



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Muscat (Oman), Avoid Demonstrations in the Muscat Area

Other Threat / Incident

Near East > Oman > Muscat

8/13/2012

As reported recently in the local press, two demonstrations took place in Muscat last week. The first demonstration took place at the new airport construction site and involved several thousand workers, resulting in some damage to property and automobiles. In a second event, protestors demonstrated in the Embassy district regarding an expatriate labor issue. U.S. Embassy personnel have been instructed to avoid these areas of demonstrations.

The U.S. Embassy wishes to remind U.S. citizens residing in or traveling to the Sultanate of Oman that spontaneous and/or planned demonstrations take place throughout the country from time to time in response to world events or local developments. We 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. U.S. citizens should review their personal plans, stay current with media coverage of local events, and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

If you are driving around Oman and encounter a large gathering or demonstration, do not attempt to drive through the crowd. Turn around and go back. If there is no alternate route to take other than where the demonstrators are gathered, turn around and find someplace to stop until the crowd disperses. If you inadvertently find yourself in the middle of a group of demonstrators, call the Royal Oman Police (ROP) at 9999. Give them your location, and stay in your vehicle with the doors locked. Do not open the doors or windows.

You can get Embassy security updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Oman website. Get global safety and security 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 can be found. U.S. citizens should also review "A Safe Trip Abroad," which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad.

You can follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook as well. You can also download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App to have travel information at your fingertips.

If you are going to live in or travel to Oman, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the 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 friends and family 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.

If you don't have internet access, you can get current information on safety and security 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).

The U.S. Embassy in Oman is located on Jameat A'Duwal Al Arabiya Street in the diplomatic area of Shatti al Qurum in the capital city of Muscat; the mailing address is Consular Section, P.O. Box 202, Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos 115, Sultanate of Oman. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you should contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to ConsularMuscat@state.gov. The Embassy telephone number is +968 2464-3400. For After Hours Emergencies, please call Tel: +968 2464-3400 and ask to speak to the duty officer.

American Citizens Services are available by appointment; to schedule an appointment, please visit our website. When visiting the Embassy, please bring two forms of government-issued identification with photographs, as you will need to leave one with the security guards while inside the building.