



Division of Public Information

## **MEDIA MONITORING Headlines**

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### **Main Stories**

**2 February 2010**

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- **Hope and skepticism about the strategy for the north (*Koha Ditore*)**
- **Rasmussen: NATO supports any strategy for integration in Kosovo (*dailies*)**
- **Serbs in the north appeal for boycott (*Zëri*)**
- **Murati: UNMIK, EULEX and the will of the people (*Koha Ditore*)**
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- **Kosovo uniforms, MUP scenarios (*Lajm*)**

### **Kosovo Media Highlights**

#### **Zannier concerned about the north (*Koha Ditore*)**

On the front page, *Koha Ditore* carries an interview with head of UNMIK Lamberto Zannier in which he says that the UN mission in Kosovo will continue to function in accordance with resolution 1244, while maintaining a status-neutral stance. According to the paper, Zannier also said that UNMIK's office in the north will not close for an indefinite period and that it will stay functional until there is another long-term solution acceptable for all communities.

“UNMIK's office in north Mitrovica is a tool that enables the functioning of a local administration that is accepted by the population and linked with the Kosovo budget. As such, it keeps this part in the Kosovo sphere. And this can be done in a neutral way. And it is normal that on the day when a long-term and sustainable solution is found to organize the local administration, in any way acceptable to all the parties and especially for the local population, then there will be no need to this office to function,” said Zannier.

Further in the interview, Zannier revealed the stance about the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade, possible scenarios after the declaration of the advisory opinion of the ICJ, international positions, relations with the leaders of Kosovo and challenges which Kosovo is facing. Zannier said that he is personally concerned about the north because he feels that there is potential for instability. The key for progress, according to him, is promotion of ethnic reconciliation and enforcement of multi-ethnic institutions and because of this, as he says, UNMIK's presence is needed.

### **Hope and skepticism about the strategy for the north (*Koha Ditore*)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that the strategy for integration of north of Kosovo which is being drafted by the International Civilian Office (ICO) and Kosovo Government continues to be seen from different point of views in Mitrovica. While Mitrovica municipal officials and several local representatives in the north consider the strategy to be a new approach and are hopeful it could lead to dissolving of parallel structures and establishment of normality in the north, for others such a development is more of a déjà-vu.

Serb representatives opposed the strategy. Milan Ivanovic head of Serb National Council in the north said that the implementation of the strategy will result in an escalation and destabilization of the security situation. According to him, the Serb structures there are not parallel or illegal. Meantime, Serb State Secretary in the Ministry for Kosovo, Oliver Ivanovic has stated that Serb institutions in Kosovo are the only one which Serbs trust. "Nothing can be imposed to us," said Ivanovic, while rejecting this document which aims at solving the north knot.

### **Rasmussen: NATO supports any strategy for integration in Kosovo (*dailies*)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that the number of NATO troops in Kosovo has been reduced to 10,200 as decided by NATO defense ministers in June of last year. NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen confirmed this during a press conference in Brussels, where he spoke about the priorities of the Alliance. Among these priorities, Rasmussen mentioned Afghanistan, Kosovo and plans to draft a new NATO strategic concept.

Answering to the question of *Koha Ditore* on whether NATO supports the strategy for the north of Kosovo, the Secretary General of the Alliance said that "NATO would support any strategy that would help security and stability of Kosovo, including those for integration of all communities in Kosovar society."

### **Serbs in the north appeal for boycott (*Zëri*)**

The paper writes that the Provisional Administrative Organ established by the Serbian Government has criticized the joint document of the Kosovo Government and the International Civilian Office for integration of the north by saying it is in conflict to the UN Security Council resolution 1244. Calling the Provisional Administrative Organ illegal, the paper further says that the statements were made at a press conference in Mitrovica north. Officials of this body also called on the education staff

and civil servants not to accept salaries from the Kosovo Budget and to boycott all Kosovo institutions.

### **Murati: UNMIK, EULEX and the will of the people (*Koha Ditore*)**

In an op-ed for the paper, Valon Murati says that at the time of its installment in Kosovo, UNMIK was greeted enthusiastically by the majority population of Kosovo but the fact that the mission operated based on a resolution that recognized Serbia's sovereignty on Kosovo led to the mission very starting to disappoint the people. Murati says UNMIK was not as such responsible for the situation but the problem lied with resolution 1244. Similarly, the people of Kosovo were enthusiastic over the deployment of EULEX but the mission did not have a good start as it was decided it would function on the basis of the six-point agreement between UNMIK and Serbia.

### **We will not break the coalition (*Kosova Sot*)**

*Kosova Sot* reports that the both partners of coalition, PDK and LDK, after the re-voting process in two municipalities have soften tensions on the issue of reviewing the ruling coalition. Government spokesman Memli Krasniqi said that the elections in the local level continue to be separate from the Government in the central level. "The issue of reformatting of the government was and continues to be a separate process from the electoral process," said Krasniqi, but he did not exclude the possibility of reformatting the government, which can happen in the near future.

Deputy Head of LDK Lutfi Haziri said that what was decided on 17 November remains in principle as criteria between the two political parties which constitute the large coalition, while not questioning the position for a possible refreshment of the government. "LDK will carefully evaluate the closing of the election process, because we also have to do with the implementation of the result which is not an easy process, but we believe that certification of the results, closure of Gjilan case, opening of Istog case are issues which are forcing us to deal directly with those issues, but LDK will discuss the issue of coalition in due time," said Haziri.

### **LDK version for their defeat (*Express, Lajm*)**

*Express* reports that the vice-president of the Democratic League of Kosovo Lutfi Haziri, speaking about the reasons for their loss of municipal elections in Prizren and Lipjan, said that PDK had available all governing resources as well as the support of AKR and minority parties. He does not consider that there are faults within his party, however he says that they would accept the results and congratulate the winner. Despite all the facts, Haziri said that LDK would not "divorce from Hashim Thaçi."

*Lajm* reports that LDK has retracted its previous announcements that it would reconsider its position at the Government after January 31. Dailies also report that AKR spokesperson Arbër Geci, said yesterday at a press conference that his party considers being meritorious for PDK's victories in Prizren and Lipjan.

### **Mesic: We only recognized the reality (*dailies*)**

Dailies report that Croatia's outgoing President Stipe Mesic, announced that recognition of Kosovo's independence was recognition of reality and added that Croatia should keep correct relations with Kosovo. Mesic said that he could not be blamed for tensions between Croatia and Serbia, because Croatia has not done anything wrong, except for recognizing the reality regarding Kosovo and added that no one is forcing Serbia to do so.

### **Kosovo uniforms, MUP scenarios (Lajm)**

The recent incident in the north Mitrovica that led to the arrest of seven people, including two Kosovo Police officers of Serb community, has increased concerns with the Albanian residents living in the north, the paper reports. According to the report, the residents feel threatened and insecure over the behavior of the Serb members of the Kosovo Police whom they say are suspected of being involved in different criminal acts.

## **Kosovo Press Headlines**

### **Koha Ditore**

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- **Muharremi and Ahmeti don't congratulate Muja and Buja**
- **The 20% begins to be delivered without waiting for complaints**
- **Rasmussen: NATO supports any strategy for integration in Kosovo**

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### **Zëri**

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- **Passive diplomacy**

- **Editorial: Letter to LDK**

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### ***Kosova Sot***

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- **No, we won't break the coalition**
- **Insurance companies destroy competition**
- **Editorial: Less and less soldiers**

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- **NATO supports strategy for the north**
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- **Blair: I got Britain into war in Kosovo (2)**
- **Ministers Hyseni and Shala in Washington (2)**

- Mesic: Independent Kosovo, we recognized the reality (2)
- AKR votes helped PDK's victory (3)
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## **Express**

### Front page

- LDK version on the reasons for loss
- We are waiting for the promise
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- Hamzaj: LDK's dream (3)
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### Front page

- LDK softens

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- London will continue the campaign for Kosovo recognition (2)
- AKR part of the victory (3)
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- Two-year anniversary without expenses (5)
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## **Bota Sot**

### Front page

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- **Fund for integration of the north (5)**
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### **Front page**

- **Realistic result**

### **Other headlines**

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