

Statement of Jessica Long
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
September 30, 2026

Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as United States Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. I deeply appreciate the trust the President and Secretary of State have shown in nominating me. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress and the U.S. interagency to advance our interests in Mauritania and hope you and your staff will visit.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities my Foreign Service career has given me to serve the American people, help grow the economy, and advance national security. My Foreign Service parents – all three of them – modeled a commitment to service, and that the richness of life is found in serving something greater than yourself. They shaped the commitment of all four of us kids to invest our lives in consequential work, whether through the U.S. military, Foreign Service, or private sector. My husband, Bobby Long, has been the biggest advocate for my career and for applying for this position. I am thankful for his support and his own commitment to service, as a retired U.S. Navy Chief and Deputy Sheriff. We met while serving in Paktika, Afghanistan. I was there with State and he was with the Navy, which gave us the opportunity to see how we used our respective skills to advance U.S. goals there. He is a true hero and I'm grateful for his continued partnership.

If confirmed, I look forward to building on my experience to lead the U.S. team as we partner with the Mauritanian government and other organizations to secure economic opportunities that benefit both of our countries. Mauritania occupies a strategic position at the crossroads of North and West Africa and has been steady and reliable on both security and economic issues. President Ghazouani traveled to Washington in July of last year to meet President Trump and committed to deepen security and commercial ties. Following through on the partnership forged in that meeting will be one of my priorities, if confirmed.

I would seek to advance three priorities. First, I will expand U.S. private-sector investment and commercial ties. The impressive team at Embassy Nouakchott has already secured hundreds of millions of dollars in agreements in energy, mining,

and technology. I intend to build on that momentum to connect American businesses with Mauritania's untapped potential. Second, if confirmed, I will sustain and strengthen our security cooperation. As instability in the Sahel continues to threaten the interests of the United States and our allies, Mauritania's stability is an increasingly valuable asset; our training and information-sharing there are more important than ever. Third, I will work closely with Mauritanian authorities on illegal immigration concerns that affect U.S. national security.

If confirmed, I will prioritize the safety of Mission personnel and the welfare of Americans visiting or living in Mauritania. I would look for every opportunity to advance U.S. objectives and values in this country rich in history, culture, and opportunity. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I welcome your questions.