

NY Times Coverup Inadvertently Convicts Obama on Benghazi

by William Wertz

Jan. 4—The article by David Kirkpatrick published in the *New York Times* on Dec. 28, 2013, “A Deadly Mix in Benghazi,” has been widely denounced as a coverup in behalf of the Obama Administration. And indeed it is a coverup, on several grounds:

1. The article falsely claims that there was no evidence that al-Qaeda or other international terrorist groups had any role in the assault on the U.S. mission and CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept. 11, 2012;

2. Kirkpatrick falsely claims, as initially stated by National Security Advisor Susan Rice and other administration officials, that the attack was “fueled in large part by anger at an American-made video denigrating Islam.” In this context, the article fails to mention the video posted by the leader of al-Qaeda, **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, just prior to the Benghazi attack, in which he calls for revenge against the United States for the drone killing of Abu Yahya al-Libi in Pakistan, and that fact that his older brother, **Abdal Wahhab Mohammad Qaid**, is a leading member of the **Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG)**, a key al-Qaeda affiliate in Libya;

3. The article fails to address the issue of the gun-running from Benghazi to Syria, involving the **February 17th Brigade**, sanctioned by President Obama; and

4. It fails to address the reported funding of the Benghazi attack by Saudi Arabia.

That said, the article inadvertently confirms what has long been documented by LaRouchePAC and *EIR*: that the people who attacked the U.S. facilities in Benghazi were the very militias with which Obama allied in his illegal war to overthrow the government of Qaddafi. As Kirkpatrick writes: The U.S. “ultimately lost its ambassador in an attack that involved both avowed opponents of the West and fighters belonging to militias that the Americans had taken for allies.”

What he fails to say is that the core of the forces with which Obama allied was the LIFG, led by **Abdelhakim**

Belhadj. The leaders of the LIFG fought alongside al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, then moved to Sudan with Osama bin Laden. The LIFG officially merged with al-Qaeda on Nov. 3, 2007.

By not identifying the LIFG’s affiliation with al-Qaeda, Kirkpatrick lies that the Benghazi operation “was not infiltrated by al-Qaeda.”

Thus, the distinction between local militias with which Obama allied in Libya and core al-Qaeda, which was allegedly not involved, is a lie, actually perpetrated by al-Qaeda for the purpose of disguising its presence.

The Alleged Ringleader

The article focuses on **Abu Khattala**, as the alleged ringleader of the attack on the mission, and on claims that he had “no known affiliations with terrorist groups.” At the same time it says that “he was firmly embedded in the network of Benghazi militias.”

Kirkpatrick claims that Abu Khattala was the assassin on July 28, 2011, of **Gen. Abdal Fatah Yunis**, the head of the military wing of the Transitional National Council; but one of Yunis’s deputies charged at the time that the assassins were with the February 17th Brigade. The assassination of Yunis cleared the way for Belhadj to emerge as the commander of the Tripoli Military Council. In that position, he was responsible for the security of all foreign embassies.

As documented by LaRouchePAC and *EIR*, the February 17th Brigade, which was hired to protect the U.S. mission, was founded by the emir of the LIFG, Belhadj, who was also U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens’ liaison to the opposition. All of the variously named militias in Benghazi operate under the umbrella of the LIFG.

For instance, **Sufian bin Qumu**, the leader of **Ansar al-Sharia**, based in Derna, Libya, has been identified as a member of the LIFG and al-Qaeda. A former Guantanamo prisoner who received monthly stipends from

one of the financiers of the original Sept. 11, 2001 attack, Qumu is known to have trained jihadists fighting to overthrow Qaddafi beginning in April 2011. And yet Kirkpatrick writes that “neither Mr. Qumu nor anyone else in Derna appears to have played a significant role in the attack on the American Mission.” This, despite the fact that Ansar al-Sharia initially claimed responsibility for the assault. Since when does “appears,” qualify as evidence?

Kirkpatrick also points out that one of the people who offered an alibi for Abu Khattala is **Wisam bin Hamid**, the head of **Libya Shield**, and that in Spring 2013, bin Hamid said he had decided to make Abu Khattala a kind of local real estate judge: “He is good at this. He is a sincere person. People respect him.”

An Inside/Outside Job

But who is Abu Khattala’s protector Wisam bin Hamid? The U.S. Library of Congress published a report in August 2011 identifying bin Hamid as possibly the leader of al-Qaeda in Libya, and stating that he hosted a demonstration in Sirte, Libya, in March 2012, attended by the head of al-Qaeda in the Maghreb, **Mokhtar bel**

Mokhtar, as his honored guest. Bin Hamid also participated in a rally in Benghazi with other militias on June 7-8, 2012. The Library of Congress reports that these militias “probably make up the bulk of al-Qaeda’s network in Libya.”

Kirkpatrick reports: “The only intelligence connecting al-Qaeda to the attack was an intercepted phone call that night from a participant in the first wave of the attack to a friend in another African country who had ties to members of al-Qaeda.” He fails to report that the call was to Mokhtar bel Mokhtar, who on Jan. 13, 2013 organized a terrorist attack on an Algerian gas field.

The further evidence presented by Kirkpatrick, which confirms that the attack on the mission and the annex by Obama’s allies was an inside/outside job, is the fact that, as he puts it, “Libyan militia leaders who might have intervened to help the Americans washed their hands of the attack.”

Specifically, he quotes **Abdul Salam Bargathi** who was at the militias’ joint operations room at the February 17th Brigade headquarters as the attack proceeded. Bargathi said that he told the February 17 Brigade guards at the mission: “Don’t shoot. Just run away from the place.” Bargathi also volunteered that, as Kirkpatrick wrote, “the leaders of Ansar al-Sharia had joined him in the operations room shortly after the attack began.”

Imagine this: The militia that attacked the mission is in the joint operations room with the militia hired to defend the mission. How can you come to any other conclusion but that this was a joint operation?

Thus, as LaRouchePAC and EIR have maintained, *the February 17th Brigade, founded by Belhadj, which was hired to protect the mission, worked directly with Ansar al-Sharia, which carried out the attack. What Kirkpatrick does not report is that Ansar al-Sharia was funded by the Libyan Ministry of Defense through the February 17th Brigade, both before Sept. 11, 2012 and afterwards.*

Thus, as stated at the outset, although Kirkpatrick’s article is a coverup designed to protect Obama, the evidence he presents actually confirms that Obama committed treason by allying with the al-Qaeda-affiliated Libyan Islamic Fighting Group in the illegal war to overthrow Qaddafi, and then, that it was Obama’s al-Qaeda allies in Libya who killed our Ambassador and three other Americans.

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