



Emergency Messages for U.S. Citizens: Tirana (Albania), Public Service Outages and Ongoing Demonstrations

Riots/Civil Unrest

Europe > Albania > Tirana

12/19/2012

The U.S. Embassy in Tirana informs U.S. citizens of ongoing protests, including road blockages that continue to occur through the country as a result of continued disruptions in electrical service. At least 12 demonstrations have occurred throughout the country since November 1, 2012. Further demonstrations are likely to occur in the coming days and weeks.

U.S. Embassy personnel are advised to avoid any demonstrations and protests. In addition, ongoing power outages have the potential to disrupt other public utilities as well, including water service. This could result in reduced water supplies in affected areas.

U.S. citizens are reminded that all public gatherings and demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Large public gatherings can affect all major incoming arteries to the city in which they occur. Demonstrations in one city have the potential to lead to additional public rallies or demonstrations in other locations around the city and country.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Albania to enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, the Worldwide Caution, and the Country Specific Information for Albania. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad."

Contact the U.S. embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 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). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook, and download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Tirana is located at Rruga Elbasanit, Nr. 103 in Tirana, Albania and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 13:15 to 15:15. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting our American Citizen Services website. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +355-(0)4-224-7285.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.