

U.S. Embassy Athens, Greece

Security Message: - November 17th Demonstrations

Thursday, November 15, 2012

This security message alerts U.S. citizens to the potential for large demonstrations throughout Greece on Saturday, November 17. Demonstrations are expected to take place during the afternoon and evening in the center of Athens, in the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy; in Thessaloniki, in the area of the U.S. Consulate General; and on and near university campuses nationwide. **U.S. citizens should avoid these areas after 2:00 PM on November 17.**

November 17 is the anniversary date of the 1973 protests against the then-ruling junta. In the past, some demonstrations commemorating this date turned violent, and included the destruction of property. **Exercise caution and common sense:** avoid the areas of demonstrations, and if you find yourself too close to a demonstration, move in the opposite direction and seek shelter. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence.

Traffic and public transportation in the vicinity of demonstrations are likely to be adversely affected.

We encourage all U.S. citizens to review their personal security plans, remain aware of their surroundings, including local events, monitor local news stations for updates, and report specific incidences of targeted violence to the U.S. Embassy in Athens or the U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki at the numbers below. U.S. citizens should maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance their personal security. For additional information, please refer to "[A Safe Trip Abroad](#)."

U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Greece are encouraged to enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy or nearest Consulate to contact them in the case of an emergency. U.S. citizens without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). You can also stay up to date by bookmarking our [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), which contains the current [Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts](#) as well as the [Worldwide Caution](#). You can follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well.

You can contact the U.S. Embassy in Athens or the U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki for general consular assistance and up-to-date information on conditions in Greece. The U.S. Embassy in Athens is open 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday-Friday, except on Greek and American official holidays and last Wednesday of every month. The U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 13:00, except on Greek and American official holidays. The U.S. Embassy in Athens can be [reached by e-mail](#), or by telephone at 210-720-2414, **or 210-729-4444 for after-hours emergencies in Athens**. The U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki can be [reached by e-mail](#), or by telephone at **2310- 242- 905**. **For after-hours emergencies in Thessaloniki, please call the Consulate number, and dial 0 at the prompt.**