

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2011 11:34 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Pls Clear: Statement on Syria

Fyi - ok?

----- Original Message -----

From: Button, Case
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2011 11:29 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Fuchs, Michael H; Reines, Philippe I; Adler, Caroline E
Cc: Schwerin, Daniel B; Connell, Ellen K; Daniel, Joshua J
Subject: Pls Clear: Statement on Syria

To go out tomorrow morning. Thanks

For Immediate Release and Posting

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
For Immediate Release
June 4, 2011
2011/xxx

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON

Shutdown of the Internet in Syria

We are deeply concerned by reports that Internet service has been shut down across much of Syria, as have some mobile communication networks. We condemn any effort to suppress the Syrian people's exercise of their rights to free expression, assembly, and association.

Two weeks ago, the White House released the International Strategy for Cyberspace, which noted that "States should not arbitrarily deprive or disrupt individuals' access to the Internet or other networked technologies." We condemn such shutdowns in the strongest terms.

This is not the first time the Syrian government has resorted to these tactics in an attempt to prevent the Syrian people from accessing and sharing information. The Syrian government must understand that attempting to silence its population cannot prevent the transition currently taking place. We believe that even in the face of significant obstacles, the Syrian people will -- and should -- find a way to make their voices heard.

The United States stands for universal human rights, including freedom of expression, and we call on all governments to respect them.

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