

We need to offer our children the best education in the world. We need to spur innovation and new industries like clean energy that will create the jobs of tomorrow. We need to upgrade America's crumbling infrastructure, its roads and bridges, update high-speed rail and high-speed Internet to connect every community. And we need to redouble our commitment to fiscal discipline and address our long-term deficit challenges.

We know the path that will lead to economic success. The only question is whether we will take it, whether we have the political will to do

the work. I'm committed to taking that path. I know America's business leaders are as well. And I look forward to talking to them this morning and working with them in the months and years to come to make sure that we're adopting the best ideas for growing our economy and making the 21st century another great American century.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:23 a.m. in Room 430 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

## Statement on the International Criminal Court's Announcement Concerning the 2007–2008 Postelection Violence in Kenya

*December 15, 2010*

Today, as the International Criminal Court announces the names of six suspects alleged to have participated in the postelection violence that threatened to tear Kenya apart 3 years ago, I encourage all Kenyans take a moment to reflect on the tremendous progress their country has made since those dark days. Together, you have been working to reconcile your communities, to reform your institutions to better serve the public good, and to put your country on a path to lasting peace and prosperity. Kenya is turning a page in its history, moving away from impunity and divisionism toward an era of accountability and equal opportunity. The path ahead is not easy, but I believe that the Kenyan people have the courage and resolve to reject those who would drag the country back into the past and rob Kenyans of the singular opportunity that is before them to realize the country's vast potential.

In pursuit of these goals, I urge all of Kenya's leaders, and the people whom they serve, to co-

operate fully with the ICC investigation and remain focused on implementation of the reform agenda and the future of your nation. Those found responsible will be held accountable for their crimes as individuals. No community should be singled out for shame or held collectively responsible. Let the accused carry their own burdens, and let us keep in mind that under the ICC process they are innocent until proven guilty. As you move forward, Kenyans can count on the United States as a friend and partner.

NOTE: The statement referred to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Uhuru Kenyatta, Secretary to the Cabinet Francis K. Muthaura, Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Technology William Samoei Ruto, Minister for Industrialization Henry Kiprono Kosgey, and former Commissioner of Police Mohamed Hussein Ali of Kenya; and Joshua arap Sang, radio presenter, Kass FM.

## Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Chabahar, Iran

*December 15, 2010*

I strongly condemn the outrageous terrorist attack on a mosque in Chabahar, Iran. The murder of innocent civilians in their place of worship during Ashura is a despicable offense, and those

who carried it out must be held accountable. This is a disgraceful and cowardly act.

This and other similar acts of terrorism recognize no religious, political, or national boundaries.

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The United States condemns all acts of terrorism wherever they occur.

The United States stands with the families and loved ones of those killed and injured and with the Iranian people in the face of this injustice.

Together, the people of the world must condemn and oppose all forms of terrorism and support the universal right of human beings to live free from fear and senseless violence.

## Statement on Senate Passage of Legislation To Extend Tax Cuts and Unemployment Insurance Benefits *December 15, 2010*

Today the Senate passed with strong bipartisan support a bill that's a win for American families, American businesses, and our economic recovery. This vote brings us one step closer to ensuring that middle class families across the country won't have to worry about a massive tax hike at the end of the year. It would offer hope to millions of Americans who are out of work, that they won't suddenly find themselves without the unemployment insurance they need to make ends meet as they fight to find a job. And it would offer additional tax relief to families across the country and encourage businesses to grow and hire.

I know that not every Member of Congress likes every piece of this bill, and it includes some provisions that I oppose. But as a whole, this package will grow our economy, create jobs, and help middle class families across the country. As this bill moves to the House of Representatives, I hope that members from both parties can come together in a spirit of common purpose to protect American families and our economy as a whole by passing this essential economic package.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 4853. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

## Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Legislation Repealing the United States Military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy *December 15, 2010*

I applaud the House for passing, with bipartisan support, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010." Legislative repeal is supported by the Secretary of Defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The process contained in this legislation allows for a smooth and responsible repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" in a way that maintains good order and discipline in our military ranks. Indeed, all of the service chiefs have said that when this law is changed, they will implement an orderly transition effectively and efficiently. As the comprehensive study by the Department of Defense clearly shows, we can move to a new policy in a responsible manner that ensures our military strength and our national security.

I particularly want to thank Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, and Congressman Patrick Murphy for their leadership on this issue. I have consistently called for the repeal of this law. Moving forward with the repeal is not only the right thing to do, it will also give our military the clarity and certainty it deserves. We must ensure that Americans who are willing to risk their lives for their country are treated fairly and equally by their country.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 2965. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.