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From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
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Sent: Wed Jan 19 17:07:07 2011
Subject: Tunisia PM tells Ben Ali not to return (Reuters)

TUNIS (Reuters) - Tunisia's ousted leader Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali told Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi he was considering returning from exile, but Ghannouchi told him that was impossible, a government minister told Reuters.

Najib Chebbi, an opposition leader who is now regional development minister in a coalition government, said the exchange happened in a telephone conversation after Ben Ali, toppled by weeks of protests, fled to Saudi Arabia last week.

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