

Press Releases: Reported Violations of the Southwest Ceasefire

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
June 21, 2018

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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Press Releases: Remarks With Portuguese Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva Before Their Meeting

Remarks
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Treaty Room
Washington, DC
June 21, 2018

SECRETARY POMPEO: Good morning. Welcome.

FOREIGN MINISTER SILVA: Thank you.

SECRETARY POMPEO: It's great to see you again.

FOREIGN MINISTER SILVA: It's an honor to be here. Thank you.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you. Looking forward to our meetings.

FOREIGN MINISTER SILVA: Thank you.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you. Thank you all.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, are you preparing for a President Trump-President Putin summit?

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Press Releases: Attacks on Libyan Oil Ports

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
June 20, 2018

The United States strongly condemns the recent attacks by forces under the direction of Ibrahim Jadhran on the oil ports of Ras Lanuf and Al Sidra, and the ongoing violence that has damaged Libya's vital oil infrastructure and disrupted oil exports. We call for all armed actors to cease hostilities and withdraw immediately from oil installations before further damage occurs.

Oil facilities, production, and revenues belong to the Libyan people. The United States believes these vital Libyan resources must remain under the exclusive control of the National Oil Corporation and the sole oversight of the Government of National Accord, as outlined in UN Security Council Resolutions 2259, 2278, and 2362.

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Press Releases: Remarks With German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen Before Their Meeting

Remarks
Mike Pompeo

Secretary of State

Treaty Room
Washington, DC
June 20, 2018

SECRETARY POMPEO: Wonderful to see you.

DEFENSE MINISTER VON DER LEYEN: Thank you so much.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Welcome. (Inaudible.)

DEFENSE MINISTER VON DER LEYEN: Nice to be here. (Inaudible) this important time.

SECRETARY POMPEO: It is.

DEFENSE MINISTER VON DER LEYEN: So thank you.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you. It's wonderful to see you. Thank you all.

QUESTION: Madam Minister, (inaudible) does the German Government –

SECRETARY POMPEO: This is a really special relationship and we're looking forward to our conversation. Thanks, everyone.

DEFENSE MINISTER VON DER LEYEN: Thank you.

QUESTION: Madam Minister, does the German Government believe that they're owed an apology by the Trump administration?

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Press Releases: United States and Vietnam Complete Dialogue on Maritime Issues and the Law of the Sea

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
June 20, 2018

On June 19-20, the United States hosted the fifth U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue on Maritime Issues and the Law of the Sea at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. Experts from U.S. and Vietnamese foreign affairs and maritime agencies exchanged views on a wide range of issues related to oceans, the law of the sea, and maritime cooperation at international and regional forums. The delegations were led by Evan Bloom, Director for Ocean and Polar Affairs in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, and Director General Nguyen Dang Thang of Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The United States and Vietnam supported deepening U.S.-Vietnam dialogue on these issues in future meetings. Vietnam plans to host the next round in 2019.

For further information, please contact oes-pa-dg@state.gov.

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