



## Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Cairo (Egypt), Large Demonstrations in Heliopolis Expected to Continue, December 6

Riots/Civil Unrest

Near East > Egypt > Cairo

12/6/2012

The Embassy wishes to draw the attention of U.S. citizens to calls for marches this afternoon, December 6, toward Itihadiya Palace in Heliopolis. We strongly urge U.S. citizens in Cairo to carefully monitor events throughout the day as they consider whether and how to move throughout the city.

The potential for continued violence remains high after last night's clashes near Itihadiya Palace in Heliopolis resulted in numerous injuries and reportedly five deaths. Clashes began early Wednesday evening and lasted well into the night after Muslim Brotherhood supporters arrived in the area to confront liberal and secularist protestors near the Palace. With calls today for anti-Muslim Brotherhood marches from three locations (al Nour mosque in Abbyissia, al-Mataryaa District, and Rabaa al-Adwyaa mosque in Nasr City) to the Palace, confrontation and renewed violence is possible. It is also likely that large groups supporting both sides of the political spectrum will gather on Friday, raising the possibility of confrontation over the upcoming weekend.

The current level of tension and emotion is extremely high and U.S. citizens should closely monitor their movements over the coming days, particularly avoiding the areas commonly reported as gathering locations prone to potential violence. These include: Heliopolis and the area of Itihadiya Palace and Tahrir Square and vicinity; and in Alexandria, Sede Gaber (near the train station, the Qaid Ibrahim mosque, Victoria and Smouha). Concerns are not limited to these locations and could extend to other areas as well, thus the need to be alert during all movements.

As a matter of general practice, U.S. citizens should avoid areas where large gatherings may occur. Even demonstrations or events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens in Egypt are urged to monitor local news reports and to plan their activities accordingly.

The Embassy reminds U.S. citizens to review their personal security plans and remain alert to their surroundings at all times in Egypt. For the latest security information, U.S. citizens

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traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website where the Worldwide Caution, Country Specific Information for Egypt, Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts, including the current Travel Alert for Egypt, can be found. You can also follow the Bureau of Consular Affairs on Twitter and on Facebook. You can also download our free Smart Traveler App available through iTunes and the Android market to have travel information at your fingertips. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers outside of 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).

U.S. citizens are advised to maintain valid travel documents and enroll with the Department of State or the U.S. Embassy Cairo through the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program website. If you enroll we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements and can also help your family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency. U.S. citizens without Internet access may enroll directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

For further information, U.S. citizens may call the Embassy's American Citizens Services Unit at 2797-2301 during business hours, Sunday to Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Please refer to the American Citizens Services Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/USEmbassyCairoACS](http://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyCairoACS). For emergencies after business hours and on weekends and holidays, U.S. citizens can contact the Embassy Duty Officer via the Embassy switchboard at 2797-3300. The Embassy is located at 5 Tawfik Diab Street (formerly known as Latin America Street), Garden City, Cairo.

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