

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 1:21 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Update 3: Stand-Off at Eritrean Ministry of Information Concludes (SBU)

From: OpsAlert@state.gov [mailto:OpsAlert@state.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 12:47 PM
Subject: Update 3: Stand-Off at Eritrean Ministry of Information Concludes (SBU)

(SBU) Embassy Asmara reports the military assets previously positioned outside the Ministry of Information building have departed.

(SBU) President Afewerki was seen leaving the presidency building and returning to his residence.

(SBU) Radio and television broadcasts have not resumed.

(SBU) The city remains calm.

From: OpsAlert@state.gov
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 9:58 AM
To:
CC:
Subject: Update 2: Military Faction Takes Over Eritrean Ministry of Information Building (SBU)

(SBU) Media report the military faction forced the director of state television to demand on-air the release of all political prisoners in the country.

(U) Paris-based Eritrean radio reports the Eritrean president's daughter is among the ministry officials being controlled by the soldiers.

(SBU) Embassy Asmara notes the events likely will result in a government suppression of the coup and stresses the areas around the embassy and residences remain calm.

From: OpsAlert@state.gov
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 8:39 AM
To:
CC:
Subject: Update 1: Military Faction Takes Over Eritrean Ministry of Information Building (SBU)

(SBU) Embassy Asmara reports a faction of the military who might have wanted to plot a coup took over the Ministry of Information building and might be holding hostages. The Eritrean government has deployed tanks

around the building.

(SBU) Embassy Asmara reports the city remains calm. Post is closed today in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

From: OpsAlert@state.gov

Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 7:26 AM

To:

CC:

Subject: Tanks Surround Ministries of Information and Education in Eritrean Capital (SBU)

(SBU) Embassy Asmara reports the acting information minister has reportedly been arrested. State run television and radio have stopped broadcasting.

(SBU) All chief of mission personnel are safe and accounted for.

(SBU) Diplomatic Security Command Center reports it is believed the Eritrean government is in the process of suppressing a possible coup. However, there are no obvious signs of a coup and no reports of violence or gunfire.

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