

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 4, 2011 8:17 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Secret police defect in restive Syrian province (Reuters)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 04, 2011 06:41 AM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-I; SES-O\_Shift-II  
**Subject:** Secret police defect in restive Syrian province (Reuters)

AMMAN (Reuters) - At least a dozen Syrian secret police have defected from an intelligence compound in a restive province near Turkey, the first major defection reported within the security apparatus leading the crackdown on protesters, activists said on Sunday.

A gunfight broke out overnight after the defectors fled the Airforce Intelligence complex in the centre of Idlib city, 280 kms (175 miles) northwest of Damascus, and ten people on both sides were killed or wounded, they said.

Opposition sources estimate the number of defectors from the security forces at several thousand, mainly army recruits from Syria's Sunni Muslim majority. President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite minority sect has a tight grip on the country's military and security apparatus.

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