

# Press Releases: Under Secretary for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon's Travel to Tokyo and Seoul

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
June 9, 2017

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Under Secretary for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon will travel to Tokyo and Seoul June 12-15. During his visits to our treaty allies in Northeast Asia, he will reaffirm our alliance commitments and continue close coordination on the maintenance of stability and prosperity in the region.

While in Tokyo June 12-13, Under Secretary Shannon will meet with senior Japanese officials to discuss regional security issues of mutual concern and our shared approach to global challenges.

In Seoul June 13-15, the Under Secretary will meet with senior Korean officials to discuss the U.S.-Korea Alliance and our shared global priorities, including our coordinated responses to the threat posed by the DPRK. He will visit the Korean War Memorial and the Yongsan Army Garrison.

Follow the Under Secretary's travel to Japan and the Republic of Korea via @StateDept and @USAsiaPacific on Twitter and go to the Department's Flickr account for the latest trip photos.

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# Press Releases: Acting Assistant Secretary Anita Friedt To Travel to the Republic of Korea and Japan

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
June 9, 2017

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Acting Assistant Secretary for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Anita Friedt will travel to Seoul and Tokyo from June 12-16 for meetings and events focused on U.S. nuclear policy and extended deterrence.

For more information on the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, visit [www.state.gov/t/avc](http://www.state.gov/t/avc) and follow @StateAVC on Twitter.

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# Press Releases: Lesotho's National Elections

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert  
Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
June 8, 2017

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The United States congratulates the people of Lesotho for participating peacefully in national elections on June 3, 2017. The United States looks forward to working productively with a new Lesotho government as soon as a coalition is finalized and a new Prime Minister is sworn in. We also commend Lesotho's Independent Electoral Commission for leading a well-managed and credible electoral process and all major political parties for accepting the outcome.

We welcome the robust engagement of international observer missions from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union, the Commonwealth, and other well-regarded organizations. SADC, in particular, has been a strong partner to Lesotho during a difficult period over the past three years. With its observer mission, SADC demonstrated once again that it holds Lesotho's governing institutions to a high standard and that SADC itself has a valuable role to play in promoting democracy and good governance in the region.

Political parties in Lesotho signed a pledge to engage seriously after the election in a process of reform, including of the security sector, the constitution, and the public sector. We urge those parties – and the new government – to engage seriously in a reform process that is independent, transparent, and inclusive of all key stakeholders. Implementation of these reforms is critically important to Lesotho's sustained political stability and consolidation of its democratic institutions.

The United States looks forward to working with Lesotho's new government and the Basotho people to advance our longstanding mutual interests in economic development, trade, health care, and the strengthening of democratic institutions.

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**Press Releases: First LNG Delivery to**

# **Poland**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
June 8, 2017

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The United States welcomes the arrival of the first U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipment to Central Europe, which arrived in Poland on June 7. U.S. LNG exports support American jobs, lower energy prices for our partners abroad, and contribute to Europe's energy security goals using a reliable, market based supplier.

The Department of State has worked closely with European partners to diversify European energy supplies through new sources of natural gas, vital interconnectors and new facilities to import LNG. The United States congratulates Poland on this significant step to diversify its own sources of energy and to strengthen Europe's energy security.

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## **Press Releases: Detention of Amnesty International Chairperson in Turkey**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
June 7, 2017

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The United States is deeply concerned by the recent detention of Taner Kiliç, Chair of Amnesty International Turkey—the latest in a series of respected human rights defenders, journalists, academics, and activists detained in Turkey. These detentions, often with little evidence or transparency, are an alarming trend. We are closely following these cases, and underscore the importance of respect for due process and individual rights, as enshrined in the Turkish Constitution and consistent with Turkey's own international commitments. As we have expressed to the Turkish government on numerous occasions, persistent curbs on free speech and other freedoms erode the foundations of democratic society.

Non-governmental organizations and a robust civil society are an essential element of any strong democracy. Turkey benefits from having more engaged voices, not fewer. The detentions of individuals such as Mr. Kilic chill public debate and undermine the quality of democracy.

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