

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2011 5:56 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: Jazeera says rebels reject Gaddafi talks offer (Reuters)

From: OpsNewsTicker@state.gov [mailto:OpsNewsTicker@state.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 5:46 PM
To: NEWS-DRL; NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-PRM; PA FO Group
Cc: SES-O_Shift-III; SES-O_OS
Subject: Jazeera says rebels reject Gaddafi talks offer (Reuters)

CAIRO (Reuters) - Al Jazeera television said Libyan rebels rejected an offer by Muammar Gaddafi to hold a meeting of parliament to work out a deal under which he would step down.

Al Jazeera said sources from the rebel interim council told its correspondent in Benghazi that the offer was rejected because it would have amounted to an "honourable" exit for Gaddafi and would offend his victims.

Al Jazeera said Gaddafi wanted guarantees of personal safety for him and his family and a pledge that they not be put on trial. It said that Gaddafi had sent former prime minister Jadallah Azzouz Talhi to meet the rebels and offer to hold a meeting of the General People's Congress to work out the details of such a deal.

The offer aimed at having Gaddafi hand over power to a committee formed by the General People's Congress, the television said.

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.