

**CONSULAR NEWS  
SENEGAL & GUINEA BISSAU**

**U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal  
February 2006**

**Consular Section Closed on Thursday, February 23**

The Consular Section will be closed all day on Thursday, February 23 for consular staff training.

**Foreign Service Written Exam**

We are pleased to announce that the Foreign Service Written Exam (FSWE) will be administered in Dakar on April 8, 2006. This will be the only administration of the exam in 2006. To take the examination and to enter the Foreign Service applicants must: 1) be a US citizen; 2) be at least 20 years of age and no older than 59 on the date of the exam; 3) be available for worldwide assignment; and 4) not have been previously separated from the Foreign Service for retirement, expiration of time in class, retirement based on relative performance or separation for cause.

Registration materials are available on the Department's website:

[WWW.CAREERS.STATE.GOV](http://WWW.CAREERS.STATE.GOV) and at the U.S. Embassy. This year all applicants must register online. The registration guide and the website provide information for those who need assistance registering online. Applications for the April 8 exam must be received by March 1, 2006 for foreign test sites, and March 8, 2006 for domestic test sites.

**Don't Forget to Carry Identification**

Last month, Senegalese police detained another American citizen who could not present any identification when requested by a police officer. Please remember to carry personal identification with you at all times. All Senegalese law enforcement officials have the authority to challenge suspicious activity and to request personal identification. **Be aware that they may request personal identification even without cause, which is generally not the case in the United States.** If you do not cooperate and provide identification, you may be detained for up to 48 hours without formal charges. Police officers in Senegal often detain individuals who appear to be confrontational, insulting or disrespectful to the officer. If you are detained, you should insist that the police officer notify the American Embassy. If the Embassy is open, the police officer should call 823-4296 ext. 2204. If the Embassy is closed, the police officer should call 637-9566.

**Register On-Line**

Last year the State Department launched a secure online travel registration website which will allow you, as an American citizen, to record foreign trip and residence information that the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Dakar can use to communicate with you and assist you in case of an emergency.

The new Internet travel registration service for American citizens allows you to register and update your contact information on the Internet at any time, making it easier for you to keep your information current. The site also provides you with up-to-date travel information customized to

your unique travel agenda and itinerary. The data you provide is secured behind Department of State firewalls, accessed only by cleared personnel in Embassies, Consulates, and the Department of State, and releasable only under the provisions of the Privacy Act.

If you have not already registered on-line, I encourage you to do so (even you previously registered using the paper form) by using the links at <http://travel.state.gov> or directly at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

### **Crime Watch**

On Wednesday, December 21 at 0:30 a.m., several American citizens were in a taxi in Mermoz. When the taxi driver slowed down at an intersection to make a turn, a man carrying a machete approached the driver's door and attempted to open it. He did not succeed in opening the door, and the driver began to speed away, with the man holding on to the door. The attacker was forced to release his grip on the door, but he ran after the taxi and hit the rear window (the large window at the back of the car) with his machete, shattering it. The Americans, who were seated in the back seat, were hit with flying glass, but were not injured. The taxi driver continued driving away.

On Friday, January 6 in the evening, a group of men mugged a young Canadian woman outside of Thioassane nightclub. The men dragged the woman into the street by her backpack and once the men had left she found slashes in her bag from a knife. The men were unable to take her bag.

On Saturday, January 14 at 4:30 a.m., two men attacked an American woman in Mermoz. She walked past her as she waited in front of a house. A few minutes later the men returned and split up, one coming from behind the American citizen and grabbing her by the neck and the other from the front. While screaming and trying to get out of the headlock, she was struck in the face by one of the aggressors. She kicked him in the chest and the two ran off. The student had no property stolen and suffered only minor injuries from having her arm pinned back.

On Friday, January 20, an man with a knife robbed two Americans who were walking on a road in the Matam area.

### **Avian Flu Update**

The State Department has travel tips on the avian flu available at : [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health\\_1181.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health_1181.html).

### **Consular Hours**

Routine American citizen services are available Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please come to window number two.

Emergency American citizen services are available during U.S. Embassy normal working hours. For an after-hours emergency involving an American citizen, please call 637-9566.

### **Have You Left Senegal or Guinea-Bissau?**

If you have left Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please e-mail us at [consulardakar@state.gov](mailto:consulardakar@state.gov) so we can remove your name from the warden registration database. If you would like to remain on the newsletter mailing list, please indicate this in your e-mail.