

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson

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For Immediate Release

August 14, 2014

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY KERRY

Republic of the Congo's National Day

On behalf of President Obama and the people of the United States, I would like to extend congratulations to the people of the Republic of the Congo as you commemorate 54 years of independence on August 15.

We enjoy a close friendship with the Republic of the Congo, working with government officials, private sector leaders, and a broad spectrum of Congolese civil society to strengthen democratic institutions, improve regional security, and promote economic growth and development, sustainable environmental stewardship, and human rights for all people. We are working closely with our Congolese partners to bring peace and stability to the neighboring Central African Republic, and we commend the efforts of the Congolese government to promote political dialogue and a lasting peace for the benefit of the sub-region.

I wish the people of the Republic of the Congo a happy Independence Day celebration. We look forward to forging ever closer ties as we work towards common goals in the region and around the globe.

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Drafted: AF/C: Benjamin Mossberg

Cleared: AF/C: CKrafft - ok  
AF/PD: TAybar - ok  
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DRL: KGilbride - info  
S/P:HKessler - info  
P:BNeubert - ok  
D(B): MParker-Lavine – ok  
D(MR): TKowslowski - ok  
S: DWade (per Special Assistants) – ok  
S: GJohnson (per Special Assistants) - ok