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**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

SEP 17 2014

Case No. F-2014-10863

Segment: PA/EX

Mr. John Greenwald



Dear Mr. Greenwald:

In response to your request dated June 22, 2014 under the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5 USC Section 552), we initiated a search of the following Department of State record system: the Bureau of Public Affairs (PA).

The search of the records of the Bureau of Public Affairs has been completed and has resulted in the retrieval of 19 documents responsive to your request. After reviewing these documents, we have determined that 19 may be released in full. All released material is enclosed.

We have now completed the processing of your case. 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 that reads "Anita L. Boone for".

John F. Hackett, Acting Director  
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures:

As stated.



# RAPID RESPONSE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE • BUREAU OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**HOT TOPICS**  
**TUESDAY 09/04/2012**

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**‘US Keen to Counter China’s Growing Presence in Pacific’:** East Asian analysts view Secretary Clinton’s attendance and remarks at the Pacific Island Forum as aimed at offsetting China’s “increasing influence” in the region. New Zealand’s *One News* sees the Secretary looking to “counter growing Chinese influence in the Pacific Islands, but her pledge that the US is in the Pacific Islands for the ‘long haul’ may have come too little too late.” The Philippines’ *Malaya* cautions that Washington and Beijing could “divvy up the islands in the region between them.” Japan’s *Yomiuri* notes while the Secretary expressed Washington’s plan to extend greater assistance to the island states, “China intends to further expand its influence in the region through its own economic aid programs.” *China Daily* thinks the Secretary’s statements in the Cook Islands “sounded more sensible than at other recent time,” and hopes “given the US and China’s willingness to accommodate a greater presence of the each other in the region, they do not have to face each other.” *Liberation Daily*, however, says Clinton’s trip to Asia aims to “pressure China on multiple international issues.” Hong Kong’s *Ta Kung Pao* observes “if the US wants to return to Asia Pacific as a collaborator, the Pacific Ocean is big enough to include China, the US, and even more countries, but it will not be accepted if Washington relies on military intervention in region.”

**Message:**

- ✓ *“We believe that the US-ASEAN relationship is one of our most important and we want to support ASEAN unity in this region.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *“The United States has a national interest, as every country does, in the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for international law, freedom of navigation, and unimpeded lawful commerce in the South China Sea.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *“The United States does not take a position on competing territorial claim over land features, but we believe the nations of the region should work collaboratively together to resolve disputes without coercion, without intimidation, without threats, and certainly without the use of force.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *“That is why we encourage ASEAN and China to make meaningful progress towards finalizing a comprehensive code of conduct in order to establish rules of the road and clear procedures for peacefully addressing disagreements. And we endorse the recent ASEAN six-point principles on the South China Sea.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *Secretary Clinton’s Remarks with Indonesian FM Natalegawa*

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer

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# RAPID RESPONSE

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**HOT TOPICS**  
**WEDNESDAY 09/05/2012**

**'US Returning to Asia Fuels Tension':** As international commentators depict Secretary Clinton in China aiming to calm tensions over regional territorial disputes, many pro-China media blame the US for adding "fuel to the fire" with its "return to Asia" and failing to respect Beijing's "interests," with few expecting any positive results during her visit. France's *Le Figaro* sees the Secretary "seeking appeasement" after a "rather heated summer of territorial conflicts" while "the Chinese-American rivalry looms in the background." *The Hong Kong Economic Journal* thinks she will attempt to "lower the temperature...and prevent upsetting the US' return to the Asia Pacific region need to hold dialogue "to avoid miscalculation." *Global Times*, however, argues "there is not much to discuss with the US...because the US is the root reason why the South China Sea and Diaoyu Islands disputes have become so sensitive." *China Business News* asserts that the "true meaning" of Secretary Clinton's comments at the Pacific Island Forum was that "the US must be the only overlord in the region while China's development must be limited." The UAE's *Gulf News* suspects the regional code of conduct she recently advocated "will not come without Washington getting a reasonable slice of the cake for its services." Hong Kong's *Wen Wei Po* claims "Washington has played a disgraceful role in seriously affecting peace and stability" in the region, and urges Clinton to "respect China's core interests." *China Daily* warns the Secretary "won't achieve much if she focuses primarily on territorial disputes between China and its neighbors." Russia's *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* sees "practically no hope for a compromise" since Washington and Beijing "will not change their positions."

**Message:**

- ✓ **"We are committed to building a cooperative partnership with China; it is a key aspect of our rebalancing in the Asia Pacific." (Secretary Clinton)**
- ✓ **"We have had a lot of in-depth consultations and high-level meetings over the last three and a half years." (Secretary Clinton)**
- ✓ **"Just this past year, we had the fourth session of our Strategic and Economic Dialogue and a 12<sup>th</sup> meeting between our two presidents." (Secretary Clinton)**
- ✓ **"We continue to stress the importance of the practical cooperation that underlies our comprehensive relationship." (Secretary Clinton)**
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton's Remarks with Chinese FM Yang**

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer**

**'Yemen Donors' Conference--Aspirations and Challenges':** International analysts view pledges of \$6.4 billion from international donors as an attempt to "stabilize" Yemen's economy and security, with some observers calling for more support to address the country's essential needs. Lebanon's *LBC TV* observes the conference's goal is to "help the impoverished country rebuild after it was hit by political unrest and an insurgency waged by Al-Qaida." Malaysia's *The Star* notes the "US,

which wants to prevent instability in Yemen from spreading in the oil-rich region, would provide \$345 million in security, humanitarian and development assistance.” Saudi Arabia’s *Al-Sharq* declares the meeting has “produced positive results that will benefit Yemen.” *Al-Watan* urges the international community “to be committed to its pledges due to the urgent situation in Yemen that cannot tolerate procrastination.” *Al-Riyadh* warns “certain issues are immediate and must be addressed; namely, shortages in food, medicine, and education, which cannot be delayed.” The UAE’s *National* comments “the conference is essential to keep Yemen’s fragile economy and political transition on track...yet what is needed more is a clear plan to manage the money and the economic reforms.”

**Message:**

- ✓ *The United States continues to stand by the Yemeni people as they take steps to realize a more secure, prosperous, and democratic future. (USAID Press Release)*
- ✓ *This conference is an important opportunity for the international community to engage in direct dialogue with the Yemeni government and international partners about advancing political, economic, security and governance reform in Yemen. (USAID Press Release)*
- ✓ *This meeting will help guide international assistance and development efforts through discussions with Yemeni interlocutors, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and other international partners. (USAID Press Release)*
- ✓ *USAID Press Release*

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HOT TOPICS  
THURSDAY 09/06/2012

**'US Provides \$21m To Feed Syrian Refugees':** As Middle East observers take note of USAID Administrator Shah's visit to Jordan and pledge of an additional \$21 million for Syrian refugees, other international analysts demand urgent global action to stem the crisis. *NOW Lebanon* headlines "US boosts humanitarian aid to Syria to over \$100 million," reporting that Shah announced the new funds would go to the World Food Program "to help feed Syrians inside and outside the country." Jordan's *Petra News Agency* notes Shah's announcement came during a visit to the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, where he commended efforts by Amman to provide protection and assistance to refugees in need. *The Jordan Times* emphasizes that of the newly pledged \$21 million, around \$2.5 million will be allocated for Syrian refugees in Jordan. Turkey's *Milliyet*, meanwhile, laments that "the aid that was given to Jordan is not being given to Turkey." *Today's Zaman* urges the US to "respond to Turkish grievances." The UAE's *Gulf News* opines, "If any action is needed to be taken now on Syria, it should be aimed at sparing the civilians from the onslaught." *The National* urges Arab countries to "focus resources to make sure that refugees are as safe as possible; to help end an intractable crisis; and to help rebuild the country."

**Message:**

- ✓ ***"To help meet the growing humanitarian need caused by the violence in Syria, USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah announced in Jordan that the US is providing an additional \$21 million to the United Nations World Food Program." (White House Spokesman Carney)***
- ✓ ***"With this new assistance the United States is providing a total of more than \$100 million for humanitarian activities inside Syria and in neighboring countries." (White House Spokesman Carney)***
- ✓ ***"Of this new funding, \$14.3 million will provide food assistance to conflict-affected people inside Syria, and \$6.7 million to support Syrians displaced in neighboring countries." (Acting Deputy State Department Spokesman Ventrell)***
- ✓ ***Video US Announces New Assistance for Syrian Refugees***

**Clinton's Meetings 'Show Strength' of US-Sino Ties:** While some global observers depict "coldness" by Beijing toward the Secretary citing her canceled meeting with Vice President Xi Jinping as an example, others portray a "conciliatory tone" that shows "how the relationship has grown." In China, *The Global Times* cannot pinpoint any "breakthroughs" but believes the "visit created an opportunity for the Asia-Pacific region to think about Sino-US relations." *China Daily* stresses that "Beijing and Washington have an interest in maintaining regional peace and should work to cooperate, clear up misunderstandings and increase their mutual trust." *People's Daily* posits the Secretary "did not come for a fight" and notes the visit "reflects the two have focused on the bilateral relationship, making efforts to strengthen communication." Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* reminds that a "stable and friendly relationship" is in the interest of both countries and

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer

will “benefit the world,” arguing that although “big differences remain, they can be bridged as long as talks on equal terms continue.” Meanwhile, Japan’s *Yomiuri* believes “the tug-of-war between the US and China over leadership in the South China Sea is becoming increasingly intense.” The UK’s *Guardian* describes Washington and Beijing as remaining at an “impasse over Syria and tension persists over the long-running territorial wrangle in South China Sea.” Germany’s *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* contends that although the two sides did not achieve “rapprochement,” the Secretary “expressed satisfaction over the fact that the two countries have built resilience into their relationship, which makes it possible to discuss all issues.”

**Message:**

- ✓ ***“Our Strategic and Economic Dialogue, our consultation on People-to-People Exchange, our Strategic Security Dialogue, our Asia Pacific Consultation, our new Middle East Dialogue, and all the rest of our engagement really exemplifies how hard we are working at every level of our government to build habits of cooperation and to open channels of communication.”***  
***(Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***“The United States welcomes the rise of a strong, prosperous, and peaceful China.”***  
***(Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***“We want China to continue to succeed in delivering economic opportunity to the Chinese people.”*** ***(Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***“We want China to play a greater role in world affairs.”*** ***(Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***“We are convinced that our two countries gain far more when we cooperate with one another than when we descend into an unhealthy competition.”*** ***(Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***“We are committed to managing our differences effectively and expanding our cooperation wherever and whenever possible.”*** ***(Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***Secretary Clinton in China***

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**HOT TOPICS**  
**FRIDAY 09/07/2012**

**'Helpless' on Syria:** Global observers bemoan international inaction, especially by the US, to end the unrelenting bloodshed in Syria noting the obstacles but stressing the situation begs for more than rhetoric. Turkey's *Milliyet* blames the US' "lack of initiative" partially on the presidential campaign arguing "if there were no election in the US, one can think that President Obama could have acted more energetically on this issue. But this, too, has its limits." Pan-Arab *Al-Hayat* contends that "US priorities have shifted to the Pacific and Washington does not want to become involved in another Iraq or Afghanistan," concluding that the "US role now is closer to resignation than to getting involved." Saudi Arabia's *Arab News* portrays Washington as "losing influence" and criticizes its "inability or unwillingness to stop Iranians from providing Assad with oxygen while the rebels are not being aided with appropriate weapons." Lebanon's *Al-Nahar* sees "discontent" with "US apathy on the crisis," opining that the longer the conflict goes on the more tangled with extremism it will become." The *Jordan Times* regrets that the Arab League remained "helpless on Syria in the face of the intransigence of Damascus and its supporters," emphasizing that Syrians "want more than just having their fate lamented." Germany's *Die Welt* wishes Russia and China "would get on board to reach effective measures on the crisis."



Source: *The National*, UAE

**Message:**

- ✓ ***"To help meet the growing humanitarian need caused by the violence in Syria, USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah announced in Jordan that the US is providing an additional \$21 million to the United Nations World Food Program." (White House Spokesman Carney)***
- ✓ ***"With this new assistance the United States is providing a total of more than \$100 million for humanitarian activities inside Syria and in neighboring countries." (White House Spokesman Carney)***
- ✓ ***"Of this new funding, \$14.3 million will provide food assistance to conflict-affected people inside Syria, and \$6.7 million to support Syrians displaced in neighboring countries." (Acting Deputy State Department Spokesman Ventrell)***
- ✓ ***Video US Announces New Assistance for Syrian Refugees***

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer**

**How They're Playing – 'Russia's Integration into Asia-Pacific':** International analysts see the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit as a chance for Russia to "increase its presence" in the region, with some observers opining the meeting could provide "a platform" to resolve some regional disputes. *China Daily* says China is "willing to see the meeting reach a broader consensus on important issues, including improvements in food security and the international system of trade." Russia's *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* believes holding the summit in Russia is "important politically and economically...Russia must become one of the guiding leaders of the region." China's *Global Times* opines after the US announced its return to Asia "other big countries' are trying to enter the region." *Oriental Morning Post* comments "China keenly supports Russia's hosting the meeting successfully because... Russia's agenda for the meeting is in line with China's national interests." *World News Journal* hopes "Russia may contain America's hegemony." Russia's *Vedomosti* writes "as a counterweight to China, Russia may be able to attract investments during the forum." *Macau Daily News* thinks the summit provides "an important setting for the participants to continue to push for cooperation in Asia-Pacific and to resolve hot regional issues." *The Beijing News* writes "APEC is an opportunity to coordinate the island disputes." Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* says "neither China nor Japan will make concessions on the disputed islands during the gathering."

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# RAPID RESPONSE

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## HOT TOPICS MONDAY 09/10/2012

**'Russia's Asia Tilt' at APEC:** International commentators describe a distinct "lack of harmony" between Secretary Clinton and President Putin as she "failed" to sway Moscow on its Syria policy during their bilateral meeting, while several other analysts see Russia maneuvering to "look East" and establish itself as a strong Pacific power. The *BBC* posits, "Despite the smiles at the APEC Summit, differences on Syria remain." Russia's *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* sees "Russia and the US getting stuck in a Syrian deadlock," while Italy's *Il Giornale* describes "the return of the Cold War" as "Hillary challenges Putin on Syria." Canada's *Vancouver Sun* asserts "she got precisely nowhere" trying to convince Moscow to drop its UN veto on further sanctions against Syrian President Asad. Meanwhile, Russia's *Kommersant* hails the "unexpected success" of APEC, contending that it seems "no one is going to stop Russia from turning its gaze to the East." Germany's *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* believes "Russia considers itself to be a member of the power triangle consisting of the US, China, and Russia." Australia's *The Age* is convinced "Russia wants to be taken seriously in the region," but warns that "doubts over Russia's commitment to the Pacific will persist." Japan's *Mainichi* speculates that the US is "anxious about Russia's moves in the Asia-Pacific" due to its own concentration of military and economic resources in the region. *Hong Kong Daily News* expects Russia will face "lots of challenges in its Asia strategy," not least of which is Washington, who "will definitely not allow Russia to expand its influence" there. *China Daily* warns that "Russia's tilt" eastward will "inevitably lead to competition between Moscow and Washington on the economic, political and strategic fronts as both countries aim to hold advantageous positions in the region."

### **Message:**

- ✓ ***"President Putin, Foreign Minister Lavrov and I discussed matters ranging from deepening our economic ties to addressing the crisis in Syria." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"The Obama Administration has been committed to strengthening our relationship with Russia, and we are moving ahead in many areas." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"However, I have also said we would be frank about our differences." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"The United States disagrees with Russia's approach on Syria." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"We are concerned by new laws that could restrict civil society, and by recent measures targeting people who have spoken out about Russia's democratic future." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"Domestic entrepreneurs and foreign investors alike understand that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, political modernization can and does drive economic growth, and it can create stronger societies and strengthen partnerships in pursuit of shared goals." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***Secretary Clinton Press Avail in Russia***

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**HOT TOPICS**  
**TUESDAY 09/11/2012**

**'Red Lines' on Iran?** Global observers depict disagreement between the US and Israel on dealing with Tehran's nuclear program with some speculating Washington does not want to engage in a war during a presidential campaign. International outlets note Secretary Clinton's remark "we're not setting deadlines" with pan-Arab *Al-Hayat* positing that "despite all US efforts to work with Israel on ways to confront the Iranian nuclear threat" Tel Aviv "continues to push Washington on identifying redlines and presenting an action timetable." Japan's *Nikkei* sees "Israel's increased dissatisfaction with the US failure to take sufficient measures against Iran leading to tensions in the alliance." Iran's *Resalat* believes Tehran's "power has dissuaded Washington from embarking on an attack." Israel's *Yisrael Hayom* wonders what "benefit does the US reap by announcing to the Ayatollahs in advance the debate does not include drawing redlines," arguing it only "weakens the US position even with the diplomatic track." For Italy's *La Stampa*, the "problem is clear as Israel sees the window for military intervention capable of blocking Iran's race for the bomb closing while the US thinks there is still time and Obama certainly does not want a crisis during the electoral campaign." France's *Liberation* contends "the diplomatic process is coming to an end. The sword of Damocles of an Israeli military intervention hovers while Barack Obama tries to maintain international unity." **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer**

**Message:**

- ✓ *"We've maintained a steady course of our two-pronged policy." (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *"We have always said every option was on the table, but we believe in the negotiation, the diplomatic effort through the P5+1, but also pressure. We are working to increase that pressure." (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *"The sanctions are having an effect." (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *"The efforts that the P5+1 have made to pin Iran down on what exactly they are willing to do are still underway, and we will be having some meetings in the next month in New York and elsewhere to take stock of where we are." (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *"It's a very challenging effort to get them to move in a way that complies with their international obligations, but we believe that is still, by far, the best approach to take at this time." (Secretary Clinton)*

**Praise and Caution Over Blacklisting Haqqani Network:** While some international analysts think the US' terrorist designation of the Haqqani Network may increase the US' leverage in Afghanistan, others see the decision as "contrary" to efforts to wind down military operations. Afghanistan's *Tolo TV* believes the decision may "prove effective," and also urges blacklisting "Pakistani spy agency bases where terrorists are trained and armed." The *Voice of Russia* thinks "the decision will not affect US-Pakistani relations," but warns "the network's attacks will persist." Afghanistan's *Weesa* warns the blacklisting may have "a negative impact on the peace and reconciliation process."

- Pakistan's *Daily Times* calls the designation "grim," and urges Pakistani authorities to "root out the network prior to any US-imposed sanctions." *The News* warns "US proof of the Haqqani Network's operations in Pakistan could cause the military messy diplomatic consequences," and *The Frontier Post* suggests Washington may "pressure Islamabad to launch a military operation in North Waziristan." *Nawa-e-Waqt* and *Ummat* accuse Washington of "pursuing a dual policy, attempting to mount pressure on Islamabad while neglecting to take Pakistan on board regarding the decision." Lebanon's *Daily Star* says "Pakistan's continued refusal to act against the network reflects Islamabad's worries about the events that could transpire after the eventual pullout of foreign forces from Afghanistan."

**Message:**

- ✓ ***"We do very intensive analysis before we designate someone as a foreign terrorist organization. We have reached that conclusion about the Haqqani Network." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"It is about squeezing them in the ways that now are available to us under the designation and the Executive Order." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"It gives us much greater reach into any financial assets or fundraising that they may engage in, gives us better traction against assets that they might own." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"It adds to the pressure on the Haqqanis, and it is part of the continuing effort to try to send a message to them because of the incredibly damaging attacks that they have waged against us, against other targets, and inside Afghanistan." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"It's important that we use every tool at our disposal to go after them." (Secretary Clinton)***

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**HOT TOPICS**  
**WEDNESDAY 09/12/2012**

**Anti-Islam Film 'Provokes Anger at US Embassy, Consulate':** Arab media outlets report straightforwardly on the protests at the US Embassy in Cairo and Consulate in Benghazi, which "led to the death of US Ambassador in Libya," with several observers noting official Libyan and Egyptian condemnation of the violence, which was "carried out by extremists." On Libya, several Arab outlets including Saudi Arabia's *Al-Riyadh* and Egypt's *Al-Dustour* note that the "US Ambassador to Libya and three American members of his staff were killed." Pan-Arab *Al-Arabiya's* correspondent in Benghazi explains that "armed men belonging to the Ansar Al-Sharia group are responsible for the attack." *Al-Jazeera's* correspondent says "initially, a group of angry protesters went into the US consulate and took down the US flag, but later a group of commandos came and clashed with the consulate's security...the US Ambassador died due to that."

Egypt's *Al-Masri al-Youm* reports "the situation is calm around the US Embassy in Cairo, but protesters are preparing for a protest [Wednesday] afternoon." *Al-Ahram* comments "the US Embassy was not stormed during the revolution, but it happened now due to the film." Qatar's *Al-Raya* reports that the protesters "tore down the US flag from the Embassy and put a black flag with the words 'There is no God but God'." Iraq's *Al-Zaman* notes "the flag of Al-Qaida was raised on the wall of the US Embassy." The UAE's *Al-Khaleej* says "the protesters demanded President Obama apologize for this insult to Islam, which was produced by the Coptic Diaspora in the US." Pan-Arab *Al-Arabiya* interviewed a protester who demanded the US "deliver those Copts who produced this film to Egypt as they should be prosecuted." *Al-Jazeera* contends "worries of sectarian violence in Egypt are increasing."

**'US Consulates Stormed Over Mohammed Film':** Observers worldwide report widely on breaking and sometimes conflicting developments in the recent attacks on the US Embassy in Cairo and the US Consulate in Benghazi, Libya following protests against a film produced in the US about the life of Prophet Mohammed, with several analysts concerned about what will happen next. The UK's *Times* sees "Muslims enraged by a film they deem insulting to the Prophet Mohammed" while *The Telegraph* comments "it was not immediately clear whether the two incidents were coordinated." Spain's *Radio Nacional* and Austria's *Salzburger Nachrichten* note Secretary Clinton's Tuesday "condemnation" of the assault on the Benghazi Consulate and confirmation of the death of a US "official."

The UK's *Independent* reports "both attacks were said to be over a film produced by the controversial US pastor Terry Jones and co-produced by some Egyptian Copt expatriates." BBC's John Leyne adds the film's Israeli-American director and producer, Sam Bacile, and Maurice Sadek, an Egyptian Copt living in the US, were also involved in production. India's *Zee News* notes Bacile was interviewed by agencies over the phone after going into hiding; "he had not anticipated such a

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer** on Islam and said that he believed the movie will

help [Israel] by exposing Islam's flaws...but he regretted the attack saying 'I feel sorry for the embassy.'"

Meanwhile, Italy's *La Stampa* opines it is crucial for Egyptian President Morsi to "stop the emotional wave at the outset." The UK's *Telegraph* worries President "Obama will come under overwhelming pressure to respond," since "the destruction of diplomatic premises resulting in the murder of an ambassador would amount to an act of war." Singapore's *Channel NewsAsia* calls the incidents "something of a foreign policy crisis for the Obama Administration," since US efforts to "send a message to the region that this film is not being shown in the movie theaters across the United States" is "clearly not doing anything to dampen down the anger that it has created."

**Message:**

- ✓ *I strongly condemn the outrageous attack on our diplomatic facility in Benghazi, which took the lives of four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens. (President Obama's Statement)*
- ✓ *Right now, the American people have the families of those we lost in our thoughts and prayers. (President Obama's Statement)*
- ✓ *They exemplified America's commitment to freedom, justice, and partnership with nations and people around the globe, and stand in stark contrast to those who callously took their lives. (President Obama's Statement)*
- ✓ *I have directed my Administration to provide all necessary resources to support the security of our personnel in Libya, and to increase security at our diplomatic posts around the globe. (President Obama's 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. (President Obama's Statement)*

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HOT TOPICS  
THURSDAY 09/13/2012

**'Nothing Justifies Murder':** While broadcast media highlight ongoing demonstrations around US Embassies in Cairo and Sanaa to protest a film "offensive to Islam," Middle East and African observers deplore the "dastardly and outrageous" killing of US diplomats in Libya and express concern the spreading violence may jeopardize the Arab Spring. South Africa's *Daily Maverick* laments "the US ambassador to Libya pays the ultimate price of religious madness." Jordan's *Al-Dustour* depicts the Benghazi attack as "a huge gift to all Islamophobes which will create a more negative image of Islam than a thousand films could have." Pan-Arab *Al-Hayat* calls the killing of Ambassador Stevens "sad and shameful," arguing that "however insulting the film, it does not justify violence," and concludes "the film makers and the attackers share the same totalitarian mentality." *The Jordan Times* regrets that the "undertaking [of US diplomats] seems to have been lost on extremist elements who, wittingly or unwittingly, vindicated the goals of the producer of the movie." Qatar's *Peninsula* stresses the need for Muslim countries to take all "security measures to protect the lives of foreigners in their land. The so-called guardians of Islamic faith must realize that the attack on Americans will only defeat their objective." Meanwhile, the UAE's *Khaleej Times* worries "the Middle East, in the aftermath of Arab Spring, is too ticklish to stand such upheavals," urging "respective governments and community leaders to rise to the occasion to suppress undercurrents of hatred and bias." Pan-Arab *Al-Hayat* is concerned a "five-million dollar film will destroy the Arab Spring." Lebanon's *Daily Star* conjectures that, based on past incidents, the "violence should not have been a surprise, thus more efforts must urgently be made to contain the spread of such hateful media." Saudi Arabia's *Al-Riyadh* contends "freedom does not mean disdain of religions and prophets," and implores the US to "protect religions equally."

**'The Arab Spring Turns Sour for America':** As commentators in the rest of the world condemn the "reprehensible" violence at the US consulate in Libya, some analysts fear militant Islam thrives in the unsecured state, several worry the incident will derail the Arab Spring, and others in China criticize Washington for its "failed Middle East policy." Germany's *Die Welt* rejects the controversial anti-Islam film's "clear provocation," though "this cannot excuse what the mob in Cairo and Benghazi has done." China's *Global Times* argues "killing an ambassador is against the humanitarian bottom line." Afghanistan's *Daily Outlook* condemns the tragedy "in the strongest words," advocating "ignoring such bigots who want to...provoke reaction." The UK's *Telegraph*, meanwhile, suspects that, "in a country where the state is too weak to govern and guns are readily available, it was only a matter of time before anti-Western radicalism cost lives in Benghazi." Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* fears "the new rulers are not yet in the position to guarantee law and order." Italy's *Corriere della Sera* laments "not even the death of Bin Laden has stopped the threat [of militant Islam]." Spain's *ABC* contends "the whole US [presence] in the rise and fall of the Arab Spring is now in question." Japan's *Yomiuri* adds "democracy and freedom have not yet prevailed in Arab nations as the US had hoped for." Canada's *Toronto Star* predicts the recent violence "will grow until it sweeps away the Arab Spring's gains." The UK's *Sky News*

- predicts “further violence across the Islamic world” and Turkey’s *Hurriyet* warns of a “chain reaction.” China’s *Global Times* depicts the tragedy as a sign of “a major failure of the US’ Mideast policy,” and chides Washington for “lacking basic understanding and respect for other cultures.” Spain’s *El Mundo* prescribes a “strong and renewed commitment against terror.” The UK’s *Guardian* declares “Libya’s new democracy must not be derailed,” urging “robust and effective action” in Libya.

**Message:**

- ✓ *President Obama called President Magariaf of Libya ... [and] expressed appreciation for the cooperation we have received from the Libyan government and people in responding to this outrageous attack. (Readout of President Obama’s call with Libyan President Magariaf)*
- ✓ *President Obama said that the Libyan government must continue to work with us to assure the security of our personnel going forward. (Readout of President Obama’s call with Libyan President Magariaf)*
- ✓ *The President made it clear that we must work together to do whatever is necessary to identify the perpetrators of this attack and bring them to justice. (Readout of President Obama’s call with Libyan President Magariaf)*
- ✓ *The two Presidents agreed to work closely over the course of this investigation. (Readout of President Obama’s call with Libyan President Magariaf)*

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer



# RAPID RESPONSE

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HOT TOPICS  
FRIDAY 09/14/2012

**'Sedition Film' Embarrasses Arab Spring:** While some Arab analysts call for "peaceful and civilized" expression when rejecting the "anti-Islam film," others criticize the US for "allowing this insult," and advocate an international consensus which would prohibit attacks on religions. Egypt's *Al-Ahram* opines "if the protesters had expressed their rejection of the film peacefully, they would have gained the sympathy and solidarity of many people, including Americans who respect religions and human rights." Jordan's *Al-Ghad* thinks the "blasphemous film turned a nation with an ancient history into a child who is easily provoked," and ponders "what is the guilt of any American not connected to the film?" Yemen's *Al-Thawrah* urges "the film's insults not be responded to with violence as in Libya because it will only make things worse." Lebanon's *Al-Safir* believes the film's goal is "to ignite trouble among peoples who are highly sensitive towards any offense against their religion." Egypt's *Al-Jumhuriyah* warns "the fight against dictatorships in the region may now turn into a confrontation with the US and the West." Pan-Arab *Al-Quds al-Arabi* accuses Western governments, especially the US, of "being unable to understand what is happening in the region as most of the Arab Spring governments are Islamists." Jordan's *Al-Dustour* argues the West "falsely claims to respect the freedom of expression ... otherwise, why do they persecute anyone denying the Holocaust, while allowing a film that incites hate?" Syria's *Tishrin* comments "among the values that the US proudly presents is allowing a group of people to produce an anti-Islam film under the pretext of 'freedom of expression'." Saudi Arabia's *Al-Madina* calls for an international legislation that would "criminalize attacking religions and religious figures, otherwise religious and sectarian conflicts will increase all over the world."

**'Arab Winter'?** International commentators continue to condemn recent violence protesting a US-produced anti-Islamic film, with many observers expressing concern over the larger problem of anti-US sentiment in the Middle East jeopardizing Arab Spring gains, while others make recommendations for how the US should move forward. South Korea's *JoongAng Ilbo* condemns the "grave provocation" against the international community while the UK's *Guardian* fears the "violence has helped realize the apocalyptic visions of the film's backers." France's *Le Monde* laments the rioters in Libya "have dealt a blow to Islam and to their own country." But Italy's *Corriere della Sera* speculates "anti-American violence in the Islamic world goes well beyond the apparent motive" of the controversial film. Singapore's *Straits Times* finds "instinctive and often irrational hatred of the US remains one of the region's most depressingly common features." Brazil's *O Globo* laments "the inability of the Obama Administration to deal with a new configuration in the Arab world." Japan's *Yomiuri* thinks the tragedy has "exposed the fact that the [US'] Middle East policy is not functioning effectively." Meanwhile, Russia's *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* is concerned at Washington's "muscle-flexing" with the deployment of warships to Libya. China's *Global Times* warns "the more retaliation the US warships inflict, the more hatred the Islamic world will have." South Korea's *Hankyoreh Shinmun* pleads for a "cool-headed and rational response" from Washington. Spain's *La Razon* recommends that the West show "firmness" with the

fundamentalists. China's *Global Times* calls on the US to "exercise self-restraint" while *Oriental Morning Post* calls for "respecting other countries and cultures." *Indian Express* says "the onus is on the US to stay the course and even deepen engagement with... Tripoli and Cairo."

**Message:**

- ✓ ***"Let me state very clearly that the United States Government had absolutely nothing to do with this video. We absolutely reject its content and message." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"America's commitment to religious tolerance goes back to the very beginning of our nation." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"We are home to people of all religions, many of whom came to this country seeking the right to exercise their own religion, including, of course, millions of Muslims. We have the greatest respect for people of faith." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"But there is no justification, none at all, for responding to this video with violence. We condemn the violence that has resulted in the strongest terms, and we greatly appreciate that many Muslims in the United States and around the world have spoken out on this issue." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"Islam, like other religions, respects the fundamental dignity of human beings, and it is a violation of that fundamental dignity to wage attacks on innocents." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***"As long as there are those who are willing to shed blood and take innocent life in the name of religion, the name of God, the world will never know a true and lasting peace." (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***Secretary Clinton Remarks at the Opening of US-Morocco Strategic Dialogue***

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## HOT TOPICS MONDAY 09/17/2012

**'Middle East Volcano' a Challenge for the West:** International analysts see the ongoing protests against the anti-Islam video as "a new challenge" for US foreign policy, with some observers portraying the West as still "misunderstanding" the nature of "Muslim societies." Austria's *ORF online* believes "the unrest has become a serious foreign policy crisis for Washington." Spain's *La Razon* thinks although violence "has subsided in most Arab and Muslim capitals, the Obama Administration faces a long crisis with the Muslim world." Pan-Arab *Al-Hayat* predicts the protests may now push the US to "reevaluate its policy towards the region and its support for the uprisings." The UK's *Times* warns "this is hardly the time for the West to be distancing itself from the region." Brazil's *Folha de Sao Paulo* doubts "the controversial film alone was enough" to generate the protests. Pan-Arab *Al-Quds al-Arabi* notes "Clinton summarized her government's misunderstanding of the Islamic world and its priorities when she expressed surprise and disappointment at the attack against the US consulate." Kuwait's *Al-Watan* warns "the Muslim nation has been silent on injustice, oppression and hunger but it will never be silent when it comes to religion." Pan-Arab *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* claims there are "many motives behind the violence...young people are suffering a gap of expectation between what they hoped and what they actually got." Turkey's *Milliyet* opines many of these societies were "left without any education...one must not be very surprised to see that these people are open to agitation." The *Philippine Star* writes "the strong undercurrent of militant Islam in the Middle Eastern countries is probably most vulnerable to provocations carried through the digital media."

### *Message:*

- ✓ *"Let me state very clearly that the United States Government had absolutely nothing to do with this video. We absolutely reject its content and message." (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *"America's commitment to religious tolerance goes back to the very beginning of our nation." (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *"We are home to people of all religions, many of whom came to this country seeking the right to exercise their own religion, including, of course, millions of Muslims. We have the greatest respect for people of faith." (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *"But there is no justification, none at all, for responding to this video with violence. We condemn the violence that has resulted in the strongest terms, and we greatly appreciate that many Muslims in the United States and around the world have spoken out on this issue." (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *"Islam, like other religions, respects the fundamental dignity of human beings, and it is a violation of that fundamental dignity to wage attacks on innocents." (Secretary Clinton)*

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer

**‘Contested Islands, Tokyo And Beijing Risk War’:** Global observers note concern over intensifying dispute on the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands with Chinese analysts calling for “wisdom in expressing patriotism” as protests across China turn violent. Several international outlets report Secretary Panetta appealed for restraint and warned “of regional conflict as dispute fuels anger at Japan.” Spain’s *La Sexta* TV portrays a shift from “tension to violence as conflict over the sovereignty of the islands provokes thousands in China to demonstrate,” adding “the White House is concerned with this escalation.” Meanwhile, Austria’s *Der Standard* believes “the purpose of these demonstrations is to take the bumpy road to the transition of power and the weird disappearing of Vice President Xi Jinping out of the headlines.” Writing on the “islands of discord,” the UAE’s *Khaleej Times* stresses “it’s quite unbecoming of the Chinese to indulge in violence,” on an issue which has been “blown out of proportion” and hopes for “diligence and patience to prevail.” Japan’s *Asahi Shimbun* opines that “Beijing is playing a dangerous game of chicken with Tokyo ... and if this approach is maintained, China will eventually find itself cutting its own throat.” In China, *Global Times* cautions against violent protest saying “radical behavior will only bring economic loss to China and harm its image” but emphasizes that “sincere patriotic feelings should not be downplayed or vilified.” *China Daily* posits “right now patriotism should not be led astray by Japan’s madness, but instead rally around the consensus that Japan must first be disarmed legally and morally.” Hong Kong’s *South China Morning Post* depicts Beijing leaders “walking a tightrope.”

**Message:**

- ✓ *“I am concerned when these countries engage in provocations of one kind or another over these various islands.” (Secretary Panetta)*
- ✓ *“It raises the possibility that a misjudgment on one side or the other could result in violence, and could result in conflict.” (Secretary Panetta)*
- ✓ *“That conflict could then have the potential of expanding.” (Secretary Panetta)*

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer



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HOT TOPICS  
TUESDAY 09/18/2012

**'Tensions Over Blasphemous Video, Hezbollah Fans The Flames':** Global observers see newly enfranchised masses and opportunist fanatics behind the continued protests as some continue to blame US attitudes and lack of awareness for the brewing danger. Germany's *ARD* TV thinks the "violent protests against the insulting video has become an acid test for many governments around the world." The UK's *Independent* headlines: "Middle East Burns as Hezbollah Delivers US a Fiery Warning." For pan-Arab *Al-Hayat*, "disgusting events show how deeply decades of dictatorship has bruised Arab societies," adding that "authoritarian rulers feed off promulgating the myth of the eternal struggle against the West, as Nasrallah [Hezbollah leader] made clear in his most recent speech." Turkey's *Milliyet* regrets that "while steps are being taken [by Arab Spring countries] in the right direction, emerging extreme movements drag them into an impasse." Afghanistan's *Mandegar* stresses that "those who stage protests and shed the people's blood in the name of condemning the film are no less culpable than the filmmakers." Pakistan's *Nawa-i-Waqt* wonders "why is the US so obstinate on showing the film which may widen the gap between civilizations and result in clashes?" *China Daily* contends "the US is now paying a bloody price for facilitating the so-called democratic transitions in the Middle East." Russia's *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* argues "the ongoing unauthorized protests have become a logical price that the Europeans have to pay for their mistakes or maybe even for an openly indiscriminate immigration policy." Malaysia's *Sin Chew Daily* opines that allowing the release of the video "highlights Americans' disregard to feelings of others and self-importance." *Hong Kong Economic Journal* questions the US and NATO leaving "free space for the radical Islamic groups" in Libya that came back to attack them. Japan's *Yomiuri* worries about the "depth of anti-American sentiment" shown in the protests emphasizing that "turbulence in the Middle East will have ripple effects around the globe."

**Message:**

- ✓ *"We are now standing with governments across the region that are freely elected, that have to be accountable to their people, and that is better for us than where we were before this Arab Spring." (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)*
- ✓ *"But we can't abandon these people now, particularly because they are facing extremism in their midst; they are facing folks who want to roll back the clock inside their countries and between their countries. That's all the more reason why we have to continue to work with them." (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)*
- ✓ *"America, sadly, for decades has been the victim of violence. You can look at the Beirut bombings of the '80s; you can look at terrorist attacks ever since September 11<sup>th</sup>." (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)*
- ✓ *"We all wish this weren't the case, but these are people who obviously don't believe what we believe, which is that if you have grievances, if you feel insulted, you address them politically, you address them peacefully." (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)*

- ✓ *“We all have to stand together as an international community against grievances being expressed through violence, through terror, and we will continue to do that.” (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)*

**‘Time for Cooler Heads in China-Japan Island Row’:** As fears grow that anti-Japanese protests could “slip out of control” amid tensions over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, international commentators speculate on how Secretary Panetta may help or hinder the situation, with several observers urging “restraint” on both sides. The UK’s *Times* reports “Japanese shut up shop after vandalism and protests.” Germany’s *die tageszeitung* warns that China is “playing with fire,” while Taiwan’s *China Post* cautions “the problem with nationalism is that it is dangerous and solves nothing.” Meanwhile, Italy’s *La Repubblica* sees Secretary Panetta “attempting to mediate in Beijing.” Japan’s *Mainichi* urges Tokyo to “reinforce the US-Japan alliance” and win regional backing for its sovereignty claim. Taiwan’s *Central Daily News* recommends that Washington “turn back to the path of consultations with Japan to resolve the issue.” But *China Daily* argues “he is going to have a lot of explaining to do to convince China” of the US’ commitment to peace. *China Business News* calls on the Secretary to “earnestly respect China’s major and core interests and play the role of a mediator.” Hong Kong’s *Sing Pao* is wary that “the US secretly supports Japan in the islands dispute.” *Hong Kong Economic Times* suspects “he is supporting Japan to provoke China” into a “clash...like an economic war.” Russia’s *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* is hopeful that an “open clash is unlikely” due to strong trade and economic ties, but Poland’s *Dziennik Gazeta Prawna* worries current tensions “could cost billions.” The UAE’s *National* recommends China and Japan “find a better way to settle their territorial disputes.” South Korea’s *JoongAng Ilbo* calls on them to “regain their better senses...It is nonsense to go to war over a group of uninhabited volcanic rocks.”

**Message:**

- ✓ *“We’re concerned about the escalation of tensions.” (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)*
- ✓ *“We are going to continue to counsel Japanese and Chinese leaders to talk to each other and try to work through these issues through dialogue.” (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)*

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**HOT TOPICS**  
**WEDNESDAY 09/19/2012**

**'Dangerous Situation Over the Islands':** International analysts worry about the continued "escalation" of tensions between China and Japan over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, with some observers calling on both countries to "exercise restraint" and avoid harming the international economy. China's *Global Times* urges Washington "to take into consideration its relationship with China, so it will not face a strategic dilemma if a war breaks out between China and Japan." Russia's *Kommersant* sees the US "confirming its commitment to the security treaty with Tokyo, at the same time it has declared a trade war on China in the WTO." South Korea's *Hankyoreh Shinmun* thinks "even though Japan is exercising restraint against China's offensive, the situation could escalate into a conflict or a nationalistic confrontation at any time." Taiwan's *Want Daily* believes Panetta's trip has "created more doubts in Japan and China about the US position." Spain's *El Mundo* warns "if the confrontation between Tokyo and Beijing affects the South China Sea's navigation routes, practically the whole chain of commerce of the world economy will be affected." Japan's *Yomiuri* cautions "it is necessary for the US and Japan to patiently urge China to respond calmly to the issue and contain the violent anti-Japan rallies in China." *Nikkei* advises Japan to "avoid responding rashly to provocations by China and instead work with the US and take quiet measures to block China's extreme actions." Singapore's *Channel NewsAsia* thinks China has to "balance the need to provide an outlet for its sentiment with the need to preserve its international reputation as a mature and responsible superpower." Russia's *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* opines China understands that "it will not get the islands back, that there will be no war, but it wants to force Japan to make concessions, to offer something in return." Taiwan's *China Post* advises "the most practical solution is to allow the status quo to continue."

**Message:**

- ✓ ***"We've been a Pacific power for a number of years, going back almost 70 years."***  
(Secretary Panetta)
- ✓ ***"Our purpose in being able to strengthen our presence in this region is to promote greater prosperity, to promote greater security in the Asia-Pacific region. It is in the interests of the United States and China to advance a strong Asia-Pacific region that represents, in many ways, the future in the 21st century."*** (Secretary Panetta)
- ✓ ***"We also recognize that the United States and China will not always agree. In particular, the United States continues to be concerned by challenges to maritime security in East Asia."*** (Secretary Panetta)
- ✓ ***"With respect to these current tensions, we are urging calm and restraint by all sides and encourage them to maintain open channels of communication in order to resolve these disputes diplomatically and peacefully."*** (Secretary Panetta)
- ✓ ***"It's in no country's interests for this situation to escalate into conflict that would undermine peace and stability in this very important region."*** (Secretary Panetta)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer

**'Worse Times Ahead in Syria'?** As international commentators grow pessimistic about Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi's mission, some analysts worry that regional tensions will derail the Syria Contact Group organized by Egyptian President Morsi, though others nonetheless urge coordinated international action to solve the crisis. Pan-Arab *Al-Jazeera* headlines "UN envoy Brahimi says Syrian crisis worsening," while Qatar's *Al-Raya* sees "hopes diminishing for Brahimi's mission." Turkey's *Aksam* thinks "Ankara attaches considerable significance to the new regional initiative led by Egypt" and is hopeful about "forming a new regional equation and stronger ties in the long run." But *Turkish Weekly* sees the "Saudi [Foreign Minister's] absence overshadowing the event." Pan-Arab *Al-Quds al-Arabi* suspects Riyadh "rejects any role for Iran." *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* argues "Iran would spoil any move towards ending the crisis and removing Asad." Saudi Arabia's *Al-Madina*, meanwhile, calls on the Syrian people and international powers to work together to expel the Syrian regime. Lebanon's *Daily Star* argues that "the cost of Western indifference is probably higher than the risk of intervention" and urges the international community to arm the rebels. Hong Kong's *Asia Times Online* worries that "absent a bold move to break the stalemate, we can expect a protracted civil war." Estonia's *Postimees*, however, laments the "sad truth that civil wars must be fought and won by the locals themselves." Poland's *Gazeta Wyborcza* concludes "no one will win in Syria."

**Message:**

- ✓ *The United States condemns in the strongest terms any attacks targeting civilians. (State Department Guidance)*
- ✓ *Any and all violence that results in the indiscriminate killing and injury of civilians is reprehensible and cannot be justified. (State Department Guidance)*
- ✓ *The killing of the Syrian people must end. (State Department Guidance)*
- ✓ *As we have stated repeatedly, those responsible for crimes against the Syrian people must be held accountable. (State Department Guidance)*

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**HOT TOPICS**  
**THURSDAY 09/20/2012**

**Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands Issue ‘Tests American Political Wisdom’:** Global observers see the US walking a “tightrope” trying to maintain neutrality and avert a disastrous escalation between Japan and China. Several international outlets including Spain’s *ABC* note that during his meetings in China Secretary Panetta “assured Beijing that the Pentagon’s alliance with Japan was not intended to threaten or contain China.” Singapore’s *Today* contends “his message is difficult to sell to a skeptical Chinese audience concerned over expanding military ties with other countries in the region.” South Korea’s *JoongAng Ilbo*, however, wonders why the “US keeps saying it does not take a position” in the regional territorial disputes, while “siding with ASEAN countries and Japan in practice.” *China Daily* argues that although Washington “poses as neutral, in action it favors Japan, allowing Japanese officials to claim their security treaty with the US applies to the Islands.” Japan’s *Nikkei* posits that the US is “concerned about the Islands dispute because a deterioration of Sino-Japan relations will have an impact on its ties with China.” Hong Kong’s *Ta Kung Pao* believes the most important result of Panetta’s trip is an understanding of the “resolute determination of the Chinese government in safeguarding its territorial sovereignty.” China’s *People’s Daily* stresses that “being cautious in word and deed is necessary for the US to safeguard healthy development of Sino-US relations and an obligation to preserve regional peace and stability.” The UK’s *Daily Telegraph* worries at the “stirring of bad blood,” opining that any escalation with the “US unwillingly dragged ... will have profound implications not just for the Pacific, but for the world.” Egypt’s *Al-Ahram* shudders at the “drums of war” knocking in Asia and calls on Beijing and Tokyo to use all “available diplomatic means” to resolve their territorial conflict.

**Message:**

- ✓ ***“We are concerned about tensions between China and Japan.” (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)***
- ✓ ***“The United States does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkakus, but we want to see the Japanese and the Chinese work through it.” (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)***
- ✓ ***“The Secretary had meetings with Hu Jintao and Prime Minister Noda in which she discussed the issue.” (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)***
- ✓ ***“We have registered our concern in Beijing and in Washington about the incident with Ambassador Locke’s car. Chinese authorities have expressed their regret with regard to it.” (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)***
- ✓ ***“I can’t speak to the motivations of the protestors. But our mission is located very close to the Japanese mission, and there some of them were chanting slogans regarding to the Senkaku Islands.” (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)***

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer

**'France Catches Muslim Fire'?** International analyst express concern following the publication of Mohammed cartoons by the French magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, with some observers opining the continuing publication of "anti-Islam" media is only "provocation and not helpful." Bahrain's *Akhbar al-Khaleej* warns the cartoons "threaten to incite Muslims' rage all over the world." Spain's *La Vanguardia* cautions "with the Islamic world inflamed against the US, a second source of tension is opened in France." Italy's *Corriere della Sera* headlines: "France Fears Revenge for Mohammed Satire." Spain's *Cuatro TV* fears "radical Islamism has new reasons to continue feeding hatred against the West." Germany's *Berliner Zeitung* comments the cartoons are not "just in the eyes of the Muslim world a primitive provocation...given that they and the movie come from the West, the West is automatically suspected of being Islamophobic." Qatar's *Peninsula* cautions the cartoons are "a dangerous and senseless provocation, and it's likely that other European publications will follow, keeping the cauldron of protests burning for days to come." The UK's *Guardian* believes "people should be entitled to mock Islam and any other religion, but, in the current climate of racial and religious prejudice in Europe, how can these cartoons be helpful?" Germany's *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* thinks "those who invoke hatred by insulting religious beliefs must be punished."



Source: *The National*, UAE

**Message:**

- ✓ *"We have questions about the judgment of publishing something like this. We know that these images will be deeply offensive to many and have the potential to be inflammatory." (White House Spokesman Carney)*
- ✓ *"But we've spoken repeatedly about the importance of upholding the freedom of expression that is enshrined in our Constitution." (White House Spokesman Carney)*
- ✓ *"We don't question the right of something like this to be published; we just question the judgment behind the decision to publish it." (White House Spokesman Carney)*
- ✓ *"No matter how offensive something like this is, it is not in any way justification for violence." (White House Spokesman Carney)*

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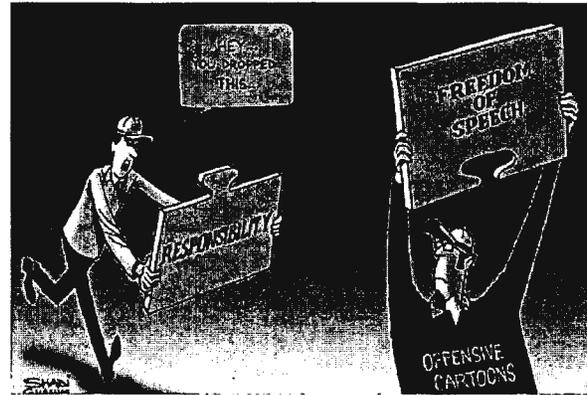
# RAPID RESPONSE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE • BUREAU OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**HOT TOPICS**  
**FRIDAY 09/21/2012**

## 'Arab Springs, Dark Autumns and Mutual Respect'

As global media report tensions ahead of anticipated worldwide Friday protests against the video, as well as the Prophet cartoons from France, observers lament the continued "clash of civilizations" and lack of progress since the Arab revolutions. The UK's *Guardian* regrets that "religious intolerance is on the rise worldwide." Germany's *Die Welt* argues "the problem with the cross-cultural dialogue is that it is hardly happening... [or it is] long and one-sided." Bangladesh's *Daily Star* wonders how the West's "blind pursuit of freedom of expression is superior to the mad pursuit of dogmatic zealots, who believe they are killing and dying for the expression of freedom, if the end result is violence and bloodshed." *The Australian* questions the "wisdom of publishing the French cartoons," positing that "provoking more madness, just for the sake of a headline, hardly seems the best way to use the precious gift of press freedom." Saudi Arabia's *Al-Watan* calls the "offensive acts...an intentional and provoking insult to Islam." *Al-Riyadh* warns "there will be grave consequences unless the West pays attention and deals respectfully with Muslim sanctities and beliefs." Italy's *L'Espresso* depicts "the third act of the revolts beginning with Salafis attempting to hinder the alliance between the Muslim Brotherhood and the West." Israel's *Yisrael Hayom* opines that since the Arab Spring did not bring the "aspired prosperity yet" it has "created new conditions in the Arab world that feed anti-Americanism." Hong Kong's *Sing Tao Daily* agrees the Arab Spring "did not and could not change the delicate relationship between the West and Muslims."



Source: *The National*, UAE

### Message:

- ✓ "We have condemned in the strongest possible terms the violence that has erupted from these protests." (Secretary Clinton)
- ✓ "The video that sparked these protests is disgusting and reprehensible, and the United States Government had absolutely nothing to do with it." (Secretary Clinton)
- ✓ "But there is no justification for violence." (Secretary Clinton)
- ✓ "We have to look to reasonable people and responsible leaders everywhere to stand up to extremists who would seek to take advantage of this moment to commit violent acts against embassies and their fellow countrymen." (Secretary Clinton)

'Northeast Asian Politics at a Crossroads': International commentators remain mixed on whether the US sincerely wants to help mediate the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands dispute following Secretary

Panetta's trip, while pro-China observers condemn Japan's stance and other regional analysts urge dialogue. Russia's *Kommersant* believes "Panetta's peaceable tone seemed to impress the hosts." China's *Beijing News* praises him for "helping build up mutual trust and explain the doubts regarding some maritime confusion." But *China Daily* thinks the US has "lost its credibility" as a mediator. *Zhongguo Wang* suspects the US aims to "bring Japan closer and contain China...while continuing to reap benefits from a policy of ambiguity." Japan's *Asahi* describes Washington "walking a tightrope out of deference to Japan and China." *Sankei* urges "closer coordination" with the US on defense procedures. *TBS* hopes the US will "at least state that the islands were occupied by the US and returned to Japan as part of Okinawa after the war." But China's *People's Daily* insists Japan's claim is "groundless." Hong Kong's *Ta Kung Pao* calls on Tokyo to "stop playing with fire." China's *Global Times* adds "returning to the negotiating table is Japan's best option." Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* argues "it is time for moderation and negotiation in place of confrontation" since "tit-for-tat trade sanctions, or a trade war, are the last things the world needs." Singapore's *Business Times* advises both powers to "allow the status quo to continue" with the islands under Japanese administration, and to seriously consider joint development of the islands' natural resources.

**Message:**

- ✓ ***"We are concerned about tensions between China and Japan." (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)***
- ✓ ***"The United States does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkakus, but we want to see the Japanese and the Chinese work through it." (State Department Spokesperson Nuland)***

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**HOT TOPICS**  
**MONDAY 09/24/2012**

**‘Clash of Civilizations?’** While several international commentators condemn the Pakistani Transportation Minister’s offer of a \$100,000 reward for the assassination of the anti-Islam film director, many observers advocate halting violent protests and pursuing legal means of limiting hate speech instead. Russia’s *Kommersant* describes a “high-profile scandal” escalating in Pakistan over the minister’s reward offer. Austria’s *Die Presse* worries Islamabad is becoming “part of the Islamist problem.” *The Australian* quotes a Pakistani analyst who says that “by ceding space to the mob the government actually joined the mob.” Pakistan’s *Daily Times* contends “it is precisely those who claim a monopoly of truth about our religion who are the most fanatical, violent, intolerant people around.” The UK’s *Times* urges “if Pakistani politicians really want to demonstrate their love for Prophet Muhammad, they ought to follow his example.” Germany’s *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, however, finds the US’ ad buy in Pakistan to be “odd and embarrassing...a waste of effort, time, and money.” Lebanon’s *Daily Star*, meanwhile, argues that “angry demonstrations and the burning of embassies will not get protesters what they want,” commenting instead that “tackling the issue from a legislative standpoint would be more valuable.” China’s *People’s Daily* advocates “limited literary and artistic creativity,” which “respects the feelings of religious believers and never mocks holy prophets.” Afghanistan’s *Daily Outlook* recommends “filing a petition in the international court of justice” or “creating a film containing educational value” about Islam. The UAE’s *Gulf News* thinks “Muslims should work on a universal law through international statutes that make it a clear criminal act when race, religion or ethnicity is so publicly affronted.”

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer**

**Message:**

- ✓ *“The violence we have seen cannot be tolerated. There is no justification for it.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *“Yes, there was provocation, and we have certainly made clear that we do not in any way support provocation.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *“We found the video that’s at the core of this series of events offensive, disgusting, reprehensible.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *“But it is important for responsible leaders, indeed responsible people everywhere, to stand up and speak out against violence and particularly against those who would exploit this difficult moment to advance their own extremist ideologies.” (Secretary Clinton)*

**How They’re Playing – Countering Libyan Militias ‘Gives Hope’:** International analysts welcome the Libyan government directive for militias to either come under state control or disband as “a courageous and crucial step,” though some warn that the government may “lose the public trust” if it fails to weaken these militias. Italy’s *Corriere della Sera* comments “for the first time there are signs that a real change will take place.” Germany’s *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* portrays

Libyans as “advocating a greater role of the state and opposing any guardians of virtue who are suspected of having taken advantage of the Mohammed video to kill the US Ambassador.” Saudi Arabia’s *Ukaz* believes those who removed a tyrant “will not fail to topple lawless militias seeking to return the people to the Middle Ages.” *France Inter Radio* posits “this does not mean that order has returned to Libya and even less that democratic stability will quickly take hold... but, the people’s attack on militias is an important lesson.” The UK’s *Independent* writes “if the shock of Christopher Stevens’ death has prompted action, and action that will stick, then some good may come out of it.” Lebanon’s *Daily Star* opines the process of flushing out militias should continue, but “it is essential that it is carried out comprehensively and earnestly.” Russia’s *Kommersant* argues the authorities’ actions were “a response to the US appeal to take additional measures to ensure the security of US citizens in Libya,” adding “it is doubtful that Tripoli will be able to bring the country’s east to order.”

**Message:**

- ✓ ***“What are being called the ‘Save Benghazi’ protests are something that we have watched.” (Deputy White House Spokesman Earnest)***
- ✓ ***“It’s the view of this administration that it’s a pretty clear sign from the Libyan people that they’re not going to trade the tyranny of a dictator for the tyranny of a mob.” (Deputy White House Spokesman Earnest)***
- ✓ ***“It’s also an indication that the Libyan people are not comfortable with the voices of a few extremists and those who advocate and perpetrate violence to drown out the voices and aspirations of the Libyan people; that they seek freedom, that they seek democracy, and that the protests that we saw are a pretty clear indication of that and it’s something that we’re encouraged by.” (Deputy White House Spokesman Earnest)***

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**HOT TOPICS**  
**TUESDAY 09/25/2012**

**'Very Stormy' UNGA:** While global observers see the thorny issue of Syria overshadowing the annual summit and lament that the "proximity of the November election has paralyzed US foreign policy," media spotlight significant bilateral meetings and "controversial" speakers. Poland's *Rzeczpospolita* expects the session to be dominated by Middle East issues: "The civil war in Syria, Iran's nuclear program, and a tide of protests in Islamic countries." Spain's *El Periodico* thinks that "paralysis on the Syrian crisis tarnishes the UN Assembly," and regrets that "no solution will be reached" at the meetings.

France's *La Croix* portrays the UN as looking for "an exit strategy" on the issue after "the three Russian-Chinese vetoes quashed the West's mobilization." Qatar's *Al-Watan*, however, welcomes the dual representation of Syria to mean "that international support for the Syrian opposition is expanding while the isolation of the regime is tightening." Meanwhile, Italy's *La Repubblica* observes that President Obama "will be the least visible person of all, with no scheduled bilateral meetings and minimal presence." Spain's *ABC* opines he is looking to "avoid the wasps' nest of international policy." The UAE's *National* stresses that "UNGA is a global stage, but leaders at the dais speak to their own publics first," and views it as "another important opportunity for Egyptian President Morsi to cement his legitimacy and authority back home." Pakistan's *The Nation* reports that Secretary Clinton held talks with President Zardari "focusing on bilateral relations that appear to be moving forward." Several outlets including, Germany's *Spiegel Online*, write of Iranian President Ahmadinejad's "cynical circus" and his "exploitation of his annual performance at the UN for his usual threatening gestures."



Source: *Haaretz*, Israel

**Message:**

- ✓ "[I] will continue to discuss with my counterparts at the United Nations how we can work together to build lasting partnerships focused on freedom, human dignity, and development, fostering democracy and universal values." (Secretary Clinton)
- ✓ "We will continue to advance US interests and objectives at the UN. That includes effective implementation of international sanctions on Iran's illicit nuclear program." (Assistant Secretary Brimmer)
- ✓ "We will continue to oppose unilateral Palestinian actions in the UN on issues that can only be achieved through direct negotiations." (Assistant Secretary Brimmer)
- ✓ "We're going to expand our successful efforts on UN reform." (Assistant Secretary Brimmer)
- ✓ "We'll maintain our global leadership on human rights." (Assistant Secretary Brimmer)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer

✓ ***“We’ll build on the progress already made toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals and on Rio+20.” (Assistant Secretary Brimmer)***

**‘A New Sad Climax in the Wave of Violence Against the Film’:** As some international analysts think the Pakistani Minister Bilour’s offer of a bounty to anyone who kills the maker of the anti-Islam video is “harming” the image of his country, other observers call for the use of “peaceful means” for dissent. Hong Kong’s *Oriental Daily News* writes the ruling party “did not expel Bilour ... this shows that they fear enraging the public who share Bilour’s views.” Germany’s *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* wonders what this says about “the state of a country when a minister publicly calls for an assassination.” *Stuttgarter Zeitung* thinks his words show that “extremism is on the agenda of this government ... making Islamabad an unreliable partner of the West and driving the country into an abyss.” The *Saudi Gazette* opines “Muslims’ attention to this condemned film has provided the best publicity for it” and calls to “ignore such disgusting products of human sickness and cruelty.” Egypt’s *Al-Watan* says “the Prophet would be ‘angry’ at those who did not exhibit Islam’s tolerance and tried to respond to the absurd act with blood and fire.” The UAE’s *Al-Bayan* calls on “Muslims to confront Islamophobia by peaceful and civilized propaganda and legislations that prohibit attacking religions.”

***Message:***

- ✓ ***“If you look around the world today, countries that are focused more on fostering growth than fomenting grievance are racing ahead.” (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***“Building schools instead of burning them; investing in their people’s creativity, not inciting their rage; opening their economies and societies to have more connections with the wider world, not shutting off the internet or attacking embassies.” (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***“The people of the Arab world did not set out to trade the tyranny of a dictator for the tyranny of a mob. There is no dignity in that.” (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***“People and leaders from across the region and the world have spoken in recent days against violence.” (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***“Unity on this throughout the international community is crucial, because extremists around the world are working hard to drive us apart.” (Secretary Clinton)***
- ✓ ***“All of us need to stand together to resist these forces and to support democratic transitions underway in North Africa and the Middle East.” (Secretary Clinton)***

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HOT TOPICS  
WEDNESDAY 09/26/2012

**'Obama Urges Unity Against Global Extremism':** Middle Eastern and African coverage of the President's speech at UNGA highlights his renewed call for Assad's ouster, his rejection of an Iran nuclear weapon and his condemnation of the denigration of Islam; while commentators regret he offered "no deeds" but only "words" targeting his electorate. His remarks dominate the Arab front pages with both *Al-Jazeera* and *Al-Arabiya* carrying the speech live and offering commentary and experts' analysis afterwards. The UAE's *National* notes "Mr. Obama devoted most of his 30-minute speech to the Middle East and addressed the politically sensitive US response to the region's upheavals, intended as much for the audience of world leaders in the room as for voters at home." Israel's *Ynet* reports the speech "asserts his position on nuclear Iran sans 'red lines' and a commitment to Israel's security." South Africa's *Johannesburg Times* posits that "Obama, in trying to assuage the concerns of the Israeli government, was careful to leave the door open for further diplomatic efforts to dissuade Tehran from continuing on its chosen path." Pan-Arab *Al-Quds al-Arabi* argues the President "failed to offer a strategy" on the three major issues. A Syrian opposition figure commenting to *Al-Arabiya* argues that US support to the Syrian revolution "remains verbal. President Obama did not talk about any serious and tangible measures to end the bloodshed in Syria. Talking about sanctions is no longer of any good." Lebanon's *Daily Star* stresses that Obama "sorely needed to set down a road map for implementation – otherwise, his appearance on the world stage was a useful lesson in speechmaking, but not in politics." Meanwhile, pan-Arab *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* asserts that if he is re-elected "all options will be on the table" to deal with Assad.

**'At UNGA, Obama Warns Iran, Syria':** International commentators see President Obama offering "strong language" on Iran and Syria while standing firm in backing free speech, with analysts laudatory on the latter issue but disappointed on the former. The UK's *Guardian* summarizes: "Obama used his speech to the UNGA to pay a personal tribute to [Ambassador] Stevens...[he] restated the US position on the Iran nuclear program...[and] called for the emergence of a new, democratic and inclusive government in Syria." Italy's *La Repubblica* describes "Obama's Ultimatum – 'Iran, Patience is Running Out and Assad Must Leave.'" Germany's *Handelsblatt* portrays the President "speaking tough words against Tehran," which suggests that "the patience of the man in the White House...has been exhausted." Australia's *ABC News* thinks the "tough talk" was aimed at "easing Israeli concerns about US resolve to curb Tehran's nuclear drive." Russia's *Kommersant* asserts the main point of the speech was that "the US will not give up support of the ideals of the Arab Spring." Italy's *Corriere della Sera* praises Obama's "noble words" supporting "human rights and the defense of principles on which civil coexistence is based." Norway's *Aftenposten* opines "it was good to hear him stand up for basic, democratic values." Japan's *NHK*, however, bemoans the fact that "he has not yet delivered concrete results" after pledging to "achieve reconciliation with the Muslim community upon assuming office." Austria's *ORF Radio* complains that the President did not present any "new messages or initiatives" on Syria. Canada's *Globe and Mail* is disappointed that "he left many unanswered questions about the course

of foreign policy in a potential second term, including his strategies for tackling thorny problems like Iran and Syria.”

**Message:**

- ✓ *“Even as there will be huge challenges to come with a transition to democracy, I am convinced that ultimately government of the people, by the people, and for the people is more likely to bring about the stability, prosperity, and individual opportunity that serve as a basis for peace in our world.” (President Obama)*
- ✓ *“Just as we cannot solve every problem in the world, the United States has not and will not seek to dictate the outcome of democratic transitions abroad.” (President Obama)*
- ✓ *“The brand of politics that pits East against West, and South against North, Muslims against Christians and Hindus and Jews can’t deliver on the promise of freedom.” (President Obama)*
- ✓ *“Among Israelis and Palestinians, the future must not belong to those who turn their backs on a prospect of peace... In Syria, the future must not belong to a dictator who massacres his people... In Iran, we see where the path of a violent and unaccountable ideology leads.” (President Obama)*
- ✓ *“People everywhere long for the freedom to determine their destiny; the dignity that comes with work; the comfort that comes with faith; and the justice that exists when governments serve their people - not the other way around.” (President Obama)*
- ✓ *“The United States of America will always stand up for these aspirations, for our own people and for people all across the world.” (President Obama)*
- ✓ President Obama at UNGA

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HOT TOPICS  
THURSDAY 09/27/2012

**'US Middle East Policy Running into Difficulties':** Though a few commentators applaud the President's support for freedom of speech during his UNGA address, most international observers are disappointed in his remarks, arguing his support is misplaced and that he has failed to outline a coherent Middle East vision and prefers to focus on garnering domestic votes. Turkey's *Hurriyet* praises Obama's "courage" for condemning the anti-Islam video and "also underlining that it was out of the question to put a ban on it." Canada's *Postmedia News* hails the President's "stirring defense of freedom of speech." *Indian Express* posits the speech "implied that the US would have to be patient and not abandon the process of change in the Arab world." Pakistan's *The News*, however, suspects that the President's remarks are "unlikely to satisfy those in Muslim countries who seek to globalize their own anti-blasphemy legislation." An analyst portrays it as a "contradiction" to Pakistan's *PTV News*: "on one hand, the President condemned the film, but on the other he has 'encouraged' people to carry out more such acts." *Utusan Malaysia* laments that the President "defended freedom of speech even though the freedom was abused to offend other people... Clearly, Obama's speech was directed to please the American people." Pan-Arab *Al-Hayat* "finds it odd" that he made no promises to prevent a repeat of the video, "promised nothing to the Arab Spring" and "rushed back from the UN to his electoral campaign." A commentator on Russia's *Channel One TV* mocks the President's "upbeat" speech, asserting US Middle East policy actually looks "very much like a colossal and total failure." *The Australian* thinks he was "conspicuously short on detail," concluding that "after four years, the President is yet to assert a clear foreign policy vision." REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer

**Message:**

- ✓ ***"Even as there will be huge challenges to come with a transition to democracy, I am convinced that ultimately government of the people, by the people, and for the people is more likely to bring about the stability, prosperity, and individual opportunity that serve as a basis for peace in our world." (President Obama)***
- ✓ ***"Just as we cannot solve every problem in the world, the United States has not and will not seek to dictate the outcome of democratic transitions abroad." (President Obama)***
- ✓ ***"The brand of politics that pits East against West, and South against North, Muslims against Christians and Hindu and Jews can't deliver on the promise of freedom." (President Obama)***
- ✓ ***"Among Israelis and Palestinians, the future must not belong to those who turn their backs on a prospect of peace... In Syria, the future must not belong to a dictator who massacres his people... In Iran, we see where the path of a violent and unaccountable ideology leads." (President Obama)***
- ✓ ***"People everywhere long for the freedom to determine their destiny; the dignity that comes with work; the comfort that comes with faith; and the justice that exists when governments serve their people - not the other way around." (President Obama)***

- ✓ *“The United States of America will always stand up for these aspirations, for our own people and for people all across the world.” (President Obama)*
- ✓ *President Obama at UNGA*

**‘No Common Words Found for Syria’ at the UN:** While some international analysts see the recent attack against an Army Headquarters in Damascus as a “stroke at the heart of the regime,” other observers lament that there is “still no consensus” at the UN against the Syrian regime. Germany’s *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* thinks “the attack should have dashed any illusions Asad might have had that he would soon get the unrest in Damascus under control,” but laments that “the UNSC is paralyzed on taking considerable action against him.” Pan-Arab *Al-Arabiya* believes “agreement on Syria still doesn’t exist while the situation continues to deteriorate.” Saudi Arabia’s *Al-Madina* opines the permanent UNSC members, especially the US and Russia, “bear the main responsibility since they are the only sides capable of ending the bloodshed.” Lebanon’s *Daily Star* laments “the irony is that the UN continues holding meetings, while the policies of its members highlight the disgusting hypocrisy, and the dramatic failure of the international community to do something meaningful to stop the slaughter.” Saudi Arabia’s *Arab News* warns “if the butcher (Asad) is able to emerge triumphant and stabilize his shaky regime, he would definitely take revenge on regional countries, such as Jordan, that assisted the Syrian people.”

**Message:**

- ✓ *“In Syria, Bashar al-Asad clings to power, and his campaign of brutality has sparked a humanitarian crisis.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *“The United States has committed more than \$100 million to help the Syrian people.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *“We continue to insist that the violence must end and a political transition without Asad must move forward.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *“The atrocities mount while the Security Council remains paralyzed.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *“I urge that we try, once again, to find a path forward that can bring the Security Council together on the urgent business of both ending the violence in Syria and preventing the consequences that all of us fear.” (Secretary Clinton)*
- ✓ *Secretary Clinton at UNGA*

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HOT TOPICS  
FRIDAY 09/28/2012

**'Netanyahu Draws the Line at Tehran's Nuclear Ambitions':** As Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu calls for "clear red lines" on Iran's nuclear program in his UNGA speech, some observers depict the US as his targeted audience and others stress the peril of Israel's nuclear arsenal. In Israel, *The Jerusalem Post* sees "real danger that Iran's leaders still believe force will not be used to stop them from achieving nuclear weapon capability," and urges the West to "make clear the severe consequences of Tehran's actions." *YNet* argues that "although the result of an Israeli strike, either alone or with the US, will possibly mean war, the cost of inaction might be far worse." Italy's *La Repubblica* maintains that Netanyahu's speech was "the last attempt to convince the world, and especially its American friend, that Iran needs to be stopped." The UK's *Daily Telegraph* portrays Netanyahu "sharply raising the pressure on President Obama," while the *Guardian* describes "skeptical European officials" who compared Netanyahu's argument to the "infamous illustrated presentation about Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction." Jordan's *Al-Rai* thinks "Netanyahu is inclined to take advantage of the US elections to make hasty decisions, dragging his country and Washington into war by embarrassing Obama into standing by him." Greece's *Ta Nea* sees Netanyahu at UNGA "committing to attack Iran." The UAE's *Al-Khaleej* credits President Obama with "succeeding in postponing an Israeli attack on Iran because such a war would destroy US interests inside and outside the region." Meanwhile, Mexico's *La Jornada* calls the Israeli nuclear arsenal a "much bigger threat to Middle East peace than Iran's nuclear program." Pan-Arab *Al-Quds al-Arabi* detects a "greater danger in the real warheads Israel possesses than Iran's presumed nuclear weapon."

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer

**Message:**

- ✓ *"Unfortunately, the President of Iran has provided another reminder of why the international community continues to have serious concerns about his country's nuclear program."*  
(Secretary Clinton)
- ✓ *"America wants to resolve this issue through diplomacy."* (Secretary Clinton)
- ✓ *"We believe there is still time and space to do so, but that time is not unlimited and that's why the United States will do what we must to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon."*  
(Secretary Clinton)
- ✓ *"The best way to achieve a diplomatic solution we all see is for the international community to stay united."* (Secretary Clinton)
- ✓ *"If we ease the pressure or waver in our resolve, Iran will have less incentive to negotiate in good faith or take the necessary steps to address the international community's concerns."*  
(Secretary Clinton)

**'Sad Speech by President Abbas' at UNGA:** International analysts lament the fact that no "tangible result" was achieved for the Palestinians after their bid for UN membership, with some

...that ignoring the Palestinian demand for a state is endangering the region and state representation as "a setback" for the Palestinian cause, coming only one year after their failed bid for full membership. Saudi Arabia's *Al-Madina* says "the Palestinians should have verified the possibility of getting the votes from the UNSC for non-state member status, before demanding it." Saudi Arabia's Pan-Arab *Al-Quds al-Arabi* laments the settlements eat up their land." Spain's *El Pais* writes "the the Palestinian Authority while settlements take the stage at the UN with the total absence of dialogue." Saudi Arabia's Palestinians and Israelis take the stage at the UN with the total absence of dialogue." Saudi Arabia's *Al-Watan* urges the international community to "find a solution to the Palestinian stalemate, because the failure of doing so may lead to violence that can endanger the whole region and collapse the Oslo agreements." Sri Lanka's *Daily Mirror* and Pan-Arab *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* caution "the US bias in favor of Israel not only harms Palestinians but also increases anti-Americanism in the region."

**Message:**

- "The future of Israel and Palestine must belong to those who embrace the hard work of peace - not those who thrive on conflict or reject the right of Israel to exist." (Secretary Clinton)
- "The United States stands ready and prepared to work toward a just agreement to finally accomplish our clear goal - a secure, Jewish state of Israel, an independent, secure, prosperous Palestine, fulfilling the aspirations of the Palestinian people." (Secretary Clinton)