

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Termination of the Emergency With Respect to the Actions and Policies of the Government of Burma October 7, 2016

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Consistent with subsection 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the “order”) that terminates the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997, and revokes that order, Executive Order 13310 of July 28, 2003, Executive Order 13448 of October 18, 2007, Executive Order 13464 of April 30, 2008, Executive Order 13619 of July 11, 2012, and Executive Order 13651 of August 6, 2013.

The President issued Executive Order 13047 to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, in response to a deepening pattern of severe repression by the State Law and Order Restoration Council, the then-governing regime in Burma. In Executive Order 13047, the President also determined and certified that, for purposes of section 570(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208), the Government of Burma had committed large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma after September 30, 1996, and imposed a prohibition on new investment in Burma. The scope of the national emergency with respect to Burma was modified and additional steps were taken to respond to the threat posed by the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, and further actions were taken under Burma sanctions statutes, namely the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–61) and the Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE (Junta’s Anti-Democratic Efforts) Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–286) (the “JADE Act”), in Executive Orders 13310, 13448, 13464, 13619, and 13651.

In the order, I have determined that the situation that gave rise to the national emergency

with respect to Burma has been significantly altered by Burma’s substantial advances to promote democracy, including historic elections in November 2015 that resulted in the former opposition party, the National League for Democracy, winning a majority of seats in the national parliament and the formation of a democratically elected, civilian-led government; the release of many political prisoners; and greater enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and freedom of association and peaceful assembly. With these advancements, U.S. national security and foreign policy interests no longer support the blocking of assets and other measures imposed by Executive Orders 13047, 13310, 13448, 13464, 13619, and 13651. For these reasons I have determined that it is necessary to terminate the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13047 and to revoke that order, and Executive Orders 13310, 13448, 13464, 13619, and 13651. While Burma faces significant challenges, including the consolidation of its democracy, the United States can, and intends to, use other means to support the government and people of Burma in their efforts to address these challenges.

I hereby report to the Congress that, pursuant to section 5(i) of the JADE Act, I have determined and certify that it is in the national interest of the United States to waive, and have waived, the sanctions described in section 5(b) of the JADE Act.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

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 Executive order is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## The President's Weekly Address

October 8, 2016

Hi, everybody. Eight years ago, we were in the early stages of what would become the worst economic crisis of our lifetimes. It was a scary time. We didn't even know where the bottom would be.

But thanks to your hard work and your determination and some smart decisions we made, today's a different story. We turned a recession into a record streak of job growth, creating more than 15 million new private sector jobs and cutting the unemployment rate in half.

Getting wages to rise again was a harder task. Even before the recession, working Americans faced decades of slow wage growth. Between 1980 and 2007, real wages barely grew each year. But because the policies we've put in place are working, working families are finally seeing their wages and incomes rise too. Since 2012, wages have grown around 20 times faster than they did over the almost three decades between 1980 and 2007.

Last year, folks' typical household income rose by \$2,800. That's the single biggest increase on record. And across every race and age group in America, incomes rose, and poverty rates fell. We lifted 3.5 million people out of poverty, the largest 1-year drop in the poverty rate since 1968.

What's more, lower- and middle-income families saw the biggest boost in incomes, in part because 18 States and the District, as well as more than 50 communities, have given millions of Americans a raise by raising the minimum wage. And States that have raised their minimum wage have seen stronger earnings

growth in low-wage jobs compared to States that have not.

Strengthening benefits at work helps too. Last week, for example, I took action to make sure up to 1 million more workers can earn 7 days of paid sick leave on the job. We're also helping States expand opportunities for workers to save for retirement. But there's a lot more we should do to strengthen the middle class and help more Americans get ahead: making childcare more affordable, for example; making sure women earn equal pay for equal work; guaranteeing paid family and sick leave; increasing the Federal minimum wage; preparing workers for the jobs of the future; and closing tax loopholes that benefit just the wealthy and big corporations.

Now we just need a Congress that cares about these issues, one that will finally put politics aside and act on these commonsense ideas. And that's how we'll build on the progress we've made over these past 8 years and achieve one thing we should all agree on: securing a brighter future for all of our children.

Thanks, everybody, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 3:50 p.m. on October 6 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on October 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 7, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on October 8. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate L. Tammy Duckworth in Chicago, Illinois

October 9, 2016

*The President.* Hello, Chicago! It's good to be home. Welcome to the South Side. South Side! And it is always good to be friends—to be with friends with so many people here who, as

I look out across the room, have been there from the start, have been there from the beginning. And so Michelle wants me to say hello. She loves you. It was great to be in our house,