

RELEASE IN  
FULL

---

**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 11:20 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: China says will not attend meeting on Syria (Reuters)

---

**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 10:04 AM  
**To:** NEWS-China; NEWS-Mahogany; Syria Unrest  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** China says will not attend meeting on Syria (Reuters)

BEIJING(Reuters) - China said on Thursday it would not accept an invitation to discuss the brewing civil war in Syria with other world powers this week in the Tunisian capital.

China will not attend the Friends of Syria conference on Friday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said, according to the Xinhua news service.

The Friends of Syria, backed by Western powers and the Arab League, will meet in Tunis on Friday to seek an international agreement on how to end the violence in Syria and is expected to put pressure on President Bashar al-Assad to step down.

*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.*