

# HOW TO SURVIVE A RIOT

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## **1** **Remain indoors if you learn about any nearby rioting or civil unrest.**

Avoid the windows. Listen for reports on radio or television. If you hear gunfire, try to find out where the shooting is located. Use the telephone if it is still functioning, or ask an official or your hotel manager for information.

## **2** **If you believe the crisis is unresolvable or seriously threatens your life, plan to leave the country quickly.**

## **3** **Determine the best route to the airport or embassy, and leave the building through any safe exit.**

Make sure that the airport is operating before you travel there. If you cannot make it to your own country's embassy, plan to head for the embassy of an allied nation.

## **4** **Wear clothing in muted tones.**

Put on a long-sleeve shirt, jacket, jeans, a hat, socks, and lightweight boots. (Although you may be in a tropical or warm part of the world, it gets quite cold on planes, and you may have to sleep in an airport or connect to a flight landing in a colder region.)

## **5** **Exit away from gunfire or mobs.**

Select a way out that is not easily observed. Exits include windows, vents, or even the roof.

## **6** **Leave as a group.**

Especially if you have to dash across an open area, such as the front of a building, a wide street, or a plaza, you are safer with company. Snipers or enemies will have multiple objects to focus on, not just one, and will not be as likely to make a move.

## **7** **Do not run.**

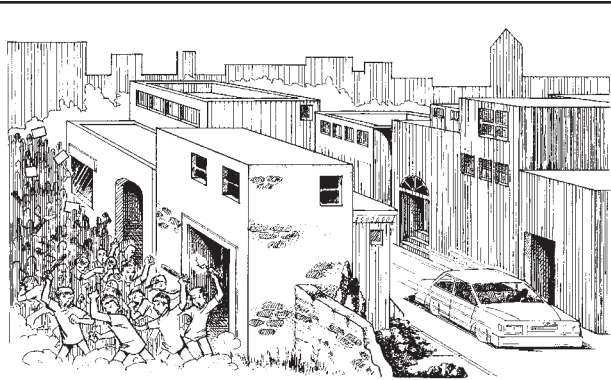
Unless your life is in imminent danger, walk. Walking is harder for the eye to detect: The human eye can quickly sight someone running. Running can also generate excitement—people may chase you.

## **8** **If you must travel by car, be prepared for evasive maneuvers.**

Drive on back streets, not main roads, and be prepared to abandon the car if the situation becomes critical. Watch out for checkpoints, roundabouts, major intersections, and military/police barracks. Do not stop for anything—remember the car can be a useful 2,000-pound weapon that even a mob cannot stop. If you cannot drive forward, drive in reverse.

A reliable driver who knows the area will be able to navigate much better than you. If no driver or taxi is available, hire a local to drive your car for you. (You may need to promise to give your car in exchange.) Abandon the car outside the embassy or airport.

If a Molotov cocktail (flammable liquid in a glass container with a lighted wick) hits your car, speed up—it may burn out as you gain speed.



*Drive on back streets, not main roads, and be prepared to abandon your car if necessary. Get to an airport or friendly embassy.*

**9** If you encounter unavoidable roadblocks, be prepared to bargain your way to safety.

You might need to give up everything you are carrying in order to get away. Offer cash first, equipment (watches, cameras, jewelry) second.

**10** Get to an embassy or to the airport as soon as possible.

**Be Aware**

- If you are in a volatile region where there is a likelihood of civil disorder, be prepared for a rapid evacuation. Each person and family member should have an escape pack set aside near the front door. A good, small backpack is preferable to any type of luggage. It should contain the following:

**FLASHLIGHT.** Pack a mini-flashlight with extra batteries. Affix a red or blue lens if you have one; red or blue light is difficult for observers (snipers, mobs) to see at night.

**SMALL COMPASS AND A DETAILED MAP OF THE CITY.** Be sure to mark the embassy and helicopter landing zones on the map.

**KNIFE.** Include a small pocketknife for cutting.

**FIRE-STARTING TOOL.** Carry storm-safe matches or a lighter in a waterproof bag. Pack small baggies of dryer lint, which is light and highly flammable.

**BLACK GARBAGE BAGS.** Use these for emergency shelter and camouflage.

**WATER AND FOOD.** Carry at least two quarts of water per person. Bring only high-energy or instant foods. Do not eat unless you have water.

- Conceal on your person, in a multi-pocket neck pouch, the following items:

**MONEY.** Take \$25 in single U.S. dollars and all of your local currency and divide it among your pouch and pockets. This will serve as bribe money for checkpoints. Dole it out in heaps until it appears you have no more. Do not offer your papers. Carry more money in your neck pouch,

but keep the bulk of your cash in your socks, crotch, or ankle pouch.

**PASSPORT.** Place a full photocopy of your passport in the main section of the pouch for easy access. Keep your original passport in a separate section. Show the copy to locals who demand it. Never give up the original.

**OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.** Visas, phone numbers, proof of citizenship, birth certificates, and so on should be kept with your original passport.

**SOFT EARPLUGS.** Helicopters are very noisy, and earplugs are useful when you want to sleep in a battle zone.

