



Security Council

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Letter dated 18 February 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#), I have the honour to transmit the attached letter, dated 1 February 2019, from the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Jens Stoltenberg, transmitting the report on the international security presence in Kosovo, covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António **Guterres**



Annex

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#), please find attached the quarterly report on Kosovo Force operations covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2018 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the report available to the members of the Council.

(Signed) Jens **Stoltenberg**

Enclosure

Report to the United Nations on Kosovo Force operations

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#) and covers the Kosovo Force (KFOR) activities during the period from 1 October 2018 to 31 December 2018.
2. As at 31 December 2018, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre remained approximately 3,800, from 20 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and 8 non-NATO troop-contributing nations. In October 2018, Montenegro joined the KFOR mission, while Estonia withdrew.
3. During the reporting period, there were no major security incidents and KFOR was not required to intervene as a third responder.

Security situation update and operations

4. During the reporting period, there was no significant change to the security situation in Kosovo, which remained generally stable but fragile, with political challenges and tensions. Progress is needed in the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina in order to improve the current situation.
5. KFOR continued to conduct routine framework operations in the KFOR area of operations, combined with coordinated and comprehensive engagement activities by key leaders focused on the northern part of Kosovo due to increased tensions. All events observed during the reporting period occurred peacefully, with no impact on the KFOR mission. KFOR maintained a flexible force posture to be able to respond rapidly and effectively, ensuring the maintenance of a safe and secure environment.
6. On 28 November 2018, KFOR organized the change of command ceremony at KFOR headquarters, with Major General Lorenzo D'Addario (Italy) assuming command from Major General Salvatore Cuoci (Italy).
7. KFOR maintains its close cooperation with other security providers in the Balkans joint operations area. From 11 to 19 October, KFOR conducted the exercise Silver Sabre 2018-2, bringing together the European Union, the United Nations and different agencies in Kosovo, in order to assess and improve capabilities and coordination of security responders in natural disasters and large-scale emergencies.

Summary

8. During the reporting period, KFOR contributed to a safe and secure environment as part of a comprehensive international effort. The close coordination and cooperation at the tactical level between KFOR, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo and Kosovo police continue to be effective.
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