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An Embassy Attack is an Attack Against a Nation, Says International Law Expert

University of Dayton

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**AN EMBASSY ATTACK IS AN ATTACK AGAINST A NATION,
SAYS INTERNATIONAL LAW EXPERT**

President Clinton had every right to order the military strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan as the action qualified as self defense under the United Nations charter, according to Allen Sultan, law professor at the University of Dayton and regional coordinator for the American Society of International Law.

"It's a clear case. Legally, an embassy is foreign soil. So when you attack an embassy, you're attacking that foreign country," Sultan said. "If you attack our embassy and kill people, we definitely have the right to fight back. We then have the obligation to report to the U.N. Security Council." Some mistakenly believe that the U.N. charter calls for notification to the Security Council before action is taken, he said.

Criticism of the president because of the timing of the military action is "malarkey and a low political blow," Sultan said. "I agree with George Will, who said that Clinton knew he'd be charged with this and he did it anyway, and that's to his credit."

For media interviews, call **Allen Sultan** at UD at (937) 229-3542.

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