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NNI

Kazakhstan to send troops to Afghanistan

May 25, 2011

ALMATY (NNI): Kazakhstan plans to send four soldiers to the headquarters of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, Kazakh Foreign Ministry spokesman Askar Abdrakhmanov said."Under the agreement signed by Kazakhstan and NATO, the republic is going to send four servicemen to work at the ISAF headquarters in Afghanistan ... which means that we are not sending a contingent of the military forces, but we are joining in the international effort to help the Afghan government and parliament to ensure security and restore the peaceful life in this country," he said. The spokesman also said that the Kazakh servicemen would be rotated every six months. Majilis, the lower chamber of the Kazakh parliament, approved on May 18 a bill to ratify the agreement reached by Kazakhstan and NATO on participation in the ISAF operations in Afghanistan. The bill still needs to be approved by the Senate before signing by Kazakh president.