

**RELEASE IN FULL**

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2011 1:05 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Tunisia summons U.S. ambassador over riot comments (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker@state.gov <OpsNewsTicker@state.gov>  
**To:** NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_OS  
**Sent:** Mon Jan 10 12:44:11 2011  
**Subject:** Tunisia summons U.S. ambassador over riot comments (AP)

TUNIS (AP) - Tunisia summoned the U.S. ambassador to protest the United States' portrayal of deadly unrest in this North African nation where riots this weekend killed at least 14 people, the government said. Washington has expressed concern about Tunisia's handling of more than three weeks of riots over joblessness and other social ills, during which police have opened fire on rioters several times, while demonstrators have attacked public buildings and set cars on fire. Last week, U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley urged all sides to show restraint. He said Tunisians should enjoy the right to protest publicly and expressed worries about a crackdown on social media in Tunisia. He also said the U.S. summoned the country's ambassador to express its opinions. Tunisian Foreign Ministry official Saida Chtioui told the U.S. ambassador to Tunis, Gordon Gray, of authorities' "surprise" at the U.S. reaction, the official TAP news agency said.

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