



Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Kinshasa (DRC), Continued Protests in Kinshasa

Riots/Civil Unrest

Africa > Congo, Democratic Republic of the > Kinshasa

11/24/2012

Today, Saturday November 24, at 1000 hours university students from different schools throughout Kinshasa are planning to gather at Gare Central and march to various diplomatic missions within Gombe. Reports say they intend to deliver documents to the US, UK, Rwandan, and French embassies, MONUSCO, and the Palais du Peuple.

There is no indication that this march is going to be violent, but it will likely impede traffic in Gombe. As of yet, we do not have an estimate as to the number of participants, but we urge you to keep your movements around Kinshasa to a minimum to avoid possible problems.

Protests are likely to continue into the near future.

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens in the Democratic Republic of Congo that events can occur rapidly and without prior warning. All U.S. citizens should ensure that their travel documents, including their U.S. passport and Congolese visas/residency permits, are valid. In addition, U.S. citizens should have their travel documents in their possession at all times in case of an immediate need to travel.

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

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p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

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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