

# UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

## Media Monitoring

# ► Headlines

**Main Stories**

**31 October**

- **Holkeri: Framework can be changed in New York, not in Pristina (*Koha*)**
- **Kosovo Assembly in support of changing Constitutional Framework (*Koha*)**
- **Serb deputies claim there is discrimination in the assembly (*Koha*)**
- **PM Bajram Rexhepi gives interview to *Voice of America* (*Epoka e Re*)**
- **Hoti: Conference is an effort by Serbia to interfere in Kosovo (*Koha*)**
- **PM Rexhepi meets USAID, KTA and EAR representatives (*Zëri*)**
- **Shala: What is the Ministry of Energy going to inherit? (*Zëri*)**
- **Lambsdorff: Continuing privatization depends on changes in laws (*Zëri*)**
- **MPS: If UNMIK doesn't retract registration decision, we'll block the process**
- **Haziri: K-Serbs must realize their center is Pristina and not Belgrade (*Koha*)**
- **UNMIK, Montenegro and Albania to sign police cooperation agreement**
- **Ibrahim Rexhepi: Some other guys (*Koha Ditore*)**

## Kosovo Media Highlights

### Holkeri: Framework can be changed in New York, not in Pristina (*Koha Ditore*)

*Koha Ditore* reports that after the meeting of the United Nations Security Council in New York, Kosovo chief administrator Harri Holkeri said that the Kosovo Assembly was uselessly trying to change the Constitutional Framework or to give the Kosovo Government competencies that are reserved for the UNMIK chief, because only the UN Security Council can do this.

‘I haven’t noticed political willingness in New York to make changes in the Constitutional Framework. I regret that many skilled people of the political life are spending their energy by trying to do something that is impossible,’ Holkeri was quoted as saying.

*Zëri* quotes SRS Holkeri as saying, ‘Security, returns and dialogue are priorities on which I have focused’. Holkeri also said that Serb parallel structures were impeding the development of the multiethnic government in Kosovo.

### Kosovo Assembly in support of changing Constitutional Framework (*Koha*)

*Koha Ditore* reports that the Kosovo Assembly yesterday voted in support of making changes in the Constitutional Framework of Kosovo.

Arsim Bajrami, chairman of the assembly committee for legislation and constitution, said that the initiative should not be perceived as something tendentious, but as a constructive offer that the assembly is making to UNMIK to get more competencies and to implement joint responsibilities.

### **Serb deputies claim there is discrimination in the assembly (*Koha Ditore*)**

*Koha Ditore* quotes Serb members of the Kosovo Assembly as saying that there was discrimination against the Serb minority during discussions on the draft-law against discrimination.

‘We are being discriminated, because we are being denied our right of speech,’ said Serb representative Randjel Nojkic. ‘We want to have a law that would protect the rights of Serb families.’

### **PM Bajram Rexhepi gives interview to *Voice of America* (*Epoka e Re*)**

*Epoka e Re* carries an interview that Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi gave to *Voice of America*.

Asked to comment on SRSB Harri Holkeri’s report to the United Nations Security Council, Rexhepi was quoted as saying, ‘Maybe it is still too early and I would not like to comment on the report because Mr. Holkeri has spent only a short time as chief administrator, and I also believe that most of the three-month report focused on the issue of dialogue.’

### **Hoti: Conference is an effort by Serbia to interfere in Kosovo (*Koha Ditore*)**

*Koha Ditore* carries the assessments made by UNMIK and Kosovo Government officials on the donor conference that was recently held in Belgrade.

UNMIK officials reportedly said that it was not a donor conference for Kosovo, but simply a briefing on the issue of IDPs in Serbia. On the other hand, Rexhep Hoti, political advisor to Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi was saying that the conference was an effort by Serbia to interfere in Kosovo.

### **PM Bajram Rexhepi meets USAID, KTA and EAR representatives (*Zëri*)**

*Zëri* reports that a working group for the energy-sector has been appointed during a meeting that Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi had with representatives of USAID, the Kosovo Trust Agency and the European Agency for Reconstruction.

After the meeting, PM Rexhepi told journalists that the government has ambitions to form the Ministry of Energy next year.

### **Shala: What is the Ministry of Energy going to inherit? (*Zëri*)**

In a front-page editorial for *Zëri*, Blerim Shala writes that the appointment of the Advisory Body for the Kosovo Power Corporation (KEK) is probably the last opportunity to find out what has happened in the power corporation since 1999 and what Kosovo could expect in the coming years regards electricity supply. [*full translation in Media Analysis*]

### **Lambsdorff: Continuing privatization depends on changes in laws (Zëri)**

In an interview for *Zëri*, Nikolaus Lambsdorff, head of UNMIK Pillar IV was quoted as saying, ‘The continuing of the process of privatization depends on changes that can be made in the laws and rules of selling.’ [*extensive coverage in Media Analysis*]

### **MPS: If UNMIK doesn’t retract registration decision, we’ll block the process**

*Zëri* reports that citizens and municipal officials have called on UN authorities in Kosovo to facilitate the procedure of getting new ID documents and travel documents that are issued by UNMIK.

The paper also quotes officials of the Ministry of Public Services as saying, ‘if UNMIK doesn’t retract the recent decision for registration, we are going to block the process’.

### **Haziri: K-Serbs must realize their center is Pristina and not Belgrade (Koha)**

*Koha Ditore* quotes Lutfi Haziri, chairman of the Association of Kosovar Municipalities as saying that arrest warrants that Belgrade has issued against Albanian leaders should be immediately declared null and void.

‘Kosovo Serbs are hostages of Belgrade and everyone who looks to Belgrade and hopes that this is going to solve the problem with the return of Serb security forces are fooling themselves, because this is never going to happen,’ Haziri was quoted as saying.

### **UNMIK, Montenegro and Albania to sign police cooperation agreement (Koha)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that the Montenegrin Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Albanian Ministry of Order and UNMIK will sign on Friday in Podgorica an agreement on police cooperation.

### **Ibrahim Rexhepi: Some other guys (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* runs an opinion piece by economy columnist Ibrahim Rexhepi, who writes, ‘New teams of the Kosovo Trust Agency want to review regulations and the whole process of privatization. What will happen to a state, if laws are changed every time the government is changed’. [*extensive coverage in afternoon Media Analysis*]

## **Kosovo Press Headlines**

### **Koha Ditore**

Front page

- **Holkeri: Framework can be changed in New York not in Pristina**
- **Processing of projects in Pristina, unlimited work**
- **Surroi: Ramadan in Sicilia**
- **Will the former police be allowed to start hunger strike?**
- **Economic relations between Kosovo and Slovenia**
- **Neudeck: What is happening to the Balkans?**

## **Other headlines**

- **Assembly is pro changes of the Constitutional Framework (2)**
- **Hoti: Conference is Serbian attempt to get connected with Kosovo (2)**
- **UNMIK, Montenegro and Albania sign agreement for police cooperation (2)**
- **Schroeder sees resolution of Kosovo issue within Resolution 1244 (4)**
- **Life in ghetto for Romas in Slovakia (4)**
- **KTA representatives, first PM adviser on energy (5)**
- **Adnan Merovci appointed head of the Central Election Committee (6)**
- **Unemployment is a headache for all countries in transition (6)**
- **Will masked police violate the law? (7)**
- **Thaçi: Pristina should speak for Kosovo (8)**
- **Kosovo Serbs should understand their center is Pristina and not Belgrade (8)**
- **Only two donations for reconstruction of houses (9)**
- **Haziri: New road in the focus of reporters (9)**
- **Ibrahim Rexhepi: Some other guys (10)**
- **Press release from the Ombudsperson's office (11)**

## **Zëri**

### **Front page**

- **Holkeri: Before resolution of the final status, international community has still work to do in Kosovo**
- **Assembly gives mandate for constitutional changes**
- **Shala: What will the Ministry of Energy inherit?**
- **Establishment of working groups for energy**
- **Lambsdorff: Continuation of privatization depends on the cancellation of laws and changes of the regulation**
- **Ministry of Public Services: If UNMIK doesn't retract decision for re-registration, we will block the process**
- **Supreme Court reviews case of Dukagjini Group on December 1**

### **Other headlines**

- **Kamerhoff discusses security with Buckovski (2)**
- **Trajkovic: There is more simulation than real policy from Belgrade towards Kosovo (4)**
- **Ombudsperson demands protection for Serbs in Obilic (4)**
- **Former policeman demands return to work (5)**
- **Cigarettes in Kosovo would be sold just as in the world (6)**
- **KPC members put flowers at Zahir Pajaziti memorial (6)**
- **Textile industry is in grave position (6)**
- **Thaçi: We have different political concepts, but for Kosovo status everybody has the same stance (11)**
- **Osmani announces decree against violence at schools (11)**

## **Bota Sot**

### **Front page**

- **UNMIK Police: Here are motives of killing Tahir Zemaj and Ramiz Muriqi**
- **Rule of law is my priority**
- **'Grupi i Dukagjinit' in review by the Supreme Court**
- **Interview with Nikolaus Lambsdorff, UNMIK Pillar IV head**
- **Kosovo assembly approves initiative for constitutional framework changes**
- **EU representative demands legalization of Albanian language**

### **Other headlines**

- **International community failure is similar to northern Mitrovica (2)**
- **Explosion at KPC officer's car (2)**
- **Buçpapaj: Kosovo and minorities (4)**
- **'Wild' competition challenges domestic products (4)**
- **Without democracy, there is no economic development of municipalities (4)**
- **Kosovo has potential to develop energy resources (5)**
- **Ajeti: Kosovo institutions should get involved in resolution of former policeman problems (6)**
- **Fatmir Gjurgjeali appointed KPS spokesperson in Prizren (6)**
- **Privatization harming municipality (7)**
- **Lukaj: Start generators (7)**
- **Local and international institutions still keep silence (8)**
- **American officials were acknowledged with issue of missing persons (8)**
- **Baleta: Pangallos hurry to make Greek Odiseu from Albania (9)**
- **Situation with corruption is not normal [Macedonia] (10)**
- **Kammerhoff: Situation at border with Macedonia is calm (10)**

## **Kosova Sot**

### **Front page**

- **Holkeri starts his speech with killings**
- **Years of speeches**
- **KEK 'smokes' illegal cigarettes after 15 January**
- **Albania approves two agreements with Kosovo**
- **Thaçi: We will be the first!**
- **Parliaments starts with constitutional project**
- **No third round of privatization even after seven days**
- **INTERPOL keeps Serb warrants about Kosovo secret**

### **Other headlines**

- **Kammerhoff: Extremists appear at Macedonia-Kosovo border (2)**
- **Due to lack of support strikers warn with hunger strike (6)**
- **Blewitt: Milosevic was warned about investigation of crimes in Kosovo (6)**
- **Merovci and Staletovic heads of CEC (6)**
- **Memorial complex of Jasharis to be protected by law (6)**
- **Variant to legalize Serb enclaves is part of the game (7)**

- Should there be pedagogues in schools? (7)
- Southeastern Europe at the center of attention (8)
- Over 75 ha of land sowed this autumn (8)
- Structural reforms remain necessary (8)
- Holkeri: Security, rule of law remain my priorities (9)
- Municipalities establish contacts with European Council (10)

## **Epoka e Re**

### Front page

- Kosovo did not speak in New York
- Daci did not allow adoption of a statement on Prekaz incident, I will vote against, he said
- We should not legalize illegal buildings with political decrees
- On 1<sup>st</sup> of December Supreme Court decides about 'Dukagjini Group'
- Amir Bytyçi maltreated by KPS, says his mother
- Holkeri says Kosovo politicians should work with people to fight violence
- General Çeku: KPC is an uncontested institution
- Thaçi: To make a difference between LDK perverse head and its sincere members
- UNMIK is intentionally becoming an obstacle for development of Malisheva
- Gjilan: Ultimatum to municipality to suspend work in the center of the town
- Klina: Refki Krasniqi confirms his departure from executive

### Other headlines

- They promise work to secure electricity 24 hours a day (2)
- This is why UNMIK is wrong about Kosovo (3)
- Kosovo path is not paved in marble, says Holkeri (3)
- Many difficulties due to lack of competencies (3)
- Serbian genocide and massacres are being legalized in Kosovo (3)
- Rexhepi: Dialogue Pristina-Belgrade at a right time and conditions (4)
- Thaçi: PDK is leading force of political progress and of Kosovo people, soon the biggest political force (5)
- Pristina University expresses indignation about incidents in Prekaz (6)
- Massive protests in Belgrade (6)
- Cooperation between KFOR and KPC (6)

Destani: Conditions to dissolve the Assembly are met (6)

## **Belgrade Media Highlights**

- Holkeri's speech in New York (*RTS*)
- Holkeri: Slow towards democracy (*Glas/Tanjug*)
- Covic: On difficult and dangerous road (*Blic*)
- Covic: SC must define standards for Kosovo (*Balkan*)
- French KFOR soldiers left Mitrovica (*Vecernje Novosti*)
- Kosovo Assembly formed working group (*Danas/Beta*)
- Nowizcki asks protection of Serbs (*Politika*)

- **Zivkovic's address to opposition in the Serbian Parliament (*Vecernje Novosti*)**
- **Gathering in Stockholm postponed over Thaci and Haradinaj (*Danas/Beta*)**

### **Holkeri's speech in New York (RTS)**

UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri has conveyed to UNSC members that the UN mission and KFOR will have a great deal of work in Kosovo before it reaches standards that are the pre-condition for resolving its final status. "UNMIK, KFOR and the international community have a great deal to do in Kosovo in order to ensure for these standards to be achieved. This will enable you, the SC, to determine Kosovo's future status," said Holkeri in New York on Thursday evening. The UNMIK head has assessed that "short-term and medium-term prospects for Kosovo are uncertain," but that "the wish of Kosovo citizens to live in a peaceful, stable society where law reigns is crystal-clear." UNSC members have also examined the regular report by the SG Kofi Annan on UNMIK's work, while the SaM Ambassador with the UN Dejan Sahovic had conveyed official Belgrade's stand. Following the session, Holkeri said that he didn't agree with Sahovic "only regarding one issue – these being parallel structures and how we can take them apart." In a telephone statement for the Belgrade media, Holkeri said that he pointed out to the council that priorities were the economy and privatization, the reaching of standards of a democratic society and the Pristina-Belgrade dialogue. The UNMIK head said he was satisfied with the meeting and that he considered Thursday's session as "full support to UNMIK." In his speech, Holkeri devoted special attention to the murder of two young Serbs in Gorazdevac and pointed out there were "several other insane, violent incidents that had shaken Kosovo in the weeks to follow." "Too many people silently tolerate ethnically motivated violence. We must confront that," he

said. Holkeri also pointed out that, although the entire situation in Kosovo had significantly improved, "the dramatic improvements enjoyed by the majority had not been felt by everybody." Holkeri conveyed to UNSC members that "tensions" as well as the "continuation of Belgrade's support to parallel structures" and "the possibility of renewing ethnically motivated attacks, as well as fears that stem from this, continue to prevent many IDPs to return to Kosovo."

### **Holkeri: Slow towards democracy (Glas/Tanjug)**

The transformation of Kosovo into a democratic society where law reigns is going slowly, said UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri. In an interview given prior to the UN SC session, Holkeri said that the Kosovo economy was slowly recovering, but that the unemployment rate was still high, while the privatization program, outlined by the UN, was facing difficulties.

### **Covic: On difficult and dangerous road (Blic)**

Nebojsa Covic in his letter to UN SC said that the increased number of attacks on Serb and other non-Albanian ethnic communities in Kosovo and Metohija was a matter of serious concern. "What seriously concerns both Kosovo Serbs and us in Central Serbia is that the Kosovo delegation in Vienna was not multi-ethnic by decision of Ibrahim Rugova. It would be completely unacceptable that the working groups that are to meet in the next phase of the Vienna dialogue are not multi-ethnic. It is also important that UNSCR 1244 and all other agreements reached with UNMIK, are respected in full. We intend to continue with complete fulfillment of our obligation,

but we also expect that by appointment of Harri Holkeri as the UNMIK Head, the obligations that UN administration undertook will also begin to be fulfilled. A long, dangerous and difficult road is ahead of us”, Covic wrote.

### **Covic: SC must define standards for Kosovo (*Balkan*)**

The Head of the CCK Nebojsa Covic has addressed the UN SC with a letter in which he asked a clear defining of standards of a multi-ethnic Kosovo. “It is of crucial importance that standards of a truly multi-ethnic Kosovo towards which we aspire be clearly, precisely and measurably defined. Unclearly defined standards will cause different interpretations, and will unavoidably lead to a wrong estimate of the situation,” Covic’s letter says. As it is assessed in the letter, it is in the general interest that the estimate of the success in reaching precisely and measurably defined standards be the subject of detailed and objective analyses, as well as the consensus on how much had been succeeded in that job.

### **French KFOR soldiers left Mitrovica (*Vecernje Novosti*)**

Members of the French battalion within KFOR are not securing “Three skyscrapers” in northern Mitrovica, where dozens of Albanian and Serb families reside. That is how the army has withdrawn from the fourth in a row bridge that divides the town, so now the Kosovo police is only guarding on the main bridge. None of the citizens know what is the reason for the “abrupt” departure of the soldiers, since the road for the village of Suvi Do, the only Serb in this part of the municipality, also goes through this part of town. The remaining inhabitants complain to the frequent disturbances by the Albanian neighbors.

### **Kosovo Assembly formed working group (*Danas/Beta*)**

Kosovo AMs have agreed to form a working group to draft amendments to the Constitutional Framework defining the distribution of powers in the UN-governed province. A statement said the working group would make “substantial changes to the Constitutional Framework in order to institutionalize the will of the people in Kosovo.” KP AMs voted against the proposal. KP caucus whip Dragisa Krstovic said that Serb AMs were of the opinion that there was no need to change the Constitutional Framework. The Kosovo Assembly has also adopted, in general, a draft law against discrimination - opposed by Serb AMs, too, which Albanian AMs claimed to contain many shortcomings. In the course of discussion on that draft law, Serb MPs pointed out that that was the first law that should have been passed by the Assembly but with the implementation of EU standards, because they believed that the provincial assembly was stimulating ethnic discrimination.

### **Nowizcki asks protection of Serbs (*Politika*)**

Kosovo and Metohija ombudsman Marek Antoni Nowizcki has visited three Serb families in Obilic on whom a bomb attack was performed in the night between 25 and 26 October, and who are still alive by chance. This Polish lawyer, who has been in Kosovo and Metohija for four years now, warned international community’s representatives that “Serbs were living in fear because they were exposed to constant pressure by Albanian extremists and over the fear for their lives they were not walking the streets.” Nowizcki is asking international community’s representatives “an adequate protection so they can live like the rest of the civilized world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

**Zivkovic's address to opposition in the Serbian Parliament (*Vecernje Novosti*)**

“We know what you had done in Kosovo and Metohija and we will not repeat that. We have talked again and we will talk again both with Albanians and the international community because it is the only way to do something. We have been and will remain with the Serbs from Kosovo and Metohija,” Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Zivkovic told the opposition in the Serbian Parliament.

**Gathering in Stockholm postponed over Thaci and Haradinaj (*Danas/Beta*)**

A round table in Stockholm dedicated to Kosovo has been postponed because of possible detention of the two Kosovo Albanians political leaders Hashim Thaci and Ramush Haradinaj. As quoted, the organizer cancelled the session scheduled for October 30, because of the risk that Thaci and Haradinaj may be held in the course of transiting to Sweden, due to international warrants issued by Interpol on the basis of indictments that Serbian authorities filed against them.