

(Washington, DC) Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) condemned the recent attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, which culminated in the death of Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith, and two other unidentified Americans.

"I deplore the attack that took the lives of Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith, and two other Americans," said Hastings. "There is absolutely no justification for such a heinous act of hatred and violence.

"Ambassador Stevens and his consular staff, along with the entire American diplomatic mission working in Libya, were in the country to help the Libyan people overcome decades of misrule and oppression under the Qaddafi regime. They were in Libya to assist with the transition to democracy inspired by the Libyan people themselves, which will lead to a more tolerant, inclusive, and prosperous society for all Libyans.

"Ambassador Stevens and his team exemplified the hard work, courage, and commitment to freedom, democracy, and international partnership that are the hallmarks of American diplomacy around the world.

"My thoughts are with the families and loved ones of all those killed during this most difficult time. Their legacy will carry on, and the hard work of pursuing peace and justice will continue."

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Democratic Chairman of the Florida Delegation.

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