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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2011 9:32 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Blasts rock Libyan capital near Gadhafi compound (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2011 09:25 PM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** Blasts rock Libyan capital near Gadhafi compound (AP)

TRIPOLI (AP) - Early morning explosions have rocked Libya's capital, striking near Moammar Gadhafi's main compound of Bab al-Aziziyah.

Seven thunderous blasts on Friday could be felt at a hotel where foreign journalists stay in Tripoli.

As Associated Press correspondent watched flames from the bombs fall from the sky as NATO jets circled the air over the compound.

Residents also told the AP that three strikes were heard hitting the road to the airport in the capital.

It wasn't immediately clear what was hit or if there were civilian casualties.

NATO has been bombarding military targets in Libya since a no-fly zone was instituted in March.

Rebel fighters are also closing in on the capital from the west and the south.

*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.*