

Press Releases: Notice of Meeting: U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
May 3, 2017

The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy will hold a public meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at George Washington University's Elliot School for International Affairs (Lindner Commons, 1957 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20052).

The meeting will discuss "Echo Chambers, Artificial Intelligence, and Bot-Driven Disinformation: New Challenges in Public Diplomacy." This session will examine how public diplomacy practitioners need to adjust strategies and tactics for modern information ecosystems, including automated disinformation campaigns, algorithmic bias, and the proliferation and diversity of foreign propaganda efforts.

Congressman Mike Rogers, former Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (2011-2015), will offer the keynote address, followed by a panel of experts:

- Matt Chessen, Foreign Service Science, Technology, and Foreign Policy Fellow at George Washington University
- Tom Cochran, former White House, State Department Technology Lead and Acquia's Vice President and Chief Digital Strategist
- Markos Kounalakis, J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and visiting fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution
- Ethan Porter, Assistant Professor, George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs
- Ory Rinat, State Department Transition Team Digital Lead

Can Public Diplomacy Survive the Internet?, the Commission's latest report, will be available at the event.

This meeting is open to the public, Members, and staff of Congress, the State Department, Department of Defense, the media, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations. To attend and make any requests for reasonable accommodation, e-mail Michelle Bowen at BowenMC1@state.gov by 12:00 p.m. on

Monday, May 8, 2017. Please arrive for the meeting by 10:15 a.m. to allow for a prompt meeting start.

The United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy appraises U.S. Government activities intended to understand, inform, and influence foreign publics. The Advisory Commission may conduct studies, inquiries, and meetings, as it deems necessary. It may assemble and disseminate information and issue reports and other publications, subject to the approval of the Chairperson, in consultation with the Executive Director. It also may undertake foreign travel in pursuit of its studies and coordinate, sponsor, or oversee projects, studies, events, or other activities that it deems desirable and necessary in fulfilling its functions.

The Advisory Commission consists of seven members appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The members shall represent the public interest and shall be selected from a cross section of educational, communications, cultural, scientific, technical, public service, labor, business, and professional backgrounds. Not more than four members shall be from any one political party. The President designates a member to chair the Advisory Commission.

The current members of the Advisory Commission are: Mr. Sim Farar of California, Chairman; Mr. William Hybl of Colorado, Vice Chairman; Ambassador Lyndon Olson of Texas; Ambassador Penne Korth-Peacock of Texas; Ms. Anne Terman Wedner of Illinois; and Ms. Georgette Mosbacher of New York. One seat on the Commission is currently vacant.

To request further information about the meeting or the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, please contact its Executive Director, Shawn Powers, at PowersSM@state.gov.

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Press Releases: State Department Honors Global Emerging Young Leaders

Notice to the Press
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
May 3, 2017

The U.S. Department of State will host the annual Emerging Young Leaders Award at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 4, in the Burns Auditorium of the Marshall Center at the U.S. Department of State. Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Mark Taplin will present the awards.

The Emerging Young Leaders Award program recognizes ten youth (ages 18-25) from around the world for their courage in resolving conflict, promoting security, and creating economic opportunity in challenging environments.

Biographies and photos of the 2017 honorees are available [here](#). Learn more about the award and exchange program at exchanges.state.gov/eyl.

Please follow the conversation online using #EYLeaders, and specifically on Twitter using [@ECAatState](#) and [@ECA_AS](#).

Pre-set time for cameras is 9:15 a.m. from the 21st Street entrance. Final access time for writers and stills is 9:30 a.m. from the 21st Street entrance. Honorees might be available for brief interviews following the ceremony.

Media representatives may attend this 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 card (driver's license, passport).

For more information, please contact the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at eca-press@state.gov

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[Press Releases: United States Calls for Investigation Into Death of Mehman Galandarov](#)

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
May 3, 2017

The United States notes with deep concern the death of Azerbaijani blogger and activist Mehman Galandarov on April 28 while in the custody of Azerbaijani authorities. We urge the Government of Azerbaijan to conduct a full, transparent, and independent investigation into the circumstances of Mr. Galandarov's death and to release all activists in Azerbaijan incarcerated for exercising their fundamental freedoms.

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[Press Releases: Public Schedule: May 3, 2017](#)

May 3, 2017

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE
PUBLIC SCHEDULE
MAY 3, 2017**

SECRETARY REX TILLERSON

10:30 a.m. Secretary Tillerson addresses State Department employees, at the Department of State. Please click [here](#) for more information.

(OPEN PRESS COVERAGE)

*Pre-set time for videographers: 8:15 a.m. from the 23rd Street Entrance.
Final access time for journalists and still photographers: 9:30 a.m. from the 23rd Street Entrance.*

12:15 p.m. Secretary Tillerson participates in President Donald Trump's meeting with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, at the White House.

(MEDIA DETERMINED BY WHITE HOUSE)

5:30 p.m. Secretary Tillerson meets with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, in Washington, D.C.

(POOLED CAMERA SPRAY AT TOP)

ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS PATRICIA HASLACH

1:30 p.m. Acting Assistant Secretary Haslach participates in the economic session of the U.S.-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Dialogue, an annual senior officials' dialogue between the U.S. and ASEAN, hosted by Department of State, at the White-Meyer House Meridian International Center, in Washington, D.C.

(MEDIA DETERMINED BY HOST)

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[Press Releases: World Press Freedom Day](#)

Press Statement
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC
May 3, 2017

Today, on World Press Freedom Day, we reaffirm our commitment to promoting the fundamental principles of a free press around the world. We honor those men and women who work tirelessly, often at great personal risk, to tell the stories we would not otherwise hear. They are the guardians of democratic values and ideals.

The United States has a strong track record of advocating for and protecting press freedom. The U.S. Department of State offers development programs and exchanges for media professionals, supports the free flow of information and ideas on the internet, and provides the tools and resources needed to keep journalists safe.

Ethical and transparent media coverage is foundational to free and open societies. It promotes accountability and sparks public debate. Societies built on good governance, strong civil society, and an open and free media are more prosperous, stable, and secure.

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