

# [Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Cayetano](#)

Readout  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
June 21, 2018

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The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Secretary Pompeo welcomed Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alan Peter Cayetano to the Department of State in Washington, D.C. today. The Secretary reaffirmed the longstanding U.S.-Philippines alliance and discussed ongoing efforts to address regional issues such as North Korea, the South China Sea, and counterterrorism. Secretary Pompeo and Secretary Cayetano also explored opportunities to enhance bilateral trade, increase security cooperation, and strengthen people-to-people ties between our two countries.

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# [Press Releases: Implication of Malian Soldiers in Civilian Deaths](#)

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
June 21, 2018

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The United States expresses serious concern about the role of Malian military forces in the deaths of 25 people, as acknowledged by Defense Minister Tiena Coulibaly. We support Minister Coulibaly's decision to immediately open an investigation. We call on the Government of Mali to ensure that the investigation into this and other serious allegations of human rights violations and abuses are conducted in a credible and transparent manner and result in accountability as appropriate. The United States remains deeply concerned by the deteriorating security situation in Mali and the Sahel region. We urge security forces and governments to take steps to ensure respect for human rights, the protection of civilians, and accountability to increase trust and counter violent extremism.

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## **Press Releases: Spotlight on the U.S. Department of State Global Sports Mentoring Program**

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
June 21, 2018

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On July 17, the U.S. Department of State and espnW Global Sports Mentoring

Program (GSMP) will be recognized as this year's recipient of the Stuart Scott ENSPIRE Award at ESPN's annual Sports Humanitarian Awards dinner in Los Angeles. In its seventh year, the GSMP is the flagship professional development exchange supporting the State Department's ongoing [efforts to advance the rights and status of women and girls around the world through sports](#). Tapping into the power of public-private partnerships, the GSMP positively impacts communities at home and abroad to create a more secure global playing field for all.

Three past GSMP participants from Kenya, Jordan, and the Philippines will accept the Stuart Scott ENSPIRE Award on behalf of the GSMP. These alumni are community leaders that use boxing, badminton, basketball, and other sports to create opportunities for marginalized girls and women to participate in society from the grassroots to the professional levels. Alumnae pave progress in their home countries as well as enrich their American mentors with an expanded global network and new perspectives.

Given in honor of legendary ESPN sportscaster Stuart Scott, the ENSPIRE Award celebrates individuals and organizations that use innovative approaches to support underserved communities through sports. The GSMP's dedication to empowering women and focus on sports as a tool for social change exemplifies that mission. The Stuart Scott ENSPIRE Award will be presented in conjunction with the ESPY (Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly) Awards show and the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation USA Summit, sponsored by ESPN.

Established in 2012, the GSMP is a public-private collaboration between the U.S. Department of State and espnW, in cooperation with the University of Tennessee's Center for Sport, Peace, and Society. Since 2012, the 99 graduates of the program have launched NGO's, affected public policy, and transformed communities by providing access and opportunity to girls. Collectively, the emerging leaders have directly impacted more than 225,000 individuals through their work. For more information, please contact the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at [ECA-Press@state.gov](mailto:ECA-Press@state.gov) or Tara Chozet, ESPN at [Tara.c.chozet@ESPN.com](mailto:Tara.c.chozet@ESPN.com), or visit [globalsportsmentoring.org/empower-women-through-sports](http://globalsportsmentoring.org/empower-women-through-sports).

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# Press Releases: Designation of Senior Officials From the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
June 21, 2018

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The Department is announcing the designation of several senior DRC officials, under Section 7031(c) of the Department of State Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2018, due to these officials' involvement in significant corruption related to the DRC's electoral process. Further, the Department is taking steps to prevent entry into the United States of certain DRC officials involved in human rights violations.

Section 7031(c) provides that, in cases where the Secretary of State has credible information that foreign officials have been involved in significant corruption or gross violations of human rights, those individuals are ineligible for entry into the United States.

Credible, transparent, and timely elections in December 2018, in which the Congolese people are free to express their views without fear of violence or intimidation, are essential for ensuring a more peaceful and prosperous future for DRC and the region.

Today's actions send a strong signal that the U.S. government is committed to fighting corruption, to supporting credible elections that lead to DRC's first peaceful and democratic transfer of power, and to holding accountable those who are responsible for significant corruption or serious violations of human rights.

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# Press Releases: Reported Violations of the Southwest Ceasefire

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
June 21, 2018

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The United States remains deeply troubled by reports of increasing Syrian regime operations in southwest Syria within the boundaries of the de-escalation zone negotiated between the United States, Jordan, and the Russian Federation last year and reaffirmed between Presidents Trump and Putin in Da Nang, Vietnam in November. Syrian regime military and militia units, according to our reports, have violated the southwest de-escalation zone and initiated airstrikes, artillery, and rocket attacks.

The United States continues to warn both the Russian government and the Assad regime of the serious repercussions of these violations and demands that Russia restrain pro-regime forces from further actions within the southwest de-escalation zone. During their call this weekend, Secretary Pompeo stressed to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov the critical nature of mutual adherence to this arrangement and the unacceptable nature of any unilateral activity by the Assad regime or Russia. The United States expects all parties to respect the ceasefire, protect civilian populations, and avoid broadening of the conflict. We remain committed to maintaining the stability of the southwest de-escalation zone and to the ceasefire underpinning it.

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