

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
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Subject: Fw: Saudi activist: 5 women detained for driving (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 05:05 AM
To: NEWS-Mahogany
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Subject: Saudi activist: 5 women detained for driving (AP)

DUBAI (AP) - A Saudi activist says at least five women have been taken into custody accused of defying the men-only driving rule in the ultraconservative Arab kingdom.

The detentions mark the first major backlash by Saudi authorities since a campaign was launched nearly two weeks ago to challenge the driving restrictions.

Dozens of women have since driven through the capital Riyadh and other cities.

Saudi-based rights activist Eman al-Nafjan says police detained a woman Tuesday while driving in Jiddah on the Red Sea coast. Al-Nafjan says four other women accused of driving were later detained in the city.

Al-Nafjan spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday. She says there has been no new information on the status of the detainees.

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