



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Bamako (Mali), Protest Activity

Other Threat / Incident

Africa > Mali > Bamako

5/21/2012

The U.S. Embassy is sending this message to inform U.S. citizens that a large demonstration with several thousand participants took place today in the center of Bamako, particularly around the Cité Administrative, the New Bridge, and the Presidential Palace. The protests are growing, shifting in location, and unpredictable. There have been unconfirmed reports of violence and destruction of property. U.S. citizens are advised to limit movements in the center of Bamako. If you must move about, avoid these areas and any large crowds.

The Embassy has received reports that demonstrations may continue over the next few days. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to remain alert, to monitor the situation, and to be prepared to shelter in place. Contact us at ConsularBamako@state.gov to add your cell phone number to the SMS distribution list. Please note that the SMS system does not have a 100% success rate due to the volume of calls currently moving through the Malian cell phone network.

We remind you 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 you to avoid crowds, political gatherings, and street demonstrations, even if they appear to be peaceful. You should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

U.S. citizens currently in Mali despite the current U.S. Department of State Travel Warning are urged to enroll in the State Department's 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 family and friends 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.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Bamako web site. You can 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 United States and Canada, or from other countries 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 federal holidays). You can also download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App to have travel information at your fingertips.



The U.S. Embassy in Bamako is located at ACI 2000, Rue 243 Porte 297. The Consular Section can be contacted at +223 2070 2505, or via email at consularbamako@state.gov. For after-hours emergencies, please contact the Embassy Duty Officer via the Marine Guard at +223 2070 2301 or 2070 2302.