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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 11:12 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Australia's Rudd challenges PM for leadership (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 11:08 PM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** Australia's Rudd challenges PM for leadership (AP)

SYDNEY (AP) - Australia's former Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd has announced that he will challenge Prime Minister Julia Gillard for leadership of their party and the country.

Gillard is planning a leadership ballot for Monday. The vote by party lawmakers is an effort by Gillard to knock down a power struggle that has been percolating for weeks. Rudd resigned as foreign minister during a trip to the U.S. earlier this week.

Rudd announced his intentions to challenge Gillard in a speech Friday.

*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.*