



Warden Message

To: *All American citizens living in Republic of the Congo*
Subject: *Road Closures in Brazzaville (13-17 August)*

No. 2009/16
Date: 13 August 2009

This weekend, Brazzaville will host the investiture of the President of the Republic of Congo as well as Independence Day celebrations. In addition to these events, several other ceremonies will take place which will significantly impact traffic patterns and the deployment of security forces throughout the city. American citizens in Brazzaville should be aware of street closures and increased security force presence at the following areas:

Thursday, 13 August 2009 – Avenue de Maya Maya will be the main route for diplomatic convoys moving to and from the airport to the Olympic Hotel and governmental buildings. Drivers should exercise extreme caution along this road and at the traffic circles near Blvd des Armees and CCF. Be prepared for frequent road closures during the movement of visiting heads of state and other VIPs. Americans should also be aware of traffic problems on Thursday morning near Place de Liberte, Avenue A. Conus, and Avenue Paul Doumer due to a ceremony to be held near the train station.

Friday, 14 August 2009 – American citizens should expect full closure of Blvd des Armees due to the events surrounding the President's swearing-in at Palais du Parlement. Frequent roadblocks can also be expected along Avenue de la Paix from the Olympic Hotel to Avenue de Trois Martyrs as VIP motorcades travel back and forth.

Saturday, 15 August 2009 – Independence Day celebrations begin at 1000 with the parade along Blvd de Armees. This road can be expected to be closed from the football stadium up to Avenue de Trois Martyrs. Again, Avenue de la Paix from the Olympic Hotel is subject to frequent closure. Large spectator crowds will also be in the area.

Sunday and Monday will be departure days for most of the visiting VIPs, so employees can expect renewed heavy motorcade traffic along Avenue de Maya Maya as dignitaries travel to the airport.

While Independence Day is a cause for celebration, a few simple tips can help you enjoy the holiday and keep you safe at the same time:

- VIP motorcades and security force vehicles may be travelling at high rates of speed. Exercise extreme caution regardless of if you are a pedestrian or motorist. Always yield the right of way.
- Plan extra time to reach your destination due to traffic congestion and possible road closures.

- Many people have travelled from outside Brazzaville to enjoy the weekend. It is reasonable to expect a slight increase in petty crimes such as pick pocketing and theft. Remember to keep your vehicle doors locked and your windows rolled up; secure all valuables out of sight if you leave your vehicle. Do not carry more cash than is necessary. Be aware of your surroundings and travel with a friend if possible.
- Keep a copy of your passport and valid visa for the Congo with you at all times. You should also have your cell phone at all times.
- Be extremely cautious of photography in the vicinity of government facilities, security force deployments, and VIP motorcades.
- Obey the directions of security forces. If you are detained or arrested, contact the Embassy immediately.

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.
