



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Amman (Jordan), Non-essential Travel Guidance Rescinded

Other Threat / Incident

Near East > Jordan > Amman

11/19/2012

During the week of November 19, the number of protests against the elimination of fuel subsidies in Jordan has decreased considerably. As a result, the U.S. Embassy's guidance to defer all non-essential travel is rescinded. However, the Embassy continues to see spontaneous protests and road blockages throughout Jordan, particularly at night. In light of these events, as well as ongoing concerns about dangerous road conditions and the potential for traffic accidents, the Embassy advises all U.S. citizens to avoid road travel after sunset outside of major metropolitan areas.

Further, actions in Israel and Gaza are ongoing and may prompt negative reactions in Jordan, including possible demonstrations at the Israeli and U.S. Embassies. U.S. citizens are reminded to avoid demonstrations, even if peaceful, because they could escalate into violence. The U.S. Embassy encourages citizens to monitor media outlets for information related to events in Gaza and Israel. Travelers intending to enter Israel, the West Bank, or Gaza should review security messages from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem for important information.

Background

From Tuesday, November 13 to Sunday, November 18, more than 135 separate demonstrations took place throughout Jordan, including 24 events in Amman alone. Nearly all of these events were spontaneous, and the majority occurred after sunset. A number of these incidents were marred by violence, destruction of public property, blockages of highways and streets, as well as dozens of injuries and at least one reported fatality. Major mosques, municipal traffic circles, and public squares continue to be the most common locations for protests. The Ministry of Interior Square is a primary location for protests in Amman, and in recent days security forces have closed the Square at night to deter assemblies. Since last week, the road from Amman to the Dead Sea and parts of the Airport Highway in Amman were blocked intermittently and were difficult for security services to re-open.

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For the first time since the beginning of the Arab Spring, firearms were used by protestors who attacked public facilities and security personnel throughout Jordan. During these exchanges, at least 20 Jordanian security personnel were shot. The police have made over 325 arrests related to the riots, although some have been released.

The Embassy advises U.S. citizens to maintain valid travel documents and enroll with the Department of State through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Amman is located on Al-Umawiyyeen Street, Abdoun, P.O. Box 354. The telephone number is [962] (6) 590-6000, and the fax number is [962] (6) 592-4102. The after-hours emergency telephone number is [962] (6) 590-6500.

U.S. citizens traveling abroad regularly should monitor the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website, where 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.

Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook as well. You can also download our free Smart Traveler App, available through iTunes and the Android market to have travel information at your fingertips. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or outside the United States and Canada 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 U.S. federal holidays).

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