



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Kabul (Afghanistan), Eid-al-Fitr and Security Concerns

Terrorism; Threats; Other Threat / Incident

South Central Asia > Afghanistan > Kabul

8/12/2012

Eid-al-Fitr, the end of Ramadan, will begin on either Sunday, August 19, 2012 or Monday, August 20, 2012 and last for three days. According to media reports, unidentified violent extremists may use Eid-al-Fitr, or the upcoming Afghanistan Independence Day on August 18, 2012, to target locations in Kabul frequented by westerners – such as western embassies, including the American Embassy, Kabul International Airport, restaurants, hotels and guest houses. Locations where westerners are known to frequent and large public gatherings may become targets for violent extremist activity. In addition, even gatherings that are meant to be peaceful can become violent and unpredictable.

To mark the occasions of Afghanistan Independence Day and Eid-al-Fitr, the Consular Section will be closed to the public for non-emergency services from Thursday, August 16th to Tuesday, August 21st, 2012. Normal operations will resume on Wednesday, August 22nd. For emergencies involving U.S. citizens during this time, please call the Consular Duty Officer at 0700-201-908.

As a reminder, in accordance with the Travel Warning for Afghanistan the Department of State warns U.S. citizens against travel to Afghanistan. U.S. citizens traveling to Afghanistan despite this warning should avoid being predictable in their movements, including varying routes and times in commutes or other routine travel. The U.S. Embassy urges U.S. citizens to remain vigilant and avoid areas where westerners congregate, such as hotels and guest houses. Do not discuss travel plans or other personal matters with strangers, or in public places.

U.S. citizens in Afghanistan should regularly monitor the Embassy's **Travel Advisory** web page, as well as the Department of State's Bureau of **Consular Affairs website**, where



the **Worldwide Caution**, **Country Specific Information** and the **Travel Warning** for Afghanistan are found.

In addition, the Embassy encourages U.S. citizens to review "**A Safe Trip Abroad**," which includes valuable security information for those traveling or living in foreign countries. 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 1-202-501-444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The **U.S. Embassy** is located at Great Masood Road between Radio Afghanistan and the Ministry of Public Health in Kabul. To reach the American Citizens Services unit during business hours, please call 0700-108-499 or send us an e-mail (**KabulACS@state.gov**). You can also reach us through the Embassy's switchboard by calling 0700-108-001/002. **For after-hours life-or-limb emergencies involving U.S. citizens, please call the Consular Duty Officer at 0700-201-908.**