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Christina Cowger: Blowback from abuses

PUBLISHED WED, SEP 19, 2012 12:00 AM
MODIFIED TUE, SEP 18, 2012 04:07 PM

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Blowback from abuses

The violent deaths of the U.S. ambassador and his staff in Libya are tragic and criminal. It's worth asking why Libyans and other Middle Easterners bear such anger toward the U.S. The answer is complicated, but one factor should not be overlooked. The CIA collaborated closely with the former dictators of Egypt and Libya in the secret transfer and torture of prisoners, a fact well-known in those countries.

In the case of Libya, a new Human Rights Watch report reveals that the U.S. detained exiled opponents of former Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi in places such as Afghanistan and Thailand and subjected them to terrible abuses.



The CIA then secretly "rendered" these detainees to Libya – in at least two cases flying them aboard planes based in Kinston and Smithfield and operated by CIA-affiliated Aero Contractors – and handed them to Gadhafi on a silver platter.

The U.S. has secretly detained and tortured citizens of several countries where hostility toward U.S. symbols is boiling over – Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Afghanistan, even Australia. Refusal to acknowledge torture hurts the victims, but also hurts Americans. If our government pursued justice for its systematic abuse of these Muslim prisoners, the widespread anti-U.S. blowback just might diminish.

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