

Press Releases: Harassment of the Press in Iran

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
March 15, 2018

This week, the UN Human Rights Council discussed the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran.

The United States notes with concern the grave conditions facing the press in Iran as detailed in the UN Special Rapporteur's report. The report says in part, "The Special Rapporteur has continued to receive reports of the arbitrary arrest, detention, and harassment of journalists, media workers, and their families, including during interviews conducted during missions."

We also note in the Special Rapporteur's report, the disturbing examples of harassment, arbitrary detention, travel bans, and surveillance by intelligence service operatives of some individuals and their families working for the Persian Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The report references an injunction by a Tehran court, banning 152 members of staff, former employees, and contributors from carrying out financial transactions in the country, citing "conspiracy against national security."

These actions are unacceptable. The United States calls on the Iranian regime to respect its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that guarantee the freedom of expression, including for members of the press.

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Press Releases: Policy Planning **Director Hook's Travel to Vienna**

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
March 14, 2018

Director for Policy Planning Brian Hook will lead the U.S. delegation to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) Joint Commission meeting in Vienna on March 16. Under the terms of the JCPOA, the Joint Commission is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal. Participants include all the members of the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States), the European Union, and Iran.

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Press Releases: United States-Japan **Energy Strategic Dialogue on Energy** **Security and National Energy Policy**

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
March 14, 2018

The U.S. Department of State hosted the third U.S.-Japan Energy Strategic Dialogue in Washington, D.C. on March 8, 2018. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Diplomacy Sandra Oudkirk and Deputy Assistant Minister Toshiro Iijima of the Economic Affairs Bureau, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led the discussions.

Officials from the U.S. Departments of Energy and Defense participated in the dialogue along with Japanese delegation members from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Environment, and the Embassy of Japan in Washington DC.

The discussions focused on the energy security dimensions of recent geopolitical developments, energy market trends, and areas of mutual cooperation in multilateral fora devoted to energy. The talks reinforced the role energy cooperation plays in strengthening the U.S.-Japan partnership, as President Trump highlighted in his visit to Japan in November 2017.

For further information, contact Vincent Campos, Spokesperson for the Bureau of Energy Resources, at CamposVM@state.gov or visit www.state.gov/e/enr. You can also find information on Twitter at @EnergyAtState.

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[Press Releases: United States-Japan Extended Deterrence Dialogue](#)

Media Note
Washington, DC
March 14, 2018

The United States and Japan will hold the Extended Deterrence Dialogue (EDD) March 14-16, at Naval Base Kitsap in Bangor, Washington. The EDD provides an opportunity for the two governments to frankly exchange views on how to secure deterrence as part of their security and defense cooperation. The two governments have broad and ongoing discussions on deterrence issues within the U.S.-Japan Alliance, and have held the EDD on a regular basis since 2010.

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[Press Releases: Remarks in Press Briefing Room](#)

Remarks
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC
March 13, 2018

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Good afternoon, all. I received a call today from the President of the United States a little after noontime from Air Force One, and I've also spoken to White House Chief of Staff Kelly to ensure we have clarity as to the days ahead. What is most important is to ensure an orderly and smooth transition during a time that the country continues to face significant policy and national security challenges.

As such, effective at the end of the day, I'm delegating all responsibilities of the office of the Secretary to Deputy Secretary of State Sullivan. My commission as Secretary of State will terminate at midnight, March the 31st. Between now and then, I will address a few administrative matters related to my departure and work towards a smooth and orderly transition for Secretary of State-Designate Mike Pompeo.

I'm encouraging my policy planning team and under secretaries and assistant secretaries – those confirmed as well as those in acting positions – to remain at their post and continue our mission at the State Department in working with the interagency process. I will be meeting members of my front office team and policy planning later today to thank them for their service. They have been extraordinarily dedicated to our mission, which includes promoting values that I view as being very important: the safety and security of our State Department personnel; accountability, which means treating each other with honesty and integrity; and respect for one another, most recently in particular to address challenges of sexual harassment within the department.

I want to speak now to my State Department colleagues and to our interagency colleagues and partners at DOD and the Joint Chiefs of Staff most particularly. To my Foreign Service officers and Civil Service colleagues, we all took the same oath of office. Whether you're career, employee, or political appointee, we are all bound by that common commitment: to support

and defend the constitution, to bear true faith and allegiance to the same, and to faithfully discharge the duties of our office.

As a State Department, we're bound together by that oath. We remain steadfast here in Washington and at posts across the world, many of whom are in danger pay situations without their families. The world needs selfless leaders like these, ready to work with longstanding allies, new emerging partners and allies, who now – many are struggling as democracies, and in some cases are dealing with human tragedy, crisis of natural disasters, literally crawling themselves out of those circumstances. These are experiences that no lecture hall in a academic environment or at a think tank can teach you. Only by people going to the front lines to serve can they develop this kind of talent.

To the men and women in uniform, I'm told for the first time in most people's memory, the Department of State and Department of Defense have a close working relationship where we all agree that U.S. leadership starts with diplomacy. The men and women in uniform at the Department of Defense, under the leadership of Secretary Mattis and General Dunford, protect us as Americans and our way of life daily, at home and abroad. As an all-volunteer military, they do it for love of country, they do it for you, and they do it for me, and for no other reason. As Americans, we are all eternally grateful to each of them, and we honor their sacrifices.

The rewarding part of having leadership and partnerships in place is that you can actually get some things done. And I want to give recognition to the State Department and our partners for a few of their accomplishments under this administration.

First, working with allies, we exceeded the expectations of almost everyone with the DPRK maximum pressure campaign. With the announcement on my very first trip as Secretary of State to the region that the era of strategic patience was over, and we commenced the steps to dramatically increase not just the scope but the effectiveness of the sanctions. The department undertook a global campaign to bring partners and allies on board in every country around the world, with every embassy and mission raising this to the highest levels. And at every meeting I've had throughout the year, this has been on the agenda to discuss.

The adoption of the South Asia strategy with a conditions-based military plan is the tool to compel the Taliban to reconciliation and peace talks with the Afghan Government. Finally equipped are military planners with a strategy which they can execute as opposed to a succession of 16 one-year strategies. This clear military commitment attracted the support of allies broadly and equipped our diplomats with a whole new level of certainty around how to prepare for the peace talks and achieve the final objectives.

In other areas, while progress has been made, much work remains. In Syria, we did achieve important ceasefires and stabilizations, which we know has saved thousands of lives. There's more to be done in Syria, particularly with respect to achieving the peace, as well as stabilizing Iraq and seeing a healthy government installed, and more broadly in the entire global campaign

to defeat ISIS. Nothing is possible without allies and partners, though.

Much work remains to establish a clear view of the nature of our future relationship with China. How shall we deal with one another over the next 50 years and ensure a period of prosperity for all of our peoples, free of conflict between two very powerful nations?

And much work remains to respond to the troubling behavior and actions on the part of the Russian Government. Russia must assess carefully as to how its actions are in the best interest of the Russian people and of the world more broadly. Continuing on their current trajectory is likely to lead to greater isolation on their part, a situation which is not in anyone's interest.

So to my colleagues in the State Department and in the interagency, much remains to be done to achieve our mission on behalf of the American people with allies and with partners. I close by thanking all for the privilege of serving beside you for the last 14 months. Importantly, to the 300-plus million Americans, thank you for your devotion to a free and open society, to acts of kindness towards one another, to honesty, and the quiet hard work that you do every day to support this government with your tax dollars.

All of us, we know, want to leave this place as a better place for the next generation. I'll now return to private life as a private citizen, as a proud American, proud of the opportunity I've had to serve my country. God bless all of you. God bless the American people. God bless America.

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