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American ambassador killed in Libyia on 11th anniversary of 9/11 Uncategorized — posted by jeff kunerth on September, 12 2012 11:51 AM

Discuss This: Comments(2) | Add to del.icio.us | Digg it Religion News Service's Daniel Burke rounds up stories about the death of Ambassador John Christopher Stevens, who was killed in a violent reaction in Libya to an anti-Muslim video:

U.S. Ambassador to Libya John Christopher Stevens and three other Americans were killed Tuesday anniversary of 9/11 – in an assault on the American consulate in the eastern city of Benghazi.

The attack – and related violent protests against the American embassy in Egypt – were prompted by an **amateurish anti-Muslim video apparently made in America**.

The WSJ reports that **the video** was uploaded on YouTube by **Sam Bacile, a 52-year old Israeli-American real estate** 

developerin California who said he had raised \$5 million from 100 Jewish donors to make the film. "Islam is a cancer,"

The NYT reports that the 14-minute video gained international attention when Florida pastor Terry Jones began

The NYT reports that the 14-minute video gained international attention when Florida pastor Terry Jones began promoting it along with his own proclamation of Sept. 11 as "International Judge Muhammad Day."

In a statement on Tuesday, Jones called the film "an American production, not designed to attack Muslims but to show the destructive ideology of Islam" and said it "further reveals in a satirical fashion the life of Muhammad."

President Obama said in a statement, "While the United States rejects efforts to denigrate the religious beliefs of others, we must all unequivocally oppose the kind of senseless violence that took the lives of these public servants."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said, "The United States deplores any intentional effort to denigrate the religious beliefs of others. Our commitment to religious tolerance goes back to the very beginning of our nation. But let me be clear: There is never any justification for violent acts of this kind."

The AP found Bacile, who is in hiding but remained defiant. He blamed lax embassy security and the perpetrators of the violence, the AP reports.

the violence, the AP reports.

The full film has been shown just once, Bacile told the AP. To an empty theater in Hollywood.

The violence would seem to make Pope Benedict XVI's upcoming trip to Lebanon even more perilous.

File under: Ambassador,anti-Muslim video,Daniel Burke,John Christopher Stevens,Libya,Religion News Service Comments

I've read any number of comments from people defending this movie and the people who made it, saying that because they're protected by the First Amendment, it's not their fault that at least four people are dead, many more are injured and have had their lives out at greater risk than a few days ago, and several bulidings have been damaged partly as a result of this film. To that I say, if this were a movie that portrayed the life of Muhammad in what a reasonable person would say is a mundane way, then yes, the attacks would be unexpected, but everthing I've read indicates Mr. Bacile clearly intended it to be a provocative film, and for an Israeli-American of all people to imply he didn't imagine that such a film would boil the collective blood of Middle- Easterners stretches his credibility to the breaking point. As far as I'm concerned, Mr. Bacile & anyone endorsing this film has some of the blood of Ambassador Stephens and the other 3 people on their hands.

Reply Posted by: Jim | Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 11:34 AM

Jim, you're kidding, right?! Americam movies regularily show the "bad guy" wearing a Christian cross, and the name of my
God regularily used as an epithet. Where is your outrage over that? Should I react with my anger by storming and burning

Reply Posted by: 4 Square | Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 4:47 PM

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