

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address September 21, 2012
“Update on Libya Attack”

Hello. This is your congressman, Michael Burgess. Last week, on the 11th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, radical Islamists attacked the United States Embassy in Benghazi, Libya, and the United States Embassy in Cairo was assaulted by a mob of extremists.

Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glenn Doherty were all killed as a result of the attack in Libya. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of these four brave men and the entire United States diplomatic corps.

Yesterday, Members of Congress were finally briefed by top officials including Secretary Clinton, and Director Clapper of the National Intelligence. We will continue to monitor protests and any assaults or threats on any American Embassy, but we still have no real information. At the briefing, critical questions were not answered or deflected. The question comes: can the State Department investigate itself to the satisfaction of all involved?

Several factors contributed to the attacks. In addition to the recent re-emergence of jihadist activity in Benghazi; the consulate's hasty establishment after the 2011 Libyan civil war, and the compound was always uniquely vulnerable to an attack. The Libyan and Yemeni governments have been fully cooperative and have condemned the attacks. The Egyptian government took over a day and when they did issue a statement on the attacks, it was... really fell far short of the mark.

Ten years ago, the 9-11 Commission sought to get the answers and provide the template for security going forward. I've never been a big fan of commissions, but I've got to tell you, today was no different. The embassy compound in Benghazi is a crime scene and as such, there needs to be a careful, and complete, and impartial investigation. The process does need to be open and when the results are known, Members of Congress and citizens of the United States must be apprised of the results. There is no way to prevent another attack in the future if we do not do this.

The attacks cannot happen again. Nothing justifies the horrific actions that were taken and resulted in the loss of four precious American lives. We live in the greatest country on Earth and cannot allow the cowardly acts of a few to deter our work.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information about this issue and other issues before the United States Congress, please visit my website at burgess.house.gov. May God bless you and your family, may God bless our diplomatic corps, and may always, may God bless Texas.