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AFP

Taliban warns Bangladesh against Afghanistan deployment

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The Afghan Taliban called Monday on Bangladesh to reject a US request that it send troops to assist coalition forces fighting in Afghanistan, the monitoring service SITE said.

Dhaka's foreign ministry said Sunday it was weighing the request which was made by US envoy Richard Holbrooke during talks in New York with Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.

SITE said the Afghan Taliban responded by posting messages in Arabic and Pashto on its website and jihadist forums calling on Dhaka to spurn the US request.

"(We) believe that the leader of Bangladesh has enough Islamic knowledge and political wit not to involve his people in the fight against Islam and against the Afghan people by sending a few hundred soldiers to Afghanistan," the message said.

"Assuming that the leader would commit such a historic mistake, the religious Muslim people of Bangladesh will not allow their leaders to assist the eternal enemy of Islam against an Islamic neighboring country."

Muslim-majority Bangladesh is a major contributor to United Nations peacekeeping missions around the world, but has no troops in Afghanistan.