



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Bujumbura (Burundi), Problem With Bottled Drinking Water

Other Threat / Incident

Africa > Burundi > Bujumbura

8/31/2012

This Emergency Message is to alert U.S. citizens living in Burundi that Embassy personnel have been advised to avoid drinking Kinju brand bottled water until we can determine that it is safe to consume. The embassy recommends U.S. citizens consider taking similar precautions.

One embassy staff member has fallen ill after drinking Kinju bottled water with an unusual taste. Several other sealed Kinju water bottles have given off a strong gasoline smell once opened. Our embassy medical staff is currently testing water samples from these bottles to determine whether biological contaminants are present. U.S. citizens who fall ill after ingesting Kinju brand bottled water should seek immediate medical care. Individuals who have taken ill following a similar experience may wish to inform the embassy of the incident.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Bujumbura web site. 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. Current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States or a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444 for callers from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Burundi, 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.

The U.S. Embassy is located on Avenue des Etats-Unis; the mailing address is B.P: 1720 Bujumbura, Burundi. The phone number is (257) 22-20-70-00, fax (257) 22-22-29-26, and email BujumburaC@state.gov. U.S. Citizens Services hours are Mondays and Wednesday from 09:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Fridays from 09:00 a.m. until 10:30, except on U.S. and Burundian holidays. For emergencies after regular business hours, please call (257) 79-93-88-41.