



## Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Cairo (Egypt), Constitutional Referendum Vote December 15 & 22, 2012

Riots/Civil Unrest

Near East > Egypt > Cairo

12/13/2012

The Embassy wishes to remind U.S. citizens of the high level of political tension that continues among Egyptians and rival political groups over the legitimacy of the upcoming constitutional referendum. The referendum vote will take place over the next two Saturdays, December 15 and 22 with both sides galvanizing their constituencies to vote. This divisive issue will likely result in continued demonstrations and marches throughout the coming week, as groups attempt to maintain momentum and demonstrate strong support. Groups on Friday, December 14 will likely assemble in the same areas as they have in past weeks. In Cairo, groups may converge on Tahrir Square and at locations in Nasr City and Heliopolis, while in Alexandria groups may possibly gather near the train station at Sidi Gaber, Qai'd Ibrahim, Victoria and Manshaya. U.S. citizens should not only avoid these areas over the weekend but be alert to the potential for clashes, including possible sporadic confrontations at neighborhood polling stations. The Egyptian military and police have stated their intention to secure all polling sites. All movements over the weekend should factor in the current political tension and U.S. citizens should maintain an elevated level of awareness, avoid designated areas of concern, and remove themselves quickly from any area that appears unsafe.

The Embassy also wishes to inform U.S. citizens that it has placed Tahrir Square and its adjoining Metro Stop, Sadat station off-limits to Embassy personnel and family members until further notice. Metro commuters are permitted, however, to use the Saad Zaghloul metro stop. 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 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

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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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