



## Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Burundi, Holiday Security Reminder

Crime; Religious Terrorism

Africa > Burundi > Bujumbura

12/21/2012

The U.S. Embassy reminds all U.S. citizens of heightened security concerns related to the potential for increased criminal and regional terrorist group activity during the holiday season. The year-end holiday season in Burundi often brings a spike in criminal activity such as robbery and theft. Regional terror groups such as al-Shabaab, which have threatened attacks in Burundi, are also of particular concern at this time of year. The Embassy strongly cautions U.S. citizens against traveling outside of population centers after nightfall.

In addition, the Embassy recommends that you review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings and of local events, avoid large public gatherings, 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 authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Burundi enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov/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.

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Regularly monitor the State Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, including the Travel Warning for Burundi, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Burundi. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

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 at <https://mobile.twitter.com/travelgov> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/travelgov>, and download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8> to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Bujumbura is located on the corner of Avenue des Etats-Unis and Avenue du Cinquanteaire and is open from 7:30 to 17:15 the telephone number is +257-22-20-7000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is (257) 79-93-88-41, or (257) 22 20 7318 if no answer.

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