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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Press release

Commander KFOR visited Gjakova / Djakovica Municipality.

Commander Kosovo Force (COMKFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler today conducted a visit to the Municipality of Gjakova / Djakovica.

During his visit he first met with Pal LEKAJ, the Mayor of Gjakova / Djakovica. COMKFOR also visited Serb Orthodox nuns, as well as the leadership of the Islamic and the Catholic community. In addition to this COMKFOR visited the local Kosovo Police Station.

COMKFOR told the Mayor he was impressed by progress achieved by the people of Gjakova / Djakovica and added that, given their determination to rebuild the city, he was optimistic that people would be successful in developing this historic town. Pal LEKAJ, Mayor of Gjakova / Djakovica expressed his gratitude for the visit on behalf of all citizens and received Major General Bühler in the Municipal Building.

Mr. LEKAJ briefed COMKFOR on the current situation of the municipality. Major General Bühler was also informed about the security situation and said clearly much progress was achieved when compared to the first years after 1999. Later on, Mayor Pal Lekaj invited COMKFOR for a walk through the city. COMKFOR was very impressed by the beauty of the old town and he congratulated the citizens of Gjakova / Djakovica for the development of the last years.

Meeting Serb Orthodox nuns Major General Bühler stated that he was happy to see them located within the city, reiterating the long legacy of diverse ethnic and religious communities living in the area. He encouraged them to reach out to their Albanian neighbors.

During his visit to the Hadum Mosque, COMKFOR met the head of the Islamic community of Gjakova / Djakovica, Fatmir ILAZI, Imam of Gjakova / Djakovica Florin MLLOVA, and Imam Bedri Kida. He was pleased to see the historical center of Gjakova / Djakovica being reestablished, providing the adequate environment of the Mosque.

Speaking to the representative of the Catholic Community, Anton Ndua, he said he was looking forward to attend service one day in one of the two Catholic Churches one day.

At the end of his visit Major General Bühler spoke to Lt. Laura Krekaj Deputy Commander of the Kosovo Police Station in Gjakova / Djakovica. COMKFOR said

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that the Kosovo Police was a force constantly improving and being considered a reliable partner of KFOR. He added that KFOR soldiers very much respected KP Officers, especially since effective police work was a precondition for a safe and secure environment.

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