



Division of Public Information

## **MEDIA MONITORING Headlines**

[www.unmikonline.org](http://www.unmikonline.org)

### **Main Stories**

**20 August 2010**

- **Thaçi calls on AAK to apologize to people and institutions (*dailies*)**
- **Great disappointment in the AAK (*Express*)**
- **Unread statement of the AAK (*Zëri*)**
- **Budva not confirmed (*Express*)**
- **Bogdanovic respects Pristina's rules (*Koha Ditore*)**
- **Belgrade will not change a single word in the resolution (*dailies*)**
- **Carpenter: Serbia would accept independence, if it gets the north (*dailies*)**
- **Kosovo Embassy opened in Skopje (*Koha Ditore*)**
- **Rexhepi did not mention arms (*Express*)**
- **UNMIK, OSCE don't respect Mitrovica MA's decision (*Koha/Express*)**
- **Serbs to start receiving allowances again (*Zëri*)**

### **Kosovo Media Highlights**

#### **Thaçi calls on AAK to apologize to people and institutions (*dailies*)**

All dailies report that during a visit to Lipjan on Thursday, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said recent claims made by the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) are fabrications and that this party should make a public apology. "Now the time is to unite positive energies for the good of the country and the state. Under no circumstances should there be divisions within the political landscape, and it would in the overall interest for the political party that made such fabrications to apologize to the people and institutions of Kosovo," he said.

Thaçi also expressed his belief that Kosovo will triumph at the United Nations General Assembly. "We are working very seriously with all relevant stakeholders in Kosovo. We are coordinating our actions with the international community in order to defeat Serbia's resolution at the UN General Assembly and with this Kosovo will achieve another success," Thaçi added.

#### **Great disappointment in the AAK (*Express*)**

*Express* reports on the front page that AAK officials are disappointed by the fact that deputy leader Ardian Gjini failed to present facts about alleged secret talks between the governments of Kosovo and Serbia. They regret that no secret was revealed on Wednesday.

Avni Arifi, senior advisor to AAK leader Ramush Haradinaj, told the paper: “I am disappointed because Gjini set Wednesday as the day he would present facts and this is why we never mentioned the facts. I feel very bad that we did not present any facts”. Arifi however did not want to further comment on Gjini’s reasons not to disclose facts. “You should ask Ardian Gjini about this,” Arifi told the paper.

The paper further notes that when contacted over the phone AAK deputy leader Ahmet Isufi and other party officials all pointed their fingers toward Gjini.

Another senior AAK official, who preferred to remain anonymous, told *Express* that the recent developments have created an unpleasant atmosphere in the AAK. He said the party could suffer from the latest developments, “but so will those that caused this situation”.

#### **Unread statement of the AAK (Zëri)**

The paper reveals that Education Minister Enver Hoxhaj, Deputy Foreign Minister Vlora Çitaku, Prime Minister’s advisors Dukagjin Gorani and Tomë Gashi were some of the officials that according to the AAK took part in secret talks with Belgrade officials. *Zëri* says it is in the possession of the statement prepared by the AAK for Wednesday which ultimately was left unread and adds that it also notes that the meetings took place in Paris and Brussels. AAK also wrote in its statement that Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi met Serbian President Boris Tadic in Budva, Montenegro. The Government officials named in the statement denied having had secret talks.

#### **Budva not confirmed (Express)**

*Express* reports that AAK deputy leader Ardian Gjini’s claims about meetings of Prime Minister Thaçi with Serb officials in Budva have been rejected by Podgorica. According to officials there, Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic had an informal meeting only with Thaçi. The government of Montenegro has rejected the possibility that the country was a place where Pristina and Belgrade are talking. Such a thing is said to be illogical.

#### **Bogdanovic respects Pristina’s rules (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that the Serb Minister for Kosovo Goran Bogdanovic was absent in the inauguration of the kindergarten in the Serb enclave in Prilluzhe as cause of suspension of all visits for Serb politicians in Kosovo by Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi. Furthermore, Bogdanovic did not try to enter Kosovo and said that he respects the decision of Pristina for suspension of visits. “I will respect (the decision of Pristina), I don’t want any of my step to worsen the situation which is already very bad in Kosovo,” said Bogdanovic to *BBC*.

Meantime the State Secretary in the Serbian Ministry for Kosovo Oliver Ivanovic has emphasized that the decision of Pristina to not allow entering of Serb officials in Kosovo is to be regretted. "The freedom of movement should not be prevented to anyone, especially to the Minister Bogdanovic, who is born and lives in Leposavic. This shows irritability, because if you stop someone to act politically with not allowing a visit is a proof of the lack of democracy", Ivanovic is cited to have said in Prilluzhe.

### **Belgrade will not change a single word in the resolution (dailies)**

Dailies report that Serbian media cited sources in the ruling coalition in Serbia reported on Thursday that not a single word would be changed in the text of the Serbian resolution on Kosovo. The decision was made by highest levels of power in Serbia despite remarks by Brussels. President Tadic, Prime Minister Cvetkovic, Deputy Prime Ministers Djelic and Dacic and Foreign Minister Jeremic have agreed that the content of the resolution is the best possible solution and that there should be no agreement with requests from the U.S. and leading E.U. member states to make essential changes in the resolution.

### **Carpenter: Serbia would accept independence, if it gets the north (dailies)**

Several dailies report that Ted Carpenter, vice president of the Washington-based Cato Institute, told *FoNet* news agency that in the short-term period the declaration of independence for northern Kosovo would not have a major effect. He added that the U.S. and leading EU countries have already made it known that they would not agree with any secession of Kosovo Serbs. Carpenter argued that in the long-term period the declaration of independence for the north could pave way to talks in which Belgrade would accept Kosovo's independence under the condition that mainly-Serb inhabited areas in northern Kosovo would be officially given to Serbia.

### **Kosovo Embassy opened in Skopje (Koha Ditore)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that eight months after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Macedonia and Kosovo, the first embassy of Kosovo in Skopje started its work. The Embassy of Republic of Kosovo is located in the Smilova street number 136 in the vicinity of American, Turkish and Albanian embassies. At present, there are several Kosovo diplomats who offer consular services at the Embassy in Skopje.

### **Rexhepi did not mention arms (Express)**

Interior Minister Bajram Rexhepi said whoever attempts to declare independence in the territory of Kosovo will be arrested. "It is normal for us to defend our sovereignty through all legal means," said Rexhepi. Serbian daily *Danas* had reported that the Kosovo Government will protect its territorial integrity even with arms if need be. "Arms were never mentioned there," Rexhepi rebutted the paper's reports.

### **UNMIK, OSCE don't respect Mitrovica MA's decision (Koha/Express)**

*Koha Ditore* reports that UNMIK has not agreed to remove the wall surrounding the building in Mitrovica while the OSCE has refused to remove the iron fence around its

headquarters despite requests from the municipality. Municipal authorities in Mitrovica said on Thursday that only UNHCR representatives expressed readiness to remove their fence and respect the decision of the Municipal Assembly.

“We are legally and morally entitled to call on UNMIK and OSCE to remove the fences from the public areas because they are portraying a very bad image of Mitrovica. UNHCR has already done this,” said Mitrovica mayor Avni Kastrati.

OSCE regional director in Mitrovica, Bernd Burwitz, told the paper he has good communication with the Municipal Assembly, but that he respects security measures established by a higher hierarchy. “The OSCE is holding constructive dialogue with the municipality on this issue and I believe we will soon find an acceptable solution for both parties,” Burwitz added.

UNMIK spokesman Russell Geekie said the existence of the wall does not reflect their assessment of the security situation in northern Mitrovica. “In fact, we have the same type of wall at our headquarters outside of Pristina. UNMIK maintains these walls to conform to security standards that apply to all UN missions,” said Geekie. “However, in consultation with UN headquarters, we would like to move at least part of the wall back from the street to the extent this is permitted by security rules. As we have told Mayor Kastrati, we are also interested in taking other measures to improve the appearance of the area around the wall (e.g. such as installing greenery outside the wall).”

*Express* also covers the story and notes that Mitrovica MA gave an additional deadline to UNMIK, OSCE and UNHCR to remove the fences until September 1<sup>st</sup>, otherwise the municipality would launch legal measures against them.

### **Serbs to start receiving allowances again (Zëri)**

The paper reports that the Kosovo Serbs will continue getting their allowances from the Serbian Government after the latter decided not to respect the Constitutional Court’s decision. The Government in Belgrade has drafted a regulation expected to be approved in the coming meeting of the Government which will provide for allowances to the Serbs in Kosovo until the issue is regulated by a relevant law.

Kosovo Government said the decision shows Belgrade’s manipulation with Kosovo Serbs while Vetëvendosje officials accused the Kosovo Government for failing to undertake measures to counteract the practice of Kosovo Serbs getting special allowances from Belgrade and not wait for Belgrade to tire out eventually.

## ***Kosovo Press Headlines***

### ***Koha Ditore***

Front page

- **Bogdanovic respect Pristina's rules**
- **Sejdiu inaugurates Partes Municipal Assembly**
- **EULEX with four new prosecutors**
- **UNMIK, OSCE don't respect Mitrovica MA's decision**
- **Statebuilding in Kosovo**
- **Kosovo Embassy opened in Skopje**

#### **Other headlines**

- **Belgrade won't change a single word in the resolution (2)**
- **Thaçi calls on AAK to apologize to people and institutions (2)**
- **Meta: Kosovo's sovereignty and territorial integrity are untouchable (2)**
- **Carpenter: Serbia would accept independence if it gets the north (3)**

## **Zëri**

#### **Front page**

- **Unread statement of the AAK**
- **Government purchases expensive monitoring equipment**
- **Fight over the market**
- **Request to extend detention of Central Bank Governor**
- **Haliti: Bad sign!**
- **Kosovo's slow progress**

#### **Other headlines**

- **Austria supports Kosovo (2)**
- **Belgrade will not change its resolution (2)**
- **MIA will impede Serbian draft resolution (2)**
- **Meta: Kosovo's sovereignty is untouchable (3)**
- **Croatia promises lobbying for Kosovo (3)**
- **Serbs to start receiving allowances again (5)**
- **Partesh, a joint success story (5)**

## **Kosova Sot**

#### **Front page**

- **Ask for an apology**
- **Editorial: Time for reciprocity**

#### **Other headlines**

- **A month after ICJ, no recognition (3)**
- **Austria continues support for Kosovo (3)**
- **LDD criticises Government and President (3)**
- **Thaçi: We believe in victory at the General Assembly (4)**

- Serbia doesn't change resolution for Kosovo (4)
- Serbian Government to continue paying allowances to Kosovo Serbs (4)
- Serbian minister respects official Pristina (4)
- Partesh starts (4)

## ***Epoka e Re***

### Front page

- More determined action required in the north
- Thaçi: AAK to apologise to the people

### Other headlines

- Meta: Kosovo's sovereignty, inviolable (3)
- Kosovo Embassy in Skopje starts work (3)
- LDD: Government not to ignore provocations in the north (6)
- Petkovic enters Kosovo, but privately (6)
- Serbia to continue paying Kosovo Serbs (6)
- Partesh municipality inaugurated (6)
- UNMIK capricious (10)

## ***Express***

### Front page

- Disappointment in AAK
- What happened in Budva?

### Other headlines

- Mirena: Hot autumn of the President (2)
- Mazreku: AAK's vuvuzela (3)
- Rexhepi did not mention arms (5)
- Allowances for Kosovo Serbs continue (6)
- Serbian resolution doesn't change (6)
- Meta rebuts Belgrade (6)
- Municipality ultimatum to UNMIK (9)
- EBRD conditions (10)
- The word of the state (11)

## ***Lajm***

### Front page

- Ten years "independence" of the north
- Duel in the legal chaos

### **Other headlines**

- **Thaçi: AAK to apologise (2)**
- **Sovereignty and integrity of Kosovo untouchable (2)**
- **Skopje without stance about the Serb resolution (2)**
- **Kosovo Embassy in Skopje started its work (2)**
- **Bogdanovic respects Thaçi's decision (3)**
- **The richness of Serb war criminals is investigated in Kosovo (4)**

## ***Bota Sot***

### **Front page**

- **Case closed the authors of the leaflet are not investigated!**
- **Meta: Kosovo status is closed issue**
- **The arena of the "duel" is transferred to UN**

### **Other headlines**

- **President Sejdiu welcomed ambassador Lauka (2)**
- **UNMIK in Mitrovica does not remove iron fences (4)**
- **Joint exercise KFOR-EULEX (4)**
- **Dervishi: Who owns the media in Kosovo? (5)**
- **Austria supports European perspective of Kosovo (6)**
- **Del Ponte investigated, intimidated witnesses (7)**
- **Sejdiu: Partesh joint success story in Kosovo (7)**

## ***Infopress***

### **Front page**

- **Focus in the liberalization challenges**
- **Del Ponte under investigation**
- **Kosovo closed for them**

### **Other headlines**

- **Reckless game of opposition (2)**
- **Partesh made history (3)**
- **Status, done job (4)**
- **Benefits of Kosovo from EBRD (6)**

#### **Disclaimer**

This media summary consists of selected local media articles for the information of UN personnel. The public distribution of this media summary is a courtesy service extended by UNMIK on the understanding that the choice of articles translated is exclusive, and the contents do not represent anything other than a selection of articles likely to be of interest to a United Nations readership. The inclusion of articles in this summary does not imply endorsement by UNMIK.