

# Press Releases: Liberation of Mosul

Press Statement  
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
July 10, 2017

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On behalf of President Trump and the American people, I congratulate Prime Minister Abadi and the Iraqi people on their liberation of Mosul. This is a critical milestone in the global fight against ISIS, and underscores the success of the international effort led by the Iraqi Security Forces.

We honor the sacrifices of the Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi people, as well as the Kurdish Peshmerga, in achieving this victory, and express condolences for the many lives lost in the operation.

During ISIS's brutal occupation of Mosul, it terrorized and brutally murdered thousands of civilians, used mosques, schools and hospitals as bomb-building facilities and fighting positions and just recently, facing defeat, destroyed the historic al-Nuri mosque and al-Hadba minaret.

Under Iraqi leadership, the United States and our Coalition partners will continue to work closely with the UN to stabilize liberated areas throughout Mosul, supporting the return of displaced civilians to their homes.

There is still much work to be done to defeat this enemy. The Global Coalition will continue to stand with our Iraqi partners to ensure that ISIS is defeated wherever it remains in Iraq.

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# Press Releases: Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the U.S. Open Skies Policy and 10th Anniversary of the U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
July 10, 2017

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Today the United States and the European Union (EU) mark the 25th anniversary of the first U.S. Open Skies agreement, with the Netherlands and the 10th anniversary of the U.S.-European Union Open Skies Agreement. These landmark achievements – and 25 years of the overall U.S. Open Skies policy – have benefitted the civil aviation markets of the United States and Europe, and have contributed a market-based international aviation system that minimizes government intervention and facilitates opportunities for increasing travel, commercial and business exchanges, investment and trade, and tourism.

To commemorate these achievements, the Department of State is hosting an event entitled “Celebrating Aviation Milestones in 2017: Open Skies: 25 years and U.S.-EU Open Skies – 10 years Promoting International Travel, Trade and Connectivity” for U.S. government and European Commission officials, U.S. and European industry representatives, academics, and aviation experts. Keynote speakers include Ambassador Patricia Haslach, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs; Henrik Hololei, Director-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission; and Jeffrey Shane, General Counsel, International Air Transport Association. Ambassador Henne Schuwer of the Embassy of the Netherlands to the United States will give closing remarks.

Since 1992, the United States has reached 121 Open Skies agreements with partners across six continents. Open Skies removes limits on the number of airlines permitted to provide service or frequencies. Airlines are free to make business decisions regarding fares, destinations, and type of service on the basis of commercial considerations, without government interference. Open Skies agreements also cover cargo service, as reliable international air links are vital for facilitating commerce. Growth in aviation benefits the national economy and deepens integration with the world economy.

The 2007 U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement is one of the world's most important bilateral air transport deals. The Agreement has increased competition, connectivity, and service options within the transatlantic market, which previously was subject to significant restrictions under previous bilateral agreements.

For more information on Open Skies, visit <https://www.state.gov/e/eb/tra/ata/>.

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## **Press Releases: Mongolia's National Day**

Press Statement  
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
July 10, 2017

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On behalf of the United States, our best wishes to the people of Mongolia as you celebrate your National Day on July 11th.

As the United States and Mongolia mark 30 years of diplomatic relations this year, we can look back with pride at our many shared accomplishments. These include the people-to-people links that have been forged between our countries, the academic and cultural exchanges we have developed, our joint efforts advocating for human rights at the United Nations, and our mutual efforts in support of peace and stability in Afghanistan and around the world.

The United States is proud to have been part of Mongolia's journey over the

last 30 years, and we look forward to deepening our relationship in the years to come.

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## **Press Releases: The South Sudan Conflict on the 6th Anniversary of its Independence**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
July 9, 2017

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The birth of South Sudan in 2011 was marked by hope for a peaceful and prosperous future. The American people, like many around the world, celebrated as the South Sudanese forged a free and independent nation following years of strife. Six years later, on the occasion of South Sudan's independence, the promise of 2011 has been supplanted in 2017 by a continuing civil war and devastating humanitarian crisis affecting millions.

The conflict that broke out in December 2013 set South Sudan on a precarious course, causing immense suffering, creating divisions and holding the country back. We deeply regret that the second chance made possible by the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity in April 2016 was squandered. Following the collapse of the permanent ceasefire in July 2016, the armed conflict expanded across the country and the parties to the conflict remain unwilling to return to the negotiating table. The consequences have been dire: two million people displaced inside South Sudan,

nearly two million people displaced as refugees outside of South Sudan, and six million people facing life-threatening hunger.

The United States remains deeply committed to a stable and inclusive South Sudan, and stresses once again that there is no military solution to this conflict. On this day meant to celebrate South Sudan's creation, we call upon South Sudan's leaders and all parties to end this self-destructive violence, to return to political dialogue, and to help South Sudan realize its full potential.

We extend our best wishes to the people of the Republic of South Sudan on the sixth anniversary of the nation's independence. The United States will stand with the people of South Sudan and with all leaders who are working for peace, stability, and justice.

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## **[Press Releases: Transfer of Leopoldo Lopez to House Arrest in Venezuela](#)**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
July 8, 2017

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The United States welcomes the transfer of Leopoldo Lopez to house arrest after more than three years in prison. This is a significant step in the right direction by the government of Venezuela. We reiterate our call for the full restoration of Mr. Lopez's liberty and his political rights.

Mr. Lopez is just one of more than 400 political prisoners being tracked

□today in Venezuela by the independent Foro Penal. We call for the immediate release of these prisoners and the full restoration of their rights as Venezuelan citizens.

Our thoughts and prayers reside with all who have suffered during Venezuela's political crisis. We underscore our call for an end to the conflict and repression that have consumed Venezuela, and urge all parties to commit themselves to a peaceful resolution of this dispute that respects Venezuela's constitution, its democratic institutions, and the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people.

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