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UN-force being disbanded

The Danish government will withdraw from the Danish based SHIRBRIG reaction force – a disgrace, according to the President of the UN Association, Jørgen Estrup.

The Liberal-Conservative government will withdraw from the UN reaction force SHIRBRIG. The force was established more than 10 years ago on Danish initiative. SHIRBRIG even has its headquarter in Denmark – in Høvelte Barracks. The Danish government has written a letter – co-signed by the Nordic countries Sweden, Norway and Finland – to the other 12 member countries. In this letter it is suggested that the brigade should be disbanded – allegedly because it has not been used enough and because a number of member countries have failed to provide the pledged forces. The future of the brigade will be decided on a meeting 18 November. Denmark and the other Nordic countries have already declared that no matter if the other countries are in favor of disbandment, the Nordic countries will pull out of SHIRBRIG in the near future. Then SHIRBRIG's days seem to be numbered.

A disgrace

The upcoming disbandment is denounced by the UN Association on its meeting this weekend.

- It is a disgrace. The disbandment of SHIRBRIG will totally ruin the Danish image. Both in the relationship to the UN and to Africa that was very happy for the SHIRBRIG missions in Eritrea/Ethiopia, Sudan, The Ivory Coast and Liberia, says the President of the UN Association Jørgen Estrup to Ekstrabladet.dk.
- Unfortunately the disbandment of SHIRBRIG fits to well into the Liberal/Conservative foreign policy, where it is preferred to walk hand-in-hand with Bush – instead of using UN, Estrup points out.