

Consular Warden Message
February 28, 2008
U.S. Embassy Dakar

**Organization of the Islamic Conference
March 13-14, 2008**

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is issuing this Warden Message to remind U.S. citizens of the upcoming Organization of the Islamic Conference to be held in Dakar on March 13-14, 2008. This event will bring thousands of visitors, among them many heads of state and other foreign dignitaries. Although much is being done by Senegalese police and security elements, events such as this sometimes bring inconvenience and an increased risk of security incidents.

In the days leading up to the conference, Dakar residents should expect an increase in traffic disruption as motorcades ferry participants throughout the city. Due to the increase in police presence, pedestrians and motorists are reminded to have available all necessary documentation and be courteous when dealing with police. As noted in the Department of State's Country Specific Information page for Senegal (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1013.html), Senegalese law requires that all persons carry personal identification at all times, and all Senegalese law enforcement officials have the authority to challenge suspicious activity and to request personal identification. To minimize inconvenience in the event of theft, the Embassy suggests that U.S. citizens carry copies, preferably notarized, of their passports and other identification documents, rather than originals.

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 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>.

Other Information:

Americans living or traveling in Senegal or Guinea-Bissau are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy in Dakar through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov>, and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Senegal. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier

for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located at Avenue Jean XXIII, Dakar; the mailing address is B.P. 49, Dakar, Senegal. The telephone number is (221) 33 823-4296; after-hours (221) 33 823-4604. The U.S. Embassy website is <http://dakar.usembassy.gov>.