

Spo State Department Daily Press Briefing

(Spokesman Ian Kelly briefs reporters September 22) (4437)

(begin transcript)

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Briefer: Ian Kelly, Spokesman

HONDURAS

- U.S. is in contact with our Embassy in Tegucigalpa and discussing types of assistance to provide Brazilian diplomats
- Secretary Clinton believes this is an opportune time to open channels of communication and have real dialogue
- U.S. understands the situation is very tense around the Brazilian Embassy and urges all sides to refrain from violent actions
- U.S. understands all parties are willing to sign The San Jose Accords except the de facto regime

...

MR. KELLY: My apologies for the delay. We were delayed because I wanted to read a statement at the top regarding the situation in Tegucigalpa.

The United States calls on all parties to remain calm and avoid actions that might provoke violence in Honduras and place individuals at risk or harm. We urge that all parties refrain from actions that would lead to further unrest.

Above all, we stress the need for dialogue. The United States supports the proposed mission by the Organization of American States to promote this dialogue. We encourage the parties to sign and implement immediately the San Jose Accord, which remains the best approach to resolve this crisis. Additionally, we stress the importance of respecting the inviolability of the Embassy of Brazil in Tegucigalpa and the individuals on its premises.

We note with appreciation the de facto authority's statement last night promising to respect the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, to which Honduras, of course, is a party. Respect and protection for the inviolability of diplomatic premises is a universally accepted principle of international relations.

And with that, I'll take your questions. Yeah.

QUESTION: What's your response to calls from the Brazilian diplomats for protection from the

U.S. Consulate and its security forces there? And also, the calls for help - I believe they've cut off water and electricity to the Brazilian Embassy.

MR. KELLY: Yeah.

QUESTION: What's your position on responding to those calls?

MR. KELLY: Yeah. We've - we're, of course, aware of this situation. We're in contact with - our Embassy in Tegucigalpa is in contact with their counterparts in the Brazilian Embassy in Tegucigalpa. And we're discussing what kind of assistance that we can provide to help them during this crisis. It's a very sensitive situation there on the ground, and I don't want to get into the details of what kind of assistance we're discussing. But we are very aware of the situation and we're willing to help.

Yeah. Goyal.

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