

Secretary Kerry is leading an international effort to bring the Syrian war to an end, a critical piece of restoring stability to that war-torn part of the world. And next week, dozens of world leaders will come here to Washington for a summit focused on nuclear security. We'll use that opportunity to also review our joint efforts against ISIL and to make sure the world remains united in this effort to protect our people.

As we move forward in this fight, we have to wield another weapon alongside our airstrikes, our military, our counterterrorism work, and our diplomacy. And that's the power of our example: our openness to refugees fleeing ISIL's violence; our determination to win the battle against ISIL's hateful and violent propaganda, a distorted view of Islam that aims to radicalize young Muslims to their cause. In that effort, our most important partners are American Muslims. That's why we have to reject any attempt to stigmatize Muslim Americans and their enormous contributions to our country and our way of life. Such attempts are contrary to our character, to our values, and to our history as a nation built around the idea of religious freedom. It's also counterproductive. It plays right into the hands of terrorists who want to turn us against one another; who need a reason to recruit more people to their hateful cause.

I'm a father. And just like any other parent, the awful images from Brussels draw my

thoughts to my own children's safety. That's also why you should be confident that defeating ISIL remains our top military, intelligence, and national security priority.

We will succeed. The terrorists will fail. They want us to abandon our values and our way of life. We will not. They want us to give in to their vision of the future. We will defeat them with ours. Because we know that the future belongs not to those who seek only to destroy, but to those who have the courage to build.

Thanks.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 1:45 p.m. on March 25 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast on March 26. In the address, the President referred to Justin and Stephanie Shults, U.S. citizens who were killed in the terrorist bombing at the Brussels Airport in Brussels, Belgium, on March 22; Prime Minister Charles Yvon Michel of Belgium; and Abd al-Rahman Mustafa al-Qaduli, also known as Haji Imam, an Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization leader who was killed in a U.S. airstrike. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 25, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on March 26. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the White House Easter Egg Roll March 28, 2016

The President. How's everybody doing today? Happy Easter!

Audience members. Happy Easter!

The President. You guys brought the sun out, so we appreciate that so much. This is always one of our favorite events of the year. It's so much fun. And I don't want to talk too long, but I do want to make sure that everybody thanks our outstanding Marine Band, who does such a great job. I want to thank all the volunteers who have helped to make this day possible. Give them a huge round of applause.

And I want to thank the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama!

The First Lady. Yay! Thank you, honey.

The President. Thank you.

The First Lady. Here, you take Sunny. Hi, everybody! Happy Easter Egg Roll day! Are you all having a good time?

Audience members. Yeah!

The First Lady. It is going to be perfect weather. The sun is coming out, which is always a great omen for the day. We're just thrilled to have you all here. Today is a little bit

bittersweet for us, because this is the Obama administration's last Easter Egg Roll.

Audience members. Aww.

The First Lady. Yes. And if we think about what we've accomplished over these past 7 years, it's pretty incredible. Because when Barack and I first got here, one of the goals that we had was to open up the White House to as many people from as many backgrounds as possible: to open it up to our kids, to our musicians, to explore our culture, to expose families to healthy living, and to just have a lot of fun.

The President. And our military families.

The First Lady. And also to our military families. I've got the peanut crew back here reminding me of stuff. But we can't forget all of our military families, who we love, honor, and respect for their service and sacrifice.

And since we started having Easter Egg Rolls, we've had more than 250,000 people come to this lawn every year. It's been amazing. Today we're going to have 35,000 people who will come in and out of the South Lawn over the course of the day. And we couldn't be more excited for this last Easter Egg Roll. We have danced. We have done yoga. We've got our SoulCyclers here. We've got some tremendous athletes and entertainers and artists who are going to read and play games with you all. We've got a little "whip" and a little "nae nae"—or however you do it. [*Laughter*] Something like that.

So we just want you to have fun. And the theme this year in our final year is pretty simple. It's "Let's celebrate." Let's celebrate all the good work that we've done, all the great messaging we've had, all the amazing change that we've seen in this country. And we want to celebrate our families. We want to celebrate our Nation, everything that makes us strong. It's our diversity, it's our values. That's what makes us strong.

And me and this President, we have been honored to be here as your President and First Lady, to be able to host you in our backyard every single year. So I hope you guys have a terrific time. We're going to be out there doing a little egg-rolling. We're going to have a fun-run today. I'm going to be running around the White House with a bunch of kids, so I hope—and any adults who feel like they can hang. [*Laughter*] You guys can run along with me. Don't feel shy.

So just have a good time. And just know that we love you. We love you all, and we're grateful for the love and support that you've shown us all these years. So thank you all.

The President. Happy Easter, everybody!

The First Lady. Happy Easter! Let's celebrate!

The President. Hey!

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:41 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks at the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting Ceremony March 28, 2016

Well, good evening, everybody. And thank you, Chancellor Syverud, for those wonderful remarks and reminding me of how badly my bracket is doing. [*Laughter*] Congratulations, Syracuse. You guys are doing great. I want to thank Robin's wonderful husband Peter and their incredible kids Jake and Nora for organizing this annual tribute to her memory. And I want to thank all of you for having me here this evening.

A Washington press dinner usually means ill-fitting tuxes, celebrity sightings, and bad

jokes. So this is refreshing. And it is a great honor to be here to celebrate the 2015 Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting. Now, in this political season, it is worth reflecting on the kind of journalism Robin practiced and the kind of journalism this prize rewards.

A reporter's reporter, that was Robin. From her first job at the Charleston Daily Mail to her tenure as the New York Times national political correspondent—the first woman to hold that position—she always saw herself as being a servant for the American public. She had a