

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2011 4:25 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Thune urges US to recall ambassador to Syria (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker@state.gov [mailto:OpsNewsTicker@state.gov]
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2011 04:13 PM
To: NEWS-H; NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O_Shift-III; SES-O_SWO; SES-O_OS
Subject: Thune urges US to recall ambassador to Syria (AP)

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Sen. John Thune says the United States should recall its ambassador from Damascus amid Syria's deadly crackdown. Thune, a Republican from South Dakota, on Saturday told a meeting of Republican Jews that Damascus did not deserve to have a U.S. representative as Syrian security agents have made sweeping arrests. Syrian President Bashar Assad has tried to end two weeks of pro-democracy demonstrations that are threatening his family's rule. The Bush administration in 2005 recalled the ambassador to Syria. Last year, Obama used a recess appoint to send career diplomat Robert Ford to Damascus. Thune earlier this year weighed a White House bid but has said he is no longer interested in a 2012 campaign.

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.