



Indonesia 2012 Crime and Safety Report: Jakarta

Murder; Rape/Sexual Violence; Assault; Burglary; Theft; Stolen items; Carjacking; Transportation Security; Financial Security; Fraud; Religious Violence; Separatist violence; Political Violence; Elections; Religious Terrorism; Improvised Explosive Device; Human Trafficking; Drug Trafficking; Bribery; Earthquakes; Tsunamis; Floods; Volcanoes; Landslides and mudslides; Threats

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Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Crime can be a problem in Indonesia, particularly in major urban centers like Jakarta and Surabaya. Crime, however, did not significantly affect the American community in 2011, perhaps due to continued elevated security awareness of many official and private American citizens as a result of the on-going terrorism threat in Indonesia. Many American businesses have active security briefing programs with security officers who are familiar with the latest criminal trends. Considering the size of the official and private American communities (current Consular data show approximately 23,000 American citizen residents in Indonesia), there were few reports of crimes against Americans in 2011.

Crime Threats

Through several sources, the Regional Security Office has gathered data and statistics for Jakarta outlining criminal activities and trends. Due to the reluctance of many expatriates and Indonesians to report criminal activity, these statistics should not be taken at face value but as a reflection of the ongoing work the Indonesian National Police (INP) are doing to safeguard those in Indonesia. Jakarta has a population of approximately 9,580,000 residents. For 2011, there were reported 54,799 violent crimes, 64 murders, 68 rapes, 1,936 aggravated assaults, 6,807 burglaries, 7,702 thefts and 5,352 vehicle thefts. The general crime rates on a per capita basis must be taken into context, as Indonesia's crime rate is lower than similar crimes reported in western hemisphere cities such as Los Angeles, New York, London, and Paris.

Armed car-jacking, theft of vehicles and non-violent residential break-ins do occur in Indonesia. Personal and "snatch-and-grab" robberies are the most common type of crime and have occurred regularly to expatriates and embassy personnel. There continues to be crimes committed against people taking disreputable and freelance taxis. These types of crimes



usually involve the driver taking his passenger(s) -- usually women -- to a remote area where a group of armed men rob them of their jewelry, cell phones, money, and any other items of value such as ATM cards and force the victim(s) to reveal his or her PIN codes so that the assailants could obtain cash. In a few instances, the criminals drove with the victim in the taxi to an ATM machine and forced them to withdraw cash. Visitors should use only reputable taxi companies such as Blue Bird, Silver Bird, or Express and avoid public mass transit platforms such as buses and trains.

Pick-pocketing is another crime that both locals and visitors fall victim to, with most pick pocketing occurring in crowded areas such as the mass transit system or in restaurants/bars. Fortunately, Indonesian criminals are normally reluctant to use force and usually do not harm their victims unless confronted with violence.

Credit card and debit card crimes continue to be a concern. The bulk of this type of crime involves dishonest employees of smaller businesses, shops, and restaurants who will either copy down the details of the credit card/debit card or attempt to "swipe" it through a "skimmer" device, enabling them to make fraudulent cards using valid credit card numbers. The RSO recommends limiting credit card use to major hotel chains, high-end restaurants, and well-known businesses. Internet fraud is also on the rise, as it is in every other country in the world.

Crime always increases before the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. This is due to the pressure of providing gifts for family members and obtaining money to return to their villages for the holiday Eid Al-Fitri, which is extremely important to the majority of Indonesians.

Throughout Jakarta specifically and Indonesia in general, there have been several incidents in which expatriates were victims of drink-spiking and robbed as unwilling victims by either females in hotel rooms or their male companions while en route to a hotel.

Road Safety

Newcomers will find the traffic conditions here difficult to deal with because of extreme congestion, undisciplined drivers, and the numerous motorcycles and mopeds. Additionally, the flow of traffic in Indonesia is on the left side of the road; this adds to the initial frustration and confusion many first-time drivers in Indonesia will undoubtedly experience. The number and variety of vehicles on the roads far exceeds the capacity of existing roadway infrastructure to handle the traffic adequately. Road safety awareness is very low, and many drivers, especially the motorcycle and moped drivers, disregard most traffic laws. Road conditions vary from good to dangerously poor. The toll roads in Indonesia are modern,



multi-lane, well maintained, and usually over-crowded. Most roads outside of the major cities are single-lane and overly congested with a variety of vehicles from 18-wheel trucks to small mopeds. It is common for Indonesians to pass vehicles on either side of the road, or shoulder, while driving at a high rate of speed and swerving to avoid colliding with bicycles, and horse and ox carts. Driving at night outside of major cities is strongly discouraged.

Because of the unique and dangerous driving conditions in Indonesia, the majority of Embassy employees, western expatriates, and affluent Indonesians hire personal drivers. All rental car companies offer drivers, and the RSO strongly recommends that travelers unfamiliar with the driving conditions in Indonesia hire personal drivers. Accidents on rented motorcycles constitute the majority of expatriate deaths in Indonesia - especially on the resort island of Bali.

When an accident involving personal injury occurs, law requires both drivers to wait for the arrival of the police. Accident victims need to be aware that local ambulance services are at best unreliable and should not be counted on to transport injured persons to the hospital. As a result, taxis and private vehicles are usually used to transport auto accident victims to the hospital. Although law requires third party insurance, most Indonesian drivers are uninsured. Even if they are insured, it is common for insurance companies to refuse to pay damages. All drivers should keep in mind that motorcycles and mopeds have the right of way, and the driver of the vehicle will be held liable if there is an accident.

Political Violence

Historical Perspective

Indonesia is an enormous and populous country with 240 million inhabitants spread out over an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands. Indonesia has the constant potential for political violence and civil unrest due to ethnic, sectarian, religious, and separatist reasons. The security situation in Central Sulawesi remains an area where religious and ethnic violence is always possible. Papua harbors a persistent separatist movement, which includes a small number of armed OPM guerrillas who have attacked the INP and Indonesian Military (TNI) in the Puncak Jaya area of the Papuan highlands, and security forces continue to pursue separatist guerrillas there. In the area between Timika and the copper and gold mine of Grasberg in Papua, there have also been over 30 shooting incidents between 2009 and early 2012 by unknown gunmen who were targeting security personnel (INP and TNI), employees and contractors of PT Freeport Indonesia, an Indonesian mining company that is majority owned by an American mining corporation. Separately, elections scheduled in 2012 for Aceh



in northern Sumatra have increased the possibility of violence there.

The Maluku Islands, Central Sulawesi, and certain areas of Kalimantan and Banda Aceh also have in the past experienced civil unrest and political violence for ethnic, religious and cultural reasons. The Regional Security Office monitors closely the activities there. Please note that Embassy employees traveling to those areas must notify the Regional Security Officer (RSO).

Regional Terrorism and Organized Crime

It is a well-known fact that several members of the main terrorist organizations in Indonesia -- Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and Jema'ah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT) -- trained at al-Qai'da bases in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the 1980s and 1990s. Many of those individuals have been arrested and are in prison, but the fact remains that JI, JAT, and Indonesia- and Philippines-based terrorist groups continue to share the common goal of conducting terrorist attacks against Western interests consistent with al-Qai'da's goals.

In 2011, Indonesia saw a definitive change in the tactics to be used in attacks by JI/JAT. A common theme uncovered by the INP was the transition from Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) to small less sophisticated IEDs as seen in the book bombs, bombs planted near a church in Jakarta, and the suicide bombings in Cirebon and Solo, both cities on the populous island of Java. Although these less sophisticated attacks did not result in mass casualty events, the change in tactics and targets is well-documented and worthy of note.

The successes of the INP over the last year to disrupt, arrest, and prosecute members of JI/JAT and splinter group affiliates have been significant. In 2011, arrests related to the book bombs and Cirebon Cell dominated the headlines, as well as the repatriation of Umar Patek from Pakistan. Although several members of JI/JAT with long and storied pasts remain active (Abdul Rahmin Bashir, Zulkarnaen, and others), the loss of such a large number of their leaders will have a serious impact on JI/JAT's ability to successfully recruit, fund raise, and carry out large-scale operations.

Despite these successes, violent extremist networks and "sleeper" cells remain intact and have the capacity to become operational with little or no warning. A terrorist attack could occur at anytime, in spite of the impressive efforts of the Indonesian counterterrorism forces.

International Terrorism or Transnational Terrorism



The establishment in 2010 of the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) is a major step in the central government working to establish a structure to manage the multifaceted needs of combating terrorism and its development. The BNPT is responsible for coordinating all prevention, international programs, and counterterrorism operations. The BNPT recently readjusted the structure of Detachment 88 (the elite counterterrorism unit of the INP) to more effectively combat the smaller and more dispersed terrorist cells. The BNPT also has the responsibility of managing the nation's counter- and de-radicalization programs, both of which are whole-of government efforts.

The Attorney General's Task Force on Terrorism and Transnational Crime continues to make progress in prosecuting terrorist suspects. In 2011, Abu Bakar Ba'asyir, one of the founders of JI and JAT, was convicted of terrorist offenses and sentenced to 15 years in June. His defense team was partially successful in appealing that sentence, and in October, his sentence was thrown out by judges, and a new, shorter sentence of nine years was imposed. In early 2012, the government expects the trial of Umar Patek to begin. Patek is alleged to be one of the original members of JI and JAT and responsible for the bombs used in the 2002 Bali bombings and other terror-related activities in Indonesia and the Philippines. During 2011, the government debated key amendments to the 2003 anti-terror law. These amendments provided stricter sentencing guidelines for those convicted of terrorist activities and provided more authority for the Indonesian National Police to investigate terrorist-related activities.

Organized crime is also a problem in Indonesia and less has been done to address this persistent problem. Illegal logging and fishing, trafficking-in-persons, the sale of illicit and counterfeit drugs, and corruption are still major problems the Indonesians need to confront. In many instances, the prosecution of individuals accused of these crimes is unsuccessful because of payoffs and bribes to corrupt government officials. Persons violating laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. Penalties for the possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Indonesia are severe. Convicted offenders can expect lengthy prison sentences and hefty fines. The death sentence can be given in some cases of drug trafficking, and there continue to be several Australian citizens on death row for violating Indonesia's drug trafficking laws. The sex industry, including the commercial exploitation of children, is widespread throughout Indonesia and is a focus of international law enforcement efforts. Engaging in sexual conduct with a minor or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country, including Indonesia, is a crime prosecutable in the United States.

Civil Unrest

Every day in Jakarta, and throughout Indonesia, there are multiple demonstrations. They are usually peaceful, and the INP presence is normally sufficient to maintain order. However, at



times, demonstrations have become violent, particularly when involving issues related to religion. Anti-American demonstrations at the Embassy have been sparked by foreign policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and other issues related to the Middle East, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The RSO continues to recommend that all expatriates avoid protests if possible.

Post-specific Concerns

Environmental Hazards

Indonesia is geographically located on the "ring of fire," and there are minor, and sometimes major, earthquakes somewhere in the archipelago every week. In addition to the volcanic activity, there are earthquakes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters, including occasional flooding. In 2011, the government recorded more than 250 earthquakes measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale or higher across the country. In September 2011, a 6.7 Richter scale earthquake struck Singkil Baru in Aceh. It caused three casualties and affected more than 1,500 buildings in the area.

In 2010, several Indonesian volcanoes erupted and caused major damage and disruption to the populace and to economic interests. Mt. Merapi, the largest of these eruptions, resulted in 279,000 internally displaced persons, with 141 casualties and 453 injuries. Indonesia has deployed an effective volcano monitoring system, which has enabled the government to inform the population about potential eruptions and to direct evacuations that prevent casualties. When Mt. Karangetang in Central Sulawesi erupted in March 2011, 1,200 residents were evacuated with no casualties.

During the rainy season -- December to March -- floods and mudslides wreak havoc in many areas of Indonesia, including Jakarta. Over the past year, floods were the most frequent disaster event in Indonesia. In 2011, heavy rains on January 15-16 caused the flow of lahar (volcanic mudflow) from Mt. Merapi in Central Java. This flow isolated 50,000 residents and destroyed 52 irrigation dams. On March 10, 2011, 21 people died after floods swept through Pidie regency in Aceh. This flashflood also has caused hundreds of houses to be inundated with water and seven bridges to collapse. On May 8, 2011, rains caused flashfloods that killed 12 people and inundated thousands of houses in Garut, West Java. And on May 18, 2011, heavy rains in North Sumatra caused four people to drown and killed another four people in the landslide caused by the rain.

Industrial and Transportation Accidents



Unfortunately, Indonesia does experience situations with industrial and transportation accidents. Indonesia has had challenges with airlines and ferry services. Indonesia experienced several fatal plane crashes and non-fatal runway overruns in 2011. Additionally, several ferry accidents and a train collision resulted in dozens of fatalities and even more injuries, due to over-crowding and unsafe conditions. Indonesia continues to hold a category 2 safety rating after the Federal Aviation Administration lowered the rating in March 2007.

Kidnappings

There were several cases of kidnapping in Jakarta that had little impact on the expatriate community. These kidnappings were primarily cases involving Indonesians only and were typically financially motivated, and the perpetrators were familiar with the victim's family.

Drugs and Narco-terrorism

Due to an increase in drug trafficking activities throughout Indonesia in 2011, the INP and National Narcotics Board (BNN) continued to seize large quantities of crystal methamphetamine (known locally as shabu). In addition, authorities discovered several clandestine methamphetamine laboratories capable of producing large quantities of this dangerous drug. Indonesian Customs, INP, and BNN stationed at the air and seaports of major cities such as Jakarta, Surabaya, Bali, and Medan continue to arrest drug couriers from many nations. Further investigation of many of these smuggling attempts has revealed that Indonesia has become a primary destination for drugs smuggling operations controlled by Iranian and West-African drug trafficking organizations. In addition to large volumes of methamphetamine, law enforcement officials have seen an increase in heroin seizures and also have seized large volumes of synthetic drugs including ecstasy and ketamine. The demand for illegal drugs in Indonesia, with a growing population in already-over-crowded cities, remains high. As a result, INP and BNN continue to coordinate with other foreign and domestic law enforcement agencies to stem the steady flow of illegal drugs into Indonesia.

Police Response

Police have limited capabilities in responding to criminal acts and other emergencies. They lack sufficient patrol vehicles to respond quickly on a consistent basis, and corruption continues to be a problem. Policemen routinely augment their meager salaries by accepting payments from motorists who violate traffic laws. Police also sometimes charge victims to investigate crimes or to return recovered stolen property. Their lack of motivation and limited investigative ability makes solving complex and complicated crimes challenging. They are, however, improving thanks to programs offered by the USG International Criminal



Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), the USG Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program (ATA), the Bangkok-based International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), and other police training programs sponsored by other countries.

In Jakarta and throughout Indonesia, American citizens may call the police at 112 for emergencies, but the number is not reliable and is often busy. The RSO recommends that visitors, especially those who are going to remain in Indonesia for an extended period of time, find out what the general cell phone and hard-line phone numbers are for the police station nearest them in the event of an emergency.

Police assistance can be obtained by dialing, within Jakarta, 110 or 112, but please note that in most cases the person answering the call may have limited English-language abilities.

Where to Turn to for Assistance if you Become a Victim of Crime

If an American citizen is arrested, s/he should call the Embassy at 62-21-3435-9000 ext. 0 and ask for the duty officer. S/he should remain calm and accept the assistance from and information provided by an Embassy Consular Officer who will visit the arrestee at the earliest possible opportunity.

U.S. citizens involved in commercial or property matters should be aware that the business environment in Indonesia is riddled with corruption and is often complex and sometimes confusing. Legal courses of action are difficult to pursue because of the short-comings of the judicial process. Local and foreign businesspeople often cite corruption and an ineffective court and legal system as impediments to conducting business here. Dispute settlements are difficult and non-transparent.

Indonesian law does not recognize dual nationality. As a result, U.S. citizens, who are also documented as Indonesians, may experience difficulties with the immigration regulations in Indonesia including holding dual citizenship that may also hinder the Embassy's ability to provide Consular protection. Indonesia strictly enforces visa regulations and the six-month validity on passport expiration dates. All visitors need to ensure that their passports are valid for a minimum of six months or they will be denied entry. Immigration officials also have detained personnel for conducting business and other non-tourist activities while in Indonesia on a tourist visa. Tourist visas on arrival at the airport are available for Rp.250, 000 (approximately \$28).

Medical Emergencies



Embassy employees and private U.S. citizens living in Indonesia normally travel to Singapore for treatment of serious medical conditions. However, the following hospitals may be contacted for routine medical care or in emergencies:

SOS International - 62-21-723-750-6001
Jalan Puri Sakti 10, Cipete, South Jakarta

Global Doctor - 62-21-723-1211
Jalan Pattimura 15, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta

Pondok Indah Hospital - 62-21-750-2322 or 750-0157
Jalan Metro Duta 1, Pondok Indah, Jakarta

Ambulance Services

For air ambulance service, contact SOS International listed above.

Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

There are no criminal techniques that are unique to Indonesia.

Personal Security

- Keep a low profile whenever possible
- Be unpredictable
- Remain vigilant
- Vary routes and times
- Do not advertise that you are an American; avoid wearing t-shirts/hats with USA, FBI, etc.
- Avoid large crowds
- Avoid drugs and prostitution
- Do not carry large amounts of cash or flashy jewelry
- Only carry credit cards you may need
- Carry a photocopy of the bio page of your passport
- Know the telephone number to the Embassy
- When using a taxi, choose Blue Bird, Silver Bird, or Express
- Try to ensure the driver knows where you are going
- Be suspicious of strangers approaching you
- Notify someone if traveling outside of Jakarta



- Hire a driver from a reputable company

Residential Security

- Employ a guard
- Keep windows and doors locked
- Rent houses with window grills and substantial doors
- Train household staff to be aware of security issues
- Invest in a residential alarm system
- Household staff should not allow anyone in your residence without your permission

Areas to Avoid

There are no areas of Jakarta or other major metropolitan areas in Indonesia that are officially off-limits to Embassy personnel. However, there are areas of Jakarta and other major cities where the chances of becoming the victim of a crime are increased. Block M in South Jakarta is notorious for bars and night clubs of dubious reputation with prostitutes, drugs, and criminals. Westerners do frequent Block M, but those who do should remain extra vigilant and be cognizant of the fact that criminal activity in this area is higher than the rest of Jakarta. The Ancol Port area and other areas in north Jakarta are also well-known for bars, night clubs, and a higher crime rate than in other areas of Jakarta. There are similar areas in all the major metropolitan cities in Indonesia and visitors should exercise caution if they choose to visit them. According to the Indonesian National Police, South Jakarta, an affluent area that also houses a large number of expatriates, international schools, and multiple multinational corporations, including U.S. Embassy housing, has become an increasingly attractive target for criminals and has seen a sharp increase in criminal activity.

Check with the Consular Information Sheet before traveling to Aceh, Central Sulawesi, Ambon, and Papua. These areas have the potential for increased crime, civil disturbance and political violence due to ethnic, religious and separatist tensions.

Further Information

Switchboard: 62-21-3435-9000
Marine Post One: 62-21-3435-9221
Regional Security Officer: 62-21-3435-9012
Consular Section: 62-21-3435-9050
Medical Unit: 62-21-3435-9355



Political Section: 62-21-3435-9280
Economic Section: 62-21-3435-9072
Public Affairs Section: 62-21-3435-9500
Surabaya Consulate Switchboard: 62-31-295-6400
Surabaya Regional Security Officer: 62-31-295-6400 x2043
Medan Switchboard: 62-61-451-9000

Americans living and traveling in Indonesia are urged to register and update their contact information with the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, U.S. Consulate General in Surabaya, or U.S. Consular Agency in Bali. Registration facilitates the U.S. Mission's contact with Americans in emergency situations and may be done on line and in advance of travel. Information on registering can be found at the U.S. Department of State's Consular Affairs website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/> and at the Embassy's website at <http://jakarta.usembassy.gov>. All Travel Warnings, Public Announcements and recent warden messages are posted on the Embassy website.

OSAC Country Council

There is an active OSAC Country Council in Indonesia. The Chairperson is Brian Millen who can be reached at brian.millen@ge.com or 62-21-5730500.