

**UNMIK**



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

# Media Monitoring

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Morning Edition

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## **NATO conducts a security operation in Kosovo, internal U.N. letter**

BC-EU-GEN--**Kosovo**-Security,0287 NATO conducts a security operation in **Kosovo**, internal U.N. letter warns of unconfirmed potential threat

PRISTINA, **Serbia**-Montenegro (AP) \_ NATO-led peacekeepers' armored vehicles were stationed throughout **Kosovo**'s capital Thursday in what officials said was a ``routine security operation."

Checkpoints manned by soldiers who searched cars and their occupants clogged traffic. The soldiers wore helmets and body armor.

``We are conducting a security operation," said Maj. Wilhelm Guldbrand, a spokesman for the NATO-led peacekeepers known as **KFOR**. ``Since the routine security operation is ongoing I will not comment in any sense."

He added, however, that there was no specific threat that had prompted the operation.

But an internal U.N. letter, circulated Thursday to employees of the U.N. mission in **Kosovo** and obtained by The Associated Press, said the increased security was ``precautionary measures due to the information received regarding an unconfirmed potential threat."

Izabella Karlowicz, a spokeswoman for the U.N. mission known by its abbreviation **UNMIK**, declined to comment on the letter.

``**UNMIK** and **KFOR** are constantly reviewing security measures in light of the developments in the world, but these measures are not specifically related to **Kosovo**," Karlowicz said. She would not provide any further details.

**Kosovo** has been administered by the United Nations and NATO-led peacekeepers since June 1999, following an alliance bombing campaign that stopped the crackdown of Serb forces on independence-seeking ethnic Albanians.

There are some 20,000 NATO-led peacekeepers deployed here. (PROFILE (WS SL:BC-EU-GEN--**Kosovo**-Security; CT:i; (REG:MEST;) (REG:ENGL;) (REG:ASIA;) (REG:AFRI;) (LANG:ENGLISH;)))

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## **Kosovo governor denies terrorist threat (Beta)**

The UN mission in Kosovo tonight denied having received information about possible terrorist attacks in the province, although security measures in Pristina, particularly around the mission headquarters, have been noticeably stepped up.

The head of the mission, Harri Holkeri, said today that security was being intensified because of the responsibility to provide a secure environment and not because of any rumours which were circulating.

The Kosovo governor was responding to reports that a letter to UN headquarters in New York had warned of attacks on a number of foreign missions in Kosovo during the following 72 hours.

Independent Pristina television station Kohavision today reported claims that KFOR troops had arrested a suspect in possession of large quantities of explosives.

The international peacekeepers have neither denied nor confirmed the arrest.

### **EU Mechanism for stabilization, association holds meeting in Pristina (Tanjug)**

The third two-day meeting of the European Union Mechanism for monitoring the process of Kosovo's stabilization and association ended Thursday in Pristina, after European Commission experts discussed the issues of trade and customs and key economic legislation with UNMIK and Kosovo interim institutions' officials.

The delegations were headed by UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri, Kosovo Premier Bajram Rexhepi, and EC Director for Western Balkans Reinhardt Priebe, who was accompanied by Stephan Lehne, advisor to the EU High Representative for foreign policy and security Javier Solana.

### **Military alert in Bosnia (Fonet)**

The international peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina has announced a military alert throughout the country.

The Mt Majeвица area and US bases near Brcko and Tuzla had already been put on combat alert earlier.

SFOR has not given any explanation of the move, but international organisations in Sarajevo stepped up security on Monday because of terrorist threats.

### **Albania tightens security to prevent possible terror attacks (Xinhua)**

TIRANA, Nov 27, 2003 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- The Albanian authorities have heightened security in a bid to prevent possible international terror attacks, local media reported Thursday.

The reports said the Commission of Defense, Protection of Public Order and Security has studied the security situation in **Albania** at meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Prime Minister Fatos Nano and other officials said that as shown by information from intelligence agencies of other countries, and recent events, **Albania** was under real threat and might suffer terror attacks. Police discovered two explosive devices with remote control in the northern city of Scodra on Sunday. Subsequent investigations proved the bombs were rigged by terrorists who intended to launch terror attacks on the capital, Tirana.

President Alfred Moisiu asked enforcement organs to increase security measures in efforts to shield the country from terror assaults and violence.

Two synagogues in Istanbul, Turkey, were attacked on Nov. 15, and the British Consulate and an office of the London-based HSBC bank were also struck by suicide bombers in the same city on Nov. 20.

Apart from the four suicide bombers, 51 people, including British Consulate General in Istanbul Roger Short, were killed and 712 others injured in the bomb attacks.

Following the bombings, **Albania**, a vocal backer of the US-led war on Iraq, has strengthened security around government buildings and the embassy compound.

### **Witness Accuses Milosevic's Regime (AP)**

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) Slobodan Milosevic's government conspired with Bosnian Serb leaders to expel Muslims from parts of Bosnia during the Balkan Wars of the 1990s, a witness testified at Milosevic's war crimes trial Thursday, supporting a key claim of prosecutors.

Miroslav Deronjic, a Bosnian Serb politician who struck a plea bargain for his own crimes charges at the U.N. Yugoslav tribunal, said that in 1991 and 1992 the ``highest echelons of leadership of both the Bosnian Serbs and **Serbia**" helped arm Serb paramilitaries in Bosnia.

They then provoked confrontations with Bosnian Muslims and called in the Serb-dominated federal Yugoslav army to violently expel the Muslims under the guise of restoring order, Deronjic said.

Milosevic was president of **Serbia** at the time. To convict him of war crimes in neighboring Bosnia including genocide prosecutors must show he had ultimate control over Serb troops there. He denies he controlled events in Bosnia.

But even his former allies have testified he was an autocrat within **Serbia**, and Deronjic was well-placed to observe the involvement of Milosevic's government in Bosnian affairs.

In his cross-examination, Milosevic acting as his own lawyer tried to undermine Deronjic's testimony by saying it was fabricated to satisfy prosecutors.

``This witness concluded his plea agreement in order to be able to lie on behalf of the prosecution," Milosevic said.

Deronjic replied that was ``absolutely not true."

Milosevic faces 66 charges of war crimes committed in Croatia, Bosnia and **Kosovo** during the breakup of the former **Yugoslavia** in the 1990s.

In his testimony, Deronjic said he met a bureaucrat in Milosevic's office building to arrange a weapons shipment across the **Serbia**-Bosnia border in 1991.

He said he attended a conference in April 1991 where Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic a Milosevic ally allegedly outlined a plan for Bosnian Serbs to unite and join a ``Greater **Serbia**."

At the same conference, Karadzic said ``it had been agreed" that Bosnia would be divided, Deronjic testified.

Deronjic also described how troops from the Serb-dominated army came to Bosnian towns to train local recruits for the rebellion.

In addition, Deronjic said that shortly before the massacre of more than 7,000 Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica, Bosnia, in July 1995, Karadzic had told him the Muslims of Srebrenica ``need to be killed ... everything you can get your hands on."

Karadzic and Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic are the tribunals' most-wanted suspects still at large. Both are indicted for genocide for the Srebrenica massacre, the worst killing of civilians in Europe since the Holocaust.

At Deronjic's war crimes trial in June, he confessed to ordering the village of Glogova razed and its population driven out on May 9, 1992. He was then the civilian head of a town called Bratunac, and Glogova was a Muslim village nearby. The assault led to the killing of 65 residents.

Deronjic will be sentenced next year. Prosecutors have recommended 10 years imprisonment as part of his plea agreement. Judges are not bound by that recommendation.

Deronjic's testimony from his own trial was admitted as evidence in the Milosevic case. He said that after Glogova was destroyed, he reported back to Karadzic, Mladic and other high-ranking Bosnian Serbs at a meeting at their headquarters in Pale, Bosnia.

``On the wall behind them were maps that identified the ethnic composition of portions of Bosnia and Herzegovina in various colors," Deronjic said, with Serb-dominated areas in blue.

After he told the group the village was destroyed and its Muslim population forced out, he testified, those present applauded and one man said, ``Now we can color Bratunac blue."

On Thursday, Milosevic mocked Deronjic's account, saying that many of the people he claimed to know are now dead and cannot verify his claims, and that Deronjic was merely a political opponent who hoped for revenge.

Milosevic's trial began in February 2002, and will likely last into 2006.

## **NATO chief Robertson fires parting shots in Balkans (AFP)**

NATO Secretary General George Robertson had some stern advice for the Balkans on Thursday as he made his last visit to the war-torn region as the leader of the Euro-Atlantic military alliance.

The outgoing NATO chief pulled no punches as he described Bosnia's defence structures as "schizophrenic" and warned the country that its integration into Europe depended on the apprehension of fugitive war criminals.

He also told **Serbia** that it had a "duty" to arrest top war crimes suspect Ratko Mladic, and reminded Croatia's nationalists, who won a general election on Sunday, that extremism had no place in the region.

Robertson will step down as NATO chief in January but thousands of alliance troops will remain on duty in Bosnia and the southern Serbian province of **Kosovo** after he is gone.

Robertson applauded the peacekeepers' efforts to hunt fugitive war crimes suspects like Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb political leader who is wanted by the UN tribunal at The Hague.

"Their support networks are being weakened, their bank accounts are being blocked, their freedom of movement has been limited. Slowly but steadily the noose around them is tightening," he wrote in a letter to Sarajevo's Dnevni Avaz daily.

Without speaking directly to the Serb authorities, he said Bosnia had to do more to bring war criminals to justice and cooperate with the UN tribunal.

"The fact that (war crimes suspects) are at large slows your way toward Europe. NATO and the EU want Bosnia as a partner, and possibly as a member, but only as a member that shares our values," he said.

Robertson told a press conference after meeting senior Bosnian and international officials that NATO "will not rest" until all war crimes suspects are apprehended.

On military reform, he said Bosnia's two armies -- one for the Serbs and one for the Muslim-Croat Federation -- were "politically divided, economically exhausting and militarily useless."

"No country is able to maintain this kind of defence schizophrenia," he wrote in the newspaper, warning that the country could not join NATO until its defence structures were sorted out.

Bosnia was divided into two entities -- the Serb-run Republika Srpska and the Muslim-Croat Federation -- after the brutal inter-ethnic war that cost more than 200,000 lives in the 1990s.

NATO airstrikes against Bosnian Serb forces helped end the war in 1995 and some 12,000 NATO-led troops are still needed to ensure the country's stability, although their numbers are expected to be cut to around 7,000 next year.

Robertson's Balkan trip began late Wednesday in the Serbian capital Belgrade, a city bombed by alliance jets only four years ago as the West sought to drive Yugoslav forces, under then-president Slobodan Milosevic, out of **Kosovo**.

The first NATO chief to visit Belgrade since the 1999 bombing, Robertson said **Serbia** was now being "welcomed by all the Euro-Atlantic community."

But he said the reformist authorities who sent Milosevic to The Hague in 2001 also had a "duty and obligation" to hand over former Bosnian Serb military chief Mladic.

"There are undoubtedly people in **Serbia** who know where Mladic is," Robertson said after talks with **Serbia** and Montenegro Foreign Minister Goran Svilanovic, despite Belgrade's repeated claims that Mladic is not in **Serbia**.

The former British defence secretary also warned the nationalist Croatian Democratic Union party, which won weekend elections, that nationalism had no future in the region.

"We will say to the new government of Croatia that nationalism and extremism are a thing of the Balkan past and have no place in the Balkans' future," he said.

anh-smc/jah Bosnia-**Serbia**-NATO

## **Bosnian Serb convicted of genocide says Srebrenica brought shame to(AP)**

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) \_ A Bosnian Serb general convicted of genocide for the slaughter of thousands of Muslims told a war crimes appeals tribunal Thursday that the killings at Srebrenica "brought great shame" to the Serbs, but denied he was responsible. At the end of four days week of arguments by his defense lawyers and prosecutors, Radislav Krstic, 55, stood before the five U.N. appellate judges in The Hague and expressed regret for the deaths of 7,500 Muslims in the U.N.-guarded Bosnian enclave during one blood-filled week in July 1995. But Krstic repeated that he left the area the day the bloodshed began, and claimed he had been condemned by his silence.

"Someone said that when you have a war, it is always the wise who remain silent and the fools who speak out," Krstic said. At Srebrenica, "we had this terrible shame fall upon us because the intelligent and wise kept silent and the others spoke up."

Only later did he and his officers learn "of their evil acts, which we were not able to put right," he said.

Krstic was sentenced in August 2001 to 46 years imprisonment, the only defendant to be convicted of genocide in the Balkan wars. The Yugoslav tribunal has acquitted three others of the most serious crime in international law.

Krstic was appealing both the conviction and the sentence. Prosecutors also appealed the sentence, arguing it was too lenient for the gravity of the crime, and sought a life term. The tribunal has no capital punishment.

The court adjourned without announcing when it would render its decisions.

Krstic was the most senior officer at Srebrenica under the command of Gen. Ratko Mladic, now one of the tribunal's most wanted fugitives along with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. Thousands of Srebrenica's Muslims had taken shelter at a United Nations base, but Dutch peacekeepers relinquished control of the refugees when Bosnian Serb forces overwhelmed the area.

The lower court found Krstic guilty of being among those who planned and executed the plot to isolate and kill Muslim men of fighting age and to expel everyone else in a conspiracy to create a Greater **Serbia** cleansed of non-Serbs.

Still wearing the headphones through which he followed the interpreters, Krstic told the court the events of Srebrenica brought evil to all participants.

"To the Muslims of that eastern Bosnian small town, the victims, they had pain and suffering. And to the Serbs, it brought great shame, because somebody dared to blemish the lofty traditions of Serb officers," he said.

"Those others spoke the language of evil then, and neither I myself nor my subordinates ever joined them."

Krstic's defense team acknowledged he had arranged for the mass deportation, but said his intention was to spare them from death. "The busing operation showed General Krstic wanted the women, children and the elderly out of Srebrenica as peacefully as possible," said defense council Norman Sepenuk.

Sepenuk also said the prosecution had failed to prove Krstic intended to kill the men as part of a plan to eradicate the Muslim population. Proving an intention to eliminate a community, in whole or in part, is the essential requirement for a genocide conviction.

"Nothing in the trial record indicates any intention by General Krstic to kill the men," Sepenuk said.

"Nothing. Not a single piece of evidence."

However, prosecutors reviewed evidence that Krstic attended meetings at which the destruction of the Muslim population was planned. They claimed there was a clear link between Karadzic, who gave the order, through Mladic, the senior officer, to Krstic, who was a corps commander.

``It is an inescapable conclusion that Krstic was in on the expulsion and murder from the beginning," argued prosecutor Magda Karagiannakis. ``If Krstic didn't know what the plan was, he was the only one."

## **Bush Iraq Glance (AP)**

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With BC-Bush-Iraq

By The Associated Press=

Past presidential trips to war zones include:

\_ 1952: Dwight David Eisenhower, then president-elect, visited Korean battle fronts in December.

\_ 1966 and 1967: President Lyndon Johnson made two wartime trips to Vietnam, visiting troops at the U.S. military command at Cam Ranh Bay.

\_ 1969: President Richard Nixon visited troops at Dien Bien Phu about 12 miles south of what was then known as Saigon.

\_ 1990: President George H.W. Bush visited U.S. troops at a desert outpost in Saudi Arabia on Thanksgiving Day, in the run-up to the Gulf War.

\_ 1999: President Bill Clinton addressed Kosovar refugees and NATO military personnel in **Macedonia**, two weeks after end of NATO airstrikes to drive Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic out of **Kosovo**. Five months later he addressed Albanians and shared a Thanksgiving dinner with U.S. troops in **Kosovo**.

\_ 2003: President Bush pays a Thanksgiving Day visit to U.S. soldiers in a mess hall at Baghdad International Airport.