

Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the prevalence of human rights violations, including slavery, restrictions on religious freedom, and restrictions on political freedom, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on November 3, 1997, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions against Sudan to respond to this threat.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 30.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Transmitting a Report on the  
National Emergency With Respect to  
Sudan**

*October 29, 2002*

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

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 30.

**Remarks on the Judicial  
Confirmation Process**

*October 30, 2002*

Thank you all very much. Thank you, Al. He's—everybody must have a good lawyer, and I got one in Al Gonzales.

I want to welcome you all here to the White House. Thank you for coming.

The Federal courts play a central role in American justice, protecting the innocent, punishing the guilty, resolving disputes, and upholding the rule of law. Yet, today, our Federal courts are in crisis.

The judicial confirmation process does not work as it should. Nominees are too often mistreated; votes are delayed; hearings are denied. And dozens of Federal judgeships sit empty, and this endangers the quality of justice in America. Everyone knows these facts. Everyone knows the system isn't working. These concerns are not new, and we will not find a solution in an endless cycle of blame and bitterness.

Today I'm proposing a clean start for the process of nominating and confirming Federal judges. We must have an evenhanded, predictable procedure from the day a vacancy is announced to the day a new judge is sworn in. This procedure should apply now and in the future, no matter who lives in this house or who controls the Senate. We must return fairness and dignity to the judicial confirmation process.

I want to thank the Judge, Al Gonzales, for working on this initiative, and I want to thank his team for working hard. I appreciate John Ashcroft's service to our country. He is a great Attorney General, and I'm not saying that just because his wife and her twin sister are here. [*Laughter*]

I'm so pleased that Ted Olson, the Solicitor General, is with us. I thank Fred Fielding, the former counsel to President Ronald Reagan. Boyd Gray is with us, former Counsel to Number 41. Dennis Archer is with us today, president-elect of the American Bar Association and, of course, the former mayor of Detroit. Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming. Thomas Hayward, chair of the Committee of Federal Judicial Improvements for the American Bar Association, and all of you, thank you for your interest in this subject.