

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations have reached such scope and gravity that they threaten the stability of international political and economic systems. Such organizations are becoming increasingly sophisticated and dangerous to the United States; they are increasingly entrenched in the operations of foreign governments and the international financial system, thereby weakening democratic institutions, degrading the rule of law, and undermining economic markets. These organizations facilitate and aggravate violent civil conflicts and increasingly facilitate the activities of other dangerous persons.

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations continue to pose an un-

usual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13581 with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks Honoring the 2015 World Series Champion Kansas City Royals July 21, 2016

*The President.* Thank you. Everybody, have a seat. Have a seat. Well, welcome to the White House, everybody. Let's give it up for the World Series Champions, the Kansas City Royals! I know many of you've been waiting a long time to hear this, so I'll say it again: the World Series Champion Kansas City Royals!

As you can tell, we've got quite a few Royals fans in the house, including some Members of Congress. I see some members of my Cabinet—[laughter]—as well as former Cabinet members. We're also proud to be joined by a true American patriot, a World War II veteran, and one of the finest public servants America has ever known, Senator Bob Dole. There you go.

I also want to recognize the Kansas City mayors from both sides of the border: Sly James—there he is—and Mark Holland. More importantly, Mark's son, Luke, shortstop on—what's the name of your team?

*Luke Holland, son of Mayor Mark R. Holland of Kansas City, KS.* The Braves.

*The President.* The Braves? Not the Atlanta Braves. [Laughter] Just want to be clear. But he's a shortstop. He—Skip, you may want to check out what he's got.

We're proud to have Royals owner David Glass and team president Dan Glass here. Give

them a big round of applause. We've got General Manager Dayton Moore here. Two of the greatest Royals of all time, George Brett and Frank White. And the winningest manager in Royals history, give it up for Ned Yost!

Now, I'm not sure if anybody is aware of this, but my Press Secretary happens to be a Royals fan. [Laughter] Where's Josh? Yes, I know. There he is right in the front row. [Laughter] If you asked Josh to choose the best day of his life, I'm pretty sure he'd say his wedding day and the birth of his son. But this is close. [Laughter] It's really close. I notice he has his son here, training him—even though he's more interested right now in sucking his thumb—to be a proper Royals fan.

And let's face it, it's been a long road for Royals fans. There were some dark years, some tough decades. But that started to change when Dayton came to town in 2006. He coupled some of baseball's sharpest analytics minds with Ned's managerial style, which has produced a lot of wins, not to mention his own Twitter hashtag: hashtag #Yosted. [Laughter] All of which has combined to create one of the grittiest, most complete teams we've seen in a long time.

You've got an offense led by homegrown guys like Alex "Gordo" Gordon and Mike "Moose" Moustakas. Eric "Hoz" Hosmer. World [Series]<sup>o</sup> MVP Salvador "Salvy" Pérez. These guys are all great players. Can I say, though, the nicknames aren't that creative. [Laughter] You know, it's like, Barack "Barack" Obama. [Laughter] You know? I mean, listen to this—Hoz, Moose, Gordo, you know. [Laughter] We're going to have to work on these. [Laughter]

Also, lights-out bullpen with relievers like Wade Davis and Kelvin Herrera. You've got a speedy, athletic defense led by Alcides Escobar and Lorenzo Cain, who couldn't make it today.

*Audience members.* Aww.

*The President.* Aww.

At the plate, you've got guys who hardly ever strike out. They've been called basically the best contact team ever. So fast, once they're on base, they're able to squeeze out extra runs because as—I love this quote—as Jarrod Dyson puts it, "That's what speed do." That's what speed do. That was a good quote. [Laughter] That's what speed do.

And then, somehow, they find the time still to sneak Fetty Wap references into their press conferences. [Laughter] Josh, you haven't done that, have you?

*White House Press Secretary Joshua R. Earnest.* No, I have not.

*The President.* Good, okay. [Laughter]

So you can see why Royals fans love this team so much. And I mean love this team. Eight hundred thousand people at a parade. That's like—[applause]. Last year, fans swamped the All-Star balloting process to the point that it looked like the entire starting lineup was going to be Royals. And as a Chicago guy, I appreciate that. Vote early, vote often. [Laughter] So that was good.

So, together, you guys have been on quite a ride. For two seasons, every playoff game seems like it's been a white-knuckle game: wild comeback against the A's 2 years ago; the rally in game 7 against the Giants that came up 90

feet short; last year, coming back from the Astros; down three against the Blue Jays; down in each of their World Series wins against the Mets. In all, they have had eight comeback wins in the playoffs, which is a Major League record.

And that includes game 5 of the World Series, ninth inning comeback capped by Hoz's gutsy dash home on an infield grounder. And then, in the 12th, in his first at bat of last year's postseason, Christian Colón clinched the Series with a pinch-hit, go-ahead single that opened up the floodgates.

And I think Christian's play—somebody who hadn't been used a lot, then suddenly coming up big when the moment arrived for him—that's exactly the "keep the line moving" mentality that's defined this team. Guys aren't in it for themselves; they're in it for each other, both on and off the diamond.

This spring, the Royals broke ground on their Urban Youth Academy in Kansas City, a place for young people to not only steer clear of drugs and gangs, but to also learn skills that can lead to a better future. And that means not just playing baseball, but learning about advanced stats and broadcasting and sports writing and having access to tutoring and internships, college prep, financial literacy courses. This is in keeping with the kind of efforts that we've been promoting with "My Brother's Keeper." And I just to want recognize Royals ownership as well as players—Gordy, Hoz, Salvy, Moose, Chris Young—who have donated millions of dollars toward supporting Kansas City's young people. They deserve a big round of applause for that. So—[applause].

And what's great is, the Academy is built right next to the Negro League Museum, so you can see the link between Jackie Robinson and Satchel Paige and to Frank White to George Brett, to Salvador Pérez and Alex Gordon and the next generation of Kansas City baseball stars. And you see that continuity and understand how central this game is to America.

So I want to thank this group for not only writing the current chapter, but hopefully,

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<sup>o</sup> White House correction.

writing the next chapter of our national pastime, the great game of baseball.

Give it up one last time for the world champ Kansas City Royals.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Sen. Robert J. Dole; Mayor Sylvester James, Jr., of Kansas City, MO; George Brett, former third baseman, Frank White, former second base-

man, Alex J. Gordon, left fielder, Michael C. Moustakas, third baseman, Eric J. Hosmer, first baseman, Salvador Pérez, catcher, Wade A. Davis, Kelvin Herrera, and Christopher R. Young, pitchers, Alcides Escobar, shortstop, Lorenzo L. Cain, centerfielder, Jarrod M. Dyson, right fielder, and Christian A. Colón, second baseman, Kansas City Royals; Walker Earnest, son of Press Secretary Earnest; and musician Willie “Fetty Wap” Maxwell II.

## Remarks at an Eid al-Fitr Reception July 21, 2016

*The President.* Hello, everybody. Well, *Eid Mubarak*.

*Audience members.* *Eid Mubarak*.

*The President.* Can everybody please give Aisha a big round of applause? It was such a kind introduction. I want to thank her for her eloquent letter and speaking out not just for herself, but on behalf of Muslim Americans everywhere. She was a little nervous when she came out, and she did great. So I was nervous the first time I did this—[laughter]—but I have to admit, I’ve done this a while now.

I want to thank Raahima for sharing words from the Holy Koran. I want to welcome to the White House everybody who is here.

For the past 7 years, we’ve held our annual iftar dinner. Some of you have joined us on those occasions. This year, for my last year as President, I wanted to do something a little bit different, and I’m very proud to host this Eid celebration at the White House. I want give some particular thanks to our White House liaison to the Muslim American community, Zaki Barzinji, for his great work on our event. And we’re joined by so many proud and patriotic Muslim Americans from across the country and from all walks of life.

This Ramadan, we said goodbye to somebody who was not only a friend to many here, a great American, of—somebody who I had the great honor to know—the Greatest, the Champ, Muhammad Ali. And as proud of his Blackness as he was of his faith, the Champ taught us that the most important thing in life

is to be ourselves. And so today we are especially honored to be joined by his wonderful wife Lonnie and six of his children. So please give them a big round of applause.

So we’re coming together to celebrate Eid and the blessings of another holy month of Ramadan. I know we are a little late this year. [Laughter] The advantage is that you’re not as hungry as you were a couple of weeks ago. [Laughter] But our celebration is just as festive; the food is just as good.

For Muslims across the United States and around the world, this is a time of spiritual renewal, a time to reaffirm your duty to serve one another, especially the least fortunate among us. And it’s a time to reflect on the values that guide you in your faith: gratitude, compassion, and generosity. And it’s a reminder that those values of Islam, which comes from the word *salaam*, meaning peace, are universal. They bind us all, regardless of our race or religion or creed, in a common purpose, and that is in our shared commitment to the dignity of every human being.

Today is also another reminder that Muslims have always been a part of America. In colonial times, many of the slaves brought over from Africa were Muslim. We insisted on freedom of religion, in Thomas Jefferson’s words, “for the Jew and Gentile, the Christian and the Mahometan.” [Laughter] For more than two centuries, Muslim Americans of all backgrounds—Arab and Asian, African and Latino, Black and White—have helped build America