

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 2, 2012 12:06 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Arab League head says Syrian army outside cities (Reuters)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2012 08:26 AM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany; Syria Unrest  
**Subject:** Arab League head says Syrian army outside cities (Reuters)

CAIRO (Reuters) - Syria's military has withdrawn from residential areas and is on the outskirts of the country's cities, but gunfire continues and snipers are still a threat, the Arab League's Secretary General Nabil Elaraby said January 2.

The United Nations says more than 5000 people have been killed in a crackdown on protests which broke out against President Bashar al-Assad in March.

Elaraby was speaking in Cairo as Arab League monitors gathered in Syria to check compliance with a peace plan. He said the League would report on the work of the monitors over the first week and decide if more were needed there.

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