

# **Press Releases: Secretary of State Tillerson To Travel to Beijing**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
September 26, 2017

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U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will travel to Beijing September 28 – October 1 to meet with senior Chinese leaders. Secretary Tillerson will discuss a range of issues, including the President’s planned travel to the region, the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and trade and investment. Secretary Tillerson’s visit to China reaffirms the Administration’s commitment to further broaden and enhance U.S. economic and security interests in the Asia-Pacific region.

Follow Secretary Tillerson’s travel via @StateDept on Twitter and go to the Department’s Flickr account for the latest trip photos. Stay connected at <https://blogs.state.gov/engage>, and keep track of all of the Secretary’s travels at <https://www.state.gov/secretary/2017travel/index.htm>.

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## **Press Releases: U.S.-China Social and Cultural Dialogue**

Media Note

Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
September 26, 2017

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The U.S. Department of State today announced that the U.S.-China Social and Cultural Dialogue (SCD) will be held in Washington, D.C. on September 28, 2017.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has invited Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to join Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong, along with members of the U.S. and Chinese delegations, to participate in the SCD. The SCD's public diplomacy event, which highlights people-to-people youth exchanges between the United States and China, will be held at The George Washington University.

The SCD is one of four dialogues launched by President Donald J. Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Mar-a-Lago April 7, 2017, to increase people-to-people ties and mutual understanding between the two nations, and advance our social and cultural relations consistent with the results-oriented approach of our two Presidents.

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## **[Press Releases: Acting Assistant Secretary Judith Garber Leads U.S. Delegation to the First Meeting of the Minamata Convention on Mercury](#)**

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
September 26, 2017

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Acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Judith Garber will travel to Geneva, Switzerland, September 27 – 29, to serve as the head of the U.S. delegation to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-1).

The Minamata Convention represents a major step forward to help the United States and other countries to reduce people's exposure to mercury, a toxic chemical with significant negative health effects including to the brain and nervous system. The Convention complements the significant steps the United States has already taken domestically to reduce the amount of mercury generated, used, and released into the environment.

The Convention requires countries to apply best available techniques and best environmental practices to control mercury emissions from the largest industrial sources – to include modern technologies. The United States, which already employs these tools, should see a significant reduction in cross-border mercury pollution as a result of improved controls in other countries. The Agreement aims to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury and the United States is a party.

Acting Assistant Secretary Garber will participate in a special High-Level Segment that convenes Ministers and other senior representatives to mark the entry into force of the Minamata Convention and to discuss national efforts to implement the Convention. The Conference of the Parties is also expected to take a number of important technical and operational decisions that will guide Convention implementation in the long-term, including adopting technical guidance on management of mercury air emissions sources.

Follow the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs on Twitter @StateDeptOES for updates on Acting Assistant Secretary Garber's trip. For further information, contact Tory Peabody ([PeabodyVW@state.gov](mailto:PeabodyVW@state.gov)).

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# [Press Releases: Remarks With Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary for Relations With States of the Holy See Before Their Meeting](#)

Remarks

Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Treaty Room

Washington, DC

September 26, 2017

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**SECRETARY TILLERSON:** Good morning, all. First of all, I want to welcome Foreign Minister Archbishop Gallagher of the Holy See to the State Department. Excellency, it's –

**ARCHBISHOP GALLAGHER:** Thank you very much –

**SECRETARY TILLERSON:** – wonderful to have you visit with us at the State Department.

**ARCHBISHOP GALLAGHER:** Thank you.

**SECRETARY TILLERSON:** Thank you.

**QUESTION:** Secretary, the back and forth tweets with Kim Jong-un – how is that at all helpful to the situation?

**SECRETARY TILLERSON:** We're going to continue to pursue our diplomatic efforts and hope that that's the way we'll solve this. Thank you.

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## **Press Releases: The Conviction and Sentencing of Mykola Semena**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
September 25, 2017

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The United States is deeply troubled by the decision of a court in Russian-occupied Crimea against Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalist Mykola Semena, convicting him of separatism charges and handing down a two-and-a-half year suspended sentence and a ban on future journalistic activity. This conviction was based on the fact that Mr. Semena had criticized Russia's occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea in his writing. We call on the Russian occupation authorities to vacate Mr. Semena's conviction, allow him to resume his journalistic activity, and cease their campaign to stifle dissent in Crimea. Crimea remains an integral part of Ukraine, and the United States remains steadfast in its support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

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