

UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

Media Monitoring

► **Local Media**

► **Media Analysis**

17 March

Under Contact Group pressure UNMIK takes into account some 'Povratak' remarks on implementation plan (Zëri)

Zëri carries a front-page exclusive article saying that the pressure from the Contact Group has made UNMIK incorporate some of the comments proposed by Coalition 'Povratak' to the plan for implementation of Standards for Kosovo.

Therefore, according to international sources in Pristina, *Zëri* says that UNMIK is expected to find room for some of the proposals in the final draft of the standards implementation plan in the coming days.

It is known, however, that the stance of UNMIK head, Harri Holkeri, and his team is that UNMIK cannot lead two parallel processes when it comes to standards: one with local authorities involved in the working groups and another with Serb politicians of Kosovo who are making their participation in the working groups conditional on essential changes in the UNMIK plan.

So, Holkeri has said that the best way for Kosovo Serbs is to stop boycotting and join the process.

However, over the recent weeks the Contact Group has increased pressure on UNMIK, asking it to be more flexible and more pragmatic and consider the possibility of taking into account the remarks of Coalition 'Povratak' (which, according to the paper have undoubtedly been drafted in agreement with the Serbian Government).

The same sources told the paper that the proposals, that are to be included, would not change the nature of the document or risk its functionality. And if this is true, the representatives of 'Povratak' will not be happy with the extent of the changes in the plan for Standards for Kosovo.

On the other hand, the international sources have informed *Zëri* that the Contact Group has not exerted the same pressure on the Kosovo prime minister and his government not to make it a big deal if UNMIK eventually decides to incorporate the changes.

According to the aforementioned sources, the reactions the UNMIK is receiving from the Government is that if the proposals from 'Povratak' are not much different from the ones of Contact Group and the UN, then it should not be problematic. But if they are very different they must not be included in the final draft of the Standards Implementation plan.

Three Albanian kids drown in Ibar river while fleeing from Serbs (Dailies)

Dailies report on the tragedy, which happened in the village of Caber in Zubin Potok when three children drowned in river Ibar. **Koha Ditore** reports that the body of Egzon Deliut (12) was found by KPC members about 400 meters downstream, while the other two kids are still missing.

Koha Ditore, which has the most coverage on the case, reported that it is believed that the kids were escaping in panic from Serbs who were chasing them with a dog.

The kids jumped into the water fleeing and were engulfed by the river water. Fitim Veseli, 13, the only child who survived said he his nine year-old brother, Florent, was on his back, when he slipped and disappeared into the river.

Fitim told **Koha Ditore** in the presence of his father, that he together with his brother and some other friends were walking on the other side of the river, on the property of Albanians when that two young Serbs, older than them, attacked them and unleashed a dog on them.

Seeing that they would not be able to flee from the dog, they jumped into the river, which was full because the dam upstream, Ujman, had previously released water.

Fitim's father was speechless and did not know what to say about this tragedy that happened to his family in the only Albanian village in the Zubin Potok municipality.

Tracy Backer, a spokesperson of UNMIK Police said that they had reservations about the statement of the child, the only survivor. Meantime they continue to look for bodies and the investigation will follow.

Epoka e Re carries a front page headline saying 'Serbs kill three Albanian kids in Ibar river', adding that in addition to this incident, the house of Sadri Paci in the miners' neighborhood was set on fire on Monday evening, concluding that the Serbs are creating problems and aim to destabilize all Kosovo.

Almost all papers say that KFOR, UNMIK Police and KPC were searching for the bodies.

Holkeri, Rugova, Rexhepi and Daci condemn the wounding of Jovica Ivic (Zëri)

Zëri carries the reactions of the SRS, Holkeri, President Rugova, PM Rexhepi and parliamentary speaker Daci against the attack on a young Serb Jovica Ivic in Caglavica on Tuesday.

The SRSB condemned the attack and also condemned the violence by the Serbs afterwards who blocked the street, set a car on fire and did not allow the police to enter the area.

‘These acts do not serve the interests of any community in Kosovo, and as such need to be condemned’, said the SRSB.

The representatives of the Kosovo institutions also condemned the attack that happened in unclear circumstances.

President Rugova, PM Rexhepi and Parliamentary Speaker Daci have condemned the attack and urged the police to solve the crime.

The three of them said in different statements that acts like these do not serve in building peace and democracy in Kosovo.

The PM said that blocking roads is not a democratic way to express anger and he called upon them to let competent institutions deal with the case.

The PDK has also condemned the attack, saying any violent act is detrimental to the democratic processes and efforts of the Kosovo institutions to create a climate of tolerance among the people of Kosovo.

Nowicki: I do not have UNMIK’s support (*Koha Ditore*)

Human rights in Kosovo has improved but it is obvious that it is “far from” the minimum international standards, said the Ombudsperson of Kosovo, Marek Antoni Nowicki on Tuesday in Paris.

Participating in the discussions of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly, Nowicki briefed them about the difficulties that his office experiences in terms of co-operation with UNMIK, emphasizing that UNMIK, Police and the local authorities, very often don’t provide documents requested by him, even though under the regulation UNMIK can refuse to give the documents.

Talking about the local institutions, Nowicki said that the recommendations by the Ombudsperson in Kosovo are not even observed/applied; they are ignored or used with comments from UNMIK, which devalues them.

The Ombudsperson further told the committee that he does not have the ability to participate in the process in the local courts. The judiciary system in Kosovo is weak and has been created by UNMIK itself, he said.

Further more Nowicki said it wasn’t understandable that UNMIK has diplomatic immunity in Kosovo, terming it absurd even though UNMIK is the power in Kosovo. “How can they have diplomatic immunity for what its acts”, he asked.

On a positive note Nowicki mentioned the Standards for Kosovo, in which there is a section according to which the local authorities are obliged to enforce decisions and the recommendations of the Ombudsperson.

Editorial: Technical talks, Kosovar version (Zëri)

Zëri carries an editorial piece by publisher Blerim Shala who talks about the recent violent protest of Serbs near Pristina.

The incident involving the young Serb in Caglavica, the village on the highway from Pristina/Ferizaj in the direction to Skopje, triggered the road being blocked and protests by the Serbs, which were assessed as hostile by the international administration.

One vehicle was burned, it is said and the citizens of Caglavica didn't let KFOR troops and UNMIK Police enter the village. Meanwhile, Kosovar officials condemned the incident involving the young Serb, which occurred on Monday night.

The UNMIK Police will continue the investigations but without prejudging the results.

What have we talked about up to now is that all kinds of casualties and incidents that have occurred in the suburb of Pristina, and elsewhere where Serbs are located, resulted in roadblocks and as a consequence innocent people suffered.

In these incidents, the Serbs have expressed their dissatisfaction, and did not help much to improve of their situation.

Precisely, the roadblock cannot bring any qualitative solution.

So the question is what can be done to secure and improve this area even more for the Serbs near Pristina because all the parameters show that the situation in general has improved, the situation is far better today than it was one or two years ago.

The beginning and the end of all these kinds of incidents has to do with the practical dialogue between officials of Kosovo, the internationals and UNMIK police and the Serbian citizens of Caglavica.

Kosovo Serbs should have a special role in this dialogue as they are represented in the government and the Assembly. They should address everything that concerns them. Pristina is the political address for the Caglavica Serbs.

Belgrade Media Update

At the moment, a large scale clash between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in northern Mitrovica is ongoing, while a large group of ethnic Albanians is trying to break the barricades installed by Serbs at the entrance to the village of Caglavica in which Serb demonstrations have been mounted after a Serb teenager was shot 2 days ago, Belgrade's electronic media report. Hand grenades and automatic rifles have been used in the clash in northern Mitrovica, leaving at

least one Serb woman killed and dozens of Serbs, Albanians and UNMIK personnel injured. **B92** reports that the angry Albanian crowd killed at least five Serbs. Despite heavy blockades mounted by KFOR and UNMIK at the entry of Caglavica village, several thousand ethnic-Albanians broke into the village, managing to demolish two Serb houses. KFOR and UNMIK are currently trying to mount a buffer zone between Serbs and Albanians. Ethnic Albanians claim the reason for their attacks in northern Mitrovica was the drowning of two Albanian children in the Ibar River and missing of a third one in the village of Cabar near Mitrovica, upon allegedly having been chased by Serb youth and their dogs into the river. The Serbian Government has announced it has convened an urgent session for today. The upswing in violence occurred 48 hours after US Commander of NATO forces in southern Europe, Admiral Johnson, visited Kosovo and said that the situation in the province remained satisfactory despite a recent spate of bombings.

Angry Serbs demonstrate following latest shooting in Kosovo

Kosovo Serbs blocked the roads from Pristina to Gnjilane and Skopje in Gracanica and Caglavica in central Kosovo yesterday in sign of protest following the shooting of 18-year-old Jovica **Ivic** the preceding evening. The protesters asked for the international police and KFOR to immediately find the attackers, reinforce patrols in Serbian villages around Pristina and reinstate checkpoints at entrances of Serb villages. Serb village elders in central Kosovo and representatives of educational and health institutions created yesterday a Crisis Committee of central Kosovo Serbs, which requested effective action from UNMIK and KFOR and the arrest of Ivic's attackers. The Committee announced the pursuit of roadblocks until KFOR checkpoints are reinstated on roads leading into Serb villages around Pristina, and asked for roads leading through Serb villages toward central Kosovo to be closed from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., and for the Serbian Government to draft a plan together with the Ministry of Education and UNMIK for protecting Serb children and students. Some incidents such as a clash between high school students and international police, the arrest of an Albanian firing shots in the air and cars being smashed when trying to force the road blockades, were reported. UNMIK Police spokesperson Derek **Chappell** reported that the police could not initiate its investigation because the demonstrators stoned the policemen and did not allow them to approach the crime scene. He stated that he understood their anger and called for their assistance in the investigation, reported Beta. As for SRS **Holkeri**, he invited the Kosovo inter-ministerial Coordinator for Returns Milorad **Todorovic** to use his influence and calm the protestors, which the latest accepted to do while commenting that "the situation would calm down much better if UNMIK were to announce the name of the guilty person, just as it should announce the names of those who committed other crimes", **B92** reports. The Kosovo Government issued a statement condemning the attack, which it qualified as 'criminal' and stressed that "such acts do not contribute to peace and development of democracy in Kosovo," while Kosovo PM Rexhepi commented that the roadblocks are not a democratic form of expressing discontent, KAG reported. The Serbia & Montenegro (SaM) Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a letter of protest to the UNSC and the Department for Peacekeeping Operations in which it stated that "the crime is a tragic proof that even four years after the arrival of peace forces Kosovo Serbs do not enjoy minimum security and seem not even entitled to the right to live," and added that "the fact that children have not been spared in the latest ethnic crimes in Kosovo should alarm the international community," **Beta** reported.

KLA supporters call for UNMIK departure and denounce dialogue with Belgrade

Kosovo Albanians staged mass protests in Pristina, where several thousand people gathered in front of the National Theater, and 27 municipalities throughout Kosovo yesterday, demanding that all former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) fighters be released from prison. The protesters accused UNMIK of pursuing Serbia's policy and unjustifiably holding former KLA fighters in prison, and demanded that UNMIK and its leader SRS **Holkeri** leave

Kosovo, because the province had its own people to lead it. Letters, in which UNMIK was labeled as 'neocolonialist' and calling for the review of its stance on the KLA struggle, were read at all rallies, *Beta* reported. In Mitrovica, the President of the local association of disabled war veterans Faik **Fazliu** said that "the continuation of discriminatory policy of UNMIK towards the members of the former KLA will destabilize this part of the region and that situation might get out of control as a result of citizens' revolt and indignation." In Pec, Nexhmi **Lajci**, President of the local association of war veterans, assessed that "Kosovo has been occupied as it used to be once and there is a fear that it is moving towards a new war," while in Prizren Agim **Mucaj**, President of the local Association of disabled war veterans, pointed out that although UNMIK had been welcomed with flowers in the beginning, "we have now lost faith in this administration because it has been implementing the policy and laws of Serbia, according to which all those in Kosovo who are first-rate fellows, who are praiseworthy and brave should be arrested," *KAG* reported. The protestors also criticized Kosovo institutions for holding talks with Belgrade saying this was equal "to walking over the blood of fallen Kosovo freedom fighters," and said that dialog could not be led until the fate of abducted Albanians has been resolved. None of Kosovo's prominent politicians were seen at any of the protests, and no incident was deplored, reported *Beta*.

Council of Europe considers human rights situation in Kosovo

In Paris yesterday, the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) initiated a session on the human rights situation in Kosovo that was introduced by its Rapporteur Tony **Lloyd**. Dragoljub **Micunovic**, who heads the Serbia & Montenegro (SaM) parliamentary delegation attending the session, stressed that the human rights situation in the province was alarming and required certain mechanisms of protection, while stating that it was positive that "Kosovo is finally in the public focus and that people can no longer say that they do not know what is going on there," reported *Beta*. UNMIK's Legal Advisor Alexander Borg **Olivier** optimistic report was reportedly severely criticized by many members of the legal committee who asked him to justify his opinion, while Radoje **Prica**, from the SaM delegation, declared to be shocked by his expose and recalled that out of the 40,000 Serbs from Pristina only 200 Serbs remained there under the protection of armed international forces, *Vecernje Novosti* reported. Kosovo Ombudsman Marek **Nowicki** said that he very much agreed with the stance of the Kosovo inter-ministerial Coordinator for Returns Milorad **Todorovic**, who pointed to the discrimination of non-Albanians and Serbs in their struggle for life, employment, the right to medical treatment, and by the judiciary and political authorities. Nowicki underlined that although the level of human rights protection in Kosovo has improved, it was still very far from the minimum of international standards, and further elaborated that he was facing great difficulties in receiving the documents he requests from UNMIK, the international police or the local authorities, while the latest do not implement his orders and recommendations, reported *VIP*.

Kostunica addresses Kosovo issue with Russian and British officials

The Serbian Cabinet reported yesterday that PM **Kostunica** stressed to the Russian Assistant Foreign Minister Sergei **Razov** that "the basic human rights of (Kosovo) Serbs have been drastically threatened," and reiterated that "decentralization of Kosovo is necessary," while underlying it had been suggested by the Council of Europe itself in Dec. 2002. They both agreed that it was not a good idea to rush a solution to Kosovo's final status, and Razov conveyed Russia's stance that the implementation of the Standards for Kosovo document "must be made concrete in the sense of the ability to instantly verify their practical application." He further conveyed the message of Russian President Vladimir **Putin** who favors "the inviolability of national borders in the Balkans," and supports the State Union of Serbia & Montenegro. Razov also met with the head of state Coordination Center for Kosovo (CCK) Nebojsa **Covic**. In a separate meeting with British Foreign Office official John

Sawers, Kostunica said that the non-Albanian population in Kosovo needed to be given additional institutional guarantees after decentralization, and Sawers commented that the situation in Kosovo, despite some progress, was generally unsatisfactory, *Beta* reported.

 <p>UNMIK United Nations Mission in Kosovo</p>	<p>Division of Public Information</p> <h1>Media Monitoring</h1>
--	---

► **Headlines**

Main Stories

17 March

- **Three Albanian children drown in Ibër river while fleeing from Serbs (*Dailies*)**
- **Under Contact Group pressure UNMIK takes into account some ‘Povratak’ remarks on implementation plan (*Zëri*)**
- **OSCE: Kosovo municipalities are not doing enough for minorities (*Zëri*)**
- **Serbs keep roads closed in vicinity of Pristina and attack pedestrians (*Zëri*)**
- **Protestors call UNMIK to review its policy toward KLA (*dailies*)**
- **Editorial: Technical talks, Kosovar version (*Zëri*)**

Kosovo Media Highlights

Three Albanian kids drown in Ibër river while fleeing from Serbs (*Dailies*)

Dailies report on the tragedy, which happened in the village of Çabër in Zubin Potok when three children drowned in the river Ibër. *Koha Ditore* reports that the body of Egzon Deliut (12) was found by KPC members around 400 meters downstream, while the other two kids are still missing.

Koha Ditore reports that it is believed the kids were escaping in panic from the Serbs who were chasing them with a dog.

Tracy Backer, a spokesperson of UNMIK Police said that they have reservations as to the statement of the only child who survived and in the meantime they continue to look for the bodies, and the investigation will follow.

Epoka e Re carries a front page headline saying ‘Serbs kill three Albanian kids in the Ibër river, adding that in addition to this incident, the house of Sadri Paci in the miners’ neighborhood was set on fire on Monday evening, concluding that Serbs are creating problems and aim at destabilizing all Kosovo.

Under Contact Group pressure UNMIK takes into account some ‘Povratak’ remarks on implementation plan (Zëri)

Zëri carries a front page exclusive article saying that the pressure coming from the Contact Group has made UNMIK include some of the remarks proposed by the Coalition ‘Povratak’ to the plan for implementation of Standards for Kosovo.

Therefore, according to international sources in Pristina, *Zëri* says that UNMIK is expected to find room for some of the proposals in the final plan of standards implementation plan in the coming days.

The same sources told the paper that the proposals, which are to be included would not change the nature of the document or risk its functionality.

OSCE: Kosovo municipalities are not doing enough for minorities (Zëri)

Zëri carries an article on the recent OSCE report on the work of the municipal community committees, which the municipalities are obliged to set up according to Regulation 2000/45. According to the report, only 27 out of 30 municipalities have already set up the community committees. The paper claims to have got hold of a copy of the OSCE report, which reveals many irregularities: only 11 of the municipal community committees hold regular meetings, there is a misunderstanding of the Regulation 2000/45 and other things, and that there has been a lack of commitment of the members of the committees.

Serbs keep roads closed in vicinity of Pristina and attack pedestrians (Zëri)

Zëri reports that after the wounding of a Serb youngster on 15 March, the rebelled Serbs keep the roads outside Pristina blocked and are attacking Albanian pedestrians, civilian and KFOR cars. The paper further informs that the police are in search of a red car type ‘Golf 3’, from which, according to witnesses, shots were fired.

Protestors call UNMIK to review its policy toward KLA (dailies)

Most *dailies* cover the protests against the arrest of the KLA members. *Zëri* reports that thousands of protestors gathered in 27 municipalities and chanted slogans against the policy of the international administration in Kosovo.

While *Epoka e Re* reports that during the protest you could even hear slogans like ‘UNMIK we have gun powder also for you’.

Editorial: Technical talks, Kosovar version (Zëri)

Zëri carries an editorial piece by publisher Blerim Shala who talks about the recent violent rebellion of Serbs in the vicinity of Pristina

There should be very practical talks, says Shala, between Kosovo officials, international ones, UNMIK Police and the Serbs of Çagllavica and other areas. Kosovo Serbs should have a special role in this dialogue, as they are represented in the government and the Assembly. They should address everything that concerns them. Pristina is the political address for the Çagllavica Serbs.

Kosovo Press Headlines

Koha Ditore

Front page

- **Three Albanian children die in the river while escaping from Serbs**
- **Ernst Tschoepke left the house he was living in without paying 950 Euros**
- **War against terrorism creates new enemies**

Other headlines

- **One government, two views about the human rights situation (2)**
- **In the next elections, there are no voting centers outside Kosovo (2)**
- **Nowicki: I do not have UNMIK's support (2)**
- **Protestors request UNMIK to review charges against the arrested former KLA members (3)**
- **Serbs block the road from Prishtina to Skopje and Gjilan, attack passers-by (3)**
- **President Rugova condemns the wounding of the young Serb (3)**
- **Holkeri asks Todorovic to calm down Serb protests (3)**
- **Collective contracts and the premature pension law – a workers' longtime request that is becoming reality (4)**
- **Krasniqi: PPB report has many deficiencies (4)**
- **A little "fire" puts Unit A out of production (4)**
- **Draft laws that pretend to change KEK (5)**
- **Covic: "If Kosovo is taken away from Serbia, Sandjak and Vojvodina can easily be divided" (6)**
- **Artemije asks Annan to support "the prosecuted Serb people" (6)**
- **Serb businessmen continue to block trucks (6)**

Zëri

Front page

- **After the Contact Group pressure, UNMIK respects some remarks of "Povratak" on the standards plan**
- **Three Albanian kids disappear in the waters of Ibar river**
- **Discussions on practical issues – the inside Kosovo version**

Other headlines

- **Rebelled Serbs keep the roads on the exit of Prishtina blocked and attack trucks (2)**
- **After the Serb was wounded, the violence of revolted Serbs broke out, police say (2)**
- **Holkeri condemns violence that resulted in a young Serb wounded (2)**
- **Rugova, Rexhepi and Daci condemn wounding of the Serb Jovica Ivic (2)**
- **KFOR rescues Miftari family from lynch (2)**
- **OSCE: Kosovo municipalities are not working enough for minorities (3)**
- **Thaci meets Marc Grossman and Madelaine Albright (3)**
- **Assembly meets today to discuss 13 draft laws (3)**

- Protestors call on UNMIK to review the policy against Kosovo and KLA (4)
- Tenders – a cause for accusations between Kosovo Government Ministers (4)
- Human rights situation in Kosovo is bad, Todorovic and Nowicki say (6)
- Sasa Cvjetan asks for innocence for killing 14 Albanians (6)

Bota Sot

Front page

- Peaceful protest against the criminal act on President's Ibrahim Rugova's residence
- Nothing is known about the fate of three kids carried by Ibar River
- Was Kostunica the one who organized the grenade attack against Rugova?!
- Serb gangs start criminal activities to expel Albanians from the south
- EU convened a meeting to oppose terrorism
- The European Union has the chance to make Kosovo an absolute priority

Other headlines

- Optimal time to formalize the independence of Kosovo state (2)
- Collective contracts project will be finalized by 12 May (2)
- "Green Patrols" are established to defend country's borderline (3)
- A terrorist act on the state of Kosovo (6)
- Communication between donors and NGOs to improve (7)

Kosova Sot

Front page

- Kosovo loses € 70 million a year due to lack of energy laws
- Editorial: Who is responsible for millions lost?
- Thousands of protestors blame UNMIK for criminalization of KLA
- Scandalous; In the KTA cocktail party; only one buyer and Ali Sadriu take part
- OSCE: Elections regulation has changed
- Todorovic from Rexhepi's cabinet speaks very ill of Kosovo in Paris
- Kosovo cannot attract investors from Diaspora
- Jakup Krasniqi: Here are the facts about the tenders of my Ministry

Other headlines

- Lack of sovereignty delays stabilization association (3)
- Holkeri can nominate a new member (3)
- Secretary Annan to give the first evaluation of standards (3)
- Serbs block the road Pristina – Skopje (4)
- Johnson said his meetings in Kosovo were fruitful (4)
- Allbright to visit Kosovo soon (6)
- Thieves are preferring pockets (7)

Epoka e Re

Front page

- Serbs kill three Albanian kids in the Ibër river

- Protesters chanted; ‘UNMIK, KLA has gun powder for you’
- Albright congratulates Thaçi and his leadership
- Jakup Krasniqi denies accusations of Ali Sadriu
- Kosovo leaders and of neighboring countries meet to meet in Switzerland on 26 and 27 March

Other headlines

- Serbia’s Assembly slaps Covic (2)
- Serbs block the road in Çagllavica, attack Albanians in Gračanica (2)
- More elements added to standards implementation plan (3)
- Todorovic: Kosovo is the black hole of Europe (3)
- Nowicki: UNMIK is not supporting me (3)
- Thaçi: We are deepening cooperation with the US Government (4)
- Two men of Bin Laden headed towards Albania (4)
- Protestors want UNMIK to review its policy towards Kosovo (5)
- The Assembly proceeds with 13 laws, Serbs keep boycotting (7)

Pavarësia

Front page

- Three children could have died in the Ibar River
- A large protest against attack on presidency
- Tenders reveal “the unwashed” of the Government outside official doors
- Serbs keep the road Prishtina Skopje blocked

Other headlines

- President Rugova demands security for all Kosovo citizens (2)
- General Kammerhof condemns recent acts of violence (2)
- Daci condemned acts of violence (2)
- Today Daci meets Bundestag deputies (2)
- Protest against the arrest of former KLA members (4)
- KPC Guard trains its reserve members (6)

Belgrade Media Highlights

- Jovica Ivic in serious condition despite the operation (*Danas/Beta*)
- Jean Leru’s statement (*Balkan*)
- Derek Chappell’s statement (*Balkan*)
- Covic out of favor (*Blic*)
- Covic refused (*Glas*)
- US Senator on situation in Kosovo and Metohija (*Politika/Tanjug*)
- SPOT – decentralization only possible solution (*Politika/Tanjug*)
- CoE on flagrant human rights violations in Kosovo and Metohija (*Vecernje Novosti*)
- On the occasion of introducing European cadastral system (*Politika*)

Jovica Ivic in serious condition despite the operation (Danas/Beta)

Several thousands of inhabitants of Caglavica and high school students gathered on the Pristina-Skopje highway that passes through their village, protesting over the armed attack on Jovica Ivic, a student of the high school from this village. Ivic, fired at by unknown persons from a car, was operated at the surgery department of the hospital in Kosovska Mitrovica. After the six-hour operation Ivic's health condition is stable but still serious. KFOR and UNMIK police members blocked the surrounding villages, not allowing Serbs to come to Caglavica and join the protests. Revolted Serbs blocked the traffic on the Pristina-Gnjilane road that passes through Gracanica and smashed several cars that tried to pass this way. UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri has called the Minister Coordinator for returns of IDPs in the Kosovo government Milorad Todorovic to use his influence and calm the protests of Serbs in central Kosovo. After talks with Holkeri, Todorovic said he accepted to call on Serbs in Gracanica and other surrounding villages not to incline to violence, but told Holkeri that the situation would calm down if UNMIK finally shows up with the names of the perpetrators. The Kosovo government has condemned the armed attack and assessed that at issue is a criminal act that jeopardizes the life of citizens and their free movement. The Raska-Prizren Eparchy has strongly protested for the assault on Jovica Ivic.

Jean Leru's statement (Balkan)

UNMIK regional spokesperson Jean Leru has stated that the police had been informed one hour after the Serb boy was wounded and that special units of the international police had been included in the investigation. Nine cartridges were found at the crime scene where Ivica was shot at with firearms from a vehicle.

Derek Chappell's statement (Balkan)

UNMIK police spokesperson Derek Chappell has stated that the police had still not managed to perform an investigation at the crime scene because the furious citizens stoned policemen and didn't allow them to approach. Chappell said he completely understood the anger of the Serbs, but asked them to help the police to find the attackers. "No police in the world can shed light on such crimes without the cooperation of the local population. I know it is sometimes difficult for you to accept that UNMIK and KPS are two legal police forces, but this is reality. That is why I ask citizens to understand us and help us," said Chappell.

Covic out of favor (Blic)

Nebojsa Covic's dismissal from the helm of the CCK will depend on the decision by the Council of Ministers. Its stance is expected within the following ten days after negotiations between Serbian and Montenegrin officials. The intention of the new

authorities is that the CCK is an institution of a service type unlike the former functioning of this body assessed by the new ruling coalition as rather independent in relation to the Serbian government and the Council of Ministers. Simultaneously with Covic's appeal to Serbian politicians to deal with standards and Kosovo's final status instead of dealing with themselves, the issue of the reconstruction of the CCK remains dominant. Additional tension regarding Covic's stay in this position occurred after the last session of the Committee for Kosovo and Metohija when Covic's report on the past work was refused. Only DS representative voted for while DSS, NS and SPS were against. This brings into question Covic's claims about his agreement with DSS leader Vojislav Kostunica that he will remain at the helm of this body. Nebojsa Covic claims that he is not surprised that the report had not been accepted. According to him the behavior of the Committee members is destructive. "After six and a half hours of talks I have not heard a single constructive proposal. Obviously, some other games are being played, too. This is mere destruction. I am not concerned over the fact that the majority of Serbian MPs also voted against the report. I am, however, satisfied with the achieved results when Kosovo is concerned. I kept Kosovo and Metohija as part of Serbia. We shall see what kind of results will perhaps somebody else have. We spent four billion dinars in two and a half years, while SPS, while in power, was spending 22 billions each year," Covic recalled.

Covic refused (*Glas*)

Seven million and two hundred thousand dinars were spent in the first two months of this year for the wages of CCK's employees. 1,400,000 dinars were the expenses by KP, and hotel accommodations and restaurant services amounted to one million and two hundred thousand dinars. In the same period, 2,237,000 dinars were spent for gas, and 3,700,000 dinars for car services and telephone conversations. "Are any explanations needed after such data," the Vice-President of the Serbian Parliament's Committee for Kosovo and Metohija Aleksandar Vucic told *Glas* in response to the question why the report on CCK's work was not accepted two days ago.

US Senator on situation in Kosovo and Metohija (*Politika/Tanjug*)

US Republican Senator from Kansas Sam Brownback has addressed a letter to US President George Bush warning him that Albanian extremists in Kosovo and Metohija continue, without any sanctions, to kill Serbs and destroy their sacred places. "We have to clearly tell Albanian leaders in Kosovo that we expect them to conduct an investigation regarding criminal acts against Christians and that perpetrators of such acts should be arrested and sentenced," Brownback wrote in his letter to Bush. The American Senator has reminded that Serbs were attacked and expelled from Kosovo just because they were Serbs and that Albanians continued to destroy their religious facilities dated back in past centuries.

SPOT – decentralization only possible solution (*Politika/Tanjug*)

Territorial national self-government, entailing decentralization of power through cantons and autonomous regions, is the only possible concept for the solution of the problem of Kosovo and Metohija, stated SPOT leader Momcilo Trajkovic. The position of SPOT is that the final solution for Kosovo should be discussed

immediately, but this entails that Serbia must have a clear strategy, which will reflect national interests and, at the same time, offer a solution for the stabilization of a wider Balkan region, Trajkovic told a press conference.

CoE on flagrant human rights violations in Kosovo and Metohija (*Vecernje Novosti*)

At the session of Legal Issues and Human Rights Committee of CoE's Parliamentary Assembly, after the introduction by CoE's rapporteur Tony Lloyd, UNMIK's legal advisor Alexander Borg Olivier brought forward a strange remark that the situation in Kosovo and Metohija was in accordance with international norms, which caused numerous reactions of the present. The representative of the interim Kosovo government in charge of the return issues Milorad Todorovic has pointed out that non-Albanians and Serbs are discriminated on all grounds – in the struggle for life, in employment, right to medical treatment and from judiciary and political authorities. Member of the CoE's Committee from our parliamentary delegation Radoje Prica has stressed that he is shocked with assertions made by Borg Olivier and recalled the fact that only 200 Serbs remain in Pristina today of 40 000, who are in a building protected by armed international forces. Kosovo ombudsman Marek Nowicki has stressed that cooperation with the police and the authorities was insufficient and access to files was disabled.

On the occasion of introducing European cadastral system (*Politika*)

In a statement to *Politika*, UNMIK spokesperson Izabella Karlowicz says that the Kosovo Cadastral Agency has been implementing aerial photogrammetry. One immediately asks what is "older" in UNMIK's system – whether the promise of SRSG Harri Holkeri that he will stop the photographing or the statement given later on by his spokesperson "that the photographing was actually taking place?!" Izabella Karlowicz explains that the "goal of the mentioned photographing is the reconstruction of the geographic part of cadastral plans because they expired. This has nothing to do with ownership rights, she claims. The Trade Court in Kosovo is in charge of the decision-making on ownership rights. The UNMIK spokesperson stated an unspecific term, but also one untruth. Namely, nobody has anything against the European cadastral information system in Kosovo and Metohija, yet, it would be good to enter exact data into this system. Izabella Karlowicz explains that photographing had been taking place because the cadastral plans are allegedly old. The question is imposed – what has significantly changed on the ground since UNMIK's arrival in Kosovo in 1999 so the cadastral books are not valid anymore?