

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 6:04 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Morning Press Highlights 01/12/I (U)

AFGHANISTAN President Karzai pledged to take action against the "cowardly" perpetrators of violence against women in the wake of a case of torture against a child bride. (Khaleej Times)

From: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 05:45 AM
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AFGHANISTAN

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(Khaleej Times)

From: OpsAlert
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 05:00 AM
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
 Operations Center

S/ES-O Morning Press Highlights

Thursday, January 12, 2012
 0500 EST

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL/PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

The High Court of Justice rejected petitions against an amendment to the citizenship law, preventing the unification of Palestinians with their spouses in Israel. (*Jerusalem Post*)

LEBANON/ISRAEL

The Lebanese Armed Forces arrested a man suspected of spying for Israel since 1977 by giving it access to the Lebanese communications system through which the Palestinian Liberation Organization sent messages to its operatives. (*Ynet News*)

AFRICA

SOMALIA/AFRICAN UNION

The African Union called on the UN Security Council to increase the upper limit for peacekeepers in Somalia from 12,000 to 17,731 and also for greater financial help for AU forces in the country. (*AFP*)

MADAGASCAR/SOUTH AFRICA

A senior aide to former Malagasy President Ravalomanana accused South Africa of “double standards” after the South African government failed to honor a 2010 African Union travel ban on 2009 coup leader Andry Rajoelina when he attended January celebrations in Bloemfontein. (*Business Day*)

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

President Karzai pledged to take action against the “cowardly” perpetrators of violence against women in the wake of a case of torture against a child bride. (*Khaleej Times*)

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh arrested former head of the opposition Jamaat-e-Islami party, Ghulam Azam, on charges of war crimes during the 1971 liberation struggle against Pakistan. (*The Times of India*)

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

- In a letter to a Japanese newspaper, Kim Jong-nam, eldest brother of DPRK leader Kim Jong-un, expressed doubts about the leader’s hold on power, anticipating the ruling elite will extend their influence over the country. (*Yonhap News Agency*)
- The body of former leader Kim Jong-il will lie in state permanently at a mausoleum and his February birthday will be instituted as the “Day of the Shining Star.” (*Korea Herald*)

AUSTRALIA/JAPAN

Anti-whaling activists renewed attempts to disable a harpoon ship in the Japanese fleet, as the conflict stretched across a wide swath of the Southern Ocean. (*Sydney Morning Herald*)

EUROPE

RUSSIA

United Russia Duma Deputy Skotch drafted a bill requiring officials to declare their expenses, though critics dismissed it as effectively toothless unless Russia ratifies Article 20 of the UN Convention against Corruption. (*The Moscow Times*)

UNITED KINGDOM

An amendment presented by Scottish MP Salmond requests the support of Scottish Parliament as he seeks an independence referendum in the autumn of 2014. (*BBC*)

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

ARGENTINA/UNITED KINGDOM

Victory Front lawmaker Carlos Kunkel said the United Kingdom's "aggression and piracy continues," and Argentina "must be politically persistent while maintaining a constant defense" on its claims over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. (*Buenos Aires Herald*)

MEXICO/GUATEMALA

Mexican immigration officials said they returned 70 Guatemalan squatters on a communal farm to their country. (*Houston Chronicle*)

Drafted: JRRudnitski

Approved: SLPineda

**** Morning Press Highlights alerts senior Department officials to breaking news items and is a synopsis of select media stories from around the world. It solely reflects the gist of the stories as presented in their original publications and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources. ****