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Were Americans ambushed in Pakistan victims of terrorists — or the Pentagon?

Interventionism invites terrorist attacks, Libertarians say

WASHINGTON, DC — The brutal killing of four Americans ambushed in Pakistan on Wednesday provides another grim reminder of the high cost of an interventionist foreign policy, the Libertarian Party said today.

“Although terrorists pulled the trigger, U.S. foreign policy may well be an accomplice in the deaths of these four innocent Americans,” said Steve Dasbach, national chairman of the Libertarian Party.

Immediately after the slayings in Karachi, Pakistan, local police said there was a “strong possibility” that the oil company executives were killed in retaliation for the conviction on Monday of Mir Amil Kasi, a Pakistani. Kasi, who murdered two CIA agents in Virginia in 1993, reportedly was angered by U.S. policies toward Muslims in the Middle East, and wanted to avenge the bombing of Iraq.

“If Pakistani authorities are correct, America’s involvement in the Gulf War has boomeranged and contributed to the deaths of four totally innocent American civilians,” Dasbach said. “These murders provide another potent argument against U.S. intervention abroad: It invites terrorist attacks against innocent American tourists and business travelers.”

Even more alarming than the deaths of these four Americans, Dasbach said, is the potential for more bloody terrorist attacks.

“Earlier this year the Army boasted that American troops were deployed in nearly 100 nations,” Dasbach said. “An interventionist foreign policy turns every American citizen traveling abroad into a soft military target.”

But instead of acknowledging the risks to innocent civilians, the U.S. government is threatening to repeat its mistakes, Dasbach said. He noted that President Clinton is pressuring the U.N. Security Council to impose economic and diplomatic penalties against Iraq for thwarting weapons inspectors, and hasn’t ruled out another military strike.

“Politicians have a lot to gain by using the military for political objectives,” Dasbach said. “But the real purpose of the Pentagon is to protect Americans *in* America, not to jeopardize their lives by courting conflict in countless countries across the globe.

“The best way to protect Americans abroad is to keep the U.S. military at home.”

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