

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on 02/19/2016 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D) ~ Declassify on: 03/16/2026

RELEASE IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2011 4:43 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Outreach on Bahrain: update

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Feltman, Jeffrey D  
**To:** 'Denis\_R.\_McDonough' [redacted]  
<Dennis\_B.\_Ross [redacted] PTalwar [redacted]>  
<Lisa\_D\_Kenna [redacted] 'Leslie\_M\_Tsou [redacted] ablinken [redacted]>  
[redacted] Herro\_K.\_Mustafa [redacted] Sullivan, Jacob J;  
Abedin, Huma; Schrepel, Dawn M; Carl Yoder, Samantha A; Burns, William J; Wells, Alice G; Catalano, Elisa; Posner, Michael H; Barks-Ruggles, Erica J; Robertson, Thomas B (OIG); Schlicher, Ronald L; Sanderson, Janet A; Corbin, Michael H; Walles, Jacob; Bondy, Steven C; Wittes, Tamara C; Holtz, Greta C (NEA)  
**Cc:** Jeffrey, James F (Baghdad); Scobey, Margaret; Beecroft, Robert S (Amman); Kaplan, Samuel L; LeBaron, Joseph E; Olson, Richard G; Djerassi, Alexander M; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Mull, Stephen D; Williams, Stephanie T; Hood, Ludovic L; Connelly, Maura  
**Sent:** Wed Mar 16 03:08:06 2011  
**Subject:** Re: Outreach on Bahrain: update

B6

Update: I spoke with Mohammed Chatah, foreign policy advisor to (caretaker) Lebanese PM Saad Hariri, at Chatah's request. Chatah asked about the rumors (rampant here) that Sec'y Gates had greenlighted the Bahraini security crackdown. I told him absolutely not and explained our policy and goals. He noted that Hizballah was organizing a big rally today against Saudi Arabia's role in Bahrain. (This will "confirm" in many Sunni eyes that what is happening in Bahrain stems from Hizballah and Iran.). [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Jeffrey Feltman

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Feltman, Jeffrey D  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2011 03:34 PM  
**To:** 'Denis\_R.\_McDonough' [redacted]; 'Dennis\_B.\_Ross' [redacted]  
[redacted]; 'PTalwar' [redacted] 'Lisa\_D\_Kenna' [redacted]  
[redacted] 'Leslie\_M\_Tsou' [redacted]; 'ablinken' [redacted]  
[redacted]; 'Herro\_K.\_Mustafa' [redacted]; Sullivan, Jacob J;  
Abedin, Huma; Schrepel, Dawn M; Carl Yoder, Samantha A; Burns, William J; Wells, Alice G; Catalano, Elisa; Posner, Michael H; Barks-Ruggles, Erica J; Robertson, Thomas B (OIG); Schlicher, Ronald L; Sanderson, Janet A; Corbin, Michael H; Walles, Jacob; Bondy, Steven C; Wittes, Tamara C; Holtz, Greta C (NEA)  
**Cc:** Jeffrey, James F (Baghdad); Scobey, Margaret; Beecroft, Robert S (Amman); Kaplan, Samuel L; LeBaron, Joseph E; Olson, Richard G; Djerassi, Alexander M; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Mull, Stephen D; Williams, Stephanie T; Hood, Ludovic L; Connelly, Maura  
**Subject:** Outreach on Bahrain: update

B6

Brief update from Bahrain: I have spoken today with Iraq's Adel Abdulmehdi, Arab League SecGen Amr Moussa, Jordan's Nasser Judeh, Morocco's Taieb Fassi-Fihri, Qatar's Hamad bin Jassem, and UAE's Abdullah bin Zayed about the

situation in Bahrain. Lebanon's Mohammed Chatah (foreign policy advisor to Saad Hariri) has called me, but I haven't yet connected with him.

I briefed them on what Charge Stephanie Williams, PolOff Ludovic Hood, and I have spent the day trying to pull off: buying time by getting both sides to agree to a code of conduct of reciprocal steps (basically reining in each side's extremists) regarding the immediate period ahead. I have explained that we agree on the need to restore law and order here (the atmosphere is shocking, with blame to be shared) but in a way that spares blood and builds a better atmosphere for the reform process that must take place. I explained that we got the Bahraini Crown Prince's blessing first and then started working out details with a relatively receptive Wifaq head Ali Salman. I asked the help of those with whom I talked in getting the Bahrainis and Saudis from viewing the solution as exclusively security-related, and I went into details about the short-sightedness and just plain wrong approach using violence would be. I noted our sense that the Bahrainis (and presumably Saudis) had not thought through the "day after" the security crackdown that now seems to be underway, with inevitably horrific results.

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Unfortunately, the Bahrainis are proceeding with what will undoubtedly be a harsh, probably brutal, crackdown. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

I think that the Saudis, UAE, and Bahrainis have run out of patience and are going to take a hardline stand and ignore us for now. I agree with them that the situation here had (for many reasons) become intolerable, but I don't accept that their approach will solve the basic issues here. Indeed, violence will worsen the situation over the long term.

So we will continue to try to push a code of conduct as a peaceful path toward restoration of calm and creation of atmosphere for reform. We're grateful for the Washington outreach, particularly to Saudis. It is not encouraging here at the moment.

Jeffrey Feltman