

# **Press Releases: Statement on Attacks in Egypt**

Press Statement  
Mark C. Toner

Acting Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
April 9, 2017

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The United States condemns in the strongest terms the barbaric attacks on Christian places of worship in Tanta and Alexandria that killed dozens of innocent people and injured many more on this holy day of Palm Sunday. We express our condolences to the families and friends of the victims and wish a quick recovery for all those injured.

The United States will continue to support Egypt's security and stability in its efforts to defeat terrorism.

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# **Press Releases: Venezuela: Maduro Government Must Stop Silencing Opposition Voices**

Press Statement  
Mark C. Toner

Acting Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
April 10, 2017

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The United States views with grave concern the Venezuelan government's actions to bar Miranda State Governor Henrique Capriles—a prominent, democratically-elected member of Venezuela's political opposition and former presidential candidate—from participating in the country's public life for 15 years.

We note the largest public demonstration of the year on Saturday, as well as protests today, and echo the Venezuelan people's calls for prompt elections, respect for the constitution and the National Assembly, and freedom for political prisoners. We urge demonstrators to express themselves non-violently and call on government security forces to protect peaceful protest, not prevent it. The freedom of assembly is a universal human right which the Venezuelan authorities must respect.

We firmly support the consensus of the Organization of American States Permanent Council, which affirms it is essential that the Government of Venezuela ensure the full restoration of democratic order. We urge President Maduro to reconsider the decision to bar Capriles and ensure Venezuelans can exercise their right to elect their representatives in free and fair elections in accordance with the Venezuelan constitution and consistent with international instruments, including the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

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## **[Celebrating the 196th Anniversary of Greek Independence](#)**

Dear Friends,

I am so proud to join you in celebrating the 196th Anniversary of Greek Independence, and with President Trump, to have welcomed so many of you to the White House yesterday.

Greek Independence Day means so much to all of us. As we gather with friends and family in celebration, we are reminded of the values and ideals that inspired our democracy. The belief that government should be by the people and for the people was a revolutionary concept that has since paved the way to our prosperous and free Nation. This weekend, as we celebrate our shared desires for freedom, sovereignty, and self-governance, I can tell you that nobody will work harder to preserve these ideals than President Trump.

As White House Chief of Staff, I see a President working each and every day to follow through on his promises. This is a man who approaches the job with such incredible energy and tenacity. Axios! As we find renewed strength at home, our friends abroad will find us to be an ever stronger ally. The President knows just how important our enduring alliances are, and Greece is no exception.

My friends it is such an incredible honor, as a Greek American, to join you in renewing our devotion to representative democracy and "liberty and justice for all." May God bless all of you as you commemorate Greek Independence Day, and may God bless the United States of America.

Efharisto poli,

Reince Priebus

White House Chief of Staff

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## **[President Donald J. Trump Delivers the Weekly Address](#)**

Today marks President Donald J. Trump's 50th day in office and while delivering his Weekly Address, he spoke about an issue of paramount importance to families across our Nation: healthcare.

Seven years ago this month, Obamacare was signed into law over the profound objections of American people. Our citizens were told they would have to pass

Obamacare to find out what it was and how bad it was.

Now we know that the hundreds of pages were full of broken promises. And this is why we must repeal and replace Obamacare – to deliver relief to American workers, families, and small businesses, who right now are being crushed by Obamacare, by increasing freedom, choice, and opportunity for the American people.

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## Meet the Special Guests Attending President Donald J. Trump's Address to a Joint Session of Congress



President Donald J. Trump has invited several guests to attend tonight's address to a Joint Session of Congress. These special guests will be seated with First Lady Melania Trump in the Executive Gallery of the House Chamber. Watch the Joint Address at [WhiteHouse.gov/joint-address](https://WhiteHouse.gov/joint-address).

### **John Crowley & Megan Crowley**

At 15 months old, Megan was diagnosed with Pompe disease and not expected to live more than a few short years. To look for a cure, her father, John Crowley, founded a biotechnology company that identified the treatment that halts the progression of Pompe and is credited with saving Megan's life. Today, John is the CEO of Amicus Therapeutics, a New Jersey biotechnology company with more than 250 employees at the forefront of therapies for rare and orphan diseases. Megan, age 20, is now a sophomore at the University of Notre Dame.

### **Jessica Gregory & Sheila Gregory**

Jessica was diagnosed at birth with spina bifida, and has undergone 11 surgeries at Children's National Health System. Today, she is a dynamic, 18 year-old honor student at Largo High School and is planning for college and a career as a public interest reporter. Sheila and her husband are the proud parents of six—Jessica, two other daughters, and three sons—and reside in Prince George's County, Maryland. Shelia is a community leader focused on helping teen mothers and mentoring children and youth.

### **Denisha Merriweather**

After struggling with coursework as a child and often switching schools, Denisha moved in with her godmother and enrolled in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. She began attending a private school, Esprit de Corps Center for Learning, and went on to be the first member of her family to graduate from high school and college.

### **Jessica Davis & Susan Oliver**

Jessica and Susan are the widows of Detective Michael Davis and Deputy Sheriff Danny Oliver, Placer County, California police officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2014 by an illegal immigrant. Their names have been invoked in the Davis-Oliver Bill, congressional legislation which aims to increase cooperation between local and federal officials to enforce our nation's immigration laws.

### **Carryn Owens**

Carryn is the widow of Chief Special Warfare Operator William "Ryan" Owens. Chief Owens died heroically last month in an operation in Yemen which yielded valuable intelligence which will protect U.S. national security. Carryn is the proud mother of their three children.

### **Maureen McCarthy Scalia**

Maureen is the widow of late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, with whom she raised nine children. This month, President Trump nominated Judge Neil Gorsuch to succeed Justice Scalia on the Supreme Court.

### **Jamiel Shaw, Sr.**

Jamiel Sr.'s son, Jamiel Jr., was a high school football star before he was tragically shot by an illegal immigrant in 2008. A running back for Los Angeles High School, Jamiel Jr.'s tragic death in a gang-related incident ended his life at the age of 17.