

July 28 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2010

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## Statement on the Crash of Airblue Flight ED 202 in Pakistan

July 28, 2010

I extend my deepest condolences to the families and friends of all who died in today's tragic crash of Airblue flight ED 202 near Islamabad. Among those who were lost were two American

citizens. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those touched by this horrible accident. The American people stand with the people of Pakistan in this moment of tragedy.

## Remarks at the National Urban League Centennial Conference

July 29, 2010

*The President.* Thank you. Everybody, please have a seat. Have a seat. Take a load off. Thank you very much. Please, please, have a seat. Good morning, Urban Leaguers.

*Audience members.* Good morning.

*The President.* Well, it is wonderful to be here with all of you. It is wonderful to be here. And let me begin by congratulating Marc Morial for his outstanding leadership, his great friendship. I want to thank the entire National Urban League on your centennial. From your founding, amid the great migration, to the struggles of the civil rights movement, to the battles of today, the Urban League has been on the ground, in our communities, working quietly, day in, day out, without fanfare, opening up opportunity, rolling back inequality, making our Union just a little more perfect. So America is a better place because of the Urban League. And I'm grateful to all of you for the outstanding contributions that you've made.

Now, the last time I spoke with you was during your Orlando conference in August—[*applause*—got Orlando in the house—[*laughter*—Orlando conference back in August of 2008. I didn't have any gray hair back then. [*Laughter*]

*Audience member.* That's all right.

*The President.* Say, that's all right? [*Laughter*] Yes.

But I want to remind you what things were like in August of 2008. Our economy was in freefall. We had just seen 7 straight months of

job loss. Foreclosures were sweeping the Nation. And we were on the verge of a financial crisis that threatened to plunge our economy into a second Great Depression.

So from the moment I took office, we had to act immediately to prevent an even greater catastrophe. And I knew that not everything we did would be popular. Sometimes when we do things, the scribes, the pundits here in Washington, they act surprised. They say, why would you do such a thing? It doesn't poll well. And I have to explain to them I've got my own pollsters. [*Laughter*] But I wasn't elected just to do what's popular, I was elected to do what was right. That's what you supported me for.

And because of what we did, America, as a whole, is in a different place today. Our economy is growing instead of shrinking. Our private sector has been adding jobs for 6 straight months instead of losing them.

I was—[*applause*—yesterday a report was put out by two prominent economists—one of them John McCain's old economist—that said if we hadn't taken the actions that we took, we would have had an additional 8 million people lose their jobs.

Now, that doesn't mean we're out of the woods yet. Every sector of our economy was shaking by the crisis, every demographic group felt its impact. And as has been true in the wake of other recent recessions, this one had an especially brutal impact on minority communities,