



Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Harare (Zimbabwe), Large Demonstrations Planned for August 26

Riots/Civil Unrest

Africa > Zimbabwe > Harare

8/25/2016

The U.S. Embassy Harare informs U.S. Citizens in the Harare area that both the police and media are indicating that a large demonstration is scheduled for 0800 hours tomorrow morning August 26, 2016. NERA (National Electoral Reform Agenda) and opposition political leaders reportedly plan to gather at the large field ("Freedom Square") adjacent to Rainbow Towers hotel located on the western part of the Central Business District. The numbers may be in the thousands.

At this time, the U.S. Embassy cannot confirm the exact numbers of participants nor the potential for related violence along the route. The Zimbabwe Republic Police continue to be deployed in the Central Business District, and it is expected they will increase their numbers through tomorrow morning in anticipation of this event. The expected route is likely to be along Robert Mugabe road marching towards Parliament, other GOZ buildings or African Unity Square (however, we cannot confirm an exact route at this time.)

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place and exercise caution when in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

For further information:

- See the **State Department's travel website** for the **Worldwide Caution**, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the **Country Specific Information for Zimbabwe**.
- Enroll in the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)** to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Harare, located at 172 Herbert Chitepo Avenue and is open Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 5:00pm and Friday 8:30am – 12:30pm. You may also contact the Consular Section at **ConsularHarare@state.gov**. The emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +263 772 559 727 or send a WhatsApp text on +263 772 124 896.

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· Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

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