

# UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

## Media Monitoring

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**21 November**

#### **PM Rexhepi: Those who impede privatization must leave KTA (Zëri)**

*Zëri reports that the Kosovo government will radicalize its stance towards UNMIK and the KTA concerning the privatization process.*

Convinced that Kosovars have invested too much in the privatization process, Kosovo Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi claimed that he would do everything in his power to prevent the withdrawal of Kosovars from the Kosovo Trust Agency, 'because that would imply the stoppage of the process of privatization. But we are going to try and remove from the KTA Board those who are impeding privatization in Kosovo'.

However, frustration in the Kosovo government reached a new peak after Holkeri's return from New York and the recent activities of UNMIK Pillar IV head Nikolaus Lambsdorff.

Rexhepi said on Thursday that he would have a working dinner with Lambsdorff where issues related to the privatization process should finally be clarified. *Zëri* also reported that today at 0900 hrs, the Kosovo Government and the KTA Board would hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss the situation surrounding privatization in Kosovo.

'The government is taking the final steps regarding this process; we consider that the privatization process is impeded intentionally and without a reason by UNMIK,' Rexhepi was quoted as saying.

The paper further reported that Rexhepi was very tough towards UNMIK and the KTA. 'If contracts of the second round of the privatization process do not get endorsed somebody should be held accountable for this damage,' he said. Kosovo's prime minister accused Lambsdorff of making illegal decisions in ceasing the privatization process. 'The decision was taken without consulting the KTA Board,' Rexhepi underlined and also recalled that the UN legal office in New York had confirmed that there is no reason to cease the privatization process in Kosovo. 'Apart from the large economic damages, stopping the privatization process has caused irreparable political damages,' Rexhepi concluded.

After approval by representatives of UNMIK Pillar I, UNMIK Pillar II, Government and KTA representatives, operational policies were applied correctly, said KTA Deputy Board Director Ahmet Shala. 'However, certain circles managed to convince part of the decision making structure to suspend the third round,' Shala was quoted as saying. He added that decision for suspending the third privatization round is a political decision; it has no judicial and professional arguments and is triggered by pressure from anti-Kosovar circles. He further said that the winning bids are legal and there is no single complaint concerning violation of the procedures. Shala assessed that 'a few circles are attempting to accomplish privatization on the basis of the Serbian criteria'.

By halting the privatization process, the KTA dealt a heavy blow to Kosovo's transformation from a planned economy into a market economy, said Chairman of the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce Ismail Kastrati. 'Demand for evaluation of every single enterprise's status has created dilemmas and lack of clarity about whether the privatization process may carry on or not,' he said.

Kosovo coordinator in the Stability pact, Besim Beqaj, said that stoppage of the privatization process causes damages not only to Kosovo but to the region as well. 'UNMIK's decision to stop the privatization process resulted in the cessation of regional market liberalization, both internally and externally,' he said.

He added that despite rhetoric that Kosovo will not remain a 'black hole', in fact, Kosovo is becoming a real 'black hole'.

'I would say that direct interference from Belgrade has impacted the privatization process and I believe that UNMIK sometimes is very sensitive towards Belgrade's demands,' Beqaj concluded.

Local institutions agreed to begin the privatization process 'even though our comments weren't taken into consideration,' said Minister of Trade of Industry Ali Jakupi. He added that with application of the discriminatory Serbian laws is aimed to gift Kosovo's enterprises to Serbia.

### **This is what the US said: standards in Kosovo, UNMIK goes home (Zëri)**

*Zëri weekly newspaper carried an article by Blerim Latifi, who writes:*

UN Security Council Resolution 1244, the international document that laid the grounds for the civil international administration, UNMIK, leaves many ambiguities on the issue of Kosovo's final status. During these years, all the parties in Kosovo have been using these ambiguities to give their various interpretations on the final status. Albanians have pleased themselves by stating that in the end Resolution 1244 couldn't prevent the rule for self-determination, whereas Serbs have always talked about Yugoslavia's formal sovereignty over Kosovo.

Internationals on the other hand have always referred to the Security Council as the highest authority for the problem of Kosovo. But these differences reach another level. The Albanian side in Kosovo is divided on the question of when the status should be resolved. The PDK [the Kosovo Democratic Party] that heads the Kosovo

Government came out with the proposal to set a timeframe for resolving status. The AAK [the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo] has been insisting on the immediate declaration of the statehood of Kosovo, whereas the biggest political party in Kosovo, the LDK [the Democratic League of Kosovo] has left it all up to Rugova, who keeps repeating the same words: we want the formal recognition of independence soon.

But the same goes for Serbs. It seems that everyone wants UNMIK to go home as soon as possible, while officials of the international administration keep on repeating the formula of standards before status.

## **UNMIK now has a date to go back home**

Enver Hasani, an expert on international relations, believes that UNMIK's formula, which is at the same a formula to return home, seems to have taken on a negative connotation among the public.

'We should always bear in mind the basic fact that even if there was a state of Kosovo, without these standards it couldn't stand on its own two feet,' said Hasani, adding that the standards are in fact the foundations of a democratic state. 'A society which doesn't have the rule of law, a functioning trade economy and peaceful relations between ethnic groups can lean toward regression and instability.'

Hasani said he believed that UNMIK has recently lost the vision for the future. 'This is a situation that doesn't result in good tendencies. Not knowing what your future steps are going to be implies that you are leaning toward stagnation,' he added.

**Zëri** claims that the US State Department also seems to have noticed the recent drift. The weekly added that during his recent visits to Brussels, Prishtina and Belgrade, US Assistant Secretary of State Marc Grossman announced a date when the process of resolving the final status could start. The idea of the US is that talks on Kosovo's final status could start by mid-2005, if standards are met by that time. 'If the provisional institutions of Kosovo will fulfill these standards, we are willing to start talks on Kosovo's final status,' Grossman said. He however added that if Kosovars fail to meet the abovementioned standards, the international community is going to set up a new date.

**Zëri** quoted political analyst Enver Hoxhaj said that the abovementioned action of Americans is the most important development in postwar Kosovo. 'We now have a limit guaranteed by the most powerful country in the world. But now the ball is in the court of Kosovars and UNMIK. If they don't want this limit to be further postponed, they must get down to work so that by mid-2005 Kosovo can have the standards of a democratic society,' he added.

### **Rugova: Vienna meeting was successful (Zëri)**

*Zëri carries an interview Luxembourg based paper **Luxemburger Wort** conducted with the Kosovo's President Ibrahim Rugova.*

*Mr. Rugova, you talked to the Serbs in Vienna concerning Kosovo's future. Some in the West did not assess that meeting as a success. What do you think?*

We want a good relationship with all our neighbors, including Serbia and Montenegro. Considering the previous happenings here, cooperation could not be always a simple think. I believe that meeting in Vienna was successful. This is a significant step on our way toward Kosovo's independence. Now, we should do some minor things in order to achieve the standards, which have been presented by the international community.

*Do you aim to have full independence?*

This is an absolute word, which sounds very bad in a former communist country. I see Kosovo's future in Europe as an autonomous state, connected with the EU.

*Does this mean that independence will destabilize the entire region?*

No. The contrary is true. Independence will have a stabilizing impact on the entire Balkans, including Serbia and Montenegro.

*Let's go back to your position. We can notice the international presence in the Pristina's streets, above all the military presence. Do you consider NATO, EU and others as occupiers?*

No way. UNMIK and KFOR personnel have helped us to move our country onto the proper track. People here appreciate this. They knew that we were in need of support. We have had functioning institutions for a year and a half. Such institutions should take fate in their hands, concerning Kosovo's economic and social development. However, it is an illusion to believe that all international officials must go home.

### **Surroi: The soft autocracy of the Jam Republic (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore carries an opinion piece by publisher Veton Surroi, who writes, 'Dr. Rugova is well aware of the fact that there is a huge gap between himself and the citizens. He has spent the last 14 years of his political activity without answering to anyone. So far, what would have been a disadvantage in every normal country has proved to be an advantage for Dr. Rugova. In every normal country, isolation from the citizens would have resulted in animosity toward the leader'.*

1.

So far, in the Kosovo and European supermarkets you can notice a lack of pickled pears, grape jam and especially the antique Illyrian drink of snow-milk (the formula of the shepherds is snow, milk and sugar).

The truth is that the list of food items that were part of the program of the Democratic League of Kosovo is longer, and as far as I have noticed somebody might say that only two promises of this election program have been kept. The one is peppers in milk-cream and the other is Sharri cheese. You can buy both in the supermarkets, but neither of them has anything to do with the LDK. Peppers in milk-cream are coming from Sanxhak of Serbia or Montenegro, from where they have traditionally come, while packed Sharri cheese was in the market even before entering the election campaign of LDK, when they won the majority of the votes.

From the zoological point of view, the electoral program of dr. Rugova has its drawbacks, since though there has been progress in cultivating Sharri dogs; Kosovo has not as yet exported a massive contingent of this breed of dogs.

2.

All of these things should be recorded at the biggest Kosovo party over the coming months. Normally, the party led by dr. Rugova, should ask for analyzing up to what point his election program has been fulfilled, especially when it comes to the gastronomical parts the party head proposed. But, this seems impossible, since LDK after the parliamentary elections has been functioning without its presidency. In the name of the biggest party the president rarely speaks, using short sentences, not linked, and sometimes without a beginning. A bit more often the spokesperson of the Kosovo President speaks (with the inertia of the ruling party), sometimes the parliamentary speaker, and sometimes head of the LDK parliamentary group. It is unlikely that we will hear from them why we have stagnation of production of the pickled pears since it does not exist at all. The only thing existing in abundance is the president of the party, locked in his office-house, with Turkish furniture, a chimney not in the right place, Kosovo crystals and pictures of personalities. A soft party autocracy.

3.

The same formula comes into effect even when dr. Rugova takes the role of the President of Kosovo. It is explicitly stated in the Constitutional Framework that once a year the president shall report to the Assembly that elected him about the situation in the country. So far, dr. Rugova has not presented such a report, he has not explained what he has or has not done as part of his constitutional obligations, including here invention and designing of awards he gives in the name of Kosovo. Instead of a report we have his statements after meeting visitors at his home-office. So the formula of personalizing the party has passed on to personalizing Kosovo, too.

The jam of a soft party autocracy has penetrated to the local institutions. And as we can see it penetrates everywhere, even in UNMIK. In the Constitutional Framework it is decidedly stated that the president of Kosovo cannot hold another public post, but UNMIK, which is supposed to be the last arbiter of the Constitutional Framework, allows this situation to happen. Like with the former two administrator who allowed this privately, such a situation in LDK and in Kosovo is not bothering UNMIK. Any change they cannot foresee in LDK would bother them.

4.

Dr. Rugova is aware that there is a big gap between him and the people. He has spent the last 14 years of his political activities without being accountable to anybody for anything. So far, what would be a disadvantage in any normal country, for dr. Rugova it has been an advantage. In any normal country, isolation from the people and unaccountability would trigger animosity against him. The calculations of dr. Rugova for creating a Republic of the jam, so far have proved the opposite.

### **Serbs demand the return of Serbian Army to Kosovo (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore reports that thousands of Serbs have protested yesterday in the northern part of Mitrovica. Citing local sources, the paper reports that the main mottos of the*

protest were 'The return of the Serbian Police and Army to Kosovo' and 'Non-extradition of the four Serb generals who were accused by The Hague tribunal for war crimes committed in Kosovo'.

According to the newspaper, the head of the Serb National Council, Milan Ivanovic addressed around 1000 protesters emphasizing that Kosovo Serbs ask from Serbian officials in Belgrade not to hand over the Serbian generals to The Hague, and to send the Serbian Police and Military back to Kosovo as soon as possible. According to him that would calm down the situation in Kosovo and would improve living conditions for Serbs in Kosovo.

Protesters also chanted that the border between Kosovo and Serbia is not the Ibar bridge but Koshare, Pashtrik and Gorozhup, and that Kosovo is not going to become independent as planned in 2005.

UNMIK Police, UNMIK and KFOR did not confirm the taking place of this meeting, while sources of Koha Ditore claim that the meeting ended peacefully.

### **Assembly members propose a special session on privatization (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore reports that Kosovo Assembly Members after approving the law on sports and after postponing voting for cadastre draft-law have considered as necessary to discuss privatization in one of the coming sessions.*

'Blocking of privatization and the nowadays developments related to privatization are a heavy blow to the economic processes. The reasons for blockage are unacceptable and we propose putting it on the agenda of the next session', says Alush Gashi, from the LDK.

According to the paper, other Assembly members have supported the request.

### **Municipal sub-units – 'enclaves' have a high price (Koha Ditore)**

*Under a sub-header "Recommendations of the Council of Europe are not a priority", Koha Ditore reports that the first assessment of Kosovar institutions is that the CoE recommendations increase the possibility of legalizing Serb enclaves and that therefore they should be first assessed and then implemented.*

*Koha Ditore quoted Public Services Minister Jakup Krasniqi as saying, 'Decentralization cannot be done with political messages. At the same time, Kosovo is expecting to have more ministries. These recommendations that are offered to us in the name of standards have a huge political burden and as such they cannot be implemented in this phase'.*

This is the first assessment from the Kosovo institutions about the third recommendations document to start reforms and the need to decentralize the local authorities.

Although the European Council has presented their proposals on decentralization of the local authorities for the third time over the last two years the local institutions hesitate to seriously involve in it as 'these reforms are based on ethnic divisions'

The last recommendations on decentralization have been handed over to UNMIK and it was said to them that ‘local institutions would be allowed to further process them before implementing them’.

The Minister of Public Services, Jakup Krasniqi, said for *Koha Ditore* that he was not informed in detail about the plan, but it does not seem very practical, adding that other countries in transition could not fulfill similar recommendations for ten years.

The key worry of the locals is that creation of municipal sub-units might lead to the creation of new ‘enclaves’, and also would ‘legitimize the Serb enclaves and parallel structures still active in Kosovo’.

‘Decentralization cannot happen with political messages. Kosovo first needs more ministries. These recommendations in the name of benchmarks bear a major political burden, and as such cannot be implemented at this time, they simply cost too much’, says Krasniqi. The only way for their implementation is to prior go through working groups of the local institutions, he says.

Lutfi Haziri, the mayor of Gjilan and the head of the Association of the Municipalities expresses his concern that recommendations are build on ethnic principle, but ‘the good thing about them is that they local institutions can review them before implementing them’, he says.

The chief administrator Holkeri said on Monday when he officially received recommendations on decentralization that ‘he was going to review and implement these recommendations together with the local institutions’.

The parliamentary speaker, Nexhat Daci, said that ‘only those recommendations that serve the interest of Kosovo would be implemented, and they are not considered an immediate priority for the local institutions’.

### **Shala: Ignoring frustrations and increased nervousness (Zëri)**

*In a front-page editorial in Zëri, Blerim Shala wrote that Albanian politicians and experts are extremely concerned with the flow of privatization in Kosovo.*

They are already showing that they have lost their patience. And for this reason, they are constantly looking for the address of those who are responsible in UNMIK for blocking the process of privatization. In our opinion, the most worrisome and shocking fact is that the international administration is ignoring their frustration.

Nothing, absolutely nothing is coming from Holkeri and his team. Ever since he returned from New York and Brussels and stated that privatization is going to continue, it was impossible to learn something more from UNMIK officials on the future flow of privatization. Furthermore, the indifferent behavior toward the frustrations of Albanian politicians and experts left an impression that UNMIK is underestimating them and doesn’t even bother about their worries. It wouldn’t be a big deal if Holkeri and his team would have organized a special meeting with the Prime Minister of Kosovo and other local officials, and brief them on future steps and discuss the dissatisfaction of Kosovars. But this didn’t happen. Certainly this increased nervousness among the Kosovar side, and the latter made some political

threats which it honestly cannot implement. It would be good if we are mistaken, but we are sure the President, Prime Minister, the Assembly Speaker and all the members of the assembly would rather go than would Nikolaus Lambsdorff, head of UNMIK Pillar IV, who has already been targeted as the main responsible official for numerous problems in privatization.

### **Ibrahim Rexhepi: Resignations and other options**

*Koha Ditore* carries an editorial by Ibrahim Rexhepi who writes that at this time in Kosovo it is an absurdity (and anomaly) to have Serb discriminating laws in force as such laws keep hostage every process in Kosovo, and even challenge the power of UNMIK decisions, especially the KTA decisions.

The only way to overcome the situation consists in the resignations of KTA Board director Nikolaus Lambsdorff, the KTA general manager Marie Fucci, and other legal officers in this institution. The justification - their arrival complicated the whole issue, respectively it blocked the privatization process in Kosovo. But what will happen if they do not offer their resignation and there is nobody to dismiss them from these positions. The remaining alternative is for Kosovo representatives in the Board (Sadriu, Jakupi and Shabani) to refuse to continue work based on the Serbian laws. This cannot be expected by the Kosovo Agriculture Minister Goran Bogdanovic, though his seat in the Board is ensured by Kosovo Government.

However, if their requests are ignored than there will be indications for their resignation. This means that KTA Board will continue to function without Albanian representatives, and the whole situation puts KTA's existence in a dilemma. Though the Board can function without the three Albanian votes, as was the case with Marie Fucci's appointment, the whole work would be carried out without the consent of locals, in this case not only local institutions but the whole nation as well.

The eventual resignation of internationals would be a solution, whereas the resignation of locals would cause deeper crisis and would make effective functioning impossible.

However, Jakupi, Sadriu and Shabani are obliged to save privatization in Kosovo. They can hold on to this position up to the moment their work is not based on Serbian laws, i.e. the moment when each KTA Board decision is verified for possible infringement of discriminatory laws applied against Kosovar economy and Albanian property. At this point, no one can demand local representative to stay in this Board.

### **Editorial: Nikolaus should leave Kosovo**

*Kosova Sot* carries an editorial about the role of UNMIK Pillar IV head Nikolaus Lambsdorff.

The deterioration of relations between Kosovo institutions and UNMIK is not good and is not desirable because it does not bring anything positive to Kosovo. The conflict itself that emerged regarding the privatization process has put the international administrators in a difficult position. The best approach to solve this problem would be a reciprocal cooperation for finalizing the process that has already begun. The UN mission has entered a crisis due to its lack of vision and passivity since its establishment. It is about time that UNMIK officials see that the failure of the most important processes in Kosovo cannot be considered only as a problem for

Kosovo, but as a poor management of the power given to them under UN Resolution 1244. The Kosovars want to hold on to the respect they have for the help of internationals, but the activities performed by the main people in UNMIK are creating an antipathy towards the UN Administration. The chief focus in this case is the head of Kosovo economy, Nikolaus Lambsdorff. We cannot speculate on what could be Lambsdorff's motivations for doing such bad things to Kosovo, but the reasons he gives are not credible. The KTA can continue the privatization process. But the KTA is about to announce its capitulation. KTA local officials are only waiting for the formal withdrawal from this non-transparent body, whereas the internationals who work in this agency should not stay there anymore. Officials such as Nikolaus should leave Kosovo, because they are only serving to carry the country backward. By removing such useless people, UNMIK could regain its positive image and improve relations with Kosovars.



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- **Shala: Ignoring frustrations and increased nervousness (*Zëri*)**
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- **Al Qaeda – horror in Istanbul (*Epoka e Re*)**

## **Kosovo Media Highlights**

### **PM Rexhepi: Those who impede privatization must leave KTA (*Zëri*)**

*Zëri* quotes Kosovo Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi as saying that he would do everything in his power to prevent the withdrawal of Kosovars from the Kosovo Trust Agency, ‘because that would imply the stoppage of the process of privatization, but

we are going to try and remove from the KTA Board those who are impeding privatization in Kosovo’.

*Zëri* reports that today at 0900 hrs, the Kosovo Government and the KTA Board will hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss the situation surrounding privatization in Kosovo.

#### **Municipal sub-units – ‘enclaves’ have a high price (Koha Ditore)**

Under a sub-header “*Recommendations of the Council of Europe are not a priority*”, *Koha Ditore* reports that the first assessment of Kosovar institutions is that the CoE recommendations increase the possibility of legalizing Serb enclaves and that therefore they should be first assessed and then implemented.

*Koha Ditore* quoted Public Services Minister Jakup Krasniqi as saying, ‘Decentralization cannot be done with political messages. At the same time, Kosovo is expecting to have more ministries. These recommendations that are offered to us in the name of standards have a huge political burden and as such they cannot be implemented in this phase’.

#### **SRSB Harri Holkeri and General Çeku talk about KPC (Zëri)**

*Zëri* reports that SRSB Harri Holkeri had a closed meeting with General Agim Çeku, Commander of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) yesterday. UNMIK spokeswoman Izabella Karłowicz confirmed the meeting, but added that no further details could be provided.

*Zëri* however quotes its sources as saying that the meeting focused on the difficulties of the KPC and the plans for its further development. Holkeri reportedly told Çeku that the KPC was a focus of his interest because it is one of the eight standards that have to be fulfilled, and that he was going to try and secure funds for training and development of the KPC.

#### **Rugova: The meeting in Vienna was a success (Zëri)**

*Zëri* carries an interview an interview that Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova conducted with the newspaper *Luxemburger Wort*.

‘We want to have good bilateral relations with all neighboring countries, including Serbia and Montenegro. But bearing in mind what has happened here, cooperation isn’t always simple. As for the conference in Vienna, I see it as a success. In my opinion, it is an important turning point for an independent Kosovo,’ Rugova was quoted as saying.

#### **European Parliament wants Kosovo’s status to be resolved in two years (Koha)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that the European Parliament in Strasbourg has adopted a resolution for countries of the Process of Stabilization and Association. Through the resolution, the European Parliament proposed that the European Union, in cooperation with the United Nations, should play a more effective role in designating a roadmap with the goal of resolving Kosovo’s final status as soon as possible, possibly in the next two years.

### **Russian diplomats: Standards before status (all dailies)**

*All dailies* report carry reports from yesterday's visit by Alexander Aleksejevic, the political director of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Vladimir Ivanovski, Russian Ambassador to Belgrade. The two high-ranking Russian officials stated that the Russian Federation expects the implementation of standards and then discussions on the issue of Kosovo's status.

*Epoka e Re* reports that Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi told the high-ranking Russian officials that parallel structures were impeding the implementation of standards in Kosovo.

### **Kosovar economists react harshly toward the blocking of privatization (Koha)**

*Koha Ditore* carries a report from the meeting that was organized by the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce, where the latter invited representatives of enterprises, the Kosovo Trust Agency (KTA), UNMIK and the Kosovo Government.

KTA Deputy Director Ahmet Shala said he was certain that privatization was going to continue but added that he was not sure whether or not this would happen with supervision from Serbia.

Prime Minister Rexhepi was quoted as saying, 'The United Nations Legal Office has confirmed that there is no reason to stop the privatization of Socially-Owned enterprises in Kosovo'.

*Epoka e Re* claims that Rexhepi is blaming the head of UNMIK Pillar IV for stopping the process of privatization.

### **Editorial: Nikolaus should leave Kosovo (Kosova Sot)**

'Officials such as Nikolaus should leave Kosovo, because they are serving regression in the country. By removing such useless people, UNMIK could regain its positive image and improve relations with Kosovars,' it was said in an opinion piece by the editorial office of *Kosova Sot*.

### **Shala: Ignoring frustrations and increased nervousness (Zëri)**

In a front-page editorial in *Zëri*, Blerim Shala writes that Albanian politicians and experts are extremely concerned with the flow of privatization in Kosovo. 'They are already showing that they have lost their patience. And for this reason, they are constantly looking for the address of those who are responsible in UNMIK for blocking the process of privatization. In our opinion, the most worrisome and shocking fact is that the international administration is ignoring their frustration,' Shala added.

### **Serbs demand the return of Serbian Army to Kosovo (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that thousands of Serbs have protested yesterday in the northern part of Mitrovica. Citing local sources, the paper reports that the main mottos of the protest were 'The return of the Serbian Police and Army to Kosovo' and 'Non-

extradition of the four Serb generals who were accused by The Hague tribunal for war crimes committed in Kosovo’.

**Koha Ditore** reports that the protest was organized by the Serb National Council for northern Kosovo.

### **Surroi: The soft autocracy of the Jam Republic (Koha Ditore)**

**Koha Ditore** carries an opinion piece by publisher Veton Surroi, who writes, ‘Dr. Rugova is well aware of the fact that there is a huge gap between himself and the citizens. He has spent the last 14 years of his political activity without answering to anyone. So far, what would have been a disadvantage in every normal country has proved to be an advantage for Dr. Rugova. In every normal country, isolation from the citizens would have resulted in animosity toward the leader’.

### **Europol: Albanian organized crime groups – most brutal in Europe (Koha)**

**Koha Ditore** reports that according to the annual report of Europol, Albanian organized crime groups are the most violent in Europe and are believed to have strong connections with criminal gangs in Italy, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany and the Czech Republic.

### **Al Qaeda – horror in Istanbul (Epoka e Re)**

**Epoka e Re** carries a report on the bomb attacks that shocked the Turkish capital, Istanbul, and resulted in 30 dead and 450 wounded. ‘This horrifying attack has disturbed Kosovar citizens, and especially the Turkish minority in Kosovo. We should not forget that a serious British report ranked Kosovo and Albania on the highest positions in the list of Balkans countries that are in danger by terrorist attacks, due to the support they have given to the US-British alliance,’ added the newspaper.

## **Kosovo Press Headlines**

### **Koha Ditore**

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## **Zëri**

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- **Collective isolation doesn't help journalism and free speech (6)**
- **Missing person key issue in communication between ethnicities (6)**
- **Halilaj: This is fabricated process against KLA (7)**
- **Rifat Jashari donates 2,100 kg wheat (7)**
- **Loku: I was neither arrested nor mistreated by KLA (7)**
- **Crime diminishes but drug consumers increased (7)**

## **Bota Sot**

### **Front page**

- **Rugova: Center is strong support for friendship relations between Kosovo and US**
- **25 killed, amongst them the British Consul-General**
- **Assembly adopts bill on sports and road transport**
- **Is Hashim Thaçi above Kosovo's prime minister?**
- **Butler inaugurates school in Struga [Macedonia]**
- **Kosovo will have its airline and new mobile operator within a month**
- **Will privatization be unblocked?**
- **Bush for a free Europe, without criminal regimes**

### **Other headlines**

- **10 people from Serbia were seized with 21 kg heroin (2)**
- **Skender Hyseni to visit Canada (4)**
- **Rugova meets Miss Kosovo Agnesa Vuthaj (5)**
- **Stop the strike and to follow institutional way (5)**
- **Buçpapaj: Albanian listeners cannot listen to sadomasochism of Radio DW against Bush and Blair (5)**
- **Privatization is ceased by certain circles (5)**
- **UNMIK police and KPS cannot resolve cases without assistance of Kosovo's citizens (6)**
- **Opposition demand respect of constitution [Albania] (9)**
- **Participation of Albanians in Mother Teresa beatification (9)**
- **Beck: We are partners in making Kosovo safe for all its citizens (10)**

## **Kosova Sot**

### **Front page**

- **If privatization is not unblocked today, no point in staying in KTA**
- **Editorial: Nicholas should leave Kosovo**
- **A new chapter in relations with internationals**
- **British Consul-General among victims**
- **Minister Morina does not know about the work of PTK**
- **German authorities find out the enigma of the death of the Bunjaku family**
- **Blockage of privatization wakes up assembly members**
- **Due to KTA management railway tracks are getting rusted**

### **Other headlines**

- **Among the victims several workers of British consulate (2)**
- **Laws a burden for future Assembly now and in the future(3)**
- **Russia opens a diplomatic office in Pristina (4)**
- **Apart from statements, nothing concrete (5)**
- **PM Rexhepi: KTA should not monopolize the property issue (6)**
- **US ambassador Montgomery speaks about Kosovo (6)**
- **Daci asks former police to stop the strike (6)**
- **Slovenia asks for documents of Serbia and Montenegro from Kosovars (6)**
- **European Parliament: Kosovo status in two years (7)**

- **Officials accuse each other, no one admits the blame (7)**
- **Responsibility for economic collapse falls over UNMIK (8)**
- **Blocking of privatization is destroying enterprises (8)**
- **Savings Bank to privatize in December (8)**
- **Privatization of INSIG in the hands of the parliament (8)**
- **University cannot be the center of solving social cases (10)**

## **Epoka e Re**

### **Front page**

- **Al Qaeda; horrors in Istanbul**
- **Bashkim Loku: UÇK did not maltreat me**
- **Rexhepi says somebody will pay the price of blocking of privatization**
- **Kadare today, Albright and Clark in line**
- **Halilaj: This is a professionally framed process against UÇK**
- **Opposition walks out due to autocratic stance of the position**

### **Other headlines**

- **Parallel structures deter fulfillment of standards, Rexhepi tells Russians (2)**
- **Rexhepi sends a consolation letter to Turks and British (3)**
- **Kamenica: Three months imprisonment for Goran Mlladenovic (3)**
- **Serbs ask for the return of criminal police and military to Kosovo (3)**
- **Rexhepi: Malisheva no longer a marginalized town (4)**
- **Kakuk has triggered a spirit of conflict with journalists (5)**
- **To smile or to cry? (5)**
- **“Presse” Return of ghosts to the Balkans (6)**
- **Minister Morina mentions his successes (7)**
- **Will the anarchy in the Kosovo sport come to an end? (7)**
- **The New American Center opens in Pristina (10)**

## **Belgrade Media Highlights**

- **ICTY receives evidence for crimes by KLA (*Politika/Beta*)**
- **Przic father and son released from custody (*Blic*)**
- **Statement by the Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church (*Vecernje Novosti*)**
- **Serbs protest in Mitrovica (*Glas/Srna*)**
- **New Serbian Constitution without Kosovo (*Danas*)**
- **Mihailo Crnobrnja’s interview to *Danas* (*Danas*)**

### **ICTY submitted with evidence for crimes by KLA (*Politika/Beta*)**

Serbian Ministry of Justice representatives submitted to the ICTY Prosecution evidence for crimes committed in Kosovo and Metohija by former KLA members of the illegal KLA. A team of prosecutors, also attended by the aide to the Justice Minister Predrag Savic, confirmed that “there would be no more indictments against active members of the army and police, and expressed their readiness to concede to

judicial bodies of Serbia and UNMIK evidence of crimes committed after June 10, 1999 in Kosovo and Metohija against non-Albanian citizens, it has been quoted from the Ministry.

### **Przic father and son released from custody (*Blic*)**

Novica Przic and his father Stanoje are not anymore suspected of killing Danijel Milosevic (18) on the day of the elections, 16 November, in the village of Mogila. They were released three days ago from a prison in Gnjilane and after an interrogation of several witnesses who confirmed that the father and son were in a restaurant with friends and neighbors on that day between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. "We arrived home escorted by the KPS. We were detained as innocent people only because the father of the young man pointed his finger at my father and me although he knew we didn't kill Danijel," said Novica, adding that the investigative judge accepted their alibi that was confirmed by about 20 people. "We would never commit such a crime despite the blood conflict with the Milosevic family," said the younger Przic who didn't wish to give details on the conflict between the two families. "Professionalism of the police saved us since they doubted from day one the statement by Milosevic and individuals who do nothing but interfere where they shouldn't. The police have searched our houses and looked for arms. They haven't found anything. We have no arms," said Novica, thus denying the statement by Danijel's father and individuals, mostly Albanians, that the Przic family has lots of arms and ammunition. Several Serb locals offered "evidence" that Milosevic had been killed by Albanians, members of the Azemi family known for their crimes against Serbs.

### **Statement by the Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church (*Vecernje Novosti*)**

Special care is devoted to the return issue of refugees and expellees from Kosovo and Metohija, as well as from other regions of the once joint state to their homes. The Synod has appealed to all those responsible in the country and the world to protect elementary human rights of Serbs and other non-Albanians in the Serbian southern province, and to enable them and all other expellees to return and to have a life respectful of man's right to justice and freedom, the Synod announced.

### **Serbs protest in Mitrovica (*Glas/Srna*)**

Several thousands of Serbs from northern Kosovo and Metohija have protested in Mitrovica under the slogan "Security for Mitrovica and Kosovo – we are not giving our generals, the defenders of our fatherland, to the ICTY." "The border of Serbia will not be on the bridge and we will not accept in 2005 for Kosovo to be independent, which is being prepared for us," said the chairman of the Union of Serb municipalities in Kosovo and Metohija Marko Jaksic at the gathering.

### **New Serbian Constitution without Kosovo (*Danas*)**

"I have information from a reliable international source that certain representatives of the Serbian government have accepted for Kosovo and Metohija not to be defined as part of our republic's territory in the future Serbian Constitution. I think it is necessary after such acknowledgment for the present government to come out in the public with a clear stand on that issue, because the worst thing would be for it to agree secretly with the international community something that is contrary to the national interests, by which the Declaration on Kosovo and Metohija, adopted in the Serbian Parliament,

would be violated,” KP AM Rada Trajkovic told Jagodina *TV Palma Plus*. According to Momcilo Trajkovic, member of the Constitutional Commission and Kosovo MP in the dissolved Serbian Parliament, Kosovo and Metohija, as well as Vojvodina, is mentioned as an autonomous province within Serbia in the preamble and all past options of the new Serbian Constitution.

**Mihailo Crnobrnja’s interview to Danas (*Danas*)**

*How much is the problem of Kosovo and unresolved relations with Montenegro slowing down the preparations?*

“It is not slowing down anything because at issue here is not the entering, but the associating with the EU. It is presently important that the EU accepts the joining and associating with the EU as one of the mechanisms for overcoming conflicts, which was obvious for example in Macedonia. Thus, Kosovo as an unresolved issue and the fact that Serbia and Montenegro still don’t have a sufficiently defined perspective – whether they will be together or not after three years –are not slowing down the process of association, but are postponing the moment of entering the EU, because the assumption is that all this will be resolved until the moment when we become candidates for membership.”

*Are we late, in that context, with the dialogue on the resolution of problems in Kosovo?*

“Presently, the most important thing is to resolve the issue of the state union. This is what is awaited in order to commence the study on feasibility. Kosovo is not mentioned in any way. Kosovo is presently going on “parallel rails.” As regards the dialogue on Kosovo, I think there is a general consensus – with the exception of the Albanian side –that the dialogue is necessary, but at this point exclusively on the technical issues and on the resolution of problems of returns, security, functioning of a multi-ethnic authority, and not on the status. The status issue will not be opened until 2005. The Kosovo issue is not in any way accelerating or slowing down our association process with the Union,” the special advisor for European integrations in the Ministry for Economic Relations with Abroad, Mihailo Crnobrnja, told *Danas*.