<u>Press Releases: Afghanistan</u> <u>Independence Day</u>

Press Statement Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC August 18, 2017

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, I would like to congratulate the Afghan people as they celebrate their 98th anniversary of independence on August 19th.

The Afghan spirit of resilience and courage in the face of adversity continues to guide the people of Afghanistan toward a better future. Afghanistan has made significant economic, political, and social progress in the last 16 years, and we bear witness every day to the Afghan people's dedication to building a more democratic and peaceful country.

Our strong friendship with Afghanistan is based on our mutual dedication to helping the Afghan people secure a safe and prosperous future. Today, the United States joins the people of Afghanistan in celebrating your independence.

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