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Removal of Dostum's photo sparks anger in Mazar as Noor warns against riots

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The removal of General Abdul Rashid Dostum's photo in Mazar-e-Sharif city in northern Balkh province has sparked furor among the supporters of the First Vice President as the acting provincial governor of the province Ata Mohammad Noor has warned strict actions against the possible riots.

In an online statement Noor said the photo has been removed by individuals who are looking to disrupt the stability of northern Balkh province.

Noor further added that the removal of the picture has sparked furor among certain people who are sending curse and are insulting the leadership of the province for the affront act.

He also ruled out that the party or the provincial leadership was involved in the act, apparently gesturing towards Jamiat-e-Islami party which is operating under his leadership.

Noor said several political and civil movements are operating in northern Balkh province and scores of pictures of Junish-e-Mili party can be seen in different parts of the city, including on the highway towards his residence.

He urged the people to refrain from chaos and moves that lead to disorders in the city and prevent destabilizing the stability of the local residents by repeating the bitter memories of the early 90s and 2000s.

The acting provincial governor warned of strict repercussions if his pleas for calmness were ignored, insisting that the leadership believes and respects tolerance.