

RELEASE IN FULL

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USG Outreach and Engagement Post Benghazi Attack¹**1. Domestic Religious/Community Group Statements and Actions**

- **Arab and Muslim American Groups.** NSS/GE, WH/OPE, and State (NEA, DRL, OIC) reached out to numerous community contacts resulting in a number of positive statements including from nearly all major Muslim American groups. Copies of the statements are attached in the accompanying document. **Next Steps:** We need to leverage these statements for overseas communication and follow-up with key issuing organizations to encourage additional actions and possible press appearances.
- **Statements from other Faith and Ethnic Communities.**
 - WH/OFBNP helped mobilize the domestic faith community after the Benghazi attacks. Groups from the World Evangelical Alliance, the American Baptist Churches, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and many others issued positive statements. NSS/GE reached out to the Sikh and Pakistani American communities, who also issued positive statements. Copies of the statements are attached in the accompanying document. **Next Steps:** same as above.
 - State DRL, IRF, and the AAL for International Religious Freedom Suzan Johnson Cook reached out to approximately 35 domestic Muslim and Christian organizations with whom they have regular contact, including the Coptic Christian community in the United States. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Hannah Rosenthal and team spoke with domestic Jewish groups. DRL continued to reach out to international human rights activists and organizations, including Coptic activists and others in Egypt. State encouraged the groups to condemn the attack that killed Ambassador Stevens and others in Libya in the strongest possible terms.
- **Interfaith Press Conference.** Following DNSA McDonough's call, WH/OPE and Special Envoy to the OIC Rashad Hussain further engaged Imam Magid (Islamic Society of North America), who held a press conference with Rabbi David Sapperstein (Union for Reform Judaism), Reverend Weldon Gaddy (Interfaith Alliance), and Ambassador Aujali of Libya. After making statements condemning the both the violence and the video, these and other leaders spoke to foreign press, including in Arabic and Dari. State/PA recorded these interviews. The footage was subsequently distributed to our Embassies overseas and also sent via satellite directly to media in Muslim majority countries.

2. Diplomatic Outreach

- Following Special Envoy Hussain's engagement, the OIC issued a strong statement condemning the film and the attacks. Special Envoy Hussain also spoke with the Saudi Ambassador to communicate the importance of a constructive response from the Kingdom, which is home to Islam's two holiest mosques.
- NSS/Europe engaged the Turkish government, which issued a statement condemning the violence. A number of other countries have issued condemnations.

¹ This document specifically captures USG efforts to engage outside voices to encourage public statements that (1) denounce the attack and/or (2) make it clear that the anti-Muslim film does not reflect American. This list does not capture the totality of the USG's engagement and public affairs efforts following the attack in Benghazi.