



DEMONSTRATION NOTICE

**U.S. Embassy
La Paz, Bolivia**

February 15, 2011
11:41 AM

The U.S. Embassy in La Paz has received information about the following protests in various cities of Bolivia.

La Paz: FEJUVE El Alto has announced a march for today in protest of the increase in food prices and cost of living. They plan to begin their march this morning and travel from El Alto – Montes – El Prado – Plaza Murillo and are hoping to gain support along the way. This could impact traffic in the city and some routes to the El Alto Airport.

Santa Cruz and Cochabamba: Both cities are experiencing partial transportation strikes (demanding an increase in transportation prices) and counter strikes from neighborhood groups. The protests and blockades are expected to be sporadic in location. However, the Cochabamba – La Paz highway is blocked.

Several social sectors, including factory workers and teachers, are presenting their demand for a minimum wage increase to the Central Obrera Boliviana (COB) and are threatening strikes and protests later in the week.

We will update you later with further information. - Appointments for consular services in Santa Cruz and La Paz for today remain valid, assuming no deterioration in the security situation.

These protests are not directed against the U.S. Embassy, U.S. Government or any U.S. citizen or entity and are not expected to be violent in nature. The U.S. Embassy reminds you that demonstrations and road blockades are not unusual in Bolivia, and even though they might be intended to be peaceful, they can turn confrontational between security forces, demonstrators, and bystanders, and escalate into violence. You should avoid them if at all possible. If you find yourself in the vicinity of a large gathering, you should leave the area immediately for your own safety. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to what the local news media has to say. Please note that the police have limited capabilities outside major cities and communication is poor.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the Embassy website at <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/demonotices.html>. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where you can find the current

Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have internet access, we have a call center for updates--1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, via e-mail at consularlapaz@state.gov or by telephone at 591-2-216-8246 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or 591-715-33713 after hours and on weekends. The U.S. Embassy is located at 2780 Arce Avenue in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 08:00 to 12:30, and Thursdays from 14:00 to 16:00. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting this [website](#).

The Embassy operates a Consular Agency in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. This agency can also provide assistance to U.S. citizens. The Santa Cruz Consular Agency is located on Roque Aguilera Avenue #146 (3rd ring). You can contact the Santa Cruz Consular Agency by telephone at 591-3-351-3477 during regular business hours (Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.). If you wish to visit the Consular Agency for a non-emergency matter, please schedule an appointment through this [website](#). The Cochabamba Consular Agency is temporarily closed.