

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
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Subject: Fw: (Reuters) Egypt Islamists pull out of "rigged" election -TV

From: Simmons, Krista M
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Subject: (Reuters) Egypt Islamists pull out of "rigged" election -TV

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt's opposition Muslim Brotherhood, which held a fifth of seats in the outgoing parliament, has pulled out of an election race after winning no seats in the first round, al-Arabiya television reported.

The group, which runs candidates as independents to skirt a ban on religious parties, said the vote was rigged in favor of President Mubarak's ruling party.

Al-Arabiya said the group was pulling out of a run-off to be held on December 5. The group said 26 of its candidates had made it through to the run-off. A senior Brotherhood official told Reuters an announcement would be made later on December 1.