



Warden Message

To: *All American citizens living in Republic of the Congo* **No.** 2009/14
Subject: *Election Campaign & Embassy Holiday (03 July 2009)* **Date:** 02 July 2009

Election Update

The presidential election campaign enters its second and final week on Friday, July 3, 2009. U.S. Embassy Brazzaville expects to see a steady increase in political activities including rallies, marches, and parades through the end of the campaign period on July 10, 2009. In particular, we would like to alert you to the possibility of “Carnaval” motorcades. These motorcades will consist of large groups of vehicles, including sound trucks, vans, and numerous taxi cabs parading throughout Brazzaville. We anticipate that multiple rival “Carnaval” motorcades could occur simultaneously. Should this happen, local police will not have sufficient manpower to monitor and control the situation. Furthermore, there is the potential for rioting or looting if opposing motorcades cross paths. For this reason, U.S. Embassy Brazzaville strongly recommends avoiding these motorcades. If you encounter a motorcade, select a different route.

In addition to the general recommendations included in our previous warden message (dated June 26), U.S. Embassy Brazzaville makes the following recommendations regarding driving. Most importantly, keep windows and doors locked at all times. Additionally, roadblocks will continue to be a regular occurrence. Normally, roadblocks are set up not to stop cars, but to deter motorists from using certain routes due to transport of the president or other VIP’s. During the campaign, the police may institute roadblocks at campaign sites or to direct traffic away from the “Carnaval” motorcade routes. When you encounter a roadblock, follow the detour or select a different route to your destination.

The U.S. Embassy continues to closely monitor the security situation in the Republic of Congo. Any new security information or safety guidance will be sent out via additional Warden Messages.

Embassy Holiday

The Embassy will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2009, in observance of U.S. Independence Day. For emergency assistance, please contact the numbers listed below. We will re-open for business on Monday, July 6, 2009. Happy Fourth of July!

The U.S. Embassy is located on Boulevard Maya-Maya across from the Blanche Gomez Maternity Hospital. The Consular Section is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Our daytime telephone number is +242 612-2046. The Consular Section can also be contacted via email at BrazzavilleACS@state.gov. For after-hours emergencies, call +242 528-7963 or +242 444-0013.
