



# ATTACKED BY OBAMA - THE BENGHAZI WITNESSES

## 'Classic Whistleblower Reprisal'

State Department officials engaged in 'subtle intimidation' of Benghazi whistleblowers, lawyer says

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Benghazi

State Department officials have been accused of waging an intimidation campaign against witnesses preparing to testify at a congressional hearing on the Benghazi attack, in potential violation of whistle-blower

protection statutes.

At least three State Department employees and one CIA employee have faced pressure as they prepare to testify at upcoming hearings on the Obama administration's response to the Benghazi attack before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, according to an attorney for one of the witnesses.

Federal law prohibits any effort to obstruct or intimidate witnesses in a congressional hearing.

Victoria Toensing, an attorney for one of the witnesses, said these were not direct threats. Rather, she said, administration officials have insinuated witnesses could lose their jobs or get passed up for promotions if they testify.

"They're not telling them they're going to put them through the guillotine tomorrow," Toensing told the *Washington Free Beacon*. "It's subtle intimidation."