



24-704

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and wishes to refer the foreign mission community to procedures related to foreign mission security concerns and incidents.

The Department takes seriously the obligations of the United States under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR) and Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR) to take all appropriate steps with respect to preventing attacks on diplomatic and consular premises and personnel. The Department's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) and the United States Secret Service (USSS) may protect and perform protective functions directly related to maintaining the security and safety of foreign missions, including coordination with other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate. The United States also fulfills its obligations under international law through U.S. laws that prohibit intimidating, threatening, or harassing foreign officials or obstructing them in the performance of their duties, and by enforcement of such laws.

Foreign Missions in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area

In order to facilitate a streamlined response, the Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) informs the D.C. metropolitan area foreign mission community that for all general security concerns related to official diplomatic and consular facilities or personnel, or inquiries for security presence related to upcoming planned demonstrations outside diplomatic or consular premises, please direct requests directly to DSS and/or USSS. For foreign missions in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, DSS can be contacted via email at DSPL@state.gov, and USSS can be contacted via phone at their non-emergency number that is monitored 24/7 at (202) 634-2234. For all emergencies, either call the USSS 24/7 emergency number at (202) 566-8434 or 911. The foreign missions may also directly reach out to their assigned DSS Liaison for non-emergency issues.

Foreign Missions Outside the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area

For foreign missions outside the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, the Department directs them to their closest DS Field Office and local law enforcement agencies for general security-related concerns regarding official

diplomatic and consular facilities or personnel, or inquiries for security presence related to upcoming planned demonstrations outside diplomatic or consular premises. The Department also wishes to remind the foreign mission community that should there be a need for emergency assistance, personnel should call 911.

Should foreign missions have any concerns about specific security-related incidents that occur pertaining to official diplomatic or consular facilities or personnel, please continue to address related diplomatic correspondence to OFM at OFMProperty@state.gov.

Questions concerning this matter may be directed to OFM at OFMProperty@state.gov.

Department of State,

Washington, April 16, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RG' with a stylized flourish.