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## Not our duty to defend Afghanistan from foreign attacks: ISAF

Oct 29, 2012

The International Security Assistance Force (*ISAF*) on Monday said they have no “legal responsibility to defend” Afghanistan from any attack carried out by a foreign country.

Addressing a press conference in Kabul on Monday, ISAF spokesman Brig. Gen. Günter Katz, said: “in our mission against terrorism in Afghanistan, it is not mentioned by the UN (United Nations) if Afghanistan was attacked by a foreign country whether it is our responsibility to defend it.”

Katz further added that protecting Afghan borders was not part of the ISAF’s duty under the final statement of the Bonn Conference in 2001 and said “there is no legal order about that.”

His comments came as sporadic cross-border shelling by Pakistan along Afghan’s eastern borders continues to threaten Afghan civilians for months but no diplomatic solution had been reached on the thorny issue.

Katz insisted that their mission was within Afghanistan and said there was a need to stop attacks on both sides of the Afghan border.

“We will continue our talks with the military officials of Afghanistan and Pakistan on the issue,” he added.

He assured the international community would support Afghan people after 2014 and many changes would come after the deadline, such as transferring security responsibility to Afghan forces across the country.

On the issue of equipping Afghan forces, he said they were committed to provide any equipment to Afghan security personnel if the Afghan government includes in its list to the international community and *NATO*.