

# [Press Releases: Himalayan New Year \(Losar\)](#)

Press Statement  
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
February 4, 2019

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On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, I offer my warmest wishes to the peoples of the Himalayan region and Tibetans throughout the world – including those in Bhutan, Nepal, India, and the Tibetan areas of the People’s Republic of China – in celebrating Losar.

As you, your families, and your communities gather this year to celebrate the New Year, know that the United States remains your steadfast partner and friend.

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# [Press Releases: Sri Lanka’s National Day](#)

Press Statement  
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
February 3, 2019

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On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, I extend to Sri Lanka very warm wishes as you commemorate your national day.

The United States remains eager to build on our partnership with Sri Lanka and advance shared interests in the Indo-Pacific region based on our common democratic values. Sri Lanka's democratic institutions and constitutional processes have ensured your country's continued advancement. We look forward to working together to further deepen ties between our nations, promote shared prosperity, and secure a stable and peaceful future.

As you celebrate your national day, I extend my best wishes for peace and happiness in the year ahead.

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## **[Press Releases: U.S. Intent To Withdraw from the INF Treaty February 2, 2019](#)**

Press Statement  
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
February 2, 2019

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On December 4, 2018, the United States announced that the Russian Federation is in material breach of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, an assessment shared by all NATO Allies. The United States also provided notice that unless Russia returned to full and verifiable compliance in 60 days, the United States would suspend its obligations under the Treaty as a consequence for Russia's material breach.

Russia has not taken the necessary steps to return to compliance over the last 60 days. It remains in material breach of its obligations not to produce, possess, or flight-test a ground-launched, intermediate-range cruise missile system with a range between 500 and 5,500 kilometers. The United States has gone to tremendous lengths to preserve the INF Treaty, engaging with Russian officials more than 30 times in nearly six years to discuss Russia's violation, including at the highest levels of government. Despite our efforts, Russia continues to deny that its noncompliant missile system – the SSC-8 or 9M729 – violates the Treaty. In accordance with customary international law, the United States has suspended its obligations under the INF Treaty, effective today, in response to Russia's material breach.

In addition, today the United States provided Russia and other Treaty Parties with formal notice that the United States will withdraw from the INF Treaty in six months, pursuant to Article XV of the Treaty. The United States has concluded that extraordinary events related to the subject matter of the Treaty arising from Russia's continued noncompliance have jeopardized the United States' supreme interests, and the United States can no longer be restricted by the Treaty while Russia openly violates it. If Russia does not return to full and verifiable compliance with the Treaty by eliminating all 9M729 missiles, their launchers, and associated equipment in this six-month period, the Treaty will terminate.

The United States takes its treaty obligations seriously and will not stand idle when others flout their obligations. Violations of treaty obligations must have consequences. The United States remains committed to effective arms control that advances U.S., allied, and partner security; is verifiable and enforceable; and includes partners that comply responsibly with their obligations. The United States stands ready to engage with Russia on arms control negotiations that meet these criteria. Regrettably, the INF Treaty is no longer effective due to Russia's ongoing material breach. Today's actions are to defend U.S. national security and interests and those of our allies and partners.

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## **Press Releases: Marie Colvin Civil Suit Against the Syrian Regime**

Press Statement  
Robert Palladino

Deputy Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
February 1, 2019

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The U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia determined that the Syrian regime is civilly liable for the assassination of Marie Colvin. Marie was killed in February of 2012 in Homs and is one of the 126 journalists killed in Syria since 2011. The court found Marie was specifically targeted because of her profession, particularly for the purpose of silencing those reporting on the growing opposition movement in the country, and that a breach of international law occurred.

The United States seeks to shed light on abuses committed by the Assad regime, including the assassination of journalists. We continue to advocate against the arbitrary detention of civilians, push for effective mechanisms to hold perpetrators accountable, and support the documentation and investigation of the Assad regime's crimes. We call on Russia to cease shielding the regime and to support international efforts for justice and accountability.

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# [Press Releases: The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations Announces the Design-Build Award for the New U.S. Embassy in Nassau, Bahamas](#)

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
February 1, 2019

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The Department of State has awarded the Design-Build contract for the new U.S. Embassy in Nassau, Bahamas to Caddell Construction Co., LLC of Montgomery, Alabama.

This new Embassy complex will provide a safe, secure, and modern facility platform for the Embassy community and those it serves. Ennead Architects of New York, New York is the design architect for the project and Integrus Architecture of Spokane, Washington is the architect of record.

Since 1999, as part of the Department's Capital Security Construction Program, the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) has completed 153 new diplomatic facilities and has an additional 49 projects in design or under construction.

OBO's mission is to provide safe, secure, and functional facilities that represent the U.S. government to host nations and support our staff in achieving U.S. foreign policy objectives. These facilities represent U.S. values and the best in U.S. architecture, engineering, technology, sustainability, art, culture, construction execution, and resiliency.

For further information, please contact Christine Foushee at [FousheeCT@state.gov](mailto:FousheeCT@state.gov), or visit [www.state.gov/obo](http://www.state.gov/obo).

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