

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 11:58 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Zardari returns to Pakistan from Dubai trip-spokesman (Reuters)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 11:10 PM
To: NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O
Subject: Zardari returns to Pakistan from Dubai trip-spokesman (Reuters)

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - President Asif Ali Zardari returned to Pakistan on Friday from a trip to Dubai, his spokesman said, as speculation swirled over whether he would survive heightened tension between his civilian government and the country's powerful military.

"The president returned to Islamabad in the wee hours of Friday morning," the spokesman, Farhatullah Babar, told Reuters.

A disputed memo allegedly from Zardari's government seeking U.S. help in reining in the military has soured relations to their lowest point since a coup in 1999.

Military sources say that while they would like Zardari to go, it should be through constitutional means, not another of the coups that have marked half of Pakistan's almost 65 years of independence

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.