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For Immediate Release

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## **President Obama's Remarks about Marijuana Use and Legalization Triggered Global Stir**

(St. Petersburg, FL) Statements recently made by President Obama about marijuana use and legalization in an article published in *The New Yorker*, triggered a global stir. The International Task Force on Strategic Drug Policy, which just published a paper entitled *Colorado Consequences* that provided a global perspective on Colorado's marijuana legalization experiment, has serious concerns about President Obama's nonchalant attitude toward the drug.

"The statements made by President Obama were reckless and could encourage young people to use marijuana. The President appears ill-informed about the current science available that clearly shows the medical and social dangers of marijuana use," said David Evans, a task force member from the United States.

"The failure of the U.S. Government to prevent this dangerous move by the State of Colorado and any others that follow this shocking and irresponsible example will do widespread harm globally that could and should have been avoided. Further, Obama's statements are confusing and potentially could cause more harm than good," said Ian Oliver, a task force member from the United Kingdom.

"Barack Obama has opened the marijuana floodgates by stating that it is important for marijuana to move ahead in Colorado and Washington. It is difficult to understand why Obama urged two states to move ahead with legalization considering the fact that it is contrary to federal law. If President Obama is not prepared to uphold federal law we may expect mayhem, not only in Colorado and Washington, but also in other states presently considering legalization. Obama's views on legalization of marijuana have fuelled legalization enthusiasm among ignorant potheads as well as equally ignorant politicians. If Obama thinks it is important for marijuana to move ahead in Colorado and Washington, when will it be important to stop?" said Torgny Peterson, a task force member from Sweden.

If you would like to set up an interview about this issue taskforce members, contact Lana Beck at **(727) 828-0211, ext. 102 or (727) 403-7571**.

The *International Task Force on Strategic Drug Policy* is a network of professionals and community leaders from over 35 countries who support and promote drug demand reduction principles, develop community coalitions and strive to advance communication and cooperation among non-governmental organizations who are working to stem illicit drugs and promote sound drug policy around the world.

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