

# UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

## Media Monitoring

# ▶ Local Media

## ▶ Media Analysis

**11 December**

### Press coverage on announcement of Standards for Kosovo (all dailies)

*All dailies reported that yesterday SRSB Harri Holkeri and Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi, in the company of President Ibrahim Rugova have made official the new guideline for Kosovo's future – the document called 'Standards for Kosovo'. The reports mostly reflect yesterday's events, commentaries are to be expected tomorrow.*

**Zëri** reports that the text of 'Standards before Kosovo', which is the new version of 'standards before status', has undergone some changes in comparison to the first plan announced by former SRSB Michael Steiner.

The paper also reports that Holkeri agreed to let local institutions play a role in the formulation of the final text. 'Every sentence is a challenge. Every sentence, because work is starting now. Now we must put in tremendous work, and after seeing the commitment of political leaders, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be able to send positive reports to the Security Council every three months,' Holkeri added.

At the announcing ceremony, SRSB Harri Holkeri was quoted as saying, 'Our task, together, is to prepare Kosovo for final status. There is now a date for a decision, but there is nothing inevitable about that decision. That decision depends on what is said and done here in Kosovo, because there is only one route to final status. And that is through progress on standards. For the first time, the document "Standards for Kosovo" sets out point-by-point what the standards mean. Here, in ten pages, is described in detail a society where people of all communities are respected, whatever their ethnic background, where they are free to travel, work and use their own languages, where the institutions of government serve all the people, in all of Kosovo, without discrimination, and where there is fair justice and security for everybody. Ask me what this means in reality, and it is described here.'

'What we are launching just now is a document without an introduction. We have not yet been able to agree on the introductory text. We shall continue our efforts to find an acceptable wording,' said Holkeri.

Commenting on the absence of Kosovo-Serb representatives, the UNMIK chief was quoted as saying, 'I want to say a word now about representatives of the Kosovo Serb community. I am sorry that they could not join us here today. I am sure though that they will continue their work with UNMIK and as part of the government to improve the living conditions for their community. Their work with us is an essential part of what the standards process is all about.'

Holkeri said it was easy to *say* what the standards mean but that it is harder to reach them.

Holkeri said that Kosovo has made enormous progress over the last four years. 'It is a more peaceful place; there is less violence. The government, led by Bajram Rexhepi, comprises all communities and is tackling the problems that Kosovo faces. But the standards are not yet achieved. To achieve them means change. Change will only come about if we work together. UNMIK and the government need to work more closely in partnership. The Prime Minister and I have agreed to start up a joint process to make policy to achieve these standards. Later this morning, he and I will chair the first joint meeting of the government and UNMIK. And we will get to work. Our first task will be to produce a joint plan to implement these standards. But change is not just about the government and UNMIK, documents and implementation plans. If standards are seen as just another exercise by the bureaucrats and diplomats in Pristina, we will have failed. Because the creation of a just and tolerant society is a task for all the people of Kosovo,' he added.

Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova said that the announcement of the plan was very important for Kosovo. 'For four years now, we have been working on the implementation of these standards, and now the time has come to evaluate these standards, to evaluate the progress in Kosovo. We think that standards should be gradually be evaluated by mid-2005, as foreseen by the international community. The evaluation should be done together with UNMIK, EU and the US,' Rugova added.

Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi is quoted as saying that the announcement of Standards for Kosovo is the most important event for Kosovo in its aims to become a democratic country in accordance with the European standards.

'We hope that through this plan we are going to ensure ourselves and all of Kosovo what we have lacked before, a clear guide for Kosovo, for our institutions, for UNMIK and for all citizens. With such a guide before us no one can find excuses for a lack of work, lack of responsibility or lack of trust in the capacities of the local institutions,' Rexhepi said.

*Zëri* reports that Rexhepi criticized former SRSG Michael Steiner, 'because he announced the idea of standards without the slightest consultation with the Kosovan institutions'. 'You [referring to UNMIK chief Holkeri] have decided to work on the issue of standards on the basis of equality and partnership. We hope that you are going to stick to this principle until the end and that every UNMIK official will follow this example,' Rexhepi added.

Rexhepi called on all Kosovan citizens to support the efforts of the government in fulfilling the standards, 'because without the support of every citizen, it is going to be

difficult to achieve the standards. The contribution of every citizen in the fulfillment of standards is a contribution to the status of Kosovo in accordance with the will of its citizens. We have not made this commitment only to please the requests of the international community, but also to improve our own lives and to put the Kosovan society on healthy and sustainable foundations’.

***Koha Ditore*** reports that Rexhepi thanked SRSG Holkeri as the person who has the greatest credit for why Kosovo has won a new guideline for the future – ‘Standards for Kosovo’. ‘I would like to personally thank chief administrator Holkeri for his commitment to this process,’ said Rexhepi.

***Koha Ditore*** also quotes Rexhepi as saying that the issue of funds is very important to be successful in the implementation of standards. ‘We hope that donors and Quint countries will provide their assistance. Others have also promised their assistance in the implementation of standards,’ he added.

### **UNMIK refuses suggestions of UN on applicable laws in standards plan (*Zëri*)**

***Zëri*** carries an exclusive story on developments before the launch of the plan on standards.

The international administration on Tuesday night was fully convinced that UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri and UNMIK personality responsible for standards Carne Ross, had achieved full agreement of the local leaders to officially launch the plan on December 10. The most problematic formulation ‘applicable laws’ that followed mentioning of the UNSC Resolution 1244 and the Constitutional Framework was removed from the final versions because UNMIK and Kosovar officials had agreed to do that. The experience with the ‘applicable laws’ during the privatization process is well known to everybody, therefore removal of troubles at the very beginning was a common point for the international and the locals.

Citing western diplomatic sources, ***Zëri*** claims that it won’t be long before SRSG Harri Holkeri will have to deal with the issue of ‘applicable laws’, because the Department for Peacekeeping Operations in New York will ask for the words ‘applicable laws’ to be re-included in the introduction of Standards for Kosovo. The same sources told the paper that UNMIK officials on the other hand do not understand why DPKO insists to have ‘applicable laws’ as an integral part of a political document, which in reality doesn’t have to contain parts from Resolution 1244 and the Constitutional Framework.

UNMIK leadership was aware what could happen in the solemn session of standards launch, if local politicians understood that despite Tuesday’s agreement, ‘applicable laws’ were returned to the final document. This was the reason why Holkeri and his team decided to respect results of the meeting with Albanian politicians from Tuesday’ night.

The solemn session increased frustrations of Holkeri, Brayshaw, Ross and other UNMIK officials. The absence of the Kosovo-Serb politicians who did not stop criticizing UNMIK’s plan, was followed by absence of the assembly speaker Nexhat

Daci and the AAK leader Ramush Haradinaj. They [UNMIK officials] expressed disappointment with Daci and Haradinaj's abstention. The latter had supported the plan in meeting with Holkeri, while Haradinaj seems to stay faithful to his position.

Immediately after the session Holkeri, Brayshaw and Ross seized opportunity and in the presence of the Quint countries representatives (five main western countries that are represented in Prishtina, the US, UK, Germany, France, Italy) had an informal meeting. They presented recent problems in the relations between UNMIK and DPKO. UNMIK needed the support of the west in order to achieve progress on the issue that the 'applicable laws' shouldn't be included in the plan. *Zëri* reliable sources claimed that Holkeri gained a full support of the five main western countries. As it is known, these countries are also members of the Contact Group that has already given to UNMIK the green light to remove all eventual obstacles. Thus, it seems that the first serious obstacle in the first day of the standards launch has been overcome.

**Ross: Fulfillment of standards is possible (Java)**

*Weekly Java conducted an interview with Carne Ross, Strategy Coordinator in the office of SRSG Harri Holkeri, regarding the implementation of standards.*

*The plan for the operationalization of standards has been launched. Does this mean that we have entered the last 100 meters of the marathon until the resolution of Kosovo's final status?*

I do not know. We can say that we enter the last round only if we achieve progress next year. If there is no progress, then we will have lots of other rounds.

*How are these standards going to be implemented? Are there criteria for fulfillment, e.g. how many refugees should be returned in order to consider that the standard for return has been fulfilled?*

The document itself doesn't have a certain number for return. However, there is a criteria for those who want to return, they can do that. This is a standard, but not certain figures for a certain period of time.

Your question was related to the implementation. What we should do is work together with the government to compile a joint implementation plan. We are already doing that.

*What will happen if the standards aren't fulfilled?*

It is not up to me to decide. The Contact Group and the UNSC will decide whether there has been substantial progress concerning the standards. The Contact Group had said that if there were no substantial progress by mid-2005, the decision on the final status would be postponed.

*What were the main comments of Kosovars?*

The Kosovo Government and other leaders have supported the document. I am aware about a few reserves from one of two of them, but you should ask them about such reserves. I think it is regretful that they expressed reserves, because every leader from every single political party privately had supported such documents.

*Belgrade has opposed the document. What does that mean?*

We have informed Belgrade frankly and transparently. We have presented them the draft whenever we changed it. We hope that Kosovo Serbs will be involved in the implementation of the standards and in protection of their interests.

*So, do you think that Kosovo Serbs will accept the plan?*

You should ask them about this. I cannot speak on their behalf. We hope that they will get involved in work that is waiting for the Kosovo Government and us.

*Do you believe that standards will be fulfilled by 2005?*

I think that with a precious and with a big commitment by all Kosovar leaders, substantial progress is possible.

### **LDK supports plan of ‘Standards for Kosovo’ (Zëri)**

*In a statement issued by Lulzim Zeneli, an LDK spokesperson, he says that his party supports the plan of ‘Standards for Kosovo’*

Mr. Zeneli also assesses that this plan is part of the joint efforts of local and international institutions for development of political, democratic and economical processes in Kosovo. However, he says that ‘there is room for discussions in this plan, in order to have a functioning work to implement the plan that leads to joint obligations and responsibilities. Also, this plan opens the path for the independence of Kosovo and for the integration of Kosovo in the Euro-Atlantic mechanisms.

### **Shala: The skeptics’ stories (Zëri)**

*In a front-page opinion piece for Zëri, Blerim Shala writes:*

Those who are incurable skeptics and who always try to find an excuse as to why a certain thing cannot be done in Kosovo will not find it difficult to point out numerous difficulties in the implementation of Standards for Kosovo. First, they will rightfully say that one of the countries of the Contact Group, Russia, doesn’t meet the majority of these standards. The latest example is related to the recent general elections in Russia. If we have elections in Kosovo similar to the ones in Russia, we can imagine that the West would tell us we need at least 20 years to fulfill the first standard.

We have certainly had the three best elections in this part of the Balkans, but we must know that developments in Klina and in other places in Kosovo will serve as a measurement unit for the development of the Kosovar society.

Second, the obstacles that come from Belgrade are very evident. Therefore, we can expect them to intensify their policy against Standards for Kosovo. These standards promise that the Kosovar society will ruin the current delays and will move forward. Serbia is afraid of any kind of progress in Kosovo, as the devil fears the cross. For this reason, Belgrade will always be against Standards for Kosovo.

Third, the skeptics could mention the current organizational quality of UNMIK and Kosovar authorities. In fact, this could be the most important problem that we are to face in the coming weeks and months.

Nonetheless, Standards for Kosovo are a one-way street. Therefore, the best thing would be to finish this road as soon and as best as possible.

**Zogiani: Mr. Chappell's joke of the year (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore carries an opinion piece by columnist Avni Zogiani, who writes, 'The spokesperson for UNMIK Police doesn't have the slightest idea who incited and who carried out the attack, even though on TV one can clearly see the faces of individuals screaming: 'We are going to banish you beyond the Cursed Mountains'.*

The head of the Information Office of the Police Commissioner, Derek Chappel does not know who incited the attack against the Prime Minister of Kosovo. He does not think that Serbs incited the incident in Pizzeria 'No. 1' in Mitrovica on Saturday.

He said at a press conference on Tuesday he did not know who the target was and what had incited it. The attack happened only 20 minutes after the Prime Minister arrived there with a delegation of the World Bank.

On Tuesday's press conference Mr. Chapel presented only one dilemma; was it the presence of the PM, his security, KPS or members of the World Bank that incited the attack?

For Chapel it was not the xenophobia of Serbs, continuous tolerance of extremism in this part of Kosovo, it wasn't the guy who wanted to break down the windows of the pizzeria, either, nor Serb criminals hidden in this part of Kosovo that continues to be out of the control of UNMIK Police. None of them were inciters of the attack!

Chapel doesn't have the slightest idea who incited and who carried out the attack, even though one can clearly see the faces of twenty individuals screaming on TV: 'We are going to push you beyond the Cursed Mountains'.

Chappel seems to have told the joke of the year on Tuesday and it is not possible that we will have a better joke this year. It is difficult to overcome cynicism and the joke Mr. Chappel used against Kosovars this time. Looked from another perspective, I personally think that Chappel will be a subject of joking, but I do not think that he will worry about it.

Chappel did not even deign to appreciate the professionalism shown by the KPS officers in this case, but he saw their presence as a provocation of the attack, like the presence of the Prime Minister at his town of birth (Rexhepi's house is in that part of the town).

If it is not a joke, it is a paradox for the police spokesperson to see police officers (in this case KPS) as provokers of the attack in front of people full of hatred who swore like a trooper at the PM and other people in 'No. 1'.

This case has once again shown the subordinate position of the KPS toward international police; KPS officers due to a lack of order from internationals for a moment did not continue to protect the PM and journalists that were trying to sneak out of the hostile crowd of Serbs in the streets of Mitrovica.

If Chappel noticed and analyzed this he would save us from hearing ceaselessly about the 'independence of the KPS', which he and his colleagues mention any time they see it convenient for their political statements for press.

Or, if Mr. Chappel in this case analyzed the situation in the northern part of Mitrovica, he and his colleagues would spare us from hearing statements that they have this part of Kosovo under their administration; the UNMIK Police did not even show up at the scene for as long as the chase continued, except for one American policeman, who

according to witnesses, turned up with a 'Coca Cola' car and reproached KPS for what they had done, without having an idea what they had done.

If Chappel learned that the police is leaving room for extremists to control the town and is allowing them to freely chase whenever and however they want, without being accountable for their actions, unlike in other part of Kosovo and the whole civilized world.

If Chappel and other officials of UNMIK Police learned a lesson from this case that the entire crime structures have remained intact in the north of Mitrovica and be honest to tell the truth that they are in a stage of mutual silence and an unsigned agreement with police; leave us alone and we will leave you alone.

In the conference of the last Tuesday, Chappel revealed the second part of his joke. 'I do not know who the target was', he said.

According to this logic the attack on 'No. 1' could have been incited by anything. Maybe the attackers did not like the look of the bar, or window panes of the bar (since in the TV footages you can see Serb hoodlums trying to break them down). Or maybe the attack was directed against the owner of the bar and was driven by suspicion that he would make the customer pay his drink, the former inhabitant of the town that was coming back after quite some while as a Prime Minister.

Anyway, it was difficult for Chappel to know who incited the attack and who was the target. Even if he saw pictures on TV, he could not understand Albanian.

But what about statements of journalists, of others that were attacked, of the PM himself, what about the medical assistance for one of the members of the World Bank delegation? Chappel did not have the idea who the target of the attack in 'No. 1' was and who incited it.

The events in Mitrovica last Saturday showed once again that UNMIK Police does not care about the majority population; Albanians. The attack in Mitrovica shows that the system of the UNMIK Police has become a mechanism that acts only when Serbs are endangered by others, and the inverse process of this mechanism is out of order, even if the Prime Minister is in danger.

Statements of Mr. Chapel on Tuesday prove it.

In the end, I only have a lesson for spokespersons in Kosovo that has little to do with the topic of the column; UNMIK, as usually, covered this event with the phrase 'NN Delegation and the Prime Minister'. Since we are in Kosovo, and since it is the Prime Minister of Kosovo, I would like to advise UNMIK's spokespersons, and Mr. Chapel, that it is more correct and more professional to say 'The PM and the NN delegation'.

# UNMIK



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## Kosovo Media Highlights

### Plan for operationalization of eight standards made public (*Koha Ditore*)

*Koha Ditore* reports that on International Human Rights Day, SRSG Harri Holkeri and Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi, in the company of President Ibrahim Rugova have made official the new guideline for Kosovo's future – the document called 'Standards for Kosovo'.

'Our task is to prepare Kosovo for the final status, and given the fact that there is no date for this decision, it is certainly inevitable. There are many who say that Kosovo has only one way toward final status and that is the path of fulfilling standards,' Holkeri was quoted as saying.

In its front-page report on the announcement of the plan, *Kosova Sot* claims that Kosovo has entered the chapter of independence. [*extensive coverage in afternoon Media Analysis*]

### **Why Daci and Haradinaj didn't attend the ceremony of standards? (Zëri)**

*Zëri* quotes a source close to the leader of the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK), Ramush Haradinaj, as saying that the latter didn't attend the ceremony of making official 'Standards for Kosovo', because he had his remarks on the mentioning of applicable laws in the introduction of the final draft'.

*Zëri* quotes other sources as saying that although he didn't attend the ceremony, Kosovo Assembly Speaker Nexhat Daci nonetheless met UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri and told him he supports 'Standards for Kosovo'.

### **UNMIK refuses suggestions of UN on applicable laws in standards plan (Zëri)**

Citing western diplomatic sources, *Zëri* claims that it won't be long before SRSG Harri Holkeri is going to have to deal with the issue of 'applicable laws', because the Department for Peacekeeping Operations in New York is going to ask for the words 'applicable laws' to be re-included in the introduction of Standards for Kosovo.

The same sources told the paper that UNMIK officials on the other hand do not understand why DPKO is insisting to have 'applicable laws' as a comprising part of a political document, which in reality doesn't have to contain parts from Resolution 1244 and the Constitutional Framework.

### **Locals and internationals optimistic that Kosovo will meet standards (Zëri)**

*Zëri* reports that local leaders of Kosovo and UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri are optimistic that Kosovo will fulfill the standards put forward by the international community by mid-2005.

*Zëri* also reports that the document was published yesterday without the introduction due to the disagreements between UNMIK, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and local representatives on applicable laws.

### **PM Rexhepi says Holkeri has greatest credit for the document (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi has thanked SRSG Holkeri as the person who has the greatest credit for why Kosovo has won a new guideline for the future – 'Standards for Kosovo'.

'I would like to personally thank chief administrator Holkeri for his commitment to this process,' said Rexhepi.

### **PM Rexhepi requests funds to fulfill standards (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* also quotes PM Rexhepi as saying that the issue of funds is very important to be successful in the implementation of standards. 'We hope that donors and Quint countries will provide their assistance. Others have also promised their assistance in the implementation of standards,' he added.

### **Zivkovic hopes Security Council will annul Standards for Kosovo (Koha)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Zivkovic has stated that the presented draft for fulfilling standards in Kosovo is not acceptable for his cabinet.

‘These standards don’t guarantee safety to people in Kosovo,’ Zivkovic was quoted as saying. ‘It is especially bad that it was not stated in those standards until when should they be achieved nor who was responsible for their implementation. I expected these standards meant that 10, 20, 50% of the refugees would return to Kosovo in 2004, there and there, then and then, and that those and those institutions were responsible for that process. There is nothing of the sort,’ said Zivkovic.

**Koha Ditore** reports that Zivkovic also stated that the whole issue depends on whether or not UNMIK’s plan will be endorsed by the United Nations Security Council.

### **Ivanovic: No chance of fulfilling standards without Serbia’s help (Zëri)**

**Zëri** quotes Kosovo Serb representative Oliver Ivanovic as saying, ‘The document for the implementation of standards cannot be compiled without cooperation with Kosovo Serbs, and Serbia, because there is an institutional connection. There is no chance of fulfilling standards without Serbia’s help.’

Ivanovic also called for the dismantling of the Kosovo Protection Corps.

### **Rada Trajkovic: Holkeri offers conditional independence for Kosovo (Zëri)**

**Zëri** quotes Rada Trajkovic, member of the chairmanship of Coalition Povratak, as saying that the offer of chief administrator Harri Holkeri is practically ‘a conditional independence for Kosovo’.

‘Bearing in mind that this document doesn’t envisage any connection between Kosovo and Belgrade, this implies conditional independence for Kosovo,’ Trajkovic added.

### **Shala: The skeptics’ stories (Zëri)**

‘Those who are unimproved skeptics and who always try to find an excuse why a certain thing cannot be done in Kosovo, will not find difficult to point out numerous difficulties in the implementation of Standards for Kosovo,’ writes Blerim Shala in an editorial for **Zëri**.

‘Standards for Kosovo are a one-way street. Therefore, the best thing would be to finish this road as soon and as best as possible,’ added Shala.

### **Cady: Kosovo is not a safe haven for organized crime and terrorism (dailies)**

**All dailies** report that DSRSG for Police and Justice Jean-Christian Cady signed a document on ‘Commitments on Victim/Witness Protection and Child Trafficking’, in Sofia, Bulgaria, yesterday.

‘Kosovo is not a safe haven for organized crime and terrorism. The efforts of the United Nations supported by KFOR, the creation and leading role of the multi-ethnic Kosovo Police Service working along human rights standards, the development of a multi-ethnic judiciary have borne fruit. Not only has the overall crime level decreased by 70% in the last two years, but it is now consistent with crime levels in many Western countries,’ Cady was quoted as saying.

### **Klina: Protests against Serb returns, clash with KFOR and police (Koha/Zëri)**

*Koha Ditore* and *Zëri* report that a group of 11 Serbs have made a spontaneous return to a house in Klina, and this has resulted in protests by Albanians and incidents between protesters and UNMIK Police and KFOR peacekeepers. The incident has been confirmed by the Kosovo Police Service.

*Epoka e Re* claims that on the day when ‘Standards for Kosovo’ were being announced in Prishtina, Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Nebojsa Covic sent a ‘mine’ against standards: Serbs who returned on their own.

*Epoka e Re* also claims that KFOR troops used sticks against family members of missing persons who had blocked the returning Serbs in Klina.

### **Pit Bull – instead of Bridge Watchers? (Koha Ditore)**

Citing a source from northern Mitrovica, *Koha Ditore* claims that a group of Serb extremists, who operate in northern Mitrovica, have chosen Pit Bull as the name of their organization.

On the other hand, police officials in Mitrovica claim that Pit Bull is a name that was used in the past by members of the Bridge Watchers.

However, the paper’s source claimed that the organization, which consists of 30 members, was formed with the blessing of the Serbian Government and the Serb Coordination Center.

*Koha Ditore* also claims that it is believed that this organization is responsible for the recent attacks in the north, including the attack against Prime Minister Rexhepi and the World Bank delegation.

### **Zogiani: Mr. Chappell’s joke of the year (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* carries an opinion piece by columnist Avni Zogiani, who writes, ‘The spokesperson for UNMIK Police doesn’t have the slightest idea who incited and who carried out the attack, even though on TV one can clearly see the faces of individuals screaming: ‘We are going to banish you beyond the Cursed Mountains’.

### **Hartmann: The Hague doesn’t tell Batic or anyone else about the date when indictments are raised (Zëri)**

*Zëri* quotes ICTY spokeswoman Florence Hartmann as saying, ‘The Prosecutor’s Office has never promised Serbian Justice Minister Batic or someone else about a date when indictments would be raised’.

## **Kosovo Press Headlines**

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- New board to monitor investments in KEK
- LKCK against all
- Daci: More competencies for KPS
- Zivkovic is categorically against the standards

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## Belgrade Media Highlights

- Holkeri presented Standards for Kosovo and Metohija (*Danas/Beta*)
- Zivkovic: Draft Standards unacceptable (*Balkan*)
- Reactions to Standards by Kosovo Serb leaders (*Glas*)
- Micunovic and Annan on Kosovo (*Politika/Tanjug*)
- DA to propose moratorium on Kosovo talks (*Glas/Fonet*)
- Serb returnees stayed in Klina despite protests by Albanians (*Balkan/Beta*)
- Serb returnees entered Klina (*Blic*)
- Statement by Serbian Orthodox Church (*Politika/Tanjug*)

### Holkeri presented Standards for Kosovo and Metohija (*Danas/Beta*)

UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri has stated that the setting of standards represents a "new chapter" towards establishing Kosovo's final status. "Our goal is to prepare Kosovo for the final status. There is only one way towards the final status, and this is progress through standards," Holkeri said in Pristina at the presentation of the final draft 'Standards for Kosovo and Metohija'. For the first time, the international community's standards are explained article by article, he told a press conference. If they are met, Holkeri added, Kosovo would become one of the

“rich, tolerant and economically developed communities”. But if they are rejected, the province will near a nightmare of intolerance and chauvinism dominated by crime and corruption. No Kosovo Serb political leader, who think that the proposed standards are prejudging Kosovo's status, attended the gathering at the municipal assembly of Pristina. Expressing regret that there were no Serbs today, Holkeri said he hoped they would continue to work together with UNMIK and attempt, as part of the government, to improve the living conditions in Kosovo. Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova, Premier Bajram Rexhepi and other Albanian and non-Serb officials were present at the ceremony of the presentation of the Standards. "The time has come for us to set and achieve standards by 2005. The international community's standards are aimed at Kosovo developing and preparing for the establishment of the final status, which, in our opinion, should be independence," said Rugova. Prime minister, Bajram Rexhepi, said there could be no excuses for failure. "There are two options before us: either we succeed together, or we fail together, and as Prime Minister I promise that the government will do its best to contribute to the realization of these standards", said Rexhepi.

### **Zivkovic: Draft Standards unacceptable (*Balkan*)**

Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Zivkovic has stated that the presented draft for achieving standards in Kosovo and Metohija is not acceptable for his cabinet. These standards don't guarantee safety to people in Kosovo and Metohija, Zivkovic told journalists. Premier Zivkovic said that it was "especially bad" that it was not stated in those standards until when should they be achieved nor who was responsible for their implementation. "I expected these standards meant that 10, 20, 50% of the refugees would return to Kosovo in 2004, there and there, then and then, and that those and those institutions were responsible for that process. There is nothing of the sort," said Zivkovic. According to Zivkovic, this document "was a convenient list of wishes" or, as he added, one bleak text that doesn't oblige anyone and that is why the word standards cannot be even mentioned. Zivkovic said that everything depended on whether the standards would be accepted at the UNSC in a few days. He added that he considered there was still time, if there was good will by the UNMIK head, to accept some verbal objections and suggestions given by the Serbian Government three days ago.

### **Reactions to Standards by Kosovo Serb leaders (*Glas*)**

“The ceremony of presenting the so-called Plan for Implementing Standards for Kosovo and Metohija has been organized for the sake of the personal marketing of the gentlemen Holkeri, Rugova, Rexhepi and Thaci, Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Nebojsa Covic told *Glas*. Although the EU foreign ministers have adopted this plan, it will remain a dead letter on paper until it is signed by the Serbian government representatives, and in order for this to happen, it must be seriously revised. KP caucus whip Dragisa Krstovic says that Serbs had not attended the presentation of the document on the Standards for Kosovo because they are not satisfied with that solution. That document prejudices the talks on Kosovo's status, which all leads towards independence. They don't even contain the instruments or guarantees that will observe the implementation of the document. KP AM Rada Trajkovic says that this document, the way it had been passed, resembles more an imposing of a solution

without the will of the people who are interested in it. We have, at least, cleared up such policy in Serbia, and it is simply hard to believe that the international community will be passing documents without consultations and agreement with each of the communities in Kosovo.

### **Micunovic and Annan on Kosovo (Politika/Tanjug)**

SaM Parliament Speaker Dragoljub Micunovic talked in Geneva on Wednesday with Kofi Annan about the situation in Kosovo. The SaM Parliament's Information Service stated that Micunovic stressed the importance of respecting human rights, freedom of movement and the return of all IDPs to Kosovo and Metohija. Micunovic stressed that it must be insisted on the full implementation of UNSCR 1244, and that standards must be established prior to talks on Kosovo's final status.

### **DA to propose moratorium on Kosovo talks (Glas/Fonet)**

DA leader Nebojsa Covic announced that his party would propose that no State or party official should either engage in negotiations or pass any decision on Kosovo until the new Serbian Assembly and the new Government were in place.

### **Serb returnees stayed in Klina despite protests by Albanians (Balkan/Beta)**

A group of 26 returnees that has returned to Klina after waiting for 18 days in the nearby village of Bica, stayed in their houses despite the protests by several hundred Albanians. CCK's regional coordinator for returns to the Pec region Milivoje Ribac has told *Beta* on the phone that the Serb returnees stayed in their houses in Klina although they had been exposed to inciting and protesting by several hundred Albanians who surrounded them. Serbs returned to their houses in Klina, in the area where Serb houses are located, 300 meters from the center. This is the first return of Serbs to an urban region in Kosovo and Metohija since the end of the war in 1999, said Ribac.

### **Serb returnees entered Klina (Blic)**

"We will be in Pesic's house until UNMIK and Habitat – the Agency for returning property – release our houses that had been occupied by Albanians," said one of the returnees Marko Nedeljkovic. Nedeljkovic claims that in most of the cases Albanians forged documents on the basis of which they allegedly bought houses from Serbs. "Such false sales contracts are in the cases of Milivoje Vuckovic, Veselin Dabizevic, Vladimir Radosavljevic, Aleksandar Mitic, Radivoje Isailovic and many others. All of them made so-called sales contracts in Bar. I have seen Dabizevic's sales contract, where his date of birth and personal number aren't correct, while his brother, who died 20 years ago, is stated as the seller," Nedeljkovic said. Dabizevic had to pay 300 euros to a lawyer in Bar in order to get a copy of the sales contract on the basis of which he allegedly sold his house to an Albanian in Klina.

### **Statement by Serbian Orthodox Church (Politika/Tanjug)**

The Raska-Prizren Eparchy of the Serbian Orthodox Church has expressed regret over the incident in Kosovska Mitrovica in which one member of the World Bank delegation had been lightly wounded, the Serbian Orthodox Church stated regarding

this incident during the recent unannounced visit by the Kosovo premier to the northern part of the town. Unfortunately, unannounced visits by the Kosovo premier with security, among whom former KLA leaders were recognized, to the northern part of the town, do not contribute to the calming down of the situation, but are adding oil on fire and represent open provocations, the statement says. Reconciliation can be built only on equal standards for all Kosovo and Metohija's citizens. We can only imagine what would happen when the premier of Serbia, whose part is Kosovo and Metohija, would decide to have lunch in some restaurant in Pec or Pristina without announcement, the statement said.