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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JAN 9 2014

Case No. F-2013-13245

Segment: EAN01

Mr. John Greenewald



Dear Mr. Greenewald:

In response to your request dated August 06, 2013 under the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5 USC Section 552), we have initiated searches of the following Department of State record systems: the Central Foreign Policy Records (the principal record system of the Department of State), the Bureau of Public Affairs, and the Office of the Bureau of Counter-Terrorism.

The search of the Central Foreign Policy Records has been completed and has resulted in the retrieval of 11 documents responsive to your request. After reviewing these documents, we have determined that five may be released in full, five may be released with excisions, and one must be withheld in full. All released material is enclosed.

An enclosure explains Freedom of Information Act exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made excisions, the applicable exemptions are marked on each document. For the one document withheld in full, we have cited exemption (b)(1).

All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released.

You have the right to appeal our determination within 60 days. A copy of the appeals procedures is enclosed. The letter of appeal should refer to the case number shown above.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, you may write to the Office of Information Programs and Services, SA-2, Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-8100, or telephone us at (202) 261-8484. Please be sure to refer to the case number shown above in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sheryl L. Walter".

Sheryl L. Walter, Director
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures:
As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Withholding specifically authorized under an Executive Order in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and properly classified. E.O. 12958, as amended, includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Information on weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- ARMEX Arms Export Control Act, 22 USC 2778(e)
 - CIA Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
 - EXPORT Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 App. USC 2411(c)(1)
 - FSA Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4003 & 4004
 - INA Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f)
 - IRAN Iran Claims Settlement Act, Sec 505, 50 USC 1701, note
- (b)(4) Privileged/confidential trade secrets, commercial or financial information from a person
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Information that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (b)(7) Information compiled for law enforcement purposes that would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request, excised with the agreement of the requester

63934 Federal Register/Vol. 69, No. 212

Rules and Regulations

Subpart F – Appeal Procedures

§171.52 Appeal of denial of access to, declassification of, amendment of, accounting of disclosures of, or challenge to classification of records.

- (a) *Right of administrative appeal.* Except for records that have been reviewed and withheld within the past two years or are the subject of litigation, any requester whose request for access to records, declassification of records, amendment of records, accounting of disclosure of records, or any authorized holder of classified information whose classification challenge has been denied, has a right to appeal the denial to the Department's Appeals Review Panel. This appeal right includes the right to appeal the determination by the Department that no records responsive to an access request exist in Department files. Privacy Act appeals may be made only by the individual to whom the records pertain.
- (b) *Form of appeal.* There is no required form for an appeal. However, it is essential that the appeal contain a clear statement of the decision or determination by the Department being appealed. When possible, the appeal should include argumentation and documentation to support the appeal and to contest the bases for denial cited by the Department. The appeal should be sent to: Chairman, Appeals Review Panel, c/o Appeals Officer, A/GIS/IPS/PP/LC, U.S. Department of State, SA-2, Room 8100, Washington, DC 20522-8100.
- (c) *Time limits.* The appeal should be received within 60 days of the date of receipt by the requester of the Department's denial. The time limit for response to an appeal begins to run on the day that the appeal is received. The time limit (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) for agency decision on an administrative appeal is 20 days under the FOIA (which may be extended for up to an additional 10 days in unusual circumstances) and 30 days under the Privacy Act (which the Panel may extend an additional 30 days for good cause shown). The Panel shall decide mandatory declassification review appeals as promptly as possible.
- (d) *Notification to appellant.* The Chairman of the Appeals Review Panel shall notify the appellant in writing of the Panel's decision on the appeal. When the decision is to uphold the denial, the Chairman shall include in his notification the reasons therefore. The appellant shall be advised that the decision of the Panel represents the final decision of the Department and of the right to seek judicial review of the Panel's decision, when applicable. In mandatory declassification review appeals, the Panel shall advise the requester of the right to appeal the decision to the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel under §3.5(d) of E.O. 12958.

From: Link, Bernard E
Sent: 5/2/2011 10:20:53 AM **RELEASED IN FULL**
To: SMART Core
Subject: GRENADA: CONGRATULATIONS UPON DEATH OF BIN LADEN

UNCLASSIFIED



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

MRN: 11 GRENADA 90
Date/DTG: May 02, 2011 / 021411Z MAY 11
From: AMEMBASSY GRENADA
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, PTER
Captions: SIPDIS
Pass Line: STATE FOR WHA/CAR (KJMCISAAC)
Subject: GRENADA: CONGRATULATIONS UPON DEATH OF BIN LADEN

1. In a phone call to Chargé on May 2, Minister for Foreign Affairs Karl Hood congratulated the United States for the operation that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden. He believed that the operation marked a turning point in the war on terror. Hood expressed particular regard for the performance of the U.S. Navy SEALs that conducted the operation. Hood agreed with Chargé that the task of confronting terrorism is not complete with bin Laden's death. He warned the U.S. not to let down its guard. Drawing from the experience of his soccer days, Hood cautioned that the euphoria surrounding a goal often provided the opening for opponents to score as well.

2. The disposal of bin Laden's body at sea is prompting on talk radio renewed speculation about the disposal of the bodies of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and his companions, murdered in 1983 upon the disintegration of the Grenada Revolution. The persons convicted of their murders have never acknowledged the eventual disposition of the corpses. However, elements within Grenada continue to speculate that, after the U.S.-Eastern Caribbean liberation of Grenada, the U.S. spirited the bodies away or disposed of them at sea to avoid creating a place of revolutionary pilgrimage.

Signature: LINK

Drafted By: GRENADA:Link, Bernard E
Approved By: GRENADA:Link, Bernard E
Released By: GRENADA:Link, Bernard E
Info: ISLAMABAD, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE ROUTINE
Attachments: metadata.dat

Action Post:
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Carle, Lisa M
Sent: 5/2/2011 10:56:18 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: SAUDI REACTION TO DEATH OF BIN LADIN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 11 MDA 28796
Date/DTG: May 02, 2011 / 021450Z MAY 11
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Galbraith, J David IMMEDIATE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, ASEC, SA
Subject: SAUDI REACTION TO DEATH OF BIN LADIN

1. Official Source Avoids Comment on U.S. Action, Hopes Death Will Support CT Efforts

Riyadh, Jumada I 28, 1432, May 2, 2011, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) -- An official source has expressed the hope of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that the elimination of Al-Qaeda leader will be a step towards supporting international efforts to combat terrorism and to dismantle its cells, as well as the elimination of deviant thought that stands behind it, especially as the people of the Kingdom have been among the most ones targeted by this terrorist organization through its crimes, killing of the innocent people, which is forbidden by Allah, the terrorization of the innocent people, and the destabilization of the security and stability of the society: Allah says in the Holy Quran, 'If anyone slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people.'
--SPA

2. Local Reactions: Muted Expressions of Regret, Some Anger on Saudi Blogs

Lojainiat :

The majority of the 80+ comments on this conservative site (owned by Prince Khaled bin Talal bin Abdulaziz al Saud) prayed for mercy upon Usama Bin Ladin's (UBL) soul. (Note: Praying for God's mercy is a typical reaction in the event of any Muslim's death, irrespective of their deeds in life. It is based on a deep-rooted Muslim conviction that once a Muslim dies, he/she is in the hands of God, and God alone decides whether this person is worthy of mercy or salvation. Islam also forbids gloating or rejoicing in the death of another Muslim. In other words, praying for mercy is a Muslim value and doesn't necessarily reflect sympathy with UBL or his ideologies. End note.)

However, there are comments expressing sympathy, anger and voicing general threats (Posting numbers 6,9,33,36,41,59,66,67,73,78,80):

- 6: May the eyes of the cowards never sleep (signed: The Wishful Martyr)
- 9: May God protect him and fail the Americans. If he is really dead, our dead are in heaven and theirs are in

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
Page 2 of 3

hell.

33: May God have mercy on your soul and may the mighty heavens be your abode, alongside the martyrs. We will follow in your footsteps; we will not forsake, we will not wane

36: May God curse America

41: May God count him among His martyrs. He died at the hands of God's worst creation. We pray that God may take His revenge upon the Americans sooner or later.

59: If Usama is dead, we have thousands of Usamas. Time will tell, you worshippers of the cross! Don't think the battle is over. We will continue fighting you. We will strike at your bastions until we prevail or die. Usama, you are graceful in life and death. May God accept you in His heavens.

66: A man worth a million men

67: If one of our masters falls, others will rise. Those who rejoice in this news are like Jews and Christians and will be resurrected in their leagues. May the eyes of the cowards never rest

73: It is mortifying to see our enemies dance and rejoice in the death of a fellow Muslim, even if we disagree with him

78: If the news is true, may God accept him among the martyrs and may He compensate the Muslim world with a fiercer holy warrior. The Muslim world has thousands of Usamas

80: Farewell, Prince of Believers

<http://www.lojainiat.com/index.cfm?do=cms.con&contentid=59002>

Islamtoday:

Several comments on *Islamtoday* (a conservative reform-minded Islamic website run by Saudi cleric Salman Al-Awdah) were skeptical whether the body displayed on news channels was UBL's. The announcement that he was buried at sea drew more skepticism and angry comments that the burial procedure was un-Islamic. Several posters questioned why the remains weren't sent to UBL's family for proper burial.

http://www.islamtoday.net/albash_eer/artshow-12-149919.htm

Al-Saha:

The attached article from *Al-Saha* (conservative, UAE-based site) was sympathetic to UBL and denounced the Al Saud for allowing "inhumane treatment of a fellow Saudi and Muslim." It asked whether the SAG would allow Bin Laden's family to observe traditional public three-day mourning rites.

http://www.alsaha.com/sahat/4/to_pics/290211

Drafted By: RIYADH:Carle, Lisa M
Cleared By: Riyadh:McGehee, Scott M
Approved By: Riyadh:Ziadeh, Susan L
Released By: RIYADH:Carle, Lisa M
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Heckman, Holly *MIMMEDIATE* ; L'Ecuyer, Paula *LIMMEDIATE* ; Munajjed, Lina *TIMMEDIATE* ;

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
Page 2 of 3

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Page 3 of 3

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metadata.dat

Attachments:

Action Post:

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
Page 3 of 3

ACTION NEA-00

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INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 AF-00 VCI-00 AID-00 A-00 ACQ-00
CA-00 CCO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 DODE-00
DOEE-00 DOTE-00 PDI-00 DS-00 AVC-00 EUR-00 FAAE-00
FBIE-00 UTED-00 H-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 INSE-00 IO-00
L-00 CAC-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 M-00 VCIE-00 NRC-00
NSAE-00 ISN-00 OCS-00 OIC-00 OIG-00 OMB-00 PA-00
PM-00 PRS-00 P-00 SCT-00 ISNE-00 DOHS-00 SP-00
SSO-00 SS-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USSS-00 EVR-00
R-00 ECA-00 IIP-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00
G-00 SCA-00 CARC-00 SAS-00 FA-00 SRAP-00 SRMC-00
SANA-00 /000W

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R 031434Z MAY 11
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4641
INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS CAIRO 000521

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

SENSITIVE

E.O. 13526: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PTER, PHUM, KIRF, KPAO, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPT REACTS TO DEATH OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

1. (SBU) Key Points:

- Egyptian print, TV, and online media dedicated extensive and generally balanced coverage on May 2-3 to the death of Osama Bin Laden.
- Reaction on Egypts social media sites has been heated, with detractors and defenders fighting over Bin Ladens legacy.
- A number of Facebook groups named We are all Osama bin Laden were launched on May 2. One gained 14,000 fans in 24 hours.
- The GOE has not issued a statement about Bin ladens death.
- Islamists of all stripes, including Egypts official Islamic institutions, criticized Bin Ladens un-Islamic burial at sea.
- The Muslim Brotherhood labeled Bin Ladens death an assassination, reiterated the right to resist occupation, and called on the U.S. to withdraw from Afghanistan.
- Al-Jamaya Al-Islamiya (Islamic Group) and Egypts Salafists called Bin Laden a martyr and his death a political murder.

Traditional Media Reaction Generally Balanced

2. (SBU) Government and private Egyptian media outlets provided extensive and generally balanced coverage of Bin Ladens death throughout May 2 on their online portals. The initial reporting was generally factual and descriptive, though coverage of reactions focused on prominent Islamist figures. Bin Ladens death dominated the front pages of most Egyptian news papers on May 3. Leading daily Al-Ahram showed pictures of celebrations in the United States, alongside a favorable picture of Bin Laden and condemnations of his burial at sea. Al-Gomhuria dedicated three pages to the story, with one article calling Bin Laden conqueror of the Americans and Soviets. Under the front-page banner Obama Kills Bin Laden, Egyptian daily Al-Shorouk narrated contrasting expert opinions on the Al Qaeda leaders legacy and speculated on possible revenge attacks. Al Dostor printed a full-page photo of Bin Laden with a photo-shopped bullet through his head, commenting that this was the price for President Obamas second term.

Social Networks We are all Osama bin Laden

3. (SBU) Bin Ladens death was the leading topic on Egypts social network sites and Twitter, with heated discussions ensuing as to whether Bin Laden was a hero and martyr, or a murderer who insulted Islam. In a poll on the We are all Khaled Saeed Facebook site (one of the biggest in Egypt with over 1,200,000 members), around 9,742 members considered Bin Laden a person who offended Islam and Muslims after approximately eight hours. 5,488 members said Bin Laden was a hero that defended Muslims, while 6,366 members voted for I have a confused stance towards him. In another poll on R.N.N. Rassd Network group (around 700,000 members), 4,766 chose sad as their reaction to Bin Ladens death, while 524 members described themselves as happy. Multiple new Facebook sites were created on May 2, each named We are

all Osama Bin Laden. The largest had 9,000 fans within seven hours and 14,000 at the end of 24 hours. Reaction on blogs and Twitter ran the gamut, from congratulations to condemnation. Many prominent bloggers compared Bin Ladens terrorism to U.S. and Israeli terrorism in Afghanistan and Palestine.

GOE and Political Response - Muted

4. (SBU) The GOE declined to comment Bin Ladens death. In response to questions at a May 2 afternoon press conference with British Foreign Minister William Hague, Egyptian Foreign Minister Al-Araby said that the GOE had no official comment on Bin Ladens death. He

added that Egypt stands against all forms of violence in international relations. The state news agency noted on May 2 that Cairo International Airport authorities moved to maximum alert status for international flights, especially those destined for New York. An anonymous government source told online news portal Al-Masry Al-Youm the same day that the GOE had strengthened security around the U.S. and British embassies.

5. (SBU) Arab League Secretary General and presidential candidate Amr Moussa commented on Bin Ladens death during a press conference with the UK Foreign Secretary William Hague in Cairo. He stated that efforts to combat international terrorism must continue. Bin Laden is no longer able to kill people or threaten the world, yet this doesnt mean the danger of al-Qaeda has ended. It will react and take revenge if it can. Presidential hopeful Mohamed Al-Baradei, Egypts Revolutionary Youth Coalition, and the April 6 Movement have not commented on Bin Ladens death. Al-Ahram Political and Strategic Studies Centers Deputy-Director Wahid Abdel Meguid described President Obamas speech after Bin Ladens death as despicable, and added that it is not suitable for someone with a legal background to claim that Today justice has been achieved after an assassination. Meguid said that Obama acted as a gang leader who knows nothing about law.

Grand Imam and Grand Mufti Condemn Burial at Sea

6. (SBU) Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmed el-Tayyeb criticized the manner in which the United States disposed of Bin Ladens remains. He condemned the United States for throw[ing] the body of Osama Bin Laden into the sea, decrying an act that contradicts all religious values and humanitarian customs. The Grand Imam told Al-Ahram that Islamic law does not allow tampering with dead bodies, regardless of his religion, and that Muslims must be buried as Prophet Mohamed instructed. Egypts Grand Mufti, Ali Gomaa, said that dumping Bin Ladens body in the sea is in complete contradiction to Islamic Sharia. Nasr Farid Wasel, a former Grand Mufti and the current head of the Sharia Council of Rights and Reform, called Bin Laden a martyr because he was killed by the enemies.

Islamists Decry Assassination

7. (SBU) Islamist groups were vocal in their response to Bin Ladens death. In an official online statement, the Muslim Brotherhood called Bin Ladens death an assassination and said they stand against violence in general and support the fair trial of any suspect, regardless of his crime. The statement asked the West to stop linking Islam with terrorism and reaffirmed that resistance against occupation is legitimate. The MB called upon the United States to

stop intelligence operations against [MB] dissidents. Speaking to

Egyptian media, official MB spokesperson Essam el-Erian said that the death of Bin Laden eliminates one of the causes of violence in the world, and that the United States must now end its wars and withdraw from Iraq and Afghanistan.

8. (SBU) Al-Jamaya Al-Islamiya (Islamic Group), after initial hesitation believing U.S. reports about Bin Ladens death, accused President Obama of murder for political benefit. Tarek Al-Zomor, a senior IG figure until recently in prison for his role in the Sadat assassination, said Obama was eager to murder Bin Laden to make use of the timing for reelection sake. Al-Zomor called for Islamic groups to continue legitimate resistance against occupation, but not undertake any random attacks [that would] undermine Islam. Montaser Al-Zayat, an IG lawyer, called Bin Ladens burial at sea an act of incivility that will bring about attacks against the United States.

9. (SBU) Prominent Salafist Sheikh and Salfist Dawah co-president Yasser Borhamy called Bin Laden a martyr and reiterated that resistance to occupation is a right according the Sharia and international law. Borhamy said that Salafists and Bin laden disagreed [on tactics] on many occasions, but that Salafists are sure [Bin Laden] only meant to accomplish victory for Islam. The Salafist leader condemned Bin Ladens burial at sea, saying this has confirmed Americas ugly face and increased sympathy for Bin laden.
SCOBAY

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RELEASED IN FULL

ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 VCI-00 AID-00 A-00 RPPR-00 ACQ-00
 CA-00 CCO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 DODE-00
 DOEE-00 DOTE-00 WHA-00 PDI-00 DS-00 EAP-00 AVC-00
 EUR-00 FAAE-00 FBIE-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 INSE-00
 IO-00 L-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 M-00 VCIE-00 NEA-00
 NRC-00 NSAE-00 ISN-00 NSCE-00 OCS-00 OES-00 OIC-00
 OIG-00 OMB-00 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 P-00 SCT-00
 ISNE-00 DOHS-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 STR-00 TRSE-00
 T-00 USSS-00 EVR-00 BBG-00 R-00 ECA-00 IIP-00
 PMB-00 DSCC-00 LBA-00 PRM-00 DRL-00 G-00 SCA-00
 CARC-00 SAS-00 FA-00 PESU-00 SRMC-00 /000W
 -----6FB2CF 060232Z /23

R 051131Z MAY 11

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3169
 INFO IGAD COLLECTIVE
 UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 000500

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR SE LYMAN, S/USSES, AF A/S CARSON, AF/E, AF/PDPA, IIP/G/AF,
 PA/PRS, RRU-AF
 NSC FOR CARLIN-YATES, LETIM DEPT PLS PASS USAID FOR AFR/SUDAN

E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PREL, PTER, SCUL, SOCI, KPAO, SU
 SUBJECT: Private and Public Reaction to the Death of Osama Bin Laden

REF: A) STATE 41496;

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: Over the last two days, May 3-4, since the announcement of Osama Bin Ladens death, almost all of Sudans local print media have dedicated two to three pages to his demise. Rhetoric though not necessarily inflammatory, has tended to glorify the radical Islamic leader dubbing him as a hero and a martyr. At least two papers questioned the truth of Bin Ladens death. Others were rife with expected conspiracy theories alluding to President Obamas action as a means to enhance his re-elections chances and being under Israels influence. On May 3, the hard line newspaper, Al-Intibaha helped organize a mass prayer for Bin Laden which drew, according to press reports, up to 1,000 people. The Sudanese government so far has said relatively little, appearing to be careful not to comment on the issue, perhaps for fear of jeopardizing its position with the U.S. However, some ruling National Congress Party (NCP) officials were not so discreet, as the Chairman of the National Assembly Ibrahim Al-Tahir slammed the U.S. stating that he hoped that the U.S. had got what it wanted and would now leave Afghanistan and the Muslim nation to tend to their own affairs. In private though, the response to U.S. officials was quite different. Responding to the demarche informing the Government of Sudan (GOS) of the killing (REFTEL), Ambassador Tariq Hassan Abusalih, Deputy Director of the American Affairs Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

suggested to the DCM that reaction in Sudan would be muted since (a) Bin Laden was not that widely embraced when he lived here; and (b) there are too many other ongoing issues of greater concern to Sudanese. Informally, the Charge also received several unsolicited messages of congratulations from prominent Sudanese. So far the RSO has only reported one very minor anti-U.S. incident of spitting at a U.S. Embassy vehicle. End Summary.

Private Reaction: No Shedding of Tears

2. (SBU) In response to the demarche informing the Government of Sudan (GOS) of the killing (REFTEL), Ambassador Tariq Hassan Abusalih, Deputy Director of the American Affairs Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, suggested to the DCM that reaction in Sudan would be muted since (a) Bin Laden was not that widely embraced when he lived here; and (b) there are too many other ongoing issues of greater concern to Sudanese. Informally, the Charge has received several unsolicited messages of congratulations from prominent Sudanese. Other Embassy officers have received similar expressions of approval and support from Sudanese and Third Country nationals.

Public Protestations and Laments

3. (SBU) Over the last two days, May 3-4, since the announcement of Bin Ladens death, almost all of Sudans local print media have dedicated two to three pages to his demise. Rhetoric though not necessarily inflammatory has tended to glorify the radical Islamic leader dubbing him as a hero and a martyr. An editorial on the independent Al-Wefaq refers to Bin Laden as a hero whose spirit will live on forever. At least two papers questioned the truth of Bin Ladens death. The Sudanese government so far has said relatively little, appearing to be careful not to comment on the issue, perhaps for fear of jeopardizing its position with the U.S. The Paris-based Sudantribune.com wrote There was no official comment from the Sudanese government on the news of Bin Laden's demise. Sudan is walking a fine line on the issue as it seeks to be lifted from the U.S. list of terror sponsoring states ... the government in Sudan may not want to welcome Bin Laden's death and alienate its base which largely sympathizes with the late Al-Qa'eda leader. Some NCP officials however, were not so discreet, as the Chairman of the National Assembly Ibrahim Al-Tahir slammed the U.S. stating that he hoped that the U.S. had got what it wanted and would now leave Afghanistan and the Muslim nation to tend to their own affairs.

4. (SBU) Other observers have said that Al-Qaeda will be put in front of a difficult test and may conduct acts of reprisal to prove their existence. Only one news analysis report in the pro-Islamist daily Alwan quoted a Sudanese political expert as contesting the strength of Al-Qaeda after Bin Ladens death. The analyst concluded that Bin Ladens death may even be the end of an era of violence and the beginning of a new phase for dialogue ... Another independent newspaper Al-Ayam published a column that criticized Al-Jazirah TV

channel stating that it had hammered its audience with contradictory views which increased confusion and raised doubts about the U.S. announcement. "Bin Laden's death doubtlessly neither represents a victory against Islam or a victory for Islam, but it represents a major fracture in the ranks of the advocates of extremist and takfiri ideologies [branding other Muslims as apostates] and shakes the convictions of those who follow them willingly or out of ignorance, says the Journalist.

Bin Laden, The Martyr

5. (SBU) On May 3, the Pro-Islamist newspaper Alwan quotes leader of the Popular Congress Party Hassan Al-Turabi as referring to Bin Laden as a Martyr, this sentiment was shared by members of the parliament who mourned Bin Ladens death at the end of the parliaments session the day before chanting Martyr Martyr, Bin Laden the Martyr sacrificed himself for Divine Unity. Al-Turabi was quoted by Al-Rai-Al-Aam as stating that Bin Laden will remain a symbolic person and that his killing should affect every Muslim even if some disagreed with his beliefs. Chairman of the National Assembly Ibrahim Al-Tahir was quoted as stating that he hoped Bin Ladens death would keep the United States out of Afghanistan and the Muslim Nation in General. Al-Gareeda, a privately owned publication, quoted him as stating that the West would be responsible for the consequences of Bin Ladens death adding that America used terrorism to delude the Arab World in its fight against Islam. Al-Tahir described the U.S. war on terror as "a genocidal war against Muslims". Pro-government Akhir Lahza ran an article stating that the General Sudanese Student Union issued a press statement denouncing the killing and stating that it rejected Americas Terrorism.

Al-Intibaha Promotes Large Prayer Demonstration

6. (SBU) On May 3, in reaction to Bin Ladens death, Al-Intibaha, the mouth piece for the Pro-Islamist anti-U.S. Just Peace Forum, issued a press release denouncing the killing and invited all Muslims to pray for the soul of Bin Laden in Khartoum yesterday. According to wire service press reports around 1,000 attended the mass prayer. A press statement published in the paper stated "the United States is deluding itself if thinks that Osama Bin Laden was that man they killed on a sad hour last Monday night. All the vibrant forces in the Islamic Nation are now Bin Laden for how could somebody who resuscitated the nation with his jihad and martyrdom die? Allah the Almighty did not want his patient and steadfast slave to fall in the captivity of his enemies or die on his bed but wanted to honor him as a martyr." The papers editor-in-chief Al-Sadig al-Rizaygi wrote an impassioned commentary glorifying Bin Laden as a martyr. "Can a man like this die when he made hundreds of millions of youths from the Islamic countries lift the torches of reawakening and jihad...? What the United States and its president called a victory- is a victory worse than defeat because he fought them up to the end.

Suspicious Surround Bin Ladens Death

7. (SBU) On May 3, The Pro-Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) Newspaper Ajas-Al-Hurria published a column by Nadia Osman Mukhtar entitled The Death of the Man Who Drove America Crazy, Between Facts and Fabrication. The columnist, questions the truth of the U.S. claims of killing Bin Laden and throwing his body out to the sea. Why would the Americans get rid of the most tangible evidence [the mans body] and give the Arabs an opportunity to ponder over the truth of the mans death? What sounds more convincing that the man was shot dead by an American bullet or that the story is nothing but a fabrication to brighten the portfolio of an Administration that has succeeded in completing a mission that the former President Bush had failed to accomplish. Independent daily Al-Tayyar published an editorial by Shammail Al-Nur that was also skeptical of Bin Ladens death. Al-Qaeda succeeded in evading U.S. intelligence for nine years and there have been previous reports that Bin Ladin had died. Why have the U.S. forces failed to document this great victory and have only one still photo of the corpse ... there is a missing link, but in any event Obama has scored a victory and might become president for another new term", he wrote.

Conspiracy Theories Abound With Israels Hidden Hand

8. (SBU) Also in Al-Ra'id, Muhammad Hamid Juma'a wrote that he was among those who believed Bin Laden had died some time ago and that Al-Qa'ida was being used as a scarecrow for ulterior motives. "In any event, Western governments vied in offering congratulations in Paris, London, and Tel Aviv. The real murderers and terrorists drank the cups of victory," he said. "Shimon Peres said for instance that a terrorist and murderer had been killed. Look at who is talking, the killer who has been destroying Palestinian homes for decades. Yet another columnist at the paper, Hasan Muhammad Zayn, wrote that the United States itself could be raising doubts about whether the man slain was Bin Laden or a look-alike "to extinguish calls for vengeance and promote uncertainty among those who respect Bin Laden and consider him an unparalleled hero. He demonstrated strength and determination in times of Arab and Islamic humiliation, and if he had found some support from the Islamic regimes and peoples the situation would have changed." The commentary assailed the U.S., the West and Israel for double standards. It said that President Obama himself was "the biggest deception in modern history" and will continue to be so because "he must accept all the conditions of the Jews to get reelected.

9. (SBU) Pro-government Al-Ahram Al-Youm published a front-page article attributed to the British-based Guardian showing a supposed photo Bin Ladens corpse. The article stated that the image was proved to be a faked photo-shopped image which was removed from the publications website later. Another news article quoted a number of Sudanese political analysts on the impact of Bin Ladens death on Al-Qaeda. One analyst argues that Bin Ladens death will not benefit America in any way and will in fact help in spreading the mans

ideologies to a larger sector of the Islamic community. He argues that Al-Qaeda is not a skeletal party that can be infiltrated and demolished like any other party; Al-Qaeda is more of an ideology that can be adopted by any party anywhere if the person believes in the principles behind it. Ibrahim Merghani, another Sudanese political expert says Al-Qaeda ideology is based on the principles of Jihad and those who fall within their ranks are considered Martyrs who will be replaced by others. An editorial on Al-Watan on May 3 supports this theory and doubts that Bin Ladens death will end the activities of Jihadist organizations.

Bin Laden Exposed the Weakness of Western Intelligence

10. (SBU) On May 3, in the privately-owned daily Al-Hurrah, the columnist Ahmad Abd-al-Wahab he muses that "Bin Laden had exposed the weakness of American and Western intelligence bodies and made them the laughing stocks of the world. He exposed the United States, the principal superpower, revealing its nakedness, impotence, and cowardice...The most important thing Bin Laden accomplished was in emboldening the Arabs and Muslims against the United States so that no one fears it any longer even though Sadat and Husni Mubarak believed it was infallible. Pro-government daily Akhir Lahzah, Mustafa Abu-Al-Azaim wrote in an op-ed that it is the United States own policies that have generated terrorism and prompted people to devise murderous and explosive protest methods... Shaikh Osama Bin Laden is no longer physically present on the international political arena. But, he will remain a spirit that inspires the new generations to continue fighting injustice. Washington preoccupied the world with what is going on in Libya to divert attention there and deliver its big blow... The U.S. Administration is pathetic for its inability to learn. When the Imam Hasan al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood group, was assassinated in 1948 neither the group nor his concept has died."

After Bin Ladens Death what comes next?

11. (SBU) In the pro-government daily Akhbar al-Yawm, Musa Ya'cub wrote: "Now that the founder and Shaikh of Al-Qa'ida has died the question is: What comes next? This must be considered rationally by the American people and their decision makers because Bush's preemptive wars and policies which still continue in the era of President Obama keep everybody sleepless. These policies and follies have exposed the United States to hatred, venom and defamation. This will not end with the death of the Al-Qaeda leader but will continue as long as the Al-Qa'ida exists in more than one place in the world and as long as the same Bush policies continue. Bin Laden has died in flesh, but as an ideology, group, action and designs he will not die except with the death of these policies and this style in foreign and international relations which made September 11 an unavoidable and inevitable destiny."

12. (SBU) In Al-Ra'id, a publication that reflects the views of the

ruling NCP, Ahmad Muhammad Shamuq wrote that a friend of his told him that "now Obama is sure to be re-elected". But the writer added it was unlikely that the world will be a better place after Bin Laden's death. "The Americans do not forget their grudges ... but they have made a mistake by killing Bin Laden, for his being alive was of no particular importance. His role was merely that of an inspiring leader, a role which has become more ingrained by his martyrdom." A senior NCP official Amin Hassan Umar, wrote that it was now possible for Al-Qaeda followers to expand their operations to "hit the enemy" everywhere. "Jihad no longer alludes to Afghanistan but to the entire Muslim world especially the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, Iraq, the Levant and occupied Palestine," he concluded. This means that the people of Al-Qaeda should not limit their jihad against the infidels who fight them in their countries. Everybody can now be mobilized to hit the enemy beyond the borders, where he thinks he is safe."

Authorities Step up Measures to Protect U.S. and British

13. (SBU) On May 3, Pro-government Al-Sahafa ran an a front-page article stating that Sudanese police have stepped up security measures around the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum and other areas in Khartoum to protect U.S. and British citizens from reprisal attacks, following the announcement of Bin Laden death. Moreover, the publication issued three entire pages dedicated to Bin Laden's death with a headline that read U.S. Intelligence Failed to Capture Bin Laden, So They Killed Him. The news report quotes observers as stating that Bin Laden's death would secure another four years President Obama in the Administration.

Only One Minor Incident Reported

14. (SBU) The Regional Security Office received one report of harassment related to the killing of Bin Laden. A local employee driving in one of the residential areas witnessed two local males driving a small dark SUV and displaying a newspaper with Bin Laden photos. (Note: The photographs were the now-discredited images of Bin Laden's purported corpse. End note.) The males appeared angry and spat at the embassy vehicle, but departed the location.

15. (SBU) Comment: While there has obviously been a great amount of pro Bin-Laden coverage and rhetoric in the press and media over the last couple of days, so far it appears to essentially emotionally cathartic in nature, lamenting the loss of Bin Laden as a kind of mythic outlaw folk hero albeit with a serious theological dimension. The criticism of the U.S. appears within the realm of what would be expected given the situation. The GOS relative silence is understandable if for no other than pragmatic reasons, their legitimate concerns that any public demonstrations ostensibly mourning Bin Laden might quickly shift into protestations about more tangible issues closer to home.

WHITEHEAD

NNNN

RELEASED IN FULL

ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 GHFS-00 RPPR-00 CA-00 CIAE-00
 INL-00 DNI-00 DODE-00 PDI-00 DS-00 DHSE-00 AVC-00
 FBIE-00 UTED-00 SIPD-00 DIAS-00 H-00 TEDE-00 INR-00
 IO-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 M-00 DCP-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
 NIMA-00 MCC-00 PER-00 GIWI-00 DOHS-00 IRM-00 SSO-00
 SS-00 NCTC-00 FMP-00 R-00 ECA-00 OCA-00 DSCC-00
 PRM-00 DRL-00 SCA-00 SAS-00 FA-00 SWCI-00 SANA-00
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-----6E6845 041343Z /38

R 041241Z MAY 11
 FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0935
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS TIRANA 000344

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

SIPDIS
 DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR
 EUR/SCE
 EUR/PPD

E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: PREL, KPAO, KMDR, PGOV, AL
 SUBJECT: REACTION TO THE DEATH OF USAMA BIN LADEN; ALBANIA

REACTION TO THE DEATH OF USAMA BIN LADEN; TIRANA, ALBANIA

1. (U) SUMMARY: Albanian politicians at all levels congratulated the United States on the death of Osama Bin Laden as a victory against terrorism that made the world a more secure place. The statements (see below) by the President of the Republic Bamir Topi, Prime Minister Sali Berisha, and Speaker of the Parliament Jozefina Topalli, as well as Tirana mayoral candidate and Socialist Party Chairman Edi Rama, congratulating President Obama on his victory, were widely reported. Press coverage was extensive and mainly factual, though Panorama, a leading print journal, pointed out that some questions have been raised about the veracity of the announcement. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) Topi offered congratulations to President Obama on justice restored and the the completion of the mission. By achieving one of the most important victories in the long and difficult war against international terrorism, Topi proclaimed he was proud that my country is lined up on the side of the greatest ally and friend of Albania. Topi concluded by expressing his admiration for this great victory and assured the United States that Albania will continue to complete with devotion its engagements in the framework of NATO, by giving its own contribution in the future challenges for freedom, democracy, as well as in constructing a better world for the nations and their future.

3. (U) Berisha reacted to the news about the elimination of one of the blackest figures of the history of mankind, calling it a a great

victory of the United States of America, [and for] President Barack Obama. Berisha stated that Osama got the deserved response while hidden in his den for years... This is the most consoling news for families of thousands of innocent victims of the attacks that the chief terrorist Osama Bin Laden masterminded in many countries of the world.

4. (U) Topalli declared that Today, the world is more secure. She stated that this was a victory not only for the United States, but for freedom and the whole world and also NATO and the Freedom Alliance of which Albania is a member and contributes in the fight against terrorism.

5. (U) Rama telephoned Ambassador Arvizu directly and called the news about Bin Ladens death positive news and a big win in the fight against terrorism. He especially praised President Obama for keeping a big promise to the American people in conjunction to the fight against terrorism worldwide.

6. (U) In a press release, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hail[ed] the elimination of the arch-terrorist Osama Bin Laden during a successful operation conducted by US forces. The Ministry stated that the Albanian people share the feelings of solidarity with the peoples of the whole world who have suffered from the unparalleled acts perpetrated by international terrorism, including the one on 11 September.

7. COMMENT: Comments to the Embassys Facebook page were congratulatory. In addition to the more factual articles about the death of Bin Laden, the May 3 edition of Panorama, a moderate print daily, had a small article entitled, The Mystery of the Body, which published a photo that purported to show Bin Ladens corpse. The article pointed out that, until the White House released photographs of the corpse, certain circles would continue to question the veracity of the White Houses statement on Bin Ladens death. END COMMENT.
ARVIZU

NNNN

RELEASED IN PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

From: Kiene, Robert R (Brussels)
Sent: 5/2/2011 1:14:40 PM
To: svcSMARTHBTSP0P1
Subject: BELGIAN OFFICIALS INCREASE SECURITY FOR U.S. INSTALLATIONS WHILE LEAVING GENERAL THREAT LEVEL UNCHANGED
Attachments: Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

MRN: 11 BRUSSELS 241
Date/DTG: May 02, 2011 / 021716Z MAY 11
From: AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PTER, BE
Captions: NOFORN
Reference: A) 11 STATE 41496
Pass Line: AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG
Subject: BELGIAN OFFICIALS INCREASE SECURITY FOR U.S. INSTALLATIONS WHILE LEAVING GENERAL THREAT LEVEL UNCHANGED

1. (C/NF) Summary: Belgian Interior Minister Annemie Turtelboom told the Ambassador on May 2 that the threat levels for Belgium generally and for USG interests will remain at the same official level.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Some concern was expressed about Muslims' reaction to the burial of Bin Laden's body at sea. Publicly, Belgian government officials condemned terrorism and Bin Laden, and noted that the continuing threat requires Belgian troops to remain in Afghanistan through the end of 2011 in spite of Bin Ladin's death.

[Redacted]

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1.4(B)
1.4(D)



B1
1.4(B)
1.4(D)

7. (U) In a statement reported in the Belgian media, Prime Minister Yves Leterme expressed relief at Bin Laden's elimination. Although ideally there should have been a trial for him, Leterme said, it is a good solution under the circumstances. He warned that the world will have to remain vigilant, and confirmed that Belgian troops will remain in Afghanistan until the end of the year, as planned. However, he also said that "We are making a constant evaluation of our military presence and we will continue to do that in the coming days", echoing what he recently told the Ambassador about a review of all Belgium's overseas operations.

8. (U) In a text message reported by the Belgian press, Foreign Minister Vanackere called Bin Laden a mass murderer and rejected any idea that he was a leader of the Muslim people. He found it appropriate that President Obama expressed gratitude to Pakistan, because "contrary to his predecessor Bush, Obama insists on the fact that the battle against terrorism is a battle of alliances conducted by the international community as a whole."

9. (U) Defense Minister Pieter De Crem told the press that he hopes Bin Laden's death will speed up the process toward stability in Afghanistan. He cautioned, however, that this does not mean the Belgian military presence in Afghanistan can be reduced.

Signature: GUTMAN

Classified By: Name: Steven Fagin, Title: Political Economic Counselor
Agency: Embassy Brussels

Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)

Declassify on: 2021/05/02

Drafted By: BRUSSELS:Kiene, Robert R (Brussels)

Approved By: EXEC:Foucher, Robert J (Brussels)

Released By: BRUSSELS:Kiene, Robert R (Brussels)

Info: SECDEF WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE* ; CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE *ROUTINE* ;
SACEUR POLAD SHAPE BE *ROUTINE* ; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE* ;
AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE* ; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY ;
ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA ; ZEN/AMCONSUL FLORENCE ;
ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK ; ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK ;
ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF ; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG ;
ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG ; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN

RELEASED IN PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

ACTION SCT-00

INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 VCI-00 AID-00 A-00 CA-00 CCO-00
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CAC-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 M-00 VCIE-00 NEA-00 NRC-00
NSAE-00 ISN-00 NSCE-00 OCS-00 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00
P-00 ISNE-00 DOHS-00 SSO-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 USSS-00
ASDS-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 G-00 SCA-00 SAS-00 FA-00
SRAP-00 PESU-00 SRMC-00 SANA-00 /000W
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O R 031617Z MAY 11
FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
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INFO GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
DIA WASHINGTON DC
CIA WASHINGTON DC
JCS NMCC WASHINGTON DC
USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

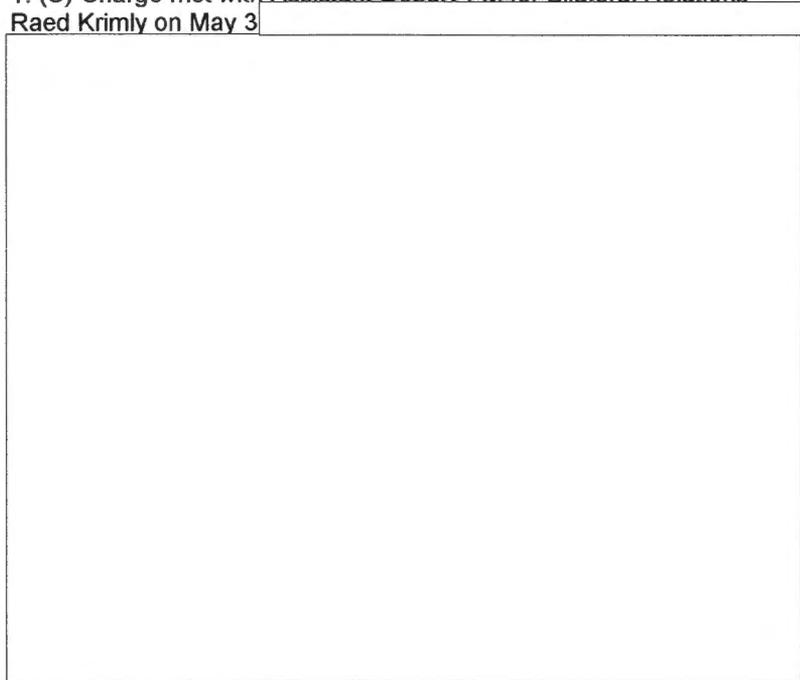
C O N F I D E N T I A L RIYADH 000459

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2021/05/03
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, SA
SUBJECT: BIN LADEN: SAUDI REACTIONS

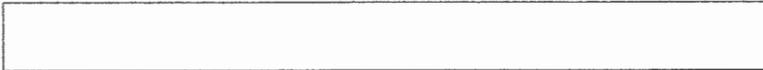
REF: A) 11 STATE 41496; B) 11 MDA 28796;

CLASSIFIED BY: Susan L. Ziadeh, Charge d'Affaires; REASON: 1.4(B),
(D)

1. (C) Charge met with Assistant Deputy FM for Bilateral Relations
Raed Krimly on May 3



B1
1.4(B)
1.4(D)

B1
1.4(B)
1.4(D)

OFFICIAL SAUDI GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS

3. (U) As reported in ref B, the official Saudi Press Agency released the following statement on May 2 at 11:44 local time (08:44 GMT), available at <http://www.spa.gov.sa/english/cdetails.php?id=889039>:

An official source has expressed the hope of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that the elimination of Al-Qaeda leader will be a step towards supporting international efforts to combat terrorism and to dismantle its cells, as well as the elimination of deviant thought that stands behind it, especially as the people of the Kingdom have been among the most ones targeted by this terrorist organization through its crimes, killing of the innocent people, which is forbidden by Allah, the terrorization of the innocent people, and the destabilization of the security and stability of the society: Allah says in the Holy Quran, "If anyone slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people."

4. (U) On the sidelines of a May 3 GCC interior ministers meeting in Abu Dhabi, Deputy Interior Minister Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al Saud told reporters: "We hope that with the death of Usama bin Laden, an evil has ended. He has been an evil to himself, to his immediate family, and to the Arab countries as a whole."

REACTIONS

5. (SBU) Saudi press continued coverage of bin Laden's death today, with the story on the front page of all Saudi newspapers and headlines projecting a sense of strong approval and even "relief" at Bin Laden's departure. Beyond the headlines, four main sub-themes emerged: skepticism and cynicism about the effect of Bin Laden's death on ending terrorism, anger about his burial at sea, what the West plans to do now, and Bin Laden's diminished and even passe significance following the Arab Spring.

6. (SBU) Eventhough comments on Twitter and other social media in Saudi Arabia have been sparse, the comments on the blogosphere reflected bitterly divided feelings, with some condemning Bin Laden as a criminal who blackened the reputation and distorted Islam, while others hailed him as a martyr and a hero who has "left the gains of life to fight for Muslims everywhere." There are several Facebook pages entitled "We Are Usama bin Laden" -- emulating the famous "We Are Khalid Saed" pages from Egypt -- with one page appearing to have nearly 100,000 "likes." The content on these pages leans toward hostility at Bin Laden's death.

7. (SBU) Local blogs on May 2 carried muted expressions of regret and some angry reactions. The majority of the comments on the Lojainiat conservative site (owned by Prince Khalid bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud) prayed for mercy upon Usama bin Laden's soul. (Note: Praying for God's mercy is a typical reaction in the event of any Muslim's death, irrespective of their deeds in life. It is based on a

deep-rooted Muslim conviction that once a Muslim dies, he/she is in the hands of God, and God alone decides whether this person is worthy

of mercy or salvation. Islam also forbids gloating or rejoicing in the death of another Muslim. In other words, praying for mercy is a Muslim value and doesn't necessarily reflect sympathy with Bin Laden or his ideologies. End note.)

8. (SBU) Several comments on Islamtoday (a conservative, reform-minded Islamic website run by Saudi cleric Salman Al-Awdah) were skeptical whether the body displayed on news channels was Bin Laden's. The announcement that he was buried at sea drew more skepticism and angry comments that the burial procedure was un-Islamic. Several posters questioned why the remains weren't sent to Bin Laden's family for proper burial.
(<http://www.islamtoday.net/albasheer/artshow-12-149919.htm>)

9. (SBU) An article from Al-Saha (conservative, UAE-based site) was sympathetic to Bin Laden and denounced the Al Saud for allowing "inhumane treatment of a fellow Saudi and Muslim." It asked whether the SAG would allow Bin Laden's family to observe traditional public three-day mourning rites.
(<http://www.alsaha.com/sahat/4/topics/290211>)
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RELEASED IN PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

ACTION NEA-00

INFO LOG-00 MFA-00 EEB-00 AF-00 AID-00 A-00 GHFS-00
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EUR-00 E-00 FBIE-00 FO-00 OBO-00 TEDE-00 INR-00
IO-00 AGRE-01 L-00 CAC-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 M-00
DCP-00 NSAE-00 ISN-00 OIG-00 OMB-00 NIMA-00 PA-00
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SP-00 IRM-00 SSO-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 ASDS-00 CBP-00
BBG-00 R-00 SCRS-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00
G-00 ALM-00 SAS-00 FA-00 SRAP-00 SWCI-00 PESU-00
SRMC-00 SANA-00 /001W

-----6D0164 021554Z /38

O R 021552Z MAY 11
FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3350
INFO IRAQ COLLECTIVE
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
CIA WASHINGTON DC

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 001095

SENSITIVE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2021/05/02
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, IZ, AMGT, ASEC, PTER
SUBJECT: Positive Initial Iraqi Reactions to News of Bin Laden Death,
GOI Expresses Support

CLASSIFIED BY: Marc J. Sievers, Political Minister-Counselor, DOS,
POL; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

Summary

1. (C) Initial Iraqi reactions to President Obamas May 1 announcement that the United States had killed Usama Bin Laden have been overwhelmingly positive, with contacts describing it as an important victory and a great day for the United States and Iraq. On May 2, the GOI spokesman issued an official statement welcoming news of the operation.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Deputy Foreign Minister Abbawi welcomed the U.S. action but asked about media reports that Bin Ladens remains had been buried at sea, saying this could serve as recruiting tool by AQI and Bin Laden supporters. End Summary.

B1
1.4(B)
1.4(D)

Positive MFA Reaction

2. (C) Political Minister-Counselor delivered refel points to [Redacted]
[Redacted] MFA [Redacted]
[Redacted] on May 2. [Redacted] congratulated the United

States, calling the U.S. military operation a job well done, and said the initial Iraqi reaction was positive overall. However, [redacted] expected some form of AQI retaliation. He added that some were questioning whether or not President Obamas statement was true. Pol M/C assured them we had no doubt our information was accurate. [redacted] said the National Security Council would meet at 2:30 p.m. He agreed to advocate for the GOI to issue a statement of support. (Note: The statement as issued appears in para 4.)

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3. (C) [redacted] expressed concerns regarding media reports that Bin Ladens body had been buried at sea. If true, this was a mistake, he explained, as Islamic practice requires that bodies of the dead be returned to the family for burial. He suggested the appropriate thing would have been to turn the body over to Saudi Arabia as Bin Laden was a Saudi citizen. [redacted] worried that these media reports could serve as a recruitment tool by Bin Ladens supporters, who would claim it was proof of American lack of respect for Islamic traditions. If these reports were untrue, [redacted] urged the USG to refute them.

Positive Official GOI Statement

4. (U) GOI Spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh released the following press statement on May 2:

The Iraqi Government has received with great satisfaction the news on the success of the U.S. Forces in killing the head of al-Qaeda terrorist organization Usama bin Laden during a military operation carried out as part of its efforts for combating terrorism.

Our Iraqi people and other people in the world have suffered from the al-Qaeda terrorist crimes which form a major threat to the security and safety of the international community.

Iraq asserts its support for any international effort to eliminate the pillars of blind extremism and terrorist elements whose crimes spread panic among the safe communities.

Iraqi NSA: Bin Ladens Death a Cause for Celebration, but Vigilance Still Needed



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1.4(B)
1.4(D)

[Redacted]

B1
1.4(B)
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Great Day for the United States

6. (C) In separate meetings with Poloff on May 2, [Redacted]

[Redacted] both congratulated the United States on the operation. [Redacted] called it a great day for America. [Redacted] said he hoped the death of Bin Laden would also lead to the disappearance of al-Qaeda in Iraq.

Positive Reactions from the Provinces

7. (C) [Redacted] told the PRT Team Leader May 2 that he was very happy about the death of Bin Laden. [Redacted]

[Redacted] he considered Bin Laden an apostate troublemaker. [Redacted]

[Redacted] called the PRT to offer his congratulations. PRT Dhi Qar reported that students of English at Dhi Qar Universitys English Faculty discussed Bin Ladens death in advance of sitting for their final exam. They focused on debating his purported burial at sea, calling it too clean.

8. (C) [Redacted] had no sympathy for Bin Laden, calling him worthless in a conversation with the PRT. He criticized media coverage of the event as giving him value. [Redacted]

[Redacted] visited the PRT to offer words of congratulation and support. He also expressed fears of reprisals. [Redacted] offered his congratulations to the United States in a conversation with the PRT and said moderate Arabs have long rejected Bin Laden.

Widespread Media Coverage

9. (SBU) Osama Bin Ladens death attracted widespread coverage in the Iraqi media. All major news channels led news broadcasts with the topic and displayed bannered headlines throughout their regular programming. Government-funded Iraqiyya TV, a leading network, showed live coverage of public celebrations in the United States. Sharqiyya TV, the top Sunni-oriented news channel, featured the story throughout the day as well. Overall, coverage was straightforward and factual, focused primarily on Iraqi government reactions, which were generally positive. Radio Dijla quoted Government Spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh calling on misguided elements of AQI to reintegrate into Iraqi society. News website al-Rayy covered a statement by Adil Barawi, an advisor to the PM, that Bin Ladens killing will reflect positively on the security condition in Iraq and the region. Al-Iraqiyya TV reported an announcement by Major General Qasim Atta,

spokesman for the Baghdad Operations Command, confirming that Iraqi Security Forces had taken urgent preemptive measures to prevent potential attacks in response to the news. Buratha news reported Sadrist MP Bahaa al-Araji warning that following the killing, al-Qaeda would increase its attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan and called for preventative security measures. The Embassys Facebook page posting on the event currently shows 48 likes and 41 comments.
Jeffrey

NNNN

RELEASED IN PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00 MFA-00 EEB-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 A-00 RPPR-00
INL-00 DODE-00 PERC-00 PDI-00 DS-00 DHSE-00 AVC-00
EUR-00 FBIE-00 SIPD-00 FO-00 DIAS-00 TEDE-00 INR-00
IO-00 CAC-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIG-00
NIMA-00 MCC-00 GIWI-00 SCT-00 DOHS-00 FMPC-00 IRM-00
SSO-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 ASDS-00 CBP-00 R-00 ECA-00
SCRS-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 ALM-00 ATF-00 CARC-00 SAS-00
FA-00 SRAP-00 PESU-00 SRMC-00 /000W
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FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LAGOS
AMEMBASSY ABUJA

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INR/AF, INL
STATE PLEASE PASS TO USAID
NSC FOR YATES

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2021/06/08
TAGS: AMGT, ASEC, PTER, KPAO, KISL, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN RESPONSE TO USAMA BIN LADEN'S DEATH

REF: A) 11 STATE 41496;

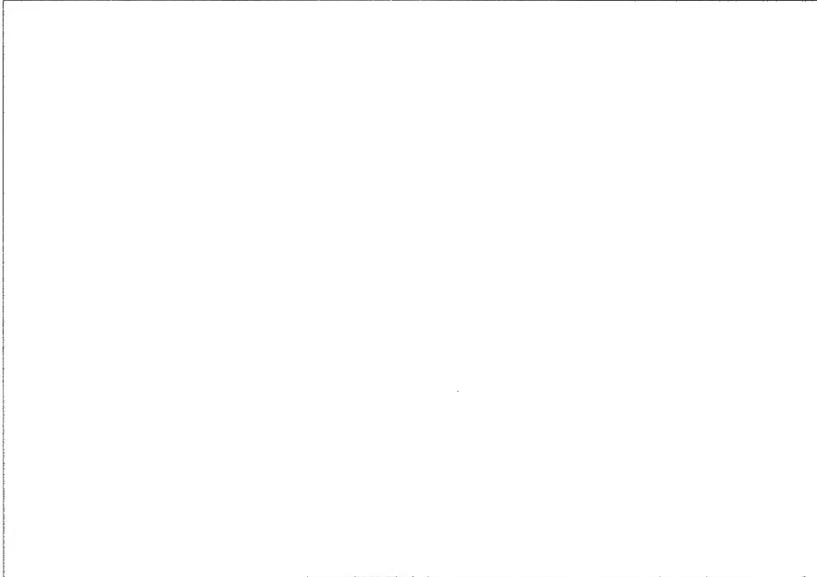
CLASSIFIED BY: Ball, Perry E, Charge d'Affaires, State, Abuja EXEC;
REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

SUMMARY **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

1. (C) The Nigerian response to Usama bin Laden's death has been muted. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Embassy considers ongoing violent acts in the country's north as primarily related to the April 2011 national elections or the ongoing Boko Haram crisis in the northeastern Nigerian state of Borno [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] END SUMMARY.

B1
1.4(B)
1.4(D)

B1
1.4(B)
1.4(D)



REACTION ELSEWHERE LOW-KEY THUS FAR

3. (SBU) The local press reporting on Bin Laden's death has been more varied. People's Daily Online reported that human rights lawyer Osuagwu Oguchukwu faulted the U.S. for its actions and the post-announcement celebrations in particular. Oguchukwu criticized U.S. forces for killing an unarmed man, rather than trying him in a court of law. The Nigerian Tribune, a northern newspaper, responded positively to the news, calling the killing "an opportunity for Nigeria to re-evaluate its war against terror." The paper posited that the event may justify the 2009 extra-judicial killing of Boko Haram leader Mohammed Yusuf. It opined that "killing in the national interest appears to be a legitimate practice worldwide, although it might not be polite to say so." The Nation and Tribune reported that the GON has raised the security level at Nigeria's airports. The Vanguard reported that Nigeria's service chiefs held a nine-hour meeting May 4 to plan in case "some groups" (nfi) attempted to use the killing as a pretext for further violence.



[Redacted]

B1
1.4(B)
1.4(D)

5. (C) The Embassy has not yet observed any violent action resulting from bin Laden's demise [Redacted]

[Redacted]

6. (C) The Chief Imam of Tudan Murtala Friday Mosque Sheikh Abdullahi Pakistan took a different tact in his Friday, May 6 sermon, going so far as to call bin Laden's death "a sham" and "deception," warning his followers against the "evil doings of the Western world." Sheikh Pakistan's position was largely based on an alleged picture of bin Laden's body that he called "unconvincing."

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

COMMENT

[Redacted]

BALL

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RELEASED IN PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

ACTION SCT-00

INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 VCI-00 AID-00 A-00 RPPR-00 ACQ-00
CA-00 CCO-00 CG-00 COME-00 CTME-00 DOEE-00 DOTE-00
PDI-00 DS-00 AVC-00 EUR-00 FAAE-00 FBIE-00 TEDE-00
INR-00 INSE-00 IO-00 L-00 CAC-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00
M-00 VCIE-00 NEA-00 NRC-00 NSAE-00 ISN-00 NSCE-00
OCS-00 OES-00 OIC-00 OIG-00 OMB-00 PA-00 PM-00
PRS-00 P-00 ISNE-00 DOHS-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00
TRSE-00 T-00 USSS-00 BBG-00 IIP-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00
LBA-00 DRL-00 G-00 SCA-00 CARC-00 SAS-00 FA-00
SRAP-00 /000W

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INFO ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
CIS COLLECTIVE
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
CIA WASHINGTON DC
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 000083

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK
AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2021/05/05
TAGS: PTER, PREL, PGOV, UZ
SUBJECT: Uzbekistan: Reaction to Bin Laden's Death

REF: A) 11 STATE 41496;

CLASSIFIED BY: Nicholas Berliner, Pol-Econ Chief; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (C) [redacted] the Government of Uzbekistan (GOU) has not issued a public statement on Osama Bin Ladens death and coverage in the [redacted] media has been non-existent thus far, [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] promised all necessary assistance regarding the security of the Embassy and U.S. personnel in Uzbekistan. [redacted]

[redacted]

2. (C) The public has been [redacted] supportive. During a roundtable event organized by a GOU think tank on the Uses of Soft Power on May 4, [redacted] took the

B1
1.4(B)
1.4(D)

floor to make the point that soft power has its limits. He noted that, the U.S. killing of Bin Laden was an example of the necessary use of hard power.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Uzbek youth has been equally approving of the operation in Pakistan. At a gathering with the Embassys Public Affairs Office on May 4, young people expressed the opinion that the Bin Ladens death would make the world safer, though they realized that terrorism would remain a threat. There was no sense that his burial at sea was inappropriate.

3. (C) Comment:

[REDACTED]

BUTCHER

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