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Democratic Republic of the Congo

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Alert: Processing emergency adoption cases in Kinshasa during civil unrest

As a result of the deteriorating security situation in Kinshasa, family members of U.S. government personnel have been ordered to leave the country beginning September 29. Most official U.S. government travel to the DRC has been halted. The U.S. Embassy is able to provide limited emergency services to U.S. citizens in the DRC. However, the Embassy will continue to process adoption-related immigrant visa cases already in progress, on a case by case basis. Consular staff will continue that important work to the extent that security conditions and the provision of emergency services to U.S. citizens may permit. We encourage prospective adoptive parents to work with their adoption service provider and representatives in country to develop plans for the protection of their children.

The exit permit suspension for Congolese children adopted by foreigners is still in effect. While the Department of State continues to advocate for any families whose already adopted children have not received exit permits, the DRC government has not lifted its suspension on issuing exit permits in adoption cases. We will continue to engage with the Congolese government on long-term adoption reform. Please address any questions or concerns to ExitPermitSuspensionDRC@state.gov.