

UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

Media Monitoring

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12 November

Kosovo Police Service operates independently, but it is not independent (Zëri)

Zëri carries the ninth part of a series of articles, this time focusing on Kosovo Police Service, which has been considered the most successful part of the international administration here in Kosovo.

Although this might sound a bit exaggerated, the article goes on, four years after its establishment, the KPS continues its growth in number and professionalism.

Everything started on 6 September 1999 with the first generation of KPS officers in Vushtri. So far, 26 generations have been trained, namely 5700 police officers. Starting this year, along with the growth in number the first stations got independent, one in Gračanica and one in Kaçanik.

The number of local police officers is increasing the same time that the number of internationals is decreasing; now we have 3700 out of originally 5000. The number of local police officers is expected to reach 6000 soon.

After the next two or three generations, the Police School in Vushtri will cease 'production' of police officers, but it will continue with other sorts of trainings.

'I believe that by 2005, most of the Kosovo police stations will become autonomous, and will be led by its KPS officers', is the vision of the KPS colonel, Sheremet Ahmeti. Some of the stations will become independent sooner than some others, and the complete autonomy cannot be reached before the beginning, maybe the end of 2006. Then the internationals will take the role of monitors, observers, or advisers, says colonel Ahmeti. By that time, he adds, the Kosovo Government will get the Ministry of Internal Affairs, or Ministry of Police.

The Unit for Strategic Planning is in charge of designing the current KPS. Best police practices have been taken as a model; with the American model as a key model combined with elements from German, English and Canadian Police practices.

The project for developing the KPS has been drafted by officials of UNMIK Pillar for Justice and Police, headed by Jean Christian Cady, in cooperation with other international police officials. So, the design has been carried out by the internationals, and colonel Ahmeti believes that he and his colleagues will soon be involved in the Strategic Plan to Develop the Kosovo Police.

This way the best model is expected to be found, which would suit the reality, the needs and specifics in Kosovo.

Models of Police in the neighboring countries will be taken into consideration, since Kosovo police is part of the region and needs to be compatible, and needs to have professional relations with those in charge of security in the region. Former Yugoslav countries and Albania have good models of policing, and Kosovo will build a model that is considered to be the best and the most suitable for this country.

It very much depends on the financial recourses. Until last year, the building and functioning of the police was financed exclusively by the internationals, and since the Police started to be paid by the budget of Kosovo, money has often come in the first place. This year, when the first stations got independent, the Kosovo budget allocated € 39.000.000 million. They will need far more money when more stations get independent. Furthermore, international donations have already dried out.

‘KPS will ask for € 70.000.000 for next year, and we will see how much we will get’ says Sheremet Ahmeti.

In 2005 the Kosovo Police is expected to have 6500 police officers, not including special units. And according to Ahmeti it will be the ‘most contemporary police in the region’. It is and it will continue to be an example of good police service, well trained and professional, say Kosovo police officers.

Coordination Center is consolidating in Kosovo (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reported that the conclusion of the latest internal report prepared by UNMIK Office of Community Affairs is that the Coordination Center for Kosovo (CCK) led by Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Nebojsa Covic is consolidating in Kosovo.

‘Establishment of the working groups on the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina is still not finished, while the CCK is consolidating its presence in Kosovo, along with increase in assistance to the Serbian community,’ said the report that was compiled for the period October 30 to November 6.

‘After appointing coordinators in all areas inhabited by the Serbs, it seems that the Center is now trying to provide satisfactory working conditions for their representatives by buying or rehabilitating facilities that will be turned into offices,’ said the report.

The report itself mentions rumours heard in Obilic that the CCK is planning to refurbish the Stolic family house, and shift its office there from the village Plemetina where it is currently located.

The CCK leader and the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Covic has said that he is not going to dismantle the Serbian parallel structures in Kosovo.

Despite reports on the ground, UNMIK is still tolerating activity of the parallel structures and according to its spokesperson UNMIK would continue to tolerate such activity in the near future, the paper reported. It has said that it will try to convince Serbia to dismantle parallel structures by providing UNMIK structures to replace them.

‘The parallel structure have been here for long time and we are making efforts to convince Belgrade the necessity to stop financing these structures. At the same time we have set up UNMIK structures...Therefore this is a continuous effort,’ UNMIK spokesperson Neeraj Singh was quoted as saying.

‘CCK that operates from Belgrade cannot be a parallel structure because they are here just for coordinating humanitarian aid, however we have a clear position that whatever parallel structures are there, it doesn’t have jurisdiction over Kosovo. UNMIK has the sole authority over the Kosovo,’ he said.

UNMIK’s report further said that the CCK and the Serbian Red Cross have brought seven trucks with logs for the needs of the Serbian enclaves in Hoça e Madhe and also stressed that this assistance was give only to the Serbs but not to the Romas or Egyptians who live in very difficult economic and social conditions.

The report further said that the Serbian residents are still worried about their security situation in Kosovo because of the recent incidents. ‘Tensions have been raised even in areas which were calm earlier,’ said the report and gave an example that in village Domoroc (Kamenica municipality), a Serbian KPC members restaurant was a target of shootings.

UNMIK officials have described in detail the success of a dozen projects concerning returns and concluded that ‘this fact isn’t influencing negatively the returns process, which is moving ahead despite difficulties and risks.’

Assembly Presidency leaves LPK request for Union with Albania for later stage (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reported that the meeting of the Kosovo Assembly Presidency, which was held on Tuesday, was over quick. Within an hour, the members of the assembly presidency managed to solve all six points of the daily agenda. ‘But as always, none of the assembly presidency members went before the media to brief them on the content of the meeting,’ the paper added.

Sherif Konjufca, spokesperson for the Kosovo Assembly, told journalists that the presidency had adopted the agenda for the next two plenary sessions and that they reviewed the recommendations of the public services committee about the obstacles that citizens run into during the process of getting equipped with personal documents. ‘On this issue, the presidency has decided that it has to be sent to the Government or

to the respective ministry,' said Konjufca, implying that the abovementioned committee hadn't addressed the right institution for this matter.

Koha Ditore also reported that assembly presidency members failed to discuss the request of the Kosovo Popular Movement (LPK) for the creation of the Union of Albania and Kosovo.

'The request of the LPK hasn't entered the regular procedure yet,' said Konjufca. 'The request is going to be discussed in the next sessions of the Kosovo Assembly'.

Shala: Kosovo's image (Zëri)

Zëri carried a front-page editorial by Blerim Shala who wrote:

One of the most influential weekly newspapers in Germany and Europe in the articles by the same author keeps producing ordinary lies about Kosovo, in particular and the Albanians, in general.

The latest article in this newspaper is full of fabrications, which reach boiling point with the lie about the visit to Kosovo by former NATO SACEUR Wesley Clark. The 'news' about Clark's visit to Kosovo was published a month ago in a Belgrade-based daily newspaper, which is famous for its chauvinistic stance towards the Albanians. According to this paper, there were a series of secret meetings in the US military camp in Bondsteel. The author of this article, who caused a lot of damage to the Albanians whenever he could even during the conflict in Kosovo, clearly identifies the connection between the US and the Albanians, who according to them are responsible for all the problems in this part of Europe.

As we emphasized, this is such an important weekly newspaper that ignoring these articles would be the biggest mistake of Kosovar officials. Even this article will inflict damage on Kosovo's image, which has already suffered a major decline in the last years.

In fact, the biggest problem in this case is not this article or other similar articles, where the lack of arguments is compensated by a lot of rumors but the lack of Kosovar mechanisms who would rebut such articles and work in creating a good image for Kosovo.

Simply, no one is taking care of Kosovo's image.

Surroi: The long journey of pictures with two decapitated heads (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore runs an opinion piece by publisher Veton Surroi who comments on the events surrounding the pictures that were recently published in a Serb newspaper and which show several persons wearing KLA uniforms holding decapitated heads allegedly of Serbs.

1. Some international police and military officials in Kosovo have gathered urgently over the last three weeks to discuss some pictures. You can see some persons dressed in KLA uniform holding at least two decapitated heads A week before these photos

were published in the biggest Belgrade paper 'Novosti'. In a text heavy with emotions, generalizations about KLA and in the same tone their fight against Milosevic, they mention names of the victims and the perpetrators. The victims are allegedly Serb soldiers, both of whom joined the army voluntarily when the NATO bombing in Kosovo started and the perpetrators are allegedly two KLA soldiers from Deçani region.

In the last week the Serb opinion has been bombarded with stories on crimes against the Serb population in Kosovo, civilian and uniformed, allegedly by KLA. Logically, UNMIK should soon explain to the public what it is all about.

2. The decapitated heads in these pictures, if they are real, will continue their long and macabre journey.

For the Kosovo society, the journey is going to take various forms. It is an automatic reminder for all of us of the war and its horrors. For some of us it will trigger associations of similar incidents from Jasharis to Reçak and more. Furthermore, it will be a burden for the families who haven't yet received the bodies of their loved ones; over 800 bodies are in Serb morgues and mass graves in Serbia today. For some it is a revival of the vicious circle of hatred and revenge, when people without thinking much about the consequences simply say 'they killed us, we killed them'.

Above all, the Kosovo society will be challenged by one notion, which has not been pointed out enough in our public debates: that is of responsibility for crimes committed in the name of the Albanians, in the name of Kosovo. The photographs I have seen, if authentic, obviously amount to war crimes, and are appalling and to be condemned by all means, be it legally or morally by the society.

The Kosovar society, with the unusual problems that it faces, be it due to the war being fairly recent or the fragile and inefficient administration, has to face the simple fact that at some time and at some place, war crimes were committed in its name, and all those who committed them or who gave orders are responsible.

3. For the Serb society, the decapitated heads have a longer journey. In the Serbian newspapers during and after the war, you could hardly find war stories when Albanians were victims. When Jasharis were being killed, almost eradicated, the interpretation by almost all the media was that it was done by the Jasharis. When hundreds of thousands of Albanians were expelled from Kosovo, that was part of a 'Hollywood' scenario, as it was called at that time, to deceive the international community.

Even today, three years after Milosevic's ouster and one year after the start of his war crimes trial, majority of the Serbs are not willing to say that there was a state and paramilitary machinery acting in the name of Serbia and the Serb people with one single goal: to create ethnically clean Serb areas wherever they lived with other nations and that they did not care what means were used, including genocide.

In this respect, the photo with two decapitated heads serves only two simple pragmatic and political goals. For part of the public opinion it is a continuation of the Serb propaganda that Serbs were the main victims of the past wars. Second, for people like

Covic, who served both regimes in the last fifteen years, is a new way to balance things with 'decapitated heads'; yes there have been Albanians killed in Kosovo, but look what the Albanians did!

4. The decapitated heads, an expression of human cruelty in the times of war, most probably will not rest in peace.

As they were part of the war at that time, likewise they are part of the war with other means today. The result of this propaganda war is designed not to end. There will always be another photo found, another evidence, that will appall us.

And such a result cannot be corrected even by the most important Hague Tribunal or by international efforts to start the Pristina-Belgrade dialogue. There is no reconciliation, as it is said, in a dialogue without justice. And there can be no justice without investigating the truth.

If anything good is going to come out of these pictures it is that both the societies, the Kosovar and Serb society will address the package of what happened in the past. Both societies, without balancing crimes, should be informed about what happened in Kosovo.

These pictures could have rightly raised a horror. But, for as long as Belgrade does not understand that in the small territory of Kosovo, every 200 meters you have spots where crimes were committed on orders of Belgrade, and supported by a majority of the Serb population, they can hardly understand the essence of the atrocity caused by the pictures with two decapitated heads.

In Pristina, these pictures should cause outrage. We have seen earlier when the heads were Albanian, Bosniak or Croat. In the end, the essence of crime was the same: closer to a monster and more distant from a human being.

Editorial: Less money for Kosovo (*Kosova Sot*)

Kosova Sot carried an editorial about the decrease of the financial assistance from the international institutions towards Kosovo.

According to its spokeswoman the Kosovo Government should be satisfied with 50 million euros, which EAR (the European Agency for Reconstruction) allocated to Kosovo for the year 2004. The donations for Kosovo have decreased, while for Serbia and Montenegro it is increasing. This is a modest contribution to our new and inexperienced administration, as well as in other fields where this assistance is planned to be spent. Kosovo needs serious investments and strategic planning in a way to get out of the social-economic crisis.

The EU has given great contribution to Kosovo, but most of that money was used for the energy-sector, for KEK. The decrease of donations for Kosovo is a sign of crisis and dead end, considering that our government is still weak and it hasn't managed to implement even one third of its plan. On the other hand the undefined status makes it impossible to get loans. Without donations and loans it would be very difficult to develop the economy.

This situation is expected to last until the definition of Kosovo status and our country should be satisfied with any charity, as it is this one from the EAR. The unfavorable circumstances for investors shouldn't be reason for the government to remain cross-handed. Our government has enough time to identify priorities of the economic development and also to compile strategic plan for Kosovo's development. Like it or no - we can consider Kosovo as the poorest place in Europe.

Experts: Poverty in Kosovo will grow in the future (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reported that backed by UNDP and USAID, Riinvest has published the so-called Early Warning Report which claims that there is growing poverty in Kosovo and that unfortunately it is going to keep growing in the future.

Koha Ditore quoted UNDP chief Robert Piper as saying that poverty in Kosovo was linked with instability. 'According to the statistics, 12 percent of people live in extreme poverty, and this is a major source of instability,' Piper added.

Riinvest senior member Isa Mustafa said that the poverty level in Kosovo was going to keep growing. 'The studies that we have made, and also the studies of other institutions such as the World Bank show that there is a high level of poverty in Kosovo,' Mustafa added.

Mustafa said that over 50 percent of Kosovars live in conditions of poverty, while 12 percent of the population live in extreme poverty, which means that they don't even have the money to buy food.

Mustafa said that the problems derive mainly from unemployment and the incapability for work. 'The problems are with orphans from the period of conflict, and with families that are supported only by women,' he added.

UNDP chief Robert Piper said that unfortunately the poverty level in Kosovo was growing. 'International organizations are leaving Kosovo, the financial assistance is declining, salaries in the public sector have remained the same, whereas there is a growing unemployment rate,' Piper said.

According to Mustafa, areas that are mainly inflicted by poverty are cities, while the poverty level is lower in rural areas. 'This all happened due to the large displacement of the people from villages to cities,' Mustafa said. 'We must first of all compile a strategy against poverty, which would lead to the development of rural areas so that a part of the population can return there and jumpstart the economic development.'

I. Rexhepi: Big mess in KTA (Koha)

Koha Ditore carried a comment about the KTA work:

'We do not know what we have to work,' said a KTA worker. Such a statement doesn't describe the real situation in this institution, but it shows a concern and shows why the main KTA activity is blocked: the privatization process.

While the lazy people would say: 'Lets carry on like this, lots of money and nothing to work,' Rexhepi writes.

However, the situation in the KTA is more serious than an analysis of money and work. If the privatization process fails, then lots of things will fail in Kosovo. However, people still hope that Holkeri, Lambsdorff and Fucci will return with a 'yes', which will release the whole process and will also remove the big fog that is currently created.

All these circumstances are created by the KTA, respectively by a group of people from the international staff that were present there in the last months. Simply they are the strategists of this situation and it is difficult to qualify them as clever as those people that begun this process, or as cowards; or perhaps all their activities have been politically motivated. Lots of things will be clear one day, perhaps when the chiefs of UNMIK, Pillar IV and the KTA return from New York.

We suppose that the privatization process will be released, but there will still be lack of clarity.

First, a response should be requested why the privatization process was fragile and sensitive towards every criticism. Or to say it in different words, why does the KTA not have people that would take risk and are aware that this process is accompanied by obstacles, complaints and charges in the entire world. Why is something else from Kosovo required, when it is clear that its political status gives indications that everybody could complain about the transformation of the SOEs. Place for complaints are the courts, but not the KTA.

Second, since two months the KTA has blocked 25 million of euros. This is money that is provided by the purchasers of the SOEs. They collected it from different resources: from reserves, borrows, bank loans and matched all demands that were put forward by the sellers. Rightfully they get angry, because their aim is frozen. They had prepared themselves for a long time and lots of their financial assets are still in the KTA account. Therefore, if this problem is still going on, it is understandable to file a charge against the KTA, Rexhepi firmly stressed.

Third, from those assets five million euros belong to the workers. They admitted financial benefits of the privatization process as a condolence and they also agreed to carry on with this process despite their undefined position even. They did not get either their financial reward. Disappointment could be much worse. Further more, workers have the right to file charges if the delays continue, Rexhepi writes.

Belgrade Media Update

UN police arrest former rebel commander (Beta)

UN police in Kosovo have arrested a former rebel commander who helped lead an ethnic Albanian insurgency in southern Serbia in 2001. Sami Azemi – also known as “Commander Hadzi” – was arrested on suspicion of kidnapping and illegal possession of weapons, his lawyer was quoted as saying on Radio Kosovo. Azemi was one of the founders of the Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac. The group, which operated in southern Serbia, was officially disbanded in 2001. His lawyer,

Masar Morina, said Azemi denied the charges. He said that the arrest was not linked to the trial another former rebel commander, Sefket Musliu. Azemi was remanded in custody for 72 hours.

Kosovo Albanians demand unification with Albania (*Beta*)

Several thousand Kosovo Albanians gathered in downtown Pristina today to demand the UN-governed province be unified with Albania. Protestors carried banners saying "Unite Kosovo and Albania" and "Release the fighters". They also called on the United Nations mission to leave after what one of the organizers described as "four years of experimenting". Faik Fazliu, who heads an association of Kosovo Albanian war veterans, complained of a "systematic assault on KLA values", in reference to the guerrilla group, the Kosovo Liberation Army. The rally was organized by the two minor political parties, in cooperation with a number of associations of war veterans and invalids, and the Independent Union of Pristina University Students.

Kosovo greatest security challenge for SCG, region - Tadic (*Tanjug*)

Serbia-Montenegro (SCG) Defence Minister Boris Tadic, who has just ended his three-day official visit to Great Britain, has told the British BBC radio that Kosovo-Metohija represents the greatest challenge not only for SCG, but for the whole region as well. In the long run, an unresolved status of the province hinders the reform of the army and aggravates the creation of a new, modern defence doctrine of the state union, Tadic said.