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PUBLIC ORDER DISTURBANCES IN BASRAH - UPDATE

Following the public order disturbances yesterday (22 March) we can confirm that the situation in Basrah today remains calm but tense, and normal routine patrols of the area continue.

The 14 British soldiers who were injured during the incident were from 16 Battery 26 Regiment Royal Artillery, D Company 1st Battalion Light Infantry and 156 Provost Company RMP. All are recovering and are reported to be stable. It is probable that some of the injured will be returned to the UK for further treatment but we are unable to provide any further details. We can, however, confirm that despite the dramatic pictures taken during the incident none of those injured sustained burns injuries.

Major Tim Smith, the military spokesman in Basra, said

“We are obviously pleased that all of those injured in the incident are recovering well. The lack of burns injuries highlights that all our personnel were correctly equipped and trained to deal with this situation.

“While we fully respect the rights of the Iraqi people to demonstrate peacefully, we will not tolerate criminal actions by a small minority. We are working closely with the Iraqi Police to investigate the incident and to try and identify the troublemakers.

“The aim now is to concentrate on returning to normal and allowing the people of Basrah to continue with their lives.”

Ends

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