

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 12:11 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Tunisia gas pipe hit by blast but still working (Reuters)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 11:22 AM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** Tunisia gas pipe hit by blast but still working (Reuters)

TUNIS (Reuters) - A pipeline that delivers gas from Algeria to Italy via Tunisia was hit by an explosion in northern Tunisia on Monday but is still functioning, the Tunisian Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

The bombing of the pipeline was most likely an act of sabotage, a ministry spokesman said, without indicating who might be responsible.

The pipeline, which was attacked near the town of Zaghouan, south of Tunis, was still functioning normally, the spokesman said.

Algeria has provided natural gas to Italy since 1983 through the 775 km pipeline, which runs through Tunisia.

*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.*