

Press Releases: Sentencing of Nabeel Rajab

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
July 10, 2017

We are disappointed by the verdict sentencing prominent human rights activist Nabeel Rajab to two years in prison today in Bahrain. We reaffirm our previous calls for his release.

We believe no one anywhere should be prosecuted or imprisoned for exercising their human rights or fundamental freedoms, including the freedoms of expression or peaceful assembly.

We believe societies are strengthened, not threatened, by expressions of opinion and dissent, and that opposition voices can play a vital role helping societies become more tolerant and inclusive.

We have repeatedly expressed our concern about Nabeel Rajab's case, and we continue to strongly urge the Government of Bahrain to abide by its international obligations and commitments to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression.

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[Press Releases: Secretary of State Tillerson Travel to Kuwait, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia](#)

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At the invitation of the Emir of Kuwait, the Secretary will travel to Kuwait July 10 where he will meet with senior Kuwaiti officials to discuss ongoing efforts to resolve the Gulf dispute. The Secretary plans to travel to Doha, Qatar July 11 and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia July 12 to meet with senior officials.

Follow Secretary Tillerson's travel via @StateDept on Twitter and visit the State Department's Flickr account for the latest trip photos. Stay connected at <https://blogs.state.gov/engage> and keep track of all of the Secretary's travels at <https://www.state.gov/secretary/2017travel>.

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[Press Releases: TechGirls From the Middle East and North Africa Invest in](#)

STEM Futures

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
July 10, 2017

Teenage girls from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, and Tunisia will participate in the U.S. Department of State's [TechGirls](#) exchange program from July 12–August 3. During their three weeks in the United States, participants will strengthen and develop technical skills, form invaluable networks, and establish relationships with mentors that will influence their future tech careers. The TechGirls initiative empowers girls around the world to become leaders in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

The 28 TechGirls will attend leadership clinics and project management workshops at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA and in Washington, D.C. While at Virginia Tech, the teens will also participate in an eight day, interactive technology and coding camp conducted by the Department of Computer Science Training, participate in a day of job shadowing with top tech companies in the Washington, D.C.-area, and engage in community service activities. Top leaders in the tech industry from the United States and the Middle East and North Africa will mentor the girls throughout the program.

The State Department and program partner Legacy International have teamed up with both public and private sector partners for this year's TechGirls program, including: AT&T, Byte Back, Echo & Co, FCC, i Strategies Lab, Islamic Relief, Nokia, NPR, Relief International, Synoptos, TechChange, Vox Media, and 18F.

TechGirls exchange alumnae, now totaling 130, have utilized the program's lessons to train more than 2,300 peers in their home countries. The achievements of these alumnae and the talent of the incoming class contribute to the U.S. global commitment to advance the rights of women and girls around the world, as well as STEM education.

Join the conversation on Facebook or Twitter using hashtag #TechGirls. For media inquiries, please contact the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at eca-press@state.gov.

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Press Releases: Bahamian Independence Day

Press Statement
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC
July 10, 2017

On behalf of the Government of the United States, congratulations to the people of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas on 44 years of independence.

As the United States embarks on the U.S.-Caribbean Engagement Strategy, we reiterate our commitment to partnering with The Bahamas to build a safer and more prosperous Caribbean region. Already our partnership has reduced violent crime, helped stem the flow of illegal migrants, and reduced the trafficking of narcotics. We look forward to working with you to build upon these successes in the coming years.

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Press Releases: Liberation of Mosul

Press Statement
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC
July 10, 2017

On behalf of President Trump and the American people, I congratulate Prime Minister Abadi and the Iraqi people on their liberation of Mosul. This is a critical milestone in the global fight against ISIS, and underscores the success of the international effort led by the Iraqi Security Forces.

We honor the sacrifices of the Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi people, as well as the Kurdish Peshmerga, in achieving this victory, and express condolences for the many lives lost in the operation.

During ISIS's brutal occupation of Mosul, it terrorized and brutally murdered thousands of civilians, used mosques, schools and hospitals as bomb-building facilities and fighting positions and just recently, facing defeat, destroyed the historic al-Nuri mosque and al-Hadba minaret.

Under Iraqi leadership, the United States and our Coalition partners will continue to work closely with the UN to stabilize liberated areas throughout Mosul, supporting the return of displaced civilians to their homes.

There is still much work to be done to defeat this enemy. The Global Coalition will continue to stand with our Iraqi partners to ensure that ISIS is defeated wherever it remains in Iraq.

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