

**RELEASE IN FULL**

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**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2012 6:54 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Les Gelb on the Obama response

The whole thing is worth a read, but a very tough judge gives you and the President credit:

By any standard of reason, President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton conducted themselves very well amid the confusion and crises. Of course they didn't do everything perfectly; for example, some unidentified administration official disowned the embassy statement condemning the video. Such creepiness served only to make it look like Obama was running for cover at the expense of our embattled diplomats. But minor miscues aside, Obama and Clinton nailed the main points, especially Clinton. In her first statement soon after the riots, here's what she said: "The United States deplores any intentional effort to denigrate the religious beliefs of others. Our commitment to religious tolerance goes back to the very beginning of our nation. But let me be clear: There is never any justification for violent acts of this kind."

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/09/17/leslie-h-gelb-on-the-mysteries-of-the-middle-east-riots.html>