



Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Lilongwe (Malawi), Fire in Main Market in Old To

Other Threat / Incident

Africa > Malawi; Africa > Malawi > Lilongwe

9/23/2016

The U.S. Embassy has received reports of potential protests aimed at the response to a large fire this morning at the Main Market in Old Town. Although tensions around the site of the fire appear to be deescalating, the situation remains fluid and unpredictable. The fire consumed many, if not all, of the market stalls and continues to smolder at this time. The area is congested with pedestrians, vehicles, and Malawian emergency response personnel.

The U.S. Embassy has instructed its staff to avoid traveling through in the area south of the M1 and along Malangalanga Road in the vicinity of the Lilongwe Bus Station. The U.S. Embassy also recommends U.S. citizens avoid the area south of the M1 and along Malangalanga Road in the vicinity of the Lilongwe Bus Station.

Even 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.

Please 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.

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.



We

strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Malawi 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 nearest U.S. embassy or 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, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Malawi. For additional information, refer to the "Traveler's Checklist" 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 in 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 to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Lilongwe is

located at on Kenyatta Drive, Area 40, Plot 24, Lilongwe 3, and is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Telephone

1-733-166. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance outside of business hours, the emergency after-hours number for the U.S. Embassy is 01-773-166, ext. 3443 (if in Malawi) or 011-265-1-773-166, ext. 3442 (if in the U.S.). Please state that you are a U.S. Citizen, your name, your passport number, and the type of emergency that you are facing. The security personnel will then forward your call to the appropriate person to assist you.

In

the event that the land line is malfunctioning, please call the following mobile number 0999-591-024 and 0888-734-826 (if in Malawi) or 011-265-999-591-024 and 011-265-888-734-826 (if in the U.S.).

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