

# [Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas](#)

Readout  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
May 24, 2018

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The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:□

Secretary Pompeo met with Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on May 23, 2018, in Washington, D.C., to reaffirm the two nations' strong commitment to the transatlantic partnership and to discuss key shared priorities.

During the meeting, Secretary Pompeo thanked Foreign Minister Maas for Germany's partnership with the United States and our allies in standing up to Russian aggression. The two discussed the upcoming NATO Summit and agreed NATO was essential to countering global threats.

Secretary Pompeo and Foreign Minister Maas also discussed approaches to countering Iranian aggression and supporting the Iranian people. The two agreed to stay in close contact as they address global challenges together.

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## [Press Releases: H-2A Agricultural](#)

# Worker Visa Modernization Joint Cabinet Statement

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
May 24, 2018

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*Secretary Acosta, Secretary Nielsen, Secretary Perdue, and Secretary Pompeo*

When President Trump addressed the American Farm Bureau Federation in January of this year, he reminded the audience that his commitment to our farmers has been clear since the day his Administration began: “From that day on, we have been working every day to deliver for America’s farmers just as they work every single day to deliver for us.”

In keeping with that commitment, our Departments are working in coordination to propose streamlining, simplifying, and improving the H-2A temporary agricultural visa program – reducing cumbersome bureaucracy and ensuring adequate protections for U.S. workers.

The Trump Administration is committed to modernizing the H-2A visa program rules in a way that is responsive to stakeholder concerns and that deepens our confidence in the program as a source of legal and verified labor for agriculture – while also reinforcing the program’s strong employment and wage protections for the American workforce. In addition, by improving the H-2A visa program and substantially reducing its complexity, the Administration also plans to incentivize farmers’ use of the E-Verify program to ensure their workforce is authorized to work in the United States.

As the agencies tasked with administering or facilitating the H-2A visa program, and thus closest to farmer and labor stakeholders, the Departments of State, Agriculture, Labor, and Homeland Security are embarking on a process to modernize the H-2A visa program by clarifying and improving the regulations governing the program. We look forward to delivering a more responsive program soon.

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## **Press Releases: Eritrea National Day**

Press Statement  
Mike Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
May 24, 2018

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On behalf of the government and people of the United States, I wish the people of Eritrea a happy national day as you celebrate the 27th anniversary of your nation on May 24, 2018. We hope that our shared values may bring our two peoples closer together.

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## **Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono**

Readout  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
May 23, 2018

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The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

On May 23, Secretary Pompeo met with Japanese Foreign Minister Kono in Washington, DC. Secretary Pompeo and Foreign Minister Kono affirmed our shared resolve on North Korea. The two ministers reaffirmed the shared goal of achieving the comprehensive, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea. They committed to maintaining close trilateral cooperation among Japan, the United States, and the Republic of Korea. Both sides expressed their joint commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific and enhancing fair and reciprocal bilateral trade. The Secretary and Foreign Minister also discussed other issues of regional and global concern.

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## **[Press Releases: Responding to Unjustified Diplomatic Actions in Venezuela](#)**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
May 23, 2018

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Today, the Department of State, in accordance with Article 9 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and Article 23 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, declared the Chargé d’Affaires of the Venezuelan embassy and the Deputy Consul General of the Venezuelan consulate in Houston *personae non grata*. They have been directed to leave the United States within 48 hours.

This action is to reciprocate the Maduro regime’s decision to declare the Chargé d’Affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Caracas *personae non grata*. The accusations behind the Maduro regime’s decision are unjustified; our Embassy officers have carried out their official duties responsibly and consistent with diplomatic practice and applicable provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. We reject any suggestion to the contrary.

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