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For your information and internal use.

Best regards,

Rebecca



RRU SPECIAL REPORT
PROTESTS IN CAIRO, SANAA
ATTACK ON US CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI
THURSDAY 09/13/2012 12:00PM

Breaking international news coverage of the Middle East protests in response to the US-produced anti-Islamic film focuses primarily on the “storming” of the US Embassy in Sanaa, with less prominent coverage of Cairo protests. Reports claim “hundreds” of protesters entered the Sanaa compound’s grounds before being “expelled” by police, and note all US personnel are safe. Continuing and significant media coverage on the Benghazi consulate attack primarily centers around President Obama’s vow that “justice will be done” to those responsible for Ambassador Stevens’ death, as well as his deployment of two US warships to the Libyan coast and a Marine unit to investigate the tragedy. Occasional notice is given to his phone calls with the Egyptian and Libyan leaders, as well as Egyptian President Morsi’s Thursday statement.

Global commentary on Libya is ubiquitous, with many observers condemning the violence; several commentators speculate about the causes of the Benghazi incident, while others fear the tragedy could derail the Arab Spring. The UK’s *Guardian* claims the violence proves the “US remains deeply unpopular across the Muslim world,” while Spain’s *La Vanguardia* headlines “The Arab Spring Betrays Obama.” Analysts lament the “disproportionate reaction” to the movie and fear “militant Islam is ascendant.” Some outlets blame Tripoli for failing to provide adequate security and rule of law. A few praise Ambassador Stevens’ courage and good work. Some weigh in on how future US-Libya ties will unfold and wonder if US policy toward the Middle East will change. Several predict the new focus on foreign policy will affect the US presidential campaign.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

EUROPE

Austria

Kurier: "Islamist Mob has to be stopped"; "The protest against the latest provocation was, unfortunately, foreseeable. Criticism is necessary, violence isn't... The Muslim authorities are required to put a halt to the mob. Not stepping up would make them collaborators. It would also make the interreligious dialogue, which doesn't get any further, even more difficult."

Der Standard: "It is a fact that the monopoly on the legitimate use of force in Libya has not been with the state and that the radical Islamists have been getting organized...Libyan has got a few characteristics that enable its transition to a democratic system – like oil resources – and others that make it more difficult – as the weakness of the national identity. In one aspect Libya is not different than the other Arab transition countries: the radicalism of its Islamists."

Die Presse: "The disproportionate reaction to the irrelevant YouTube nonsense demonstrates how insecure, even backward the radicalized parts of the Muslim societies are. Steady personalities act in a different way. This is only topped by the 'politically correct Islam experts' who excuse the killing frenzy as 'justified outrage' against Islam phobia. There is no excuse for it."

ORF TV: "Islam haters in the United States [with their film] handed [Muslims the excuse for the protests] on a silver platter, and the Salafists in Libya and Egypt accepted it eagerly. They are behaving exactly as the Islam haters expected them to. Sometimes the world is just as predictable as that."

France

France 24 reports: "Egyptian Copts fearful amid anti-Islam film backlash."

Germany

Süddeutsche Zeitung: "The US Ambassador and three other Americans were killed in Benghazi, the city where the Libyan rebellion began and where rebels with U.S. flags in their hands celebrated the death of Qaddafi. However, the dimension of the murderous act goes far beyond Libya. It evoked old ghosts, who were asleep since September 11, 2001 but could be reactivated any time: extremists and fanatics in the political and religious camp, arsonists and provocateurs, hate preachers and people who show no tolerance...This time, the provocation began with American extremists; Islamic fanatics responded not less radically...Hatred will lead to more hatred...For eleven years the moderate part of the world is thinking hard how to put a stop to fanatics. The answer is: we cannot stop them. We can only make us aware of the fact that the majority of the people do not want their destruction."

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung: "Nowhere else like in the Islamic world can one exploit religion so easily to stir up emotions and cause political protests. Also this time around, only a few people will have actually seen the sequence of the amateur film on Mohammad...They blindly follow ring leaders who do not think much of the West. Accusations like those of the Libyan government are not really helpful. However, they demonstrate that the new rulers are not yet in the position to guarantee law and order in a country that wants to become democratic."

Die Welt: "This is supposedly about an Islamophobic film.... The extremely primitive film 'Innocence of Muslims' shows Mohammad as an idiot, womanizer and child molester. This is a clear provocation. Given the experience of the Danish Mohammad cartoons, the consequences might have been desired... However, this cannot excuse what the mob in Cairo and Benghazi has done.... In Libya, we cannot rule out that the losers of the new time are behind the attack: Qaddafi's men, who have already lost everything or will lose everything – maybe even their lives. A bad mélange is coming together. U.S. President Obama must not ignore this, even in a year of an election campaign."

Ireland

Irish Times reports "Hundreds of Yemeni demonstrators stormed the US embassy in Sanaa in protest at a film they consider blasphemous to Islam, and security guards tried to hold them off by firing into the air." The report also notes Obama's pledge that "justice will be done," as well as Egyptian President Morsi's statement supporting peaceful protest but not attacks on embassies. An *Irish Examiner* report adds that the Sanaa protesters were on the embassy grounds but did not enter the building housing offices. *RTE* reports "security forces have restored order at the complex."

Italy

Print, broadcast and online media report international outrage for the killing in Benghazi of four embassy diplomats, including the US Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens. All media pick up President Obama's statements promising to bring those responsible to justice. Observers put forth several theories as to the driving force behind the Libya attack, including the blasphemous film. Others speculate that it was retaliation for the recent killings of al-Qaeda leaders (*Corriere della Sera*, among others). All dailies carry positive portrayals of Ambassador Stevens, noting his close ties to Italy. In particular, *La Stampa* recalls that "Stevens had prepared his mission [to Libya] in Rome, and had found support at the American Embassy on Via Veneto during the war in Libya."

The front-page of *Corriere della Sera* titles "Libya, Washington Deploys War Ships" and "Stevens, The American Friend Who Understood the Arabs." Articles report the apologies of the President of the General National Council, Mohamed al-Megaryef and his pledge to work with US authorities to find the culprits. Front-page banner headlines: "Deadly Assault Against US Diplomats" (*Corriere della Sera*); "Attack Against the US. Obama: We Will React" (*La Repubblica*); "Libya, The Shadow of al-Qaeda" (*La Stampa*); "Murderous Islam Returns" (*Il Giornale*).

"The Day After September 11" *Corriere della Sera*, "Militant Islam is ascending in the Middle East...On the 11th anniversary of September 11, the US must acknowledge that not even the death of Bin Laden has stopped the threat."

"We Freed Them, They Betrayed Us" *Corriere della Sera*, "Obama is faced with an immediate problem: the nightmare of a scenario like the one of the American hostages in Iran in 1979 which cost Jimmy Carter his re-election in 1980.... Last night Mitt Romney jumped on this new grave crisis in the Middle East in order to try and catch up with the President in the race for the White House."

"Attack on Gaddafi Was Suicidal Madness" *Il Giornale*, "We had the suspicion that the so-called Arab Spring would not promise a radiant future...and now we have the confirmation that our suspicions were well-founded....While Libya was once a potential threat, today it is a real danger...Libya has gone from the frying pan to the fire. The new rulers, in other words, are more cruel and untrustworthy than the old ones....Cursed be the day that Europe (Germany excluded) and the US decided to ...militarily overthrow a regime without worrying about the consequences."

Norway

All newspapers write about the Embassy attack in Libya. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Støre, condemns the attack. He says that nothing can defend acts of violence like these, and he will take this up with Libyan authorities.

Dagbladet writes that President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are wise to distance themselves from the film. Mitt Romney, on the other hand, sees the situation in black and white, which is why he can let this become a campaign issue.

Aftenposten's editor compares what happened yesterday with the Muhammed caricature riots that also became a part of a geopolitical game between the West and the Arab world, about "different perceptions of reality and cultural identity." He writes that riots like this, with flag burning and other symbolic actions, are done for the TV cameras, but one should not underestimate what lies underneath, people with a permanent sense of humiliation and of being stepped on. He writes that it is sad on a political level that the extreme positions gets more leverage, while the bridge-building parts in Libya and Egypt, gets a tougher time.

VG writes that a foreign affairs crisis with the loss of American lives can be a firebomb in the U.S. presidential election. The paper also interviews Norwegian experts about the consequences yesterday's attack can have. Rania Maktabi at Østfold College says that big parts of the population in the Middle East are disappointed about what the Arab spring has led to, and that this is seething under the surface. Anders G. Romarheim at Norwegian Institute for Defense Studies says there is danger of diffusion because a large group of people feel that their religion has been offended. He says it is a difficult situation for the U.S., just as the caricature stride was for Norway. Researcher at Fafo, Kjetil Selvik says the protesters do not represent the general public, and the protests are small, but violent. Selvik also says that the attack may force Obama to a tougher stance, as some accuse him of being too Islam friendly and too compliant.

Politician and Middle East expert Naser Khader, writes in an op-ed in *VG* today that Muslims have to stop taking criticism of Allah, the Koran, and the prophet personally.

Poland

Rzeczpospolita ponders whether or not we can expect America's military response, and answers, "A response would be possible if it turned out that the death of the Ambassador was a result of a terrorist attack.... For the time being, it is not known who perpetrated the attack and whether or not they knew a U.S. Ambassador is a target."

Nasz Dziennik: "It is not known whether or not some Islamic organization is behind the attack...or whether it was a 'spontaneous action' by local militants."

Gazeta Wyborcza: "Whoever the assailants were, they did not have a difficult task. The Libyan authorities...are not able to restore security in the country where everyone has arms after the outbreak of the rising."

Portugal

Press write that eleven years after September 11th the death of an American Ambassador and three more Americans by Islamic extremists highlights hatred for the West in the region, especially the US.

Russia

RIA Novosti reports "Crowd storms Yemen US embassy." *Voice of Russia* headlines: "US sends marines, warships to Libyan coast," reporting that "The US has dispatched two war ships and 200-member Marine unit to protect its diplomatic mission in Benghazi."

Kommersant calls the attack in Benghazi "the most serious anti-American action in the Arab Spring countries where the fall of the 'secular dictators,' gave more strength to the Islamists and radicalized the population rather than leading to the triumph of democracy. It is a signal to Washington: after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi, who was known for his anti-Americanism, the attitude toward the United States in Libya, rather than improving, has grown worse."

Kommersant: "The calamity in Benghazi has shown that the whole country is on the verge of collapse."

Vedomosti says that what happened is a real terrorist act and needs to be condemned because all ambassadors and members of diplomatic missions have been granted personal immunity, this being a basic principle of international relations. Still, official relations between Washington and Tripoli will not change, according to the former ambassador of the Russian Federation to Libya, Aleksei Podtserob. The Americans faced a similar situation in Afghanistan where they first supported Al Qaeda and then had to fight against its resistance later. As seen by Podtserob, the security forces failing to stop violence in Benghazi goes to show that it is the militants are really in control of the country.

Moskovskiy Komsomolets quotes Yevgeniy Satanovskiy of the Middle East Institute: "Our Western colleagues wanted democracy in the Middle East. They have it now. Those involved in the attack on the diplomatic mission are no extremists. They are normal people, ordinary believers with a medieval mentality. They have lots of testosterone in their blood and, if insulted, will kill anyone. There is nothing surprising in that."

Rossiyskaya Gazeta: "The date 11 September has once again become a black one for the Americans...Yet, how unexpected this outburst of hatred for the USA in countries which were the pillars of the Arab Spring, so actively supported by Washington, was? It appears that the plot goes back to the ill-famed pastor Terry Jones or his followers... It is quite possible that inside the USA nobody will be held accountable for the diplomat's death...The tragic incident may also affect the course of the presidential race in the USA. The incumbent president's main rival, Republican Mitt Romney, has already slammed the authorities for 'too soft' reaction to the attack."

Spain

"The Arab Spring betrays Obama," *La Vanguardia*, "The Arab Spring, the one the Obama administration cautiously supported first and then fully supported, became a nightmare for America yesterday."

"U.S. faces an Islamist firestorm," *El Pais* describes "an event that intensifies the danger of increased radicalism derived from the Arab Spring and, necessarily, shakes, perhaps significantly, the campaign in this country."

El Pais opines "the [Libyan] moderate Islamist government that came out of the July elections has been extremely weak with increasing political violence, the consolidation of a plethora of regional militias and the rise of radical Islamism...Benghazi has revealed not only the failure of the security forces, unable to repel an organized attack, but also the government itself, which runs the country temporarily until a new constitution is adopted next year. Libya will not

emerge with the rule of law without eliminating armed groups that dictate their own law and prosecutes violent fundamentalism.”

El Mundo “It reflects the chaos and instability that crosses Libya and ultimately, the transience of the Arab Spring that had raised many hopes.” In *El Mundo*, Spanish diplomat Gustavo de Aristegui opines that “Too many said the ‘war’ on terror had been won, others believed in a new ‘peace dividend’ after the fall of some Arab dictatorships. This struggle, not war, has only just begun. The murder of Christopher Stevens, a lover of the Middle East and especially the Arab world, is a tragic confirmation. The conclusion can only be a new, strong and renewed commitment against terror, wherever it hides, always with the rule of law and no shortcuts.”

ABC “With the massacre of Benghazi the whole U.S. [presence] in the rise and fall of the Arab Spring is now in question.”

Lainformacion.com: “The attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, which killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other employees of the embassy, was well planned and also linked to the anniversary of September 11, said experts.”

Radio Nacional: “It is believed that the attack was carried out by Al Qaeda’s supporters and has to do with the 9/11 anniversary.”

Tele5: “Obama has been firm but also open to dialogue. He has recognized that the U.S. does not fight against religions, but against persons, and that he is going to continue collaborating with the Government of Libya.”

Turkey

Turkish Weekly headlines, “Violence Flares in Egypt, Yemen over Anti-Islam Film.”

Milli Gazete, in its headline story, wrote that the filmmakers were ‘looking for trouble’, and that the producer of the movie had admitted to being a Zionist. *Posta* included photos of the injured Gaddafi and Stevens on either side, labeling them as “Spring” (referring to the Arab Spring) and Fall (which translates from Turkish into English as ‘Final Spring’.) The newspaper included claims that the Ambassador died during a lynching, not at the hospital. *Sozcu* wrote that the US’s Arab Spring had backfired, and that the Islamists brought to the region by America to overthrow Gaddafi had killed the Ambassador. *Takvim* wrote that the fact that these attacks are taking place on the anniversary of 9/11 is being taken as a message from the region that the US is not wanted there. *Turkiye* wrote that the “shocking” attack and the death of the Ambassador laid the foundation for a new wave of Islamophobia in the world. *Yeni Safak* headlines: “A Second 9/11 Shock for the US” and wrote under the photograph of the injured Ambassador that it was the Libyans who helped Stevens and rushed him to the hospital.

Radikal: “The killing of [US ambassador Chris] Stevens as a reaction to an anti-Islamic film and in one of the countries that have been turned upside down by the Arab Spring...may increase the lack of trust in the future of the Arab Spring. Moreover, this attack may have also damaged the bridge that the USA has been trying to build between the West and the ‘good Muslims’ for them.”

Star: “The discussions on the film and the attack in Libya will certainly affect the elections in the US directly.” *Hurriyet*: “The Libya attack could trigger a chain reaction.”

UK

The Daily Telegraph headlines “US embassy protests spread as film anger grows,” noting the continuing protests in Cairo and Sanaa. *The Independent* headlines, “Protesters chanting ‘death to America’ storm US embassy in Yemen over Prophet Mohammed film.” *The Guardian* and *The Sun* write “US Embassy in Yemen stormed,” noting “no casualties” have yet been reported. *The Telegraph* reports, “Second day of clashes outside US embassy in Egypt prompt police fight back.” *The Guardian*’s report describes Obama as “tepid” about relations with Cairo, telling Spanish outlet *Telemundo* “I don’t think that we would consider them an ally, but we don’t consider them an enemy.” The report also highlights President Morsi’s earlier comments criticizing the film and the embassy attacks.

BBC reports the US will “investigate” the Libya incident, and notes President Obama’s phone calls with the Egyptian and Libyan leaders. *The Times* headlines “Obama sends warships and Marines after Ambassador is killed and film protests spread,” reporting “Obama sent a 50-strong counter-terrorist team of Marines to Benghazi but pledged that the violence would not harm ties with the post-revolutionary Government.” *The Times* also notes, “The shadowy film-maker behind

Innocence of Muslims was in hiding but unrepentant.” In *The Guardian*’s “Obama vows to find killers of US ambassador in Libya,” the paper reports, “Crucially...the president made it clear that the US would work alongside the Libyan government to track down the killers and would not be turning its back on the Arab spring in Libya or elsewhere in the Middle East.” *Daily Telegraph* headlines: “Obama: Justice will be done over Libya envoy.” *The Independent* writes: “The US administration was braced for possible further attacks at home and in other Muslim countries as news of the film, called Innocence of Muslims, spreads.”

The Times: “Disarming Libya: The murder of the US Ambassador shows Libya is not yet the country it could be” – editorial: “American, in partnership with Britain, France and others, gave the people of Libya their freedom... Yet the attacks are a brutal reminder of the failure of Libya’s interim Government to curb or disarm the militias that have sprung up since the brief, decisive civil war of last year.... These attacks serve as a reminder that Libya is not yet the country it hopes to be... It is hoped that, in the grip of mourning, America will not wash its hands of a country which it was so instrumental in steering away from tyranny. Libya’s new rulers, for their part, must beware the country becoming a failed state and an incubator of terrorism. It is not too late for Libya to become the country is hoped, post-Gaddafi, to be.”

The Guardian: “[Stevens’] killing is likely to have far-reaching consequences in American attitudes towards the American spring and could change the US presidential elections.”

The Guardian: “Two onslaughts in two of the cities that witnessed the drama of the Arab spring do not an Islamist winter make. But both underline the dangerous presence of a sort of radical fundamentalists whom the old regimes kept at bay and are now free to pursue their agendas... Islam is wider than any national issue and this violence highlights the uncomfortable truth that the US remains deeply unpopular across the Muslim world, where Iraq, Afghanistan and, above all, the enduring Israeli-Palestinian conflict remain open sores.”

The Guardian: “The Libyan revolution fanned and fuelled by the west is in danger of degenerating into chaos... Once again, the western powers have started a fire they cannot extinguish.... Post-Gaddafi Libya lacks viable national political leadership, a constitution, functioning institutions and, most importantly, security.... Effective central control, meanwhile, is largely absent. And into this vacuum have stepped armed groups, all claiming sectional suzerainty over the multitude of fractured fiefdoms that was, until Nato barged in, a unified state.”

The Guardian: “Libya’s new democracy must not be derailed by the Benghazi murders... Libya must take robust and effective action, while retaining the democratic standards it has fought so hard to achieve. The US will have to show restraint, insisting on a proper reaction from Libya, but not overwhelming it with disproportionate force.”

Daily Telegraph: “Most Libyans, who voted in recent elections to reject pro-democracy Islamic parties, divided their blame between their own weak government and the forces seeking to undermine it.”

Daily Telegraph: “The incident shows the strength of anti-Western radicalism in Libya... In a country where the state is too weak to govern and guns are readily available, it was only a matter of time before anti-Western radicalism cost lives in Benghazi.”

Daily Telegraph: “The Arab Spring turns sour for America: The murder of the US ambassador to Libya is a shocking reminder to Barack Obama that helping to overthrow dictators does not guarantee stability in the region;” “The fact that someone as supportive of the new Libyan regime can meet such an end shows that the West’s continued involvement in this vital north African state is not universally appreciated... What is indisputable is that these two countries, which were at the forefront of last year’s heady wave of anti-government protests, are finding themselves increasingly susceptible to the demands of hard-line Muslim fundamentalists... [W]ith the old dictators gone or, in the case of Syrian President Bashar al Assad surely soon to depart, and the influence of well-armed Islamist militants growing, the changing face of the Middle East presents as many difficulties for Western policy-makers as it does opportunities.”

Daily Telegraph: “The killings will inevitably prompt searching questions about Mr. Obama’s understandable determination—in the light of Iraq and Afghanistan – to play a less interventionist role in the Middle East.”

The Independent praises “the softly spoken diplomat who lifted the rebels resolve... There is little doubt that his presence, with a small team of Western diplomats, helped buttress the morale of the opposition’s National Transitional Council,

suffering from doubts and divisions, and dispirited by the failure to break through the regime's defences despite the aid of Nato bombing."

The Independent urges: "Obama must measure his response." "The killing of the US ambassador and three other American officials in Benghazi is, of course, a human tragedy to be roundly condemned. But the violence both there and in Cairo – ostensibly in response to a US-made film that is offensive to Muslims – is also a warning of the fragility of post-Gaddafi Libya and across the countries of the Arab Spring.... This week's events not only reveal the deep anger at and distrust of the US across the Islamic world; they also give a glimpse of the forces of instability and extremist long held in check by the dictators toppled by last year's wave of revolutions."

The Independent: "The killings undercut President Obama's claim that the killing of Osama bin Laden has been a death blow to Jihadi Islam. They will also make less credible the White House's suggestion that is played Libya just right, staying in the background but helping end the rule of Col Muammar Gaddafi... The Arab Spring was never a collective vote in favour of Western states, but a series of real revolutions that have other good and nasty surprises in store."

Sky News: "Better ignored than given the oxygen of publicity which has fanned flames in Libya, the film is likely to provoke further violence across the Islamic world..." "The effects on Libya are particularly tragic. They play into the hands of small but well-organized violent Islamic groups who failed to attract much of a following in Libya's first ever democratic election this year... The Innocence of Muslims will now be seized upon by violent groups who will insist that it reflects the 'true' view of the Prophet by many Christians and other westerners."

EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Australia

Sydney Morning Herald reports "Yemen protesters storm US embassy before being expelled." *The Australian* notes one protester was shot dead by police and five others wounded during the Sanaa protests, and highlights President Hadi's apology to President Obama. *The Australian* adds "Egyptian police, protesters clash," noting Obama's calls to the leaders of Egypt and Libya. *Sydney Morning Herald* reports "Libya probes deadly attack on US mission... amid speculation al-Qaeda rather than a frenzied mob carried out the assault." The article notes the phone call between presidents Obama and Magariaf, during which "Libya apologized to Washington over the attack" and Obama "thanked Magariaf for expressing his condolences."

West Australian: "US ambassador's death marks sad day: Carr."

China

Xinhua notes "30 injured in clashes in front of U.S. embassy in Egypt." *People's Daily* reports: "US sends warships to Libyan waters" in the aftermath of the consulate attack, with US officials claiming "the ships will give President Barack Obama 'flexibility' should his administration decide to take action against suspected militants in Libya."

Global Times: "...[C]ontinuing to malign Islam in American society reflects the fact that the U.S. lacks basic understanding and respect for other cultures and civilization. The U.S. should learn a lesson."

Global Times: "This attack... symbolizes a major failure of the U.S.'s Mid-East policy... The killing reminds the world of three failures of the U.S.: First is in the past 10 years the U.S. greater Middle East democratization strategy's failure. It reflects the unpredictable nature of the process of democratization in the Middle East. Second is the failure of Obama's Mid-East and North Africa policy since 2011. Third is the failure of the U.S.'s theory of the victory of its War on Terror."

Global Times: "Killing an ambassador is against the humanitarian bottom line. It should be condemned worldwide... The attack will surely touch the US, and the entire West, deeply. The clash of civilizations between the West and the Arab world hasn't been reduced by the revolution. On the contrary, with strongman politics gone, the public's discontent toward the West is growing without being checked."

The Beijing News: "[T]he demonstrations also reflect the competition between the control of power between the West and these countries. ...the US didn't consider the extreme Islamic forces in these countries when the US provided support for

the newly established regime. This is a lesson to the US to respect the religious sentiment of the local people when it engages with countries having strong religious sentiment.”

Xinhua: “In terms of root causes, these incidents have revealed huge flaws in US Middle East policy... The emergence of a wave of anti-American protests and violence in Libya and Egypt show once again that the US' practice of relying on military intervention as a means to forcefully promote its foreign policy objectives will bring a huge negative effect...The tragedy of Benghazi calls for profound reflection.”

Hong Kong

Sing Tao Daily headlines, “Attacks jeopardize Obama's reelection bid.”

Wen Wei Po: “The protest this time shows the deep hatred of the Middle East against the West. It is a tough task for the U.S. to establish good relations with countries in the Middle East. Although the film 'Innocence of Muslims' has nothing to do with Washington's policy, some groups still used the film to provoke anti-U.S. sentiments. It is hard for the White House to guard against this. The incident shows that the U.S.'s intelligence and security work in Libya and Egypt has failed.”

Indonesia

Jakarta Globe headlines “Yemen protesters storm US embassy before being expelled,” noting Yemeni President Hadi's apology to Obama for the “mob” actions and call for an investigation. *Jakarta Post* reports “US officials say 2 warships moving toward Libya.”

Japan

Yomiuri: “Democracy and freedom have not yet prevailed in Arab nations as the U.S. had hoped for. The Obama administration is at an impasse because it has been unable to find effective measures to prevent the turmoil from expanding.”

Mainichi: “There is a possibility that the Muslim community's protest against the film will expand and escalate further...Muslims may direct their anger not only against the U.S. but also against Israel.”

Sankei: “A number of the authoritarian regimes in the Middle East and North Africa have been toppled since last year through the ‘Arab Spring’ movement. This lies behind the deterioration in the nations' abilities to ensure public security.”

Malaysia

The Star headlines: “U.S. embassies attacked in Yemen, Egypt after Libya envoy killed,” noting “hundreds” of protestors broke through the main gate of the Sanaa compound though a US embassy spokesperson declared all US personnel safe.

New Zealand

Stuff.co.nz and *New Zealand Herald* headline “Protesters storm US embassy in Yemen,” breaking down the main gate, smashing windows of security offices, and burning cars. “A security source said at least 15 people were wounded, some by bullets. An embassy spokesman said its personnel were reported to be safe.”

Philippines

GMA News headlines, “Yemeni protesters storm US embassy in Sanaa: witnesses.”

The Manila Times: “The tragedy in Libya yesterday was inevitable. If it did not happen in Libya it would have in any of the other countries in the Middle East.... The Islamists in the Arab countries hate the US for being Israel's ally and protector. And now they are blaming the US government for allowing a US-based Jew to make a film characterizing the Prophet Mohammed as a fraud and an evil man...The tragedy in Libya, the outrage against the American flag and the US embassy in Cairo, the continuing tragedies in Syria, the tensions in Jordan and Saudi Arabia and more, are all the result of America's failure to exercise its accustomed leadership in the Middle East. For it is President Obama's policy to divest the United States of its burdens as the leader of the world.”

Singapore

Straits Times headlines “Yemen protesters storm US embassy before being expelled” by police.

Channel NewsAsia: "America says its friendship with Libya will not become a casualty of this attack. The film, though, has undoubtedly weakened America's position in the Middle East, in this fight to overcome that as well as what appears to be a new emerging Islamist threat - the worrying prospect of the Arab spring is giving way to a winter of discontent."

Channel NewsAsia: "The United States is certainly working on the basis that this was not entirely a spontaneous uprising, which U.S. officials believe is one of the reasons why the attack in Benghazi proved to be some much serious and deadly than similar protests in Cairo."

Channel NewsAsia: "It is an incredible political gamble that Mitt Romney has taken...and one that has shocked and frankly horrified many senior Republicans who are now privately questioning whether in fact Mr. Romney has presidential timber, whether this in fact doesn't raise further questions about his qualification to be successful in this November presidential elections. Under normal circumstances you would expect to see politicians of all strides rally around the American flag and mourn the dead in the immediate aftermath of an incident like this... Mitt Romney had every opportunity to withdraw [his] statement. He didn't do so. He doubled-down and put it back into the public domain once again... This is definitely going to be an issue that Mitt Romney has to deal with for many days to come."

Thailand

Bangkok Post writes: "Yemeni protesters storm US embassy," with wide notice of the US deployment of warships to Libya, as well as Obama's pledge to "bring to justice" Ambassador Stevens' killers.

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

The second lead story in Afghan media was that the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan and the International Security Assistance Force today condemned the death of U.S. ambassador as a result of violent protests in Libya and asked Afghan leaders and people to be calm and tolerant. *BBC Pashto* reported that President Obama, in a telephone call, discussed the issue of the film and the demonstrations in Libya and Egypt with President Hamid Karzai. According to report, President Karzai expressed condolences over the death of American diplomats and both leaders emphasized that Kabul and Washington should work together to prevent such incidents in Afghanistan. *Shamshad TV* reported that President Obama and a number of other leaders of the world condemned the incidents and asked for punishment of the perpetrators. *Pajhwok* reported that yesterday the Afghan government strongly condemned the movie released in the U.S., which is insulting the Prophet Mohammad. *Bukhdi News Agency* reported that President Karzai has asked for the film to be banned, but didn't mention any country.

Radio Azadi reported that based on Iranian media, there will be also protests in front of Swiss embassy in Tehran today to condemn the insult. The Student's Islamic Council in Iran had asked all Iranians to participate in the protest to condemn the Americans insult of Islam.

Daily Outlook: "The tragedy in Libya is condemnable in strongest words...It is unfortunate that Muslims always react violently against some sick minds who try to achieve cheap fame with their bigotry. The best is to ignore such bigots who want to fuel clashes and provoke reaction that often gets violent in instable Muslim countries."

Bangladesh

Headlines note "Additional Security at U.S. Embassy in Dhaka."

The Independent reports that Bangladesh on September 12 condemned the attack. In a condolence message, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said, "We strongly condemn the recent terrorist attack in Benghazi that killed U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and other officials."

India

The Asian Age, *Economic Times*, and *The Indian Express* report "Yemeni protesters storm US embassy in Sanaa... defying efforts by riot police to hold them at bay." *The Hindu* adds, "U.S. embassy in Yemen stormed; missions step up security. *NDTV* reports a protester was killed outside the Sanaa embassy. *Indian Express* frets, "Violence returns to Cairo" while *Zee News* notes "Clashes in front of US embassy in Egypt over anti-Islam film." *Hindustan Times* similarly

headlines, "US embassies attacked in Yemen, Egypt after Libya envoy killed." *NDTV* notes President Morsi's comments condemning the Libya attack and vowing to protect foreign embassies in Egypt.

The Hindu and *Indian Express* report on India's "strong condemnation" of the "violent acts," noting Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai's call to the US Ambassador in Delhi to convey his condolences and "deep shock at the attack." All major Indian media note the tightening of security measures at the US embassy and consulates in India, according to remarks by Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde. *Times of India* headlines: "After Libya attack, security up at US missions."

Lokmat: "The terror-sponsors have deliberately chosen a relatively calm city in Libya to remind the U.S. that U.S. interests and diplomatic facilities can be harmed anywhere and anytime in the world. And more so in the Arab world where the U.S. is trying hard to exercise hegemonic control. The attack on the Libyan consulate is a planned terrorist activity, not a mere pro-Islam protest. It is said that the rocket attack avenges the death of Abu Yaya al-Libi, Al Qaeda's second-in-command, killed a few months ago in Pakistan. The attack was timed for the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, which were commemorated across the U.S. on Tuesday. Al Qaeda has now demonstrated its rising strength in the Islamic world, beyond Afghanistan and Pakistan. From India's perspective, this and every other attack should be condemned because global peace is jeopardized when fundamentalists surface in any part of the world."

In "As You Sow So Shall You Reap," *Urdu Times* writes: "The U.S. is now helplessly reaping the crop of violence against its own-sowed poisonous seeds of hatred. What happened in Egypt and Libya is the result of U.S.' on-going activities against Islam and Muslims... The U.S. should now realize that its misdeeds have made the Islamic world its enemy, and it is resulting in violence and killings of human beings including the American citizens... The occurrences in Libya and Egypt should serve as an eye-opener for the U.S."

Nepal

The Himalayan headlines "US embassies in Yemen, Egypt bear brunt of mob fury."

Pakistan

The murders of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three American employees of the consulate in Benghazi are reported in all media. Some TV stations referred to the murders as "tragic." Networks also reported that MQM Party Chief Altaf Hussain sent an urgent telegram to President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon demanding that the film that reportedly sparked the Cairo and Benghazi riots be "banned immediately as it has hurt the feelings of over one billion Muslims around the world." Morning newspapers run a Foreign Ministry statement condemning the airing of the "defamatory video" in the United States since it "maligins the revered and pious personality of the Prophet Muhammad." All media highlight statements from President Obama and Secretary Clinton denouncing the attacks and ordering increased security at U.S. embassies around the world.

Express reports that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority confirmed a Ministry of Information mandate to block the video in Pakistan. NOTE: The video is still accessible as of mid-day September 13.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Argentina

La Nación: "We'll have to await the passage of time to know whether the indignation provoked in part of the citizenry by the film deflates like a soufflé, or whether it instead produces an escalation that ends up further deteriorating the already difficult relations between the US and the Islamic world."

Clarín: "The attack raises the problem of the vulnerability of the US in countries where it accompanied rebel groups who overthrew dictators during the Arab Spring and in which groups remain active that don't forget the White House's support of those dictators."

Canada

Canadian media outlets such as the *Vancouver Sun*, *Globe and Mail*, and *CBC News* headline "Protesters storm US missions in Yemen, Egypt." *Ottawa Citizen* reports on Yemeni President Hadi's apology to Obama over the Sanaa embassy attack. *Ottawa Citizen* and *CTV* report "Obama sends in marines, warships after ambassador, three others killed" as the President pledges that "justice will be done" after Ambassador Stevens' death in Libya. *Vancouver Sun* and *Globe*

and Mail highlight President Morsi's comments "condemning Prophet insult, embassy attack." Prominent dailies such as *Winnipeg Free Press*, *Vancouver Sun*, and the *Toronto Star* report "Security worries prompt one-day closure of Canadian embassy in Cairo."

Ottawa Citizen: "The US could never purge its population of every bigot and crank and offensive film, even if it wanted to. And it must have the courage to declare...that it doesn't want to ... The protesters in Cairo were trying to lay the responsibility for the film at the feet of the USG. The government has to be very careful not to pick it up. It is not the government's job to allow or disallow opinion, no matter how offensive those opinions are."

Globe and Mail: Stevens' "violent death is a sobering reminder of the wide gap between functioning democracies and countries that have little or no experience of political freedom."

Globe and Mail: Stevens' demise "challenges a major tenet of U.S. President Barack Obama's foreign policy during the homestretch of an election."

In "U.S. envoy's death is a stark cue for chaos," former Canadian Ambassador Michael Bell writes in *The Globe and Mail*: "The killing of the U.S. ambassador to Libya and three other Americans sends a sobering message to Western countries respecting their diplomatic representation abroad, particularly in the Middle East, where new and fragile regimes are coping with radical groups once suppressed by the old autocrats. Jihadists now feel they have a golden opportunity."

Toronto Star: "Did Libyans wage their heroic Arab Spring revolution for this? That an enraged, heavily-armed mob might murder US Ambassador Chris Stevens and three fellow diplomats, the very people who helped Libya's reformers usher in democracy? ... American officials were left scrambling to determine whether Al Qaeda-style militants exploited the surge of anger to provide cover for a previously planned 9/11 anniversary attack ... Manipulated or not, the violence the world saw in Cairo and Benghazi this week will grow until it sweeps away the Arab Spring's gains."

Ecuador

Hoy notes comments by President Obama and SecState, as well as indications that the Libyan attack may have been organized by terrorists, observing: "In the apparent origin of the conflict and the criminal reaction, absolutely reprehensible fundamentalist actions of various types are seen... They are deplorable expressions of sectors motivated by the fanaticism that unleashes unjustifiable violence."

Mexico

Noting that the last assassination of a US ambassador occurred in the Carter administration, *Crónica* wonders whether unlike Carter, "Will Barack Obama be capable of responding to the double challenge—violence and provocation—with effectiveness and intelligence?"

Venezuela

El Universal: "The coincidence of the Benghazi attack with the tragic date of 9/11...suggests that this was something perfectly prepared beforehand."

AFRICA

South Africa

IOL News and *Times Live* report "US warships moving towards Libya: officials," noting the USS Laboon and USS McFaul are moving into position off the Libyan coast.

Daily Maverick: "The US ambassador to Libya pays the ultimate price of religious madness...This is inevitably going to force a new level of introspection among American policy makers and diplomats as to what happens now for America in the countries of the Arab Spring."