

UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

Media Monitoring

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19 November

Solana: Kosovo's status isn't linked to fate of Serbia/Montenegro Union

Koha Ditore reported that based on the position of EU High Representative Javier Solana, the final status of Kosovo doesn't depend on the fate of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

'There is no connection between these two. And regardless of whether or not Serbia and Montenegro decide to remain together, Kosovo still has the United Nations Security Council to decide and Kosovo is still governed by Resolution 1244,' Solana was quoted as saying.

Solana also voiced the willingness to start thinking about Kosovo's final status in 2005, if standards are met by then. 'We have approved the UN concept of standards before status, we will fulfill standards according to the timeframe, and until the end of 2004 we are going to evaluate the fulfillment of standards every three months, and by mid-2005 or late 2005 we are going to see if standards have been fulfilled,' Solana added.

In closing, *Koha Ditore's* correspondent from Brussels, Augustin Palokaj, noted that in European diplomatic circles there is growing skepticism about the success of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro due to internal problems in Serbia. Some even fear that insecurity and political problems in Serbia could affect the pace of resolving Kosovo's status. 'This is especially important in light of the EU saying that the dialogue between Prishtina and Belgrade is the key standard for the resolution of Kosovo's final status,' concluded the paper.

The EU and US must speak one language on standards in Kosovo (Zëri)

Zëri reports that the European Union and the US have confirmed a common language regarding the international approach in Kosovo in the next two years. EU officials were quoted as saying that the situation in the Balkans, in Kosovo and in Bosnia and Herzegovina was discussed briefly because during the meeting with US Secretary of State Colin Powell the main topics of discussion were developments in other parts of the world, mainly in Iraq.

Zëri also reports that during the meeting with Javier Solana, Franko Frattini and Christopher Patten, Powell confirmed the commitment of the Contact Group to fulfill standards in Kosovo and later on to start negotiations on status provided there is has been satisfactory progress on the standards.

According to Solana's spokesperson, Christina Gallach, the EU and US consider the dialogue on practical issues between Kosovo and Serbia as one of the most important benchmarks to be fulfilled in Kosovo.

According to the paper Gallach went on to say that the EU has expressed its interest in taking over the military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina when the mandate of SFOR expires. Gallach says that US Secretary of State Powell regards the EU as good and feasible at a reasonable time.

EU and US officials foresee that the end of SFOR and the beginning of the EU military mission in Bosnia can happen next year.

While *Epoka e Re* quotes Powell as saying that the US welcomes EU support for the status of Kosovo, and the benchmarks, adding that 'his country and the EU will be committed to further stabilizing the Balkans'.

Civiletti hands over decentralization recommendations to Holkeri (all dailies)

All dailies reported that Carlo Civiletti, head of the Council of Europe mission for decentralization, has handed over the CoE's decentralization recommendations to UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri.

Civiletti said that 'reformation of the self-government and the public administration aims to move the decision making process close to the Kosovo's citizens as soon as possible.' He also added that these recommendations are in harmony with European criteria regarding self-government.

'We attempted to find a sustainable financial solution about the reforms and decentralization of the local government,' Civiletti was quoted as saying and also added 'these reforms should touch ethnic issues, but by not using ethnic criteria as a basis for the decentralization process.'

Holkeri, on the one hand expressed UNMIK's willingness to take responsibility for implementing decentralization of the local government, while on another hand the PISG leaders claimed that 'these recommendations should be first analyzed and then we should decide about implementation of the acceptable recommendations.'

Comments of the local institutions concerning the decentralization process are linked 'to the transfer of competencies from UNMIK to the Kosovo government... first Kosovo's final status should be resolved and then the reforms can take place'. Local leaders are concerned that 'reforms are based on ethnic criteria; these reforms legalize ethnic enclaves and also undermine the integration of communities in the Kosovo structures.'

Ambassador Civiletti rejected comments that decentralization process is built on ethnic basis that legalize enclaves. 'The proposed reforms are prepared on the basis of geographic and demographic criteria. All communities will be involved in local self-government,' he said.

'Reforms create conditions for eliminating the parallel structures and also equal opportunities for all communities throughout Kosovo. European standards can and should be implemented now, regardless of the transfer of further competencies and the form that the final status would have,' Civiletti further said.

'International and local institutions should get involved together in implementation of decentralization. These reforms could start immediately, but we see the year 2006 as a key moment for implementation,' Civiletti concluded.

Harri Holkeri welcomed the reforms and expressed gratitude to the CoE for compiling these recommendations 'which pave the way for building a democratic self-governing society that is close to people and in their service as well.' He added that the decentralization process is a long process therefore 'UNMIK and local institutions should cooperate, review and move the process along by implementing these reforms'.

On the same issue *Zëri* quoted Kosovo Assembly Speaker Nexhat Daci as saying, 'I am going to say that the decentralization of power is not Kosovo's priority at this point. The priorities have been initiated by the US in the standards that must be operationalized. Decentralization will be in the second phase'.

Rexhepi, Thaçi attend 4th anniversary of PDK branch in Mitrovica (Zëri)

Zëri reported that Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi and PDK leader Hashim Thaçi attended the fourth anniversary of the PDK branch in Mitrovica.

'The first steps have been made and Mitrovica will gradually be integrated, while UNMIK and our institutions will expand their authority throughout the territory of Kosovo. We had a meeting with NATO Secretary-General George Robertson today and he told me that there should be no fear of the division of Mitrovica,' Rexhepi was quoted as saying.

'Mitrovica is my continuous concern as a citizen of this town, Mitrovica is also a concern for the head of PDK, Hashim Thaçi', PM Rexhepi said adding that 'some things have been clarified in the political life and for the future of Kosovo. One of them is operationalization of standards and the plan for implementing them, which we hope we will fulfill in time. In the course of implementing these standards, Mitrovica, its integration and the dissolution of parallel structures in the northern part of town are all issues that will have to be dealt with. For this we have the complete support of the head of UNMIK, Harri Holkeri, and of Security Council, but the biggest burden will lie with our institutions'.

Hashim Thaçi, the head of this PDK said that the PDK, even at the central level, regards the issue of Mitrovica as a priority. 'I believe that the PDK, with its structure and its composition, its political concept and vision, is steadily moving toward consolidating its western political identity as the first force in Kosovo'.

Thaçi also said that the year 2004 will be the most important year in postwar Kosovo, as it will address the final status, for which there's no alternative but independence.

Ceku: The release that shows that Kosovo is now independent (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore carries an interview that KPC Commander General Agim Çeku gave to the Croatian weekly newspaper *Nacional*.

Interpol has issued an arrest warrant against you a year ago. During this period of time, you went through Slovenia on your return from Croatia to Kosovo. How is it possible that Slovenian police decided to detain you now?

There are numerous ambiguities in this matter. It is certainly about an arrest warrant issued by Serbia and Montenegro in October 2002, and at the same time there are two worrisome facts: Interpol has recognized the arrest warrant that was issued by Serbia and Montenegro, and Slovenia, a country on its way to Europe, has implemented this arrest warrant. At the same time, the police in Kosovo didn't see fit to inform me about this arrest warrant and warn me not to travel to certain countries.

Of what crimes is the Union of Serbia and Montenegro accusing you?

They are accusing me of genocide against Serb civilians. About the murder of 600 Kosovo Serbs after the deployment of international troops in 1999. They are accusing me of responsibility in command, because at that time I was commander of the General Staff of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Isn't there a similar indictment against Hashim Thaçi?

Based on similar accusations of genocide and a similar request put forward by the Union of Serbia and Montenegro, Interpol has issued an arrest warrant against Hashim Thaçi. Based on this arrest warrant, Hungarian authorities stopped Thaçi in Budapest. They have shown more understanding than their Slovenian colleagues, and have briefly stopped Thaçi, whereas I was handcuffed and detained.

Reacting to your arrest, the UN protectorate has made official Kosovo's secession from Serbia, by explaining that as of 1999 Serbia has no competencies over Kosovo. Isn't this the goal of Albanians?

This really should have been the final result of this event. Not only did Harri Holkeri come to my support, so did Javier Solana and some other representatives of the international community. Therefore, the fact that I was arrested is not something of concern, what is of concern however is the fact that by doing this Interpol and Slovenia are helping the ambitions of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro to impose its political-legal authority over Kosovar citizens. But since my detention was solved after Holkeri's intervention, I don't think that Kosovar citizens are going to have similar problems anymore.

If Kosovo becomes a state, one day you are going to have to communicate with Serbia. Are there contacts between Kosovar Albanians and the Serbian Government?

No. Apart from the meeting in Vienna that was organized by the international community, there are no official contacts of communication with the Serbian Government.

Are there are at least improved relations between the Albanian majority and the Serb minority in Kosovo?

Unfortunately, we are only living close to each other. Serbs in fact participate in Kosovo's political life through the Assembly of Kosovo, and in the Government. And this is it. Apart from politics, there is no communication between Serbs and Albanians, not even between the closest neighbors.

Do you believe that Serbia would agree with the independent state of Kosovo?

Serbia isn't showing any signs that it has understood the new reality. Despite all the hopes and expectations, the new regime, when it comes to Kosovo, is no different from Slobodan Milosevic's regime. They constantly try to treat Kosovo as part of Serbia, first of all by using Kosovo Serbs and their tremendous political experience in political games ever since the time of the anti-bureaucratic revolution. But the fact is that only the international community has full authority in Kosovo.

Serb Justice Minister Vladan Batic has been making public statements that you are going to end up in The Hague...

He has been mentioning my name for quite sometime now. I have information that he has handed over to The Hague tribunal some documents allegedly proving that I was involved in crimes against Serbs, and he has also been asking The Hague to issue an indictment against me. I have no information that The Hague is investigating my activities, and no ICTY prosecutor has asked to meet me.

Political analysts see in you the moderated spirit among Albanians, unlike Thaçi. How much truth is there to this?

I am a professional soldier, and I am neither amongst the moderate or the radicals. I think that the same can be said for Hashim Thaçi.

Nonetheless it was you, and not Hashim Thaçi who condemned the killing of 12 Serb civilians in Gracko, at the very start of the UN mandate in Kosovo.

I have been fighting against Serbs ever since 1991, first in Croatia and later on in Kosovo, knowing that I do what I have to do. My father was massacred here in Kosovo because he was my father. They killed 44 people in my village only because I was chief of the General Headquarters of the Kosovo Liberation Army. I have many reasons to be outraged and be radical. I have lost many friends in Croatia, too, but I am a professional who tries not to be blinded by his emotions.

Two of your war comrades from Croatia, Norac and Gotovina, have been accused of war crimes. How do you regard their fate?

I believe I have tremendous military experience. I was a member of the National Army of Yugoslavia, then a member of the Croatian Army and the KLA. I am proud of all this, but what I am most proud of is my participation in the liberation war of Croatia, in my Croatian nationality and in my friendship with Norac and Gotovina. I had the honor of being chief of Norac's brigade, and I had the honor of having Gotovina as my superior commander. Bearing in mind what they have done for Croatia, I find the accusations against them unacceptable.

You believe this is injustice?

Absolutely.

If The Hague asks for the extradition of your soldiers, or maybe your personal extradition, how would you react?

I honestly believe that we have waged a righteous and defensive war in Kosovo and I am willing to defend this view before any court, including The Hague. I presume you are not aware that three members of the KLA have been accused and held in detention at The Hague. One of them surrendered voluntarily, because like me, he is convinced that he can defend his participation in this war before everyone.

How long is the international protectorate going to last in Kosovo?

We must fulfill seven standards for the international protectorate to end; dialogue with Serbs and Belgrade, the return of Serbs and so on. The sooner these standards are met, the sooner UN troops (sic) will leave Kosovo and the international community will hand over the power to Kosovar institutions, and the international community will take on the role of advisor.

How long is going to take to meet these seven (sic) standards?

This is going to take years. Less than ten years.

Shala: Privatization remains on hold (Zëri)

In a front-page editorial for Zëri, Blerim Shala commented on the developments surrounding the process of privatization.

Ever since privatization in Kosovo was blocked in October, it's been said that one of the key elements in fulfilling standards and making the necessary preparations for the status of Kosovo would resume very soon. One would imagine that all the statements were useless and that all relevant entities in Kosovo, New York (UN) and the western capitals were fully behind the idea of resuming privatization. But now after the latest information issued by chief administrator Holkeri and other authorities in UNMIK, one thing remains unclear: will privatization resume from the point where it was stalled in early October, or will it take on a new shape, which means that in reality everything is going to start from scratch, including the review of enterprises that have already been privatized?

In the past weeks, Kosovar officials and experts asked for the process to be simplified by getting rid of the burden of discriminatory laws that were adopted during Milosevic's tenure. Now it emerges that everything can be complicated even more in the Kosovo society.

The key word surrounding all the mess in the process of privatization is ambiguity. There is no bigger opponent or obstacle for the process of privatization in former socialist countries than these ambiguities. This is going to discourage even the few investors who were willing to participate in the transformation of the economy in Kosovo. The belief that privatization in Kosovo can be successful is equal to zero.

Perrit: Holkeri's decision – a wrong policy in the extreme (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore quoted Henry Perrit, professor at the Chicago Kent College of Law, as saying that the latest decisions of SRSJ Harri Holkeri regarding the process of privatization in Kosovo are wrong in the extreme.

‘I am disappointed by the press release issued by the SRSG on privatization. It seems that he is still not giving utmost attention to this process, which is essential in achieving economic prosperity in Kosovo,’ Perrit was quoted as saying.

Perrit, who is reportedly trying to assist in KTA’s dispute at the Federal Court of New York, was also quoted as saying, ‘The decision to reopen the first and second round is especially unfortunate. These rounds were largely successful, with an offer of more than 130 million euros. It is an extremely wrong policy to reopen these rounds at such a late stage. This bureaucratic inconsistency is only going to undermine the trust of investors in this process’.

Employment policy in ministries determined by parties (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore carried an article about the findings of KODI, the Kosovo Institution on Research and Documentation, about the parliament of Kosovo. ‘Political parties, according to some previous investigation stand over the Kosovo institutions. Our political parties have set up the employment policies in respective ministries’ said Enver Hoxhaj, professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences in the University of Pristina.

‘Before all the Kosovo Parliament for the parties and not for the people’, said Hoxha during the presentation of the program. According to him the report had two primary goals: the first short term goal was to see to what point the Kosovo institutions were engaged in fulfilling the UNMIK policy on benchmarks before the status, and the second longer objective was to give recommendations for better governance and for our institutions to be more responsible and more transparent for the public.

As positive developments Hoxhaj said that there has been an increased communication among all political parties represented in the parliament, there is a better interethnic climate, and that most of the parliamentary members, ministers and their associates have started to understand the parliamentary practice and procedures. While as drawbacks he mentioned the slow pace with which Kosovo institutions draft laws and the lack of working conditions for our parliamentarians, saying that they are the only ones in the world who don’t have their own offices.

According to a survey with parliamentarians done by KODI, Kosovo needs 15 years to have a meaningful legal infrastructure in place.

Hoxhaj expressed the hope that our parliamentarians will read the report, which will be published in *Koha Ditore*.

Does Kosovo Government have an official position on privatization? (Koha)

Koha Ditore reported that privatization issue is not on government’s agenda and also carried the KTA protocol announcement

It seems that Kosovo government will require from UNMIK Pillar IV to finish the privatization process if it wants to have the government included in this process.

Sources in the Kosovo Government claimed that the government hasn't contributed to the complication of the process of privatization and added that if UNMIK Pillar IV does not solve these problems the government is going to look into new possibilities to implement privatization.

Kosovo's government sources justified this stance with the fact that the KTA regulation is a source of all these problems; therefore it is the KTA's obligation to resolve the ambiguities, *Koha Ditore* reported.

Paper further reported that Kosovo government demanded immediate continuation of the privatization process while in the meantime all remaining obstacles should be eliminated.

Although the privatization process presents an urgent issue, government did not include it in its agenda, and created risk that Kosovars ministers, members of the KTA Board may go into Friday's meeting with different stances.

Kosovo government has planned to discuss recent developments concerning the privatization process next week, after the KTA Board meeting, said an unnamed government's spokesperson.

Even though the privatization issue is not included on the government's agenda for Wednesday, surely government representatives in the KTA Board may raise this issue.

Two representatives of the Kosovo government on the KTA Board, Minister of Economy and Finance Ali Sadriu and Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Jakupi, said on Monday that they would discuss the privatization issue at the government's meeting. They also stressed that in the KTA Board meeting they must lay out the government stance.

It would be a wrong decision if ministers go at the KTA Board meeting without unified position, paper reported. 'Government must have its own stance. Kosovars must no longer participate in the privatization if this process continues as it was in the beginning,' said deputy chairman of the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce, Mustafë Ibrahim.

He added that in the current circumstances participation of the Kosovo's government representatives is meaningless.

The privatization process has reached its lowest point after the UN's decision that status of every single SOE must be reviewed, paper concluded.

Koha Ditore further carried an inbox with the title '*What has been complicated in New York*'.

According to the KTA protocol announcement that paper claimed to have, in New York an accord was reached that it is KTA's competence to decide which enterprises match the conditions to be privatized, because of the property transformation that was done earlier.

According to this announcement it would be up to the KTA to decide if the transformation of the enterprises was done according to the applicable law and whether this law is discriminatory or not.

For the same purposes it was suggested to verify the already privatized enterprises of the first and the second round.

However, the KTA was warned that sell of the private enterprises property goes beyond its competences and for a such act a lawsuit file could be raised at the Special Chamber at the Kosovo Supreme Court.

According to the documents of the Serb government, until 1997 around 200 Kosovar SOEs were transformed and merged with the Serbian enterprises. According to such list almost all 137 SOEs, which the KTA had in the list for privatization, were subject to this process.

The UN eliminated KTA's doubts regarding its competences in the privatization process.

Referring to the KTA Regulation and the UN Resolution 1244, it was said that the KTA is responsible to privatize SOEs.

During the meetings, it was concluded that there is no need to make changes in the KTA regulation. According to the letter and meetings, the conclusion was that there is no need to make changes in the KTA Regulation. At this point if there are unsolved claims in court, changing the Regulation will involve other risks and will not have a retroactive impact, said the KTA announcement.

The UN has supported the KTA to extend the deadlines for receiving complaints for the enterprises that are due to be privatized. The complaint period had been only two weeks.

Regarding the issue of legal immunity, the KTA announcement explains that New York did not agree to give UN immunity to the international officials who are linked with the privatization process.

Instead, the UN mentioned the possibility of providing a declaration from the Security Council where all the UN members are due to address indictments against the KTA in the Special Chamber.

On the East River it was agreed that if Board members are exposed to a great risk, the KTA must consider providing a professional guaranty for indemnity.

The prices of such guaranty can be considered as a legitimate administrative amount with which KTA will be charged.

PTK extends the contract with Monaco, conditions 'financial secret' (Zëri)

Zëri wrote that the manager of the Division for PTK within KTA, Ineke Botter, has announced the extension of the mobile phone contract with Monaco. 'Specific conditions of the contract are business secrets, but we are happy to announce that negotiations have been successful and now we have more favorable conditions', Botter says.

The paper reports that Kosovo Trust Agency announced on Tuesday that the Post Telecom of Kosovo (PTK) has extended the contract with Monaco Telecom, and that they have not given any further details.

The former contract between PTK and Monaco expired the night between last Monday and Tuesday, while PTK international manager Eric McKinley had been negotiating with Monaco since summer trying to extend the contract that was signed in 2000.

Over the last three years the profit of Monaco from PTK for using their code was very high. In the first year, PTK paid Monaco 33 % of the incomes of 'Vala 900', in the second year around 25 %, while € 70 million have been paid for this year.

Extension of the contract between PTK and Monaco Telecom has not been a surprise for the local staff in the PTK and in the Ministry of Transport and Post Telecommunication, because this extension was expected as the only solution for as long as Kosovo does not have a defined political status, and when everything important at the PTK is a 'reserved' right for the internationals.

PTK's secrets (Kosova Sot)

Kosova Sot carried an editorial about the contract extension between the PTK and the French company Monaco Telecom.

If PTK was a private company, then keeping secret details of the contract with the Monaco Telecom could have been justified, but the PTK is a public company and nothing that concerns it should be secret. The extension of the contract with the French company, regardless of UNMIK's statements, is expected to take several millions of Euro from Kosovo due to the lack of our code and using the code of another country. This entire story is unfolding before the eyes of the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the local powerless authorities.

By extending this mysterious contract, this profitable company, PTK, opens the path to misuse the profits. Perhaps we shouldn't think about it this way, but hiding the contract secrets would convince us that something is going on here, and is not simply a financial secret. Extension of the contract with the French company is made without knowledge of the Ministry of Transport and Communication. Furthermore, the minister of Transport and Communication, Zef Morina, was completely ignored by the PTK leaders. This non-institutional act occurred at the time when the transfer of competencies is due to happen. A few weeks before intensification of this process, this situation proves that real work in Kosovo is done by internationals. Kosovo internationals still have nothing in their hands, while the Kosovo budget is losing millions of euros due to the mismanagement and the ignorance that Kosovo's institutions face. Minister Morina is not the only one that has been ignored in this case. Even PM Rexhepi has been ignored. This situation created by this contract implies that Kosovo institutions are very far from taking the power under their control,

while this public enterprise, PTK, has no transparency. With the support of internationals, instead of implementing democracy and great values such as transparency, abuse and corruption is being 'injected' in Kosovo.



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Kosovo Media Highlights

Solana: Kosovo's status isn't linked to fate of Union of Serbia and Montenegro

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'There is no connection between these two. And regardless of whether or not Serbia and Montenegro decide to remain together, Kosovo still has the United Nations Security Council to decide and Kosovo is still governed by Resolution 1244,' Solana was quoted as saying.

EU and US must speak one language on standards in Kosovo (Zëri)

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Zëri also reports that during the meeting with Javier Solana, Franko Frattini and Christopher Patten, Powell confirmed the position of the Contact Group to fulfill standards in Kosovo and later on to start negotiations on status, if there is going to be satisfactory progress surrounding the standards.

Civiletti hands over decentralization recommendations to Holkeri (all dailies)

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Zëri quotes Kosovo Assembly Speaker Nexhat Daci as saying, 'I am going to say that the decentralization of power is not Kosovo's priority at this point. The priorities have been initiated by the US in the standards that must be operationalized. Decentralization will be in the second phase'.

Schroeder: Internationals want to get Kosovo close to EU standards (Koha)

Koha Ditore reports that in an interview for the Macedonian newspaper *Utrinski Vesnik*, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder was quoted as saying, 'The goal of the international community is to get Kosovo close to European standards. The start of the direct dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade can make a major contribution to this.'

Perrit: Holkeri's decision – a wrong policy in the extreme (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore quotes Henry Perrit, professor at the Chicago Kent College of Law, as saying that the latest decisions of SRSG Harri Holkeri regarding the process of privatization in Kosovo are wrong in the extreme.

'I am disappointed with the press release issued by the SRSG on privatization. It seems that he is still not giving utmost attention to this process, which is essential in achieving economic prosperity in Kosovo,' Perrit was quoted as saying.

Ivanovic: Border changes would lead to military high alert status (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that members of the Kosovo Assembly Presidency have decided to send the initiative of the Kosovo Popular Movement (LPK) for the Union of Kosovo and Albania, to the assembly's legislation committee.

Oliver Ivanovic, member of the assembly presidency, said after the meeting that such initiatives could have a bad impact on the fragile political situation. 'Any border changes would cause new destabilization of the region, and I fear that this would lead to putting the region on high alert militarily,' Ivanovic added.

UNMIK doesn't give any details on privatization process (Zëri)

Zëri reports that neither UNMIK Pillar IV nor the Kosovo Trust Agency (KTA) have provided information on the concrete results of the visit of UNMIK's delegation to United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Does Kosovo Government have an official position on privatization? (Koha)

Koha Ditore quotes sources in the Kosovo Government as saying that the government hasn't contributed to the complication of the process of privatization and added that if UNMIK Pillar IV does not solve these problems the government is going to look into new possibilities to implement privatization.

Holkeri and Kammerhoff sign Provisional Security Strategy (Zëri)

Zëri reports that on November 5th, SRSG Harri Holkeri and COMKFOR Holger Kammerhoff have signed an agreement called Provisional Security Strategy, according to which police and civilian security authorities will get more competencies in maintaining law and order in Kosovo.

The paper claims that except for pictures that were published on UNMIK's website, no other details were provided about the strategy. The paper also claims that the agreement was signed on the day when US Assistant Secretary of State Marc Grossman was visiting Kosovo.

UNMIK says Egyptian policeman hasn't fled prison (Zëri)

Zëri reports that the international administration (UNMIK) has refuted allegations that the Egyptian policeman, who was found guilty of the murder of Vlora Bërhati, has fled Dubrava Prison and gone back to Egypt.

'The Egyptian policeman has not fled; he has not gone to Egypt. He is still in prison,' said UNMIK spokeswoman Izabella Karłowicz.

Rexhepi, Thaçi attend 4th anniversary of PDK branch in Mitrovica (Zëri)

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Çeku: The release that shows that Kosovo is now independent (Koha Ditore)

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Çeku also commented on his recent detention by Slovenian authorities at the Ljubljana Airport. 'The fact that I was arrested is not something of concern, what is of concern

however is the fact that by doing this Interpol and Slovenia are helping the ambitions of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro to impose a political-legal responsibility on Kosovar citizens,' he added.

A Kosovar, a British and a German arrested in the ItalBeton affair (Zëri)

Citing UNMIK Police spokesman Derek Chappell, *Zëri* reports that a British, a Kosovar and an Italian were arrested and 100 vehicles were confiscated during an action that UNMIK Police launched against five liaison offices of the Italian company ItalBeton in three cities in Kosovo. Police claim that those arrested are suspected of stealing heavy construction equipment.

Shala: Privatization continues to be on hold (Zëri)

In a front-page editorial for *Zëri*, Blerim Shala comments on the developments surrounding the process of privatization. Shala also adds that if the current ambiguities continue to characterize this process it is going to discourage even the few investors who were willing to participate in the transformation of the economy in Kosovo. 'The belief that privatization in Kosovo can be successful is equal to zero,' Shala added.

Kosovo Press Headlines

Koha Ditore

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- **Peritt: Holkeri's decision – a wrong policy in the extreme**
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- **Unions announce strike if KEK does not take positive steps (5)**
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- **Kiçina said he faces injustice (8)**
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- **Bugajski: Putin is on the offensive (10)**
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- **Shala: Privatization continues to be on hold**
- **Solana: Benchmarks will be reviewed every three months**
- **'Temporary Security Strategy' makes police responsible for security in Kosovo**
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- **Chappell: Three persons arrested, ItalBeton equipment confiscated**
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- **Daci: Albanian community in US is making a large contribution**
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- Parliament is going to discuss union of Kosovo with Albania
- Elections failure in Serbia lead to postponement of talks with Kosovo
- UNMIK to decide about the name and the logo within a week
- The Kosovo White House project just on paper
- Let us go ahead with Milosevic laws!
- PTK extends the secret contract with 'Monaco Telecom'
- Civiletti hands over to Holkeri recommendations on decentralization

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- Debelde again an issue (2)
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- British say Kosovars should take over competencies (3)
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Epoka e Re

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- Opposition accusation: around 100 illegal decisions in the name of MA (10)

Belgrade Media Highlights

- Derek Chappell on investigation into *Novosti* article and photographs (*Vecernje Novosti*)
- CCK: Holkeri says nothing (*Vecernje Novosti*)
- Three arrested for organized crime (*Politika/Beta*)
- UNMIK controls borders (*Blic*)
- Division in Serb and Albanian municipalities (*Blic*)
- Investigation continues (*Glas/Srna*)
- Press conference by Savic and Ivanovic (*Politika*)
- U.S. State Department: Status of Kosovo to be addressed after 2005 assessment (*Glas/Tanjug*)
- Komercijalna Banka soon in Pristina (*Vecernje Novosti*)

Derek Chappell on investigation into *Novosti* article and photographs (*Vecernje Novosti*)

After being silent for a long time, UNMIK police press representative Derek Chappell has told *Novosti* that “the investigation is underway and making progress.” “We want

to be absolutely sure who are the killed persons on the photographs published in your daily, but also who are the exact perpetrators of the crimes,” said Chappell. The article in *Novosti* had a double impact: it both helped and hindered the investigation, the UNMIK spokesman said. “We have testimonies that some material evidence of that crime had been destroyed after the article was published in your daily, which significantly hinders our job. On the other side, we receive every day phone calls from people who want to testify on the crime and offer evidence. I hope we will soon be able to announce the results of the investigation and hand over evidence to the international prosecutor.”

CCK: Holkeri says nothing (*Vecernje Novosti*)

The statement by UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri on past privatization in Kosovo and Metohija says nothing and is even contradictory, said the head of CCK’s sector for reconstruction and economic development Milena Vasic. She told *Novosti* that the CCK had not yet received any written information on the conclusions of Holkeri’s talks at the UN. “On the basis of what I have found out from the media, I don’t see that any positive move had been made. Holkeri’s announcement that the privatization process should be revised, but that decrees on the basis of which that privatization had been implemented continue to be valid at the same time, is contradictory for me. The essence should be in changing these decrees, because if they are still valid, then there is danger to go on with the irregular selling of socially owned companies as in the past. Privatization cannot be implemented illegally, selectively, without the knowledge and participation of the trustee, i.e. the state of Serbia that is the owner of most of the companies that had been on tender, said Milena Vasic.

Three arrested for organized crime (*Politika/Beta*)

UNMIK police has arrested three persons, seized hundred cars and one kilogram of drugs within the fight against organized crime, UN police spokesman Derek Chappell told *Beta*. “The police have searched through five business premises of a civic engineering company with headquarters in Italy, for suspicion in being involved in stealing cars and construction equipment throughout Europe. We consider this operation to be a fight against organized crime,” said Chappell. He said the Italian company “Ital Beton” and its owner “were indicted in Italy with serious criminal acts.”

UNMIK controls borders (*Blic*)

KFOR handed over to UNMIK the protection and control of the boundary lines and administrative crossings between Kosovo and its neighbors. KPS controls the bridge on the Ibar, while UNMIK is protecting monasteries and churches, as well as everything in connection with illegal arms and ammunition, KFOR spokesman Chris Thompson said in Pristina. The reduction of the number of premises that had been protected by KFOR until several days ago, will also lead to the reduction of the number of soldiers, but will enable the local population to take on security jobs, said KFOR’s spokesman.

Division in Serb and Albanian municipalities (*Blic*)

CoE representatives have handed over to UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri the proposals by the CoE for decentralization of the local authorities and transfer of competencies from UNMIK to Kosovo provisional institutions. *Blic* learned that the CoE proposed

the forming of two municipalities – Serb and Albanian – in all larger towns in Kosovo in order to respect the ethnic structure of the population.

Investigation continues (Glas/Srna)

The two Serb suspects for the murder of Danijel Milosevic in the village of Mogila near Kosovska Vitina are still in custody, and according to the results of the investigation, the motive of the murder is a dispute regarding property, UN police spokesman in Pristina Derek Chappell stated.

Press conference by Savic and Ivanovic (Politika)

“The arrest and then the release of two Serbs, father and son Przic, suspected for the murder of Danijel Milosevic in Mogila near Gnjilane, threatens to become practice. It is obvious that the UN police are randomly arresting Serbs, which had also been in the case of the murder of the Indian policeman Satish Menon when a Serb from the Leposavic municipality spent more than two weeks in custody, Kosovo Assembly Presidency member Oliver Ivanovic said at a press conference. Professor Gojko Savic, Kosovo Assembly Presidency member, who addressed journalists together with Oliver Ivanovic following the session of the Kosovo Assembly Presidency, is concerned with the behavior of international police members, saying that they “aggressively come out with announcements” on the arrest of Serbs.” However, after their release, they don’t inform the public with any official statements.

U.S. State Department: Status of Kosovo to be addressed after 2005 assessment (Glas/Tanjug)

The U.S., in coordination with the Contact Group countries, wish to assist in setting up a framework for Kosovo, which would enable progress on this issue, said the Deputy to the State Secretary Assistant Catherine Stevens. "In doing so, we are applying both old and new tactics," she said.

Komercijalna Banka soon in Pristina (Vecernje Novosti)

Komercijalna Banka has 838 stockholders, 325 of which it has with the right to manage, said its president Ljubomir Mihajlovic. Present stockholders have the right to be the first to buy new issue of bonds. We expect to receive these days the permission to open branch offices in Pristina, which will be connected with nine branches in Kosovo and Metohija, states Mihajlovic.