



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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Celebrating 17 Years of Independence



As Kosovo commemorates the 17th anniversary of its Independence, the nation stands united in pride and reflection. This milestone not only celebrates the hard-earned freedom and sovereignty but also highlights the unwavering commitment to security and peace demonstrated by the Kosovo Security Force and the Kosovo Police. From heartfelt speeches to a grand parade in Prishtina, the day's events serve as a testament to Kosovo's remarkable journey and the sacrifices of those who paved the way for an independent future. As citizens gathered in the center of Prishtina to witness the magnificent parade, they expressed gratitude and support for the KSF and Kosovo Police, appreciating their roles in ensuring the security and stability of Kosovo.



On this momentous day, Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci expressed his pride in the country's achievements. He emphasized the importance of the parade, calling it a powerful symbol of commitment to security and protection of the territory.



At the "Adem Jashari" Memorial Complex in Prekaz, Minister Maqedonci honored the sacrifices of the heroes who fought for Kosovo's freedom and independence. He thanked all the martyrs and expressed profound respect for their extraordinary contributions.

This anniversary marked a significant day in the history of Kosovo, celebrating the heritage and triumph of the independent state while proudly commemorating those who made Kosovo's freedom and independence possible.



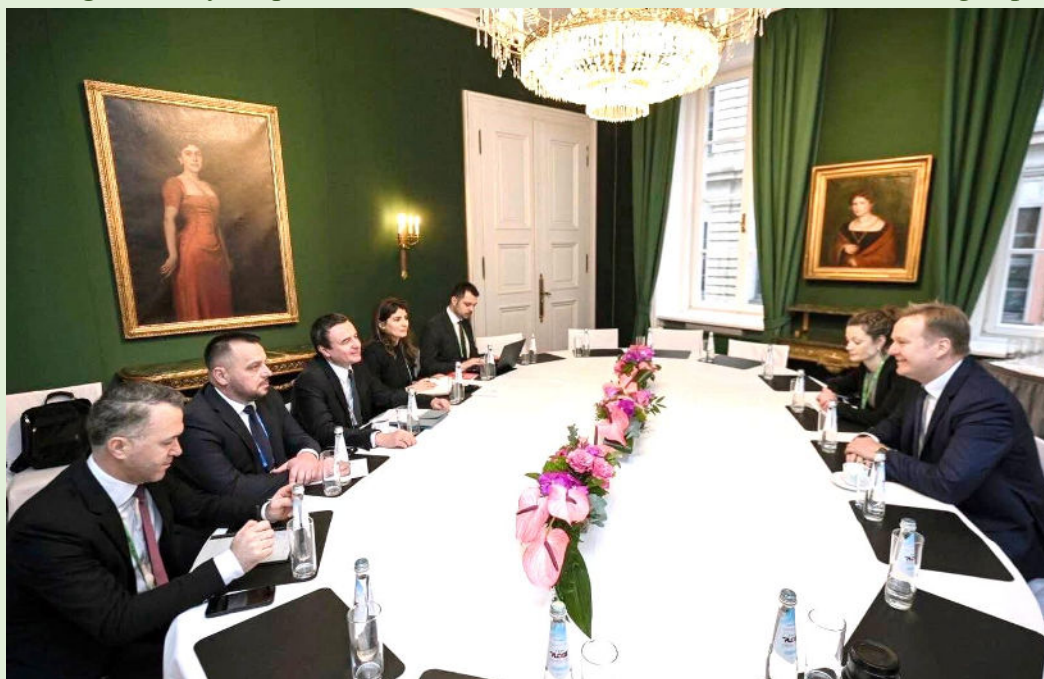
Strategic Commitments for Security and Development at the Munich Security Conference



At the Munich Security Conference, Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, had the opportunity to hold meetings with important representatives of the European Union and the United States of America. In the meeting with the European Union's Special Representative for the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue, Peter Sørensen, Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, confirmed Kosovo's positions on peace and security in the region. They emphasized Kosovo's constructive role and the challenges posed by Serbia with its violations of the

agreements reached. One of the issues raised was Serbia's sheltering of terrorist leader Milan Radoicic, which represents a continuous threat to regional stability.

In the meeting with the Executive Director of the American-Jewish Committee, Ted Deutch, Prime Minister Kurti presented the achievements of the Government of Kosovo in the fields of health, education, defense and agriculture. Additionally, discussions were held on strengthening the relations between Kosovo and American-Jewish Committee, as well as the opportunities for expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest.





Prime Minister Kurti and Minister Maqedonci met with the United States Security Coordinator for Israel and Palestine, Lieutenant General Michael Fenzel. During the meeting General Fenzel was informed about Kosovo's economic developments over the last four years, as well as on significant investments in strengthening military capacities of the Kosovo Security Force, achieved with the support of the United States of America. Minister Maqedonci expressed gratitude for the continued support of the U.S and the excellent cooperation, including the purchase of the Javelin anti-tank missile system and Black Hawk helicopters, the joint landing with the U.S troops in Kuwait, and Kosovo's participation as a host

country in the "Defender Europe 25" exercise. The humanitarian assistance provided for the shelter of Afghan refugees in Kosovo was also appreciated. Within the framework international commitments, the recent decision of the Government of Kosovo to allocate 500,000 euros in humanitarian aid for civilians in Gaza was highlighted. Throughout the meeting, opportunities for further Kosovo engagement in initiatives led and coordinated by the United States and its partners were discussed, reaffirming Kosovo's commitment to democratic values, global peace, and its goal of NATO membership.

On the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, met with Croatia's Minister of Defense, Ivan Anušić, and Türkiye's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hakan Fidan. In these meetings, they discussed the geopolitical situation, bilateral relations and the cooperation to date in the field of defense, with special focus on the development of the defense industry. Prime Minister Kurti and Minister Maqedonci thanked Croatian Minister of Defense, Mr Anušić, for the continued support of Kosovo and for the opportunity for Kosovo cadets to continue their education at the "Dr. Franjo Tuđman" Military Academy, based on the agreement signed between the two ministries. They also thanked Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fidan, for Türkiye's contribution to Kosovo's security through KFOR and for the partnership in developing the domestic defense industry, established by the agreement reached with the Turkish company MKE for the operationalization of the ammunition factory. Croatia and Türkiye remain allies, friends and partners of Kosovo, with which cooperation in the field of defense will continue to be strengthened. The Munich Security Conference was an important platform for Kosovo to strengthen international relations and to discuss issues of security and cooperation.



Minister Maqedonci Participated in the 26th Meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group



At the invitation of the UK's Secretary of State for Defence, John Healey, and the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Ejup Maqedonci, accompanied by the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to NATO, Astrit Zemaj, participated in the 26th meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group (UDCG) held at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. For the first time, the new US Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, also participated in this meeting, marking his first visit to NATO. The meeting was hosted by NATO Secretary General, Mark Rutte. In the meeting, urgent priorities for Ukraine were discussed, and it was stated that efforts were being made to meet Ukraine's short-term and long-term needs. As always, the unity and commitment of this group were deemed essential for Ukraine's victory. Minister of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Ejup Maqedonci, in the meeting, as well as in meetings with his counterparts and NATO leadership structures, once again expressed full support for Ukraine's just fight, acting as a strong

partner in the defense of freedom and shared Euro-Atlantic values.



Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, participated in the Halifax Security Forum



At the Halifax Security Forum held in Taipei, Taiwan, Minister of Defense, Ejup Maqedonci, participated in the panel “Partnership = Democracy”. In this panel, the minister discussed alongside Dr. Tamara Wittes, President of the “National Democratic Institute”, and Jack McCain from the “McCain Institute”, about the global security environment, threats to democratic values, and ways to strengthen partnerships between democratic countries. Minister Maqedonci presented the progress of the Republic of Kosovo in building a functional democracy and emphasized that this success is the result of close partnerships with democratic countries that have provided continuous support. He also stated that preserving

democratic values in the face of autocratic regimes requires cultivating strong partnerships and alliances between states that believe in democracy and the values it represents. “We have achieved a lot in building a functional and sustainable democracy in Kosovo. This is thanks to the support of our international partners, who have helped us at every step of the way. This support is crucial for preserving democratic values and for facing the threats against them,” said Minister Maqedonci. The Ministry of Defense of Kosovo remains committed to continuing cooperation and strengthening partnerships with democratic countries, with the aim of preserving security and stability in the region and beyond.

Deputy Ministers of Defense visited Restelica on the anniversary of the tragedy



The First Deputy Minister of Defense, Shemsi Sylja, and the Second Deputy Minister, Adnan Rexhepllar, accompanied by officers and soldiers of the Kosovo Security Force, visited Restelica to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the tragedy in which an avalanche destroyed an entire neighborhood, taking the lives of 10 people. Together with the villagers, they shared memories from that painful day and recalled the extraordinary efforts of the Kosovo Security Force members, who did the impossible to save lives under the infamous avalanche. Thanks to the dedication of the soldiers, 5-year-old Amsera Reka—the only survivor from her family—was rescued alive. After the tributes, fresh flowers were placed on the graves of the victims as a sign of respect and remembrance.

The residents of Restelica, with their constant hospitality, expressed gratitude for this visit, which every year brings together the soldiers and participants of that tragic day. During this commemoration, the heroism of the KSF soldiers was recalled, as they showed courage and dedication in exceptionally difficult conditions.

KSF Chaplain Participated in International Military Conference of Chiefs of Chaplains



The Chaplain of the Kosovo Security Force, OR9 Agim Gashi, participated in the International Military Chiefs of Chaplains Conference, which was held in Brussels, Belgium. This conference gathered over 147 participants from 43 different countries, providing an important platform for discussing military chaplaincy issues, exchanging experiences, and strengthening international cooperation in this field. The participation of the KSF Chaplain in this conference marked another important step in the engagement and representation of the Kosovo Security Force at the international level.

Strengthening Capacities Through HAR-66 Training Between Kosovo and Türkiye



Within the framework of cooperation between the Turkish Armed Forces and the Kosovo Security Force, training on the HAR-66 equipment was successfully completed. This program took place across two regiments of the Land Forces, aiming to enhance the combat readiness and professional development of KSF members. This ongoing collaboration between the two forces plays a vital role in advancing operational expertise and strengthening the strategic partnership between their nations. Regular joint initiatives not only foster skills but also deepen mutual trust and cooperation. The Kosovo Security Force remains unwavering in its commitment to building and enhancing its capacities, ensuring it is ever more prepared to fulfill its mission and responsibilities with excellence.

Kosovo Security Force Excels at Winter EX 2025 in Türkiye



The Kosovo Security Force showcased exceptional professionalism during "Winter EX 2025," an international exercise organized by the Turkish Land Forces Command. Operating under harsh winter conditions, the KSF demonstrated impressive skills and collaborated with international partners in diverse scenarios. Brigadier General Hysen Dreshaj and Lieutenant Colonel Jaser Mulla visited the contingent, commending their dedication and emphasizing their role in representing Kosovo. General Dreshaj also attended an official dinner with international leaders and observed the Demonstration for Distinguished Visitors Day, where the KSF's contributions were highlighted. Through its participation, the KSF continues to enhance its operational capabilities and strengthen international cooperation.



Advancing Skills for a Safer Future

As part of the collaboration with the Turkish Armed Forces, the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) undertook specialized training on the effective use of the MK-19 Automatic Grenade Launcher. This program was designed to enhance the combat capabilities and operational readiness of KSF soldiers, equipping them to face diverse challenges in future missions. The training involved an intensive curriculum, where participants gained in-depth knowledge of the weapon's technical features, field applications, safety protocols, and its strategic role on the battlefield. Through such initiatives, the KSF continues to strengthen its professional expertise and ensure its readiness to uphold its mission of safeguarding a secure future.

