



Division of Public Information

Media Monitoring

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07 June

Holkeri tells the Kosovars to fulfil standards (Zëri)

Harri Holkeri, former chief administrator of Kosovo, arrived in Prishtina on Saturday for a farewell visit during which he will meet with his international and local colleagues, Zëri reports.

Holkeri will meet today with EU High Representative Javier Solana, and tomorrow he will attend a meeting with Contact Group representatives. Holkeri will also meet President Rugova, Prime Minister Rexhepi, Assembly Speaker Daci, and KFOR representatives. On Wednesday, the former UNMIK chief will meet PDK leader Thaçi and AAK leader Haradinaj and with representatives of Serb Coalition Povratka.

On Thursday, Holkeri will host a reception in Grand Hotel in Prishtina, and invited are senior officials of institutions, political parties, UNMIK and KFOR, diplomatic offices in Prishtina and representatives of civil society.

Holkeri's farewell visit will end on Friday, when he departs for Helsinki, Finland, and leaves the United Nations Mission in Kosovo.

After landing in Prishtina Airport on Saturday afternoon, Holkeri reiterated that his resignation was a result only of his health condition. 'The truth is that the decision to resign is mine and I have taken it after consultations with doctors, and after the request that I made to the UN Secretary General. I have made a lot of effort, but I forgot that the human body is not a machine,' said Holkeri.

Holkeri also condemned the latest incident in Gračanica and told all Kosovars to work to stop the violence and to be fully committed to implementing the standards and dialogue with Belgrade.

Solana: Next months important for Kosovo's European future (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore carries a front-page interview with European Union High Representative Javier Solana on the eve of his visit to Kosovo. 'Time is an important element, and the European Union, together with the rest of the international community, is especially concerned about delays in the implementation of standards. Therefore, I call on Kosovo leaders to unite behind this important goal and to make it a real success,' Solana was quoted as saying.

In the interview, Solana elaborated on the future role of the EU in Kosovo amidst talks about 'europeanising' the international mission. '...The European Union has been looking for ways to increase the European perspective for Kosovo', said Solana and added 'this includes the increase of our cooperation with UNMIK, especially in those spheres that are important for the European perspective of Kosovo such as the implementation of standards. In this context, the next months will be important'.

Asked if he believes that Kosovans managed to overcome the crisis after the March riots, the EU High Representative for Foreign Policy and Security replied: 'Events that occurred between 17 and 19 March were a serious setback for Kosovo. The main priority now remains the reconstruction, return of the displaced into their homes and the arrest of those responsible for riots'.

Solana went on to say that the role of the political leaders in Kosovo and the people of Kosovo in general is crucial for the repair of the damages caused during March riots and for the return of trust between communities. 'March riots have contributed to an even bigger commitment of the EU to a multiethnic and democratic Kosovo', said Solana.

'I have said on many occasions that the future status of Kosovo will only be determined when there are conditions for beginning that process in accordance to Resolution 1244. The international community has agreed to the possibility to make the first analysis of the progress in the middle of 2005, and after the events in March there is a lot to be done to catch up and to ensure that this happens on time. Only then, on condition of progress, it will be possible to start discussions on the status of Kosovo', said Solana on the question of whether the status of Kosovo will be resolved during next year.

Shala: Three steps to successfully confront crime (Zëri)

In a front-page editorial in Zëri, Blerim Shala writes that the reaction of Kosovan officials and politicians after the killing in Gracanica was swift and clear.

The crime led to a point where international and local authorities lost a very valid argument before the second meeting of the Support Group for Kosovo, this Tuesday, June 8th. The security situation was quite stable in the last three months.

The establishment of a safe environment for all citizens of Kosovo implies among other things success in three areas while dealing with a case such as the latest incident in Gracanica. First, local politicians must be firm in condemning crime. The second aspect is related to revealing the truth about the case. Third comes the court punishment for the perpetrators of the crime. If this plan of action would function properly, the level of security in Kosovo would certainly be higher and it will be easier to create a safe environment for all. Otherwise, failures in the second and third step will unfortunately create enough room for such cases to repeat, and they badly affect not only Kosovo's image but also its position in the period when we are getting closer to addressing the final status.

Lambsdorff travels to Brussels – no invitation for locals to go to New York

Kosova Sot reports that the head of Pillar IV, Nikolaus Lambsdorff, travelled last weekend to Brussels for consultations with EU officials before proceeding with his visit to UN headquarters in New York.

Though there were statements that a government official will travel with the delegation to New York, government spokeswoman, Mimoza Kusari told the paper: ‘So far we have not received any invitation from Pillar IV for participation in the delegation to travel to New York.’

Referring to reliable sources, *Kosova Sot* reports that the delegation will be composed of the chairman of the KTA Board Lambsdorff, UNMIK legal adviser Alexander Borg Olivier and a representative of the Kosovo Government.

Minister Ali Jakupi, also vice chairman of the KTA Board, is quoted as saying: ‘I am informed of all privatisation developments from the press. I have not been invited to the meetings in New York but I think that we will have some news this week.’

Contact Group Plus meets with Kosovo and UNMIK representatives (Zëri)

According to sources close to Zëri, apart from separate held meetings with Albanian and Serb politicians, the Contact Group Plus will make efforts to organise a meeting that would result in a joint statement from Albanians, Serbs, UNMIK and CGP representatives.

Zëri also says that tomorrow’s meeting will focus on two issues: on the assessment of the progress made since the last meeting on 20 April and on the discussion of a ‘six-week working agenda’ which should be ready before the third meeting of the Contact Group Plus.

According to its sources, the paper states that the topics to be discussed will also include efforts for the implementation of standards, reconstruction of damaged buildings in the March riots, inter-ethnic dialogue, security issues and the plan for reformation of the local government.

Balaj: Lies, deception and strategy for Kosovo (Koha Ditore)

In an opinion piece in Koha Ditore, Jetëmir Balaj, executive director of the NGO Forum, writes that the policy of zero tolerance against corruption is just another lie by UNMIK and the Kosovo Government.

On 24 of May the Office of the Prime Minister of Kosovo published the anti-corruption strategy in a conference called ‘Kosovo fighting corruption’.

In the front row of the participants was sitting the minister of Economy and Finances, Ali Sadriu, who signed contracts of hundreds of thousands of Euros with his nephew.

The strategy was also appreciated by Jean Cady, the head of Pillar 1 of UNMIK, who expressed one more time the policy of zero tolerance against crime. Cady did not seem aware of millions of Euros that the officials of municipal courts have accumulated sealing contracts, although it is their obligation do it.

Cady wasn't also aware that the UNMIK Police is still hiring police officers who have had connections with organized crime. Police officer Korotenko was transferred after his involvement in fuel smuggling appeared in the media almost two years ago. Anywhere else, Cady would be dismissed from work as incapable. In Kosovo he is responsible for the institutions of implementing the 'Strategy'.

Thierry Bernard Guile, the head of the European Agency for Reconstruction also spoke at the conference and praised the contribution of EU in developing the strategy.

It seems Guile did not know that the signs that proudly show that Kosovo's roads have been reconstructed by EU cannot be read. They are covered in dust coming from the holes that appear once the asphaltting work is finished.

Under the management of Nikolaus Lambsdorff as head of Pillar 4 of UNMIK, the trust of investors for privatization has already faded away and the process is blocked. Any hope for direct investments from abroad is lost and so is any hope for the economic revival of Kosovo.

In EU, such actions would be considered as criminal violence of duty. For the employees of EU in Kosovo it is all a part of the 'Strategy'.

Five years after the war, thousands of citizens still live in temporary accommodations and in tents, and the President Rugova comes up with a plan for building a 'White House' as an annex to his five-floor palace in Prishtina.

Laws on anti-corruption should be drafted and approved by the Assembly of Kosovo, the head of which, Nexhat Daci, is renovating his office with € 800.000.

If the anti-corruption strategy were to be applied as a law and not on voluntary basis, most of them, be local or international would be dismissed from work or would be imprisoned for violation of official duties.

Belgrade Media Update

First Murder of Kosovo Serb Following the March Ethnic Violence

Dimitrije Popovic (17), student of the Medical High School in Gracanica, was murdered around 2:30 a.m. Saturday while he was standing with three friends in front of a fast food restaurant in Gracanica. An Audi, with three persons inside, stopped in their vicinity. One person came out of the car and opened fire. Popovic was shot in the head, *Glas Javnosti* reported. The International Press Center in Mitrovica learned that UNMIK Police has arrested Albert Krasniqi (18) and Labinot Gashi (20) from Pristina for their possible involvement in the murder. They were found in possession of an automatic rifle AK 47 and a gun of unknown make and caliber, *Politika* reported. About a thousand Kosovo Serbs, who organized a protest rally in Gracanica on Saturday, asked from the international community to stop the killings of Serbs in Kosovo and from KFOR to return the checkpoints to the entrances of the Serb enclave it had removed a couple of days earlier. They also asked for alternate roads to be constructed in order to replace all those which pass through Serb settlements and used

by Albanians, because murders most often take place on these roads, *VIP* reported. The funeral of Popovic took place on Sunday in the presence of several thousand people, Serbia & Montenegro (SCG) Parliament Speaker Zoran Sami, who stated that the "international community has to understand that terrorism acts in Kosovo in its worst form," and Deputy Serbian Parliament Speaker Vojislav Mihajlovic who said that the murder of Popovic is not a tragedy only for his family, but for the entire Serbian people because "what follows will be intimidation of Serb people before ethnic cleansing in Kosovo," *Balkan* reported. The murder of Popovic is the first attack against a Serb after a relative calm that followed the massive anti-Serb violence on March 17 and 18, during which 19 people were killed, 11 of them Serbs, *Beta* reported.

Serbs Consider Murder of 17 Years Old Popovic as Prelude to Final Ethnic Cleansing

Serbia & Montenegro (SCG) President Svetozar Marovic and Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic sent separate letters to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan on June 5, demanding that the international community protect the Serbs in Kosovo. Deploring the fact that "this serious crime is yet another warning, especially to the U.N. mission, that the lives and safety of the Serbs, Montenegrins and other non-Albanians in Kosovo were still in danger," Marovic expects Annan to order UNMIK to urgently launch an efficient investigation into the murder, while Draskovic stressed that "there must no longer be hesitation in the full implementation of U.N. Resolution 1244." He added that "this crime also indicates that the primary obligation of the international community is to guarantee full autonomy for the Serbs and other non-Albanians in Kosovo, which the Serbian Government and the Council of Ministers of SCG insist on," *Beta* reported. Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica sharply condemned the murder and commented that at issue was a "shameful, criminal act, a murder of a child." He underlined that it was not a coincidence that the victim had been a 17-year-old boy, or that it was a child that had been the first victim after the violence against Serbs in Kosovo, on March 17, and concluded that this murder was a big warning to the international community to seriously engage in resolving the Kosovo crisis and establish safety for Serbs and other non-Albanians in the province. Commenting that "what happened is a result of a hypocritical policy that has been implemented after March 17," the Head of the Coordination Center for Kosovo (CCK) Nebojsa Covic stated that this murder is an indicator of UNMIK and KFOR's incapability to understand that a multi-ethnic life of Serbs and Albanians among themselves is impossible at this point. He said that such incidents would be occurring until one more March 17 is repeated, which would lead to the disappearance of Serbs from Kosovo and a situation where the international community would tell the Serbs "we are sorry, there is none of you down there and we can't do anything," *Politika* reported. Raska-Prizren Bishop Artemije, who conducted the funeral ceremony, assessed that the murder of Dimitrije Popovic is the "continuation of ethnic violence and terrorism, and a direct result of the international community's non-readiness to deal with organized Albanian terrorist gangs and mafia that are freely roaming around Kosovo." He considers that "the past policy by the international community can be called with right a policy of silent collaboration in ethnic cleansing and deserves the harshest condemnation," *Balkan* reported. Milan Ivanovic, chairman of the Serb National Council (SNC) for northern Kosovo, said that the murder was "another systematic and organized crime against Serb children," and stated that "KFOR is directly responsible


for this crime, because it removed the checkpoints from the approaches to Gracanica just three days ago," *Glas Javnosti* reported. Kosovo Parliament Presidency member Oliver Ivanovic commented that on March 17 Albanian extremists did not achieve the desired effects, and that despite the apparent peace created after the violence in March, there is a permanent threat to the life of every Serb hiding, *VIP* reported.

Holkeri and Kosovo Albanian Officials Condemn the Murder

Departing UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri, who has arrived on his farewell visit to Kosovo the day preceding the murder, has expressed serious concern and severely condemned the killing of Popovic. Stressing that he does not want to see a repetition of the March violence, he added that he believes that is how the majority of decent people in Kosovo feel, and called upon all citizens of Kosovo to work on their better future and to fight violence, *Politika* reported. Kosovo Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi condemned the killing and called on all the citizens of Kosovo to remain calm. He said that criminals had to be brought to justice and that the motives for such a criminal act had to be determined as soon as possible. In his condemnation Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova stated that "such actions are aimed against civil peace in Kosovo, against the future and independence of our country," *Beta* reported.

Solana in Kosovo Today

EU High Representative for Common Foreign Policy and Security Javier Solana is to pay a one day visit to Pristina today on the eve of the meeting of the Kosovo Support Group called for tomorrow. In his meetings planned with outgoing UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri, deputy KFOR commander Mario Marioli, Kosovo interim officials Ibrahim Rugova, Bajram Rexhepi, and Nexhat Daci, and major Kosovo politicians, Solana is expected to call on all local politicians and forces to unite for the implementation of the democratic standards crucial for Kosovo and its inhabitants. He shall also express the EU's concern over Kosovo's failure to initiate many reforms of prime importance for the future determination of its final status, *Beta* reported.

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- **Balaj: Lies, deception and strategy for Kosovo (*Koha Ditore*)**

Kosovo Media Highlights

Solana: Next months important for Kosovo's European future (*Koha Ditore*)

Koha Ditore carries a front-page interview with European Union High Representative Javier Solana on the eve of his visit to Kosovo. 'Time is an important element, and the European Union, together with the rest of the international community, is especially concerned about delays in the implementation of standards. Therefore, I call on Kosovo leaders to unite behind this important goal and to make it a real success,' Solana was quoted as saying.

Solana says reorganization of UNMIK is an important priority (*Zëri*)

Zëri reports that together with the latest messages addressee to the Kosovo party leaders and to the heads of Kosovo institutions, EU High Representative Javier Solana will also inform about the position of the European Union on the restructuring of UNMIK.

On Friday Solana said that restructuring of UNMIK was an important priority. 'As you know, UNMIK was established in 1999. The reorganization of UNMIK is an important priority. It aims at making it adapt to the new circumstances and to enable it to respond efficiently to the mandate designated by Resolution 1244,' said Solana.

Gallack: Holkeri's successor must have good knowledge of Western Balkans

Christina Gallack, spokeswoman for EU High Representative Solana, told *Zëri* that the decision to appoint Harri Holkeri's successor rests in the hands of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

'The EU would look to see a European as head of UNMIK, as has always been the case in the past,' Gallack was quoted as saying. 'Mr. Holkeri's successor must have very good knowledge of the Western Balkans, strong leadership skills and a tremendous experience in crisis management.'

Police still keeps two Albanians in detention (*Koha Ditore*)

Koha Ditore reports that approximately 1.000 Serbs protested yesterday afternoon in Gracanica against the killing of Dimitrije Popovic, while at the same time police are keeping in detention two young Albanians suspected of the killing.

Police officials still haven't confirmed the names of the two arrested, although according to anonymous sources inside the police, Albert Krasniqi and Labinot Gashi are held as key suspects for the killing. [*more in afternoon Media Analysis*]

Shala: Three steps to successfully confront crime (Zëri)

In a front-page editorial in *Zëri*, Blerim Shala writes that the reaction of Kosovan officials and politicians after the killing in Gracanica was swift and clear.

'The establishment of a safe environment for all citizens of Kosovo implies among other things success in three areas while dealing with a case such as the latest incident in Gracanica. First, local politicians must be firm in condemning crime. The second aspect is related to revealing the truth about the case. Third comes the court punishment for the perpetrators of the crime,' added Shala.

Holkeri tells the Kosovars to fulfill standards (Zëri)

Harri Holkeri, former chief administrator of Kosovo, arrived in Prishtina on Saturday for a farewell visit during which he will meet with his international and local colleagues, *Zëri* reports.

After landing in Prishtina Airport on Saturday afternoon, Holkeri reiterated that his resignation was a result only of his health condition. Holkeri also condemned the latest incident in Gracanica and told all Kosovars to work to stop the violence and to fully commit to implementing the standards and dialogue with Belgrade.

Thaçi: We are not in politics to observe processes, but to lead them (Zëri)

'Now we have many ideas, because the time when we had only one president, one party and one idea are long gone. We are involved in politics not to observe processes, but to lead them,' said Hashim Thaçi, leader of the Kosovo Democratic Party (PDK), during a meeting with party branch officials in Skenderaj.

Head of German Office Peter Rondorf warns about corruption (Epoka e Re)

'Corruption in Kosovo is a cancerous wound and I think there is a risk that before the resolution of the final status Kosovo will fall victim of corruption and organized crime,' said Peter Rondorf, head of the German Office in Prishtina, in an interview for *Epoka e Re*.

Balaj: Lies, deception and strategy for Kosovo (Koha Ditore)

In an opinion piece in *Koha Ditore*, Jetëmir Balaj, executive director of NGO Forum, writes that the policy of zero tolerance against corruption is just another lie by UNMIK and the Kosovo Government.

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Belgrade Media Highlights

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- Funeral of Dimitrije Popovic (*Balkan*)
- Protest rally in Gracanica (*Glas*)
- Jakovenko on Gracanica murder (*Politika/Tanjug*)
- Covic: US preparing papers on Kosovo (*Blic*)
- Rexhepi on Serbian government plan (*Danas/Beta*)

Sunday, 6 June 2004

Serb boy murdered in Gracanica (*Glas*)

Dimitrije Popovic (17), student of the Medical High School in Gracanica, was murdered at around 2:30 a.m. Saturday while he was standing with three friends in front of a fast food restaurant in Gracanica. An Audi, with three persons inside, stopped in their vicinity. One person came out of the car and opened fire. Popovic was shot in the head. The funeral of murdered Popovic will be held in Gracanica on Sunday.

Stefan Feller – horrible crime (*Vecernje Novosti/Beta*)

UN police commissioner Stefan Feller has stated in Gracanica that the murder of Dimitrije Popovic (17) is a horrible crime. “We have good information on the suspects who had been arrested in Pristina and its vicinity,” said Feller, adding this is all he could say for the moment since the investigation is underway.

La Fontaine: Defeat of human society (*Politika/Tanjug*)

French general Etienne La Fontaine, the Commander of the Northeastern KFOR Division, who is to take over the post from the current division commander Xavier Michele, has condemned the murder of Dimitrije Popovic in Gracanica. La Fontaine

assessed that was a serious incident, adding that to him every violent murder represented a defeat of the human society, and that the Serb youth murder was one of those.

Two arrested (*Politika/Tanjug*)

Over the suspicion of involvement in the murder of Dimitrije Popovic in Gracanica, UNMIK police have arrested Albert Krasnici (18) and Labinot Gasi (20) from Pristina, the International Press Center in Kosovska Mitrovica learned. During the arrest, seized was a white Audi 80, with license plates 425-KS-264, an automatic rifle AK 47 and a gun of unknown make and caliber. There is still no information on the possible detention for the arrested.

Marovic demands urgent action from Annan (*Vecernje Novosti*)

SCG President Svetozar Marovic has expressed expectation that UN SG Kofi Annan will demand from UNMIK an urgent and efficient investigation regarding the murder of Dimitrije Popovic, it was announced by Marovic's cabinet. "I expect you to demand from UNMIK an urgent, energetic and efficient investigation in resolving this crime so any possibility for new acts of violence would be completely removed," Marovic stated in his letter to Annan.

Kostunica: Murder of a child (*Politika/Beta*)

Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica has sharply condemned the murder of the 17-year-old Serb boy in Gracanica. Kostunica told a press conference that at issue is a "shameful, criminal act, a murder of a child." He added that it was not a coincidence that the victim had been a 17-year-old boy, or that it was a child that had been the first victim after the violence against Serbs in Kosovo, on March 17. Kostunica concluded that this murder was a big warning to the international community to seriously engage in resolving the Kosovo crisis and establish safety for Serbs and other non-Albanians in the province.

Covic: Incapability of UNMIK (*Politika*)

The Head of the CCK Nebojsa Covic has stated that the murder of Dimitrije Popovic is an indicator of UNMIK and KFOR's incapability to understand that a multi-ethnic life of Serbs and Albanians among themselves is impossible at this point. Such incidents will be occurring until one more 17 March is repeated, which will lead to the disappearance of Serbs from Kosovo and a situation where the international community will tell us "we are sorry, there is none of you down there and we can't do anything," said Covic. "What happened is a result of a hypocritical policy that has been implemented after 17 March, that I had been warning about when I stated that we must be much more clear and energetic in the sense of complete demilitarization of Kosovo and the introduction of some sort of state of emergency and complete disarmament of all terrorists gangs and groups that are operating throughout Kosovo," he said.

Bishop Artemije: Continuation of ethnic violence and terrorism (*Balkan*)

Raska-Prizren bishop Artemije has assessed that the murder of Dimitrije Popovic is "continuation of ethnic violence and terrorism, and a direct result of the international community's non-readiness to deal with organized Albanian terrorist gangs and mafia that are freely roaming around Kosovo." "The past policy by the international

community can be called with right a policy of silent collaboration in ethnic cleansing and deserves the harshest condemnation,” said bishop Artemije.

Monday, 7 June 2004

Holkeri condemned violence (*Politika/Beta*)

Departing UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri, who has arrived on his farewell visit to Kosovo, has expressed serious concern and severely condemned the murder of the 17-year-old boy in Gracanica. Holkeri has said that he does not want to see repetition of the March violence and that he believes that is how the majority of decent people in Kosovo feel. Holkeri, who has arrived to Pristina from Helsinki on the eve of his last meeting with the EU High Representative Javier Solana, has called upon all citizens of Kosovo to work on their better future and to fight violence.

Funeral of Dimitrije Popovic (*Balkan*)

In the presence of several thousand people, 17-year-old Dimitrije Popovic was buried at the Gracanica cemetery. Saying farewell to Dimitrije, his uncle Ratko Popovic has stated that Europe had been sending to Serbs black shawls from day to day for the fifth year, “and the state of Serbia is not looking at us who stay here not only to protect our graves but also to live.” SCG Parliament Speaker Zoran Sami has said that the “international community has to understand that terrorism acts in Kosovo in its worst form.” Deputy Serbian Parliament Speaker Vojislav Mihajlovic has said that the murder of Popovic is not a tragedy only for his family, but for entire Serbian people. What follows this murder will be intimidation of Serb people before ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, said Mihajlovic.

Protest rally in Gracanica (*Glas*)

At the protest rally in Gracanica, in regard to the murder of 17-year-old Dimitrije Popovic, more than one thousand Serbs asked from the international community to stop the killings of Serbs in Kosovo. SNC for northern Kosovo Milan Ivanovic has stated that this murder represents another systematic and organized crime, accusing UNMIK and KFOR for not doing enough to establish security in the Province.

Jakovenko on Gracanica murder (*Politika/Tanjug*)

Moscow has decisively condemned acts of violence over the Serb population in Kosovo and requested from the UN mission and international forces in Kosovo urgent and efficient actions aimed at establishing security, official representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Aleksandar Jakovenko has stated. In his reaction to the murder of a Serb boy in Gracanica, the Russian official has emphasized that it is particularly important that this event is not used for a new wave of interethnic tension. Moscow is convinced that the only way for establishing confidence is to implement UNSCR 1244 consistently and completely, stressed Jakovenko.

Covic: US preparing papers on Kosovo (*Blic*)

Nebojsa Covic has said that next year will be crucial for the fate of this province. "Behind the public eye, Americans are preparing papers which will say what they want to happen with Kosovo, the EU will be given the task to pay for it all, and the

third point of the triangle is NATO, so, if you are not good - you get the stick," Covic told the Novi Sad daily *Dnevnik*.

Rexhepi on Serbian government plan (*Danas/Beta*)

Kosovo Premier Bajram Rexhepi has reiterated that the Serbian government plan on decentralization of Kosovo is unacceptable. "We have had a clear stand on the proposed Serbian government plan on decentralization of Kosovo since the beginning, and it is unacceptable for us," said Rexhepi. He told the Sarajevo daily *Dnevni Avaz* that Kosovo Albanians were forbidden to enter B-H four months ago, without any explanation, and that UNMIK passports they possess were considered non-valid travel documents. "We know that the SCG government had exerted pressure and asked B-H not to recognize UNMIK passports. B-H decided not to recognize them due to good relations with Serbia," said Rexhepi.

Sunday Headlines 6 June 2004

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- **One Serb killed, two Albanians arrested – tension increases again (*Koha Ditore*)**
- **Holkeri concerned about Kosovo after the killing in Gracanica (*Koha Ditore*)**
- **Rexhepi: I know that Belgrade asked from Sarajevo not to recognise UNMIK documents (*Koha Ditore*)**
- **IFJ: OSCE should not blame the media for the events in March (*Bota Sot*)**

Kosovo Media Highlights

One Serb killed, two Albanians arrested – tensions increase again (*Koha Ditore*)

Koha Ditore reports on the killing of a 16 year-old Serb, Dimitrije Popovic in Gracanica while he was standing in front of a kiosk with some friends.

Right after the attack, KPS police arrested two people in suspicion of the killing in Gracanica and *Koha Ditore* quotes its sources with the police that say that these two suspects are from Gjilan and at the moment of the arrest, they had blood stains on their faces and signs that correspond to some sort of confrontation. Anonymous sources also told *Koha* that an automatic gun was found in the car of the arrested persons which was sent to be examined and that another firearm is being searched.

However, the UNMIK police spokesman for the region of Prishtina Malcolm Ashby said he had no information that the arrested persons had injuries when caught, even though he could not confirm the opposite either, writes the paper. Ashby confirmed that the arrested persons were Albanians and added that their car fitted the description given by the witnesses from the scene of the crime.

UNMIK Police Commissioner Stefan Feller said that the killing of Popovic in Gracanica is a terrible and brutal crime.

Koha Ditore also reports that the autopsy of the victim will be conducted by a team of doctors from Belgrade. The paper quotes **B92** news agency: ‘After the family of the victim refused to allow the autopsy being performed without the presence of Serb doctors, the medical team from Serbia led by doctor Vujadin Otasevic was allowed to come to Kosovo’.

Koha Ditore also carries reports from **BETA** which state that the name of the arrested persons are Albert Krasniqi (18) and Labinot Gashi (20) both from Prishtina.

Holkeri concerned about Kosovo after the killing in Gracanica (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore writes about the arrival of Harri Holkeri to Prishtina, where he came to bid farewell both to international and local representatives.

Addressing the journalists, Holkeri said that he was very concerned about Kosovo. ‘I just got informed of a very serious incident last night in Gracanica. Is this the future of Kosovo? No, it can’t be. I call upon every honourable citizen of Kosovo to work for a better future and fight against violence’, is quoted Holkeri.

Holkeri said he felt saddened to leave Kosovo and repeated that he took the decision for resignation solely for health reasons. ‘I am willing to admit that I worked a lot and forgot that the human body is not a machine. My programme was very heavy and what happened to me in Strasbourg was an alarm’, said Holkeri.

Rexhepi: I know that Belgrade asked from Sarajevo not to recognise UNMIK documents (Koha Ditore)

‘We know that Serbia and Montenegro exercised pressure not to recognise those documents [UNMIK travel documents]’, said Prime Minister Rexhepi in an interview for the Bosnian newspaper **Dnevni Avaz**.

The prime minister also said on that it has been four months since Bosnia doesn’t allow persons with UNMIK travel documents to enter the country, but that the government of Kosovo was not officially informed of this.

The paper notes that representatives of the Kosovo government addressed the High Representative for Bosnia Paddy Ashdown regarding this issue, but got no reply.

IFJ: OSCE should not blame the media for the events in March (Bota Sot)

Bota Sot reports that the International Federation of Journalists (IJF) criticised OSCE of having blamed the Kosovo media for encouraging ethnic tensions in the March riots. The General Secretary for Europe, Aidan White said: “I regret the tendencies of the OSCE report. I don’t think that political organisations should deal with these things. The report shifts the attention from the real reasons that led to the outbreak of these events.”

Kosovo Press Headlines

Koha Ditore

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