



Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Bujumbura (Burundi), Security Awareness Follows Central Market Fire

Crime

Africa > Burundi > Bujumbura

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The U.S. Embassy reminds all U.S. citizens in Burundi of heightened security concerns following the fire in the Central Market in downtown Bujumbura. Tragic events resulting in widespread monetary and property loss often trigger an increase in criminal activity, especially robbery and theft. Losses of livelihood with an already struggling economy may cause panic and desperation resulting in the rise in crimes of opportunity. Certain groups may also seek retribution against others who are rumored to have been involved in wrongdoing during and after the event.

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 authorities.

If you are going to live in or travel to Burundi, 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.

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 at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1078.html. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

You can stay in touch and get U.S. Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Bujumbura website at <http://bujumbura.usembassy.gov/index.html>. 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>, or you can download our free Smart Traveler App, available through iTunes and the Android marketplace, to have travel information at your fingertips.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE



BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

The U.S. Embassy in Bujumbura is located on the corner of Avenue des Etats-Unis and Avenue du Cinquantenaire 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 +257-22-20-7318, or +257-79-93-88-41.