

sion about any executive actions that I might take.

I will repeat what I have said before: There is a very simple solution to this perception that somehow I'm exercising too much executive authority. Pass a bill I can sign on this issue. If Congress passes a law that solves our border problems, improves our legal immigration system, and provides a pathway for the 11 million people who are here, working in our kitchens, working in farms, making beds in hotels—everybody knows they're there; we're not going to deport all of them; we'd like to see them being able, out in the open, to pay their taxes, pay a penalty, get right with the law—give me a bill that addresses those issues, I'll be the first one to sign it, and metaphorically, I'll crumple up whatever executive actions that we take and we'll toss them in the wastebasket, because we will now have a law that addresses these issues.

Q. But in those 5 months, sir, since you have said you were going to act, have you received

the legal advice from the Attorney General about what limits you have—

*The President.* Yes.

Q. —and what you can do?

*The President.* Yes.

Q. And would you tell us what those are?

*The President.* No. [*Laughter*] I will tell them when I make the announcement. But it was—it's a good try though. That was a good angle. [*Laughter*] Jim and I go way back, although he actually—he was famous, I was not. He used to be a broadcaster in Chicago, so I used to watch him on TV. You've aged a little better than I have. [*Laughter*] Yes.

All right. People of Australia, thank you again for your wonderful hospitality.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 4:19 p.m. at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. In his remarks, the President referred to Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, USA, commander, U.S. Central Command.

## Statement on the Death of Abdul-Rahman Kassig *November 16, 2014*

Today we offer our prayers and condolences to the parents and family of Abdul-Rahman Kassig, also known to us as Peter. We cannot begin to imagine their anguish at this painful time.

Abdul-Rahman was taken from us in an act of pure evil by a terrorist group that the world rightly associates with inhumanity. Like Jim Foley and Steven Sotloff before him, his life and deeds stand in stark contrast to everything that ISIL represents. While ISIL revels in the slaughter of innocents, including Muslims, and is bent only on sowing death and destruction, Abdul-Rahman was a humanitarian who worked to save the lives of Syrians injured and dispossessed by the Syrian conflict. While ISIL exploits the tragedy in Syria to advance their own selfish aims, Abdul-Rahman was so moved by the anguish and suffering of Syrian civilians that he traveled to Lebanon to work in a hospital treating refugees. Later, he established an aid group, SERA, to provide assistance to Syri-

an refugees and displaced persons in Lebanon and Syria. These were the selfless acts of an individual who cared deeply about the plight of the Syrian people.

ISIL's actions represent no faith, least of all the Muslim faith, which Abdul-Rahman adopted as his own. Today we grieve together, yet we also recall that the indomitable spirit of goodness and perseverance that burned so brightly in Abdul-Rahman Kassig, and which binds humanity together, ultimately is the light that will prevail over the darkness of ISIL.

NOTE: The statement referred to Edward and Paula Kassig, adoptive parents of Mr. Kassig; Rhonda Schwindt, his biological mother; and James W. Foley and Steven Sotloff, freelance journalists who were killed by members of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization on August 19 and September 2, respectively.