

# **Press Releases: Zimbabwe National Day**

Press Statement  
John J. Sullivan

Acting Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
April 18, 2018

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On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, I offer congratulations to the people of Zimbabwe on your country's 38 years of independence.

As national elections approach, Zimbabwe has an opportunity to set itself on a new path of political and economic reforms for a promising future. The United States joins the Zimbabwean people in the hope for achieving a more open society, a stable democracy, and a strong economy. We look forward to continuing to develop our friendship with the people of Zimbabwe in the years to come.

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# **Press Releases: Statement on the Trial of Pastor Andrew Brunson**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
April 16, 2018

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The entire U.S. government is following Mr. Brunson's case closely. We have seen no credible evidence that Mr. Brunson is guilty of a crime and are convinced that he is innocent. We believe that Turkey is a state bound by the rule of law, and we have faith in the Turkish people's commitment to justice. We hope that the judicial system in Turkey will resolve his case in a timely, fair, and transparent manner.

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## **Press Releases: Central American Senior-Level Natural Gas Policy and Investment Roundtable**

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
April 16, 2018

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The Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources, in partnership with the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center and Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center, held a roundtable on Central American natural gas development in Washington D.C. on April 16.

Acting Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs John

McCarrick and David Goldwyn, Chair of the Atlantic Council's Energy Advisory Group and Senior Fellow at the Latin America Center, co-chaired a discussion with energy ministers and senior-level officials from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama about ways to develop commercial natural gas power projects in the Central America region and the benefits of increased natural gas trade, including LNG, for regional economic development and competitiveness.

Acting Special Envoy McCarrick and Rosanety Barrios Beltran, Head of Industrial Transformation Policy of Mexico's Energy Secretariat, also announced a new partnership in which the U.S. and Mexican governments will collaborate with countries in Central America to strengthen policy, regulatory, and investment frameworks for natural gas. The first of three workshops is scheduled to take place in Mexico City in May.

Senior-level participants from Central America also included: Guatemalan Minister of Energy and Mines Luis Chang, Honduran Minister of Energy Roberto Ordonez, Panamanian Secretary of Energy Victor Urrutia, CEO of the Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE) and ICE Group Carlos Obregon, El Salvadoran National Energy Council Executive Secretary Luis Reyes, Belizean Ambassador to the United States Daniel Gutierrez, and Nicaraguan Electricity Market Director and System Operator Rodolfo Lopez.

Representatives from the Departments of Commerce and Energy, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Export-Import Bank, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, USAID, the Inter-American Development Bank, and U.S. energy companies also participated.

A recording of the event can be found archived on the Atlantic Council's website, [www.atlanticcouncil.org](http://www.atlanticcouncil.org). For further information, please contact Vincent Campos at [CamposVM@state.gov](mailto:CamposVM@state.gov) or [@EnergyAtState](https://twitter.com/EnergyAtState).

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**[Press Releases: Public Designation of Tom Doshi Under Section 7031\(c\) of the](#)**

# [FY 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act](#)

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
April 16, 2018

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The Department is publicly designating Albanian Member of Parliament Mr. Tom Doshi under Section 7031(c) of the FY 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act, due to his involvement in significant corruption. Section 7031(c) provides that, in cases where the Secretary of State has credible information that foreign officials have been involved in significant corruption or gross violations of human rights, those individuals and their immediate family members are ineligible for entry into the United States.

The law also requires the Secretary of State to publicly or privately designate such officials and their family members. In addition to the designation of Mr. Doshi, the Department is also publicly designating Mr. Doshi's spouse, Xhovana Doshi, his adult daughter, Briana Doshi, his adult son, James Doshi, and his minor children.

For more information, please contact [INL-PAPD@state.gov](mailto:INL-PAPD@state.gov).

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[Press Releases: Acting Secretary](#)

# Sullivan's Meeting With Caribbean Leaders

Readout  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
April 15, 2018

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The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Acting Secretary of State John J. Sullivan met with the Caribbean Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers of The Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and St. Lucia on the margins of the Summit of the Americas in Lima, Peru on April 14.

During the meeting, the Acting Secretary underscored the U.S. commitment to enhance engagement with the Caribbean, as envisioned in the Caribbean 2020 strategy, including increasing private-sector investment in the Caribbean; ensuring a steady, long-term supply of clean, affordable energy to the region; building resilience to natural disasters; and supporting economic growth in the region for a more secure and prosperous hemisphere. Acting Secretary Sullivan also discussed the need to rally the hemisphere's united support for the Venezuelan people and their right to have a voice in government through free and fair elections.

The Acting Secretary and the Caribbean leaders pledged continued engagement on security and energy initiatives, through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative and the Caribbean Energy Security Initiative, as well as disaster preparedness and emergency response efforts.

The U.S. government provided nearly \$22 million in humanitarian assistance to support immediate emergency relief efforts in Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint-Martin, and Sint Maarten in response to the hurricanes last year. This assistance helped an estimated 83,800 people with more than 185 tons of supplies.

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