

**CONSULAR NEWS
SENEGAL & GUINEA BISSAU**

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

Town Meeting in Guinea-Bissau

Ambassador Janice L. Jacobs, ACS Unit Chief Amanda Porter and ACS Consular Assistant Moussa Sy will be in Guinea-Bissau on Thursday March 21. Our Bissau Warden, Jack Wilson, has generously offered the use of the Centro Juvenil of Jovens Para Cristo in Zona 7 of Bandim in Bissau for the meeting, which will start at 7:00 pm. We'll be discussing general issues and avian influenza. If there are any specific topics you'd like to cover or if you need further directions, please email consulardakar@state.gov.

We need a few good men and women!

As our list of registered American citizens in Dakar has grown, so has our need for additional wardens! Currently we need additional wardens for Americans in the Dakar area. Consular wardens serve on a voluntary basis to assist the consular section in communicating with private American citizens in their warden zone. The warden's role is to help distribute warden messages when email is not accessible, particularly in an emergency. As a result, it is important that consular wardens have reliable communications and the time to call or fax warden messages to the American citizens in their warden zones. While wardens are not employees or staff of the U.S. Embassy, they provide a valuable service to the embassy and to American citizens in Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. For more information about becoming a warden, please email consulardakar@state.gov.

March Frequently Asked Question

Q. My family is in a financial crisis and we cannot afford to pay for our American citizen children's school fees or for their medical care. What can the U.S. Embassy do for these American children?

A. The U.S. Embassy in Dakar does not have the authority to pay for medical, educational, or any other types of expenses for American citizens in Senegal. While living in the U.S., there are federal and state-assistance programs that can help families in need. However, these benefits are not available to Americans living overseas. The U.S. Government does not pay for hospital or medical services for Americans overseas and will not pay to evacuate you for treatment in the U.S. There are a number of emergency medical assistance companies operating internationally who offer urgent medical treatment for their member travelers. Although the service is designed primarily for tourists who encounter a medical or personal emergency while on vacation, some companies offer yearly memberships, which may be available to Americans residing overseas. For a list of companies, please visit the State Department website: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health_1185.html#air.

Peanut Butter Warning

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has associated specific lots of two brands of peanut butter, Peter Pan and Great Value, with a recent Salmonella outbreak in the United States. The CDC recommends that individuals who have purchased jars of peanut butter with the associated product code discard the product. The affected jars of Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter have a product code located on the lid of the jar that begins with the number "2111." These products may have distribution throughout the U.S. so may have been included in care packages sent to Americans in the United Kingdom, or have been purchased from vendors specializing in imported American products. For more information, please see the CDC web announcement and Q&A: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/salmonellosis_2007/q_and_a.htm

Crime Watch

On Sunday, February 4, three American women left the Sacre Coeur III neighborhood at approximately 11:30 pm to go to a friend's house in the Fenetre Mermoz neighborhood. They told the taxi driver to take them to the Olympique Club, which is near their friend's house. The driver misunderstood and instead took them to the Olympique Pool in the Point E neighborhood. He assured them they were at the Olympique Club. Thinking they were nearer to their friend's house than they actually were, the three women got out of the taxi and began walking north down Avenue Cheikh Anta Diop. While they were walking, one of the women used her cell phone to call a friend. Meanwhile, another woman noticed a moped approaching. The moped stopped several feet behind them and one man got off. He ran up behind the women and grabbed at the cell phone. The woman reacted by hitting the man and kicking him in the crotch. The man then took out a machete and hit her across the forehead with the blunt edge of the machete. She released the cell phone and the man left on the moped.

On Sunday, February 18, at approximately 3:30 a.m., three Americans (two women and one man) were attacked in the Mermoz area of Dakar. They had just left a club and since there were no cabs outside, they walked toward the street to find a cab. A little less than a block away in a desolate and poorly lit area, two men walked casually towards them and then suddenly grabbed one of the American women's purses while the other man hit her with the blunt end of a machete. When he hit her she fell to the ground, clutch still in hand (because it was attached to her wrist). The other American woman ran for help while the American man they were with attempted to fend off the aggressors. The woman who was attacked escaped and ran towards the people who were coming out of the club, and several Senegalese ran to help the American man. The assailants stole the woman's purse which contained 10 000 CFA, a photocopy of her passport, the keys to her bedroom, her ID, and a pack of gum. They also stole the man's wallet which contained another 10 000 CFA.

On Sunday, February 18, at mid-day, a thief broke into an American's vehicle that was parked outside of the Club Atlantique. The thief stole five-hundred dollars (\$500). This incident occurred while there was significant pedestrian traffic in the area.

On Tuesday, February 20, just after midnight, two Americans (a man and woman) were robbed at knife-point outside Club Atlantique after helping a friend into a taxi. The robbers stole a purse containing a cell phone and camera from the woman and \$20, a credit card, and an ID from the man. Neither was injured in the incident.

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.