

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: 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: 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: Global Coalition To](#)

Defeat ISIS Small Group Meeting

Notice to the Press
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
July 10, 2017

On July 13, the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS will meet to synthesize this week's Coalition meetings and discuss priorities to build on the progress in Mosul and Raqqa to set ISIS on an irreversible and lasting path to defeat across the globe. Special Presidential Envoy (SPE) Brett McGurk will deliver opening remarks that will be open to the press. The Coalition's Small Group consists of about 30 key Coalition stakeholders who play a major role, whether military or non-military, in the campaign to defeat ISIS.

As indicated in the Media Note released on July 5, there are additional Coalition meetings this week. Only the opening remarks on July 13, are open to the press. Remarks will begin promptly at 9:45 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 10:00 a.m. when press will be escorted from the room. SPE McGurk will also hold a press briefing at the end of the day in the Department briefing room. More details on that briefing will be provided on July 13.

Pre-set time for cameras: 8:15 a.m. from the 23rd Street entrance.

Final access time for writers and still photographers: 9:30 a.m. from the 23rd Street entrance.

Press may attend the event upon presentation of one of the following: (1) a U.S. Government-issued identification card (Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense, or Foreign Press Center); (2) a media-issued photo identification card; or (3) a letter from their employer on letterhead verifying their employment as a journalist, accompanied by an official photo identification (driver's license or passport).

For further information, please contact the press office at (202) 647-2492 or PAPressDuty@state.gov.

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