RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sent:	Sullivan, Jacob J <sullivanjj@state.gov> Thursday, May 19, 2011 1:56 PM</sullivanjj@state.gov>
То:	Η
Subject:	FW: Muslim-Christian clashes erupt at Egyptian church (AP)

FYI – we are working on Christian persecution.

From: OpsNewsTicker Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2011 1:45 PM To: NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-NEA Cc: SES-O_Shift-III; SES-O_SWO; SES-O_OS; SES-O_CMS Subject: Muslim-Christian clashes erupt at Egyptian church (AP)

CAIRO (AP) - An Egyptian security official says clashes have broken out between Muslims and Christians over the reopening of a Cairo church the former regime closed years ago.

Muslim-Christian violence has erupted several times around Egypt since the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak on Feb. 11.

Thursday's clashes began when police accompanied a group of Christians to reopen the Church of the Virgin in Cairo's Ain Shams district.

More than 1,000 ultraconservative Salafi Muslims and local residents tried to block the way, and the sides pelted each other with stones. Police detained a number of those involved, and the Christians entered the church while a smaller protest continued outside. No injuries were reported.

About 10 percent of Egyptians are Christians.

NewsTickers elert senior Department officiels to breeking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentery by Department sources.