

UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

Media Monitoring

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5 November

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Kosovo Media Highlights

Grossman: Status by mid-2005, if certain standards are fulfilled (*Koha/Zëri*)

Koha Ditore and *Zëri* quote US State Department Under-Secretary Marc Grossman as saying that talks on Kosovo's final status could start by mid 2005 if certain standards designated by the international community are fulfilled in Kosovo.

Grossman gave this statement in Brussels after meeting with EU High Representative Javier Solana. Grossman, however, added that if these standards weren't fulfilled, the international community would appoint another date for the status.

Koha Ditore also reports that during his visit to Prishtina on Wednesday, Grossman is going to present the concept of operationalizing the standards, which in fact is a consensual offer of the Contact Group for Kosovo.

Citing reliable sources, *Koha Ditore* also added that before arriving in Prishtina, Grossman would visit Belgrade where he is reportedly going to reiterate the demand of the international community to dismantle parallel structures in Kosovo.

UNMIK: Holkeri hasn't agreed with changing the Constitutional Framework

Koha Ditore and *Zëri* report that international officials in Kosovo have refuted information that SRSB Harri Holkeri has agreed with eventual changes in the Constitutional Framework. Kosovo Assembly speaker Nexhat Daci claimed two days ago that the UNMIK chief had agreed with the process of changing the legal framework.

The daily papers quote UNMIK spokesperson Neeraj Singh as saying that SRSB Holkeri did not agree with the initiatives that were launched by the Kosovan side.

Hoti unveils details of plan for implementation of standards in Kosovo (Zëri)

Zëri reports that Rexhepi Hoti, advisor to Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi has presented the plan for the implementation of standards in Kosovo (PISK) as a plan that is going to help not only the fulfillment of eight standards, but also the supervision of this implementation.

Hoti also said that the plan envisages the appointment of the working groups and determining timeframes, and the whole process is going to be supervised by the UNMIK chief and the Prime Minister of Kosovo. [*full translation in afternoon Media Assembly*]

Ponte: Witnesses from Kosovo refuse to testify out of fear (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore quotes ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla del Ponte as saying that there are a lots of difficulties in ensuring evidence for the trial of four Albanians, who are currently awaiting trial in The Hague, because witnesses hesitate to cooperate with ICTY investigators.

‘Some of the witnesses have backed down from their initial statements out of fear,’ Del Ponte added.

Working group continues work on changing Constitutional Framework (Zëri)

Zëri reports that while there are ongoing contradictory statements between local and international officials about changes in the Constitutional Framework, the working group appointed by the Kosovo Assembly has started work on changing the legal framework.

Assembly member Fatmir Sejdiu said at this point it was very necessary to make changes in the Constitutional Framework due to new realities that have been created in Kosovo.

Surroi: Daci and the love of the mirror (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore carries an editorial by publisher Veton Surroi who claims that ‘if the Kosovo Assembly would pass a law every time the assembly speaker publicly praises

himself, Kosovo would have been a model of democracy and efficiency'. [full translation in Media Analysis]

KPC asks for more financial assistance (Koha Ditore)

In a report from the meeting of the Working Group for the development of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), *Koha Ditore* claims that for the time being, the international community doesn't find it necessary to give additional duties to the KPC in the field of security and defense. [more in Media Analysis]

Bidny: Civil registration of Kosovans has not failed (Zëri)

Zëri reports that high-ranking international officials involved in the civil registration of Kosovans said Tuesday that the process of registration has not failed and that on the contrary UNMIK has achieved tremendous progress in Kosovo.

Zëri also quotes Leonid Bidny, director of administrative affairs as saying that the civil registration of Kosovans has not failed.

Shala: The division of Kosovo - the beginning and the end of Serb politics (Zëri)

Zëri runs the fourth part of an opinion piece by editor Blerim Shala, who writes that Serb politicians are expected to take advantage of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Kosovo to draw new concessions from UNMIK.

Shala also writes that late Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic didn't hide the fact that he was a follower of the territorial division of Kosovo, which according to his opinion, could have been achieved by the end of 2003, with the support of Albanian leaders who would give up the northern part for the immediate independence of Kosovo. [full translation in Media Analysis]

AAK leader Ramush Haradinaj meets analyst Patrick Moore (Zëri)

Ramush Haradinaj, leader of the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) met yesterday with *Radio Free Europe* analyst Patrick Moore. Haradinaj and Moore reportedly discussed the current political situation in Kosovo and the region and the latest developments.

'An independent Kosovo is the only solution for Kosovo's status and status is non-negotiable,' Haradinaj was quoted as saying.

Dobbins: Independence – final solution of Kosovo's problem (Zëri)

Zëri carries an interview that former US Envoy to Kosovo James Dobbins gave to *Radio Free Europe*.

'Bearing in mind the wish of the absolute majority of the people of Kosovo for independence, the final solution of this problem is most probably going to be some kind of an independence,' Dobbins said.

Pfeiffer: We thought of continuing privatization, despite the risks (Zëri)

In an interview for *Zëri*, Dale Pfeiffer, head of the USAID Mission in Kosovo is quoted as saying, 'I think that the reasons of stopping privatization were realistic for new people that arrived in the Kosovo Trust Agency, but not for some who were

before. We thought of continuing the process despite all risks, but others don't share this opinion. They believe that it is necessary to change certain regulations here, and for them to make the decisions'.

Rugova: Economical independence facilitates recognition of independence (Zëri)

Zëri reports that Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova met yesterday with representatives of the Kosovan Business Alliance. 'The stimulation of local products will contribute to the economical independence, and the latter will contribute to the formal recognition of Kosovo's independence,' Rugova was quoted as saying.

Suspended PTK Director interrogated by Guardia di Finanza (all dailies)

All dailies report that the suspended PTK General Director Leme Xhema has been interrogated by Guardia di Finanza about suspicions of misusing her official position.

Koha Ditore claims that despite everything, Xhema said that she hopes she would soon return to her working place.

Covic: Serbia will not give up on parallel institutions in Kosovo (Zëri)

Zëri quotes Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Nebojsa Covic as saying, 'There are no parallel institutions in Kosovo. There are only institutions which must be supported in order to ensure the survival of the Serb community in Kosovo'.

Serbian Justice Minister Batic send another letter to Holkeri (Zëri)

Citing information broadcast by Belgrade-based *Beta* news agency, *Zëri* reports that the Serbian Ministry of Justice is going to send a copy of court files to UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri on crimes that were committed against Serbs in Kosovo.

Attorneys: Another rigged process begins in Kosovo (Epoka e Re)

Epoka e Re reports that trial of the accused for the assassination of the Hajra family has started, whereas attorneys are claiming that the indictment has been based on rumors.

Epoka e Re reports that the indictment was read by the international prosecutor who made a complete failure out of himself during the Drini trial in Prizren. [*more in Media Analysis*]

Kosovo Press Headlines

Koha Ditore

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Singh: They didn't understand Holkeri (*Blic*)

UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri has not accepted the initiative by the Kosovo Assembly speaker and the Kosovo government to make changes and amendments to the Constitutional Framework as Rexhepi and Daci told journalists after the meeting with Holkeri. "They either did not understand correctly or stated on purpose that Holkeri initially agreed with the changes of the Constitutional Framework and the transfer of all UNMIK competencies to Kosovo institutions," UNMIK spokesperson Neeraj Singh conveyed the statement by the UNMIK head.

Sunil Narula: Investigation launched (*Vecernje Novosti*)

UNMIK DPI Head Sunil Narula has very politely explained that the "authorities will first have to be informed about the content of the text and especially the photos," he asked *Vecernje Novosti* for patience until Tuesday and placed in charge his subordinate Neeraj Singh to put forward UNMIK's stand. Our daily received UNMIK's stand, while Mr. Singh was very short: "We have seen the photos published by your daily on Monday, on which people who are allegedly KLA are holding cut-off human heads allegedly belonging to Serbs. UNMIK had received these same photos several weeks ago. We immediately contacted the international prosecutor in Kosovo and the police to identify the people from the photos. An investigation has been launched immediately and, for now, I cannot say anymore until it ends."

Zoran Zivkovic on the photos of crimes (*Vecernje Novosti*)

The photos that appeared in *Vecernje Novosti* are a good enough reason to react, and I am astonished that our public didn't have an adequate reaction as well, let alone the

international community, said Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Zivkovic on the occasion of the photos published in our daily on the monstrous crime by KLA members against Serb civilians in Kosovo and Metohija. "Had the murderers been in some other uniforms, God forbid of our services, the police and the army, would the ICTY be silent for 48 hours. Would that be a reason for silence or an avalanche of statements throughout the world. This speaks that there are still double standards and we want to break these stereotypes," said Zivkovic.

Nebojsa Covic: Murderers must go to The Hague (*Vecernje Novosti*)

The Head of the CCK Nebojsa Covic considers that the newspapers should not deal now with the fact "whose head" is in the hands of the terrorists, the task of us, the media and the public in Serbia is to request from those who have the possibility to receive exact data on the perpetrators and those against whom the crime was committed. "I have talked to Holkeri today and received assurances that UNMIK and he personally would undertake everything in their power, and that we would receive information on who are the murderers on the photos published in *Novosti*. They also have specific results in that part, but we will wait for official information. I don't know what more evidence does somebody need in order to send those who had committed atrocities to The Hague," said Covic.

White Book on terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija presented (*Danas*)

With the publication of "Albanian Terrorism and Organized Crime in Kosovo and Metohija" we wish to help UNMIK, KFOR, the ICTY and the police forces of many other states of Western Europe, whose goal is to fight against organized crime in Kosovo and Metohija, because the largest part of the mafia that deals with drug smuggling and prostitution arrives from these parts. This is also to help all citizens of the province, first of all Albanians, to show them that the so-called political, armed and terrorist struggle for achieving national goals of Kosovo Albanians are in fact just the struggle for preserving the system of organized crime. It is seen in the book that political leaders are actually the leaders of the clans that divided Kosovo, as well as its influence in the crime throughout Europe," said Zoran Zivkovic at the presentation of the White Book on Albanian terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija at the Serbian Parliament.

Carla del Ponte on Kosovo indictments (*Politika/Beta*)

The ICTY Chief Prosecutor stated in Vienna that the trial of one Kosovo Albanian would begin next year, while another three indictments had been prepared and two more investigations were underway. Prior to addressing the OSCE, Carla del Ponte told journalists that she had experienced problems collecting evidence against Kosovo Albanians because witnesses were being threatened, because they felt fear and were in great danger. Del Ponte said she was waiting for the documentation regarding Kosovo as promised by Serbian Justice Minister Vladan Batic. "I hope I will soon receive the documentation he promised during our recent meeting," she said.

Batic's letter to Holkeri (*Glas*)

The Serbian Minister of Justice Vladan Batic has addressed a letter to UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri where he stated that his ministry would again send to UNMIK a

complete copy of court transcripts with more than 10 thousand pages of evidence material about crimes committed by Albanian terrorists against Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija. Batic said that in connection with a response of deputy UNMIK head Charles Brayshaw, saying that UNMIK had no proof of responsibility of former KLA leaders Hashim Thaci, Agim Çeku and Ramush Haradinaj, he would send court files and evidences collected by military judicial organs, military intelligence, security and information agencies, committee in charge of collecting information on crimes against humanity and international law, Interior Ministry and the CCK. This evidence material undisputedly confirms their responsibility for more than 7,000 terrorist attacks in which more than 1,200 people were killed, 1,350 wounded, 1,500 kidnapped and 340,000 non-Albanians had been banished, Batic stressed.

Kosovo's status in 2005 (Blic)

Talks on Kosovo's final status could commence in mid 2005 if the standards determined by the international community are fulfilled in Kosovo, the Under-Secretary at the US State Department Marc Grossman stated in Brussels. "If the Kosovo authorities fulfill the standards, we will be ready to commence talks on Kosovo's final status. Otherwise, we will determine a new date," said Grossman, who is arriving in Belgrade and Pristina after Brussels.

UNMIK banned Nikolic to arrive in Mitrovica (Glas/Tanjug)

SRS has rallied in Mitrovica, without the presence of the party's presidential candidate Tomislav Nikolic, who was banned by UNMIK to go to Kosovo and Metohija for safety reasons. Apart from SRS leaders from Kosovo and Metohija, this party's secretary general Aleksandar Vucic spoke at the rally, saying that Nikolic, if he wins at the elections, will have as his priority the return of the Serbian army and police to Kosovo and Metohija, and that he, as the member of the Supreme Defense Council, will block the departure of our soldiers to the battlefields throughout the world.

UNMIK and KFOR did not allow Serb IDPs to visit cemeteries in Podujevo (Balkan)

Serb IDPs from Podujevo municipality, most of whom reside in Kursumlija, tried last Saturday to visit, organized by the CCK, the graves and light candles in Podujevo, but UNMIK and KFOR representatives stopped them from doing so because they couldn't provide them with escort and guarantee them safety. "Although this visit was announced some ten days ago, representatives of UNMIK police and KFOR waited for us at Gate 3 in Merdare, saying they knew what was at issue and that they could escort us, but couldn't secure the space. According to them, it was especially problematic to escort the Nisekspres bus," said Ivica Markovic, a CCK member.