



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

Statement on the Attack in Benghazi

Press Statement
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
Washington, DC
September 11, 2012

I condemn in the strongest terms the attack on our mission in Benghazi today. As we work to secure our personnel and facilities, we have confirmed that one of our State Department officers was killed. We are heartbroken by this terrible loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and those who have suffered in this attack.

This evening, I called Libyan President Magariaf to coordinate additional support to protect Americans in Libya. President Magariaf expressed his condemnation and condolences and pledged his government's full cooperation.

Some have sought to justify this vicious behavior as a response to inflammatory material posted on the Internet. The United States deplores any intentional effort to denigrate the religious beliefs of others. Our commitment to religious tolerance goes back to the very beginning of our nation. But let me be clear. There is never any justification for violent acts of this kind.

In light of the events of today, the United States government is working with partner countries around the world to protect our personnel, our missions, and American citizens worldwide.

PRN: 2012/1421

I condemn in the strongest possible terms the attack on our mission in Benghazi today.

Some have sought to justify this vicious behavior as a response to inflammatory material posted on the Internet.

From: H <hrod17@clintonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 11:12 PM
To: [Redacted]

From: H <hrod17@clintonemail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 11:12 PM
To:
Subject: Re: I'm in my office

[Redacted]

Two of our officers were killed in Benghazi by an Al Qaeda-like group: The Ambassador, whom I handpicked and a young communications officer on temporary duty w a wife and two young children. Very hard day and I fear more of the same tomorrow.

Let's try again later.

[Redacted]

----- Original Message -----
From
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 08:59 PM
To: H
Subject: Re: I'm in my office

[Redacted]

----- Original Message -----
From: H
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 08:51 PM
To:
Subject: I'm in my office

Because of attacks on our embassy in Cairo and our office in Benghazi so email when you can talk.

**Two of our officers were killed in
Benghazi by an Al Qaeda-like group.**

Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 7:11 PM

The Secretary's Call with Egyptian PM Kandil

STATE DEPT. - REPRODUCE
REDACTED BY STATE DEPT. FOR PUBLIC
UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. O-2015-1503

Johnson, Brock A

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Randolph, Lawrence
Wednesday, September 12, 2012 7:11 PM
S_CallNotes
Call Notes: S-Egyptian PM Kandil

The Secretary's Call with Egyptian PM Kandil

Please Note: This is not a transcript of this call.
Call UP: 09/12 @ 1504

Secretary Clinton: Prime Minister, this is Hillary Clinton. Thank you for taking to thank you for reaching out to offer condolences.

Prime Minister Kandil:

Classified by JBass, SA
Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

K:

S: We know that the attack in Libya had nothing to do with the film. It was a planned attack- not a protest.

K:

S: Your not kidding. Based on the information we saw today we believe the group that claimed responsibility for this was affiliated with al Qaeda.

K:

S: We are trying to draw distinctions and communicate that we value our relationship with Egypt and Libya and that these incidents are not representatives of the governments as the videos that were produced here are not representative of us.

S: Thank
saw based
there is a
governme
helpful if
condemn
does not
apprecia

K:

S: I ec

K:

S:
hand

UNCLASS

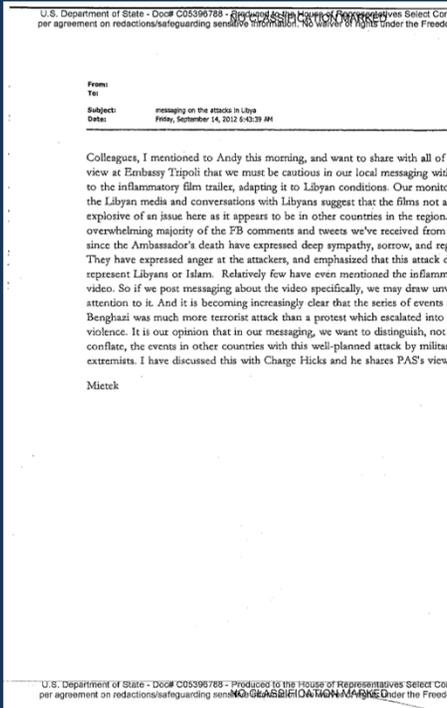
S: We know that the attack in Libya had nothing to do with the film. It was a planned attack – not a protest.

K:

S: Your not kidding. Based on the information we saw today we believe that the group that claimed responsibility for this was affiliated with al Qaeda.



“Let’s be clear, these protests were in reaction to a video that had spread to the region . . . [w]e have no information to suggest that [Benghazi] was a preplanned attack.” 9/14/12



“[I]t is becoming increasingly clear that the series of events in Benghazi was much more terrorist attack than a protest which escalated into violence. [W]e want to distinguish, not conflate, the events in other countries with this well-planned attack by militant extremists. I have discussed this with Charge Hicks and he shares PAS’s view.” 9/14/12

“First, brava! This is a historic moment and you will be credited for realizing it. When Qaddafi himself is finally removed, you should of course make a public statement before the cameras wherever you are, even in the driveway of your vacation house. You must go on camera. You must establish yourself in the historical record at this moment. The most important phrase is: “successful strategy.”

“Then you can ***say whatever on future policy***—but only after asserting the historic success and explaining the reasons why. This is a very big moment historically and for you. History will tell your part in it. You are vindicated. But don’t wait, help *Clio* now.”

-E-mail from Sidney Blumenthal to Hillary Rodham Clinton (Aug. 22, 2011)

I told him that this was a suicide mission; that there was a very good chance that everybody here was going to die; that there was absolutely no ability here to prevent an attack whatever. *** [H]he said, “everybody back here in D.C. knows that people are going to die in Benghazi, and nobody cares and nobody is going to care until somebody does die.”

- State Diplomatic Security Agent #10 (April 2, 2015)

We will continue to wait for the findings of the ongoing FBI investigation before reaching a final conclusion, but at this preliminary stage, time, we have not yet seen any signs that the attack on our consulate in Benghazi was other than **spontaneous. ~~premeditated. or coordinated~~**

- E-mail from NEA press officer to Bernadette Meehan and others (Sept. 17, 2012)

From: .
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 2:19 PM
To:
Subject: RE: Libya PG
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
SMARTCategory: Working

WH very worried about the politics. This was all their doing. ←

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

WH very worried about the politics. This was all their doing.

From:
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 2:18 PM
To: '
Subject: RE: Libya PG

Off the reservation on five networks! ←

From:
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 2:17 PM
To:
Subject: RE: Libya PG

Yup. Luckily there's enough in her language to fudge exactly what she said/meant.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

Off the reservation on five networks!

From:
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 2:16 PM
To: '
Subject: RE: Libya PG

I think Rice was off the reservation on this one. ←

From:
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 2:05 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Libya PG

Toria planned on walking it back just a bit, though.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

I think Rice was off the reservation on this one.

**DRAFTED BY: S/P: JSULLIVAN –
09/19/2012**

APPROVED BY: S: THE SECRETARY

SENSITIVE

DRAFTED BY: [REDACTED]
APPROVED BY: [REDACTED]
DB: FQUANRUD DN: JHOLTSNIDER
EAP: JYUN SCA: GPYOTT
WHA: RJACOBSON NEA: BJONES
USUN/W: RRYU M: SMIRZA

EUR: ASLOAT IO: [REDACTED]
AF: JCARSON SARA
DS: SBULTROWICZ S/E

IMMEDIATE ALDAC, TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
ROUTINE

E.O. 135

TAGS: P

SUBJECT
AGAINST

1. (U)

SUMMAR

2. (U)

Muslim

threat

condu

relat

Natio

colle

avoid

dipl

rele

leve

UNGP

reat

also

eng

the

NOT

Since September 11, 2012, there have been widespread protests and violence. . . . against U.S. and some other diplomatic
The proximate cause of the violence was the . . . video trailer for a film that many Muslims find offensive. Diplomatic compounds have been breached in several countries including Libya[.] In Benghazi, Libya four U.S. personnel were killed[.]

STATE DEPT. - PRODUCED TO HOUSE SELECT BENGHAZI COMM.
SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT ON SENSITIVE INFORMATION & REDACTIONS, NO FOIA WAIVER.

STATE-SCB0052813

RELEASE

fresh surge of protests against U.S. and other diplomatic posts this Friday, September 21. The publication by the French weekly magazine "Charlie Hebdo" of cartoon on September 19 depicting the prophet in a vulgar manner - and the inflammatory comments of the magazine's publisher - and dismissing its offensiveness to Muslims.