 U.S. Embassy's 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.

All U.S. citizens in Macedonia are urged to enroll online at the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). Registering gives U.S. citizens access to updated information on travel and security within Macedonia and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact citizens in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located at ul. Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje. The telephone number, including after-hours contact information, is (389) 2-310-2000, e-mail.