

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 12:17 PM
To: H; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: Fw: Saudi Grand Mufti calls attacks on foreign embassies un-Islamic (Reuters)

There is probably no greater islamic authority for sunni muslims than him (there are actually a few of them, but he's the oldest). And they don't do this often.

From: OpsNewsTicker@state.gov [mailto:OpsNewsTicker@state.gov]
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 11:10 AM
To: NEWS-Mahogany
Subject: Saudi Grand Mufti calls attacks on foreign embassies un-Islamic (Reuters)

RIYADH (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti, the highest religious authority in the birthplace of Islam, on Saturday denounced attacks on diplomats and embassies as un-Islamic after deadly protests against a U.S.-made film mocking Islam's founder.

Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al al-Sheikh also called on governments and international bodies to criminalise insults against prophets and excoriated the film that has prompted a wave of fury across the Middle East.

"It is forbidden to punish the innocent for the wicked crimes of the guilty, or to attack those who have been granted protection of their lives and property, or to expose public buildings to fire or destruction," he said in a speech carried by state news agency SPA.

Describing the release of the crudely made short film as "miserable" and "criminal", he added that attacks on the innocent and diplomats "are also a distortion of the Islamic religion and are not accepted by God".

At least nine people were killed after noon prayers on Friday in demonstrations across the Middle East.

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