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***PRESS RELEASE***

**Ambassador James P. Zumwalt Presents Letter of Credence to H.E. José Mario Vaz,  
President of Guinea-Bissau**

The Honorable James P. Zumwalt, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, presented his letter of credence to H.E. José Mário Vaz, President of Guinea-Bissau, at Guinea-Bissau's Presidential Palace on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. Ambassador Zumwalt and President Vaz expressed the desire of both countries to increase bilateral cooperation.

Following the presentation of letters of credence, Ambassador Zumwalt stayed in Guinea-Bissau through March 14 to meet with government officials, military leaders, foreign ambassadors, international organization officials, missionaries, businessmen, women's organizations, journalists and members of civil society. In the course of these meetings, Bissau-Guineans shared their views on a broad range of issues including sustaining progress on democratic governance and economic growth in Guinea-Bissau.

Specific meetings included:

- Domingos Simões Pereira, Prime Minister
- Carmelita Pires, Minister of Justice
- Valentina Mendes, Minister of Health
- Geraldo Martin, Minister of Economy and Finance
- Angela Pereira, Minister of Women, Family, and Social Cohesion
- General Biagué Nantam, Chief of Staff, Army
- Joao Bernardo Vieira, Secretary of State for Transportation and Communication
- Cadi Seidi, Minister of National Defense

In addition, the Ambassador met with various members of civil society and visited several projects that receive American support:

- American Corner at *Institut Nationale des Études et Recherche (INEP)* of Bissau
- *Hospital Nacional Simão Mendes*, where he delivered a donation of *International Partnership Health Development* medical supplies; and visited U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention employees on assignment in Bissau

- *Association for Rehabilitation and Integration of the Blind* at the *Bengala Branca Music School*, *“Friends of Children” AMIC Reinsertion Center* and *Lar Bethel Orphanage*, which are all supported with grants from the Ambassador’s Self-Help Grant Program
- *Military Language Lab* financed by the U.S. Department of Defense
- Training program for journalists and technical staff of community radio station *Voz de Quélélé*



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau, Mário Lopes da Rosa; U.S. Ambassador James P. Zumwalt; President of Guinea-Bissau, José Mário Vaz



Ambassador Zumwalt visits the monument dedicated to the memory of Bissau-Guinean independence heroine *Titina Silá*.



Ambassador Zumwalt presents a donation of medical equipment and supplies to *Hospital Nacional Simão Mendes* on behalf of NGO *International Partnership Health Development*.



Ambassador Zumwalt and drummers from the neighborhood that hosts the *“Friends of Children”* Center for trafficked children - a recipient of the Ambassador’s Self-Help Grant Fund.



Ambassador Zumwalt meets a child at the *Lar Bethel Orphanage*- a recipient of the Ambassador's Self-Help Grant Fund.



Ambassador Zumwalt visits training program for journalists and technical staff of community radio station *Voz de Quelélé*.



Ambassador Zumwalt visits the *Bengala Branca School*, whose blind students showed their musical skills. The Ambassador's Self-Help Grant Fund donated musical instruments that made these classes aimed at integrating the blind possible.



Ambassador Zumwalt meets students of the Bissau-Guinean Military Language Laboratory supported by the U.S. Department of Defense.