

Statement of Eric Ueland
Nominee for Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
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Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Menendez, and distinguished members of the Committee, it is my honor and privilege to appear before you today as President Donald J. Trump's nominee for Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights. I am humbled by the prospect of serving our great nation in this role and grateful to both President Trump and Secretary Pompeo for their confidence in me to serve in this capacity.

Before I begin today, I would like to take a moment to thank my family. Their selfless support inspires my public service and motivates my working towards a greater good and a better tomorrow.

I have had the honor to serve the American people for many years. Working as a member of the Senate staff, at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, as the Director of the Office of Foreign Assistance at the State Department, and through multiple roles at the White House, I saw first-hand the important work of the nine bureaus and offices for which the Under Secretary is responsible.

Today, I would like to share my vision for how the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, the so-called "J family," can promote U.S. values and support the safety, security, and prosperity of the American people.

Leadership is essential. This takes many forms, to include being willing to speak out and promote accountability for malign actors. For example, we see the Chinese Communist Party rolling back autonomy and liberty in Hong Kong, unlawfully detaining and carrying out sweeping human rights abuses against more than one million Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other Muslims in Xinjiang, and continuing its decades-long effort to eliminate the unique identity of Tibetans. The illegitimate Maduro regime continues to deny the Venezuelan people the democracy and freedom they deserve, holding hundreds of political prisoners and refusing to create the conditions for free and fair elections. The Islamic Republic of Iran remains the world's leading state-sponsor of terrorism, inflicting shocking human rights abuses on its own people, and spreading the vile poison of anti-Semitism around the globe. We must confront these realities, amplify the voices of those suffering, and lead the international community in standing up to perpetrators.

If confirmed, I would use the entire suite of J family tools. This includes sanctions, designations, determinations, and public reporting on trafficking in persons, human rights,

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religious freedom, child soldiers, atrocities, terrorism, and narcotics to shed light on the actions of these malign actors and promote accountability.

Leadership is not just speaking out against brutal regimes. It is also seeking to alleviate suffering and providing life-saving aid during times of crisis. Through the generosity of the American people and with support from Congress, the United States is the largest donor of humanitarian assistance and leading the global foreign assistance response to COVID-19. On an annual basis, the State Department provides billions of dollars in humanitarian assistance that benefits tens of millions of people, many of whom are displaced by violence and conflict.

While providing relief and refuge to the vulnerable and distressed has been an important hallmark of American foreign policy, we must address the causes of conflict and instability that often lead to humanitarian crises. For example, while the United States has led the humanitarian response to the challenge in Rakhine State, we also must continue to press the Burmese government to create conditions for the safe, secure, and voluntary return of Rohingya refugees – by respecting human rights and holding accountable the perpetrators of atrocities, which is essential to avoiding their recurrence and future crises.

If confirmed, I would seek to ensure the J family approaches these challenges in a holistic manner that prevents state fragility and societal fissures from growing into larger challenges. When crises do occur, I would make certain we provide humanitarian assistance in a manner that is both sustainable and incentivizes burden-sharing by our donor partners.

Leadership also means broadening and deepening our international partnerships in support of U.S. interests. These partnerships are vital to curbing the flow of opioids and other drugs into the United States, dismantling terrorist networks, ending human trafficking, and preventing transnational criminal organizations from operating across borders with impunity. With a proven track record of accomplishment, cutting-edge technology, and commitment to our values, the J family provides the critical tools, training, and expertise necessary to build the global partnerships needed to combat these transnational threats. This international cooperation is more important than ever in an era of great power competition. While our adversaries and competitors make unfulfilled promises and seek vassal states rather than genuine partners, ensuring the United States continues to serve as the partner of choice reinforces our global influence.

If confirmed, I would seek to leverage our counterterrorism, counter narcotics, and anti-trafficking partnerships not only to fight immediate threats to our national security, but also to expand American influence with foreign governments unwilling or unable to combat illicit activity or terrorist threats.

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Leadership also means agenda-setting. For example, the Trump Administration has brought the crucial task of protecting freedom of religion or belief to the forefront of the international agenda, including by hosting two unprecedented Ministerials to Advance Religious Freedom and by launching the International Religious Freedom Alliance. These efforts demonstrate how U.S. leadership can catalyze the international community to address the plight of the marginalized and oppressed, even when the world has seemingly turned away.

If confirmed, I would utilize my previous experience working with a variety of stakeholders to support this agenda and expand our coalition of like-minded nations on this and other issues of vital importance.

Finally, the responsible stewardship of public funds has been a key objective of my career in government. If confirmed as Under Secretary, this would be one of my top priorities. While overseeing approximately \$6 billion in foreign assistance each year, the Under Secretary must ensure that we are building partner capacity rather than dependency when we provide foreign assistance. As I mentioned, we are a leader in humanitarian and security partnerships, and with that comes the tremendous responsibility to ensure that U.S. resources are used effectively and efficiently. This means we need to commit to the ongoing evaluation of our programs to ensure we are achieving their original intent.

If confirmed, I would seek to ensure our programs are implemented by capable partners, and assessed by realistic, measurable outcomes. Simultaneously, through our expanded coalitions, I would continue to promote the President's burden-sharing objectives that not only encourages our partners to do more with their money but enables us to do more with ours.

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Menendez, and members of the Committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today and, if confirmed, I look forward to working with each member of the Committee to advance our shared goals. I welcome any questions you may have.