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MailOnline

'They chose this date': Libyan president has 'no doubt' deadly 9/11 attack on U.S. Consulate was 'pre-planned' and says anti-Islam film had 'nothing to do with' it

- President Mohamed Magarief said perpetrators chose 9/11 to 'carry a certain message'
- Claims assault would have taken place when anti-Islam movie was released six months ago if it was sparked by film
- 'High degree of accuracy' suggests perpetrators were prepared and trained
- U.S. intelligence agencies reportedly knew within 24 hours that al Qaeda-affiliates were behind attack and had tracked location of one suspect
- U.S. ambassador Chris Stevens was killed along with fellow Americans Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

PUBLISHED: 09:46 EST, 26 September 2012 | **UPDATED:** 12:21 EST, 26 September 2012

Libyan president Mohamed Magarief has claimed the deadly 9/11 anniversary attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi was undoubtedly a 'pre-planned act of terrorism.'

The comments follow repetitive claims by the U.S. government that the attack last month that killed ambassador Chris Stevens was spontaneous, and was sparked by an anti-Islam film produced in California.

But President Magarief quashed the idea the assault on the consulate was prompted by the movie, adding that he has 'no doubt' it was a premeditated act of terrorism targeting American citizens.

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Terrorism: President Mohamed Magarief, pictured, said he had 'no doubt' the attack on the U.S. Consulate was pre-planned

'It's a pre-planned act of terrorism,' he told [NBC's](#) Ann Curry, adding that the anti-Islam film had 'nothing to do with this attack.'

The Libyan president's remarks also come as a report in [The Daily Beast](#) claims U.S. intelligence agencies knew within 24 hours that the fire fight at the Benghazi consulate building was orchestrated by al Qaeda-affiliates hiding in Eastern Libya.

Unnamed officials said they had even tracked down the location of one suspect within this time, using social

media.

In the interview with NBC, Magarief said the fact the attack occurred on September 11 was hugely significant, and provided further evidence that it was orchestrated by extremists rather than spontaneous protesters.



Significant: Magarief, pictured right with Ann Curry, said the fact the attack occurred on September 11 was of great significance

He added that there were no protesters at the consulate before the assault, which he told the TV station came in two waves - the first involving rocket-propelled grenades on the consulate then with mortars at a safe house.

The U.S. government initially denied that the attacks were planned, instead linking them directly to protests over the film. It wasn't until late last week that the Obama administration formally acknowledged the deadly 9/11 assault was in fact a terrorist attack.

Magarief said the video had been available for months before the Benghazi attack and therefore wasn't the catalyst.

'Reaction should have been, if it was genuine, should have been six months earlier. So it was postponed until the 11th of September,' he told NBC. 'They chose this date, 11th of September to carry a certain message.'

When asked by Curry what his evidence was that the attack was pre-planned, he said: 'Number one, is choosing the date, 11th of September has all the significance. If we take the facts about the way it was executed we can see there is enough proof that it is a pre-planned act of terrorism.'



Four U.S. citizens died in the attack on the consulate in Benghazi including the U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens

He said it was too early for him to give the minute details of the attack but he said the perpetrators must have had experience.

'It was launched with a high degree of accuracy which means the perpetrators must have some kind of exercise on how to hit and how to launch these acts,' he said.

Magarief said he thinks that al Qaeda was behind the assault but he added there was so far no direct evidence to prove that is the case.

'As the investigation progresses that is the likelihood we will reach that,' he said.

According to The Daily Beast, U.S. intelligence agencies knew within 24 hours that al Qaeda-affiliated operatives were behind the deadly assault.

Three separate unnamed officials told the website that early information was enough to show the attack was planned and orchestrated by groups in Eastern Libya linked to al Qaeda.

They said U.S. intelligence agencies developed leads on four of the participants within 24 hours of the fire fight that killed Stevens as well as information management officer Sean Smith and security personnel Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty.



Destruction: A man walks in the rubble of the consulate after the attack that claimed four Americans

For one of the suspects, the U.S. agencies were able to track his location using social media within that time.

'We had two kinds of intelligence on one guy,' the official told The Daily Beast. 'We believe we had enough to target him.'

Another U.S. intelligence official told the website: 'There was very good information on this in the first 24 hours. These guys have a return address. There are camps of people and a wide variety of things we could do.'

A third U.S. intelligence official said he could not get into specific numbers 'but soon after the attack we had a pretty good bead on some individuals involved.'

The sources didn't reveal whether the agencies had targeted or arrested any of the suspected assailants, stressing that the complex investigation was continuing.

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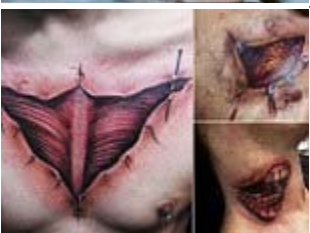
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Surprise. They don't need a reason. They just want us dead.

- [alzie](#) , Cumbria ., 26/9/2012 23:48

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Thank you for speaking the truth, President Magarief. Or rather, having the courage to confirm what most of us suspected. Keep up the good work and watch your back.

- [Emily](#) , New York, 26/9/2012 23:17

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Anyone with the IQ of a snail could have (most did) figure that out. Someone with Obamadinijad's couldn't helped but have known. Since it couldn't have been his stupidity (he's not stupid), it had to be on purpose. That's the frightening thing. Obamadinijad is not trying to solve problems for the US but he is accomplishing his assigned mission.

- [Pellican 123](#) , Gibsonville, 26/9/2012 22:32

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I obviously knew this but DM never posted my comment. Now I guess I can. His speaking the Truth.

- [Al](#) , USA, 26/9/2012 21:58

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This man seems like he is going to take Libya to a better place then it once was.

- [sa](#) , TX, United States, 26/9/2012 21:00

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It's really embarrassing that our President Obama isn't even smart enough to figure something like this out. It's practically unbelievable.

- [KENT](#) , SANFORD, 26/9/2012 20:54

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TDXI , LIVERPOOL;...."Even if it wasn't for the film they would have just made up another excuse."....Of course..but they didn't have to did they? The WHOLE chain of events is widely known and published. It's not a matter of guessing. Absolutely there was a plan to do a bold protest on 911, before the movie was known about. The movie was widely ignored when it first came out, until it came to the attention of a popular anti-western, anti American TV personality in Egypt on 9/06. HE was the one that called for a popular uprising in protest. The fundamentalists over there used the uprising to advance their plans. The other 6 embassies that burned

down were done explicitly in response to this movie. The reason the right wingers don't want this to be so, is because it is no widely known that a cabal of right wing Christian fundamentalists and Romney supporters, led by Steven Klein, were the one's to finance the movie. Before that, right wingers were claiming how inspired the movie was.

- [Resident](#) , somewhere in America, 26/9/2012 20:30

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An honest leader. How refreshing!

- [LindaM](#) , Dallas, 26/9/2012 20:17

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even the POTUS didnt have the sack to admit that. - Jon , Palmetto, Florida, 26/9/2012 19:13 What does POTUS mean? I am guessing " Piece Of Totally Useless Stuff "

- [PUCKEATR](#) , CHESAPEAKE, United States, 26/9/2012 19:48

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even the POTUS didnt have the sack to admit that.

- [Jon](#) , Palmetto, Florida, 26/9/2012 19:13

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