

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
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To: H
Subject: Fw: Jordan's Islamists say they will boycott elections (AP)

Not good.

From: OpsNewsTicker@state.gov [mailto:OpsNewsTicker@state.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 04:28 AM
To: NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-NEA
Subject: Jordan's Islamists say they will boycott elections (AP)

AMMAN (AP) - A spokesman for Jordan's powerful Muslim Brotherhood says his group will boycott the upcoming parliamentary elections in protest over recent changes in the kingdom's election legislation.

A boycott would be a blow to King Abdullah, who has made reforms the centerpiece of his campaign to stave off Arab Spring-like protests in Jordan.

Brotherhood spokesman Jamil Abu-Bakr said Friday that the movement _ Jordan's largest opposition group _ may reverse its decision if the government "makes serious and real efforts toward reforms."

The elections are expected at the end of the year. The main dispute is over a new election law, which allows each voter two separate ballots _ one for representatives from local districts in this traditionally tribal society, the other for one of 27 candidates on a national list.

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