



Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Nouakchott (Mauritania), Increase in Violent Crime

Crime

Africa > Mauritania > Nouakchott

11/18/2016

The U.S. Embassy wishes to remind U.S. citizens in Mauritania that violent criminal activity in Nouakchott continues to rise. In Nouakchott, armed robberies and burglaries are occurring at homes as well as on busy streets in broad daylight. Some of these incidents have been extremely violent in nature, and the use of knives and other weapons is becoming more common.

Due to the increase in criminal activity, the U.S. Embassy has directed its official staff to not walk to and from work and to avoid walking in general, especially if alone.

The U.S. Embassy also reminds U.S. citizens that driving in Mauritania can be hazardous, due to the poor quality of roads and the lack of adherence to rules of the road by other drivers. A diplomatic-plated Embassy vehicle was recently deliberately struck at an intersection and its occupants were harassed. U.S. citizens are advised to obey local traffic laws and avoid getting into verbal or physical altercations with other drivers. If followed, proceed directly to the nearest police station.

Review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, and monitor local news stations for updates. Be vigilant and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

For further information:

- See the State Department's travel website for the Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Mauritania Country Specific Information.
- 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 Nouakchott located between the presidency building and the Spanish Embassy on Rue Abdallaye, Nouakchott, and can be reached by phone at +222-4525-1145, or 4525-3038. Our opening hours are 8:00a.m – 5:00p.m. Monday – Thursday, and 8:00am – 12:00pm on Friday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +222-4525-3288 and +222- 3662-8163.

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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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