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Gotham Government Relations

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TRIPOLI, Libya, January 9, 2020 (Newswire.com) - A representative of Libya's Government of National Accord (GNA) is thanking President Trump for eliminating Iran's Qassem Soleimani, the mastermind behind the 2012 attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi.

Brad Gerstman asked, "How can taking out a war criminal be considered a war crime?" Soleimani had long commanded Iran's notorious Quds Force, known for covert and terrorist operations across the Middle East and around the world. U.S. forces attacked his convoy in Baghdad on Jan. 3.

"In his 2014 book, *Dark Forces*, journalist Kenneth Timmerman documents how Soleimani ordered the operation that murdered U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans in Benghazi," Gerstman recalled.

"I congratulate President Trump for defending the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad last week from a similar assault and then raining justice on the man behind both attacks. President Trump now has an opportunity to bring closure to Benghazi and redeem U.S. interests from the mistakes of his predecessors, by standing with the Libyan people and the UN-recognized GNA. The GNA is resisting Haftar's renegade force, which has advanced fighters from Russia, Iran's longtime partner in undermining U.S. interests in Iraq, Libya, and elsewhere."

Gerstman emphasized: "A win for Haftar is a win for Russia and Iran, and posthumously for Soleimani. The Russian and Iranian strategy seeks permanent instability in Libya, and allowing this month's Berlin summit on Libya to fail will help them achieve that goal. I urge the President to actively and unequivocally support the GNA and the political process, and finally set Libya and America's strategic and economic interests on the right path."

Gerstman's firm, Gotham Government Relations & Communications, has previously worked on behalf of the Trump Organization and currently represents Libya's GNA in the United States.

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