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United Nations Mission in Kosovo

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Morina: Holkeri's standards for Kosovo (*Bota Sot*)

Bota Sot carries an opinion piece by Bajrush Morina about SRSG Harri Holkeri. He is asking 'why is Harri Holkeri more interested than his predecessors in making his mission redundant and also in accelerating the process of the definition of Kosovo's final status.'

Sat at a semi-luxurious table in one of the waiting halls of UNMIK HQ, Harri Holkeri, the chief administrator of Kosovo, with a stance of a serious statesman, left us with the impression that this man has come to Kosovo to do something big for Kosovo. Too vital for his age, elegant and self-confident, Harri Holkeri has offered his project, which in fact is Kosovo's project called 'Standards for Kosovo'.

Not to mention all the points of the plan one by one. What is noticeable in it, is the timeframe for achieving these projects.

In a meeting with the media representatives he answered the question of *Bota Sot* whether he was under pressure of time regarding the 18 month period to fulfill standards. He admitted the time is short, but that he does not 'give up' easily.

He is optimistic and committed that Kosovo and its people will meet the standards in time. 'I am sure that standards are beneficial for the people of Kosovo, and that their fulfillment implies the beginning of negotiations for the solution of the final status of Kosovo.'

Another positive side of the 'Standards for Kosovo', the document that bears the 'signature' of Harri Holkeri is the fact that it has been drafted and is being implemented together with the representatives of the democratic institutions of Kosovo, namely the Government of Kosovo. 'We cannot go forward without each other. We have established joint working groups and Mr. Rexhepi and I will monitor the process', says Holkeri.

Those who have the opportunity to meet and talk a bit longer with the chief administrator of Kosovo will immediately get rid of the wrong conviction that

Scandinavians are ‘cold people’! He shakes his hands with his interlocutors, and his pedantry only strengthens the feeling of a communicative and friendly man and above all a man ready for challenges.

At the very beginning of his mandate he said he would try to shorten his presence as SRSG in Kosovo. It implies that he wants to accelerate the process of solving the issue of the final status.

Because of this the document published recently ‘Standards for Kosovo’ is in fact a document of Holkeri for Kosovo. He has offered his project and it is up to the people of Kosovo to work for its implementation.

Time will show how long his tenure will last and when the final status will be solved, but one thing is for sure that there is a man in Kosovo that has offered the best opportunity to go forward, and it is us that need to take advantage of this chance for the benefit of ourselves and Kosovo.

In a separate box within the article the chief administrator of Kosovo is said to have the longest experience in the international diplomatic arena, and that he can enter UN without ‘knocking’, since he was there for several years and apart from being a personal friend to SG Kofi Annan, he is familiar with the nature of work in the biggest headquarters of the world in New York. This is one of his big advantages, which is a big advantage for Kosovo, too.

Shala: paradoxes and illusions (Zëri)

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

It is already known that some Kosovo Serb officials are candidates in the extraordinary Serbian parliamentary elections. If they are elected as members of the Serbian Parliament, they would very shortly become assembly members and government officials in Kosovo and members of the Serbian Parliament.

The international administration in Kosovo said that Serbian elections could be held in Kosovo. In fact, elections will be held in those parts of Kosovo, which are controlled by Serbia. This involves parallel structures, whereas UNMIK and the UN Security Council have constantly called for their dismantling.

Everybody knows that Kosovo Serb politicians are only formally in the Kosovo Government, because in reality they are part of the Serbian regime in Kosovo. They are not loyal to Prishtina, but to Belgrade. This was verified when Standards for Kosovo were announced, and when these politicians harshly criticized this event, after Belgrade had previously done the same thing. These politicians even refused to participate in the working groups for the implementation of standards.

Therefore, there are numerous paradoxes on these issues, which will be addressed in the coming days. One thing is absolutely clear and cannot be refuted by anyone: the process of creating a democratic and tolerant society in Kosovo might be damaged by

the logic of keeping alive a few illusions, and also by allowing Serbian elections, that Kosovo can return to where it was before 1999.

Lajçi: Covic's visit produces destructive policy in the region (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Nebojsa Covic's visit to the Serb enclave Gorazdevac was qualified by the Peja Municipal Assembly as harmful.

Peja Municipal Assembly chairman Ali Lajçi said that the visit incited tensions not only in the municipality, and added that the visit produces a destructive policy in the region.

‘At a point where we are trying to integrate all minorities in our society, such visits present an obstacle to this process and incite tensions and even destabilization in the municipality,’ Lajçi was quoted as saying.

‘It is irritating to have a Serbian electoral campaign here, because Serbia has its own elections, while Kosovo has its elections,’ concluded Lajçi.

Bugajski: Most of the UN members don't fulfill these standards (Kosova Sot)

Kosova Sot carries an interview with the analyst of the Center for Strategic and International studies in Washington Janusz Bugajski.

‘Progress will depend not only from Kosovans, but also from the UN's ability to delegate authority that will allow the institutions to function. In a paradoxal way, the majority of the UN members does not meet these standards,’ Bugajski was quoted as saying.

M. Bugajski, a few days ago the plan “Standards for Kosovo” was approved. This plan was accepted by Kosovo Albanian political representatives, but it was refused by Kosovo Serbs. What do these reactions tell?

I believe that many local Serbs see the standards as a start of the road towards the independence of Kosovo, so they refuse any movement, which leads to this solution. Unfortunately they should become part of the solution not part of the problem.

How do you evaluate the plan “Standards for Kosovo”? Is it realistic to expect that Kosovars will fulfill eight standards for only 18 months?

None of the new states, or aiming to become state, is perfect in all standards specified to be fulfilled in a short period. I consider this more as a map for the road, which tells the direction for any democratic country. The progress will depend not only on the Kosovars but also on the United Nations to delegate the authorities and to let the elected institutions to function. Paradoxically, most of the UN member countries do not fulfill these standards as well.

One of the standards is KPC. KFOR general said that the KPC is a civil organization and if it has any dream, it will damage the standard. What are the chances that KPC becomes a Kosovo army?

Bugajski: Meanwhile KPC can be a “civil organization” but if somebody believes that an independent state cannot have its army-then he is dreaming. European Union

seriously believes that criminals and terrorists should be eliminated from. Dreams of the United Nations shouldn't become Kosovo's nightmares.

New presidential elections will be organized by the end of this year in Serbia. How will the fact if radicals will win these elections impact Kosovo?

If Serbia really selects a PM in exile, in The Hague, than Belgrade's arguments to return Kosovo will fail. Some of the leaders understand that Kosovo is "lost" but they will try to benefit in maximum from the internationals.

Guardia di Finanza launches investigations in KEK (Zëri)

Zeri quotes a senior Kosovan official as saying that Guardia di Finanza has launched investigations in KEK on Friday. The source claims that the Italian unit is visiting every location of KEK. KEK's information office yesterday said to have no information regarding this investigation.

It is not yet possible to identify the specific suspicions that Guardia di Finanza is investigating. However, the source confirmed that investigators have visited the financial office. Doubts of financial mismanagement existed already in the past.

On the other hand, it was impossible to contact the KEK leadership on Monday. Suspicions of mismanagement in KEK were raised at the times when electricity lacked despite large amount of donations that was given to the company, the paper reports. The mismanagement of the assets achieved its peak when former KEK manger Joe Trutschler was found guilty for stealing several millions of euros.

KEK's press office denied to know anything regarding the investigations. KEK press officer Bektesh Rrudhani claimed that he had no clue regarding such information. 'As soon as we have new information we would inform you,' he was quoted as saying.

The UNMIK Pillar IV office of public affairs did not want to comment this issue and suggested us to contact the responsible officials of Guardia Di Finanza.