

Britain, Iran communicating on sailors

by UPI

LONDON - Britain and Iran are talking directly about 15 kidnapped Royal Navy personnel, British Defense Secretary Des Browne says. Browne said British leaders "are anxious that this matter be resolved as quickly as possible and that it be resolved by diplomatic means," Sky News reported. "It is not my intention to go through the detail of that (negotiation process) blow by blow, and it wouldn't be appropriate to do that, but we are in direct bilateral communication with the Iranians," Browne said. Meanwhile, about 200 people demonstrated outside the British Embassy in Tehran, chanting "death to Britain and "death to America," the news agency said. There also were reports of rocks and firecrackers being thrown. In Shrewsbury, England, prayers were offered in the home church of captured sailor Faye Turney for her safe return and that of 14 colleagues who were seized March 23 while on duty in the Persian Gulf. Britain says they were on a U.N. mission in international waters. "We are praying that they will be home soon with their families," the Rev. Sue Caddy of Shelton and Oxon parish said. "We're asking the whole community to pray for them."

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