

## Picking Up the Pieces

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*A two pronged investigation into the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania*

Following two tragic bombings of American embassies, investigators are launching a double-sided investigation. The first aspect of the overwhelming endeavor in finding the individuals responsible for the bombings is a mass interviewing process. This work is extremely tedious and exhausting due to the sheer quantity of people that will need to be interviewed. However this must be done because the smallest amount of information can prove to be, as FBI Special Agent Sheila Horan said, “. . .Very valuable to us.” The second, and perhaps more revealing than testimony, part of the investigation is to sift through all of the physical evidence. The FBI is bringing in the same specialists that worked on the first World Trade Center bombing and the Oklahoma City bombing. Investigators hope that the vehicle or other medium used to bring the bombs into the embassies can be determined so that their origins can be traced. The embassy in Nairobi had previously been deemed vulnerable to attack because of its design and location on, “One of the busiest streets in Nairobi,” as the ambassador put it.

One very interesting aspect of this investigation is how it mirrors that of the World Trade Center. That investigation was also seemingly overwhelming, but in the end was solved. The Twin Towers bombing was solved due to a piece of debris from a rental truck that was located and its origins traced. It appears that investigators might be close to finding a similar piece of crucial evidence in this case. Another very interesting and revealing fact is that the FBI is bringing in the same specialists that worked on two

earlier large scale, high profile bombings. This shows how difficult the task of investigating a crime where all the physical evidence is displaced and deformed can be. In most fields of work, different individuals continually emerge and out-perform their predecessors. However, forensic investigators need years of education, along with a special knack, which sets their profession apart from most others.

Another astonishing and frightening part of this story is the lack of security. It should be well known that an American embassy overseas would be a prime target for a moderate scale terrorist attack. Also, embassies are supposed to serve in part as safe havens for American citizens in foreign and dangerous countries. The embassy in Nairobi was obviously not well protected. Furthermore, the lack of security had been noted, but no improvements were scheduled because compared to other embassies, the one in Nairobi was a low risk. This shows that almost every American embassy can be bombed with the ease of those in Africa. Measures must be put in place to secure these institutions in order to protect Americans from future attacks.

Source- <http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/africa/9808/13/embassy.fbi.03/>