

June 2013



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*Highlight of the Month—LGBT Pride*

Human rights are inalienable and belong to every person, no matter who that person is or whom that person loves. Since January 2009, Secretary Clinton has directed the Department to champion a comprehensive human rights agenda — one that includes the protection of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

The Department uses its full range of diplomatic and development tools to press for the elimination of violence and discrimination against LGBT people worldwide, particularly those forced to flee their homes or countries. The Department continues to counter efforts globally that discriminate against,

criminalize, and penalize members of the LGBT community.

The United States recognizes the unflagging efforts and courage of advocates and organizations fighting to promote equality and justice around the world, especially in countries where doing so puts their lives and their families at risk. At the same time, U.S. personnel policies must protect the human rights of all LGBT people, and consular and other tools must be used to provide equal access and equal rights to LGBT people.

U.S. leadership on advancing human rights for LGBT people is consistent with the Obama Administration’s policy of principled engagement with the

world and our commitment to uphold universal standards that apply to everyone. By supporting the inherent dignity of each person we help to foster a just world for all people and we lead by example, enhancing U.S. strategic interests as we advance our values.

**Resources**

**Article:** [New Partnership to Speed Progress on LGBT Rights](#)

**Websites**

- [Council for Global Equality](#)
- [State Department Global Equality Fund](#)
- [Campus Pride](#)



31 May 2013

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA  
A PROCLAMATION

For more than two centuries, our Nation has struggled to transform the ideals of liberty and equality from founding promise into lasting reality. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans and their allies have been hard at work on the next great chapter of that history -- from the patrons of The Stonewall Inn who sparked a movement to service members who can finally be honest about who they love to brave young people who come out and speak out every day.

This year, we celebrate LGBT Pride Month at a moment of great hope and progress, recognizing that more needs to be done. Support for LGBT equality is growing, led by a

*From the President  
Proclamation on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride  
Month, 2013*

generation which understands that, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." In the past year, for the first time, voters in multiple States affirmed marriage equality for same-sex couples. State and local governments have taken important steps to provide much-needed protections for transgender Americans.

My Administration is a proud partner in the journey toward LGBT equality. We extended hate crimes protections to include attacks based on sexual orientation or gender identity and repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." We lifted the HIV entry ban and ensured hospital visitation rights for LGBT patients. Together, we have investigated and addressed pervasive bullying faced by LGBT students, prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Federal housing, and extended benefits for same-sex domestic partners. Earlier this year, I signed a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that prohibits dis-

crimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in the implementation of any VAWA-funded program. And because LGBT rights are human rights, my Administration is implementing the first-ever Federal strategy to advance equality for LGBT people around the world.

We have witnessed real and lasting change, but our work is not complete. I continue to support a fully inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, as well as the Respect for Marriage Act. My Administration continues to implement the Affordable Care Act, which beginning in 2014, prohibits insurers from denying coverage to consumers based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, which addresses the disparate impact of the HIV epidemic among certain LGBT sub-communities. We have a long way to go, but if we continue on this path together, I am confident too that one day soon, from coast to coast, all of our

young people will look to the future with the same sense of promise and possibility. I am confident because I have seen the talent, passion, and commitment of LGBT advocates and their allies, and I know that when voices are joined in common purpose, they cannot be stopped.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2013 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

## *E-Publication: Cricket in America*

If you had to guess which country hosted the first-ever international cricket match, the United States of America might not be your first answer. But it is widely recognized to have done just that in September 1844, when teams from

the United States and Canada played each other at Bloomingdale Park in Manhattan. Canada won the two-day match by 23 runs. The contest is regarded as the first international cricket match and the world's oldest international sporting contest.

[Download pamphlet](#)



Embassy of the United States of America

**Cricket in the USA**

By Brian Margotroyd



**I**f you had to guess which country hosted the first-ever international cricket match, the United States of America might not be your first answer. But it is widely recognized to have done just that in September 1844, when teams from the United States and Canada played each other at Bloomingdale Park in Manhattan. Canada won the two-day match by 23 runs. The contest is regarded as the first international cricket match and the world's oldest international sporting contest.

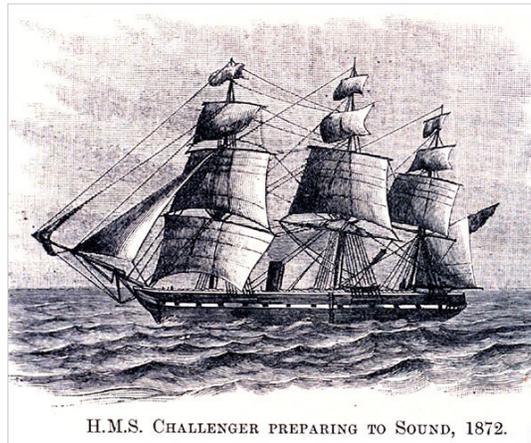
Since the mid-19th century, cricket has slipped from being a mainstream sport in the United States. Baseball overtook cricket as the country's summer sport of choice, thanks to baseball's simplicity — cricket requires a specially prepared pitch, among other things — and the fact that America could claim it as its own. It didn't help that the Imperial Cricket Conferences, when it formed in 1909, denied membership to the United States since it was not part of the British Empire.

But cricket has a special place in U.S. history. The game was so well known in the early days of the American republic that the second U.S. president, John Adams, equated his disapproval of an ordinary title as "president" for the head of state by noting that there are "presidents of fire companies and cricket clubs."

## *In Brief: Century-Old Science Helps Confirm Global Warming*

A new NASA and University of Tasmania study combined 135-plus-year-old measurements by the HMS Challenger (shown in the drawing above) of ocean temperatures with modern observations to get a picture of how the world's ocean has changed since the Challenger's voyage. The research reveals that warming of Earth can be clearly detected since 1873, with the ocean absorbing the majority of the heat.

The Royal Society of London's Challenger expedition, from 1872 to 1876, was the first global scientific survey of life beneath



H.M.S. CHALLENGER PREPARING TO SOUND, 1872.

the ocean surface. Scientists also measured ocean temperatures, lowering thermometers hundreds of meters deep on ropes.

"Our research revealed warming of the planet can be clearly detected since 1873 and that our oceans continue to absorb the great majority of this heat," said lead author Will Hobbs

of the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies and the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science.

The Challenger expedition measurements also revealed that thermal expansion of sea

water caused by global warming contributed about 40 percent of the total sea level rise seen in tide gauges from 1873 to 1955.

The remaining 60 percent was likely to have come from the melting of ice sheets and glaciers, NASA said. Prior to this research, climate models offered the only way to estimate the change before the 1950s.

More information is available on the [University of Tasmania](#) website.

30 May 2013

The full text of the U.S. Department of State's 2012 Country Report on Terrorism is available [here](#).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson  
May 30, 2013

FACT SHEET

### **Country Reports on Terrorism 2012**

On May 30, 2013, the State Department submitted Country Reports on Terrorism 2012 to the U.S. Congress as required by law. This report, available on [www.state.gov/j/ct](http://www.state.gov/j/ct), provides the Department of State's annual assessment of trends and events in international terrorism that occurred from January 1 to December 31, 2012. It includes a strategic assessment, country-by-country breakdowns of counterterrorism efforts, and sections on state sponsors of terrorism, terrorist safe havens, and foreign terrorist organizations.

The 2012 report marks the first year the statistical annex was prepared by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland. As a result of differences in data collection methodology with prior versions of the annex prepared by the National Counterterrorism Center, the

### *Special Article*

## *Facts on State Department's Country Reports on Terrorism 2012*

statistics in this report are not directly comparable with data from previous reports.

The following were among the most noteworthy counterterrorism developments in 2012:

A marked resurgence of Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism, through its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF), its Ministry of Intelligence and Security, and Tehran's ally Hizballah was noted. Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism and Hizballah's terrorist activity have reached a tempo unseen since the 1990s, with attacks plotted in Southeast Asia, Europe, and Africa. Both Iran and Hizballah also continued to provide a broad range of support to the Asad regime, as it continues its brutal crackdown against the Syrian people.

The al-Qa'ida (AQ) core in Pakistan continued to weaken. As a result of leadership losses, the AQ core's ability to direct activities and attacks has diminished, as its leaders focus increasingly on survival.

Tumultuous events in the Middle East and North Africa have complicated the counterterrorism picture. The AQ core is on a path to defeat, and its two most dangerous affiliates have suffered signifi-

cant setbacks: Yemen, with the help of armed residents, regained government control over territory in the south that AQAP has seized and occupied since 2011; also, Somali National Forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia expelled al-Shabaab from major cities in southern Somalia. Despite these gains, however, recent events in the region have complicated the counterterrorism picture. The dispersal of weapons stocks in the wake of the revolution in Libya, the Tuareg rebellion, and the coup d'état in Mali presented terrorists with new opportunities. The actions of France and African countries, however, in conjunction with both short-term U.S. support to the African-led International Support Mission in Mali and the long-term efforts of the United States via the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, have done much to roll back and contain the threat.

Leadership losses have driven AQ affiliates to become more independent. AQ affiliates are increasingly setting their own goals and specifying their own targets. As receiving and sending funds have become more difficult, several affiliates have increased their financial independence by engaging in kidnapping for

ransom operations and other criminal activities.

We are facing a more decentralized and geographically dispersed terrorist threat. Defeating a terrorist network requires us to work with our international partners to disrupt criminal and terrorist financial networks, strengthen rule of law institutions while respecting human rights, address recruitment, and eliminate the safe havens that protect and facilitate this activity. In the long term, we must build the capabilities of our partners and counter the ideology that continues to incite terrorist violence around the world.

Although terrorist attacks occurred in 85 different countries in 2012, they were heavily concentrated geographically. As in recent years, over half of all attacks (55%), fatalities (62%), and injuries (65%) occurred in just three countries: Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

## *E-DOCS ALERT*

- **Living in Dual Shadows: LGBT Undocumented Immigrants. Center for American Progress. Crosby Burns. March 8, 2013.**

When Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist José Antonio Vargas came out as undocumented in an essay published in The New York Times in the summer of 2011, he was "coming out" for the second time in his life. The first time occurred when Vargas raised his hand in history class during his junior year of high school after watching a documentary on Harvey Milk, the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in California, and told his classmates and teacher that he was gay. And while we've known that there are thousands of people like Vargas who are undocumented and who also identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, or LGBT, we've known little about their actual numbers or demographic characteristics. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/LGBTUndocumentedReport-5.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages, 1.09 MB].

- **International Religious Freedom Report for 2012. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State. May 20, 2013.**

"The right to religious freedom is inherent in every human being. Unfortunately, this right was challenged in myriad ways in 2012. One of the basic elements of the International Religious Freedom Act is the requirement that the Department of State publish an annual report on the status of religious freedom in countries around the world, and the record of governments in protecting--or not protecting--this universal right. This year's report tells stories of courage and conviction, but also recounts violence, restriction, and abuse. While many nations uphold, respect, and protect religious freedom, regrettably, in many other nations, governments do not protect this basic right; subject members of religious minorities to violence; actively restrict citizens' religious freedom through oppressive laws and regulations; stand by while members of societal groups attack their fellow citizens out of religious hatred, and fail to hold those responsible for such violence accountable for their actions. The immediate challenge is to protect members of religious minorities. The ongoing challenge is to address the root causes that lead to limits on religious freedom."

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/208324.pdf> Executive Summary [PDF format, 23 pages, 111.35 KB].

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper> [HTML format, various paging].

- **Growing Support for Gay Marriage: Changed Minds and Changing Demographics. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. March 20, 2013.**

The rise in support for same-sex marriage over the past decade is among the largest changes in opinion on any policy issue over this time period. A new national survey finds that much of the shift is attributable to the arrival of a large cohort of young adults, the Millennial generation, who are far more open to gay rights than previous generations. Equally important, however, is that 14% of all Americans, and 28% of gay marriage supporters, say they have changed their minds on this issue in favor of gay marriage. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

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<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/3-20-13%20Gay%20Marriage%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages, 628.72 KB].

- **Decision-making and Action Taking: Fisheries Management in a Changing Climate. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. David Fluharty. January 2011.**

Decision-makers in fisheries management are confronted with the challenge of how to respond to existing and predicted changes in ocean conditions that are likely to affect the stocks of fish they manage. In order to address climate change most research and thinking advises decision-makers to ensure that fisheries are well-managed and abundant in an ecosystem context. These policies can best allow fisheries to adapt to changing climate. To address climate change, decision-makers should carefully monitor changing conditions and potential changes in factors affecting fish stock abundance, according to the report. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/fulltext/5kgkhnb9gpth.pdf?expires=1295014704&id=0000&accname=guest&checksum=0BCAF2D31EA1B65369D2DD94D70E84A2> [PDF format, 31 pages].

- **Majority Now Supports Legalizing Marijuana. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. April 4, 2013.**

For the first time in more than four decades of polling on the issue, a majority of Americans favor legalizing the use of marijuana. A national survey finds that 52% say that the use of marijuana should be made legal while 45% say it should not. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/4-4-13%20Marijuana%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages, 514.52 KB].

## Events for the Month

- **World Environment Day -June 5**

World Environment Day (WED) is an annual event that is aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. WED activities take place all year round but climax on 5 June every year, involving everyone from everywhere.

[United Nations Environment Programme](#)

- **66th Anniversary of D-Day - June 6**

June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end on June 6, the Allies gained a foothold in Normandy.

- **World Oceans Day—June 8**

People around the world depend on a healthy, clean ocean in order to survive

and thrive. World Oceans Day is the official UN-designated international day of ocean celebration. On June 8th each year, we celebrate the ocean, its importance in our lives, and how we can protect it. [WorldOceansDay.org](#) aims to help you make a difference in your life, community, and world by taking action to protect our ocean—for present and future generations. The two-year theme for 2013 and 2014 is together we have the power to protect the ocean!

[External Site: World Oceans Day](#)

- **World Day Desertification and Drought - June 17**

The World Day to Combat Desertification is observed every year on 17 June all over the world. The aim of the United Nations in designating a day of observance is to sensitize the public and policy makers to the increasing dangers of desertification, land degradation and drought for the international community. The observance events are designed to get everyone to undertake at least one action that year to help minimize the threat highlighted.

- **World Refugee Day - June 20**

In 2000, a special United Nations General Assembly Resolution was unanimously adopted which designated 20 June every year as World Refugee Day. UNHCR salutes the indomitable spirit and courage of the world's refugees, giving them the encouragement, support and respect they deserve.

[Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration](#)

[UNHCR: World Refugee Day](#)  
[United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#)

- **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - June 26**

In 1987, the UN General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

Harper Lee Center

### Monthly Movie

*In the context of World Environment Day, the Harper Lee Center is pleased to present*

### **Modern Marvels: Renewable Energy**

Tuesday June 18 and Thursday June 20 at 15:00 hrs

**Modern Marvels: Renewable Energy** examines how advanced technologies are working to harness air, water, earth and fire to produce clean and reliable sources of energy.

Seats are limited!

Please sign up for one of the sessions at

[harperleecenter@gmail.com](mailto:harperleecenter@gmail.com) or

670-6733/670 4897.

#### **Harper Lee Center**

*American Corner Phone: 670 6733/670 4897*  
*1st Floor Carnegie Library Fax: 212-2808 (Embassy)*  
*Municipality of Curepipe E-mail: harperleecenter@gmail.com*



## Contact US

*Embassy of the United States of America*  
Information Resource Center  
Annick Joseph  
IRC Technician

*Phone: (230) 202 4444*

*Fax: (230) 212 2808*

*E-mail: [irc\\_portlouis@state.gov](mailto:irc_portlouis@state.gov)*

*[Embassy Website](#)*

*[Facebook](#)*