

Press Releases: Special Representative Elliott Abrams To Discuss Venezuelan Crisis With Russian, Italian Officials

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
March 16, 2019

Special Representative for Venezuela Elliott Abrams will meet with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov and other Russian officials in Rome March 18-19 to discuss the deteriorating situation in Venezuela. Special Representative Abrams will also meet with Italian officials, including Prime Minister Diplomatic Advisor Pietro Benassi.

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Press Releases: Deputy Secretary Sullivan's Meeting With Former South African President Motlanthe

Readout
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
March 16, 2019

The below is attributable to Deputy Spokesperson Robert Palladino:

On March 14, while in Johannesburg, Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan met with former South African President Kgalema Motlanthe to discuss the U.S.-South African bilateral relationship.

The two also discussed President Motlanthe's role as chairman of the Commission of Inquiry into Zimbabwe's August 2018 post-election violence, and the need for meaningful political and economic reforms in Zimbabwe.

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[Press Releases: Deputy Secretary Sullivan's Meeting With the U.S.-South Africa Working Group on African and Global Issues](#)

Readout
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
March 16, 2019

The below is attributable to Deputy Spokesperson Robert Palladino:

Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan led the U.S. delegation to the U.S.-South Africa Working Group on Africa and Global Issues. Deputy Secretary Sullivan and Director General Mahoai discussed ways to deepen bilateral

cooperation, as well as issues on the United Nations Security Council agenda. The Deputy Secretary emphasized the importance of advancing the bilateral trade relationship and expanding commercial ties between the United States and South Africa.

They also discussed regional and global peace and security, including developments in Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Iran, and North Korea. The United States and South Africa pledged to continue pursuing their shared goals of peace and prosperity on the African continent and around the world.

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Press Releases: Supporting Colombia's Ongoing Peace Process

Press Statement
Robert Palladino

Deputy Spokesperson

Washington, DC
March 15, 2019

The United States welcomes the Colombian government's efforts to ensure the law implementing the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) complies with the 2016 Peace Accord and the Colombian Constitution. The United States also welcomes actions that ensure that those who commit serious crimes after the signing of the Peace Accord, in violation of the accord's stated aims to promote non-recurrence, are held accountable to the full extent of the law and are subject to extradition as appropriate and foreseen under the 2016 agreement. The United States reaffirms the importance of Colombia's expeditiously passing a statute to implement the JEP to ensure it has a solid legal framework to operate effectively and independently.

For over three decades, cooperation between our two governments has proven to be one of the most powerful and effective mechanisms for ensuring the rule of law, pursuing justice, protecting the interests of victims, promoting peace and prosperity, and safeguarding democracy in Colombia. A significant component of this has been one of the world's most effective extradition relationships, allowing hundreds of dangerous criminals to face justice.

The United States has provided strong support to Colombia's journey toward peace. We welcome efforts to strengthen accountability for war crimes and violations and abuses of human rights and to ensure that those responsible receive sentences proportionate to the crimes committed, whether by the FARC, paramilitaries, or state agents, including the military in Colombia. The United States views the JEP as an important mechanism for peace and justice in Colombia.

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[Press Releases: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Logsdon Travel to Belgium and Germany](#)

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
March 15, 2019

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Kent D. Logsdon will travel to Brussels and Berlin from March 17 to 21, 2019.

In Brussels, PDAS Logsdon will participate in the NATO North Atlantic Council on Energy Security meeting and conduct meetings with local interlocutors.

While in Berlin, he will participate in the U.S.-Germany Bilateral Energy Security Dialogue and conduct a series of bilateral meetings with government officials. Throughout his trip, PDAS Logsdon will highlight the importance of a strong, growing, integrated, diversified, and resilient global energy market that promotes transatlantic energy security for the United States, its allies, and partners.

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

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