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Contact: Andy McGuffie +377 (0)44 509 536

Statement by the ICO spokesperson on north Mitrovicë/Mitrovica

Commenting on the fatal incident in north Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, ICO Spokesperson Andy McGuffie said today:

“The ICO joins the Prime Minister and the Kosovo institutions in expressing deep sorrow about the fatal incident caused by an explosion in North Mitrovicë/Mitrovica today. Our thoughts are with the family and we convey our condolences.

“This tragic incident happened during an otherwise peaceful protest in north Mitrovicë/Mitrovica today. Protests are a democratic right as long as they are peaceful. Violent behaviour is not an acceptable part of a democratic culture. A thorough investigation has to follow and any perpetrators have to be brought to justice.

“The ICO supports the opening of the Civil Services Centre by the Kosovo institutions today and we see no reason for anyone to be threatened by this office. It offers much needed services by the Kosovo institutions for all citizens to acquire civil documents. There is no question of any citizen being forced to use the office – it is for the convenience of the citizens who wish to obtain civil documentation.”Ends