

Press Releases: Meeting of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS in Jordan

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
November 9, 2017

Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS Brett McGurk will lead an interagency delegation to Amman, Jordan for a meeting on November 15 with key members of the Defeat ISIS Coalition.

With Mosul and Raqqa now liberated, this meeting will be an opportunity for Coalition partners to discuss next steps to ensure ISIS is dealt an enduring defeat in Iraq and Syria and ways to accelerate our collective approach to defeat ISIS's global ambitions. It will include a detailed discussion of priorities for the Coalition's multiple lines of effort, including stabilization, foreign terrorist fighters, counter-terrorist financing, and counter-messaging.

The Coalition's Small Group regularly meets to coordinate and enhance combined efforts to counter ISIS. The last meeting of senior Coalition leaders took place on September 22 at the Ministerial level on the sidelines of UNGA.

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Press Releases: U.S. and China Hold Second Counter Nuclear Smuggling Consultation

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
November 9, 2017

The United States and China convened their second nuclear smuggling consultation on November 9th in Shanghai to reaffirm their joint commitment and continued resolve to counter the threat of nuclear terrorism. The consultation was the culmination of a weeklong engagement, beginning with a tour highlighting the operations of the radiation detection system at the Port of Yangshan and a scenario-based policy discussion focused on U.S. and Chinese response to a fictional smuggling scenario.

During the meeting, U.S. and Chinese experts from their respective diplomatic, policy, law enforcement, and technical communities exchanged views on the threat of nuclear smuggling and explored opportunities for the two sides to work together to address this challenge. At the conclusion of the dialogue, both sides agreed to enhance their cooperation to promote international best practices and build capabilities to counter nuclear smuggling.

Chaired this year by U.S. Department of State's Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation Programs, Philip Dolliff, and Deputy Director General of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Arms Control Department, Ms. Dong Zhihua, this meeting reflected the importance that both countries place on securing nuclear and other radioactive materials, and countering the smuggling of such materials and demonstrated their commitment to international nuclear security.

For further information, please contact Maria Dudding at ISNPressQueries@state.gov or visit www.state.gov/t/isn, Twitter @StateISN and Facebook @StateDepartment.ISNBureau

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Press Releases: First U.S.-Qatar Counterterrorism Dialogue

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
November 8, 2017

U.S. and Qatari officials met in Washington, DC on November 8 for the first U.S.-Qatari counterterrorism dialogue.

U.S. Coordinator for Counterterrorism Ambassador Nathan A. Sales led the U.S. delegation, which included officials from the Departments of State, Homeland Security, Justice, and Treasury. The 11-member Qatari delegation was led by Major General Abdul Aziz al-Ansari, Chairman of Qatar's National Counter Terrorism Committee, and included Dr. Mutlaq al-Qahtani, Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counterterrorism and Conflict Mediation, and officials from the Ministry of Interior, the State Security Bureau, and the National Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Finance Committee.

The delegations reviewed Qatar's positive progress in implementing the U.S.-Qatar counterterrorism Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in Doha on July 11 by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Qatari Foreign Minister Mohamed Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. The MOU laid out our mutual commitments for increasing information sharing, disrupting terrorism financing flows, and intensifying counterterrorism activities. During the dialogue, both sides affirmed the progress made to date on implementing the MOU and committed to expanding our counterterrorism partnership. Topics discussed included regional terrorist threats, counterterrorism financing, regulation of the charitable sector, information sharing, and aviation security.

Building on this progress, the United States and Qatar will deepen their counterterrorism cooperation further, as exemplified by the recent visits to Doha of Secretary of State Tillerson (October 22-23) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin (October 29-30). Both visits served to underscore the broad,

robust ties between Qatar and the United States, especially in reaffirming the two countries' joint efforts to defeat terrorism.

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Press Releases: Status of the Central American Minors Program

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
November 8, 2017

As described in the FY 2018 Report to Congress on the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, the U.S. government is ending the Central American Minors (CAM) refugee program in FY 2018.

The CAM refugee program became effective on December 1, 2014, and allowed certain parents lawfully present in the United States to request a refugee resettlement interview for their children and eligible family members who are nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

The decision to end the CAM refugee program was made as part of the overall U.S. government review of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for FY 2018.

The Department of State will not accept any new applications to the CAM refugee program after 11:59pm EST, November 9.

The Resettlement Support Centers in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala will continue to pre-screen applicants who file by the November 9 deadline. All requirements, such as DNA testing, security checks, and medical examinations remain the same.

For further information, please contact PRMPress@state.gov.

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Press Releases: Municipal Elections in Nicaragua

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
November 8, 2017

The United States is concerned by persistent flaws in the Nicaraguan democratic process, as illustrated by the November 5 municipal elections. Although voting itself was calm, we condemn the post-electoral violence, lament the loss of life, and call for an investigation that brings those responsible to justice. We are seriously troubled by credible reports of irregularities throughout this electoral process.

The presence of an Organization of American States (OAS) electoral observation mission provided much-needed transparency, and the United States concurs with its recommendations focused on strengthening balance within the political party system, improving the selection of election councils at all levels, establishing an adequate legal framework for civil society, and promoting broad and inclusive domestic electoral observation.

The United States continues to advocate for the strengthening of democratic institutions, a separation of powers, and a free and fair electoral process in Nicaragua.

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