

**CONSULAR NEWS
SENEGAL & GUINEA BISSAU**

**U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal
February 2007**

I-130 Petitions

Recent legislation has led to changes in the procedures American citizens resident abroad will follow if they wish to sponsor an immediate relative (spouse, parent or minor child) for an immigrant visa. Effective immediately, the immediate relative petition (I-130) must be filed with the USCIS office responsible for the petitioner's place of residence (that is, the place of residence of the American citizen who is filing the petition). Consular offices at U.S. embassies and consulates are no longer authorized to accept I-130s, although they will continue to provide guidance to American citizen petitioners and their family members. Responsibility for acceptance and approval of immigrant visa petitions rests solely with USCIS. American citizens should submit their I-130 at the CIS office responsible for their place of residence.

This procedural change may result in a processing delay for some applicants. The Department of State recognizes and sincerely regrets the inconvenience this may cause.

USCIS contact information may be found on their webpage at www.uscis.gov. USCIS can be reached through their National Customer Service Center (NCSC) at 1-800-375-5283 (TTY 1-800-767-1833). The USCIS Ombudsman may be contacted at cisombudsman@dhs.gov.

For more information, please e-mail us at ConsularDakar@state.gov.

February's Frequently Asked Question

Q. I plan to stay in Senegal longer than three months and I was told in the U.S. that the U.S. Embassy, Dakar will issue/extend my Senegalese visa to a year. What is the process for doing this?

A. The U.S. Embassy in Dakar does not have the authority or jurisdiction to extend American citizens' Senegalese visas. When a Senegalese citizen comes to the U.S. and wishes to extend his/her stay, he/she must contact the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to request permission to remain in the U.S. Similarly, Americans in Senegal must work with local Senegalese authorities to ensure they remain in Senegal legally.

Although we cannot issue or extend Senegalese visas, the information below describes how you would obtain a Residency Permit from Senegalese authorities and the two documents that the consular section can provide to facilitate that process. These guidelines are subject to change, as this authority rests solely with the Senegalese government:

To obtain a Residency Permit for Senegal, a U.S. citizen should go to the Police des Etrangers at Allées Ababacar Sy, Prés du Commissariat de Police de Dieuppeul, Tél: 869 30 01. You will need to provide the following documents: a letter to the Minister of Interior requesting a long-term visa for Senegal; a photocopy of your U.S. passport; an "attestation tenant lieu de bulletin

de naissance” (a birth certificate); an “extrait de casier judiciaire” (a police certificate); a medical certificate; fees of 75,000 CFA and 15.200 CFA for fiscal stamps; and three photos. You can obtain the attestation and extrait at the consular section for a \$50 fee or the equivalent in CFA.

Crime Watch

On Friday, January 12, during the day, someone stole a bag from a car owned by an American citizen that was parked outside of Ebbets field. The car door was unlocked.

On Thursday, January 18, between 4:00 p.m. and 5:45 p.m., two men broke into the home of an American citizen in the Hann Maristes neighborhood near the Dakar Academy. They stole two laptops, an Ipod, a digital camera, cash, and a couple other things that amount to over 3000 USD. The house had a security guard who saw nothing out of the ordinary.

An American citizen had his U.S. passport stolen during the Dakar Rally.

On Saturday, January 20, at approximately 5:30 a.m. and American citizen had his car broken into in Liberte 6 Extension (off the VDN). Someone in the neighborhood heard noises and scared the guy away. Only the rear passenger window was broken.

On Sunday, January 21, at approximately 5:30 a.m, someone attempted to hot wire an American citizen's car. We do not know where. The thief was unable to unlock the wheel without the car key and was unable to steal the car.

Passport Requirement For Air Travel Began January 23

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Department of State issued reminders that citizens of the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda are now required to present a passport to enter the U.S. when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere.

The air requirement is part of the departments of State and Homeland Security's Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). This change in travel document requirements is the result of recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, which Congress subsequently passed into law in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

The only acceptable alternative documents to a passport for air travel will be the Merchant Mariner Document (MMD) and the NEXUS Air card. The MMD or "z-card" is issued by the U.S. Coast Guard to U.S. Merchant Mariners. The NEXUS Air card is issued to citizens of Canada and the U.S., lawful permanent residents of the U.S. and permanent residents of Canada who meet certain eligibility requirements. The NEXUS Air card will only be accepted when used in conjunction with the NEXUS Air program at certain airports. The MMD card will only be accepted when used on official business by U.S. Citizen Merchant Mariners. Members of the U.S. military, when traveling on official orders, may continue to present their military ID and orders for entry into the U.S. Legal Permanent Residents of the U.S. may re-enter on their I-551 Permanent Resident Card.

Did Your Email Change to Orange.sn?

If you had a sentoo.sn email address that has changed to orange.sn, please email your new address to consulardakar@state.gov so we can put your new address onto the consular Listserv - we want to ensure that you never miss a warden message or monthly newsletter.

New American Citizen Services Unit Chief

I am pleased to announce that Amanda Porter is the new chief of the American citizen services unit. Roksana Houge is still with the embassy, but is now chief of the non-immigrant visa unit.

Hours for American Citizen Services

Routine American citizen services are available Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. When you arrive at the embassy, please show your U.S. passport or proof of American citizenship to the guard and go directly to the Consular Receptionist window. You do not have to wait in line with visa applicants.

Emergency American citizen services are available during U.S. Embassy normal working hours which are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For an after-hours emergency involving an American citizen, please call 637-9566.

We are also available by e-mail at consulardakar@state.gov.

Have You Left Senegal or Guinea-Bissau?

If you have left Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please e-mail us at 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 let us know in your e-mail.