

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2011 12:22 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Tunisia court gives Ben Ali 15-year jail term (Reuters)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Monday, July 04, 2011 12:10 PM
To: NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O
Subject: Tunisia court gives Ben Ali 15-year jail term (Reuters)

TUNIS (Reuters) - A Tunisian court sentenced former president Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali in absentia to 15 years in prison on Monday after finding him guilty of illegal possession of drugs and weapons.

The verdict and sentence were read out by the judge in the courtroom after a one-day trial.

Lawyers for Ben Ali, who was ousted in January and is now in Saudi Arabia, boycotted the trial, saying it was a sham. Last month he was sentenced to 35 years in jail for other charges.

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.