

BENGHAZI

U.S. vows to hunt down perpetrators of Benghazi attack

September 12, 2012 | By the CNN Wire Staff

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"There are reports out there that I cannot confirm that he was brought to the hospital by Libyans who found him," one of the officials said. "Obviously, he had to get there somehow. No Americans were responsible for that."

Pro-al Qaeda group seen behind deadly Benghazi attack

Two U.S. security guards were killed and two more wounded in the next hour, as they attempted to re-establish control of the consulate compound. Libyan security forces helped retake the complex about 2:30 a.m., the officials said.

American sources could not say whether the attackers instigated the protest or merely took advantage of it, and they say they don't believe Stevens was specifically targeted.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton dispatched Stevens to Libya to be the American link to rebel forces battling to overthrow Gadhafi.

U.S. increases embassy security worldwide after Libya attack

"He arrived on a cargo ship in the port of Benghazi and began building our relationships with Libya's revolutionaries," Clinton said Wednesday. "He risked his life to stop a tyrant, then gave his life trying to build a better Libya."

At a Washington news conference held by American religious leaders to condemn both the violence and the anti-Muslim film, Aujali called Stevens "the right man for the right position for the right time."

"He believed in the Libyan people," said Aujali, who said Stevens was a personal friend. "He believed that America should support the Libyan people to get their country back. We need to practice democracy like other nations in the world."

Attacks swing political campaigns toward foreign policy

Clinton said Smith was a 10-year veteran of the State Department, a husband and a father of two. The two other victims had not been named Wednesday evening as the government worked to contact their families.

Clinton said their deaths are "not easy." But she added, "We must be clear-eyed even in our grief."

"This was an attack by a small and savage group, not the people or government of Libya. Everywhere Chris and his team went in Libya, in a country scarred by war and tyranny, they were hailed as friends and partners. And when the attack came yesterday, Libyans stood and fought to defend our post."

Meanwhile, the protests over the video resumed Wednesday night in Egypt, where several men scaled the walls of the U.S. Embassy and tore down its American flag on Tuesday. Police used tear gas on protesters outside Cairo embassy and in Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the revolt that toppled former President Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

Protesters attack U.S. diplomatic compounds in Egypt, Libya

Stevens spoke Arabic and French and was among the first U.S. diplomats sent to Libya in 2007, when Washington and Tripoli resumed ties. He was the sixth U.S. ambassador to be killed in the line of service, while two others have died in plane crashes.

The last time an American ambassador was murdered was in 1979, when the envoy to Afghanistan, Adolph Dubs, was kidnapped and killed during an attempt to rescue him, according to State Department records.