

programs that were initially the cause of this controversy, which I was responding to when I was in Germany. All right?

Arizona Wildfires

Q. And the wildfires?

The President. Oh, thank you. See, this is what happens when I've got too many questions. [*Laughter*] Obviously, the news is heart-breaking. And our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the brave firefighters who are out there.

This is one more reminder of the fact that our first responders, they put their lives on the line every single day. And every time we have a community in crisis, a disaster strikes, we've got people in need. Firefighters, law enforcement officers, they run towards the danger. And so we are heartbroken about what happened. Obviously, we're prepared to provide any support we can in investigating exactly how this took place.

I think we're going to have to ask ourselves a set of broader questions about how we're handling increasingly deadly and difficult fires. Wildfires have been continually escalating at higher and higher cost, and putting more and more pressure not only on the Federal fire services, but also on State and local fire services. And we're going to have to think about what more we can do on that front. But for now, I think what we're most concerned about is how painful these losses are.

President Kikwete. The question that was directed to me: Yes, I am aware of a situation in Washington that involved one of our diplomats

who later we recalled. This incident involves a young sister of the wife of this diplomat. They took her with them to help her get education and support her—make it in life. And then I think there was a conflict within the family, and then this young lady accused the brother-in-law and the sister of using her for cheap—free, cheap labor.

The court decided on a 1 million fine, an amount which, for a Tanzanian, there is no way that he can afford to pay. See, even the President here—the President—when I retire, my retirement benefits cannot pay that, because we get far less. Then, I think there was reconsideration for this gentleman to pay \$175,000, which, as far as I know, has already been paid. So that matter has been put to rest.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 5:09 p.m. at the State House. In his remarks, the President referred to Hasheem Thabeet, center, National Basketball Association's Oklahoma City Thunder; President Muhammad Mursi of Egypt; former First Lady Laura Bush; Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany; President François Hollande of France; and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom. He also referred to Executive Order 13648, which is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume. President Kikwete referred to former Tanzanian diplomat Alan S. Mzengi, his former housekeeper Zipora Mazengo, and his wife Stella Mzengi. Reporters referred to former President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and Security Council Secretary Nikolay Platonovich Patrushev and President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia.

Statement on the Wildfires in Arizona *July 1, 2013*

Yesterday 19 firefighters were killed in the line of duty while fighting a wildfire outside Yarnell, Arizona. They were heroes: highly skilled professionals who, like so many across our country do every day, selflessly put themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and property of fellow citizens they would never meet. In recent days, hundreds of firefighters have battled extremely dangerous

blazes across Arizona and the Southwest. The Federal Government is already assisting, and we will remain in close contact with State and local officials to provide the support they need. But today Michelle and I join all Americans in sending our thoughts and prayers to the families of these brave firefighters and all whose lives have been upended by this terrible tragedy.