



Reply to  
Attention of

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
Multi-National Brigade (East)  
Camp Bondsteel  
APO AE 09340



Press Release 11-04  
For Immediate Release  
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**MNB(E) Commander Brig. Gen. Rick Erlandson addresses radio stations in Ferizaj**

**Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo:**

“GOOD AFTERNOON, THIS IS BRIGADIER GENERAL RICK ERLANDSON, COMMANDER OF MULTI NATIONAL BRIGADE EAST, TALKING TO YOU FROM CAMP BONDSTEEL.

I WANT TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO YOU PERSONALLY. IN THE PAST 72 HOURS I HAVE WITNESSED KOSOVO DEGENERATE FROM A SOCIETY OF LAW AND ORDER TO ONE OF ANARCHY AND VIOLENCE. YESTERDAY AND LAST NIGHT WERE QUIET, CALM WAS RESTORED, FOR WHAT I HOPE, IS FOR GOOD. I WANT TO THANK THE MAJORITY OF KOSOVARS WHO DID NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE RULE OF LAW AND CONDUCTED THEMSELVES IN A CIVILIZED FASHION. YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF KOSOVO.

A MINORITY OF PEOPLE TOOK INTO THEIR HANDS THE FUTURE OF KOSOVO AND TRIED TO DESTROY IT. THE MINDLESS ACTS OF VIOLENCE, DESECRATION OF HOLY SITES, AND ATTACKS AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS HAS PAINTED A PICTURE THE WORLD WILL NOT SOON FORGET. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEIR MOTIVES WERE NOR DO I CARE.

MY CONCERNS ARE WITH THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CIVILIZED SOCIETY AND TO OBSERVE THE RULE OF

LAW. MULTI NATIONAL BRIGADE EAST IS HERE FOR YOU, TO ASSIST YOU AND THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES, REGAIN CONTROL AND MOVE KOSOVO FORWARD. MY GREEK, POLISH, UKRAINIAN, LITHUANIAN, ARMENIAN AND AMERICAN SOLDIERS UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROBLEMS THESE PAST DAYS HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A FEW CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT PERSONS WHO WANT TO TURN KOSOVO INTO CHAOS. MY SOLDIERS ARE HERE TO PROTECT THE LAW ABIDING CITIZENS OF KOSOVO AND TO RESTORE A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT. THOSE WHO MEANT TO INSTITUTE A REIGN OF ANARCHY AND CHAOS HAVE NOT, AND WILL NOT SUCCEED.

THIS MORNING I HEARD STORIES FROM THE MEDIA ON HOW SOME OF MY SOLDIERS INSTIGATED THESE INCIDENTS. THESE STORIES FAIL TO TELL THE TRUTH, FAIL TO TELL HOW MY GREEK AND AMERICAN SOLDIERS GUARDING SAINT UROS CHURCH IN UROSEVAC WERE SHOT AT, HAD CLOSE TO TWENTY HAND GRENADES THROWN AT THEM AND WERE TARGETED BY FIRE BOMBS INTENDING TO HARM OR KILL THEM. THESE STORIES FAIL TO TELL HOW ONE OF MY AMERICAN SOLDIERS AT THE CHURCH WAS INJURED BY A HAND GRENADE THROWN BY A MINDLESS, IMMORAL MOB.

I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. I WATCHED THE WHOLE INCIDENT AND HAVE IT ON TAPE.

THOSE WHO WERE PRESENT AT THIS ATTACK, OR THE AT THE VANDALISM OF HOLY SITES, OR PARTICPATED IN THIS VIOLENCE WILL BE HELD ACCOUTNABLE. ALSO I HOLD ALL LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THEIR PEOPLE AND TOLD THIS TO THE MUNICIPAL LEADERS OF UROSEVAC FRIDAY AFTERNOON. MOST KPS OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS DID A GREAT JOB IN THEIR MUNICIPALITIES MAINTAINING CONTROL IN ENFORCING

RULE OF LAW. SOME FAILED TO LEAD. AS LEADERS THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO RISE UP DURING OCCASIONS OF UNREST AND CALM THE SITUATION. IT IS A RESPONSIBILITY THAT THEY CANNOT FORGET.

IN UROSEVAC I HAVE INSTITUTED A CURFEW FROM 6:00 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING UNTIL 6:00 IN THE MORNING. (In Ferizaj and Vitina. The curfew for the rest of MNB (E) is 2100 hours until 0600 hours local time.) I HAVE PLACED SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT BY ESTABLISHING MULTIPLE CHECK POINTS. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT HAS BEEN ABUSED. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WILL REMAIN RESTRICTED UNTIL I AM SATISFIED THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL.

MY SOLDIERS WILL CONTINUE TO DEPLOY. YOU WILL SEE INCREASED CHECKPOINTS AND PATROLS; THEY WILL TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE CRIMINALS WHO HAVE COMMITTED THESE CRIMES. ALL SOLDIERS REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY ARE UNDER MY COMMAND AND I DEMAND THAT YOU RESPECT THEIR ORDERS. I WILL HOLD FULLY ACCOUNTABLE ANYONE WHO CHALLENGES THEIR AUTHORITY.

THE VIOLENT ACTS OF A FEW HAVE REVERSED YEARS OF GREAT PROGRESS. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS VERY DISTURBED BY THESE EVENTS. IT IS NOW TIME FOR THE LAW ABIDING CITIZENS OF KOSOVO TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION AND SHOW ME AND THE WORLD THAT TRUE RULE OF LAW AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS ARE NOT JUST PHRASES BUT WORDS TO LIVE BY. “

All members of the media should understand that set curfews apply to them as well.

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