

**Headquarters (Multi National Division) South East
British Forces Post Office 641**

PRESS INFORMATION CENTRE

Email: picbasrah@defencemediaops.co.uk

29 March 2004

BASRA UNREST

There was a small public order incident in Central Basrah this morning (29 March) which was as a result of the eviction of illegal tenants from some local government offices.

The incident involved violence against some British soldiers who took the appropriate action and brought the situation quickly under control. The incident lasted for a total of 25 minutes and resulted in two baton rounds being fired. No tear gas was used.

There were two British soldiers who have received minor injuries and are now receiving treatment.

Major Tim Smith, the British Military Spokesman in Basrah said:

“British soldiers quickly took appropriate action against the provocation and rapidly brought the incident under control. The incident in fact lasted for just over 20 minutes and is now being investigated by the Iraqi Police and Royal Military Police. I can confirm that British soldiers fired two baton rounds but no tear gas was used”.

“We take all incidents seriously, however this incident was small and as a result of a particular circumstance rather than being connected with any other incidents”.

Ends

For further information please call:

PIC Basra – 00964780 109 6097 (from UK), or 0780 109 6097 (from Iraq)

Or

Ministry of defence Press Office (London) on +44 207 218 2206