

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2011 5:54 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: Afternoon Brief 03/08/11 (SBU)

FOUR IVOIRIANS KILLED FOLLOWING WOMEN'S DAY MARCH

(SBU) Forces loyal to Gbagbo attacked a crowd of civilians in the Abidjan suburb of Treichville, media report. The Cote d'Ivoire desk comments this incident followed one of several large marches occurring throughout the country in honor of International Women's Day, with more than 3000 marchers in Abobo alone. *(Ops/Cote d'Ivoire desk telcon, AP)*

From: OpsAlert
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 3:00 PM
Subject: Afternoon Brief 03/08/11 (SBU)

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Operations Center

Afternoon Brief

Tuesday, March 08, 2011
 1500 EST

MIDDLE EAST PROTESTS UPDATE

- (U) LIBYA: Forces loyal to Col. Qadhafi used tanks and aircraft to bombard the town of Zawiyah and launched at least four air strikes on Ras Lanuf, with one striking a residential area. *(Reuters)*
- (SBU) BAHRAIN: Hardline Shiite groups Wafa', Bahrain Freedom Movement, and Mushaimaa's Haq movement formed a coalition aimed at toppling the Sunni monarchy and setting up a republic, media report. Embassy Manama comments the hardliners rejected the 2002 reforms and refused to participate in parliamentary elections. The Bahrain desk adds the coalition is working to align itself more closely with demands of street protesters.
(Ops/Embassy Manama telcon, Ops/Bahrain desk e-mail, Reuters)
- (SBU) SAUDI ARABIA: Shiites staged small protests in the Eastern Province, the source of much of the country's oil wealth, according to press. The Saudi Arabia desk comments if media reports are accurate, the protests would be the first since the government reiterated a longstanding ban on demonstrations. *(Ops/Saudi Arabia desk e-mail, Reuters)*

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OUTSPOKEN CRITIC HAITHAM MALEH RELEASED FROM SYRIAN JAIL

(SBU) The 80-year-old former judge had been on a hunger strike, according to press. The Syria desk comments Maleh was in poor health and was released so he would not become a martyr by dying while incarcerated. *(Ops/Syria desk e-mail, Reuters)*

FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN SUDAN KILLS 51

(SBU) Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers attacked rebel leader George Athor's base, forcing him to withdraw, according to press. The Office of the Special Envoy for Sudan comments SPLA forces blocked UN soldiers from patrolling much of Jonglei State, where Athor maintained his headquarters. *(Ops/Office of the Special Envoy for Sudan e-mail, AP)*

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