



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Kigali (Rwanda), Rubavu District (Update)

Rebellions

Africa > Rwanda > Kigali

11/27/2012

The U.S. Embassy has received credible reports of incursions today, November 27, by armed groups (reportedly FDLR) near Mudende in Rubavu District. These groups entered Rwanda from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and were engaged by the Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF). The U.S. Embassy has restricted travel to the Rubavu district by official Americans. We urge U.S. citizens to avoid travel to Rubavu.

The Embassy reminds U.S. citizens that the situation in eastern DRC remains extremely volatile. Please do not remain in areas where fighting is occurring. U.S. citizens should also be alert to danger from stray bullets and munitions from fighting near the border areas. There are numerous militias and armed groups in the DRC provinces of North and South Kivu, and these areas have high rebel activity. U.S. citizens should exercise extreme caution when traveling in the border areas. If you are unfamiliar with the region and not accompanied by an experienced guide, you should avoid approaching the Rwanda-DRC land borders. There are many areas where the Rwanda-DRC border is not clearly marked.

U.S. citizens residing or traveling in the DRC border areas despite the existing travel warnings for the Rubavu district of Rwanda and eastern DRC should review the Emergency Messages posted on U.S. Embassy Kinshasa's website.

The U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa currently does not allow travel by official personnel to North Kivu, DRC. U.S. Embassy Kinshasa continues to strongly urge all U.S. citizens not to travel to North Kivu province or Goma, and recommends that any U.S. citizens present in North Kivu leave at once. U.S.

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Embassy Kinshasa has also strictly limited travel by official personnel to the DRC regions of South Kivu and Ituri. Travel to those regions for Embassy personnel is only permitted under exceptional circumstances.

U.S. citizens who reside in Rwanda but frequently visit the DRC should update their Smart Traveler

Enrollment (STEP) to include an itinerary for "frequent visits" to the DRC.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Kigali website or receiving consular information on Twitter.

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. 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. 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 from other countries 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).

If you are going to live in or travel to Rwanda, 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 Embassy is located at 2657 Avenue de la Gendarmerie; the mailing address is B.P. 28, Kigali, Rwanda; tel. +250 (252) 596-400. The

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consular section's e-mail address is consularkigali@state.gov. Routine U.S. Citizens Services are available by appointment Tuesdays from 09:00 to 12:00 and Fridays from 09:00 to 12:00, except for U.S. and Rwandan holidays. For after-hours emergencies, please call +250 (252) 596-400. For additional information on consular services, please visit the Embassy's website.

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