

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 5, 2011 12:04 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Oman replaces 3 high-level posts as protests widen (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker@state.gov <OpsNewsTicker@state.gov>
To: NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O_OS; SES-O_SWO
Sent: Sat Mar 05 11:58:05 2011
Subject: Oman replaces 3 high-level posts as protests widen (AP)

MUSCAT (AP) - Oman's ruler replaced three top government positions Saturday in an attempt to quell more than a week of widening demonstrations calling for jobs and political reforms that in the latest burst spread to a key oil region.

Sultan Qaboos bin Said ordered the second top-level shake-up in a week Saturday in the tightly controlled Arabian peninsula nation. He dumped the head of the Palace Office, which oversees security affairs, and replaced the minister who holds the most senior adviser post. He also replaced another minister who deals with internal matters within the ruling structure.

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.