

Family power feud rocks Kazakh rulers

by UPI

ASTANA, Kazakhstan - Kazakhstan politics have been rocked by an international arrest warrant being issued by President Nursultan Nazarbayev's politically ambitious son-in-law.

The warrant, sent worldwide Monday, infuriated Nazarbayev's daughter, who is married to Rakhat Aliyev, a Los Angeles Times correspondent reported. Both she and Aliyev have been considered possible successors to Nazarbayev, who was constitutionally required to step down in 2012.

Nazarbayev sent his possible rival to act as ambassador to Austria, and on May 18, the country's parliament approved constitutional amendments to allow Nazarbayev to run for re-election indefinitely.

During the weekend, Aliyev announced his resignation from Vienna and his plans to return to Astana.

The warrant against him alleges involvement in political kidnappings, the report said.

On the Web site of Kazakhstan Today, which Aliyev owns, he said he told his father-in-law several months ago he planned to run for president in 2012 and claimed the warrant against him was retaliation.

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