

Dear Warden:

Below please find a Warden Message from the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia. Please share this warden message with any U.S. citizens in Bolivia with whom you have contact.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July weekend.

Sincerely,
American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy La Paz, Bolivia

WARDEN MESSAGE
U.S. EMBASSY LA PAZ, BOLIVIA
July 2, 2010

This warden message is being issued to inform U.S. citizens traveling to and residing in Bolivia that according to credible reports indigenous ethnic groups that make up the *Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia* (Confederación de Pueblos Indígenas de Bolivia - CIDOB -) are now participating in a 1500-kilometer march from Trinidad to the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, and plan to continue on from there through Cochabamba and ultimately to La Paz, where the new Autonomy Law is currently being debated in Congress. The indigenous marchers are demanding that indigenous autonomy be applied over municipal and departmental boundaries. The indigenous marchers threatened to block the road from Santa Cruz to Beni and to work within the indigenous communities and protesters to block the roads to Argentina and Brazil.

Due to these marches, there is a high potential for social unrest along the marchers' routes. Traffic throughout the major roads towards La Paz may be affected by marchers walking from around the country. Please note that the police have limited capabilities outside major cities and communication is poor. U.S. citizens are encouraged to stay current with media coverage of local events. U.S. citizens should read the Country Specific Information on Bolivia, available at <http://www.travel.state.gov>, specifically the information under "Safety and Security."

U.S. citizens are reminded 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. U.S. citizens are urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any protests. If you find yourself in the vicinity of a large gathering, it is recommended you leave the area immediately for your own safety.

The police will be on a heightened alert for potential civil unrest. Because the police will be involved in addressing potential civil unrest, there will be minimal municipal patrols. As a result, you can expect criminals to take advantage of large crowds and use ruse or diversionary tactics to prey on potential street victims. Pick-pocketing, purse snatching, and car thefts are the most common street crimes during such periods. Everyone is advised to limit their cash on hand, unnecessary credit cards, jewelry, and other portable valuables.

American citizens may wish to access tips on emergency preparedness through the Department of Homeland Security's website at http://www.dhs.gov/xcitizens/editorial_0711.shtm.

Americans residing or traveling in Bolivia are encouraged to register and update their contact information at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz and/or the U.S. consular agencies in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Registration may be done online and can be done in advance of travel. Information on registering may be found at the Department of State's Consular Affairs website: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

U.S. citizens should consult the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov>. Updated information on travel and security in Bolivia may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States. During regular work hours, the American Citizens Services unit at the Embassy in La Paz may be reached at 591-2-216-8246. The consular agency in Santa Cruz can be reached at 591-3-351-3477.

We hope this information is useful to you. If we may provide further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Have a great 4th of July weekend.

Sincerely,
American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy La Paz, Bolivia