



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



NEWSLETTER

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KSF Deployment to Gaza Marks Historic Step in Kosovo's Global Security Role



The Government of the Republic of Kosovo has approved the deployment of the Kosovo Security Force contingent as part of the International Stabilization Force in Gaza. This decision underscores Kosovo's commitment to international security and regional stability. Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci emphasized that this deployment marks a historic milestone for Kosovo, highlighting the transition from a recipient of international stabilization support to an active contributor to global peace and security. He noted that the engagement is professional, coordinated, and fully aligned with UN Security Council Resolution 2803, focusing on security, civilian protection, and humanitarian assistance. He also stressed that the safety of KSF personnel remains the highest priority, with all operations conducted under strict protective measures and in coordination with international partners, while maintaining Kosovo's operational readiness for national defense. According to the Minister, this deployment reflects the maturity of Kosovo's institutions, the high professionalism of the KSF, and Kosovo's Euro-Atlantic orientation, reaffirming the country's role as a reliable and responsible partner in promoting international peace and stability.

KSF Commander Coordinates Deployment with International Partners



Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, held a video conference with Major General Jasper Jeffers III, Commander of the International Stabilization Force in Gaza, to coordinate the deployment of the KSF contingent. During the meeting, General Jashari expressed gratitude to General Jeffers and the United States Army for inviting the KSF to participate in this international mission. He reaffirmed that the KSF is a professional force, trained to NATO standards, ready to contribute to international security whenever requested by partner states.

At the conclusion of the conference, General Jeffers thanked General Jashari for the KSF's readiness and professionalism, highlighting Kosovo as a reliable partner in promoting global peace and stability.



Kosovo Commemorates the 28th Anniversary of the KLA Epopee



Kosovo marked the 28th anniversary of the Epopee of the Kosovo Liberation Army with ceremonies honoring the heroic sacrifices of Commander Adem Jashari, his family, and all those who gave their lives for the freedom of Kosovo. The Kosovo Security Force lined up its formations at the “Adem Jashari” barracks in Prishtina, where the ceremony included a report to the former President of Kosovo and the KSF Commander, followed by the laying of wreaths at the obelisk by state leaders. Senior KSF officers, ambassadors, international military personnel, invited guests, and citizens attended, paying tribute to the resistance and sacrifice that became the foundation of Kosovo's sovereignty.



On the second day of the anniversary, Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, together with Prime Minister Albin Kurti, Deputy Minister Gegë Lleshi, Secretary General Gafurr Dugolli, KSF Deputy Commander Major General Enver Cikaqi, and other senior officials visited the “Adem Jashari” Memorial Complex in Prekaz. The delegation honored the legacy of Commander Jashari, his family, and all fallen heroes by laying wreaths and paying homage. The Memorial Complex remains a symbol of resistance, sacrifice, and dedication to Kosovo’s freedom.

Minister Maqedonci also participated in the “Night of Fires” in Prekaz, the symbolic site where the flame of resistance for freedom was first ignited. He highlighted that the event is not only a remembrance of the past but also a call for unity, dedication, and the preservation of the legacy of those who gave everything for Kosovo’s freedom. The tributes of the KSF and the Ministry of Defense underscore the enduring significance of March 5, 6, and 7, 1998, which marked a turning point in Kosovo’s journey toward independence. Prekaz continues to serve as a lasting symbol of sacrifice, courage, and national unity, inspiring current and future generations to uphold the values of freedom and service to the nation.



Dukagjin Epopee Honored as Symbol of Resistance and Freedom

Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci on March 24th, visited Glogjan to commemorate the Dukagjin Epopee, paying tribute to the martyrs and all who fell for freedom. He recalled the heroic resistance of the KLA in Glogjan, Gjashtë Lisat, and Prekaz, which transformed the KLA into a nationwide liberation force and drew international support, leading to NATO intervention. Minister Maqedonci emphasized that today Kosovo has a modern, professional army, ensuring peace, stability, and protection of the nation. He honored the sacrifices of the past, declaring eternal glory to the martyrs and all who gave their lives for freedom.

Minister Maqedonci Advances Kosovo's Defense Cooperation at BEDEX 2026

On the sidelines of the BEDEX 2026 defense industry fair in Brussels, Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci held a series of high-level meetings with representatives of institutions and companies in the defense sector, focusing on strengthening cooperation and advancing the capabilities of the Kosovo Security Force.



During the fair, Minister Maqedonci met with the Chief of Defense of the Armed Forces of Belgium, General Frederik Vansina, to discuss opportunities for enhanced bilateral defense cooperation and partnership development. In parallel, discussions with defense industry representatives centered on the potential supply of modern military systems and equipment to the KSF, as well as the development of Kosovo's domestic defense industry. Minister Maqedonci highlighted the Ministry of Defense's commitment to strategic investments, noting that over the next four years, more than 1 billion euros will be allocated to modernizing Kosovo's defense capabilities, including upgrading combat systems, constructing new infrastructure, and supporting the domestic defense sector. He emphasized that in the evolving European security environment, Kosovo aims to contribute not only to its national defense but also to regional and Euro-Atlantic stability

through closer cooperation with international partners and allies.

Additionally, Minister Maqedonci met with the Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Belgium, Theo Francken, to further strengthen defense and security collaboration. The discussions included joint training programs, officer exchanges, and the formal accreditation of Kosovo's Defense Attaché in Belgium, which will directly enhance institutional and military cooperation.

Minister Maqedonci reaffirmed Kosovo's commitment to building strong partnerships, advancing defense capabilities, and pursuing Euro-Atlantic integration. International events like BEDEX 2026 serve as critical platforms for establishing long-

term partnerships, accessing advanced technologies, and reinforcing the capabilities of the Kosovo Army, contributing to a safer future for Kosovo and the region.



Kosovo Reaffirms Strong Commitment to NATO Partnership and Cooperation



Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci hosted Blanca Hereza, Acting Chief of Current Operations in the Operations Division of the NATO General Staff, for a high-level meeting. During the discussion, Minister Maqedonci briefed Ms. Hereza on current developments within the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, as well as strategic plans for the future. He emphasized Kosovo's continued commitment to close coordination and cooperation with KFOR and the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT) to achieve shared objectives. Minister Maqedonci reaffirmed that Kosovo's ultimate goal remains NATO membership, highlighting the country's and the KSF's ongoing contributions to regional stability and international peace.

Defense Cooperation Highlighted in Meeting with USS Pearl Harbor Commanding Officer



Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci, together with Deputy Ministers Gegë Lleshi and Enis Kervan, hosted a meeting with Commander Alban Dervishi, commanding officer of the amphibious assault ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) and an officer of the United States Navy of Albanian descent. Minister Maqedonci praised Commander Dervishi's dedication, professionalism, and leadership, highlighting him as an example of the growing role of Albanian-Americans in U.S. defense institutions. He reiterated Kosovo's gratitude for the continued support of the United States, reaffirming the strategic partnership between the two countries. Commander Dervishi expressed his honor in visiting Kosovo and acknowledged the country's achievements, particularly in advancing its defense system.



Commander Dervishi also met with Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, to discuss the latest developments within the KSF and its cooperation with the U.S. Armed Forces, including the partnership with the Iowa National Guard. Commander Dervishi commended General Jashari's leadership and the KSF's progress in operational capabilities and development of military careers. Both sides agreed to continue exchanging experiences to enhance interoperability. In addition, Commander Dervishi met with cadets at the KSF University Study Center, sharing his leadership experiences and career insights from the United States Navy, inspiring the next generation of KSF officers.

Deputy Minister Lleshi Participates in ISOA International Conference

The Deputy Minister of Defense, Gegë Lleshi, participated in the International Conference organized by the International Stability Operations Association (ISOA), where he delivered a keynote address. The event gathered institutional representatives, international partners, and field experts to discuss key is-



sues in security and defense. Colonel Imer Avdiu, Director of the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure at the Ministry of Defense, also took part in the panel. In his speech, Deputy Minister Lleshi emphasized that strengthening defense capacities and regional cooperation remains a priority for Kosovo in ensuring security and stability in Southeastern Europe. He also highlighted the importance of strategic investments in the modernization and development of the defense industry, and reaffirmed Kosovo's commitment to Euro-Atlantic integration and partnership with international allies.

Security and Defense Ties Enhanced in Meetings with Finland and Luxembourg



Both sides expressed readiness to further strengthen cooperation based on shared values, trust, and concrete initiatives aimed at enhancing security and stability at national and regional levels. In a separate meeting, the Head of the Luxembourg Office in Kosovo, Eric Dietz, discussed with the Minister the expansion of bilateral cooperation in security and defense. The talks placed particular emphasis on cybersecurity development and cooperation in the defense industry, with the shared goal of strengthening modern capabilities and institutional readiness.

The Minister of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo, Ejup Maqedonci, hosted Ambassador Eevamari Laaksonen of Finland, who conveyed her congratulations on his reappointment. The discussion focused on Finland's total defense model and explored opportunities for cooperation in defense procurement and capability development. The Minister highlighted the ongoing progress of the Kosovo Security Force and underlined participation in the International Stabilization Force in Gaza, reaffirming a strong commitment to international security en-



High-Level Kosovo–Türkiye Meeting Focuses on Expanding Defense Cooperation



sistance, noting its significant contribution to the advancement of Kosovo's defense institutions. During the meetings, the parties discussed opportunities to deepen cooperation through joint trainings, exchange of professional experience, and other collaborative projects aimed at strengthening regional security and stability. The discussions highlighted the shared commitment to maintaining and enhancing the strategic partnership between Kosovo and Türkiye in the defense sector.

The Deputy Ministers of Defense of Kosovo, Enis Kervan and Gegë Lleshi, met with the Military Attaché of the Embassy of Türkiye in Kosovo, Colonel Adem Türk, to discuss the continuation and expansion of bilateral cooperation in defense and security. Colonel Türk congratulated both Deputy Ministers on assuming their new positions and reaffirmed Türkiye's support for Kosovo in developing its defense capacities. Deputy Ministers Kervan and Lleshi expressed appreciation for Türkiye's ongoing as-



Deputy Ministers of Defense Meet with NATO Advisory and Liaison Team Director



The Deputy Ministers of Defense of Kosovo, Gegë Lleshi and Enis Kervan, met with Brigadier General Dr. Sven Lange, Director of the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT), to discuss ongoing cooperation and development of defense capacities. During the meetings, General Lange congratulated both Deputy Ministers on their new appointments and commended them for assuming their institutional responsibilities. Deputy Ministers Lleshi and Kervan expressed gratitude for NALT's continued engagement and support to the Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force in advancing institutional processes, professional development, and strategic

planning. Deputy Minister Lleshi emphasized that cooperation with NATO, particularly NALT, remains essential for strengthening Kosovo's defense sector and aligning with Euro-Atlantic standards. Both Deputy Ministers highlighted the achievements of the Kosovo Security Force, including the high professionalism of its officers and non-commissioned officers, and expressed readiness to further deepen cooperation to effectively achieve common objectives. Deputy Minister Kervan also stressed the importance of community representation within security and defense institutions, noting that inclusivity strengthens their professional and institutional character.



Commander of the KSF Hosted the Command Sergeant Major of the Iowa National Guard in a Meeting

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, hosted Command Sergeant Major Matthew T. Strasser of the Iowa National Guard in a formal meeting. During the discussion, both parties reviewed the strong and ongoing cooperation between the KSF and the Iowa National Guard, with a particular focus on the development of the noncommissioned officer corps. General Jashari expressed appreciation for the support of American partners, especially the Iowa National Guard, in building a professional and capable noncommissioned officer structure within the KSF. Command Sergeant Major Strasser praised General Jashari's leadership and commitment to the career development of KSF personnel, highlighting the essential role of noncommissioned officers as a cornerstone of the KSF. At the conclusion of the meeting, Lieutenant General Jashari awarded Command Sergeant Major Strasser the "Selfless Service" medal in recognition of his dedicated support to the Kosovo Security Force.





Deputy Minister Kervan Met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye in Kosovo, Sabri Tunç Angılı

The Deputy Minister of Defense, Enis Kervan, met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye in Kosovo, Sabri Tunç Angılı. During the meeting, the importance of the excellent relations between Kosovo and Türkiye was emphasized, and the joint commitment to deepening cooperation in the field of defense and security was reaffirmed. Deputy Minister Kervan expressed readiness for the continuation and strengthening of the strategic partnership between our two countries in the future.



Deputy Minister Kervan Met with the Head of the Turkish KFOR Representative Delegation, Colonel Harun Elitaş

The Deputy Minister of Defense, Enis Kervan, met with the Head of the Turkish Army Representative Delegation in Kosovo (Turkish KFOR), Colonel Harun Elitaş. During the meeting, issues related to regional security, as well as civil-military cooperation between Kosovo institutions and the Turkish contingent within KFOR, were discussed. Deputy Minister Kervan thanked the Turkish Army Representative Delegation in Kosovo for their continuous support and contribution to activities aimed at strengthening stability and security in the country. For his part, Colonel Harun Elitaş emphasized that cooperation in the field of

security and in civil-military activities in Kosovo will continue in the future.

Voluntary Blood Donation Campaign Launched at Ministry of Defense and “Adem Jashari” Barracks

The Ministry of Defense and the Kosovo Security Force, in cooperation with the Kosovo National Blood Transfusion Center, have launched a voluntary blood donation campaign, running throughout April, to directly support the healthcare system and save lives. A large number of Ministry of Defense staff and KSF members responded positively to the call, donating blood at both the Ministry of Defense and the “Adem Jashari” barracks. Minister of Defense Ejup Maqedonci also participated, setting an example of commitment to humanitarian values and social responsibility. He expressed gratitude to the medical team for their dedication and thanked all volunteers for their life-saving contributions.



Senior Course Participants Explore Cooperative Security and Lessons from Kosovo



Members of the Senior Course for Security and Defense (KLSM-16) attended a lecture on the analysis of the geopolitical environment and lessons learned from Kosovo. The lecture, titled *“Institutionalization of Cooperative Security: The Case of Kosovo,”* was delivered by Major General Enver Cikaqi, Deputy Commander of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). General Cikaqi presented the process of institutionalizing cooperative security, highlighting the development of functional security mechanisms, contemporary practices, and the challenges shaping the regional security environment. The session enhanced participants’ academic and professional understanding, providing them with

a broader perspective on security developments at both regional and international levels.

The KSF Conducts Official Visit to the German Bundeswehr Medical Service



At the invitation of the Chief of the German Bundeswehr Medical Service and by order of the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force (COMKSF), a delegation from the Logistics Command of the KSF con-

ducted an official visit to the German Army Medical Service in Berlin. During the visit, the KSF delegation met with Lieutenant General Dr. Ralf Hoffmann and his staff, as well as representatives of the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT) who have served in Kosovo. The delegation participated in DV-DAY activities within the medical exercise “MEDVAL QUADRIGA 2026,” observing procedures for treating injured personnel from the Point of Injury (PoI) to the Casualty Collection Point (CCP), evacuation up to ROL 1 through ROL 4 capacities, strategic evacuation (STRATEVAC), final treatment, and rehabilitation. Additionally, the delegation engaged with representatives of the NATO Centre of Excellence and medical services delegations from allied armies participating in the exercise. On behalf of COMKSF General Bashkim Jashari, the KSF delegation expressed gratitude to Lieutenant General Hoffmann for the continued support provided by the German Bundeswehr, particularly to the KSF Medical Service, and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation between the two medical services.

KSF Officer Crowned National Karate Champion

Major Getoar Rexhepi of the Kosovo Security Force was declared National Karate Champion at the 27th National Karate Championship held in the Republic of Albania. The event, hosted at the “Asllan Rusi” Sports Palace, brought together approximately 80 athletes competing in kata (demonstration) and kumite (fighting) disciplines, representing around 20 teams from across Albania. Major Rexhepi’s victory at the 2026 National Karate Championship highlights not only his exceptional skill and discipline in the sport but also the dedication and commitment of KSF service members, who excel in both their professional duties and sporting achievements at the highest levels.



KSF Participates in the International Exercise “Mittelmark 2026” in Germany

The Kosovo Security Force (KSF) is taking part in the international exercise “Mittelmark 2026” in Germany, alongside partner countries. A transport squad from the KSF Logistics Command is actively conducting operations fully integrated within the structures of the German Army. The exercise focuses on developing capacities in transport and logistical support, specifically in Classes I, III, and V. KSF personnel are operating their logistical vehicles while performing transport support tasks, demonstrating professionalism, operational readiness, and interoperability in an international environment.



USC Establishes Academic Partnership with Norwich University, USA

Major Mimoza Budeci, Commander of the University Study Center (USC), signed a cooperation agreement with Norwich University, one of the oldest and most prestigious military-academic institutions in the United States, renowned for excellence in information technology, cybersecurity, and electronic warfare. The agreement enables USC cadets to attend semesters at Norwich University, while Norwich cadets can study at USC, fostering international exchange and collaboration. This partnership further consolidates USC’s role as a prominent international military-academic institution, building on its established cadet exchange programs with countries including the USA, Canada, Germany, Türkiye, Italy, Croatia, Albania, and North Macedonia. The agreement reflects USC’s continued commitment to excellence in training future military leaders and strengthening international cooperation.

