

Gz.:Pol 507.00 Note No. 36/2009

The Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the honour referring to note verbal LA/COD/4 dated 31 December 2008 and with reference to the General Assembly resolution 63/126 of 11 December 2008, entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives" to transmit the following information by the German Government:

"Attacks by violent demonstrators on 21 February 2008 severely damaged the German Embassy in Belgrade, put the lives of diplomatic staff of the Embassy in danger and injured one person. One of the Embassy's security officers was injured on the hand by a stone which had been thrown. Attempts were made to tear out the iron grille in front of the Embassy entrance. The glass was broken in Embassy windows, iron bars were bent, the fence demolished and the police hut outside the building burnt down. Demonstrators were able to access the Embassy grounds unimpeded.

The Serbian police units detailed to protect the German Embassy that day had suddenly been withdrawn, with the result that the chancery building was without protection against the violent demonstrators for almost one hour. As was the case at other diplomatic missions in Belgrade, the attacks by the demonstrators followed immediately after the withdrawal of police protection.

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