



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Rebels Capture Sake, Advance on Minova

Travel Health and Safety; Rebellions

Africa > Congo, Democratic Republic of the > Kinshasa

11/21/2012

The U.S. Embassy alerts U.S. citizens that the M23 rebel group, after capturing the city of Goma in North Kivu, has captured the town of Sake, and is currently near the town of Minova, approximately 50 kilometers north of Kalehe and 80 km north of Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu. The situation is highly fluid, and further advances by M23 cannot be ruled out. The U.S. Embassy urges U.S. citizens to avoid all travel to North and South Kivu, including Bukavu. U.S. citizens in South Kivu should either leave now, or be ready to do so on short notice with a pre-planned departure route. All U.S. citizens should ensure that their travel documents, including their U.S. passport and Congolese visas/residency permits, are valid and in their possession at all times.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Kinshasa 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 Warning, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook as well; or you can download our free Smart Traveler App from iTunes or the Android market to have travel information at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access, you may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444 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).

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If you are going to live in or travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 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 in Kinshasa is located at 310 Avenue des Aviateurs, tel. +243-081-225-5872 (Do not dial the zero when calling from abroad). The Consular Section of the Embassy may be reached at tel. +243-081-884-6859 or +243-081-884-4609 and is open Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For after-hours emergencies, U.S. citizens should call 081-556-0151 and ask to speak with the duty officer.

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