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Senators want Spanta tried for defying summons

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KABUL (*PAN*): Senior government officials who defy a parliamentary summons be dragged to court, *Meshrano Jirga* members demanded on Sunday.

The demand came after National Security Advisor Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta failed to brief senators on cross-border incursions into eastern Kunar province.

Senate Chairman Fazli Hadi Muslimyar said some government functionaries, fearing a summons from the lower house, promptly attended its sessions.

But they avoided briefing the Meshrano Jirga on important issues, he said, adding Dr. Spanta should have testified before the house on the subject.

On Sunday, Spanta and Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul appeared before the *Wolesi Jirga* Commission on International Affairs.

According to Muslimyar, the national security advisor has chosen to attend a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) and testify before the Wolesi Jirga panel for 10 minutes to day.

Spanta planned to appear before the Senate a day later, said the chairman, who called the government officials' refusal a clear breach of the law and sought their prosecution.

Gul Mohammad Azimi, a public representative from western Farah province, accused the security advisor of flouting the law and insulting the house mandate. He called for Spanta's trial.

Another senator from central Panjsher province, Mullah Mohammad Faizi, urged the government to show equal respect to both houses of parliament.

On August 4, the lower house unseated defence and interior ministers over rocket and missile attacks from Pakistan into eastern Afghanistan.