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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior
Reviewer

From: Sandy [redacted] <slcharles1 [redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 8:52 PM
To: Allen Keiswetter; Rox; Melissa Mahle; Cor
Subject: Shocking news: US consulate staffer dies in Libya mission clash

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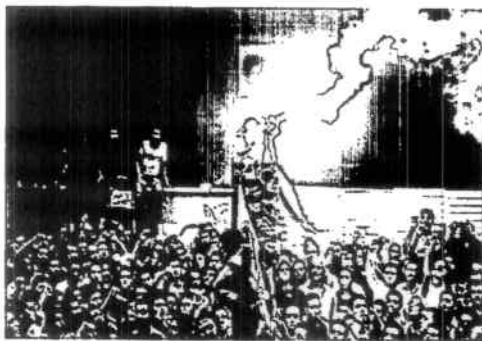


Photo by: REUTERS

'US consulate staffer dies in Libya mission clash'

By REUTERS

12/09/2012

Armed gunmen attack US consulate compound in Benghazi injuring several
Libyan security sources say; attack in protest of US film that they say insults
incident follows demonstration in Egypt.

BENGHAZI, Libya - An American staff member of the US consulate in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi died following fierce clashes at the compound, Libyan security sources said on Wednesday.

"One American staff member has died and a number have been injured in the clashes," Abdel-Moniem El-Mor, spokesman for Libya's Supreme Security Committee, said, adding that he did not know the exact number of injured and could not say what the cause of death was.

Armed gunmen attacked the compound on Tuesday evening, clashing with Libyan security forces. The forces withdrew as they came under heavy fire. The armed group is said to have been protesting a film banned in the United States.

The incident followed a protest in neighboring Egypt where demonstrators scaled the walls of the US consulate, tore down the American flag and burned it during a protest over what they said was a film that insulted Prophet Mohammad.

Reuters reporters on the scene could see looters raiding the empty Benghazi compound, walking over chairs and washing machines.

Unknown gunmen were shooting at the buildings while others threw handmade bombs into the compound, causing small explosions. Small fires were burning around the compound.

Passersby entered the unsecured compound to take pictures with their mobile phones and watch the scene.

No security forces could be seen around the consulate and a previous blockade of the road leading to the consulate was dismantled.

"The Libyan security forces came under heavy fire and we were not prepared for the intensity of the attack," he said.

Libya's interim government has struggled to impose its authority on a myriad of armed groups which have refused to lay down their weapons and often take the law into their own hands.

A number of security violations have rocked Benghazi, Libya's second biggest city and the cradle of the 2011 revolt that toppled Muammar Gaddafi.

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