

**CONSULAR NEWS  
SENEGAL & GUINEA BISSAU**

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

**Farewell from Beth Payne**

My three years in Senegal are coming to a close. On May 24, I will depart Dakar for my next assignment at the National War College in Washington DC. It has been a pleasure serving the dynamic and diverse American communities in Senegal and Guinea Bissau. I appreciate the guidance and feedback many of you provided me over the past three years and I hope, as a result, you have seen improvements in our services.

I am proud to leave behind a remarkable team that is dedicated to providing you with the best possible service. Perpetua Anaele will continue to run the consular warden system, which is the best it's ever been thanks to the commitment and hard work of our consular wardens. Moussa Sy will continue to provide special citizenship services to those of you who unfortunately have an emergency during your stay in Senegal or Guinea Bissau. And, Amanda Porter will continue to provide excellent leadership to the American Citizen Services Unit, and will be editor of this newsletter until my replacement, James Loveland, arrives in October.

**Filing an I-130 Petition in Dakar**

As a result of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act ("Adam Walsh Act"), effective on July 27, 2006, all family-based Immigrant Visa petitions (I-130s) must be screened to ensure the petitioner has not been convicted of specified criminal offenses against a minor. The Adam Walsh Act provides that persons convicted of specified sexual criminal offenses against a minor cannot file petitions for family-based immigrant visas. A criminal history record check is now required to determine whether a petitioner is eligible to file a family-based immigrant petition.

As a result, the Department of Homeland U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) modified its rules several times over the past few months regarding where American citizens may file I-130 petitions. The current rule is that American citizens who are residents of Senegal and Guinea-Bissau may file their I-130 petition at the U.S. Embassy in Dakar only if they have been legally resident in Senegal or Guinea-Bissau for at least six months immediately preceding the filing date.

For more information please visit the U.S. Embassy Dakar's website at:  
<http://usembassy.state.gov/dakar/wwwfspouseen.pdf> or email [consulardakar@state.gov](mailto:consulardakar@state.gov).

**Financial Scams**

To help educate the American public about costly fraud schemes, the State Department recently published a new public brochure on financial scams with a focus on scams emanating from West Africa. This brochure, entitled, "International Financial Scams: Internet Dating, Inheritance, Work Permits, Overpayment, and Money-Laundering," is available on the State Department website at: [travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures\\_1231.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1231.html).

### **May Frequently Asked Question**

**Q.** I don't have any more blank pages on my valid U.S. passport? Do I need to apply for a new U.S. passport?

**A.** No, you don't. You can easily apply for additional pages at the U.S. Embassy Dakar's Consular Section. You first need to complete and sign a DS-4085 (Application for Additional Pages) which is available on-line at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/80120.pdf>. Hard copies are available at the Consular Section. You, or someone you trust, should bring the completed and signed form and your valid U.S. passport to the Consular Section during routine American citizen services (ACS) hours on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Since the Consular Section must run required name checks before we can insert the new pages, we unfortunately cannot insert the new pages immediately while you wait. Instead, the passport will be ready for you, or someone you trust, to pick up the next day during routine ACS hours. There is no limit to the number of page inserts you can add to your U.S. passport and they are free of charge.

### **Crime Watch**

On March 29, at approximately 9:30 p.m., two young American women were robbed near the Leopold Senghor stadium in Grand Yoff. The two got out of a taxi on the stadium side of the road and crossed the median over to the other side. One of the women stopped at a fruit stand to buy bananas and immediately afterwards they were accosted by three young men dressed in black, two of whom were carrying machetes. The men knocked one of the women to the ground and she fell on top of her bag, hiding it from the attackers' view. The women screamed, but no passers-by intervened. The men grabbed the bag of the second woman before fleeing. The bag contained a small amount of money, a cell phone, and a digital camera. The woman who was knocked to the ground sustained minor injuries.

### **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](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.