

Belarus for the “crime” of running for President. Welcome.

We stand with Manouchehr Mohammadi. Both he and his brother were viciously tortured by the Iranian authorities. He was the only one who survived and escaped. Welcome to America.

We stand with Cho Jin Hae, who witnessed several of her family members starve to death in North Korea. She herself was tortured by the Communist authorities.

I thank you all for coming. I thank the others who took time out of their day to meet me as well. I appreciate your testament to the universal desire for freedom.

This morning, I have a message for all those throughout the world who languish in tyranny. I know there are moments when it feels like you’re alone in your struggle. And you’re not alone; America hears you. Millions of our citizens stand with you, and hope still lives, even in bleak places and in dark moments.

Even now, change is stirring in places like Havana and Damascus and Tehran. The people of these nations dream of a free future, hope for a free future, and believe that a free future will come. And it will. May God be with them in their struggle. America always will be.

Thank you for letting me come by, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 a.m. at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Henrietta H. Fore; Egyptian opposition politician Ayman Nour; Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma; Cuban dissident Oscar Elias Biscet Gonzalez; Syrian political activist Riad Seif; and former President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing an Executive Order Blocking Property of Additional Persons Undermining Democratic Processes or Institutions in Zimbabwe *July 25, 2008*

Today I have signed a new Executive order that expands our sanctions against the illegitimate Government of Zimbabwe. The new Executive order significantly enhances our ability to designate individuals in and entities connected to the Mugabe regime. Under the new Executive order, the Treasury Department will today designate several of these Government-controlled entities.

This action is a direct result of the Mugabe regime’s continued politically motivated violence, disregarding calls from the Southern African Development Community, the African Union, and the United Nations to halt the attacks. The regime has also continued its ban against NGO activities that would provide assistance to the suffering and vulnerable people of

Zimbabwe. No regime should ignore the will of its own people and calls from the international community without consequences.

Should ongoing talks in South Africa between Mugabe’s regime and the Movement of Democratic Change result in a new government that reflects the will of the Zimbabwean people, the United States stands ready to provide a substantial assistance package, development aid, and normalization with international financial institutions.

In the meantime, I am reaffirming my commitment to support the suffering people of Zimbabwe, authorizing the use of up to \$2.5 million from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance

Fund to assist Zimbabwean refugees and asylum seekers who have been displaced due to the ongoing violence in their country. We will also continue our efforts to provide food and health assistance as part of our commitment to help the people of Zimbabwe in their time of greatest need.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. The Executive order is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Message to the Congress on Blocking Property of Additional Persons Undermining Democratic Processes or Institutions in Zimbabwe July 25, 2008

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the “order”) that expands the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, which was relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13391 of November 22, 2005, and takes additional steps with respect to that national emergency.

In Executive Order 13288, I found that the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe’s democratic processes or institutions constituted an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States and declared a national emergency to deal with that threat. Executive Order 13288 blocks the property and interests in property of the persons listed in its Annex and permits the designation of any person or entity owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act directly or indirectly for or on behalf of, any person listed in that Annex.

Executive Order 13391 took additional steps to address the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288 and amended the provisions of that earlier order. Executive Order 13391 blocks the property of the persons and entities listed

in its Annex and permits the designation of any person or entity determined: to have engaged in actions or policies to undermine Zimbabwe’s democratic processes or institutions; to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, such actions or policies or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to Executive Order 13288, as amended; to be or have been an immediate family member of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to Executive Order 13288, as amended; or to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to Executive Order 13288, as amended.

I have now determined that the continued actions and policies of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe’s democratic processes or institutions, manifested most recently in the fundamentally undemocratic election held on June 27, 2008, to commit acts of violence and other human rights abuses against political opponents, and to engage in public corruption, including the misuse of public authority, warrant an expansion of the existing national emergency and the existing sanctions with respect to