

# Press Releases: The Secretary's Special Representative for Syria Engagement To Deliver Remarks to the Media in the Press Briefing Room

Notice to the Press  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
December 3, 2018

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The Secretary's Special Representative for Syria Engagement Ambassador James F. Jeffrey and Syria Envoy and Deputy Assistant Secretary Joel Rayburn will brief the media at 3:00 p.m. today in the Press Briefing Room at the Department of State on the results of the Syria Small Group meetings held earlier on Monday in Washington, D.C. with envoys from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.

This event is open press coverage. Journalists who plan to cover this event in person must be seated in the Press Briefing Room by 2:50 p.m.

*Media representatives may attend this event upon presentation of one of the following: (1) a U.S. Government-issued photo media credential (e.g., Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense or Foreign Press Center), or (2) an official photo identification card issued by their news organization, or (3) a letter from their employer on official letterhead verifying their current employment as a journalist. Additionally, they must present an official government photo identification card (i.e., U.S. driver's license or passport).*

The event will be streamed live on [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov).

For further information, please contact the Office of Press Relations at (202) 647-2492 or [PAPressDuty@state.gov](mailto:PAPressDuty@state.gov).

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## **Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo To Travel to Brussels**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
December 3, 2018

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U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo will travel to Brussels, Belgium, on December 3 – 5.

Secretary Pompeo will participate in the semi-annual meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers to review progress made in implementing the agenda agreed by NATO Heads of State and Government at the Brussels Summit in July. Secretary Pompeo will renew our call that Allies shoulder a fair share of the burden of responsibility to protect against common threats. This means living up to the pledge that all Allies made in 2014 and reaffirmed at the 2018 Brussels Summit to spend 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense by 2024 and to invest 20 percent of that in major equipment. Ministers will also discuss transatlantic security issues, as well as NATO operations and partnerships, including NATO's deepening relationship with critical partners Georgia and Ukraine.

While in Belgium, Secretary Pompeo will also meet with Belgian Prime Minister Michel to discuss how the two countries can partner on areas of mutual concern, such as nonproliferation, as Belgium takes its seat on the UN Security Council for the sixth time.

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## **Press Releases: Hungary: Central European University (CEU)**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
December 3, 2018

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The United States Government is disappointed that the Hungarian government and CEU have not concluded an agreement that would allow the university to continue its U.S.-accredited programs in Hungary.

Since the Hungarian government amended its law on higher education in April 2017, we have worked diligently with both parties to find a solution that would allow CEU to preserve these programs in Hungary.

The United States values the role that CEU and other American educational institutions play in building connections between the Hungarian and American people and strengthening the transatlantic bond. The departure of these U.S.-accredited programs from Hungary will be a loss for the CEU community, for the United States, and for Hungary.

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# [Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With Mexican Foreign Secretary-designate Marcelo Ebrard](#)

Readout  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
December 2, 2018

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The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo met today with Mexican Foreign Secretary-designate Marcelo Luis Ebrard Casaubon in Washington, D.C. Secretary Pompeo congratulated Foreign Secretary-designate Ebrard on the recent Mexican presidential inauguration and the beginning of Ebrard's tenure in office. They discussed our shared commitment to address our common challenges and opportunities for the future.

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## [Press Releases: Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad Travel to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia, Uzbekistan,](#)

# Turkmenistan, Belgium, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
December 2, 2018

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Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad will travel to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Belgium, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar with an interagency delegation from December 2 – 20. He will meet with Afghan government officials and other interested parties to support and facilitate an inclusive peace process in Afghanistan, empowering the Afghan people to decide their nation's fate. Special Representative Khalilzad will be in communication with President Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah, and other Afghan stakeholders to coordinate closely on efforts to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table with the Afghan government and other Afghans.

On his last trip to the region in November, Special Representative Khalilzad met with men and women active in civil society and peace efforts, members of the media, and other governmental and non-governmental officials. He stressed that all Afghans must have a say in creating a sustainable peace for Afghanistan. The United States remains committed to supporting the Afghan people's desire for peace, and to facilitating a political settlement between the Afghan government and the Taliban that ensures Afghanistan never serves as a platform for international terrorism again.

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