

Statement on the Death of David S. Broder

March 9, 2011

Like so many here in Washington and across the country, Michelle and I were deeply saddened to hear about the passing of a true giant of journalism, David Broder. David filed his first story from our Nation's Capital before starting as a junior political writer on the 1960 Presidential election. In the decades that followed, he built a well-deserved reputation as the most respected and incisive po-

litical commentator of his generation, winning a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of Watergate and earning the affectionate title of "Dean" of the Washington press corps. Through all his success, David remained an eminently kind and gracious person, and someone we will dearly miss. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends in this difficult time.

Statement on the Situation in Cote d'Ivoire

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I strongly condemn the abhorrent violence against unarmed civilians in Cote d'Ivoire. I am particularly appalled by the indiscriminate killing of unarmed civilians during peaceful rallies, many of them women, including those who were gunned down as they marched in support of the legitimately elected President Alassane Ouattara. Reports indicate that the women were shot to death by security forces loyal to former President Laurent Gbagbo. On March 8, the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, we saw pictures of women peacefully rallying with signs that said, "Don't Shoot Us," a strong testament to the bravery of women exercising their right of peaceful assembly.

The United States remains deeply concerned about escalating violence, including the deepening humanitarian and economic crisis and its impact in Cote d'Ivoire and neighboring countries. All armed parties in Cote d'Ivoire must make every effort to protect ci-

vilians from being targeted, harmed, or killed. The United States reiterates its commitment to work with the international community to ensure that perpetrators of such atrocities be identified and held individually accountable for their actions.

As we have said since the election results in Cote d'Ivoire were certified, the people of Cote d'Ivoire elected Alassane Ouattara as their President, and Laurent Gbagbo lost the election. Former President Gbagbo's efforts to hold on to power at the expense of his own country are an assault on the universal rights of his people and the democracy that the Cote d'Ivoire deserves. The people of Cote d'Ivoire have extraordinary talent and potential, and they deserve leadership that is responsive to their hopes and aspirations. It is time for former President Gbagbo to heed the will of his people and to complete a peaceful transition of power to President Ouattara.

Remarks at the White House Conference on Bullying Prevention

March 10, 2011

Thank you, everybody. Thank you. Well, welcome to the White House. I want to thank Michelle for her introduction and for marrying me—[laughter]—and for putting up with me.

I want to reiterate what Michelle said: Preventing bullying isn't just important to us as

President and First Lady, it's important for us as parents. It's something we care deeply about.

We're joined here by several Members of Congress who've shown real leadership in taking up this cause. We've got a number of