

**CONSULAR NEWS
SENEGAL & GUINEA BISSAU**

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

OIC Update

During the week of the upcoming Organization of the Islamic Conference from March 8-14, 2008, there will be tightened security, police checkpoints and traffic disruptions throughout the city of Dakar. Americans are advised to limit unnecessary travel and remain flexible. Plan accordingly and operate under the expectation that routine trips may take far longer than usual. Also, please be aware that these reported road advisories may change at any time during the week.

Those checkpoints with the highest security will be in the vicinity of Les Almadies and Ngor. Although the main road leading to the airport borders the restricted area, the road will remain open. From March 13-14, the Les Almadies and Ngor areas will be closely scrutinized, and in Les Almadies, only residents with an appropriate laissez-passer issued by the local gendarmerie will be permitted to enter.

The Corniche will reportedly remain open to the public throughout the conference, but there will be a number of motorcades with police escorts using the same road.. Please ensure that you travel with your radio turned down (or off) and remain constantly aware of your surroundings. At the first sight of any motorcade, immediately pull to the side of the road, give right-of-way and stop your vehicle. Failure to do this may cause the police to run you off the road.

Given the size and focus of the conference, an increase in situational awareness is recommended. Due to increased congestion and security, American citizens may wish to limit unnecessary movement during the event and purchase items such as food and fuel before the conference begins. Please see our Embassy's February 28 Warden Message for more information.

Please remember that public demonstrations, political gatherings, and student protests are relatively common in Senegal, both in Dakar and in outlying regions. In the past, these events have sometimes turned violent. Due to the potential for violence, 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>.

Service Station Closings

From March 11-16, the following service stations will be closed in connection with security precautions for the OIC:

- Total (Marché du Port)
- Shell (Route de l'Aéroport, near Imprimerie Tandian)
- Shell (Route de Ngor, near the entrance of the Hotel Diarama)
- Mobil (on the VDN)
- Elton (Mermoz, on the Route de Ouakam)
- Mobil (near Immeuble des Eaux)
- Shell (in front of Dantec hospital)

Please note that the sale of flammable items, including gasoline and household gas, will also be banned in certain areas in Dakar during the week of the Conference.

Delta Airline s Flight Cancellations for OIC

Delta Airlines has announced that all of their flights to or from Dakar from March 7-17, 2008 have been cancelled. As a result, all travelers holding tickets on Delta will be re-routed. The airline is attempting to contact all affected travelers. For more information on these flights, please contact the Delta Airlines office in Dakar directly at 33-849-6955 / 6956.

Changes in Embassy Hours During OIC Week

From March 10 to March 14, 2008, the U.S. Embassy will be open for business. However, due to expected traffic disruption resulting from the OIC, our office hours will be temporarily changed.

As usual, we will be open for routine American citizen services Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. However, from March 10-14, emergency American citizen services will be available at the Embassy only from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and on Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For after-hours emergencies involving an American citizen at all other times, please call 77-383-9566. We regret any inconvenience that this may cause.

We will resume our normal working hours (see below) on Monday, March 17.

New Embassy Main Telephone Number

As of March 3, 2008, the main telephone number for the U.S. Embassy has changed. The new number is 33-829-2100, which will lead you through voice prompts until you reach the section of the Embassy that you need. For after-hours emergencies involving American citizens, our

number remains the same at 77-383-9566. Our e-mail also has not changed and remains consulardakar@state.gov.

Crime Watch

A demonstration by law students at the University of Dakar on February 18 resulted in several students being arrested. Students blocked three major roads (Route de Ouakam, Corniche Ouest and Canal IV) with burning tires and other debris, and also threw stones. Police responded with teargas in an attempt to disperse them, and traffic was disrupted throughout the area.

This past month, there was a reported robbery/murder in the area of the new Maristes bridge, in which a young Senegalese man was reportedly bludgeoned to death during a robbery that occurred just after 6:00 a.m. The robbers reportedly made off with 6000 Francs CFA. Arrests have reportedly been made in connection with the incident.

There has reportedly been a rash of home burglaries throughout the Dakar peninsula, focused predominantly in the Les Almadies and Ngor areas. There have also been isolated break-ins in Point E, Fenetre Mermoz, and Plateau. Perpetrators have thus far relied on stealth rather than force to enter the homes and no one has been harmed. This should serve as a reminder to lock all doors and windows when not at home and to lock doors even while at home. Check to ensure that all doors and windows are locked at night, and remind all domestic workers not to allow anyone access to your home without your approval.

March/April Holidays

The Embassy will be closed for the following holidays:

March 20 – Maouloud

March 24 – Easter Monday

April 4 – Senegalese Independence Day

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.