

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, ABUJA

Security Advisory July 2021

The High Commission of India wishes to inform that recently there has been a notable increase in criminal activities related to armed robbery and kidnappings in the country. Robberies on roads/highways have also seen an increase. Besides the already known hotspots in the North East of Nigeria and Gulf of Guinea, vulnerable areas include those where expatriates/Indian community is residing or visiting/frequenting/travelling, such as the outskirts of Abuja, Ikoyi in Lagos, Ibadan, Lagos-Ibadan highway, Kaduna, Abuja- Kaduna highway and Kaduna-Zaria highway.

2. In view of the above, all Indian Nationals are advised to be extra vigilant and take all possible security measures for their safety and protection. The necessity to travel at night on highways maybe reconsidered. Local security agencies should be informed about any suspicious movement or activities.

3. Cases of economic, financial, and foreign exchange crimes, frauds, and violations, that involve/affect Nigerians and foreign nationals alike, are reported from time to time. Details of such scams are available on EFCC website (<https://www.efccnigeria.org/efcc/images/Red%20Alert%20on%20Scam.pdf>). All Indian nationals, including visitors and residents, are advised to exercise utmost caution and strictly follow extant laws and regulations on financial, economic and foreign exchange transactions.

4. 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

(a) Mr. Diwakar Singh Email- cons1.abuja@mea.gov.in
Emergency No- +234-(0) 9070343860

Office of High Commission of India, Lagos

(a) Mr Ajay Kumar Sharma Email- sscons.lagos@mea.gov.in
Emergency No - +234-(0) 8128308758

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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.
- ♣ Avoid traveling alone at night and ensure valuables such as cash, laptops, cell phones, bags etc are kept out of sight.
- ♣ Keep vehicle doors locked and windows always rolled up while driving, especially in traffic jams or at traffic lights.
- ♣ Try to use main roads and avoid taking side roads at night.
- ♣ Keep in regular touch with the local Indian Association to obtain updates on 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 are 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.
- ♣ Exercise utmost caution in economic, financial and foreign exchange transactions and follow extant laws and regulations in these matters.
- ♣ 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.