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RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sent: To: Subject: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov> Wednesday, June 15, 2011 5:34 AM H Fw: More aftershocks hit NZ city; fears worse to come (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2011 05:19 AM To: NEWS-Mahogany Cc: SES-O Subject: More aftershocks hit NZ city; fears worse to come (AP)

WELLINGTON (AP) - Big aftershocks are continuing to hit the earthquake-weary city of Christchurch, raising fears that worse could be on the way.

A pair of aftershocks woke many residents at about 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, with the larger measuring magnitude-5.0. In the afternoon, a second smaller cluster hit.

The temblors follow Monday's 6.0 quake that caused some more buildings in the city to collapse. The city is still recovering from a devestating magnitude-6.3 quake in February that killed 181 people and shut down much of the inner city. Since then, residents have suffered through thousands of aftershocks.

Scientists say this week's series of quakes have increased to about 30 percent the likelihood that Christchurch will suffer another devestating quake within the next year.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.