



Division of Public Information

MEDIA MONITORING Headlines

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Main Stories

5 February 2010

- **Ministry of Interior does not reach agreement with police (*dailies*)**
- **Hyseni invites Clinton to Kosovo (*dailies*)**
- **Spain supports visa liberalization for Kosovo (*Koha Ditore*)**
- **Russia: Strategy for the north is illegitimate (*dailies*)**
- **North against the strategy (*Zëri*)**
- **Serbs do not want KEK (*Zëri*)**
- **Correction officers to protest on Monday (*Koha Ditore*)**
- **ECAC recommends repeat of elections in Gjilan (*Koha Ditore*)**

Kosovo Media Highlights

Ministry of Interior does not reach agreement with police (*dailies*)

Koha Ditore reports that after hours of talks, the most that was offered to the unhappy policemen was €20, as opposed to an earlier promise of doubling salaries. The Ministry of Interior Affairs (MIA) has managed to convince some of the strikers, but not the majority, and has failed to reach an agreement with them. According to a source who attended the meeting, the Minister of Interior Zenun Pajaziti was ordered by Prime Minister Thaçi to not leave the training centre without reaching an agreement with the police officers. “The Minister said in the meeting that an agreement must be reached. He said that the Prime Minister had demanded that the strike be stopped, and that an agreement be reached by any means, but we are not renouncing our demands,” said the source.

Bota Sot carries a statement from the AAK which states that the situation at the Kosovo Police is not good, and that the party fully sympathizes with the demands of the police officers, which the AAK considers to be legitimate. In a different article, the paper also reports that police units from Ferizaj and Mitrovica have also joined the protest.

Lajm reports that Pajaziti and Police Director Sheremet Ahmeti did not manage to convince the protesters to end the strike, but that the Government's offer of a 50% pay increase has begun to split the protesting police officers.

Hyseni invites Clinton to Kosovo (dailies)

While taking part in the traditional Morning Prayer in Washington, Foreign Minister Skender Hyseni met with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. According to a press release issued by the Kosovo Foreign Ministry, Clinton and Hyseni discussed progress in Kosovo, and Hyseni shared some concerns on the situation in Kosovo, particularly the various obstacles it faces. He also used the opportunity to invite Secretary Clinton to pay a visit to Kosovo; the visit is expected to take place during this year.

Spain supports visa liberalization for Kosovo (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports many European Parliamentarians continue to insist that efforts to remove visa requirements for Kosovo be made as soon as possible, so that Kosovo citizens can receive the same as those of other countries of the region. However, for Kosovo, the dictionary is always different, and at present, a forecast cannot be given as to when and how this goal can be achieved.

On Thursday, this question was raised to Spanish Foreign Minister Angel Miguel Moratinos, whose country currently has the rotating EU leadership. The question was asked by Green Party Austrian parliamentarian Ulrike Lunacek: "I am sorry, as a reporter on Kosovo, that Spain has not recognized Kosovo, but I congratulate you and thank you for your readiness to call state representatives to the conference (Sarajevo). I have also heard that your country supports facilitation of the visa liberalization process and is ready to do the next step for Kosovo. Can you tell us if you are ready to begin as soon as possible?"

Moratinos replied: "Most member states have recognized Kosovo independence. We continue with our position, but we respect that of other countries and we are trying to be constructive so as to achieve progress. We do not have a problem when it comes to citizens. We do not wish to place obstacles in the path of free movement. The European perspective is something that we wish to support, and we have no difficulty with addressing the issue of facilitating visa liberalization," said Moratinos.

Russia: Strategy for the north is illegitimate (dailies)

Koha Ditore reports that the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has criticized the Strategy for Northern Kosovo, considering that this does not fall under the mandate of the European Union Special Representative. "This document was drafted by the Office of the EU Special Representative, Pieter Feith, whom the countries that have recognized Kosovo independence consider as the International Civilian Representative (ICR)," Belgrade media quoted Russian Ministry official Andrej Nestorenko as saying. Nestorenko stated that the leading role for resolution of Kosovo problem belongs to the UN Security Council, adding that this is clearly set out in resolution 1244, which continues to be in force. He stressed that the authoritative functions for

the fulfillment of the civilian mission in Kosovo belong to the chief of the UN mission.

“The UN Security Council has not authorized the EU representative to draft practical solutions for Kosovo,” said the Russian diplomat. According to Belgrade media, Nesterenko said that Moscow does not consider the Office of International Civilian Representative, based on Marti Ahtisaari’s Plan, to be legitimate since the Ahtisaari Plan was not approved by the Security Council. “Furthermore, the strategy for the north of Kosovo has not been harmonized and confirmed even within EU,” Nestorenko was quoted as saying. “It is a completely private initiative that does not represent any basis for action,” said Nesterenko.

North against the strategy (Zëri)

Zëri reports on a meeting which took place in north Mitrovica which gathered representatives of the Serb community, officials from the Serb Radical Party and Serb Orthodox cleric Bishop Artemije. The conclusion from the meeting was that the strategy for the north cannot be implemented and will be faced with Serb opposition. Kosovo Serb leader Marko Jaksic called on Mitrovica Serbs to stand united and not to allow implementation of the strategy. Participants also criticized Serbian President Boris Tadic and Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic for, as they said, their unprincipled policy toward Kosovo.

Serbs do not want KEK (Zëri)

The group for resolution of disputing issues in the energy network in Kosovo territory, an organization which the paper calls a parallel structure, has called on the international community to allow for the functioning of a second energy operator in Kosovo. “The project should be supported, and electricity should be paid,” said the head of the group Radenko Nedeljkovic.

Correction officers to protest on Monday (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that members of the Kosovo Correctional Service Kosovo appear to have been encouraged by the strike of specialized police units over the last three days and are likely to protest on Monday and make demands for a salary increase and improved working conditions. Union chief Zenun Sadikaj said on Thursday that the protest is a done deal and that it can only be annulled if demands are met. The union has forwarded its demands to Minister of Justice Nekibe Kelmendi, Ministry of Justice Secretary Florian Dushi, and to Prison Commissioner Resmi Hoxha.

ECAC recommends repeat of elections in Gjilan (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that the Election Commissions for Appeals and Complaints (ECAC) recommended to the Central Election Commission that a repeat of voting be carried out in Gjilan. ECAC made this decision on Thursday, two days after the Kosovo Supreme Court annulled the previous decision of this body. “ECAC has received complaints regarding Gjilan for serious irregularities in 21 polling stations,” says the ECAC decision.

Kosovo Press Headlines

Koha Ditore

Front page

- U.S. intelligence: Kosovo remains a source of tension
- Ministry of Interior does not reach agreement with police
- Government officials/MPs retroactively receive €13,000
- Hyseni invites Clinton to Kosovo
- ECAC again recommends elections in Gjilan
- Spain supports visa liberalization for Kosovo

Other headlines

- Russia: Strategy for the north is illegitimate (3)
- Correction officers to protest on Monday (4)
- Government, generous with new Serb municipalities (5)
- LDK: Gjilan problem has not yet been resolved (6)
- Peja Deputy Mayor does not recognize Kosovo independence (6)
- Kosovars pay up to €5,000 for Serbian biometric passports (7)
- 'Nectar' and 'Takovo' juices allowed into market (8)

Zëri

Front page

- The north against the strategy
- Police boycott continues
- No decision on 'Llamkos', workers to take to the streets

Other headlines

- Clinton confirms strong support (2)
- ECAC again decides on elections in Gjilan (2)
- Fischer congratulates Sejdiu (2)
- Caribbean countries consider recognition (2)
- Thaçi to address International Steering Group (3)
- Serbs do not want KEK (18)

Kosova Sot

Front page

- €450 million for highway

- **Quint, diplomatic slap to Serbia**
- **Marathon meeting ends without agreement**
- **PAK: Three Brezovica enterprises to be privatized**
- **Editorial: Police's patience runs thin**

Other headlines

- **Concerns about the north (2)**
- **€2.1 million for new municipalities (2)**
- **Thaçi to report to Vienna (3)**
- **Haradinaj meets Berisha in Tirana (4)**
- **Peci presents credentials to Swedish King (4)**
- **Fischer: Happy Independence Day, Kosovo (4)**
- **Gjini: All black (4)**

Epoka e Re

Front page

- **What is happening in ECAC?**
- **Hillary Clinton to visit Kosovo**
- **Mustafa: I won the battle**
- **Rexhepi requests re-vote in Gjilan**

Other headlines

- **Thaçi to speak about Kosovo's successes in Vienna (2)**
- **Belgrade to change its stance on Kosovo (2)**
- **Jeremic: ICJ decision will favour of Serbia (2)**
- **Hyseni: ICJ will confirm Kosovo independence (5)**
- **Defence to appeal "Llapi Group" verdict (5)**
- **CEC to publish official results for Prizren and Lipjan today (6)**
- **No agreement (7)**
- **Ferizaj police officers join protest (7)**
- **Mitrovica police officers join their colleagues in Pristina (7)**
- **Novobërdo Serbs without agreement on deputy mayor (8)**

Express

Front page

- **A hopeless strike**
- **At the Steering Group**
- **Threatening with re-voting**
- **Additional arrests**

Other headlines

- **Mirena: Morbid traps (2)**
- **Kurti: Differentiate producers from tradesmen (3)**
- **Haradinaj meets Berisha (4)**
- **Jeremic convinced of victory (4)**
- **Fischer congratulates Sejdiu (4)**
- **Quint irritated (4)**
- **European Union challenges (5)**
- **Greetings from Washington (5)**
- **Kuçi: Serbs in the north want law and order (6)**
- **Millions for new municipalities (6)**

Lajm

Front page

- **(Without)agreement**

Other headlines

- **Pacolli: Success and vision of AKR (2)**
- **ICJ will confirm Kosovo independence (3)**
- **They meet next? (3)**
- **Last warning for Serbia (3)**
- **Words, only words (5)**
- **Meat without control (6)**
- **Smuggling continues in the north (12)**

Bota Sot

Front page

- **Kosovo in total uncertainty, police in general strike!**

Other headlines

- **LDK: Gjilan issue is not over (3)**
- **EU is changing the course toward Serbia (4)**
- **Ashton: Kosovo is one of EU's main challenges (4)**
- **Protests, one reason for Thaçi to give red cards top Pajaziti and Nushi (5)**
- **Teki Dervishi: Do not do strike and protest – because they will kill you! (5)**
- **Kuçi: Our determination is stronger than the reaction of Serbs (7)**
- **Quint warns Belgrade about the campaign against them (7)**

InfoPress

Front page

- **No agreement**

Other headlines

- **Prime Minister to speak before ISG (2)**
- **Prizren capital number 2 (3)**
- **Kosovo objectives in its second year of statehood (4)**
- **Ashton: EU divided on Kosovo (4)**
- **Clinton to visit Kosovo this year (5)**

Disclaimer

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