

Disaster In Benghazi: Incompetence Or Cover-up?

The Gripping Account of the Deadly Attack on America's Consular Mission in Libya

Hurricane Sandy, with its powerful winds and the widespread destruction it sowed in the American northeast, could not have come at a better time for President Obama. It helped break the momentum that had swung in favor of his opponent, Mitt Romney, and gave Obama some positive press during the final critical days of the presidential campaign. Just as importantly, it pushed the president's embarrassing failure in Libya out of the headlines.

America helped liberate Libya from its blood-crazed dictator. Yet a terror attack on the American consulate in Benghazi this past September 11 cost the lives of the US ambassador and three other Americans. That was humiliating enough, but then it emerged that the catastrophe could have been averted. For a still unexplained reason, the US authorities not only left the American consulate in Libya dangerously under-protected but reduced its security despite clear warnings of an impending attack.

The fact that the Obama administration tried, initially, to falsely paint the incident as a spontaneous protest only made matters worse. Was it a case of incompetence or recklessness on the part of the White House? Was it outright treachery?

Find out why the Benghazi debacle has the potential to turn into a Watergate-like scandal.

Shimon Rosenberg

On September 11, 2012, exactly 11 years after the infamous terror attacks on America, news agencies began reporting alarming events around the globe. The Muslim world was in an uproar over a film that presented the Islamic religion in a very bad light. Mass demonstrations were forming in Arab and Muslim countries to protest America and the entire Western world.

That day a furious crowd gathered in front of the American embassy in Cairo. They waved clenched fists at the building that symbolized the Western infidels. Some of the demonstrators managed to scale the wall surrounding the embassy compound. Once inside, they burned the American flag and replaced it with an Egyptian one.

Americans had barely been granted a chance to digest this first piece of news when new reports came in of another demonstration. At 5 PM New York time, the US embassy in Benghazi was besieged. However, the true nature of the



Campaign ad attacks Obama for the "Benghazigate" scandal.

dire situation there did not emerge until early the following morning. The supposed "demonstration" had resulted in no less than the death of the American ambassador to Libya!

An American ambassador killed? Unheard of! The last time an American ambassador was murdered had been 30 years earlier. The American ambassador is the personal representative of the US

president, of the Department of State, of the American government. An attack on the ambassador is equivalent to an attack against the nation.

Most ambassadors live in mansions and are supported by a large staff of aides and servants. And every US ambassador is protected by the full might and faith of the US government. All US embassies are protected by security agents of the State Department, and often by marines as well. How could such a thing have happened?

The Obama administration responded with vehement condemnation of the attack, all the while repeating again and again that it was the result of the protests against the anti-Islam film. Many found it hard to accept that it was nothing more than a demonstration that had gone out of control. Is that all it takes to kill an ambassador?

And then, slowly, more facts began to emerge. A piece of information leaked here, another fact from there. Suddenly, a whole new picture came to light. The death of the ambassador had nothing to do with a spontaneous protest and everything to do with a carefully planned attack.

However, the reports soon showed a darker side as well. New disclosures revealed that the attack could easily have been avoided. It was all the result of a bureaucrat in Washington who decided to leave the US consular mission to Libya in one of the world's most dangerous locations with its security severely compromised.

Christopher Stevens— Friend of Libyans

To properly understand the story it is necessary to understand the backdrop to the US diplomatic mission in Libya. In the winter of 2011 Colonel Muammar Qaddafi still held control of his country from his power base in Tripoli. But rebels, with the assistance of American and European air power, were slowly making progress in taking over the country.

The brutal and capricious Qaddafi shot caustic epithets at the "naïve" democratic



Angry demonstrators scale the wall of the American embassy compound in Cairo.



Protesters tear down the US flag at the embassy in Egypt.



President Obama awaits the body of Ambassador Stevens at Andrews Air Force Base.



Demonstrators outside the US embassy in Cairo this past September 11.