

Administration of Barack Obama, 2014

Statement on the Capture of Ahmed Abu Khattala by United States Special Forces and Federal Bureau of Investigation Personnel in Benghazi, Libya
June 17, 2014

The United States has an unwavering commitment to bring to justice those responsible for harming Americans. Since the deadly attacks on our facilities in Benghazi, I have made it a priority to find and bring to justice those responsible for the deaths of four brave Americans. I recently authorized an operation in Libya to detain an individual charged for his role in these attacks, Ahmed Abu Khatallah. The fact that he is now in U.S. custody is a testament to the painstaking efforts of our military, law enforcement, and intelligence personnel. Because of their courage and professionalism, this individual will now face the full weight of the American justice system.

Even as we welcome the success of this operation, we also pause to remember the four Americans who gave their lives in Benghazi representing their country: Ambassador Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty. As I said shortly after the attack, they exemplified the values that we stand for as a nation, including a commitment to freedom and justice. All Americans should be grateful for their service, just as we are grateful to all our personnel—civilian and military—who represent our country around the globe. We will continue to honor our fallen by carrying on their efforts in support of the Libyan people's aspirations to live in a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic society.

With this operation, the United States has once again demonstrated that we will do whatever it takes to see that justice is done when people harm Americans. We will continue our efforts to bring to justice those who were responsible for the Benghazi attacks. We will remain vigilant against all acts of terrorism, and we will continue to prioritize the protection of our servicemembers and civilians overseas. We will also sustain our support for the Libyan people as they work to overcome years of tyranny and do the difficult work of building a democracy.

Categories: Statements by the President : Khattala, Ahmed Abu, capture by U.S. Special Forces and FBI personnel in Benghazi, Libya.

Names: Khattala, Ahmed Abu.

Subjects: Libya : 2012 attack on U.S. mission in Benghazi; Libya : Democracy efforts; Libya : Khattala, Ahmed Abu, capture by U.S. Special Forces and FBI personnel in Benghazi; Terrorism : Counterterrorism efforts.

DCPD Number: DCPD201400462.