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Recycled paper made up 77.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2010



Protesters storm the US embassy in Yemen yesterday EPA

US 'was warned of embassy attack but did nothing'

By KIM SENGUPTA

The killings of the US ambassador to Libya and three of his staff were likely to have been the result of a serious and continuing security breach, *The Independent* can reveal.

American officials believe the attack was planned, but Chris Stevens had been back in the country only a short while and the details of his visit to Benghazi, where he and his staff died, were meant to be confidential.

The US administration is now facing a crisis in Libya. Sensitive documents have gone missing from the consulate in Benghazi and the supposedly secret location of the "safe house" in the city, where the staff had retreated, came under sustained mortar attack. Other such refugees across the country are no longer deemed "safe". Some of the missing papers from the consulate are said to list names of Libyans who are working with Americans, putting them potentially at risk from extremist groups, while some of the other documents are said to relate to oil contracts.

According to senior diplomatic sources, the US State Department had credible information 48 hours before mobs charged the consulate in Benghazi, and the embassy in Cairo,

outbreak of anti-American fury triggered by publicity about a film which demeaned the Prophet Mohamed.

A mob of several hundred stormed the US embassy in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, yesterday. Other missions which have been put on special alert include almost all those in the Middle East, as well as in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Burundi and Zambia.

Senior officials are increasingly convinced, however, that the ferocious nature of the Benghazi attack, in which rocket-propelled grenades were used, indicated it was not the result of spontaneous anger due to the video, called *Innocence of Muslims*. Patrick Kennedy, Under-Secretary at the State Department, said he was convinced the assault was planned due to its extensive nature and the proliferation of weapons.

There is growing belief that the attack was in revenge for the killing in a drone strike in Pakistan of Mohammed Hassan Qaed, an al-Qa'ida operative who was, as his *nom de guerre* Abu Yahya al-Libi suggests, from Libya, and timed for the anniversary of the 11 September attacks.

According to security sources the consulate had been given a "health check" in preparation for any violence connected to the 9/11 anniversary. In the event, the perimeter was breached within 15 minutes of an angry crowd starting to attack it at around 10pm on Tuesday night. There was, according to witnesses, little defence put up by the 30 or more local guards meant to protect the staff. Ali Fetori, a 59-year-old accountant who lives nearby, said: "The security people just all ran away and the people in charge were the young men with guns and bombs."

Wissam Buhmeid, the commander of the Tripoli government-sanctioned Libya's Shield Brigade, effectively a police force for Benghazi, maintained it was anger over the Mohamed video which made the guards abandon their

post. "There were definitely people from the security forces who let the attack happen because they were themselves offended by the film; they would absolutely put their loyalty to the Prophet over the consulate."

At least four people were reported last night to have been arrested. Wanis el-Sharef, eastern Libya's deputy interior minister, said the attacks were suspected to have been timed to mark the 9/11 anniversary and that militants used protesters as cover.

He said militants could have been tipped off about the safe-house location by infiltrators within the security forces. He said a number of arrests have been made and that other suspects are being monitored by police, but he refused to say how many.

Mr Stevens, it is believed, was left in the building by the rest of the staff after they failed to find him in dense smoke caused by a blaze. He was discovered lying unconscious by local people and taken to a hospital, the

"The security people all ran away and the people in charge were young men with guns and bombs"

Benghazi Medical Centre, where, according to a doctor, Ziad Abu Ziad, he died from smoke inhalation.

An eight-strong American rescue team was sent from Tripoli and taken by troops under Captain Fathi al-Obeidi, of the February 17 Brigade, to the secret safe house to extract around 40

GLOBAL ANGER PROTESTS SPREAD

Yemen

The furor across the Middle East over the controversial film about the Prophet Mohamed is now threatening to get out of control. In Sana'a, the Yemeni capital, yesterday around 5,000 demonstrators attacked the US embassy, leaving at least 15 people injured. Young protesters, shouted: "We sacrifice ourselves for you, Messenger of God," smashed windows of the security offices and burned at least five cars, witnesses said.

Iraq

Militants said the anti-Islamic film "will put all the American interests Iraq in danger" and called on Muslims everywhere to "face our joint enemy", as protesters in Baghdad burned American flags yesterday. The warning from the Iranian-backed group Asaib Ahl al-Haq came as demonstrators demanded the closure of the US embassy in the capital.

Bangladesh

Islamists warned they may "besiege" the US embassy in Dhaka after security forces stopped around 1,000 protesters marching to the building. The Khelafat Andolon group called for bigger protests as demonstrators threw their fists in the air, burned the flag and chanted anti-US slogans.

Others

There was a Hamas-organised protest in Gaza City, and as many as 100 Arab Israelis took to the streets in Tel Aviv. In Afghanistan, President Hamid Karzai postponed a trip to Norway, fearing violence. Officials in Pakistan said they "expected protests". Protesters in Tunis, pictured, burnt US flags.



Search for mystery director leads to Egyptian fraudster

THE FILM

By GUY ADAMS
in Los Angeles

The world premiere of a movie called *The Innocence of Bin Laden* was held on 30 June at the Vine Theatre, a small, run-down picture house in one of Hollywood's least salubrious neighbourhoods.

Fewer than a dozen people attended two screenings of the hour-long independent film, which boasted acting so wooden, production values so ropey, and a plot so non-existent that many wondered if they were watching a failed spoof.

As they left, the audience encountered a middle-aged man who claimed to be "Sam", the film's director. Today, "Sam" is a wanted man. A heavily edited version of his movie, dubbed into Arabic and uploaded to YouTube, has sparked violent attacks on US embassies in Cairo, Tripoli, and Yemen, along with the brutal murder of America's ambassador to Libya.

Yet for all the rage and recrimination, no one yet knows exactly how *The Innocence of Bin Laden*, which has since been renamed *Innocence of Muslims*, came into being. And the person best placed to tell us, the elusive "Sam", who uses the surname "Bacile", seems not to exist.

Mr Stevens' mother, Mary Commanday, spoke of her son yesterday. "He did love what he did, and he did a very good job with it. He could have done a lot of other things, but this was his passion. I have a hole in my heart," she said.

US defends itself to world PAGE 4

A second key player in the film's creation was Steve Klein, an insurance agent from Riverside County who acted as "script consultant". Klein, a far-right activist, yesterday told the *Los Angeles Times* how he helped organise June's premiere. "The idea was to locate... folks who believed Osama bin Laden was a great guy and to try to get them to come."

That, of course, failed. So the film's creators turned to the internet. In mid-July, a trailer was uploaded to YouTube by a user called "Sam Bacile". It sank without trace. But a version in Arabic appeared on the site last week, and went viral.

That film had been heavily promoted on Facebook by Morris Sadek, an Egyptian-American Christian activist, and virulent critic of Islam.

When protests began, the Associated Press contacted Mr Sadek, who said he'd be able to persuade the film-maker to give a telephone interview. "Bacile" told AP that he'd made the movie for \$5m with donations from 100 Jews. He described himself as an Israeli Jew and a California real estate developer, but no one named Sam Bacile lives in California, and key details of his story were fabricated.

Yesterday, the phone on which "Sam" gave his interview was traced to the house of one Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, a 55-year-old, Egyptian member of the Coptic Christian Church, a faith which faces persecution in many Muslim countries.

Nakoula lives in LA, has previous convictions for using aliases to defraud banks, and has admitted having "managed logistics" for the makers of the controversial film. But he currently denies being "Sam Bacile".

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