

Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

Readout
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
October 16, 2018

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo met today with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh. The Secretary reiterated the President's concern with respect to Jamal Khashoggi's disappearance, as well as the President's desire to determine what happened. The Secretary welcomed Saudi Arabia's support of the Turkish authorities' investigation. The Secretary and the Crown Prince agreed on the importance of a thorough, transparent, and timely investigation that provides answers. The two also discussed regional and bilateral issues.

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Press Releases: U.S. Assistance to Ethnic and Religious Minorities in Iraq

Fact Sheet

Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
October 16, 2018

As part of the continued commitment by Vice President Pence, Secretary Pompeo, and USAID Administrator Green to support ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq as highlighted earlier this year at the first-ever Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, the United States is proud to announce over \$178 million in U.S. foreign assistance to support these vulnerable communities in Iraq. This brings total U.S. assistance for this population to nearly \$300 million since Fiscal Year 2017, implemented by both the State Department and USAID.

The preservation of Iraq's rich historical pluralism is critical to reintegrating persecuted ethnic and religious minority communities into a peaceful Iraq. U.S. efforts to meet this objective span government agencies and are being implemented urgently, in close partnership with local faith and community leaders. Our efforts focus on the following areas:

Genocide Recovery and Persecution Response (GRPR)

- Over \$133 million in recently launched activities supporting the four pillars of USAID's GRPR Program, bringing total funding for GRPR to \$239 million.
 - Meeting Immediate Needs: Over \$51 million in life-saving humanitarian assistance to populations from the Ninewa Plain and western Ninewa, includes safe drinking water, food, shelter materials and household items, medical care, and psychosocial support.
 - Helping Restore Communities: \$9 million in funding to support early recovery needs and restore access to services like health and education.
 - Promoting Economic Recovery: \$68 million in funding to improve access to jobs and markets, support local businesses, and revive the local economy.
 - Preventing Future Atrocities: \$5 million to address systemic issues affecting minority populations and prevent future atrocities.

Clearing the Explosive Remnants of War

- Approximately \$37 million in funding to support explosive remnants of war (ERW) survey, clearance, and risk education in and around minority communities. This support has enabled the Department to significantly expand the number of U.S.-funded ERW survey, clearance, and risk education teams across Ninewa and fulfills the Secretary's pledge to expand ERW clearance efforts in Iraqi minority communities made at the

July 2018 Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom.

Social, Economic, and Political Empowerment

- \$8.5 million in additional assistance to projects that provide psychosocial services, legal support, and initiatives to help collect evidence of human rights abuses; increase minority representation in local and provincial government; increase access to justice for children; strengthen rule of law; and provide livelihoods support and access to economic opportunities for vulnerable groups bringing the FY 2017 total to \$18.5 million.

Preservation of Historic and Cultural Heritage Sites

- \$2 million in ongoing programming to support the preservation of cultural heritage sites in Northern Iraq that were targeted for destruction by ISIS and other terrorist groups, safeguarding, preserving, and restoring access to significant cultural heritage sites of minority communities.

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[Press Releases: Deputy Secretary John J. Sullivan's Lunch With Religious Leaders](#)

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October 16, 2018

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

In Baghdad on October 14, Deputy Secretary Sullivan participated in a working lunch with Iraqi religious leaders. The Deputy Secretary was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Doug Silliman, Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Major General Ricky Waddell, National Security Council Director for Iraq Matthew Zais, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Near Eastern Affairs Andrew Peek.

The Deputy Secretary underlined that the United States is deeply committed to assisting persecuted religious groups, including Christian and Yazidi communities in Iraq who suffered genocide at the hands of ISIS. He emphasized the United States' view that ensuring people of all beliefs have a secure future in Iraq is integral to the region's stability and peace.

The United States has provided nearly \$1 billion since FY 2017 in development and security assistance in Iraq, of which nearly \$300 million is specifically prioritized in geographic regions with concentrations of religious component communities, such as the Ninewa Plains. A significant amount of that funding is also benefitting displaced and other conflict-affected populations in Northern Iraq, an area that hosts the majority of the country's displaced ethnic and religious minorities.

The Deputy Secretary of State reaffirmed the U.S. government's commitment to continued support for religious and ethnic minority communities in Iraq.

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Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With Saudi Foreign Minister al-Jubeir

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October 16, 2018

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo met today with Saudi Foreign Minister al-Jubeir in Riyadh. The Secretary thanked the foreign minister for his continued partnership and he and the foreign minister followed up on a range of regional and bilateral issues discussed at the UN General Assembly. The Secretary reiterated U.S. concern over Jamal Khashoggi's disappearance. The Secretary and the foreign minister agreed on the importance of a thorough, transparent, and timely investigation.

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Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With Saudi King Salman

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October 16, 2018

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo met today with Saudi King Salman in Riyadh. The Secretary thanked the King for Saudi Arabia's strong partnership with the United States. The Secretary and the King discussed a number of regional and bilateral issues. The Secretary also thanked the King for his commitment to supporting a thorough, transparent, and timely investigation of Jamal Khashoggi's disappearance.

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