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# **PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

## **Press release**

### **ILLEGAL ACCESS OF FUEL TRUCKS TO KOSOVO DENIED BY KFOR**

#### **Protests under control - Banjska road blocks sealed off**

**Pristina, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011.** Three fuel trucks coming from Serbia which tried to cross illegally the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) at the unauthorised Boundary Crossing Point (BCP) DOG 33 yesterday, 3rd of September 2011, were denied Access to Kosovo by KFOR. BCP DOG 33 is situated in the area of Izvor/Izvori in the North of Kosovo at the road "Rimbeaud" (Zvecan – ABL – Novi Pazar).

KFOR soldiers stopped the fuel trucks at the ABL executing UNMIK legal regulation according to which DOG 33 is an unauthorized BCP. This regulation is valid since the year 2001. Access of commercial traffic to Kosovo through DOG 33 is illegal and has to be denied.

Later the trucks tried to pass by force but were again stopped by KFOR members. Until Sunday, 4th of September 2011, late morning, the vehicles had blocked the road leading from and to Serbia preventing authorized local citizens to get home. However, about 1130 hours the trucks and other stopped vehicles returned to Serbia

Soon after the trucks were stopped in Saturday afternoon demonstrators had gathered together on the Kosovan side of DOG 33. After an aggressive phase yesterday early evening, they calmed and stayed overnight. At present the situation is still calm.

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At the same time of these incidents Serbs of Northern Kosovo kept the road block at Banjska on the road "Rimbeaud" closed and hinder KFOR convoys to get to the ABL. KFOR units in reverse have sealed off this road between these Banjska road blocks and the connection to the main street Mitrovica-Zvecan-Leposavic, east of Banjska. For security reasons no traffic, no potential opponent demonstrators or radicals are authorized to move to DOG 33. There is no restriction for the traffic coming from the opposite direction. In the early afternoon of Sunday, 4th of September 2011, HQ KFOR was informed that the Banjska barricades were removed.

KFOR, in order to provide a safe and secure environment in the area and to assist in executing UNMIK legal regulations, will continue to close DOG 33 for vehicles with commercial goods and trucks for security reasons. KFOR is prepared to protect a safe and secure environment and to deal with any situation.

People are warned about the consequences of violent or criminal acts.

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