

# Press Releases: Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations Denise Natali Travel to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
December 7, 2018

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Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations Denise Natali will travel to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan December 8-19. She will speak on a panel at the UAE Security Forum 2018 in Abu Dhabi on stabilization approaches in Yemen. The forum, hosted by the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW) at New York University Abu Dhabi, will bring together the United States, the United Arab Emirates, and regional partners to find creative solutions to some of the region's most pressing challenges.

During her travels, she will meet with senior government officials in the region as well as regional partners working on stabilization challenges.

Follow @StateCSO on Twitter for trip updates. For press inquiries, please contact [CSOPublicAffairs1@state.gov](mailto:CSOPublicAffairs1@state.gov).

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# [Press Releases: The Thirteenth U.S.-Italy Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology](#)

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The thirteenth U.S.-Italy Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology (JCM) convened December 3-6 in Washington, DC, culminating in the signing of a joint declaration at the U.S. Department of State. Italian and U.S. government agencies and research organizations met throughout the week to discuss advancements, continued research cooperation, and new initiatives to increase collaboration in areas such as physics, telecommunications, health and life sciences, forestry, and resilience to natural disasters. Notably, the U.S. Department of Energy and the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research agreed to collaborate on particle accelerator construction at Fermilab. Furthermore, 18 new Italian research projects, managed in collaboration with U.S. government-funded American institutions, will be financed by the Italian Government. The thirteenth JCM coincided with the 30th anniversary of the signing of the original U.S.-Italy Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement.

For further information about the U.S-Italy JCM, please contact the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs at [OES-PA-DG@state.gov](mailto:OES-PA-DG@state.gov).

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# Press Releases: Release Human Rights Activist Farhad Meisami

Press Statement  
Robert Palladino

Deputy Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
December 7, 2018

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We are deeply concerned about the rapidly deteriorating health of Dr. Farhad Meisami, a human rights activist, whom the Iranian regime arbitrarily arrested for peacefully protesting in support of Iranian women's rights. Dr. Meisami began a hunger strike four months ago to protest his arrest and detention in the notorious Evin prison, where he has no access to legal counsel and is charged with spurious national security offences. His life is now in imminent danger.

The United States condemns the arbitrary detention of Dr. Meisami. This is a brazen violation of human rights. The United States calls on the Iranian regime to immediately release Dr. Meisami and all political prisoners who are unjustly imprisoned. The Iranian people deserve a government that respects their rights and legitimate demands, not one that subjects them to slow deaths in degrading cells for peacefully demanding what is rightfully theirs – universal human rights.□

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# Press Releases: Bicentennial Statement to Cabo Verde

Press Statement  
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
December 7, 2018

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On behalf of the United States, I send my best wishes to the people of Cabo Verde as we celebrate the bicentennial anniversary of relations between our two nations. Our friendship dates back to December 1818, when the first U.S. consulate in sub-Saharan Africa opened in Cabo Verde. We have maintained strong and enduring ties for two hundred years.

As we reflect upon our partnership, we recognize our mutual commitment to good governance, maritime security, and economic prosperity. Last year, the United States and Cabo Verde signed the Status of Forces Agreement, strengthening the U.S.-Cabo Verde security partnership, and advancing our shared security goals in West Africa.

The United States celebrates this momentous occasion of 200 years of relations and remains committed to our partnership. We look forward to continuing our nations' efforts to strengthen peace, security, and economic prosperity.

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# Press Releases: U.S. Assistant Secretary Manisha Singh and Republic of Korea Vice Foreign Minister Lee Taeho Hold Talks on Strengthening Economic Cooperation

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
December 7, 2018

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United States Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs Manisha Singh led talks December 7, 2018, with Vice Foreign Minister Lee Taeho of the Republic of Korea during the latter's official visit to Washington, D.C. They discussed the importance of the U.S.-Korea economic relationship, and prospects for greater cooperation in global health security, energy, and women's economic empowerment. The parties signed a memorandum of understanding to advance cooperation on these issues.

Assistant Secretary Singh reaffirmed the ironclad and enduring commitment of the United States to allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region, and President Trump's vision for a free and open region of strong, sovereign, and prosperous nations.

As President Trump highlighted in his visit to the Republic of Korea in November 2017, the U.S.-Republic of Korea alliance remains a linchpin for security, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. The December 7, 2018, talks advanced that vision and the strong bilateral cooperation that serves as a foundation for our solid alliance with the Republic of Korea.

For further information, please contact the Public Diplomacy team for the Bureau of Economics and Business Affairs at [EB-A-PD-Clearances@state.gov](mailto:EB-A-PD-Clearances@state.gov).

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