

Press Releases: Joint Statement on First Anniversary of Chemical Attack on Khan Sheikhoun, Syria

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 4, 2018

The text of the following statement was released by UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, and U.S. Acting Secretary John Sullivan.

Begin Text:

Today marks one year since the heinous attack on the town of Khan Sheikhoun, where Asad's forces unleashed sarin nerve gas with tragic consequences for hundreds of men, women and children.

For more than seven long years there has been no let-up in the atrocities committed by the Syrian regime, enabled by its backers, in flagrant violation of international law. The suffering that has been inflicted on the Syrian people by the Asad regime and its backers is abhorrent.

In 2013, Russia promised to ensure Syria would abandon all of its chemical weapons. Since then, international investigators mandated by the UN Security Council have found the Asad regime responsible for using poison gas in four separate attacks. Instead of fulfilling its promise, Russia reacted by using its Security Council veto to shut down the investigation.

Each time a chemical weapon is used, it undermines the global consensus against their employment. Any such use is a clear violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and gravely undermines the rules-based international order.

We condemn the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere. We are committed to ensuring that all those responsible use are held to account. We will not rest in our efforts to seek justice for the victims of these abhorrent attacks in Syria.

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Press Releases: Acting Secretary Sullivan's Meeting With Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita

Readout
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 3, 2018

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Acting Secretary of State John J. Sullivan met today with Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Nasser Bourita. Acting Secretary Sullivan thanked Foreign Minister Bourita and the Moroccan people for their strong friendship and partnership with the U.S. on shared priorities, including in the global fight against ISIS.

The Acting Secretary and the Foreign Minister discussed the deep U.S.-Morocco bilateral relationship and regional issues, including efforts towards achieving regional peace. The United States also expressed its commitment to United Nations-led efforts to find a peaceful, sustainable, and mutually acceptable political solution to the long-standing dispute over the Western Sahara.

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[Press Releases: Top State Department Drugs Official to Moderate Global Opioid Crisis Panel at National Drug Abuse Summit](#)

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 3, 2018

Today in Atlanta, Georgia, James Walsh, the Senior Bureau Official for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), will lead a global panel discussion on the international opioid crisis at the National Prescription Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit (Rx Summit). Walsh will deliver opening remarks and moderate a panel discussion, which will feature participants from Mexico, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The annual Rx Summit is attended by thousands of participants from the medical, law enforcement, public health, civil society, government, and drug treatment sectors. Several U.S. Senators and Representatives, the U.S. Surgeon General, and the heads of the Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are taking part in the Summit.

In October 2017, President Trump declared the U.S. opioid crisis a National Public Health Emergency; over 42,000 Americans died from opioid overdoses in 2016. In his remarks at the Rx Summit, Deputy Assistant Secretary Walsh will address the international dimensions of this crisis, as well as the newly emerging technologies and trafficking patterns which are making the opioid epidemic so challenging. Walsh will also discuss the State Department's key role in fighting the crisis in meetings during the Summit with Representative Hal Rogers, founding co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Prescription Drug Abuse, as well as Senators Maggie Hassan and Edward Markey.

For further information, please contact INL-PAPD@state.gov, and follow the INL Bureau @StateINL on Twitter and Facebook.

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Press Releases: United States Announces Additional Humanitarian Assistance for Yemen at High-Level Pledging Conference

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 3, 2018

Today, the U.S. government announced nearly \$87 million in additional humanitarian assistance for the people of Yemen at the Yemen High-Level Pledging Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland.

With this new assistance, which includes funds from the Department of State and USAID, the United States is providing food assistance and continued support for safe drinking water, treatment for malnourished children, emergency shelter, protection, and other critical aid to millions of vulnerable Yemenis and refugees living in Yemen.

The United States continues to urge all parties to this conflict to allow unhindered access for all humanitarian and commercial goods through all points of entry into Yemen and throughout the country to reach the Yemenis in desperate need.

The United States is one of the largest donors in response to Yemen's humanitarian crisis. Since October 2016, the U.S. government has provided more than \$854 million to address the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

We commend those who have joined us in making generous pledges. In particular, we thank the governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for their recent combined \$930 million contribution to the UN's

coordinated response. We call on other donors to increase their share of funding, and we welcome the announcements of additional pledges at the pledging conference today.

While these contributions will provide some immediate relief, no amount of humanitarian or development assistance will end this conflict and the suffering of millions. An enduring solution will only come through a comprehensive political agreement, which will require compromise from all sides.

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Press Releases: Costa Rica's Presidential Election

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 2, 2018

The United States congratulates Carlos Alvarado Quesada on his election as the next President of Costa Rica in free, fair, and peaceful voting that continues to be a model for the region.

Our long and enduring partnership with Costa Rica is rooted in a shared history of support for human rights, democracy, and security for all people. Costa Rica plays a key role as our partner promoting regional economic prosperity, security, and good governance throughout the hemisphere.

We look forward to building on that partnership with the Alvarado administration.

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