

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 7:43 AM
To: H
Subject: FW: UPDATE: Al Qaeda-linked group claims kidnapping of foreigners in Algeria (Reuters)

From: Randolph, Lawrence M
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 7:21 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: FW: UPDATE: Al Qaeda-linked group claims kidnapping of foreigners in Algeria (Reuters)

Looks like no Americans so far.

From: OpsNewsTicker@state.gov [<mailto:OpsNewsTicker@state.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 7:17 AM
To: Mali Unrest; NEWS-AF; NEWS-CA; NEWS-Cyber; NEWS-Mahogany
Subject: UPDATE: Al Qaeda-linked group claims kidnapping of foreigners in Algeria (Reuters)

NOUAKCHOTT (Reuters) - An al Qaeda-linked group operating in the Sahara has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping on Wednesday of five Japanese and a French citizen, Mauritania's ANI news agency reported.

ANI, which has regular direct contact with Islamists, said fighters under the command of Mokhtar Belmokhtar were holding the foreigners seized from an Algerian gas field.

A local source said the French national was killed in an attack on the facility.

Belmokhtar for years commanded al Qaeda fighters in the Sahara before setting up his own armed Islamist group late last year after an apparent fallout with other militant leaders.

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