

PRISSE RELEASE

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**Declaration on behalf of the European Union
regarding the recent upsurge in violence in Mitrovica**

The European Union is deeply concerned about the recent upsurge of violence in the town of Mitrovica, Kosovo. It reiterates its strong condemnation of all acts of violence and public disturbances. Such incidents severely jeopardise confidence building between ethnic communities and undermine the activities of the members of the international community who work in the interest of the people of Kosovo.

The European Union deplores the violence and threats directed against the international presence, in particular KFOR soldiers and local civilian staff, in the Mitrovica area in recent days.

The European Union, once again, reiterates its full support for UNSCR 1244 and its commitment to a multi-ethnic and undivided Kosovo, where all inhabitants can live in a safe and secure environment. It reaffirms its strong support for the efforts of UNMIK and KFOR in the implementation of UNSCR 1244, carried out under strenuous conditions.

Kosovo is benefiting from substantial international political, military and financial support aimed at creating conditions for a peaceful and prosperous future. This support requires the active cooperation of all citizens of Kosovo and their leaders.

The EU calls on the political leaders in Kosovo to exercise their influence and to take immediate and concrete action to stop the violence and calm the tense situation in the area of Mitrovica.