

# Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Call With Colombian President Ivan Duque

Readout  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 18, 2019

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The below is attributable to Deputy Spokesperson Robert Palladino:

Secretary Pompeo spoke today with Colombian President Ivan Duque. He expressed his deepest condolences to Colombia and to the families and friends of those killed and injured in the attack against the Escuela de Cadetes de Policía "General Francisco De Paula Santander" police academy in Bogota, Colombia. The United States stands with Colombia as it brings to justice those responsible for this heinous attack.

The United States strongly condemns the ELN terrorist group believed to be responsible for the attack. We call on the group to cease all terror activities and to release the many innocent people it has kidnapped and currently holds hostage.

During the call, Secretary Pompeo also reaffirmed the United States' continued support for President Duque's counterterrorism and counternarcotics efforts to bring security and stability to the Colombian people.

The United States stands with the Colombian people and government in their rejection of terrorism and their resolve to build a strong Colombia at peace. We offer our full support to bring to justice the terrorists and criminals, and those who support and enable them, who for too long have denied the Colombian people the peace and security they deserve.

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## **Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With DPRK Vice Chairman Kim Yong Chol**

Readout  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 18, 2019

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The following is attributable to Robert Palladino, Deputy Spokesperson:

Secretary Pompeo and Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun met with DPRK Vice Chairman Kim Yong Chol in Washington January 18. The Secretary, Special Representative Biegun, and Vice Chairman Kim discussed efforts to make progress on the commitments President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un made at their summit in Singapore. At the conclusion of the Secretary's meeting with Vice Chairman Kim, the two sides held a productive first meeting at the working level. Special Representative Biegun will travel to Sweden January 19-22 to participate in an international conference hosted by the Swedish foreign ministry.

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## **Press Releases: Attacks on LGBTI**

# Community in Chechnya

Press Statement  
Robert Palladino

Deputy Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 17, 2019

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We are deeply disturbed by credible reports out of Chechnya about renewed attacks against individuals perceived to be members of the LGBTI community. Civil society groups report that at least 40 individuals have been illegally detained since December, including two who reportedly died in custody after being tortured. We call on Russia to live up to its international obligations and commitments and its own constitution, and launch an immediate investigation into these human rights abuses. We also urge the Russian Federation to ensure that the rights of all human rights defenders are fully respected in Chechnya, and those illegally detained, including Oyub Titiev, be immediately released.

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## Press Releases: Terrorist Attack in Nairobi, Kenya

Press Statement  
Robert Palladino

Deputy Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 16, 2019

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The United States condemns in the strongest terms the January 15 terrorist attack at the DusitD2 Hotel Complex in Nairobi, Kenya. The United States offers our deepest condolences to the families and friends of those killed and a quick recovery to all who were injured. In particular, our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Jason Spindler, an American who died during the attack.

These craven attacks are a stark reminder of why the United States remains resolved in our fight to defeat terrorism. We stand with the Kenyan government and people as they confront violent extremism and work to bring the perpetrators to justice.

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## **Press Releases: Secretary's Determination of 45-Day Suspension Under Title III of LIBERTAD Act**

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 16, 2019

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The Secretary of State reported on January 16, 2019, to the appropriate

Congressional committees that, consistent with section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6021 – 6091) and the authority delegated to the Secretary by the President on January 31, 2013, the Secretary made a determination to suspend for forty-five days beyond February 1, 2019, the right to bring an action under Title III of the Act. This extension will permit us to conduct a careful review of the right to bring action under Title III in light of the national interests of the United States and efforts to expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba and include factors such as the Cuban regime's brutal oppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms and its indefensible support for increasingly authoritarian and corrupt regimes in Venezuela and Nicaragua.

We call upon the international community to strengthen efforts to hold the Cuban government accountable for 60 years of repression of its people. We encourage any person doing business in Cuba to reconsider whether they are trafficking in confiscated property and abetting this dictatorship.

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