RELEASE IN FULL

From:

Abedin, Huma < AbedinH@state.gov>

Sent:

Wednesday, December 1, 2010 9:38 AM

To:

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Subject:

Fw: (Reuters) Egypt Islamists pull out of "rigged" election -TV

From: Simmons, Krista M

To: NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-NEA Cc: SES-O_OS; SES-O_Shift-II Sent: Wed Dec 01 09:34:51 2010

Subject: (Reuters) Egypt Islamists pull out of "rigged" election -TV

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt's opposition Muslim Brotherhood, which held a fifth of seats in the outgoing parliament, has pulled out of an election race after winning no seats in the first round, al-Arabiya television reported.

The group, which runs candidates as independents to skirt a ban on religious parties, said the vote was rigged in favor of President Mubarak's ruling party.

Al-Arabiya said the group was pulling out of a run-off to be held on December 5. The group said 26 of its candidates had made it through to the run-off. A senior Brotherhood official told Reuters an announcement would be made later on December 1.