<u>Press Releases: Deputy Secretary</u> <u>Sullivan's Meeting With Lebanese</u> <u>Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil</u>

Readout Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC July 25, 2018

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Deputy Secretary Sullivan met today in Washington, D.C., with Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, on the sidelines of the International Religious Freedom Ministerial. They discussed Lebanon's ongoing government formation process and the U.S. government's strong concerns over the role of Hizballah in Lebanon and the region, as well as the threat it poses to regional stability. Deputy Secretary Sullivan emphasized the need for all Lebanese parties to abide by Lebanon's international commitments and refrain from violating its policy of disassociation from foreign entanglements.

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