

Press Releases: The United States Withdraws From UNESCO

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
October 12, 2017

On October 12, 2017, the Department of State notified UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova of the U.S. decision to withdraw from the organization and to seek to establish a permanent observer mission to UNESCO. This decision was not taken lightly, and reflects U.S. concerns with mounting arrears at UNESCO, the need for fundamental reform in the organization, and continuing anti-Israel bias at UNESCO.

The United States indicated to the Director General its desire to remain engaged with UNESCO as a non-member observer state in order to contribute U.S. views, perspectives and expertise on some of the important issues undertaken by the organization, including the protection of world heritage, advocating for press freedoms, and promoting scientific collaboration and education.

Pursuant to Article II(6) of the UNESCO Constitution, U.S. withdrawal will take effect on December 31, 2018. The United States will remain a full member of UNESCO until that time.

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Press Releases: On the Rescue of Caitlan Coleman, Joshua Boyle, and Their Family from Terrorist Captivity

Press Statement
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC
October 12, 2017

The United States Government, working in conjunction with the Government of Pakistan, has secured the release of the Boyle-Coleman family from captivity in Pakistan.

In 2012, U.S. citizen Caitlan Coleman and Canadian citizen Joshua Boyle were taken hostage by the Haqqani network. Their three children were subsequently born in captivity. Today they are safe and secure.

I applaud the innumerable lines of effort from across the U.S. Government. I'm particularly proud of Ambassador Hale and his Mission Islamabad team for their engagement with Pakistan. These efforts reflect the best of what America can accomplish.

The United States also expresses our deep gratitude to the Government of Pakistan and the Pakistani Army for their cooperation. President Trump's new South Asia strategy recognizes the important role Pakistan needs to play to bring stability and ultimately peace to the region. The United States is hopeful that Pakistan's actions will further a U.S.-Pakistan relationship marked by growing commitments to counterterrorism operations and stronger ties in all other respects.

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Press Releases: Spain National Day

Press Statement
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC
October 11, 2017

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, best wishes to the people of Spain as you celebrate your National Day.

The United States and Spain are great friends and close allies. As the President said during his September 26 meeting with President Rajoy, the deep relationship between our two peoples is a strong foundation for lasting cooperation. Our bonds, culture, and commerce go back many centuries and continue to deepen. We are allies and partners in efforts to counter terrorism, improve global security, support economic prosperity, and ensure people all over the world can live in freedom and peace.

As you celebrate today, know that the United States values our enduring partnership and supports a strong and united Spain.

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Press Releases: Secretary Tillerson's

[Call With Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Cavusoglu](#)

Readout
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
October 11, 2017

The following is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Secretary Tillerson spoke today with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. Secretary Tillerson conveyed to the Foreign Minister his profound concern over the detentions of Turkish national employees of our diplomatic mission to Turkey and of several American citizens. Secretary Tillerson emphasized the importance of transparency in the accusations made by the Turkish government and the need for the Turkish government to present the evidence behind these accusations. Secretary Tillerson and Foreign Minister Cavusoglu agreed the two sides would remain in close contact to address U.S. concerns about these detentions.

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[Press Releases: Young Southeast Asian Leaders Visiting the United States Celebrate 40th Anniversary of U.S.-](#)

ASEAN Relations

Media Note

Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC

October 11, 2017

Participants in the U.S. Department of State's Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) exchange visitor program will gather at the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center on October 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. to celebrate the 40th anniversary of U.S.-ASEAN relations and the 50th anniversary of ASEAN. Walter Douglas, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, will preside at the event with Alyson Grunder, Senior Bureau Official of the Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Other guests will include members of the diplomatic community, NGOs, think tanks, academic institutions, and U.S. lawmakers with an interest in Southeast Asia.

YSEALI, the State Department's flagship youth exchange program focused on Southeast Asia, is key to the United States' socio-cultural partnership with ASEAN. Created in 2014, YSEALI builds bridges between young leaders and the United States. Over 100,000 youth have joined the YSEALI network to gain leadership skills and work across borders to find solutions to regional and global challenges. YSEALI academic and professional exchanges have provided more than 1,000 youth the opportunity to visit the United States to connect with Americans. An additional 2,000 YSEALI members have participated in regional exchange workshops to build an ASEAN identity and enhance skills in the fields of economic growth, sustainable development, education, and civic engagement.

For further information, please visit the YSEALI website at <https://asean.usmission.gov/yseali/> and on Twitter at @YSEALI, @USAsiaPacific, and @ECAatState.

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