

# UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

## Media Monitoring

# ► Local Media

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**19 December**

### 'Standards for Kosovo' do (not) damage Kosovo! (Zëri)

*Zëri* weekly newspaper carries an interview with Ilir Deda, advisor to Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi, and Fatmir Humolli, leader of the National Movement for the Liberation of Kosovo.

*Some political entities claim that the fulfillment of 'Standards for Kosovo' leads to Kosovo's integration into Serbia, and not toward Kosovo's independence. They also claim that standards are based on applicable laws and on Resolution 1244, which consider Kosovo a part of former Yugoslavia, and today of Serbia? What can you tell us about this position?*

Deda: If these standards led towards integration into Serbia, the Serbian Government and Kosovo Serb leaders would accept this plan and not declare it unacceptable. You know that they have called it a path towards the independence of Kosovo! The 'Standards for Kosovo' are not based on applicable laws and this is clearly seen in the document that was announced by Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi and SRSG Harri Holkeri. The Standards have been declared for the resolution of Kosovo's final status and not for the integration into Serbia. As for Resolution 1244, the mandate of the United Nations mission in Kosovo derives from this resolution and also the mandate of the provisional institutions of self-government. Resolution 1244 determines the mandate and tasks of UNMIK to stabilize the situation in Kosovo and establish democratic self-government until the resolution of the final status.

The LKÇK has harshly opposed Holkeri's plan of 'Standards for Kosovo'. There is an impression among the majority of political entities in Kosovo that the LKÇK opposes every initiative that comes from the international community, regardless of whether or not it is for Kosovo's good?

Humolli: It is true that the LKÇK opposes the international policy vis-à-vis Kosovo, because this policy is based on Resolution 1244 that sees Kosovo as part of Serbia. The Security Council is also committed to create conditions for a substantial autonomy within Serbia. Therefore, everything is based on Resolution 1244. We don't ignore the international factor, but we also cannot ignore the right of our people, because it would be naïve. We ignore the policy that goes against our national interests. We believe that UNMIK and Serbia are all the same, because both are protecting Serbia's sovereignty. With the request that Kosovans should fulfill Serbian

applicable laws, UNMIK is inciting the Serbian hegemonic policy. Instead of asking for the democratization of Serbia, UNMIK and the UN Security Council are feeding its hegemonic policy. The international factor is supporting the strong, in this case Serbia, whereas our political parties have become their servants!

Are these standards reachable and are political entities and Kosovan citizens willing to fulfill these standards?

Deda: The majority of standards can and must be fulfilled. The standards are aimed at making Kosovo a country as close to European standards as possible and with their fulfillment the final status will be resolved for our good. Standards must be explained to the citizens, because their fulfillment depends both from the government and from every citizen. It is difficult to meet these standards; therefore, this requires courage and major commitment from citizens and individuals to do this.

Our ruling political parties have supported Holkeri's plan 'Standards for Kosovo', according to which Kosovans must fulfill certain points before addressing the issue of status. But you have opposed this plan and the political parties that have accepted it?

Humolli: These political parties lack creative policies, but are parties that submit to the strong, they submit to circumstances that were created by others: by the international administration – UNMIK. Those parties are surprised by the position of the LKÇK. During our meetings, several representatives of these political parties say that the LKÇK is right, but they also add that they have to follow their own policies because they have no other choice. Our first remark against these standards is that political entities are required to respect Resolution 1244, which sees Kosovo as part of Serbia. For example, one of the points is the democratization of Kosovo, according to Resolution 1244, which asks Kosovan citizens to be democratized and to recognize Serbia as their own state. Another point is the rule of law! We support the idea of respecting laws, but laws that are adopted on healthy grounds and not laws that see Kosovo as part of Serbia. We have fought against such discriminatory laws and over 15,000 Kosovan citizens gave their lives for this. Therefore, if we are asked to recognize and respect these laws, this means political naivety and intentional crime. For this reason, the LKÇK will not respect and recognize these standards. Our ruling political parties have accepted these standards without any reservations, despite the fact that these standards are in opposition with international laws. If our political parties accept these standards they are going to show naivety that will have a high price for Kosovo, and this is going to cost the future of our nation dearly.

When can the 'Standards for Kosovo' be fulfilled? Who is going to evaluate whether or not these standards have been fulfilled? And what is going to follow after this?

Deda: The fulfillment of these standards will continue even after the resolution of the final status, because this is the path towards creating a democratic and free society for all. The supervisory group, which is chaired by the Prime Minister and the SRSG, will evaluate the fulfillment of standards every three months. And mid-2005 will be the date when the Contact Group is going to assess whether or not Kosovo is ready to address the issue of status. Our status depends on the fulfillment of these standards and this must be very clear to everyone. The eventual non-fulfillment of these standards would be a major failure for Kosovo and our society, because it would extend the international protectorate for many years. We don't believe in failure, we

have pledged that we will fulfill these standards and with tremendous work we are going to achieve this.

Do you think that Kosovan citizens will agree to these conditions, to this plan, and are the standards going to be fulfilled according to the agreement between Holkeri and our ruling political parties?

Humolli: I am certain that our people are well aware of the danger that comes from accepting these standards. However, it still lacks proper organization to oppose the actions of the international administration in Kosovo. There is organized crime here, both by our ruling parties and our media because they are misinterpreting the plan 'Standards for Kosovo'. Regardless of this, we are certain that the people are not going to fulfill these standards, which are aimed at integrating Kosovo into Serbia. This is the reason why the LKÇK is trying to explain these standards to the people, and make them aware of the danger lurking from this plan and from the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1244.

### **Group of standards begin to work, Serbs boycott (Zëri)**

*Zëri* reports that two senior officials, Rexhep Hoti, advisor to Prime Minister Rexhepi, and Carne Ross, advisor to SRSG Harri Holkeri, have stated that the start of work of the five Working Groups of the Kosovo Government and UNMIK is a very important day for Kosovo, whereas on the other hand, the two Serb representatives, Milorad Todorovic and Goran Bogdanovic have not attended the meeting.

The paper further reports that the five working groups responsible for the implementation of the eight standards are the group of democratization, the group of rule of law, the group of return and communities, the group of economy and the group of dialogue, while Prime Minister Rexhepi and SRSG Holkeri are in charge and also oversee the work of these groups.

*Zëri* quotes its sources as saying that the democratization group is led by Minister Rexhep Osmani and Francesco Bastagli, the group for rule of law is led by Minister Jakup Krasniqi and Jean Christian Cady, the group for community rights and returns is led by Milorad Todorovic and Peggy Hicks, the economy group is led by Minister Ali Sadriu and Nikolaus Lambsdorff and the group for dialogue is led by Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi and UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri.

The paper reports that the meetings were formal and that the government members had the opportunity to meet with UNMIK's working groups members and very soon they will have to discuss plan for the implementation of the standards.

'It has been said many times that Kosovo had very important days but certainly today is a significant event for Kosovo, because for the first time is starting the work of the working groups between UNMIK and the government in order to implement the standards,' said Rexhep Hoti, government liaison officer at UNMIK.

Carne Ross stressed the importance of beginning the work for the implementation of the standards and said that he was encouraged with the commitment and the working atmosphere within the working groups. 'Starting a joint work for the implementation of standards is a significant day. We had meetings with five working groups. I was

encouraged with the atmosphere and the work of the working groups as well as with the commitment that was shown by both sides in order to have fast progress in the implementation of standards,' Ross was quoted as saying.

Questioned about the refuse of the Serbian minority to be involved, Ross said that doors are open to join. 'We have the support of the UNSC in this process and they have supported the document 'Standards for Kosovo' and the implementation process. Holkeri made very clear that the representatives of all communities are part of this process therefore we will keep doors open,' he said.

'The Standards are related to all communities to protect the rights and interest of all communities. However, they need to be part of the process,' Ross firmly said.

Regarding the first report about the standards that Holkeri is due to submit at the UNSC in the end of January, Rexhep Hoti said 'we hope that Holkeri this time will be accompanied by Kosovo's Prime Minister and they would be able to present the beginning of this cooperation between UNMIK and the Kosovo government.'

**Koha Ditore** reports that while the working groups talk about the implementation of standards, Serbs are talking about territorial division.

### **Ross: K-leaders must convince citizens of the importance of standards (Zëri)**

*Zëri carries a report from a debate attended by both local and international officials on the topic 'What is the operationalization of standards'. The debate was held at the Arts Gallery in Prishtina; UNMIK Strategy Coordinator Carne Ross and Ilir Deda, advisor to Prime Minister Rexhepi were the main speakers of the debate.*

Ross said that it is up to the Kosovan leadership to convince its citizens about the importance of standards and the need for their implementation.

Ross also commented on the fact that the Kosovo Serb representatives refused to attend the first meeting of the working groups. 'Harri Holkeri and I believe that the current refusal of Serbs will not happen again,' he added.

Carne Ross said that out of a relatively unclear concept a new concept has been clarified recently, especially after the visit of the US Undersecretary of State, Mark Grossman, to Kosovo. As a result we have a timeframe, which is not precisely set, to fulfill the standards and to discuss the final status.

It became clear in the debate that the talks about the final status relatively link to the stance of the Contact Group, when the time of discussion about the final status comes after a satisfactory fulfillment of the eight benchmarks. Ross announced that the Security Council has already adopted the document, which is a summary of duties and responsibilities for the period to come. However, Ross underlines, that the most difficult work is the implementation of the points in the concept of standards.

Ross has noticed two fundamental difficulties; first that progress does not have to do with drafting a document. In reality it has to do with achieving a sufficient level of progress in key areas like functioning democratic institutions, rule of law, human

rights etc. Ross said that it is up to the Kosovan leadership to convince its citizens about the importance of standards and the need for their implementation. In fact, he said, there is willingness among the Kosovo political leaders, and there is a hundred percent commitment to fulfill them, but it remains to be seen whether it will be implemented in practice.

As a second problem in this respect Ross mentioned the refusal of the Serb community to participate in the first meeting of the working groups. 'For reasons not entirely clear, Belgrade refuses to include in the process', he says expressing hope that this will not be repeated in the future. 'Holkeri and I believe that current refusal of Serbs will not be repeated other times'.

Anyway, Ross says, 'it is clear for everybody in the UNMIK administration that we have a relatively difficult year ahead, but our objective is clear and we need to make progress'.

On the other hand, the political advisor to the PM, Ilir Deda, says that 'nobody in this Government thinks that this process can fail', pointing out the close cooperation and support by the Contact Group and other local and international bodies.

### **Shala: Saints and standards (Zëri)**

*In a front-page editorial for Zëri, Blerim Shala writes that 'it is not known which of the saints is going to help UNMIK to involve Serb politicians in the working groups for the implementation of Standards for Kosovo.*

It is known now that Serb officials in Belgrade and Serb politicians in Kosovo all share the same opinions and position in opposing the Standards for Kosovo. This Thursday we found out that a group of Kosovo Serb politicians have adopted the St. Nicholas Declaration, with which they once again ask for the territorial division of power on an ethnic basis. They did this to show once again for those with a clear head who is against the democratization of Kosovo.

Therefore, in the very beginning of the practical organization for the fulfillment of standards, which has been supported by all international factors, UNMIK and the Kosovo Government are facing problems that require time and political energy. Together they should find the answer on how to continue dialogue on practical issues with Belgrade, if the Serbian regime has opposed the Standards for Kosovo, one of which is dialogue. The international administration and local authorities should mix the strengthening of democratic institutions with the dissolution of parallel structures organized by Serbia.

It seems that this time along everything is clear. It is very well known who is opposing the standards. The obstacles and those who prevent the fulfillment should be mentioned in UNMIK's statements.

### **KPC Commander Çeku asks for assistance, donors keep silent (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that the donors conference for the Kosovo Protection Corps which failed last Monday, was held yesterday in Prishtina and it was made known that the KPC needs 39 million euros for the next three years.

The Minister of Economy and Finances, Ali Sadriu said that the KPC is a reserved competence and that his ministry is aware of KPC's reasonable needs, but they 'could not do any more for them since it is a reserved competence and is financed by the reserved part of the Kosovo budget that is administered by the international administration'.

'The Money that is allocated for it is insufficient and we need your support' he addressed the donors.

***Koha Ditore*** also reports that the donors were silent over the abovementioned request.

***Zëri*** reports that the meeting was successful unlike the one held three days before. General Çeku thanked the participants for taking part in the conference, which he considered as very important. 'Thanks to our commitment and your support we have made progress in many areas', he said.

Çeku pointed out that the KPC so far has focused on trainings and professional advancements, and that it has acquired the necessary trainings and potential to pass on to an operational stage. 'We are ready for more duties, within our mission, and to successfully fulfill them'.

Çeku emphasized that the implementation of the standard for KPC will be their priority for 2004, and that this priority will be comprised of three main pillars; professionalism of staff, engagement in emergency operations, helping communities through humanitarian projects and organizing of the inner activities, application of universal values, including improving of discipline, inclusion of minorities etc.

The role of IOM in developing and supporting KPC was appreciated. 'Without their support, KPC would not be in a position to achieve its standard', the general said.

General Major Andrew Cummings, who is UNMIK's coordinator with KPC, hailed KPC's willingness to implement their duties and their standard. He shared the opinion with the KPC officials that the standard for KPC is achievable, however if KPC lacks the necessary means to achieve it, it will be impossible. 'They are capable of doing many good things for Kosovo, and it is true that they would do more if they had the means', Cummings said.

#### **Kammerhoff: NATO wants KPC as civil agency (*Koha Ditore*)**

***Koha Ditore*** reports that COMKFOR Kammerhoff visited yesterday the Greek KFOR contingent in order to congratulate them for Christmas and New Year.

At my visits through Kosovo, I have seen great progress. I feel very good, when I see the good relations between the municipalities and KFOR, said COMKFOR Holger Kammerhoff.

'Two weeks ago the standards have been launched. In order to achieve its aim Kosovo's people should analyze what they can do in the next 18 months. You should have a serious approach. It is not for KFOR and UNMIK to make positive changes, but for Kosovans, while the international community should review it,' Kammerhoff was quoted as saying.

He also spoke about the KPC. ‘I have noticed in the newspapers that the KPC position is questioned. NATO wants KPC as civil agency. I am trying to provide money for the training of these troops. We had a meeting with Holkeri regarding the financial support. We need a professional KPC. We should try to fulfill the standards of KPC.’

### **Kosovo Assembly adopts draft-law on cooperation with ICTY (Zëri)**

*Zëri reports that the Kosovo Assembly yesterday adopted a draft-law on cooperation with the ICTY. ‘Even though the draft-law was adopted, the disputed issue remains who is going to be the competent authority for Kosovo on this matter – the Government of Kosovo or the Special Representative of the Secretary General,’ added Zëri.*

Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi told the assembly members that the draft-law voices the willingness of Kosovan institutions to cooperate with ICTY and to fulfill the obligations that derive from UNSC Resolution 1244.

*Zëri* notes that the parliamentary groups had several remarks and most of them said they couldn’t tell whether the draft-law was an UNMIK regulation or a law that is to be adopted by the Kosovo Assembly.

Arsim Bajrami, PDK representative at the assembly, said that the dilemma is who is the central (highest) authority for cooperation with the ICTY, and added that this authority should be in the hands of the Kosovo Government. ‘Given the fact that the government sponsors this law, it should also be the competent authority for this,’ Bajrami added. ‘Someone might say that the SRSG doesn’t agree with this, but we are compiling a law for Kosovo here and I think that the Kosovo Government should be represented as a partner that takes the responsibility of cooperating with the ICTY.’

Bajrami also said that one of the most important parts of the bill is that it envisages the forming of Kosovo’s Office at the ICTY. ‘Apart from the cooperation with the ICTY, this office would also provide assistance for Kosovan citizens who are indicted by The Hague,’ he added.

On the other hand, Coalition Povratak representative Liljana Kenic said that based on its competencies, the Kosovo Assembly could adopt only a resolution for cooperation with The Hague, and not an actual law.

Kenic also said that Coalition Povratak would support such a resolution, because it would enable ICTY to shed light on crimes that were committed not only during but also after the war in Kosovo.

‘It is meaningless to hide the crimes that were committed against Serbs after the conflict, that is after the signing of the Kumanovo Agreement. These crimes were committed before the eyes of UNMIK, KFOR and the international community in Kosovo,’ concluded Kenic.

### **I. Rexhepi: Kosovo benefits from budget shortages (Koha Ditore)**

**Koha Ditore** carries an opinion piece by Ibrahim Rexhepi who writes:

Next year's budget will be €619,3 millions, while the joint surplus from this and last year is totally €300 millions. Compared to the overall budget, this surplus is very big - scandalous. With this leftover nobody can be proud, neither ministries nor government...

In fact we are talking about a bad assets management here. The lack of knowledge of managing the assets is equal to the bad management.

The Kosovo budget is consolidated and is centralized too much. It is very clear that people, who deal with this issue, either from the Ministry of Economy and Finance or from the Economic Fiscal Council fear too much the word deficit. It is not good for the budget to have shortages, because there are no other resources to fill it. It is fully understood that last budget expenditure has to be close to zero. If this is the case the rate of Kosovo's development will certainly be much higher. It means that €300 million will no longer become a reason for clashes between the Kosovo government and the EFC, neither for KEK nor the KTA.

Simply, all Kosovans will benefit from this, writes Rexhepi.

### **Surroi: The story about two privatizations (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* carries an opinion piece by publisher Veton Surroi who comments on the processes of privatization in Kosovo and Serbia. Surroi claims that two things still remain unknown: whether privatization in Kosovo has been blocked or has it resumed: 'the land or the money'.

1. Two weeks ago, in Serbia, the hammer of auction announced the thousandth winner of a socially-owned factory and this marked the result of the two-year privatization process. \$1.3 billion went to the state's budget with a \$700 mil project.

In Kosovo, during this week, the meeting of the privatization body of the Kosovo Trust Agency was held, where it was said that the privatization would continue, if not with anything else, then with the ratification of contracts of the enterprises sold earlier, in the first and second round, which would mark revenues of over 20 million euros in the special privatization fund.

In the first Serbian case, the privatization process developed apart from the upheavals in the domestic policy. A good team of new reformers went into the process that would change also the Serbian economy and with it also the political specter in a not distant future.

In the second case, the Kosovan one, the privatization process was built as a concept for which Kosovans neither knew about and they neither actually stepped in with their conceptual contribution. It all took place in the difficult negotiations between the economic pillar (EU plus USAID) of UNMIK and lawyers in the UN HQ in New York. When this process met the first obstacle, a charge filed by a Serb company against the UN, the whole process stopped, and Kosovans and UNMIK have been insulting each other for two months about this stopped process. The intensity of accusation has never been bigger. It went up to the point when the Kosovo

Government asked for the dismissal of the KTA Chief and it appeared before the public with accusations against UNMIK Pillar IV chief Lambsdorff.

2. There should be no doubt, the blocking of the privatization process was preliminarily carried out by Serbia. While this process was taking place in Serbia itself, it was a part of the concept of the Serb policy in Kosovo for nothing to happen there without Belgrade's approval. In the last two years, Covic managed to reach this by building a kind of co-governance with UNMIK and by a triangle where UNMIK, the Kosovo institutions and Belgrade would be the inter-negotiating sides. Later on, this process was blocked by the bureaucracy in New York, which does not deal with the effects of governance, but with the consequences of an accusation, which may be filed against the UN. And at the end, by UNMIK, which is not sure enough that this process will move properly. The Kosovans contributed to all this in a bizarre way by asking for a continuation of a privatization process which they did not build and which they do not understand up to a high scale. And now, Kosovo is in a position when privatization has received the green light for continuation, but its form has to change.

3. It would not be a surprise if Kosovans were in the meantime proposed some of the forms of privatization carried out in Serbia. For example the form of auction, where buyers gather in a place and then they compete with a higher price. This form was proven as efficient in Serbia, and as far as an increase of the value of an enterprise is concerned, it might be applied in Kosovo, too. As it was seen in Kosovo's case, tendering with closed envelopes has created a form where a false offering is enabled.

But, if changes will be applied in the privatization model, then it would be good to review two major problems, which were not treated by the Kosovo Government and UNMIK.

The first is the land and the second is money.

In the current model, factories are being sold together with the land registered at the cadastre. In socialism, the Municipal Assembly gave the land to socially owned enterprises, which means that the land is not the property of those enterprises. This land should be turned back to the municipalities and the bankrupt factories should be sold. Some goals will be reached in this way. Firstly, buyers of factories will not buy them because of the land, but because they want to review production. Secondly, the municipalities would create a real estate capital, which they can privatize or dedicate to the development of production. Thirdly, all this would make Serbia's influence on privatization in Kosovo unreachable. Serbia does not have to raise charges against the UN administration, but against Municipal instances of Kosovo at Kosovo District courts.

This leads to the second problem, the money. The current form of privatization foresees all collected money from privatization to be sent to a special fund out of Kosovo for any eventual accusation of those that won the legal contests (so, Serb companies). The presence of this fund out of Kosovo may be a guaranteeing sign for UNMIK administrators, but for Kosovo it is an escape of the capital out of Kosovo. In the current conditions, when the international aid and aid sent from the diaspora is

decreasing drastically, a loss of Kosovo's capital would mean a serious narrowing of money circulation in Kosovo. And, we have been seeing this everyday.

4. It will not be good for Kosovo if privatization is blocked, even if the same model continues. If it is blocked, the same non-economisation of social enterprises, with a loss of capital, prospective and jobs will continue. If this model continues, until the next summer we will remain with 200-300 million Euros out of circulation in Kosovo and with enterprises sold at cheap prices and bought only to build something else on the sufficient land, that socialism gave to social enterprises. All this will not create new working places, while the existing ones will be endangered with the decrease of the amount of money in the market.

Meanwhile the hammers of the Serb auctions will continue up to the full privatization of the country, which up to two years ago kept a negative record in private enterprises together with Belarus of Lukasenko. This might have serious political repercussions, inside of two countries and in relations of two countries with the international community.

### **Lambsdorff: Privatisation continues on firm legal basis (*Koha Ditore*)**

*Koha Ditore* quotes KTA Board chief Nikolaus Lambsdorff as saying that everyone should be satisfied with the results of the recent meeting of the KTA Board and reiterated several times that Marie Fucci is an excellent manager.

‘My belief is that everyone is satisfied with the results of the recent KTA Board meeting. The Board has ratified the first four contracts, which means that these four enterprises have been sold. We are waiting to sign more contracts,’ said Lambsdorff.

Lambsdorff insisted that the decision to review the status of the SOEs was right stating that even the KTA Board had acknowledged the good work carried out in the review of the status of enterprises from the first three waves of tenders. *Koha Ditore* adds that despite that fact that it took almost two months, Lambsdorff stated that the examination of enterprises did not take long.

Lambsdorff stated that ‘privatization continues on a firm legal basis’. Asked what firm legal basis does he have in mind considering that the Board did not discuss any changes, Lambsdorff stated that this firm legal basis is the recommendations received from the UN Security Council.

Lambsdorff stated that everyone working on privatization is committed to move the process forward. However asked how can he claim that the managing director of KTA is committed to privatization when she did not vote in favour of any of the Board decisions, Lambsdorff responded in brief, ‘she did not vote against any of the Board’s decisions’. Once again the KTA Board Chairman defended in every way possible the KTA managing director by qualifying her as ‘excellent manager’.

‘She is an excellent manager and this is verified by the work she has done in verifying the status of enterprises,’ Lambsdorff is quoted as saying.

*Kosova Sot* quotes Lambsdorff as saying, ‘Marie Fucci has not voted against privatisation!’

**Minister Ali Sadriu finances project of his nephew (*Koha Ditore*)**

*Koha Ditore* carries a front page article saying that the Minister of Economy and Finances, Ali Sadriu, approved a project of € 330.450 for his nephew, and that he violated all the procedures through which the project should have gone. This has no other name but a deep conflict of interests, the paper says.

Family connections with people in power can be very beneficial. This is best proved by the case of Ramadan Çerkini, head of the Dentistry Ward in Ferizaj, who has tried over the last year to convince the municipal authorities and the Ministry of Health to finance his project for financing the completion of 10 dentistry wards and of a laboratory in the center where he works. Even when his efforts failed, he did not get disappointed. Somebody of a higher rank could be of more help than municipal officials. The man who could help his expensive project was his uncle, the Minister of Economy and Finances, Ali Sadriu.

Everything has been decided now, and in a few days we will have the name of the bidder, that has won the tender to complete the premises.

In an interview with the paper, Çerkini said ‘Yes, he is my uncle’s son, so what? The interview with him was conducted at noon in his ward when he was supposed to be at his workplace in the health house in Ferizaj.

According to a source close to Ferizaj MA, which wanted to remain anonymous, not a single cent has been allocated by the municipal authorities for this project. ‘The Ministry of Finance is not financing this project, but the minister himself, who has a budget he can use for these cases’. According to the same source, the family connection helped Çerkini to win the project. ‘The minister is Ramadan Çerkini’s uncle, and he went to him directly, not through the MA’, adding that ‘there have been projects of higher priority than the one approved’.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Pleureat Sejdiu, denied that they have received the project for the completion of dentistry wards. ‘I do not know anything about it, I have seen many projects form different municipalities, but nothing about this case’.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Economy and Finances has not found the time to answer the questions of ‘*Koha Ditore*’, which they had received in print two days in advance.

The paper concludes that with approving this project the minister of Economy and Finances has violated the Memorandum of Understanding, signed by himself and the Chief Executive Officer of Ferizaj MA, Sahit Krasniqi which says that ‘for the Ministry to give funds, the municipality agrees to provide 25 % of the money’. In this case the MA does not agree to participate with 25 %, the process lacks transparency and it is not considered to be a priority.