

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 21, 2013 9:29 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Update 1: Military Faction Takes Over Eritrean Ministry of Information Building (SBU)

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**From:** OpsAlert@state.gov [mailto:OpsAlert@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 21, 2013 08:39 AM  
**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.

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**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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