



# Newsletter

Crime Analysis

## Promising Crime Trends for the Year

The crime figures for the year 2001 reflect a definite move towards normalcy in Kosovo. Two significant trends stand out: a decline in violent crimes and an increase in property crimes. **Murders** have fallen this year

to steal from each other than they were when faced with a common external enemy.

Cases of **rapes and attempted rapes** have gone up by about 18%. An increase in crime figures in this case does not necessarily imply that there has been more of the crime this year. Simply that more cases of rapes have been reported to the police. This indicates growing public confidence in the Police and greater willingness of women to report such crimes.

**Drugs offences** have increased

### ARRESTS

- » Overall arrests have increased marginally across Kosovo
- » Number of arrests have gone down marginally in Gnjilane and substantially in Pristina
- » Arrests have increased substantially in Prizren, Pec and Mitrovica

### ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

- » 8731 accidents - maximum in Pristina, followed by Pec, Gnjilane, Prizren & Mitrovica in that order
- » 131 of these have been fatal accidents accounting for 159 deaths
- » 23% of the victims who died were pedestrians, about 13% of them youths

by more than half from the preceding year. Attempted murders by about 20%. **Kidnappings** have shown a marginal decline by about 6%. Cases of **Arson**, a violent crime against property, have fallen by 58%.

While **car thefts** have reduced by about half the previous year's figures, other kinds of **thefts** have gone up by about 34%. **Burglaries** remain at the same level and **robberies** have decreased by 12%. Increase in thefts, paradoxical though it may sound, is in fact an indicator of normalcy. As the conflict days are receding, people are going back to the basic human struggle for subsistence against scarce resources and are therefore more willing now

### CRIME ACTIVITY

- » Overall crime activity has decreased marginally
- » Crime activity has gone down substantially in Pristina & Prizren
- » Crime activity has increased marginally in Gnjilane & substantially in Pec

during the year by about 28%. This again does not indicate an increase in drug use but merely that greater police resources were dedicated for investigation of such crimes

this year, resulting in more number of drugs offences being recorded.

By and large, the overall crime pattern that is emerging in Kosovo is more akin to the kind of crime pattern we see in other parts of the world.

January 2002

## Assembly Security

**New Security Unit Formed For Kosovo Assembly**

UNMIK Police have drawn up a comprehensive plan to provide security for the new Kosovo Assembly that commenced its sessions from December.

The entire Government Building has been declared a weapons free area. No weapons are allowed inside. Armouries have been located at the two main entry points to the building.

All visitors are subject to a full search and weapons being carried by police, military or by licensed bodyguards are taken and securely stored. Each visitor is subject to a full body scan and all bags are screened.

Armed police are stationed at the entry points

and outside the building. Police on duty inside too are unarmed.

A force of about 100 Kosovo Police Service officers are responsible for security, acting under international supervision.

Kosovo Serbian members of the assembly are being provided personal protection from UNMIK Police as they travel to and from their duties.

Kosovo Albanian members

receive protection based on an individual assessment of their security. Initially UNMIK Police is providing this service. However, a Kosovo Police protection unit of nearly 200 officers is being trained and will eventually assume responsibility.



*Assembly Security Unit at Work*

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## **Good Police Work**

### **Murder Arrest - Decani**

In the morning of December 4th 2001, Decani was witness to a daring attack on a K-Albanian resident. At 9:10am, as 40 year-old Dobrunaj Avdi walked in the town center, he was shot three times in the chest and arm. Rushed to Decani hospital, he was declared dead on arrival.

The Regional Investigations Unit of the Pec Region has since been working on the case. In the night of 18 December, Police raided a house in Decani and arrested a 33 year-old K-Albanian male who is believed to be the prime suspect in the murder

### **Police Arrest Armed Robbers in Pec**

In the evening of 28 December at about 1930 hours in Pec, a responsible citizen informed a Police Patrol that Post Office # 5 on Decani road had been robbed by masked and armed suspects who had then fled towards the Karagac area.

In the meantime, another civilian informed Police that he had seen some armed persons with masks driving around in a Mercedes in the Sand Bridge area. The time he mentioned seeing them was shortly before the robbery happened. This witness had even noted the registration number of the suspect vehicle.

Immediately, the description of the suspects and their vehicle was flashed to police patrols throughout the Region and special vehicle checkpoints were set up. Finally, at 2030 hours, just one hour after the robbery, a KPS Patrol team located the suspect vehicle and arrested the three K-Albanian male suspects.

A good example of police-people cooperation.

## KPS Awards

**Kosovo Police Honour Their Brave**

On December 1st 2001, the Kosovo Police Service honoured six of their members for acts of bravery performed in serving their fellow citizens.

Lady Officer Ardita Fetahu was awarded the Medal of Valour for rescuing a pregnant woman and five children from the seventh floor of an apartment building on fire in Pristina, on 2 February 2000.

Officers Misin Shala, Ilir Krasniqi and Tafil Kryeziu also received the Medal of Valour. On February 9, 2001 in the village of Dragash a bomb had exploded in a five-storey apartment complex. On hearing cries for help, the 3 officers entered the complex and climbed over fallen concrete slabs and other debris. Disregarding the danger to their own life, they safely evacuated 10 to 20 elderly citizens and children, many of whom they

physically carried to safety.

In the early hours of 11 September 2001, in the village of PETROVCE, located in GNJILANE region, six armed criminals were attempting to steal cows and load them onto a vehicle. Officers Lazim Rexhepi and Avdullah Musliu, even though off-

duty, confronted the criminals. An exchange of fire followed in which both officers received gunshot wounds. Officer Rexhepi, who died of his injuries, became the first recipient of the KPS bravery awards when he was posthumously awarded the Police Shield Medal on September 13, the day of his funeral. Officer Musliu received the same

**KPS Awards & Decorations****Medal of Honour :**

- Highest award

For individual acts of extraordinary bravery against an armed opponent, performed in the line of duty at great risk of one's own life and above and beyond the call of duty.

**Medal of Valour :**

- For outstanding personal bravery in the line of duty at imminent personal hazard or risk

**Police Shield :**

- For one who suffers serious physical injury, or death, as a consequence of official police operations.

**Lifesaving Medal :**

- For intentionally saving, or attempting to save, the life of another at great risk to the officer's own life.

**Distinguished Service Medal****Police Commendation Medal****Faithful Service Medal**

} For continuous service of a distinguished or meritorious nature

award on December 1.

Officer Hajrullah Morina was awarded the Life Saving Medal for saving a citizen from drowning on July 19 2001.

## Airport Police Have a Job on Hand

**As the Young Want to Leave Kosovo (Illegally)**

Well aware of the sensitivity of their task, UNMIK Border Police Officers deployed at the Pristina Airport have been working diligently through the year with spectacular success.

Until the end of November this year, Airport Police had seized 2178 false documents with a monthly average of 198. Projecting that figure for December, we would have seized documents close to 2400 during this year.

These include passports, permits of stay, identity cards and so on. The difficulty of detecting the fraud can be appreciated by the fact that only about 25% of these documents were totally fake. Most others were genuine documents where the picture of the holder had been substituted or stolen blanks had been used to prepare the documents making detection extremely difficult.

The age profile of the perpetrators is somewhat disturbing, with 10% of them being under the age of 20 and 58% between the age of 20 and 30 years. They were all apprehended while seeking to leave Kosovo for various destinations in Europe.

# A I I E y e s O n M i t r o v i c a

## Rioting Targets KFOR

On Thursday 27 December at 2200 hours, a joint Police and KFOR search operation was launched simultaneously on two premises in North Mitrovica. The first search, that of a K-Serb residence, resulted in the seizure of a pistol and 50 rounds of ammunition and concluded without incident.

During the second search, which was conducted at the Café Bar 'July Seventh', the KFOR soldiers providing perimeter security to the searchers were attacked by a crowd of approximately 400 K-Serbs pelting rocks, bottles, snowballs and ice.

KFOR troops kept the crowd at bay through the use of tear gas and "flash-bang" grenades until the search was completed and the crowd dispersed.

Later, shortly after midnight, a KFOR patrol near the intersection of King Peter and Knjaza Milosa Streets came under attack by suspects who threw a hand grenade at them and began shooting. The grenade explosion injured one soldier but the attackers were driven off by return fire.

On the following morning UNMIK Police arrested a K-Serbian male for illegal possession of the weapon recovered during the search.

## Man Beaten to Death

On Wednesday 26 December at 1500 hours, UNMIK Police responded to a scene of a fight near

the Lux Market in South Mitrovica. A 39 year old Bosniac male was found lying unconscious and bleeding from the head.

He was transported to the hospital where he died of his injuries later that evening. During this time he never regained consciousness to be able to make a statement on the incident.

The victim, who had travelled by bus from Serbia on the day of the incident, had been assaulted by a group of unidentified male suspects for unknown motives. He had been

male victim from Montenegro who had been killed by gunfire in the driver's seat of his vehicle and a passenger from the same car who was uninjured.

The alleged suspect(s) fled the scene reportedly in a black Audi.

The Regional Investigation and Forensic Units are investigating the murder.

## Victim of Recklessness

At about 2200 hrs on 12 December, police stopped an over speeding motorist in Mitrovica and issued him a citation for speeding.

Undeterred by this, once outside the view of the police, the motorist continued driving at a high speed. Just ten minutes later, at Vucitrn, a K-Albanian woman was trying to cross the Pristina highway with her husband when this same car struck her, killing her instantly.

## Murder - Pristina

On 17 December at 3:30am Police responded to shooting at the Sports Centre in Pristina.

A 25 year-old K-Albanian male victim was found with serious bullet injuries. He later died of his injuries in Pristina Hospital.

The shooting appears to be the result of a quarrel between two groups of people. UNMIK Police have arrested four K-Albanian males suspected to be involved in the shooting. The investigating judge has ordered their detention for 30 days for further investigation.

## Death of UNMIK Police Officer

*In the night of 18th - 19th December, at the stroke of midnight 58 year old Officer Daniel Kyeremeh from Ghana died in Pristina hospital from complications arising from a stroke he suffered on December 4th.*

*A Chief Inspector of Police from the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana, Officer Kyeremeh arrived in Kosovo on the 5th of March 2001 and was serving as a patrol officer in Mitrovica North.*

*All of us in UNMIK Police extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and to the Ghanian Police community.*

beaten to death.

Even though the murder happened in full public view in a marketplace, witnesses are yet to come forward with information to the police.

## Highway Murder

At 1800 hrs on 21 December, UNMIK Police responded to the report of a shooting near a fuel station on the Zvecan highway.

Arriving units discovered a

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