



Division of Public Information

MEDIA MONITORING Headlines

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Main Stories

8 March 2010

- Without “some sort” of recognition of Kosovo, Serbia cannot enter EU (*Koha*)
- 150.000 signatures in Albin Kurti’s defense (*dailies*)
- ICO supports KFOR for “breaching” with KSF (*Koha*)
- Thaçi: Division of Kosovo, division of the entire Balkans (*dailies*)
- Merging with the LDD, not a coalition (*Express*)
- Plus of the week: Liberal Serbs of Kosovo (*Koha*)
- Agreement is reached on construction of Morinë-Besi highway (*Express*)
- Dacic contests Kosovo’s participation at Tirana Conference (*Koha*)

Kosovo Media Highlights

Without “some sort” of recognition of Kosovo, Serbia cannot enter EU (*Koha*)

Koha Ditore reports in the leading story that EU diplomats in Brussels are not too concerned about Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic’s statement that “if Serbia should choose between EU and Kosovo, it will choose Kosovo”. EU diplomats in Brussels said they got used to “strong” statements by the Serbia Foreign Minister and added that such statements were more damaging for Serbia than the EU.

Commenting Jeremic’s statement, an unnamed EU diplomat quoted a saying by U.S. diplomat Richard Holbrooke that “Serbia should choose EU and not Kosovo. If it chooses Kosovo it will lose both”.

“You can see it now Kosovo is recognized by the majority of EU countries, while Serbia has not yet started the integration process into the EU, because its application is not yet in the Agenda,” said the diplomat.

EU high ranking diplomats said that “considering that right now Serbia is not conditioned with formal recognition of the state of Kosovo, it is illusionary to believe that Serbia without some sort of recognition can forward in the EU membership process.”

150.000 signatures in Albin Kurti’s defense (dailies)

All dailies report on the front pages that the council against the trial of Vetëvendosje leader Albin Kurti have managed to collect 150.000 signatures in Kurti’s defense. On behalf of the council, Igballe Rugova and Valon Murati told reporters on Sunday that Kurti should not be tried and that there should be an investigation into the killings of 10 February 2007.

“The petition will be submitted to the President, Prime Minister and to Assembly Speaker Jakup Krasniqi; with the latter we will request a special meeting, from which we will request that now not only in the name of council but also in the name of 150,000 Kosovo citizens, to assign an extraordinary session of the Assembly to address these requests,” said Valon Murati, Council activist.

ICO supports KFOR for “breaching” with KSF (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that the armed appearance at the “KLA Epopee” ceremony, cost Kosovo Security Force with the loss, at least temporary, of training mentoring and support of the NATO mission in Kosovo, KFOR. The rage of internationals, who consider that the KSF Guard of Honor does not have competencies to appear as an army, has even increased reports this daily. On Sunday, KFOR Commander’s decision to temporarily suspend support for KSF, has been supported also by the International Civilian Office, as the most powerful authority on implementation of interpretation of Ahtisaari’s Package, based on which Kosovo has declared its independence.

Thaçi: Division of Kosovo, division of the entire Balkans (dailies)

Dailies report that Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, commenting on claims about preparations for talks between Kosovo and Serbia, said that division of Kosovo would open the issue of changes of borders in the Balkans; therefore no one is interested to open this issue. “Kosovo’s territorial integrity is untouchable, recognized and guaranteed internationally, and Kosovo, with these borders, will integrate in NATO and EU,” said Thaçi. He added that Kosovo is ready to discuss improvement of relations with Serbia, but he would never accept to discuss on Kosovo’s status.

Merging with the LDD, not a coalition (Express)

Express reports that the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) is expecting the Democratic League of Dardania (LDD) to merge with them and not to form a coalition as LDD leader Nexhat Daci has suggested recently. Unnamed sources from the LDK told the paper that the party will delay the answer to the LDD as long as possible and then ultimately call on the LDD to return to rejoin them.

Commenting on when LDK leader Fatmir Sejdiu would respond to LDD leader Daci, Gani Geci, member of the LDD presidency, was quoted as saying, “Neither the presidency nor Fatmir Sejdiu are asked in the LDK anymore. Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi has a very strong say in the LDK nowadays. If the Prime Minister gives the green light, they will call us. If he doesn’t give the green light, the issue will be delayed.”

Plus of the week: Liberal Serbs of Kosovo (*Koha Ditore*)

In its plus of the week column, the paper reports that at a tribune organized by the Liberals Group of the European Parliament, representatives of the Serb Liberal Independent Party (SLS) from Kosovo said that there is growing support among Kosovo Serbs for cooperation with Kosovo institutions.

In his address to the tribune, SLS leader Slobodan Petrovic highlighted the importance of Brussels’ engagement and especially Liberals from the European Parliament. The paper also notes that Liberals in Serbia too have said that Serbia should abandon the idea of ruling Kosovo.

Agreement is reached on construction of Morinë-Besi highway (*Express*)

Express reports in the leading front-page story that the Kosovo Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications and Bechtel Company have reached an agreement to build the Morinë-Besi highway. According to the paper, the contract will be signed on Thursday. The highway will be built by being divided in certain segments and it will cost around €700 million.

Dacic contests Kosovo’s participation at Tirana Conference (*Koha*)

Koha Ditore reports that Serbia’s Minister of Internal Affairs, Ivica Dacic, said on Saturday in Belgrade that Serbia’s requests for participation of UNMIK representative at the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Field of Security of Borders in Southeastern Europe, has been fulfilled. According to Dacic, Kosovo has not signed the conclusions, because it participated only as a guest. “Kosovo and Metohija is not part of the process that concerns border security in Southeastern Europe and until now, it has not participated in any conference organized by the Swiss Center for democratic control of the armed forces (DCAF). Seven such conferences have taken place so far, all in the fields of border cooperation in Southeastern Europe,” said Dacic, for *Beta* news agency.

Kosovo’s Minister of Internal Affairs, Zenun Pajaziti, has denied the announcements of his homologue, reports this daily.

Kosovo Press Headlines

Koha Ditore

Front page

Without “some sort” of recognition of Kosovo, Serbia cannot join EU
Dacic contests Kosovo’s participation in the conference
ICO supports KFOR for ruining relations with KSF
150.000 signatures in Albin Kurti’s defense
Unattractive offer for “Kosova e Re”

Other headlines

Plus of the week: Liberal Serbs of Kosovo (2)

Minus of the week: KSF (2)

Second minus of the week: Violence against reporters (2)

Palokaj: Hashim Thaçi should take with him the Prime Minister of Kosovo (10)

Zëri

Front page

No one will buy KEK

150.000 signatures against Kurti’s trial

Editorial: Letter to KFOR Commander!

Gjilan, for the third time

Other headlines

“Night of flames” concludes “KLA Epopee” (2)

Even after ICJ, Belgrade will continue to oppose Kosovo (2)

AAK doesn’t forget about Sejdiu (3)

Assembly doesn’t oblige government about the Strategy (4)

Kosova Sot

Front page

Kosovo properties were sold abroad

Editorial: NATO is wrong

Reformatting is forgotten, changes after elections

Kosovo to participate at EU Summit in Sarajevo

150.000 signatures against Kurti’s trial sent to the Assembly

Other headlines

KFOR suspends work with KSF (3)

PLL: The time has come for national unification (4)

Tadic: Both EU and Kosovo (4)

Epoka e Re

Front page

- **Gjilan returns to campaign**

- 150 thousand signatures against Kurti process
- Jasharaj's honoured, at state roots
- KFOR freezes relations with KSF

Other headlines

- Still without an agreement on Kosovo's representation in Slovenia (2)
- Tadic: Both, EU and Kosovo (2)
- Vujanovic: Serbia is accusing us without any grounds (2)
- Spain and Italy will look after Balkans more than ten years ago (4)
- Ambassador Durmishi handed over credentials (3)
- KEK defends interests of the workers (8)
- Feith and EULEX are exercising pressure, blackmail and political violence over Vitia municipality (11)

Express

Front page

- Agreement reached
- Merging, not a coalition
- KFOR becomes upset
- Maliqi: Abusing mediocracy

Other headlines

- Shala: Corruption of war against corruption (3)
- Elections at PSHDK (4)
- No agreement on name tags (5)
- Thaçi: Need for order (5)
- Parliament with a supporting role (6)
- Brdo as a test (6)
- Fire of remembrance (7)

Lajm

Front page

- Imposed tolerance
- If Kosovo is separated, Balkans is separated
- Hustle decision

Other headlines

- Tadic wishes aso EU and Kosovo! (2)
- Prekaz unites Albanians (2)
- Close to 150 thousand signatures for Kurti (3)

- **USA lobbies for visa removal (4)**
- **They earn millions, go away without paying their debts (7)**
- **Ora of Gjilan go with PDK (9)**

Bota Sot

Front page

- **Denial of Albanian existence in Kosovo**

Other headlines

- **Assembly to investigate killings of 10 February 2007 (3)**
- **No one can ask from as not to behave as a sovereign state (4)**
- **Teki Dervishi: KFOR is not NATO but it is UNMIK (5)**
- **Secret strategy for the north, unity of division? (8)**
- **Assembly cannot make obligatory the strategy for the north (11)**

Infopress

Front page

- **Warmth of freedom**

Other headlines

- **Resolution, a political game (2)**
- **Guns of KSF angry KFOR (3)**
- **With division of Kosovo, division of whole of Balkans (4)**

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