The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society condemns the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Libya and the senseless killing of innocent American diplomats. As an Islamic organization based in the United States of America, and its members being proud and productive citizens of this country, we are outraged by this attack on our government. We fully support efforts to hold to account those responsible for these crimes.

Regardless of the motive, such conduct is far from representing Islam; to the contrary, it reveals shameful ignorance of the faith’s teachings on tolerance, forbearance and patience. The founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, explained that impulsive reactionary behavior, whatever the instigating source may be, should never be confused with the moral quality of “courage”; he said:

“The truly courageous do not display their bravery in an insolent manner. True courage is rooted in patience and steadfastness. The courageous person resists his passion and does not flee from danger like a coward but, before he takes any step, looks to the remote consequences of his actions. There is vast difference between the daring dash of a savage and the indomitable courage of a civilized man: the latter is prepared to meet real dangers but he reasons and reflects, even in the fury of battle, before he proceeds and takes the course best suited to avert evil, while the former – in obedience to an irresistible passion – makes a violent onset in one direction only.”

This, we believe, is a true expression of Islamic conduct. It is, as Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad represents, a manifestation of becoming civilized.

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio and is the U.S. branch of the international Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. For the past century, the Movement has engaged in the effort of reviving the spiritual basis of Islam and eradicating extremism from within its fold. Its work is primarily performed through producing highly acclaimed Islamic publications and establishing missions around the world.

For more information about the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society and its work, please contact Fazeel S. Khan at aaiil@aol.com and visit www.muslim.org.