



Ambassade des Etats-Unis d'Amérique
Brazzaville, République du Congo

Press Release

March 9, 2017

**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNOUNCES
THE PUBLICATION OF ITS 41ST ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS**

On March 3, 2017, the U.S. Department of State released the 2016 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which include the Republic of Congo. The U.S. Embassy appreciates the tireless engagement of human rights activists, non-governmental organizations, and international partners whose invaluable contributions give voice to the unheard and unseen victims of human rights abuses.

Promoting human rights is a core element of U.S. foreign policy to provide an essential foundation of stable, secure, and prosperous societies. The U.S. Congress mandated these reports to provide policymakers with accounts of human rights conditions in nearly 200 countries worldwide, including all member states of the United Nations and any country receiving U.S. foreign assistance. Human rights specialists strive to make the global reports objective and uniform in scope and quality. They are used by the U.S. Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches as a resource for shaping policy and guiding decisions, informing diplomatic engagements, and determining the allocation of foreign aid and security sector assistance. They are also referenced worldwide by human rights advocates, lawmakers, academics, businesses, multilateral institutions, and NGOs.

The aim of these reports is to help other governments, civil society leaders, activists, and individuals reflect on the situation of human rights in their respective countries and work to promote accountability for violations and abuses to improve the prosperity and security of all. These reports underscore a commitment to freedom, democracy, and the human rights guaranteed to all individuals around the world.

The annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices cover internationally recognized individual, civil, political, and worker rights, as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements. The U.S. Department of State submits reports on all United Nations member states to the U.S. Congress in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Trade Act of 1974. The publication of this annual report reflects U.S. interest in, and support for, the advancement of human rights around the world. In addition, the



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U.S. Department of State produces other human rights reports related to religious freedom, trafficking in persons, and advancing democracy.

For more information or to view the full text of the report, please visit
<http://www.humanrights.gov>.