

are little girls and boys like that all around the world; and us helping to address economic and political grievances that can be exploited by extremists and empowering local communities; and us staying true to our values as a diverse and tolerant society even when we're threatened—especially when we're threatened.

There will be a military component to this. There are savage cruelties going on out there that have to be stopped. ISIL is killing Muslims at a rate that is many multiples the rate that they're killing non-Muslims. Everybody has a stake in stopping them, and there will be an element of us just stopping them in their tracks with force. But to eliminate the soil out of which they grew, to make sure that we are giving a brighter future to everyone and a lasting sense of security, then we're going to have to make it clear to all of our children—including that little girl in fifth grade—that you have a place. You have a place here in America. You have a place in those countries where you live. You have a future.

Ultimately, those are the antidotes to violent extremism. And that's work that we're going to have to do together. It will take time. This is a generational challenge. But after 238 years, it should be obvious: America has overcome much bigger challenges, and we'll overcome the ones that we face today. We will stay united and committed to the ideals that have shaped us for more than two centuries, including the opportunity and justice and dignity of every single human being.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:20 p.m. in the South Court Auditorium of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Lisa O. Monaco; and Yusef Mohammad Abu-Salha, Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, and Deah Shaddy Barakat, who were killed in Chapel Hill, NC, on February 10. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.

## Statement on the Observance of Ash Wednesday *February 18, 2015*

Today Michelle and I join our fellow Christians across the country and around the world in marking Ash Wednesday. Lent is a season of sacrifice and preparation, repentance and renewal. Through reflection on the teachings that

guide us, we reaffirm our commitment to God and one another, and we remember those who are suffering, including those persecuted for their faith. We join millions in deepening our faith as we look toward the Easter celebration.

## Remarks at the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism *February 19, 2015*

Thank you very much. Thank you, John. Good morning, everyone. I want to thank John Kerry, not only for his introduction, but for the outstanding leadership of American diplomacy. John is tireless. If he has not visited your country yet, he will soon. And I want to thank you and everybody here at the State Department for organizing and hosting this ministerial here today.

Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished guests, we are joined by representatives from govern-

ments because we all have a responsibility to ensure the security, the prosperity, and the human rights of our citizens. And we're joined by leaders of civil society, including many faith leaders, because civil society, reflecting the views and the voices of citizens, is vital to the success of any country. I thank all of you, and I welcome all of you.

We come together from more than 60 countries from every continent. We speak different