

# Foreign Press Office - Mostar

## MEDIA REPORTS

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NEWS FLASH

Yet another demonstration of brute force by international troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina!

Banja Luka, Prijedor, Gradiska, Siroki Brijeg, Stolac, Trebinje targeted

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### **EU peacekeepers raid private security agencies in Bosnia**

Agence France Presse

July 28, 2005 (11:40 AM GMT)

EU peacekeepers on Thursday launched near simultaneous raids of private security agencies suspected of criminal activities across Bosnia, a spokeswoman said.

"The main focus of the operation is premises of security companies suspected of criminal activity.

We have a number of targets throughout the country," spokeswoman for the EU Force (EUFOR) Bridget Rose told AFP.

"Security companies can lawfully have access to wide variety of weapons, but there is information that maybe not all of their activities are legitimate," she added.

Rose could give details only for operations in three major cities -- Sarajevo, Mostar and Banja Luka.

Around 100 EUFOR soldiers sealed off a residential area in the center of Sarajevo early Thursday, and witnesses said they used hammers to forcefully enter the small premises of the Sword Security Company.

"The owner of the company is of Arab origin and we suspect him of criminal activity," said a Bosnian policeman on the spot without elaborating.

The 7,000-strong EUFOR is mandated to provide security following the brutal 1992-95 Bosnian war. Its brief includes fighting organized crime and terrorism and hunting for war crimes suspects.

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NEWS FLASH

### **European Union forces in Bosnia raid several private security agencies**

Associated Press Worldstream

July 28, 2005 (7:46 AM EST)

European Union forces on Thursday raided several private security agencies suspected of threatening the peace in Bosnia, officials said.

"Inspections are taking place on several locations throughout Bosnia and involving more than one security company," said Col. Bruno Compagnone, a spokesman for EU force in the town of Mostar. "We are merely ensuring that the companies are conducting themselves and controlling weapons in their possession in a correct fashion."

Under the peace deal that ended the 1992-95 Bosnian war, foreign peacekeepers can enter any facility in the country and search it or detain people if they believe there is a danger of the peace accords being violated.

Troops on Thursday entered the premises of various private security agencies in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar and other smaller towns. They were seen blocking off a building in downtown Mostar where the offices of the Puma security agency is based.

Puma officials were not immediately available for comment.

The U.S. government branded Puma a threat to regional stability in May 2003, when U.S. President George W. Bush signed an executive order freezing the U.S. assets of several people organizations from the Balkans, including Puma.

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### NEWS FLASH

#### **EUFOR conducts searches in Banja Luka, Prijedor and Gradiska**

FENA

July 28, 2005 (14:03)

BANJA LUKA – Spokesperson for the RS Police Radovan Pejic told FENA that EUFOR is as of this morning searching the premises of the “Sector Security” agency in Banja Luka, Prijedor and Gradiska.

Slavisa Kronic from Banja Luka is the owner of “Sector Security”.

Pejic confirmed that in accordance with its mandate EUFOR is conducting such operations in order to discover possible anti-Dayton behaviour and activities.

Competent police stations have been informed about the searches in Banja Luka, Prijedor and Gradiska and at the request of EUFOR they have sent patrols that are present at the scene.

Pejic reminded that the police patrols are not participating in the searches by that they are regulating traffic and creating conditions for the uninterrupted work of EUFOR members on the ground.

He confirmed that based on the information from the ground there have been no incidents during these searches.

EUFOR will provide all the details at the end of the operation.

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NEWS FLASH

### **EUFOR searched "Puma Security" premises at Siroki Brijeg**

FENA

July 28, 2005 (14:09)

MOSTAR – EUFOR has searched the premises of the security firm "Puma Security" at Široki Brijeg this morning.

During the search, that ended at about 11:00 hrs, certain documents were seized. The purpose of the search was monitoring the operations of security agencies in BiH.

Also, EUFOR has blocked the "Puma security" branches at Čapljina and Mostar where the search is still underway.

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NEWS FLASH

### **EUFOR action in Stolac and Trebinje as well**

FENA

July 28, 2005 (14:17)

MOSTAR – EUFOR action of searching the premises of the security firm "Puma Security" is also going on at the Stolac branch of this agency – the Canton 7 Ministry of the Interior confirms.

Also, it is unofficially reported that EUFOR has blocked the "Puma security" branch in Trebinje.

EUFOR action is still going on in Mostar and Čapljina.

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NEWS FLASH

### **EUFOR conducts search of security companies in BiH**

FENA

July 28, 2005 (14:25)

SARAJEVO – EUFOR is conducting operation in security companies throughout BiH on Thursday, EUFOR confirmed to FENA.

The operations are aimed at establishing whether these companies are working in accordance with the Dayton Agreement.

The operations are still ongoing and their duration will depend on what is discovered, EUFOR stated.

FENA was informed that EUFOR started a search of the SWORD security company in Sarajevo's Breka block at 08:00 this morning.

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### NEWS FLASH

#### **EUFOR seizes certain objects from “Sector Security” in Banja Luka**

July 28, 2005 (14:33)

BANJA LUKA – EUFOR seized a certain number of objects from the “Sector Security” company in Banja Luka, which they searched together with the premises of this company in Prijedor and Gradiska this morning, spokesperson for the Multinational Operational Group Northwest Chris Evans told FENA.

In the interest of the investigation he was unable to provide more details, but did confirm that EUFOR personnel interviewed employees in the “Sector” office in Banja Luka.

The EUFOR operation is aimed at establishing whether “Sector Security” and other security companies in BiH are working in accordance with the Dayton Agreement and to check weapons used by this security company in Banja Luka.

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