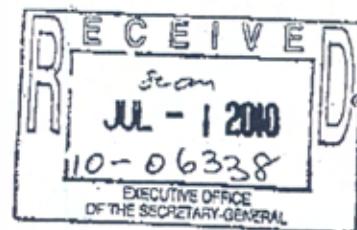


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DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL DÉLÉGUÉ
AMBASSADOR - AMBASSADEUR
CLAUDIO BISOGNIERO

(NATO)



EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

*faxed to Mr. LeRoy
COPY Mr. Pascoe
NH*

DSG(2010)0433

1 July 2010

Dear Secretary-General,

In accordance with paragraph 20 of UN Security Council Resolution 1244, I attach a report on KFOR operations covering the period from January to March 2010.

I would appreciate you making this report available to the members of the UN Security Council.

Yours sincerely,

Claudio Bisogniero

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His Excellency
Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
United Nations Plaza 2
New York 10017
U.S.A.
Fax: 001 212 963 2155

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REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON KFOR OPERATIONS

INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the period from 1 January to 31 March 2010.
2. As at 31 March, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre was 9,836. This number includes 1,822 troops from Non-NATO countries.

SECURITY SITUATION

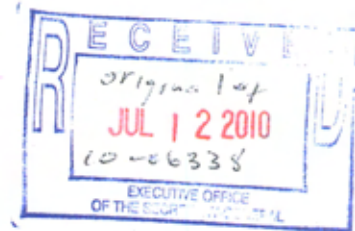
3. The overall security situation in Kosovo remained generally calm over the reporting period, with some tensions surrounding the issues of the "parallel structures" and the "strategy for northern Kosovo".
4. On 6 and 7 January, Serbian President Tadic visited Kosovo, specifically the village of Osojane and the Decane Monastery, to celebrate Orthodox Christmas. KFOR conducted an operation in support of the visit providing air transportation and security. The visit ended without incident.
5. On 22 January, Bishop Irinej was elected as the new Serbian Patriarch. He is described as a moderate who is open to modernization and in particular, Serbian aspirations to join the European Union. Patriarch Irinej's enthronement ceremony in Pec Monastery, initially scheduled to take place on 25 April 2010, was delayed until later this Fall.
6. On 30 January, a third round of municipal elections took place in Lipjan and Prizren. No incidents were reported. Of the 36 mayoral positions throughout Kosovo, 16 were taken by Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) candidates. Following the elections, a reconfiguration of the leadership in Pristina was announced on 31 March, whereby 6 senior officials were removed from office and a new structure dealing with EU Integration was created.
7. On 2 February, Kosovo Police (KP) officers in Pristina began protests calling for the Institutions in Kosovo to implement previous promises relating to salaries and working conditions. The following two days, several other KP officers in Urosevac/ Ferizaj, Djeneral Jankovic / Han i Elezit, Pec / Peje, Mitrovica / Mitrovice, and Srbica /Skenderaj joined the protests.
8. On 10 February, the EULEX Court in Pristina issued a warrant for the arrest of the leader of the Movement for Self-determination of Kosovo (MSD), Albin Kurti, to be brought to trial on 2 March 2010. However, due to the absence of the defendant and his appointed lawyer, the District Court of Pristina postponed the trial. Kurti used the late notification of court proceedings as an excuse to delay his trial, claiming that he had not been given enough time to prepare. By the end of the reporting period, the trial had not yet commenced. During celebrations on 18 February, MSD activists began collecting signatures in support of Kurti's activities and against the court proceedings. There were approximately 80,000 signatures by 31 March 2010.



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9. On 13 March, an EULEX vehicle and a portable building at the DOG 31 Administrative Border Line (ABL) crossing point were damaged by a hand grenade explosion and approximately 20 rounds of automatic rifle fire. During the week prior to the incident, rumours circulated suggesting that EULEX would begin customs collections at Gate 1 and Dog 31 on 15 March. EULEX subsequently confirmed the customs and border operations increase, but not the collections, as part of a three-phased plan to enhance the rule of law in the North. This incident was believed to be criminally motivated. On 22 March, EULEX initiated a program of stricter control measures at those two Gates and along the railway running from Serbia to Zvecan. On 24 March, EULEX also announced that they were creating electronic records of all persons crossing between Serbia and Kosovo. All these measures were expected to interfere with organized crime groups who conduct cross-border smuggling activities. On 27 March, KFOR initiated operations with the aim to preserve freedom of movement and deter any violent demonstrations in and around Gate 1 and the DOG 31 areas, with KFOR as a third responder.

10. Starting in February, several demonstrations were organized against the return of some 26 Kosovo Serb families to the village of Zac/Zallc, Istog/Istok municipality. These families are currently staying in tents, as most of their houses have either been destroyed or are now occupied by Kosovo Albanian families. The demonstrations are suspected to be led by organized crime leader Sabri Kelmendi on the basis that some of the returnees were alleged by the Kosovo Albanians to have committed crimes in the area during the 1998-1999 war. Both the KP and EULEX monitored the demonstrations, which ended peacefully.

11. On 24 March, Kosovo Serbs in North Mitrovica and Gracanica commemorated the 11th anniversary of the start of the NATO Air Campaign. An estimated 1,700 people turned out in North Mitrovica and about 300 in Gracanica. The event ended peacefully with no violence.

12. An EU office opened in northern Mitrovica on 26 March. The office, called the "EU House", was created to help ease tensions and to promote EU activities in northern Kosovo. According to the EU, the new office would seek cooperation with all relevant local authorities.

KFOR OPERATIONS

13. Operations in support of OPORD EFFECTIVE KNIGHT (ETO 04) continue with KFOR maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and Freedom of Movement (FOM) in cooperation with the Institutions in Kosovo and other international civil presences, by conducting intelligence-driven operations across Kosovo, using situational awareness, rapid and determined deployment of manoeuvre forces and reserves to deter violence and deal with crisis situations.

14. On 31 January 2010, KFOR successfully completed its transition to Gate 1 as part of its move to Deterrent Presence. The KFOR structure changed from Multinational Task Forces to Multinational Battle Groups, albeit within their existing Areas of Operation. The number of operational camps has also been reduced. The new KFOR structures were tested during a series of exercises led by the KFOR Commander confirming the validity of the KFOR concept which is designed to lead to a more agile and mobile structure. At all

times, KFOR will continue to ensure it remains prepared to maintain a SASE and FOM, and if necessary, act as the third responder in support of the KP and EULEX.

15. On 17 February, the North Atlantic Council endorsed SACEUR's recommendation to "unfix" from the Gazimestan Monument (the first of the Property with Designated Special Status (PrDSS)). The transfer of responsibility from KFOR to the KP took place on 18 March without incident. With this, the KP becomes fully responsible for the security of the site with KFOR performing random patrols in the vicinity of the monument on a periodic basis.

16. Tensions continue between the Serbian Elektro Privreda Srbije (EPS) and the Kosovo Electric Company (KEK) over the control of the Valac electricity sub-station in Northern Kosovo. On 4 March, KEK authorities sent a letter to KP, EULEX and KFOR requesting them to explain why KEK should not reassert full control of Valac power station. Mr. Pieter Feith, the International Civilian Representative/ EU Special Representative, informed the Institutions in Kosovo that there would be no response to the KEK letter; however, efforts to find a solution with Belgrade would be increased. The Institutions in Kosovo accepted this proposed way ahead. KFOR maintains a presence in the vicinity of the Valac and Zvecan substations, and is prepared to act as third responder in support of the KP and EULEX. By the end of the reporting period, the situation at the Valac substation remained calm and work towards reaching a legal or political solution was ongoing.

NATO NEW TASKS

Kosovo Security Force (KSF)

17. The training of the KSF continues to progress steadily with approximately 2,000 members now trained out of which approximately 1,275 were ex-Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) members. The percentage of minorities within the KSF is around 8%, which is still below the goal of 10%. However, a series of recruiting campaigns is addressing this issue.

18. The KSF's new skills were put to test when, on 6 January, the KSF deployed 14 personnel to Albania, including two fully-equipped Search and Rescue (SAR) teams with medical and supporting elements. They deployed in response to an Albanian Government request for relief assistance following extensive flooding that had occurred in the country. The KSF increased its contribution to 31 personnel on 10 January. The KSF detachment returned to Kosovo on 20 January. This was the first time the KSF operated outside of Kosovo.

19. The 2010 KSF Recruitment Campaign commenced on 21 January with an "Open House" at all KSF bases. Five mobile teams deployed within Kosovo to provide information for prospective applicants. The campaign ran until 12 Mar 10 and included activities in the area to the North of the Ibar. The campaign generated 4,373 applicants which included 120 females and 180 minorities members (including 36 Kosovo Serbs, 48 Kosovo Bosnians, 13 Kosovo Egyptians, 54 Kosovo Turks, 2 Kosovo Gorani, 21 Kosovo Ashkali, 5 Kosovo Roma). The recruitment campaign offered the Kosovo youth the opportunity to apply for a KSF Cadet School program. All applicants were required to undergo a Screening and Selection process.

20. The Screening and Selection phase commenced on 22 February and lasted until 9 April. This phase involved medical and physical fitness assessments in addition to interviews. Each day, 150 candidates were invited to attend, and from 10 March there were 15 minority persons invited per day. On 18 March, the first Screening Filter Board assembled and reviewed the selection criteria in accordance with the regulations for Recruitment into the KSF.

21. In response to the KSF's participation, as an armed honor guard in uniforms, at a KLA commemoration on 5 March, the KFOR Military Civil Advisory Division (MCAD) withdrew its support to the KSF from 5 to 10 March.

SUMMARY

22. The overall situation in Kosovo remained generally calm throughout the reporting period, despite wide-ranging socio-economic difficulties, and persistent underlying inter-ethnic tensions particularly in the North. Notwithstanding, KFOR continued to implement its move to a Deterrent Presence posture, while retaining the potential to maintain a SASE and FOM in support of the KP and EULEX as necessary.