

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 6:48 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Afghan president: Courts cannot change election (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 05:05 AM
To: NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O
Subject: Afghan president: Courts cannot change election (AP)

KABUL (AP) - Afghanistan's president has issued a decree stating that the country's courts do not have the power to alter election results.

The ruling issued Wednesday by President Hamid Karzai appears to put an end to months of uncertainty about this year's parliamentary election. A special tribunal had called for the removal of 62 sitting parliamentarians, saying that they won their seats through fraud.

The decree says the Independent Election Commission holds the final authority on deciding vote counts and results. It says this commission will evaluate the court's findings and will decide if any candidates should be removed.

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