

Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2013.

In 2012, the Government of Belarus continued its crackdown against political opposition, civil society, and independent media. The September 23 elections failed to meet international standards. The government arbitrarily arrested, detained, and imprisoned citizens for criticizing officials or for participating in demonstrations; imprisoned at least one human rights activist on manufactured charges; and prevented independent media from disseminating information and materials. These actions show that the Government of Belarus has not taken steps forward in the development of

democratic governance and respect for human rights.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption continue to pose an 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 in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
June 13, 2013.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks Honoring the 2012 Women's National Basketball Association Champion Indiana Fever

June 14, 2013

The President. Hello, everybody. Welcome to the White House. Everybody, please have a seat. Congratulations to the 2012 WNBA champions, the Indiana Fever. [Applause] Hey! I told them, if you're from Indiana, you'd better have a good basketball team. [Laughter] They brought Indiana's other championship team with them, the Division III women's basketball champions, the 34-and-0 DePauw Tigers, who are in the audience. Where are you, Tigers? Tigers, right back here. How about that? Well, that's pretty cool. Well, we're going to have to get a picture after we do all this, with the Tigers. I don't know, by the way, if this is a recruiting violation, you guys bringing them here. [Laughter] This is—she's keeping her eye out for new talent.

This is not Coach Dunn's first trip to the White House. She came here when she was a Girl Scout; I won't say which administration that was. [Laughter]

Head Coach Lin Dunn. Thank you.

The President. I also want to recognize the WNBA President, Laurel Richie, and Fever team owner Herb Simons. Where are they? I didn't know where you went. Now, Herb is also the owner of the Indiana Pacers. I will not comment on that. [Laughter] Although, we do both have something in common, which is, our teams got knocked out by the Heat. [Laughter] But we will get even next year.

And while our towns have a friendly rivalry going on, I still recognize those Midwestern values when I see them. We saw it in the Indiana Fever, which is, you look out for your

teammates. You kept fighting, no matter what gets thrown at you. As Coach Dunn put it: “We are all blue collar. We work hard on defense. We rebound. We’re tough.”

And that toughness got this team through a season with more than its fair share of injuries. Nevertheless, whenever one player went down, another stepped up. So, in game 3 against Connecticut in the Eastern Conference Finals, hometown hero Katie Douglas was sidelined for the rest of the season. It looked the team might be in real trouble, and then players like Erin Phillips came alive. They stormed back, won the game, then the series, earning a spot in the Finals.

That’s when they had their “Hoosiers” moment. To be fair, you have a lot more court time under your belts than the team from Hickory High. But you came into the finals as underdogs. The Minnesota Lynx were the defending champions. They had won the season series 2–0. They knew that they had to step up their game, and that’s what they did. They rallied behind my good friend—who I’ve had the pleasure of being on the court, and she took it easy on me—Tamika Catchings, MVP, who can now add a WNBA championship to her NCAA championship—three-time Gold Medalist. And all of you then brought in—home Indiana’s first professional basketball title since 1973. That’s a long time.

And obviously, the Fever’s incredible season inspired your States, inspired your fans. But I was mentioning backstage, WNBA generally inspires a lot of young people. I occasionally coach Sasha’s basketball team, and for her to have wonderful role models like this who work hard, know how to play like a team, are incredibly poised and competitors, but also show good sportsmanship, that’s the kind of models you want for your children.

So Coach Dunn has 2 years—was 2 years into her coaching career when title IX was passed. Today we’ve got two women’s basketball championships—championship teams here in the White House. And that’s a reminder of the incredible progress that we’ve made, thanks to pioneers like Coach Dunn. And so

we really thank you for that. And we appreciate that. And I want—[*applause*].

And I want to thank the entire Indiana Fever for giving back to their communities, not just being role models, but also taking time out off the court. Tamika has her own foundation, Catch the Stars, and she’s helped the First Lady, Michelle, with the “Let’s Move!” program to encourage kids to eat healthy and exercise. Players on the Fever have received a combined 13 WNBA Community Assist Awards for countless hours they spend volunteering. They visit local school kids as part of the Read to Achieve program. They’ve teamed up with the Habitat of Humanity to help build homes for folks in Indianapolis. And right after this, they’re going to run a basketball clinic on the South Lawn for young people here in DC.

So it’s that kind of commitment that makes the Fever not just a winning team, but a special team. So I really want to congratulate them on an incredible 2012 season. We wish them the best of luck in 2013. Everybody, give the Indiana Fever a big round of applause.

So yes! I’ve got mine, got my jersey. Here, let’s take down the—Coach, do you want to say something?

Coach Dunn. Yes, I do.

The President. Yes, go ahead. [*Laughter*] Come on.

Coach Dunn. Well, first of all, on—I’m a little nervous. I haven’t been to the White House since the fifth grade. [*Laughter*]

The President. Since the fifth grade.

Coach Dunn. But on behalf of our owner, Herb Simon, and the great leadership that we have at Pacers Sports and Entertainment—Rick Fuson, Jim Morris, Kelly Krauskopf—and all of our families and friends that are here today. We just want to thank you so much for inviting us here to see the White House, to meet you—that’s really special too, because I’m a Democrat so—[*laughter*]—and to celebrate our championship season, our 2012 championship season.

And I just want you to know that this is an amazing group of women. What they did under just tremendous adversity—they kept fighting back, they kept fighting back. Nobody expect-

ed us to win the conference. And certainly no one, none of the reporters—you know all those people—[laughter]—none of them picked us to win and certainly not to upset the defending WNBA championship. So not only are they great players, great people, but they are tremendous role models. You're proud to meet a great group here. So I just want you to know how special they are.

And, Mr. President, the last thing I want to say is, I want to thank you personally, you and the First Lady, for all you do to empower women. You have no idea. Every day, every day, you both send a strong message that little girls can do anything they want to do and they can be anything they want to be.

The President. That's the truth.

Coach Dunn. And so we thank you.

The President. I appreciate that. Thank you.

Coach Dunn. We've got some gifts for you.

The President. Thank you. Got my ball, got my hat, got my jersey. I'm set. And I just want to say that I might try to recruit Coach Dunn to run for something. [Laughter]

All right, let's strike the podium, and let's get a good picture.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Herbert Simon, owner, chairman, and chief executive officer, Pacers Sports & Entertainment; and Katie Douglas, guard/forward, Erin Phillips, guard, and Tami-ka Catchings, forward, Indiana Fever. Coach Dunn referred to W.F. "Rick" Fuson, chief operating officer, and Jim Morris, president, Pacers Sports & Entertainment; and Kelly Krauskopf, president and general manager, Fever Basketball Corp.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Global Deployment of United States Combat-Equipped Armed Forces June 14, 2013

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am providing this supplemental consolidated report, prepared by my Administration and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed about deployments of U.S. Armed Forces equipped for combat.

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF U.S. COUNTERTERRORISM OBJECTIVES

In furtherance of U.S. counterterrorism efforts, the United States continues to work with partners around the globe, with a particular focus on the U.S. Central Command's and U.S. Africa Command's areas of responsibility. In this context, the United States has deployed U.S. combat-equipped forces to enhance the counterterrorism capabilities and support the counterterrorism operations of our friends and allies, including special operations and other forces for sensitive operations in various loca-

tions around the world. Specific information about counterterrorism deployments to select countries is provided below, and a classified annex to this report provides further information.

Military Operations Against al-Qa'ida, the Taliban, and Associated Forces and in Support of Related U.S. Counterterrorism Objectives

Since October 7, 2001, the United States has conducted combat operations in Afghanistan against al-Qa'ida, the Taliban, and associated forces. In support of these and other overseas operations, the United States has deployed combat-equipped forces to a number of locations in the U.S. Central, Pacific, European, Southern, and Africa Command areas of operation. Previously, such operations and deployments have been reported, consistent with Public Law 107-40 and the War Powers Resolution, and operations and deployments remain ongoing. These operations, which the United States has carried out with the assistance of