

Press Releases: United States Urges Establishment of a Power-Sharing Government in Northern Ireland

Press Statement
Mark C. Toner

Deputy Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 27, 2017

Today's pause in talks to form a government in Northern Ireland allows time for planning a constructive, cooperative way forward. The United States urges all political parties in the region to establish a power-sharing government soon after talks resume in June.

The people of Northern Ireland deserve a representative, effective and responsive devolved government. It is vital to build on the political and economic progress made since the Good Friday Agreement, as well as to build a better, shared future for the region's citizens. We appreciate the UK and Irish government's ongoing engagement and continue to offer our strong support for peace, reconciliation, and prosperity in Northern Ireland.

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Press Releases: South Africa National

Day

Press Statement
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC
April 27, 2017

On behalf of President Trump and the American people, I congratulate all South Africans as you observe the 23rd anniversary of Freedom Day.

On this day commemorating your first democratic elections, we reflect on South Africa's legacy of political and economic leadership in Africa and acknowledge our strong and broad partnership based on shared goals of security, democracy, and prosperity.

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Press Releases: State Department Terrorist Designation of Mubarak Mohammed A Alotaibi

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 27, 2017

The Department of State has designated Mubarak Mohammed A Alotaibi as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) under Section 1(b) of Executive Order (E.O.) 13224, which imposes sanctions on foreign persons determined to have committed, or pose a significant risk of committing, acts of terrorism that threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States. As a consequence of this designation, U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in transactions or dealings with Alotaibi, and all of his property and interests in property subject to United States jurisdiction is frozen.

Alotaibi is the Syria-based deputy leader of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria's (ISIS) affiliate in Saudi Arabia, which was designated by the U.S. Department of State as a SDGT under E.O. 13224 on May 19, 2016.

Today's action notifies the U.S. public and the international community that Alotaibi has committed, or poses a significant risk of committing, acts of terrorism. Designations of terrorist individuals and groups expose and isolate organizations and individuals, and result in denial of access to the U.S. financial system. Moreover, designations can assist or complement the law enforcement actions of other U.S. agencies and other governments.

A list of State Department-designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations and SDGTs is available here: <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/list/index.htm>.

Identifiers:

Name: Mubarak Mohammed A Alotaibi
AKA: Abu Ghayth
AKA: Waqqas al-Jazrawi
DOB: January 8, 1986
POB: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Nationality: Saudi
Location: Syria

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Press Releases: Department of State

Releases Documents

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 27, 2017

Today the Department of State is releasing documents related to human rights abuses committed in Argentina during the 1976-1983 military dictatorship. These documents were hand-delivered to Argentine President Mauricio Macri this morning by President Donald J. Trump as another demonstration of the importance the United States places on its bilateral relations with Argentina. They are part of a comprehensive 18-month effort by U.S. Government agencies, begun at the request of President Macri, to search their archives for relevant documents and review them for public access.

This release comes in two parts: the first being a re-review of the 813 documents previously withheld in part or in full from the original Argentina Declassification Project carried out by the Department of State in 2002; the second being 119 documents selected for inclusion in the Argentina and Latin American Region chapters from the *Foreign Relations of the United States* volume on South America, 1977-80, to be released later this year with full annotation by the Office of the Historian.

The Department conducted a re-review of previously denied and redacted documents to determine if additional information was releasable. With the passage of time and with interagency coordination and support, the Department determined that the majority of the redacted documents were releasable either in full or in reduced form. These newly reviewed documents are available at <https://foia.state.gov/Search/Collections.aspx>.

The documents selected for the Argentina and Latin American Region chapters of *Foreign Relations of the United States*, 1977-1980, Volume XXIV, South America, show high-level U.S. concern over human rights violations in Argentina and the Southern Cone during the administration of President Jimmy Carter. Many of the documents are directly relevant to the Argentine Government's request regarding information about this period. However, some documents were selected for inclusion in the *Foreign Relations* series because of their importance to other aspects of U.S. foreign policy toward Argentina or the entire Latin American region. The newly available documents for these two chapters are available at

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/270391.pdf>

The overall project is led by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence with support from the White House and involves the participation of more than 14 departments and agencies. Additional documents will be released in the Fall and Winter of 2017, including documents from intelligence and law enforcement archives, as well as archival repositories at the Departments of State and Defense. To learn more about this project, including previously declassified documents, visit <https://icontherecord.tumblr.com>. For further information on the *Foreign Relations* series contact the Historian's Office at history@state.gov; all other inquiries should be directed to the Office of Press Relations at 202-647-2492.

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President Trump Proposed a Massive Tax Cut. Here's What You Need to Know.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to do something big. President Trump has made tax reform a priority, and we have a Republican Congress that wants to get it done. This is something that Democrats should support too because it's good for the American people.

The President is going to seize this opportunity by leading the most significant tax reform legislation since 1986 – and one of the biggest tax cuts in American history.

The President has focused on three things since his campaign: job creation, economic growth, and helping low and middle-income families who have been left behind by this economy. He understands that there are a lot of people in this country that feel like they work hard and still can't get ahead. They are sick of turning their paychecks over to Washington and having no idea how their tax dollars are spent. They are frustrated by a tax code that is so complicated that they can't even do their own taxes.

That's why tax reform is such a big priority for this President. He cares about making the economy work better for the American people.

We are going to cut taxes for businesses to make them competitive, and we are going to cut taxes for the American people – especially low and middle-income families.

In 1935, we had a one-page tax form consisting of 34 lines and two pages of instructions. Today, the basic 1040 form has 79 lines and 211 pages of instructions. Instead of a single tax form, the IRS now has 199 tax forms on the individual side of the tax code alone. Taxpayers spend nearly 7 billion hours complying with the tax code each year, and nearly 90% of taxpayers need help filing their taxes.

We are going to cut taxes and simplify the tax code by taking the current 7 tax brackets we have today and reducing them to only three brackets: 10 percent, 25 percent, and 35 percent.

We are going to double the standard deduction so that a married couple won't pay any taxes on the first \$24,000 of income they earn. So in essence, we are creating a 0 percent tax rate for the first \$24,000 that a couple earns.

The larger standard deduction also leads to simplification because far fewer taxpayers will need to itemize, which means their tax form can go back to that one simple page.

Families in this country will also benefit from tax relief to help them with child and dependent care expenses.

We are going to repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). The AMT creates significant complications and burdens by requiring taxpayers to do their taxes twice to see which is higher. That makes no sense; we should have one simple tax code.

Job creation and economic growth is the top priority for this Administration, and nothing drives economic growth like capital investment. Therefore, we are going to return the top tax rate on capital gains and dividends to 20 percent by repealing the harmful 3.8 percent Obamacare tax. That tax has been a direct hit on investment income and small business owners.

We are going to repeal the death tax. The threat of being hit by the death tax leads small business owners and farmers in this country to waste countless hours and resources on complicated estate planning to make sure their children aren't hit with a huge tax when they die. No one wants their children to have to sell the family business to pay an unfair tax.

We are going to eliminate most of the tax breaks that mainly benefit high-income individuals. Home ownership, charitable giving, and retirement savings will be protected – but other tax benefits will be eliminated.

This is not going to be easy. Doing big things never is. But one thing is for certain: I would not bet against this President. He will get this done for the American people.

Gary Cohn is the chief economic advisor to President Donald J. Trump and Director of the National Economic Council

