

Press Releases: Deputy Secretary Sullivan's Meetings in Afghanistan

Readout
Office of the Spokesperson

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The below is attributable to Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan traveled to Kabul, Afghanistan on January 29 and 30, where he met with President Ghani, Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, and other government officials. The Deputy Secretary extended his condolences to the families of the victims and all those affected by the recent terrorist attacks throughout the country. He condemned the senseless acts of terror and commended the Afghan security forces and all first responders for their bravery in responding.

Deputy Secretary Sullivan consulted with President Ghani and Dr. Abdullah about progress made on Afghan security, reforms, and peace initiatives, as we approach the six-month mark following President Trump's announcement of the South Asia Strategy. Among other priorities, the Deputy Secretary and the Afghan leaders discussed the importance of maintaining political stability and holding timely, credible, and inclusive elections. The Deputy Secretary applauded the Afghan government on their continued reform efforts to create a more peaceful and secure Afghanistan.

In addition to his meetings with government officials, the Deputy Secretary also engaged with young leaders, members of the media, aid and humanitarian leaders, and individuals from across the political spectrum. In addition, he met with U.S. government employees at the U.S. Embassy and with U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan alongside the brave Afghan forces to thank them for their hard work in implementing the South Asia strategy.

In all of his meetings, the Deputy Secretary focused discussions on the peace process, elections and inclusivity, and advancing development efforts. He also reaffirmed the United States' commitment to working with the government and the people of Afghanistan to bring peace, security, and sustained economic growth to Afghanistan and the region.

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