

**UNMIK**



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

# Media Monitoring

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## **Kosovo leader rules out Islamist extremists could strike in Serbian province**

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: November 30, 2003

ATHENS, Nov 30 (AFP) - The president of **Kosovo**, a mainly Muslim Albanian province of **Serbia**, has ruled out that al-Qaeda extremists could prepare attacks in the UN-administered region, in an interview published Sunday.

"The **Kosovo** Albanians and I condemn al-Qaeda's terrorist actions but I do not believe that this organization could be active in **Kosovo** in any way," Ibrahim Rugova told the Greek newspaper Kathimerini.

He insisted there were no people linked to Islamist extremists in **Kosovo**, adding that he was aware of reports that such a threat could exist in the volatile region.

"But this is unfounded," he added. "It could be that some people spread such allegations to destabilize **Kosovo**."

Rugova said that **Kosovo** was standing by the United States and European countries in the fight against extremist violence.

The United Nations mission in **Kosovo** and NATO-led peacekeepers have increased security in the province after receiving a warning about an unspecified threat Friday.

Peacekeepers with the NATO-led force known as **KFOR** set-up extra checkpoints and stationed armoured vehicles on roads leading to most diplomatic offices, including those of the United States and Britain.

UN headquarters in New York received information on a general threat against foreign government offices and police buildings in Pristina, **Kosovo's** main city.

Some 20,000 **KFOR** troops are stationed in **Kosovo** and are in charge of security in the province. Another 3,500 UN police and 6,000 local officers are responsible for law and order.

"We now know that a specific threat has been made towards international organisations in **Kosovo**," **KFOR** spokesman Chris Thompson said.

**Kosovo** has been under UN and NATO control since June 1999, after a NATO bombing campaign forced Serbian forces under then strongman Slobodan Milosevic to end a bloody conflict with ethnic Albanian separatists.

cb/gk/rm **Kosovo**-UN-threat-Rugova

AFP 301456 GMT 11 03

**Kosovo security raised after “specific threat” | 19:20 | Reuters**

PRISTINA -- Friday - NATO has raised security in Kosovo in response to a "specific threat" of attack against international organisations in the United Nations protectorate, alliance peacekeepers said on Friday.

In a joint statement with the United Nations mission referring to recent suicide bomb attacks in Turkey, they said extra measures would remain in force until "the threat is assessed to have reduced".

"We now know that a specific threat has been made towards international organisations within Kosovo," Wing Commander Chris Thompson of KFOR told a news conference in the Serbian province where nominally Muslim ethnic Albanians predominate. He would not disclose which organisation had been threatened. Diplomatic sources said it was UNMIK.

A KFOR armoured personnel carrier blocked the bridge leading to US, British, German and other international offices and KFOR headquarters, stopping all vehicles to check documents and registering all traffic.

Kosovo police vehicles guarded other UN and international offices, plus the Kosovo parliament building and major city intersections and KFOR was conducting random checks elsewhere in the capital, targeting cars with foreign plates.

Besides various UN agencies and NATO, a number of international non-governmental assistance groups are active in Kosovo, including the international Red Cross, the ICRC.

The statement referred to "terrible recent events, not just in south-eastern Europe but elsewhere in the world".

It said a number of the countries affected by recent attacks "are represented within KFOR and the international organisations working in Kosovo".

An internal UNMIK letter on Thursday said security was being heightened due to "an unconfirmed potential threat" but added that "the likelihood of a direct threat to UNMIK staff members at the present time is still considered to be low".

"If you notice anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, such as individuals following you, suspicious persons loitering around UNMIK buildings or compounds, or suspicious vehicles or packages left in the vicinity of UNMIK buildings or compounds report it immediately..." it said.

The NATO-led force of 18,000 is made up of troops from 34 countries including the United States and its 18 NATO allies.

"The security measures that have been seen in Pristina in the past 24 hours represent a measured, prudent and deterrent response to that threat," Thompson read from the statement.

"We will not identify any targets that may or may not have been nominated and neither will we discuss any of the operational aspects..." , the statement added.

## **Covic meets Kosovo Serb representatives | 16:47 | Beta**

BELGRADE -- Sunday – The head of the Belgrade’s Kosovo Coordination Centre, Nebojsa Covic, today met a delegation of Kosovo Serbs to discuss resolution of the crisis in Serbia’s southern province.

Setting standards for the Serbian side is expected to expedite conformity with international community requirements.

## **Grenade attack on Serb house in Kosovo | 14:54 | Beta**

GNJILANE -- Saturday – A hand grenade was thrown into the courtyard of a Serb-occupied house in the village of Cernici, near Gnjilane last night, Beta agency reports today, quoting Serb sources.

None of the three adults and three children in the house at the time were injured in the blast, which cause minor property damage.

Beta’s sources say the attack occurred in the same place as a similar attack in August this year which claimed the life of teacher from a village school.

## **Covic warns on flag “provocation” | 17:35 | Beta**

BUJANOVAC -- Friday – Politicians must resist provocations such as the flag of the Republic of Albania being raised above the Presevo Municipal Council building, the head of Belgrade’s South Serbia Coordination Centre said today.

Nebojsa Covic was commenting on a protest in Presevo this morning when ethnic Albanian high school students celebrated Albania’s national holiday, Flag Day, by raising the Albanian flag on mast of the May 25 High School in the town.

Protesting Albanian students also called for the school’s original name of Skenderbeg be restored. The name was changed in 1989.

Covic called for a restrained response, saying that Albanians had the right to their own flag, but must observe the official flag of Serbia and return it to the school mast.

“If someone thought we’d fall for these provocations, that the police or the security forces would attack the children, we’ll we didn’t, because we’ve seen that movie and learnt from it,” he said.

Covic accused “some separatist and extremist factions from the Albanian community” of being involved in today’s events.

“I wonder why these groups which manipulate children weren’t brave enough to take the Serbia flag down from the council building themselves,” he added.

The situation in Presevo and neighbouring Bujanovac was calm this afternoon.

## **Albanians in southern Serbia mark Flag Day | 16:11 | B92, Beta**

PRESEVO -- Friday – Around 1,000 ethnic Albanians gathered in the southern Serbian town of Presevo today to celebrate the Albanian national holiday – “Flag Day”.

Albanian members of the local secondary school replaced the Serbia-Montenegro flag on the town hall with the Albanian colours.

The crowd was addressed by Presevo mayor Riza Halimi, who said the issue of the Albanian national flag would be resolved through legal avenues.

Security forces were present near the local assembly building.

## **Serb flag flies again in Presevo | 14:52 | Beta**

PRESEVO -- Saturday – The Albanian flag which was raised yesterday on a high school in Presevo to celebrate the national holiday of the Republic of Albania was removed during the night.

The Serbian flag is again flying over the school in the south Serbian town.

About three thousand Albanian high school students yesterday hoisted the Albanian flag as a part of a celebration of Albanians Flag Day.

## **Student rebels who fought Milosevic seek place in key Serbian vote**

BC-EU-POL--Serbia-Elections,0409

Student rebels who fought Milosevic seek place in key Serbian vote

By KATARINA KRATOVAC=

Associated Press Writer=

BELGRADE, **Serbia**-Montenegro (AP) \_ A former student group that spearheaded a popular uprising which toppled Slobodan Milosevic nominated on Sunday a list of candidates for **Serbia**'s Dec. 28 general elections.

“This is a watershed moment for us,” said Ivan Marovic, a leader of Otpor, or Resistance.

“We want to take responsibility for what happens in **Serbia**,” Marovic told The Associated Press.

“Others have failed in promises to bring about a better life. We want the chance.”

The Dec. 28 vote is a key test for **Serbia**. Nationalists and parties allied with Milosevic \_ the former president of **Yugoslavia**, **Serbia**-Montenegro's predecessor, who was toppled in 2000 \_ have made strong gains recently, exploiting mass disappointment in the post-Milosevic government.

Analysts have warned against allowing the country to slide back into isolation and warmongering that prevailed under Milosevic, now on trial by the U.N. war crimes tribunal for his alleged role in the atrocities of the 1990s committed in the Balkan wars he fomented.

Earlier this month, Tomislav Nikolic, a candidate of the Radical Party, won the most votes in presidential elections that were declared invalid because of low turnout. The head of the Radicals is also on trial for war crimes at The Hague.

More than any other group, Otpor took the brunt of Milosevic's repression in the year that preceding the dictator's ouster. About 9,600 Otpor activists were arrested by police, and many were beaten.

Otpor registered as a political party last week, and it may join coalitions of other pro-democracy parties to form a parliament majority after the December vote, Marovic said.

"We can no longer sit and wait for someone else to solve **Serbia's** accumulated problems," he said.

Otpor's candidacy list was delivered to **Serbia's** election commission, along with 10,500 support signatures \_ more than enough to clear the hurdle for participation as a party or movement.

The candidates include prominent Serbian figures and academics, as well as formal Otpor members \_ all "experienced, honest and uncompromising individuals" who can help "**Serbia** regain self-respect," Marovic said. (PROFILE (WS SL:BC-EU-POL--**Serbia**-Elections; CT:i; (REG:ASIA;) (REG:ENGL;) (REG:AFRI;) (REG:MEST;) (LANG:ENGLISH;)) )

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APviaNewsEdge

## **War crimes prosecutor to raise first indictment in early December**

BC-EU-GEN--**Serbia**-War Crimes War crimes prosecutor to raise first indictment in early December, official says

BELGRADE, **Serbia**-Montenegro (AP) \_ **Serbia's** special war crimes prosecutor will raise his first indictment in early December, charging suspects for the killing of some 200 Croats in 1991, a deputy said Saturday.

Bogdan Stankovic told B-92 radio that several people suspected of talking part in the mass execution of prisoners near the Croatian town of Vukovar would be charged. Six of the suspects are in custody, he said, while an unspecified number remain at large.

Stankovic gave no details and did not say when the trial could start.

The announcement comes months after **Serbia** formed a special court to deal with war crimes, in an effort to stave off some of the pressure from the U.N. tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

The U.N. court has charged three former Yugoslav army officers in connection with the Ovcar case, but has said that low-ranking suspects could be tried here.

The possibility of war crimes trial in **Serbia** was raised after former President Slobodan Milosevic \_ who led the country into four Balkan wars \_ was ousted in 2000 by a pro-democracy coalition.

Serb-led police and army have organized a few war crimes trials since the wars ended in 1999, but the cases have received little publicity and have been criticized by some independent observers.

The special court was established with the help of the United States and other Western countries involved in the Balkans.

The court also deals with high-profile cases of organized crime, including the March assassination of the reformist Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, who was allegedly killed by crime bosses and hard-liners in the police.

(jg/sl)

## **Nationalist leader tries to dispel fears of warfare and isolation**

BC-EU-POL--**Serbia**-Elections

Nationalist leader tries to dispel fears of warfare and isolation

Eds: RETRANSMITTING to fix coding in slug.

By JOVANA GEC=

Associated Press Writer=

BELGRADE, **Serbia**-Montenegro (AP) \_ A nationalist politician sought Saturday to dispel fears that possible victory of his party at December elections would lead **Serbia** into renewed warfare and isolation.

"We guarantee peace to our people," said Aleksandar Vucic, secretary general of the Serbian Radical Party. "We are offering freedom, peace and economic prosperity."

The Radicals, whose leader Vojislav Seselj is being tried at the U.N. war crimes tribunal, are expected to make a strong showing at Dec. 28 parliamentary elections.

A surge in support for the party has raised fears that **Serbia** could be sliding back to nationalism, three years after former President Slobodan Milosevic was ousted by a pro-Western coalition. Earlier this month, the Radical Party deputy leader, Tomislav Nikolic won most votes at failed presidential elections. The poll was annulled because the turnout was below the 50 percent legal requirement.

The party was a key ally to Milosevic during more than a decade of his rule in **Serbia**. It organized volunteers to fight in wars in Croatia, Bosnia and **Kosovo** where they were later accused of brutality.

The Serbian Radical Party also was a staunch supporter of the idea of creating a Greater **Serbia**, which would include parts of neighboring Bosnia and Croatia. Milosevic's attempt to create a Greater **Serbia** is believed to be the prime cause of the Balkan wars of the 1990s'.

After Milosevic's ouster in 2000, the Radicals have toned down their rhetoric, calling instead for social justice and promising to root out corruption.

"We are offering only what we can fulfill," Vucic told a news conference. "We are not offering pies in the sky, like everybody else."

He also promised respect of human and minority rights. Also Saturday, moderate nationalist Vojislav Kostunica, whose party is also believed to be one of the strongest ahead of the elections, said it would not form a postelection coalition with the Radical Party.

"I rule out that possibility," Kostunica said in comments published by Blic daily.

Kostunica was part of the pro-democracy bloc that ousted Milosevic. He has since fallen out with other reformist leaders, turning into the government's biggest critic.

Kostunica allied with the Radicals last month to launch a parliamentary no-confidence motion to topple the government. Their initiative forced Prime Minister Zoran Zivkovic to call early elections.

None of the parties running in the December balloting is expected to win enough seats in the 250-seat parliament to govern alone.

## **Serbian Patriarch Pavle calls for restoration of monarchy in Serbia**

BC-EU-GEN--**Serbia**-Monarchy Serbian Patriarch Pavle calls for restoration of monarchy in **Serbia**

BELGRADE, **Serbia**-Montenegro (AP) \_ The head of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Pavle, called Saturday for restoration of monarchy in **Serbia**, nearly six decades after it was abolished by the communists.

In a letter to **Serbia**'s Crown Prince Aleksandar Karadjordjevic, the Patriarch said that the Communists' ban on monarchy in 1945 was the result of "unprecedented tyranny" and should be revoked.

"The whole history of the Serbian people has always been tied to their sovereigns and their families," Patriarch Pavle said.

The Communists led by Josip Broz Tito came to power in **Serbia** and elsewhere in former **Yugoslavia** after World War II.

Tito's Communist Party imposed a one-party system in the country and banned the royal family from returning, confiscating their passports and property.

Karadjordjevic first came to **Serbia** in the early 1990s' after the fall of communism. The prince did not settle here until former President Slobodan Milosevic was ousted in 2000, and the new pro-democracy government allowed him and his family to move back into the royal palace in Belgrade.

The issue of possible restoration of monarchy in **Serbia** has been brought up by some rightist political parties but has never come under serious consideration. The Serbs are largely divided on the issue.

## **Albanian police questions Turks fearing terrorist attacks**

BC-EU-GEN--**Albania**-Terror Fear

Albanian police questions Turks fearing terrorist attacks

TIRANA, **Albania** (AP) \_ As part of actions aimed to prevent terrorist attacks, Albanian police briefly detained and questioned two Turkish men working in the country, police said Saturday.

The two men were detained Thursday evening and released after they were found to have no terrorist links, police spokesman Engjell Hysi said.

"The questioning was made in the context of the general security checks stepped up by police recently," Hysi said.

Following the recent bombings in Turkey, **Albania** has increased security around government and other public buildings, fearing that terrorists could attack the tiny Balkan country. Security around embassies has also been increased.

Police on Nov. 21 arrested two suspected Albanian terrorists who allegedly had remote-controlled explosive devices. Police said the devices had been meant to be used in Tirana.

In a separate action the same day, two Turks working in a Tirana-based Turkish trucking firm were questioned by police and released after showing that their documents were in order. Hysi denied that police were targeting Turks especially, but said authorities routinely approached foreigners to check their papers.

**Albania**, a small, predominantly Muslim country which emerged from decades of communist isolation in 1990, was one of the most vocal backers of the U.S.-led campaign in Iraq. It has 71 peacekeeping troops stationed in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, patrolling streets and guarding government buildings. It also opened its airspace and bases for use by the U.S.-led forces.

## **Macedonia pledges to deepen bilateral ties with China**

Source: Xinhua Date: November 29, 2003

TIRANA, Nov 29, 2003 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Macedonian Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva Saturday expressed her hope in Skopje that the friendly cooperative relations between **Macedonia** and China, especially economic cooperation, will be continuously deepened.

The traditional friendly cooperative relations between the two countries, which are established on the basis of mutual respects, conform to the fundamental interests of the two countries and the two peoples and have been increasingly promoted, Mitreva said during a meeting with Su Guang, vice president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) .

Calling China "a great friend" of **Macedonia**, Mitreva praised China's support for her country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

She reaffirmed that the Macedonian government recognizes there is only one China in the world and Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory.

On his part, Su said the friendly cooperative relationship accords with the common desires of the two countries and the two peoples.

He promised that the CPAFFC will continue to contribute to further promote exchanges and friendship between the two peoples.

Su and his CPAFFC delegation arrived in Skopje, capital of **Macedonia**, on Saturday for a four-day visit.

CXGLOBviaNewsEdge

## **Wisconsin lawmaker pushes resolution concerning Macedonians**

BC-WI--Macedonians-Greeks, Bjt,0485

Wisconsin lawmaker pushes resolution concerning Macedonians  
staaa

MADISON, Wis. (AP) \_ A state senator wants his colleagues to take a stand on a dispute between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of **Macedonia** over the ethnic origins of the ancient Macedonians.

Sen. Ted Kanavas, R-Brookfield, has asked the Senate to proclaim that the first Macedonians were Hellenes, or Greeks, and that the inhabitants of Greece's northern province of **Macedonia** are Hellenic descendants.

The issue is central to a conflict over which country has the right to use the name ``**Macedonia**." He introduced the resolution this month.

Kanavas, a second-generation Greek-American whose ancestors came from Crete, said he's concerned over efforts by the former Yugoslav republic to appropriate the name.

``**Macedonia** is a region of Greece. It always has been," Kanavas said. ``And people who are not ethnically Greek are appropriating the name. And Greeks in Greece and other places are mad about it."

But to inhabitants of the former Yugoslav republic just across the border, the people who settled the region first known as **Macedonia** \_ now divided among Greece, Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav republic \_ were Slavs, a linguistic group native to eastern Europe.

The Macedonian republic gained independence from **Yugoslavia** in 1991.

But international recognition was delayed after Greece objected to its use of the name **Macedonia**, which Greeks considered an attack on their culture and a threat to their territorial integrity.

The countries settled on a provisional name, the Former Yugoslav Republic of **Macedonia**, while talks continue in the United Nations over a permanent designation.

Slobodan Tasovski, deputy chief of mission for the Macedonian Embassy in Washington, D.C., said the resolution conflicts with the United States' neutral stance on the issue.

Similar resolutions have been adopted or introduced in at least 13 other states.

Kanavas said he would withdraw the resolution if anyone objects. State Rep. Dan Vrakas, R-Hartland, also a second-generation Greek American, plans to introduce a similar resolution in the Assembly.

## **Macedonia to replace its troops in Iraq**

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: November 29, 2003

SKOPJE, Nov 28 (AFP) - The Macedonian parliament gave a green light on Friday for sending of a new group of Macedonian soldiers to replace troops already serving with the US-led coalition in Iraq.

With 62 votes for and five against, the 120-seat parliament decided to extend the six-month mandate for its troops after it expires in December.

**Macedonia**'s troops serving with the coalition in Iraq consist of 31 soldiers and two liaison officers based in Baghdad, while two officers will also now be based with the US Central Command in Florida.

It was still unclear whether a nine-member medical team will join the troops in Iraq.

"**Macedonia** continues its support to the peace mission as the shortest way towards our integration within NATO," Defence Minister Vlado Buckovski told the parliament before the vote.

The first 39 soldiers were sent to Iraq in June, while the new troops are to leave **Macedonia** on December 6.

This will be the fifth international mission for Macedonian soldiers. Beside Iraq, three army missions were sent to Afghanistan this year.

**Macedonia** has supported the US-led actions in Iraq and opened its airports and airspace for the coalition aircraft.

jmi-an/rl

## **Police hopes Lindh murder suspect will confess to grandfather: report**

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: November 29, 2003

STOCKHOLM, Nov 29 (AFP) - In an attempt to get a confession from the chief suspect in the slaying of Swedish foreign minister Anna Lindh, police will allow his grandfather to visit him in jail, a Swedish paper said Saturday.

Police have tried to make 24-year old Mijailo Mijailovic talk since arresting him on September 24, but in vain.

He has consistently refused to cooperate, denying any knowledge of the crime, and often answering questions with a simple "no comment", according to Swedish tabloid Expressen.

Lindh, who had been tipped to one day become prime minister, was fatally stabbed in the abdomen by an unknown attacker on September 10 while she was shopping at a Stockholm department store. She died the following day, in a killing that stunned Sweden.

Her attacker fled the scene on foot, leaving behind the bloodied knife and a baseball cap.

Investigators have previously told Expressen that they had enough technical evidence to secure a guilty verdict without a confession, but that they need to hear Mijailovic's version to understand the motive of the crime.

Swedish media reports have speculated that the suspect had been obsessed by several famous people, and also "hated Anna Lindh" for backing the NATO air strikes against Belgrade during the war in **Kosovo** in 1999.

Mijailovic's 78-year-old grandfather, who, according to the paper, is the person he feels closest to, has secretly come to Sweden to see his grandson.

Mijailovic spent a lot of time on his grandparents' farm near Belgrade in the former **Yugoslavia** as a child, and was expected to take over the farm one day, according to Expressen.

Quoting an unnamed source, the paper claims that the meeting between the two men will take place in an interrogation room, under police supervision.

According to the source, police and prosecutors hope that a meeting with his grandfather will finally get Mijailovic to open up.

When Expressen interviewed Mijailovic's grandfather in Belgrade earlier this year, he said he wanted to visit his grandson and have a serious talk with him.

"I want to ask him why he did what he did," he told the paper at the time. "I don't have any explanation for it myself. He has to tell the truth."

Once the defense has had a chance to read through the prosecutors' notes from the preliminary investigation, which will be handed over just before Christmas, prosecutors expect to charge Mijailovic with the murder sometime in January, according to Swedish news agency TT.

If he is charged, the trial should start a week later, according to TT.