

Iran rejects U.N. nuclear timeout offer

by UPI

TEHRAN -- Iran isn't accepting a U.N. offer of a "timeout" to ease sanctions in exchange for halting nuclear activities, state media said on Monday. Speaking to reporters in Tehran, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad-Ali Hosseini said National Security Council chief Ali Larijani rejected the offer, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency had made the proposal but Hosseini said Larijani felt it was out of line. "The place to discuss subjects like the 'timeout' plan is during negotiations (with the IAEA) and this is Iran's stand in this regard," Hosseini said. He said the third round of Iran-IAEA talks would be Aug. 20 in Tehran, the Fars news agency said. Iran claims its nuclear program is solely for electricity generation but there are international concerns its uranium enrichment program could produce nuclear weapons.

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