

# UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

## Media Monitoring

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**24 December**

#### **Finances – key target of Guardia di Finanza at Kosovo Power Corporation (Zëri)**

*Citing international sources, who prefer to remain anonymous, Zëri reports that the management and allocation of funds by the Kosovo Power Corporation (KEK) are the key target of investigations of Guardia di Finanza.*

The same sources also added that Guardia di Finanza investigators have contacted the highest-ranking KEK officials.

*Zëri* writes that the Italian unit for fighting economic crimes, Guardia di Finanza, has launched investigations in KEK last week; and that a source at UNMIK told *Zëri* that the unit already visited KEK offices twice this week.

*Zëri* claims it couldn't contact KEK international manager Charles Brown, because he is currently outside Kosovo.

On the other hand, KEK officials reportedly refused to make any commentaries on the abovementioned investigations. KEK local director Ali Hamiti neither denied nor confirmed the investigations. He refused to comment on this matter, and suggested that journalists should contact the KEK Office of Public Information. 'However, the KEK information office also said it had no knowledge on the investigations,' added the paper. 'As soon as we have any information on this issue, we will contact you,' a public relations manager was quoted as saying.

*Zëri* reported that the UNMIK Press Office didn't comment on 'the new target' of Guardia di Finanza, and suggested that interested journalists should contact UNMIK Pillar IV, which is in charge of economic affairs in Kosovo. However, Pillar IV officials also refused to comment, and said that leading officers in the unit for fighting economic crime should be contacted.

UNMIK press officer Mechthild Henneke did tell *Zëri* that, 'For the time being, Guardia di Finanza officers of Financial Investigation Unit are not carrying out investigations in KEK'.

In closing, *Zëri* cites reliable sources as saying that the unit for fighting economic crimes has started paying visits to KEK several weeks ago, and the same sources added that visits have intensified since late last week.

### **Task Force Investigation ‘lands’ in Prishtina Airport (*Koha Ditore*)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November, the Task Force Investigation has raided the offices of Prishtina Airport.

Citing reliable sources, *Koha Ditore* reports that these forces have confiscated a huge number of documents and have interrogated several high-ranking officials of this public company.

*Koha Ditore* notes that the Task Force Investigation was formed by Kosovo chief administrator Harri Holkeri in October this year. The unit includes the most specialized investigators for economic crimes, members of Guardia di Finanza, the European Union anti-corruption unit (OLAF), and the best investigators of UNMIK Police. Unlike the investigation criminal units of UNMIK Police and Kosovo Police Service, this unit answers only to the chief administrator. All institutions and companies, including the highest UNMIK structures, are obliged to provide free access to documents for the members of this unit.

*Koha Ditore* quotes sources from Prishtina Airport as saying that there were Guardia di Finanza members among the investigators that were seen in the airport.

The paper also notes that Prishtina Airport Director Adem Gashi recently categorically denied the visits of investigators in this company. ‘It is not true that Guardia di Finanza or other investigators have come to the airport to carry out investigations,’ said Gashi.

Gashi also added that this could be a matter of confusion, given the fact that recently there were financial controls by auditors at the airport. ‘If investigators would run investigations in the airport, I would have briefed the media on this, and they wouldn’t have to hear about this from anyone else,’ he added.

However, on the other hand, *Koha Ditore* quotes reliable sources from the airport as saying, ‘Investigators have come to the airport, downloaded from computers all the information and have taken away various documents. Some of the confiscated materials were returned, some not’.

UNMIK spokesman Neeraj Singh was quoted as saying that he could not comment on this issue. After consulting the members of the investigation unit, Singh said: ‘They don’t want to talk about this’.

*Koha Ditore* also claimed that another possibility in Prishtina Airport is that there could be changes in the organizational structure. ‘The next board meeting will determine the changes. The current staff will most probably be stripped from some competencies and the same competencies will be transferred to internationals. This is a result of dissatisfactions with the work that has been done so far,’ reliable sources told the paper.

**Koha Ditore** claims that the abovementioned changes were imposed by the Kosovo Trust Agency, which has asked for every local leader at the airport to have an international associate.

### **Shala: The fate of a partnership (Zëri)**

*'When it comes to relations between UNMIK and local authorities, this year can certainly be qualified as the most problematic period of these relations,' writes Blerim Shala in a front-page editorial in Zëri.*

On three occasions, the UNMIK chief declared null and void the decisions of the Kosovo Assembly; there were short-term sanctions that the chief administrator imposed on local officials, who were not allowed to attend several international meetings, and then there was an exchange of fire, that is accusing declarations, and in the end open confrontation surrounding the issue of competencies and dialogue with Belgrade.

By the end of the year, in the phase of preparing Standards for Kosovo, a better and more cooperative atmosphere could be felt in the relations between international and local officials. The detailed standards will be jointly assessed as a good action program until the period of addressing the status of Kosovo, around mid-2005.

Only next year, we will be able to see whether UNMIK and local authorities can achieve the often-mentioned partnership. Based on the elaborations of the plan for the implementation of standards, which is underway, this partnership should be the moving force in the implementation of standards.

So far, despite the announcements and promises, all efforts to achieve stability in this partnership have failed. I guess it is too early to talk about the fate of the implementation plan of standards. However, it can already be said that the whole fate of Standards for Kosovo completely depends on the success of the joint functioning of UNMIK and local authorities.

### **Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi visits Trepça mine in Stantrg (all dailies)**

*All dailies carry reports from Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi's visit to the fifth horizon of the Trepça mine in Stantrg.*

'There are concrete plans to reactivate the mine together with the Kosovo Trust Agency,' Rexhepi was quoted as saying. These plans are as a result of workers and staff determination, he said. They did a great job during this year and I appreciate their courage to accomplish the job, Rexhepi added.

Rexhepi also said that funds would be allocated for Trepça from the budget surplus, but only through projects and not through requests as it was done by the Kosovo Power Corporation.

The manager of mine Trepça in Stantrg, Miftar Hyseni, said that PM Rexhepi visits is the utmost importance after the war and also added that this is a support for workers and their staff.

### **Professors: Prishtina University has more politics than teaching (Zëri)**

*Zëri reports that higher education in Kosovo is facing a tough crisis, student strikes, deep disagreements between the Ministry of Education and the University, elections of deans, disagreements regarding euros.*

The paper reports that the professors treat the University of Prishtina as a place where political parties interest is crossed. ‘University of Prishtina is certainly more politicized than ever before,’ the professor of international right Enver Hasani was quoted as saying.

### **Miftari: For Kosovo Assembly and other stories (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore carries an opinion peace by Naser Miftari who suggests that when nobody takes into account what an assembly and its members say then it is time to change something.*

When we were refugees in Macedonia, a professor of ours, one of those who only after the war was considered as a ‘suspicious professor’ was trying to convince a student that a quasi-faculty was to be built within days in a private house in Tetovo! Several days later and the student could hardly avoid the bullets, and he told the professor; ‘Prof, if we continue like this (setting up parallel systems like tents) they will expel us from here, too’. Since that day almost five years have passed, and the professor has not changed his mind.

Two days ago, Dragisa Krstovic said something to the Albanian members of the assembly and to Nexhat Daci, which was a call to make one think. When Albanian members of the parliament declared Serbian elections in Kosovo invalid, Krstovic took the floor and reminded them that OSCE and UNMIK had not declared them as such, so ‘stay there and shut up’. It was an unequivocal expression that simply left you speechless.

So, according to Krstovic, it is OSCE and UMIK that have allowed a sort of a weird arithmetic that gives artificial rights for representation of communities, a form that can only be seen here in the Balkans; afterwards they recognize the elections of Serbia, and other machinations, while it is not known what interests the characters of these communities represent. Serbs who should have voted and secure a democratic representation in this assembly have not returned. And when they do, who knows what they will ask.

‘This country will be democratic’ said one to me before the war. He explained in detail saying; ‘the police will come and will say Mirëdita, letërnjoftimin, ju lutem (*In Albanian: Good afternoon, your ID, please*). All these stories made sense then.

But it seems that Albanians made a mistake in their calculations, they thought of future police angels and not of police officers.

In fact today the municipal budget counts on traffic tickets. And many invalids wander back and forth to change one letter in their names in their documents.

The assembly should definitively get rid of people who are not working anything and who do not cease telling stories.

It seems that internationals will be more interested in vox-pops of 'Hajt pak' in KTV (a similar version of Speakers' Corner) than in what is said in our Assembly. I have realized why; they mean what they say in the 'Speakers' Corner'.