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Kazakhstan Not to Hold Victory Day Parade

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There will be no military parade celebrating Victory Day or Defender of the Fatherland Day in the Kazakh capital Astana this year, the Interfax news agency reported Wednesday.

A spokesperson from the Kazakh Defense Ministry said that the parade had not "been provided for in the ministry's approved plan."

Defender of the Fatherland Day is celebrated in Kazakhstan on May 7, two days before Victory Day.

Last year's parade was the biggest in the country's history, featuring 5,000 soldiers, 200 military vehicles, and 70 helicopters and planes, Interfax reported.

Belarus has also decided to mark Victory Day this year without a military parade, the RIA Novosti news agency reported. Their celebrations will include a fireworks show and the so-called "Immortal Regiment" parade, in which participants march carrying photographs of relatives who lived and died during World War II.

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