



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 14

# STATE DEPARTMENT ON THE HILL

MAY 4, 2009

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## SENATE TESTIMONY: DEFENSE, DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT



*Opening Remarks by Secretary Clinton before the Senate Appropriations Committee on the President's FY 2009 War Supplemental Request, April 30, Washington, D.C.:* "The foreign policy of the United States is built on the three Ds: defense, diplomacy, and development. The men and women in our armed forces perform their duties with courage and skill, putting their lives on the line time and time again on behalf of our nation. And in many regions, they serve alongside civilians from the State Department and USAID, as well as other government agencies, like USDA." [Full Text](#) / [View Video](#)

## TRIBUTE TO SOJOURNER TRUTH

*Secretary Clinton's remarks at the Congressional Unveiling of a Bust in Tribute to Sojourner Truth at Emancipation Hall in the U.S. Capitol, April 28:* "She is a sojourner of truth, by truth, and for truth. And her words, her example, and her legacy will never perish from this earth, so long as men and women stand up and say loudly and clearly: We hear you echoing down through the years of history, we believe that your journey is not yet over, and we will make the rest of that journey with you. God bless the memory of Sojourner Truth." [Full Text](#) / [View Video](#)



## H1N1 FLU: U.S. EMBASSY, U.S. CONSULATES IN MEXICO SUSPEND NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES UNTIL MAY 6



[T]he U.S. Embassy and all U.S. Consulates in Mexico have suspended all non-essential services to the public until May 6. Consular services for U.S. citizens is limited to emergency assistance and citizenship applications (passports and consular reports of birth abroad).

[Travel Alert](#) / [Embassy Message](#) / [Secretary Remarks](#)

[Travel Health Alert](#) / [CDC Flu Page](#)

## THE FOREIGN SERVICE: WORKING FOR A BETTER WORLD



*Secretary Clinton in remarks during Foreign Affairs Day at the State Department, Washington, D.C., May 1:* "I see [the work of the State Department] as really based on principled and pragmatic partnerships.... We've engaged emerging nations and pivotal regional actors on issues of common concern, from climate change and energy, to democracy and good governance, and regional and global security...." [Full Text](#) / [View Video](#) / [Fact Sheet: American "Smart Power"](#)

### STATE DEPARTMENT—100 DAY REPORT

In the first 100 Days of the Obama Administration, Secretary Clinton and the State Department have made significant progress in advancing America's national security goals and promoting America's values around the world and in particular on Afghanistan/Pakistan policy, the Middle East, Iraq, Asia, Russia, North Korea, the Western Hemisphere, the climate crisis, engaging in public diplomacy, and other core issues. [More](#)



### CONCERNS OVER SRI LANKA



*Remarks by Acting Spokesman Robert Wood during the April 28 daily press briefing, Washington, D.C.:* "Our major concern right now [is] dealing with the humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka.... We're also thinking about post-conflict and how we can help Sri Lanka move forward after this conflict is over.... A number of other governments are concerned about the aftermath as well, and so we're going to work with them as well." [Full Text](#) / [View Video](#)

### AZERBAIJAN: SHOOTING AT THE STATE OIL ACADEMY

*Statement by Acting Spokesman Robert Wood, April 30, Washington, D.C.:* "On behalf of the Department of State I wish to express our sympathy and solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan in the aftermath of the tragic shooting today at the State Oil Academy in Baku. We extend our sincerest condolences to the families and friends of those killed in the incident and we wish a speedy recovery to those wounded. The United States is standing in solidarity with Azerbaijan, our friend and strategic partner, in this time of shock and sadness." [Text Online](#) / [Azerbaijan Country Info](#)



### 2009 Country Reports on Terrorism

The Department of State released the annual Congressionally mandated Country Reports on Terrorism 2008 on April 30. U.S. law requires the Secretary of State to provide Congress, by April 30 of each year, a full and complete report on terrorism with regard to those countries and groups meeting criteria set forth in the legislation.

[Full Report](#) / [Briefing](#)

### U.S. Department of State Delivers \$5 Million in New Mine Action Aid for Afghanistan

The U.S. Department of State is responding to an international funding shortfall for mine action in Afghanistan by providing an additional \$5,000,000 to six humanitarian demining groups, including five Afghan non-governmental organizations. This emergency U.S. funding will enable 34 more mine action teams to remove the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) across Afghanistan. [Full Text](#)

## STATE'S INL BUREAU: FUNDING DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN



*Sanga Amaj's adolescent treatment wing includes children of female clients and drug-addicted street children, Jan. 24, 2009. [INL photo]*

Drug addiction has become a serious social and medical problem in Afghanistan. Indicators suggest that drug addiction continues to increase and Afghans are more vulnerable to becoming drug addicts due to 25 years of war, conflict, and social disruption and the resultant chronic mental health problems that have engulfed the nation. In addition, HIV/AIDS is a serious and growing problem in Afghanistan, especially in those regions where intravenous drug use (IDU) is the primary method of drug use. Compounding Afghanistan's addiction problem is the lack of treatment centers to provide counseling and rehabilitation services, especially for women and other vulnerable populations such as adolescents, including opium addiction problems among children as young as 2 to 4 years old. Herat Province alone estimates 5,000 drug addicts aged 6 to 16 years. Read more about how the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is funding several drug treatment programs for women and children to address this problem, as well as other INL assistance programs in the latest INL newsletter that can be found at <http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/nwsltr/122301.htm>.

## SECRETARY'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS

- [Japan Children's Day](#)
- [World Press Freedom Day](#)
- [American Foreign Service Association Memorial Plaque Ceremony Remarks](#)
- [Remarks with Singapore FM Yeo](#)
- [Remarks at "Operation Step-It Up" and Career Gear Event](#)

*—More Statements—*

*“Freedom of the press is protected by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is a hallmark of every free society. Wherever media freedom is in jeopardy, all other human rights are also under threat. A free media is essential to democracy and it fosters transparency and accountability, both of which are prerequisites for sustained economic development.”*

## RECENT PRESS RELEASES

- [Soldiers Killed in Taliban Attack](#)
- [Russia Agreement with Abkhaz & South Ossetian Separatists](#)
- [Darfur: Need for Parties to Commit to Peace Process Immediately and End Provocations](#)
- [North Korea Freedom Week](#)
- [Anniversary of Cyclone Nargis](#)
- [Taiwan's Participation in the World Health Assembly](#)
- [Elections in Ecuador](#)
- [South African Elections](#)

*—More Releases—*

## NOMINATIONS

### The President nominated the following individual:

Eric B. Goosby, of California, to be Ambassador at Large and Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally.

## UPCOMING HEARINGS

### *Tuesday, May 5*

Ambassador Stephen D. Mull, Senior Adviser to the Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, will testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee on efforts to combat high seas piracy. **9:30 a.m., 325 Russell.**

Richard C. Holbrooke, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, will testify before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on “From Strategy to Implementation: The Future of the U.S.-Pakistan Relationship.” **12:15 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.**

Brenda Sprague, Bureau of Consular Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Passport Services, will testify before the Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee on “The Passport Issuance Process: Closing the Door to Fraud.” **2:30 p.m., 226 Dirksen.**

### *Wednesday, May 6*

Dennis Carroll, Special Adviser to the Acting Assistant Administrator on the influenza pandemic, U.S. Agency for International Development, will testify before the Africa and Global Health Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on “Global Health Emergencies Hit Home: The Swine Flu Outbreak.” **9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.**

### *Thursday, May 7*

John Brennan, Senior Policy Adviser, Bureau of Consular Affairs, will testify before the Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism Subcommittee of the House Homeland Security Committee on “Implementing the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative at Land and Sea Ports.” **10 a.m., 311 Cannon.**

## DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ★ Department of State—Careers Representing America ★



#### Taking the Foreign Service Written or Oral Exams?

**Foreign Service Officer Test Prep Session, May 6, 2009, 5—8 p.m.**

Johns Hopkins University (SAIS) Rome Building, Washington, D.C.

**Oral Assessment Prep Session, May 7, 2009, 5—8 p.m.**

Johns Hopkins University (SAIS) Nitze Building, Washington, D.C.

*For more information, go to <http://careers.state.gov/events/index.html>*

#### Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative June 1 Deadline Approaching

June 1, 2009 is the scheduled date by which U.S. citizens crossing U.S. land and sea borders must have documents which comply with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) rules. The U.S. Passport Book and the U.S. Passport Card are the premiere documents that denote both citizenship and identity.

The Passport Card is valid **ONLY** for entry to the United States at land border crossings and sea ports of entry when traveling from Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean region and Bermuda. It is not valid for international air travel. Information on how and where to apply for a U.S. Passport Card is available at <http://travel.state.gov>.

**Intercountry Adoptions:** The State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs has launched [Adoption.state.gov](http://Adoption.state.gov), a website devoted to intercountry adoption.

### INFORMATION RESOURCES

- [State Department Telephone Directory](#) and [Country Desk Officers](#)
- [Bureau of Consular Affairs Congressional Website](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Websites](#) and [Key Officers at Posts Abroad](#)
- [Consular Information Sheets](#) and [Background Notes](#)
- [Iraq Weekly Status Report](#)
- [Foreign Embassies and Consulates throughout the U.S.](#)
- [United States Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#)

*The Legislative Affairs Bureau provides courier service twice a day between Capitol Hill and the State Department. Correspondence for the Secretary of State and other State Department officials may be dropped off at the State Department Liaison Office (Rayburn B-330), or on the Senate side in the drop box in Dirksen 423 for pickup.*

## DEPARTMENT NOTICES

### TRAVEL ALERT: MEXICO

The Department of State alerts U.S. citizens of the health risks of travel to Mexico at this time due to an outbreak of H1N1 influenza (“swine flu.”) The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on April 27 issued a notice recommending that American citizens avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico at this time. [Full Text](#)

### TRAVEL WARNING: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of traveling to the Central African Republic (CAR), and recommends against all but essential travel outside the capital, Bangui. Travelers in the CAR should exercise extreme caution. [Full Text](#)

### TRAVEL WARNING: COLOMBIA

The Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens of the dangers of travel to Colombia. While security in Colombia has improved significantly in recent years, violence by narco-terrorist groups continues to affect some rural areas as well as large cities. [Full Text](#)

### TRAVEL WARNING: GEORGIA

The Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Georgia. This Travel Warning replaces the one dated December 12, 2008 to note the possibility of violent demonstrations. American citizens are urged not to travel to the separatist regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and to be aware that the potential exists for gunfire, increased risk of crime, and ongoing potential for violence in these and areas adjacent to these regions. [Full Text](#)

### TRAVEL WARNING: YEMEN

The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the high security threat level in Yemen due to terrorist activities. The Department recommends that American citizens defer non-essential travel to Yemen. American citizens remaining in Yemen despite this warning should monitor [the U.S. Embassy website](#) and should make contingency emergency plans. This replaces the Travel Warning for Yemen issued March 24, 2009, to update information on piracy and travel through the Gulf of Aden. [Full Text](#)

Please visit <http://travel.state.gov> for additional information pertaining to travel-related announcements, passports, visas and other issues.

# STATE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



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*Please pass this along to your friends and colleagues on the Hill. Feedback to  
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