

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 28, 2011 9:16 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Syrians refuse to meet monitors in hotspot area-activists (Reuters)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 28, 2011 08:57 AM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Subject:** Syrians refuse to meet monitors in hotspot area-activists (Reuters)

BEIRUT, Dec 28 (Reuters) - Syrians in a flashpoint area of the city of Homs refused to meet Arab League monitors in the presence of a Syrian army officer, prompting the observers to withdraw from the area, activists said on Wednesday.

"The monitors left the Baba Amr neighbourhood because they refused to enter the neighbourhood without being escorted by Lieutenant Colonel Mudeen Neda from the Fourth Division," said Ahmed, a local activist and resident of Baba Amr.

"The families of the martyrs and the wounded refused to meet them in his presence, and the monitors left."

*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.*