

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, December 24, 2011 7:25 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: AFP photographer released in Turkey (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Saturday, December 24, 2011 04:56 AM
To: NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-Iraq
Cc: SES-O
Subject: AFP photographer released in Turkey (AP)

Further to December 20 Afternoon Brief:

ANKARA, Turkey - (AP) Turkey's state-run news agency says authorities have released an AFP photographer, along with 12 other people who were detained as part of an investigation into a group prosecutors accuse of having links to Kurdish rebels.

Anadolu Agency said however, that a court early on Saturday ordered 35 other suspects formally arrested pending trial over their alleged involvement in the Union of Kurdistan Communities _ which authorities say is an offshoot of the PKK rebel group.

AFP photographer Mustafa Ozer was among 48 suspects, including a number of other journalists, detained in police raids in seven cities on Dec. 20, sparking increased concerns over media freedoms in Turkey.

Hundreds of Kurdish activists have been charged as part of the investigation since 2009.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.