

CONSULAR NEWS  
SENEGAL & GUINEA BISSAU

U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal  
June 2008

#### AN INVITATION

Celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup> poolside with your fellow Americans! When: July 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Where: Club Atlantique, in Fenetre Mermoz, Dakar. Ticket price includes entrance to the event, games and activities, choice of hamburger/hotdog, chips, potato salad, fruit bowl and dessert. Price for tickets purchased in advance: 4000 cfa for adults, 3000 cfa for kids 2 – 10 (hot dog meal). Children under 2 get in free. Note: 1000 cfa will be added to tickets purchased at the door. Event is open to Americans and their sponsored guests. Please bring identification (passport or copy of passport, etc). For more information contact Stephanie at 76-383-1478.

#### VIOLENCE IN THE CASAMANCE

On June 20, 2008, armed men, suspected to be members of the Movement of the Casamance Democratic Forces (MFDC), exchanged fire with Senegalese government soldiers, injuring one soldier in the process. The confrontation took place between Tendieme and Kouteghor, about 33 kilometers north of Ziguinchor. The exchange of fire followed an armed attack by the rebels on a vehicle conveying some civilians. One man was killed and a woman was injured in the attack.

#### VOTING

While Election Day approaches, we want to assist you in obtaining ballots and voting. June 28 – July 7, 2008 is Overseas Citizen Voters Week! Here's a brief description of the voting process from overseas for U.S. citizens:

The citizen completes and mails the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) or submits the On-Line version of FPCA. The Local Election Officials approve the registration request or request further information. The Local Election Officials then mail the absentee ballot to the overseas voter. The citizen votes and mails the absentee ballot to the Local Election Official in time to meet state deadlines.

The 2007-2008 Voter Assistance Guide and the FPCA is available for reference at the American Citizen Services Unit in the Consular Section. Should you have any questions regarding voting in the 2008 elections please feel free to contact us at [Consulardakar@state.gov](mailto:Consulardakar@state.gov).

#### HEALTH ALERT

Guinea-Bissau: Cholera outbreak - As reported by the UN, Guinea Bissau has some of the poorest quality of water in the world. Less than 25 percent of Guinea Bissau residents have access to modern toilets. As a result of the lack of sanitation, there has been an outbreak of

cholera in a remote fishing village in southeastern Guinea-Bissau. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recorded that two deaths, and 53 others have been diagnosed with the disease. Since it is common for people in fishing communities to move north and south along the coast, people fear that the outbreak may spread to other areas. Some 40 cases of cholera have also been reported across the border in Guinea Conakry and are being dealt with by local authorities. WHO describes the incidence of the disease as is as "one of the key indicators of social development" because it only occurs regularly in poorly developed countries.  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200805261233.html>

## CRIMES IN SENEGAL

Burglary - As a caution to those in the community, be aware of your personal belongings; especially your homes. Around 4:00am on May 30, 2008, a home in Les Almadies was broken into. The burglar entered through the third floor, and stole cash.

Items stolen – An American citizen had a cell phone and MP3 player stolen from his house in a brief, three-minute period when he left the house with his dog. The individual suspects that the items were stolen by the trash collectors, who were at the house when he left.

Scooter stolen – Around 01:00 on May 30 an American citizen had his scooter stolen by two men while he was going back home in Point E. The citizen tried to dodge the two men as they tried to stop him beside the pharmacy on the Allées Seydou Noro Tall but one of the perpetrators knocked him off the scooter. The citizen was threatened with a knife even when he tried to fight back and the men left with the scooter. He was left with only injuries from the fall.

## GUINEA

Warden Message  
U.S. Embassy, Conakry  
June 2, 2008

This Warden Message is to inform American citizens that the situation in Guinea is returning to normal, and that the Embassy is lifting its earlier recommendation against traveling to or within Conakry.

However, the Embassy continues to remind American citizens that demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence quickly. The Embassy, therefore, urges U.S. citizens to exercise caution in the vicinity of any protests, and to avoid crowds, political gatherings, and street demonstrations, even if they appear to be peaceful.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

**What should I do if my baby is born abroad?**

As U.S. citizen parent(s), you should report your child's birth abroad as soon as possible to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to establish an official record of the child's claim to U.S. citizenship at birth. The official record will be the *Consular Report of Birth of a Citizen of the United States of America*, Form FS-240. This document, known as the *Consular Report of Birth Abroad*, is a basic United States citizenship document. An original FS-240 document will be given to you at the time registration is approved. ([We have more information on these documents.](#))

A *Consular Report of Birth* can **only** be prepared at a U.S. embassy or consulate. It cannot be prepared if the child has been brought back into the United States, or, if the person is 18 years of age or older at the time the application is made.

Note: To find more frequently asked questions concerning passports and citizenship documents, go to [http://travel.state.gov/passport/fri/faq/faq\\_1741.html#ca15](http://travel.state.gov/passport/fri/faq/faq_1741.html#ca15).

### HOURS FOR AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

We are open for routine American citizen services Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 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 76-383-9566.

We are also available by e-mail at [consulardakar@state.gov](mailto: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](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 let us know in your e-mail.