

And that's what I take away from the lives of these outstanding men. The pain we feel may not soon pass, but my faith tells me that they did not die in vain. I believe our sorrow can make us a better country. I believe our righteous anger can be transformed into more justice and more peace. Weeping may endure for a night, but I'm convinced joy comes in the morning. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Officers Zamarripa and Ahrens, Krol, Smith, and Thompson, but surely we can try to match their sense of service. We cannot match their courage, but we can strive to match their devotion.

May God bless their memory. May God bless this country that we love.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:46 p.m. at Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. In his remarks, he referred to former President George W. Bush and former First Lady Laura Bush; Chief James Spiller of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police; Chief David O. Brown of the Dallas Police Department, who introduced the President; musician Stevie Wonder; Officers Lorne Ahrens, Michael Krol, Michael J. Smith, and Patrick Zamarripa, Dallas Police Department, and Ofc. Brent Thompson, Dal-

las Area Rapid Transit Police, who were killed in the shooting at a public demonstration in Dallas, TX, on July 7; Dallas Police Department Detective Katrina Ahrens, wife of Ofc. Ahrens, their children Sorcha and Magus, and her mother Karen Buckingham; Dallas, TX, resident Bill Connor; Susan Ehlke, mother, and Marie Tijerina, girlfriend, of Ofc. Krol; Caroline and Victoria Smith, children of Ofc. Smith; Lincoln and Dylan Zamarripa, children, and Kristy Villaseñor, wife, of Ofc. Zamarripa; Ofc. Emily Thompson, Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police, wife of Ofc. Thompson; Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, who were killed by police officers in Baton Rouge, LA, on July 5 and Falcon Heights, MN, on July 6, respectively; Maj. Lonzo Anderson, Jr., and Maj. Paul Junger, Dallas Police Department; Garland, TX, resident Shetamia Taylor, who was injured in the July 7 shooting, and her sons Kavion and Jajuan Washington, Jermar Taylor, and Andrew Humphrey; Micah Xavier Johnson, suspected gunman in the July 7 shooting; and Dylann S. Roof, accused gunman in the shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC, on June 17, 2015. The related proclamation of July 8 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of United States Armed Forces Personnel to South South Sudan

July 13, 2016

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Mr. President:)

In response to the deteriorating security situation in South Sudan, I have ordered the deployment of additional U.S. Armed Forces personnel to South Sudan to support the security of U.S. personnel, and our Embassy in Juba. The first of these additional personnel, approximately 47 individuals, arrived in South Sudan on July 12, 2016, supported by military aircraft. Although equipped for combat, these additional personnel are deployed for the purpose of protecting U.S. citizens and property. These deployed personnel will remain in South Sudan until the security situation becomes

such that their presence is no longer needed. Additional U.S. Armed Forces, including approximately 130 military personnel currently pre-positioned in Djibouti, are prepared to provide support, as necessary, for the security of U.S. citizens and property, including our Embassy, in South Sudan.

I have directed this action consistent with my responsibility to protect U.S. citizens both at home and abroad, and in furtherance of U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93–148). I appreciate the support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Orrin G. Hatch, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Remarks Following a Meeting on Community Policing and Criminal Justice Reform

July 13, 2016

The President. Well, we have had an excellent conversation. This group in part represents the 21st-Century Policing Task Force that I put together after Ferguson in order for us to find constructive steps that we could take that law enforcement and communities could get behind in order to make sure that we're keeping our streets safe and we are protecting and supporting police officers who are doing a very difficult job, and we can make sure that our communities are being treated fairly and that people have confidence that the law applies to everybody equally.

Thanks to Laurie Robinson and Charles Ramsey and the members of that Task Force, we came up with a set of recommendations. And the good news is, is that over the last several months since the report was issued, we have seen a lot of law enforcement officers, a lot of chiefs, a lot of departments begin to examine these recommendations and figure out how they can implement them. We've seen real progress with respect to data gathering. We've seen real progress with respect to training. We've seen progress with respect to transparency and outreach to communities.

The bad news is, as we saw so painfully this week, that this is a really hard job. We're not there yet. We're not even close to being there yet: where we want to be. We're not at a point yet where communities of color feel confident that their police departments are serving them with dignity and respect and equality. And we're not at the point yet where police departments feel adequately supported at all levels.

So what we've done here is to build off the Task Force report and find out what's working,

what's not, and what more do we have to do in order to bring the country and communities around the country together and make more progress on this front.

And I'll just characterize a couple of things that have been identified. And I want to emphasize that there's still a diversity of views around this table. That was by design. We have police chiefs and representatives of rank-and-file law enforcement. We've got people who have been protesting just this week. And we have sociologists, civil rights attorneys, Governors, State legislatures. So, as you might expect, not everybody agrees on everything. But here are the buckets of issues that everybody identified as worthy of more work, more study, and ultimately, more action.

Number one, we're going to have to do more work together in thinking about how we can build confidence that after police officers have used force, and particularly deadly force, that there is confidence in how the investigation takes place and that justice is done.

Now, that's a complicated piece of work, but it's going to involve engaging with police departments and States' attorneys, as well as communities themselves, and potentially shaping a set of best practices that ensure when something happens that people feel like it's being investigated effectively and fairly both for the police officer, but also for the families of those who've been affected. And so one of our charges, I think, is to try to find effective ways to do that.

Second is continuing work on working with police departments around training, which we emphasized in the initial Task Force, but also