

RELEASE IN PART
B5,B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 7:51 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: update from AJ

From: McHale, Judith A
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Rhodes, [REDACTED]
Cc: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Sun Jan 30 07:10:22 2011
Subject: FW: update from AJ

As per Jake's note last night, I responded to Khanfar reiterating that [REDACTED] S have repeatedly called for protection of freedom of press. I contacted Khanfar this a.m. and asked for an update on what is happening to AJ in case it comes up in any interviews--- see his response below.

jm

From: Wadah Khanfar [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 7:05 AM
To: McHale, Judith A
Subject: RE: urgent

Dear Judith: Yes, they have issued Al Jazeera Network (both Arabic and English) with a closure notice, threatening criminal action if our reporters continue in any way to do their jobs. The Ministry of Information has also formally pulled the accreditation of Al Jazeera reporters and told AP and Reuters that their accreditation will be withdrawn if they provide us with any pictures or material. And in an unprecedented move, we have just learned now that the Minister of Information has ordered NILESAT to remove altogether AL Jazeera Network's bouquet from NILESAT—leaving our North African based audience completely in the dark.

We are looking for alternatives as we speak—your suggestions most welcome.

The security forces have cut our phone lines in Cairo and blocked our internet service.

Once again, our journalists are in the crossfire and forced to improvise.

As in Tunisia, our Network will adapt and overcome.

But if you can weigh in on the matter, we would appreciate being able to do our jobs.

WADAH KHANFAR
 DIRECTOR GENERAL
 AL JAZEERA NETWORK

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From: McHale, Judith A [mailto:McHaleJA@state.gov]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 2:21 PM
To: Wadah Khanfar
Subject: RE: urgent

What is update on your bureau ? Was it closed ? Have any of your journalists been detained ? Have other news outlets been affected ?

jm

From: Wadah Khanfar [mailto:]
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2011 3:45 PM
To: McHale, Judith A
Subject: urgent

B6

Dear Judith:

My Cairo staff have called just now to say the police are on their way to shut down al-jazeera's Cairo bureau offices. They have left messages for us to prepare ourselves, and we plan to do rolling coverage right up until the last arrest is made.

As you know, the Egyptian people (and much further afield) are counting on us to bring the most up to date information on what is happening on the ground. We have braved bullets, tear gas and baton-wielding police until now to do so.

Al Jazeera sees this as a dramatic escalation against not only the liberties of the Egyptian people, but the hope of free press in the Arab world. It is being done by America's top ally, at least in part, by general omar suleiman, the intelligence chief - turned unelected vice-president, an al jazeera critic.

We appeal to the us government, as the largest financial and political aid contributor to the government of Egypt, to stop this crack down on our staff and journalism, in keeping with your legendary ideals and values.

Sincerely

WADAH KHANFAR
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