

Warden Message
U.S. Embassy – Dakar
March 4, 2009

This Warden Message is being issued to update American citizens in Guinea-Bissau on the current situation following the recent assassinations of President Joao Bernardo Vieira and Chief of the Armed Forces Tagme Na Waye earlier this week.

According to reports, there is still a military presence in Bissau, but businesses have begun to reopen and the city's airport and roads are reopened, as well. While the situation currently appears calm, funerals for General Na Waye and President Vieira are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 7 and Tuesday, March 10, respectively, and further disturbances remain a possibility. Therefore, we remind American citizens in Guinea-Bissau to remain cautious, and that even events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence.

Safety precautions should include maintaining good situational awareness, avoiding crowds and demonstrations, and keeping a low profile. American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events, be aware of their surroundings at all times, and ensure that their travel documents and visas are valid at all times.

Americans living or traveling in Guinea-Bissau are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, where they can obtain up-to-date information on travel and security within Guinea-Bissau. Registration may be done online, and can be done in advance of travel at <http://www.travel.state.gov>. Americans without internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, Senegal. By registering, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. Additional Country Specific Information may be found at the Department of State website http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1131.html.

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) 33 829-2313; after-hours (221) 76 383-9566. The U.S. Embassy website is <http://dakar.usembassy.gov>.