



## Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Seoul (South Korea), Daily Protests December 5

Riots/Civil Unrest; Diplomatic Missions

East Asia & Pacific > South Korea > Seoul

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U.S. Embassy Seoul informs U.S. citizens that protest groups have announced plans to stage daily demonstrations centered on Gwanghwamun Plaza (across from the U.S. Embassy) commencing at 7:00 p.m. and concluding at 10:00 p.m. Korean authorities anticipate approximately 1,000 participants at these daily demonstrations. Organizers have announced plans to march to the Cheongwoon-dong Community Service Center (near the Blue House) after the rallies. Police will close traffic lanes to facilitate the marches. Demonstrations have been announced Monday through Friday, December 5-9, 2016.

On Saturday evenings, massive demonstrations centered on Gwanghwamun Plaza, to include the area between Seoul City Hall and Gyeongbokgung Palace, continue. Rallies have been announced for Saturday evenings, commencing at 6:00 p.m. and concluding at 9:00 p.m.; however, crowds are expected to gather before that time and demonstrations may continue past midnight. Korean authorities anticipate that participants supporting these rallies may number over 200,000.

Political demonstrations are common in the Republic of Korea, and occur regularly throughout Seoul and other Korean cities. However, the large size and location of these demonstrations on Gwanghwamun Plaza will result in congestion and road closings in the area.

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. 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.

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