

Saudi Arabia: In apparent effort to diffuse anger before planned “Day of Rage” on Friday Mar 11, authorities free Shia cleric arrested in February for reportedly calling for constitutional monarchy in kingdom



Political unrest in the Middle East continues

1. Tunisia: Prime minister names new government and much-hated police unit is disbanded as interim government seeks to stabilise country following popular revolt

2. Libya: Government counter-offensive to thwart rebel advance toward Muammar Gaddafi's stronghold in Tripoli continues. **UK and France drafting UN resolution to establish no-fly zone**

3. Egypt: Military rulers swear in new cabinet, including new faces in key ministries. 47 state security officers arrested in bid to placate protesters who say information is being destroyed to cover up state abuses

4. Yemen: Calls by embattled president **Ali Abdullah Saleh** for national dialogue rejected by opposition as protests against his rule escalate

5. Bahrain: Hundreds of country's Shia Muslim majority protest outside U.S. Embassy to appeal for Washington to back campaign for greater political freedom

6. Oman: Sultan **Qaboos bin Said** fires several government ministers as part of third high-level reshuffle in two weeks in response to sustained popular discontent