

# OSAC

BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

## Suriname 2012 Crime and Safety Report

Drug Trafficking; Murder; Burglary; Carjacking; Theft; Stolen items; Hotels; Transportation Security; Narcoterrorism; Oil & Energy; Floods; Travel Health and Safety

Western Hemisphere > Suriname > Paramaribo

4/5/2012

### Overall Crime and Safety Situation

#### Crime Threats

According to the 2011 crime statistics released by the national police, Suriname experienced an approximate six percent reduction in overall crime in 2011, by comparison to 2010. By measure of the same data, seizures of illegal firearms increased 40 percent. There was also a significant rise in drug arrests, resulting in nearly a 250 percent rise in drug seizures, primarily marijuana and cocaine.

Violent crimes such as murder, residential and business robbery, carjacking, burglary, and street mugging occurred regularly in 2011. Criminals often carry firearms and other weapons and do not hesitate to use them, especially if victims resist. Although the possession of handguns is illegal, many criminals possess them. Shotguns are the only form of firearm that is permitted to be owned by civilians. As such, many criminals make use of shotguns in committing crimes.

Street crimes including thefts of backpacks and purses, jewelry (especially necklaces), and cell phones are also regular occurrences. These incidents often occur in areas frequented by foreigners. There is a steep increase in these types of crimes around the holidays.

Guests at major hotels have reported thefts of personal items including cell phones, bags, and other items in common areas of the hotels including restaurants, bars, gyms and pools.

Among the home burglaries occurring in 2011, several expatriates have become victims, including some other foreign diplomats, seeming to indicate the brazen determination of the burglars breaking into these residences. There are also reports of guard dogs being poisoned as a tactic to commit the burglary. However, there were no reports of burglary at homes where Americans reside or homes that deploy residential security guards.

# OSAC

BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

## Police Response

Despite the government's stated anti-crime policy, local police generally have resource and manpower limitations that inhibit their ability to deter or respond to criminal activity. The police response to alarms or emergency calls is often slow (15 minutes or longer). It is not unusual for the victim of a crime to transport the police from the police station back to the crime scene.

According to the police, in light of the escalation of violent crime during the latter part 2010 and into 2011, police patrols have continued to increase in number, including areas where expatriates traditionally live.

### How to Handle Incidents of Police Detention or Harassment

Incidents of police detention or harassment should be reported to the U.S. Embassy Duty Officer as soon as possible. If arrested or detained one should ensure that the police understand that one is a U.S. citizen and also politely ask the police to contact the U.S Embassy Duty Officer.