

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, ABUJA

Security Advisory Dec 2019

The High Commission of India wishes to bring out that inputs corroborated from news and other reports indicate an increase in criminal activities related to armed robberies and kidnappings in the country in the run up to Christmas and New Year.

2. The Abuja-Kaduna highway has seen an increase in these unlawful activities. While the security forces have enhanced their presence in the area and are dealing with the situation, Indian Nationals are advised to exercise due caution while planning a road trip to Kaduna or adjoining places. The use of the Abuja - Kaduna rail service may be considered as a viable alternate option.

3. There has also been an increase in incidents of robbery, kidnapping and carjacking in Abuja and Lagos too. In view of the above, late night travel should be avoided as far as possible.

4. The terror threat, especially in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States continues to remain high and thus travel to the North East of the country should largely be avoided. Sporadic violence also occurs between communities of farmers and herders in rural areas.

5. Coastal areas of Bayelsa, Cross Rivers, Delta, Akwa Ibom and Rivers states are also prone to crime, civil unrest, kidnapping, and maritime crime/piracy. In the last two years 50 Indians have been kidnapped/taken hostage in the country.

6. The High Commission of India cautions the Indian Nationals living in Nigeria and those coming for visits to be vigilant and take all possible security measures to ensure their protection. It is important to closely follow updates on the prevailing security situation issued by the local government and police.

7. A list of DO's and DON'T's is attached for ready reference. In case of any emerging crisis or trouble, or if you have any information to share, please contact the Indian High Commission at Abuja or the Office of the High Commission in Lagos at the following co-ordinates:

High Commission of India, Abuja

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- (b) Mr. A.S. Prem Ramyo Emergency No- +234-9070343860

Office of High Commission of India, Lagos

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SECURITY INSTRUCTIONS -DO's AND DON'T's

DO's

- ♣ Keep your identity papers handy, to be shown to security personnel when asked.
- ♣ Keep telephone numbers and contact details of your friends, neighbours, local police station and Indian High Commission handy.
- ♣ Keep in regular touch with the local Indian Association to obtain updates the prevailing security situation. Follow news reports and be alert to developments.
- ♣ Stocks of essential items, ie food stuff, water, medicines and fuel should be kept, to enable sustenance in case the security situation deteriorates.
- ♣ Inform your co-workers, friends/relations about your movements so that in case there is a crisis then alert can be sounded.
- ♣ Do keep your passport valid for travel in emergencies.
- ♣ Telephone numbers of NOK and your Blood Group should be accessible.
- ♣ It is better to venture out if required in groups, rather than alone.
- ♣ Do try and use personal company vehicles instead of local taxis.
- ♣ If you're working or travelling in areas where there is a Boko Haram presence, especially in the North East of Nigeria, you should be aware of the threat of terrorist kidnap.
- ♣ Do follow your employer's security advice, make sure your accommodation is secure and review your security measures regularly.
- ♣ Be extra vigilant when visiting banks or ATMs.
- ♣ The local laws and practices should always be respected.

DON'T's

- ♣ Do not rely on unknown persons or strangers.
- ♣ In case of a crisis do not venture out and remain inside your house or campus till the situation has improved.
- ♣ Do not travel alone, especially at night.
- ♣ If unsure, then do not share your travel details with strangers. Avoid large crowds and public demonstrations as they can turn violent unexpectedly and at short notice.
- ♣ Avoid going to crowded local marketplaces.
- ♣ Avoid ostentatious display of wealth.
- ♣ Do not get into arguments with the locals, better to walk away from a developing dangerous situation.

India and Nigeria have age-old, long standing relations, including at people to people level. Tens of thousands of Indians are residing and doing business in Nigeria for several decades, many of them for generations. A similar number of Nigerians are in India for various purposes including education, tourism and business. Ordinary Nigerians are friendly, helpful and courteous towards foreigners. Accordingly, whilst taking due precautions to guard against isolated criminal incidents, a similar, reciprocal courtesy and friendliness towards Nigerians is advisable.