

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2011 2:21 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Thousands in Pakistan rally against American (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker@state.gov <OpsNewsTicker@state.gov>
To: NEWS-CA; NEWS-Pakistan; NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O_CMS; SES-O_OS; SES-O_Shift-II; SES-O_Shift-III
Sent: Sun Jan 30 14:09:52 2011
Subject: Thousands in Pakistan rally against American (AP)

LAHORE (AP) - In a massive protest, hard-line Islamic leaders have warned the Pakistani government against caving to U.S. pressure and releasing an American official arrested in the shooting deaths of two Pakistanis.

The party chiefs of Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamiat Ulema Islam spoke alongside other hard-liners Sunday at a rally of at least 15,000 people in the eastern city of Lahore, where the shootings took place. Many protesters called for the American official to be hanged.

The U.S. has said the American acted in self-defense when he shot two armed men who tried to rob him Thursday. The embassy has said he has diplomatic immunity and has accused Pakistan of illegally detaining him.

The Pakistani government has refused to release him and says the courts should decide his fate.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.