

# UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

## Media Monitoring

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**22 December**

#### **Prime Minister may increase number of advisors, but not president (*Koha Ditore*)**

*Koha Ditore* quotes UNMIK spokeswoman Izabella Karłowicz as saying that UNMIK has accepted the recent appointment of the advisor for public security to Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi by saying that the Prime Minister needs to be informed on security developments.

The paper reports that the appointment of PM's adviser for public security has increased the number of advisers to nine, four more than the UNMIK regulation foresees. 'When the UNMIK regulation was adopted in 2001, the situation itself was different. Since then, there is an increased need for additional functions either as advisers or as liaison officers, who trigger close contacts with UNMIK,' said Karłowicz.

Karłowicz was also quoted as saying, 'The Prime Minister is the main interlocutor on most matters involving PISG and UNMIK. We are currently considering possible solutions, which will be reflected in an amendment to the relevant legislation.'

'UNMIK is aware regarding this issue and recognizes the PM's need for increased support. Currently we are analyzing a possible solution that could produce an amendment as part of the relevant legislation,' she said.

*Koha Ditore* also noted that the appointment of Enver Oruçaj as public security advisor has raised the number of the advisors to nine, which is in opposition with the respective UNMIK regulation.

Unofficially it was acknowledged, that Prime Minister Rexhepi was complaining very often to UNMIK that he has no necessary information regarding any event or any incident about returns.

Government spokeswoman Mimoza Kusari clarifies that the advisory office on public security has nothing to do with so called internal affairs. She added that head of this office Mr. Oruçaj except informing the Prime Minister would analyze the situation and would be responsible for the PM's security.

Mrs. Kusari also said that the UN legal office was interested regarding this appointment.

**Editorial: Public optimism and internal pessimism for Standards for Kosovo (Zëri)**

*An opinion piece by Zëri's editorial office notes that 'the way the international administration and local authorities are organized, we cannot expect Kosovo to make essential changes in such a short period of time (18 months) as it is foreseen by the standards'.*

The old story about dialogue between the optimistic and the pessimistic can have a new version when it comes to 'Standards for Kosovo', which should be qualitatively fulfilled by mid-2005, when the issue of the status is to be tackled.

In these December days when the detailed implementation of standards is due to start, the international and local authorities have tried to express and create a very optimistic mood. Well, without being optimistic, you cannot enter a process that is really complicated and loaded with problems known even now and which will for sure be serious obstacles in the path of achieving the plan. On the other hand, the public optimism can only be beneficial if it is associated with the inner pessimism in the structures of UNMIK and Kosovo institutions. This pessimism is above all real. The way the international and local administrations are organized one cannot expect Kosovo to significantly change in a rather short period of time (18 months). On the other hand, the pessimism can be a driving force for greater efforts that have lacked over the last two years.

But if we judge from the statements that all local officials gave to international media you cannot notice worries about the current potential of locals for organizing things. Furthermore, on some occasions it was emphasized that Kosovo has almost reached its objective as to the level of standards and that there should be no doubt about succeeding by June 2005. Whereas, the position of the internationals is neuter.

We are convinced that if UNMIK and the local authorities really want progress on the standards, they should directly or indirectly include as many experts as possible in the working groups, who have experience with the most delicate issues of the plan of standards. At the end of the day the responsibility for failure or success will remain with UNMIK and with the Kosovo Government and not with experts that could be engaged.

But such a big responsibility could have grave consequences for the local authorities in Kosovo in terms of solving the final status (UNMIK failure would not cost UN much, or those who are heading the international administration). This would make the locals be more active and if they organize the working groups for the implementation of the standards in the way that they presented them to the public opinion, without anticipating the qualitative expansion of the working groups, then we can say that the pessimism that we can will fulfill the standards is founded.

## **Shala: How to make changes? (Zëri)**

*Zëri carries a front-page editorial by Blerim Shala, who writes:*

How much influence could one have on changing the developments in the Kosovan society?

In an ordinary democratic society, this question would be meaningless. The concept of checks and balances in the three powers: legislation, executive and judiciary, and then the media scene and the civil society enable the authorities to act in accordance with the expectations of citizens, who in ordinary circumstances vote once in four years to elect the democratic government.

In Kosovo, this entire concept is underway. In reality, Resolution 1244 gives the International Administration the mandate to turn the Kosovan society into a typical western society. But it seems that the undefined relations between UNMIK and Kosovan authorities make it impossible to draw the exact lines of power for the local and international authorities; and even clarify the relations between local authorities, so that the decision-making power should rest where it formally belongs (in the government and not in the hands of political parties).

We believe that all this mess is a result of the ambiguity of Resolution 1244 when it comes to the international authority, the latter carrying out the role of an international protectorate, and at the same time there is also no clear timeline for the transfer of competencies into the hands of local authorities.

The consequences of all this mess are the major difficulties that accompany every effort to make changes in the situation in Kosovo, even when problems are completely transparent. We can point out one example in this case: how could Kosovo possibly have a budget surplus of hundreds of millions of euros for two years despite all the economic and social problems?

## **Law on ICTY cooperation gives responsibilities to Government, but UNMIK remains supreme authority (Zëri)**

*Zëri quotes Mimoza Kusari, spokeswoman for the Kosovo Government, as saying that the government, as the entity that proposed the law on cooperation with ICTY, should bear the responsibility, but the field of security will still remain in the competencies of UNMIK. 'Therefore, we expect closer cooperation,' added Kusari.*

The Kosovo Assembly's agreement in principle with the draft law on cooperation of Kosovo with the Hague Tribunal on war crimes in the territory of the Former Yugoslavia has left a dilemma as to who will be responsible for cooperation with the Hague: the Kosovo Government or the SRSG. Noting that in the adopted law there is no specific definition of responsibility, parliamentary groups have asked that the Government of Kosovo should have this authority. However, with the law having been adopted only in principle now, it seems that after its final promulgation the competent authority for cooperation of Kosovo with the Hague will remain unclear, due to the dualism of power in Kosovo.

UNMIK officials say that they will assess the law only in its final form and after it has been delivered to UNMIK's legal office.

Spokesperson of the Kosovo Government, Mimoza Kusari says that the Government of Kosovo that proposed this law needs to be competent and informed in time about any request of the Hague Tribunal addressed to the people of Kosovo.

Ramush Tahiri, a political advisor of the Parliamentary Speaker Nexhat Daci, says that according to the law the Kosovo government is in charge of cooperation, but in practice that is not happening when the Hague is interested in a case in Kosovo. Due to lack of close cooperation with UNMIK in this respect, the Kosovo institutions often had media as the only source of information. Therefore Tahiri asks the SRSG to pass on to local institutions such circulars that are termed as state secrets or classified information.

This law is supposed to make provisions for securing technical conditions and for facilitating the work of the Office of the Hague in Kosovo, it establishes the transfer of criminal proceedings to the Hague Tribunal, prohibits trying of cases after they have already been dealt with by the Hague Tribunal, provides for executing their request for extraditing the accused, etc. Through this law the legal foundation will be laid for offering help to Kosovo citizens arrested by the Hague, offering them the opportunity to exercise their rights for legal defence.

### **Habsburg: We must not forget who lives in Kosovo (*Koha Ditore*)**

*Koha Ditore* quotes Otto van Habsburg, former member of the European Parliament and also member of the Austrian royal family, as saying that the European Union lacks a realistic approach in its expansion plans in southeastern Europe.

‘We must not forget who lives in Kosovo. Serbs claim that due to the war against Turks in the medieval times they now have the permanent right over Kosovo, because that is where the Serbian state was born. This is a historic deceit,’ added Habsburg.

‘Unfortunately, we should bear in mind the fact that in certain regions, particularly in Serbia, there are myths that do not have anything to do with facts. If the borders created according to these myths are accepted, there would not be hope for peace. The people still remember inhuman oppression during the last decade and the West today seems to forget this,’ he said.

He also added that Macedonia mustn't be forgotten, because it is ‘the oldest country in Europe and it also represents the origin of Christianity in Europe’.

Peace should not be replaced with silence of the graves. Peace is not violent stoppage of war, but an order that is based on the free will of people in accordance with the factual and geographical situation. If we are not ready to use the chance that is being offered to us now, we should not be surprised when the catastrophic developments are again repeated in south-eastern Europe,’ said Otto von Habsburg