

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

September 24, 2015

**STATEMENT BY SECRETARY KERRY**

**On the Occasion of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau's National Day**

On behalf of President Obama and the citizens of the United States, I congratulate all the people of Guinea-Bissau as you celebrate the 42nd anniversary of your independence on September 24.

We fully support your efforts to establish a more fully just, democratic, and prosperous society, in which human rights are respected and the rule of law observed. In the years to come, the United States will continue to work with you to foster an environment of stability and opportunity within which democratic institutions are strengthened and economic growth can take hold and flourish.

Congratulations once again to all the citizens of Guinea-Bissau on this important day.