

**Warden Message
U.S. Embassy – Dakar
September 2009**

Recent Violence in the Casamance

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is issuing this Warden Message to inform U.S. citizens of a recent increase in violent clashes between the government forces and alleged members of the Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) in the Casamance region. The recent incidents, which include an exchange of automatic gunfire on the outskirts of Ziguinchor on August 25, and a September 4 airstrike on MFDC positions by the government, are on a scale without precedent in recent years and point to an uncertain, evolving security climate in the region.

As noted in the Department of State's Consular Specific Information for Senegal, the U.S. Embassy recommends that U.S. citizens defer nonessential travel to the Casamance region west of the city of Kolda, except direct air or ferry travel to the Cap Skirring resort area or to the city of Ziguinchor. If travel is deemed essential, the U.S. Embassy recommends that U.S. citizens carefully monitor the security situation before travelling and register their intended travel to this region with the Embassy prior to leaving.

U.S. citizens are reminded that the Gendarmes or police have responsibility to protect all persons situated in Senegal. If you are the victim of an armed assault, do not confront or fight the attacker. Once the assailant has departed the area, immediately seek shelter and contact the local police. Be as detailed as possible when describing your location to minimize delays in response time.

Americans living or traveling in Senegal are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy in Dakar through the State Department's travel registration website, 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) 33 829-2100; after-hours (221) 33 829-2209. The U.S. Embassy website is <http://dakar.usembassy.gov>.