

persons to undermine Belarus democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared to deal with this threat and the

related measures blocking the property of certain persons.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
June 8, 2010.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at the Congressional Picnic *June 8, 2010*

Hello, everybody. Well, how's the food? We could not have a more beautiful day for this annual picnic, and we are just thrilled that all of you had a chance to get over. I know that folks were running a little bit late, many of you because of votes. But, you know, the fact of the matter is, is that we have had as tough a year and a half as America has seen in a couple of generations, and that's meant that Congress has had to do more on a whole range of issues.

Right now, obviously, we're looking at what's happening in the Gulf with deep concern, and that's going to put more additional pressure on Congress to work with States and the administration to help deal with this tragedy and this crisis.

It is important, though, given the incredible sacrifices that so many of you have made and frankly, from my perspective, just as important are the sacrifices that your family makes—you being away, you missing family events—that every once in a while, we have an opportunity

to get together and for me to say thank you to you for your incredible devotion to the country, regardless of party, and for both Michelle and I to say to your families how grateful we are for your service, and hopefully, to have a little bit of time for fun and for fellowship and to remind ourselves of what's so important in life.

So I'm thrilled to see all the young people here who are here today. And we hope that you have a wonderful time.

Band, you guys are great as always. Chefs, I think people are all voting with their mouths around here. I suspect there's not going to be a lot of leftovers.

And on behalf of Michelle and myself, we hope that you enjoy the evening, and we are grateful to all of you for being here.

So thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:26 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority and an Exchange With Reporters *June 9, 2010*

President Obama. Hello, everybody. Be careful, careful.

Before I begin, I know that there was just a vote in the United Nations Security Council. I'm going to comment on that separately; I don't want to detract from the topic at hand here. So for reporters who are interested in

that issue, I will be making a statement about that after our session here.

I just want to thank President Abbas for being here and his delegation. We just concluded some very productive discussions on this issue. I commended President Abbas for the excellent work that he and Prime Minister Fayyad