



**NATO/KFOR UNCLASSIFIED**



## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

### **Press release**

### **KFOR is committed to ensure a safe and secure environment**

On 27th September 2011, around noon at the Jarinje ABL Crossing Point (Gate 1), KFOR, securing a EULEX checkpoint, was forced to adequately respond to some violent and indiscriminate acts committed against its troops by unknown persons.

There have been confirmed reports of stone throwing and violent attempts to breach the KFOR security perimeter. Later that afternoon, shots were fired in the direction of KFOR personnel as well as explosive devices thrown at KFOR soldiers. As a result of these acts nine KFOR soldiers suffered light injuries whereas unconfirmed reports indicate seven lightly injured individuals among the violent protestors.

KFOR recognizes the right to peaceful protests and demonstrations. However, in the event that such activities turn violent, KFOR is prepared to react swiftly and decisively to restore a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement. While conducting its mission in line with strict rules of engagement, KFOR is obliged to protect its own forces.

KFOR categorically rejects false allegations that it was using disproportionate force against unarmed civilians. Statements indicating such scenario are irresponsible and misleading as KFOR was neither the initiator nor the escalating party of the confrontation. KFOR will continue to support EULEX in executing its mandate Kosovo wide and remains impartial in protecting all people in Kosovo as required.

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