

**CONSULAR NEWS
SENEGAL & GUINEA BISSAU**

**U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal
May 2008**

ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN THE CASAMANCE REGION

On May 22, media report that armed men opened fire on cashew nut harvesters in the village of Baraka-Bounao, near the border with Guinea-Bissau. On May 20, 2008, fighting broke out between the Senegalese Army and members of the Movement of Casamance Democratic Forces near Djibidjone in the southern region of the Casamance on May 20, 2008. According to news reports, seven rebels and two Senegalese soldiers were killed, and approximately 20 individuals were wounded. On May 7, some 15 – 20 cashew harvesters had their hands tied behind their backs and their left ears cut off with a machete. No group has taken responsibility for this act to date.

DEMONSTRATIONS

April and May witnessed a number of demonstrations in Senegal. The coalition of Senegalese Unions has called for a general strike on Thursday, May 22, 2008. Students at the University of Dakar walked out of classes and demonstrated on April 29, May 2, May 15 and 16. The Embassy continues to remind everyone that public demonstration, political gatherings, and student protests are relatively common in Senegal, both in Dakar and in outlying regions. Due to the potential for violence during such protests, U.S. citizens should avoid political gatherings and street demonstrations, and maintain security awareness at all times. For guidelines on dealing safely with public demonstrations, please see the American Citizen Services page of the U.S. Embassy Dakar website at <http://dakar.usembassy.gov/service.html>.

MINE EXPLOSIONS

A Gambian citizen was killed when the bus he was traveling on near the village of Toukara, approx. 70 kilometers north of Ziguinchor drove over the mine.

A Senegalese soldier was injured by a landmine near the villages of Boutoupa-Camaracounda on the border with Guinea Bissau.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Approximately 100 Pilot whales beached themselves on Yoff beach on May 20, 2008. News of the event has been covered on <http://seneweb.com>.

DELTA AIRLINES PET POLICY

Delta permits small warm-blooded domesticated household pets in aircraft cabin provided pet is at least 8 weeks old. There is a quota of pets in each cabin, and these must be reserved BEFORE arriving at the airport. The pet will count as one carry on item, and must fit under the seat in front of the passenger. There is a pet in cabin charge of 100 USD.

Delta has an embargo from 15 May to 15 September 2008 on pets checked as baggage aboard their aircraft, due to the risks of the summer heat for animals. Pug/snub nosed animals will not be accepted if at any time/point the forecast temperature exceeds 70 degrees F. Charges depend on the size/weight of the kennel/animal. Please contact Delta to inquire for exact details.

CRIME WATCH

In early May, a home in the Almadies/Ngor neighborhood was broken into during night-time hours while the residents were present in the home. Cash was stolen.

On May 15, a missionary had her laptop computer stolen from her home. The resident had invited a stranger into her home.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION OF THE MONTH

When applying for a new or renewed passport, do I have to provide my Social Security Number?

Section 6039E of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 6039E) requires you to provide your Social Security Number (SSN), if you have one, when you apply for a U.S. passport or renewal of a U.S. passport. If you have not been issued a SSN, enter zeros in box #5 of the passport application form you are completing. Contact the Social Security Administration to request a Number. If you are residing abroad, you must also provide the name of the foreign country in which you are residing. The U.S. Department of State must provide your SSN and foreign residence information to the Department of Treasury. If you fail to provide the information, you are subject to a \$500 penalty enforced by the IRS. All questions on this matter should be directed to the nearest IRS office.

HOURS FOR AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

We are open for routine American citizen services 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 77-383-9566.

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.