

# Press Releases: U.S. Commitment to Religious Freedom

Press Statement  
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
January 16, 2019

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Today the United States honors National Religious Freedom Day. On this day in 1786, the Virginia General Assembly adopted Thomas Jefferson's Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. It begins with a groundbreaking statement: "Almighty God hath created the mind free." This Statute goes on to guarantee freedom of religion to people of all faiths and would inspire the religious freedom protections in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and which in turn inspired the protections enshrined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Every person around the world should be free to believe, or not believe, in accordance with their conscience. Governments have a duty to protect religious freedom, and promoting this freedom is a key foreign policy priority for the Trump Administration.

As part of our commitment to this freedom, the United States will host the second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom July 16-18, 2019, in Washington, D.C. This Ministerial will again gather hundreds of government representatives, religious leaders, survivors of religious persecution, and members of civil society to build on the actions that began with the inaugural Ministerial last year. I look forward to hosting this important meeting and to strengthening the coalition of nations and organizations committed to defending this universal right.

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# Press Releases: Iran's Firing of Space Launch Vehicle Defies International Community

Press Statement  
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
January 15, 2019

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In continued defiance of the international community and UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the Iranian regime fired off a space launch vehicle today. Such vehicles incorporate technologies that are virtually identical and interchangeable with those used in ballistic missiles, including intercontinental ballistic missiles. Today's launch furthers Iran's ability to eventually build such a weapon.

We have been clear that we will not stand for Iran's flagrant disregard for international norms. The United States is working with our allies and partners to counter the entire range of the Islamic Republic's threats, including its missile program, which threatens Europe and the Middle East.

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# Press Releases: Vice President Pence To Deliver Remarks to Global Chiefs of Mission Conference

Notice to the Press  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 15, 2019

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Vice President Mike Pence will deliver remarks to the Global Chiefs of Mission Conference “One Team, One Mission, One Future” at 10:20 a.m. Wednesday, January 16, 2019 in the Dean Acheson Auditorium of the Department of State.

*This event is open press coverage. Due to security screening requirements, video cameras must preset at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Entrance, and equipment must remain overnight. On Wednesday, January 16, final access time for writers and stills is 9:30 a.m. from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street entrance.*

*Media representatives may attend this event upon presentation of one of the following: (1) a U.S. Government-issued photo media credential (e.g., Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense or Foreign Press Center), or (2) an official photo identification card issued by their news organization, or (3) a letter from their employer on official letterhead verifying their current employment as a journalist. Additionally, they must present an official government photo identification card (i.e., U.S. driver’s license or passport).*

For further information, please contact the Office of Press Relations at (202) 647-2492 or [PAPressDuty@state.gov](mailto:PAPressDuty@state.gov).

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## [Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With Omani Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id](#)

Press Statement  
Robert Palladino

Deputy Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 15, 2019

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Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo met yesterday with Omani Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id in Muscat. The Secretary commended the Sultan for Oman's unique capacity to create opportunities for dialogue on difficult issues at challenging times, including by separately hosting both Palestinian Authority President Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in Oman in October. The Secretary and the Sultan discussed ways to promote peace throughout the region. On Yemen, the Secretary and the Sultan agreed on the importance of all parties continuing to engage and working with UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths toward a political solution to end the conflict and bring peace, prosperity, and security to Yemen. The Secretary thanked the Sultan for hosting meetings on the economic and energy pillars of the Middle East Strategic Alliance on January 9 in Muscat. The Secretary and the Sultan also discussed ways to build upon the strong bilateral U.S.-Oman economic and security partnership.

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# Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir

Readout  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 13, 2019

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The below is attributable to Deputy Spokesperson Robert Palladino:

Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo met today with Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir and Saudi Ambassador to the United States Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz in Riyadh. The Secretary and the Minister discussed critical regional issues, including Iran, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Libya, and Afghanistan. The Secretary and the Minister agreed on the importance of continuing to support political progress in order to achieve peace in Yemen. The Secretary and the Minister discussed the need for continued regional efforts to stand against the Iranian regime's malign activity and to advance peace, prosperity, and security.

The Secretary emphasized the importance of Saudi Arabia continuing its investigation into the murder of Jamal Khashoggi in order to ascertain facts, assess information, and hold those responsible accountable. The Secretary and the Minister looked forward to working together to continue building upon the important, strategic partnership between the United States and Saudi Arabia.

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