

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 24, 2011 7:25 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Syria says oil output cut by third due to sanctions (Reuters)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 24, 2011 04:48 AM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** Syria says oil output cut by third due to sanctions (Reuters)

CAIRO, Dec 24 (Reuters) - Syrian Oil Minister Sufian Alao said on Saturday that his country's oil production had fallen by about 30 to 35 percent as a result of sanctions imposed on Syria over its nine-month crackdown on anti-government protests.

The European Union has stepped up its sanctions against Syria's oil industry, including blacklisting state-owned firms.

"We reduced our production by 30 to 35 percent till we resume exports," he told reporters on the sidelines of a Arab oil ministers meeting in Cairo, adding that current output was about 260,000 barrels per day.

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