

Main Stories

11 December

- **German MPs: EULEX should not make the same mistakes as UNMIK**
- **The U.S. support EULEX and Kosovo's territorial integrity (*dailies*)**
- **Solana: EULEX deploys in Kosovo based on a "broad framework" (*dailies*)**
- **Martti Ahtisaari awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (*dailies*)**
- **Debate on interethnic dialogue in Kosovo (*dailies*)**
- **Sheremet Ahmeti appointed Director of Kosovo Police (*Zëri*)**
- **KPS spokesman Veton Elshani dismissed from duty (*dailies*)**
- **Pacolli promises that Qatar and Maldives soon will recognize Kosovo (*dailies*)**
- **Daci: After declaration of independence everything is going wrong (*Koha*)**

Kosovo Media Highlights

German MPs: EULEX should not make the same mistakes as UNMIK

Koha Ditore reports in the leading front-page story that after the start of the deployment of EULEX in Kosovo, two German MPs have called on the "new internationals" in Kosovo not to make the same mistakes as the UN Administration in Kosovo.

Bern Posselt, member of the German Christian-Social Party at the European Parliament, called on EULEX to be a partner of Kosovars and criticized UNMIK for corruption and incompetence. Rainer Stinner, member of the German Liberal Party, said that the task of EULEX should also be to fight corruption and organized crime in Kosovo. According to Stinner, "criminal structures involve the highest political circles in Kosovo".

The U.S. support EULEX and Kosovo's territorial integrity (*dailies*)

Dailies report that the United States of America hailed EULEX's deployment throughout Kosovo, and stressed once again their support for Kosovo's territorial integrity.

Dailies quote the State Department spokesperson, Shaun McCormack, as saying that the U.S. welcome the deployment of the law and order mission in Kosovo, EULEX, on 9 December. "The U.S. re-stress the support for EULEX and are proud to contribute with personnel in this mission," he said.

Dailies report that the U.S. will contribute with a contingent of 80 people in this mission, mainly police officers, judges and prosecutors. “We are committed to the EULEX mission, to strengthen rule of law institutions throughout Kosovo, to the benefit all communities, and to promote Kosovo’s territorial integrity and stability in the region,” McCormack was quoted as saying.

Solana: EULEX deploys in Kosovo based on a “broad framework” (dailies)

EU Security and Foreign Policy Chief Javier Solana, has expressed his satisfaction that the UN Security Council has reached an agreement based on Ban Ki-moon’s report for Kosovo, and allowed deployment of EULEX throughout Kosovo.

In an interview for Belgrade’s *Vecernje Novosti*, the chief of European diplomacy said that the EULEX mission has deployed in Kosovo based on a “broad framework”, but also based on the joint EU action plan on which the European block agrees, and with the full support of Belgrade and Pristina. “Kosovars agreed for the EULEX to deploy according to the EU joint action plan and the Ahtisaari plan, but they apposed the status neutrality of EULEX,” Solana is quoted as saying.

Zëri reports that the EU High Representative has avoided the question on how the six-point plan would be implemented in Kosovo. This daily says that Solana’s press office did not reply to questions on the issue how the EU plan to implement the six point plan without official Pristina’s consent, or what the broad plan mentioned by Solana contain.

Martti Ahtisaari awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (dailies)

All dailies report on their front pages that former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo yesterday for his work in peace processes in Namibia, Indonesia and Kosovo.

“If we work together, we can find solutions. We must not accept any excuse from those who are in power. Peace is a matter of will,” Ahtisaari said at the awarding ceremony.

Under the headline *Independence was justice*, *Express* quotes Ahtisaari as saying, “Very often negotiations are like this, they don’t end with an agreement or compromise. You must do what is right. In Kosovo, things were so clear that the only remaining solution was independence. In the first quarter of 2006, all parties knew that independence was coming.”

Koha Ditore reports that Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu sent a telegraph congratulating Ahtisaari for the Peace Prize. “This acknowledgement is a satisfaction for all good will people in the world, who are committed in promoting peace, justice and reconciliation among people. We are especially grateful to you for your great work, wisdom and farsightedness that you have shown during the process of talks for the independence of our country,” Sejdiu wrote in his letter.

Debate on interethnic dialogue in Kosovo (dailies)

Dailies cover a debate held yesterday in Pristina on the topic 'Development of Strategies for Minority Integration' organized by the Project on Ethnic Relations.

Koha Ditore quotes President Fatmir Sejdiu, who attended the debate, as saying that Belgrade and the international community are guilty for keeping the issue of integration of Serbs pending. Sejdiu did not mention names but criticized the United Nations Mission in Kosovo for tolerating Serb parallel structures for nine years.

Zëri in its coverage reports that Kosovars take pride in the guarantees for the integration of Kosovo Serbs. Some of the participants said that Kosovo has offered guarantees that go beyond international standards for the integration of Serbs in Kosovar society.

Zëri quotes AAK leader Ramush Haradinaj as saying that Belgrade has hindered the integration of Kosovo Serbs.

Sheremet Ahmeti appointed Director of Kosovo Police (Zëri)

Zëri reports that the Prime Minister of Kosovo has decided to appoint Sheremet Ahmeti, a career police officer, as the General Director of the Kosovo Police. "I will do everything in my power for peace and security to prevail in Kosovo and for Police to remain maximally engaged in combating crime," said Ahmeti. He also indicated a new organization and restructuring of positions within the Kosovo police.

KPS spokesman Veton Elshani dismissed from duty (dailies)

Dailies report that Veton Elshani, the spokesman of the Kosovo police, from now on will not continue to practice the post of media spokesman at the Public Information Office of the Kosovo Police.

Express reports that sources within the Ministry for Interior Affairs have stated that Elshani has been dismissed from the post after the 'scandal' of doctors arrested made in Kosovo and for the arrest of three members of the German Intelligence Service (BND). The source said, "For the moment he is on leave and after he is back, he won't be the Kosovo Police spokesman anymore. This is because the media has been invited in the case of the three Germans and on the occasion of doctor's arrests."

Express reports that it is still unknown if captain Elshani invited the media on his own to follow the arrests of the doctors and to allow the cameras to film in the court, when the three Germans were brought there.

Koha Ditore reports that the Interior Minister Zenun Pajaziti, in an indirect way, has accepted the dismissal of Elshani, saying that "no one is above the law".

Pacolli promises that Qatar and Maldives soon will recognize Kosovo (dailies)

Behxhet Pacolli, leader of the New Kosovo Alliance (AKR), is quoted as saying in the media that very soon two more countries are going to recognize Kosovo. "Kosovo will be recognized from Qatar and Maldives and another three countries, altogether five. I received the commitment that two are for sure. Katar and Maldives have promised and it is a matter of days," Pacolli told *INA* news agency.

Daci: After declaration of independence everything is going wrong (Koha)

The head of LDD Nexhat Daci met yesterday with Swedish Ambassador to Macedonia Lars Freden and said, "LDD welcomes the EULEX deployment and this Mission is welcomed in Kosovo as far as it works according to the Ahtisaari plan and respects the constitution of the republic of Kosovo."

Kosovo Press Headlines

Koha Ditore

Front page

- **German MPs: EULEX should not make the same mistakes as UNMIK**
- **Solana: EULEX deploys in Kosovo based on a 'broad framework'**
- **Integration of Serbs, a challenge for Kosovo's progress**
- **Kosovars: Nobel Peace Prize went to the right hands**
- **Constitutional Court awaits verdict of the Assembly**
- **KPS spokesman Veton Elshani dismissed from duty**

Other headlines

- **AKR advises EULEX to respect Kosovo's highest legal acts (3)**
- **Reinforcements at Ministry of Foreign Affairs (3)**
- **Local leaders welcome deployment of EULEX (4)**
- **Sheremet Ahmeti appointed at the helm of Kosovo Police (5)**
- **Cufaj: Crisis and Kosovo (10)**
- **Zogiani: Three things about the deployment of EULEX (11)**

Zëri

Front page

- **Moment of action, and not of decision, will seal EULEX's fate**
- **Martti Ahtisaari awarded the Nobel Peace Prize**
- **Ahmeti indicates new organization and restructuring of Kosovo Police**
- **Shala: Will and politics**
- **Editorial: LDK, or the Democratic Mess of Kosovo**
- **U.S. supports EULEX and Kosovo's territorial integrity**
- **Kosovo to get its Constitutional Court by end of the year**
- **Three conditions for success privatization of KEK**

Other headlines

- **EULEX and Serb extremists in northern Kosovo (3)**
- **Kubis: Slovenia is thinking about increased participation in EULEX (3)**
- **Kosovars take pride in guarantees for integration of Serbs (4)**
- **Association of Municipalities welcomes deployment of EULEX (4)**

- **Thaçi to face the opposition at the Assembly (5)**
- **Daci: After declaration of independence, everything is going wrong (7)**
- **Pacolli promises Qatar and Maldives will soon recognize Kosovo (7)**

Express

Front page

- **The Godfather of Peace**
- **Replies to the AAK**
- **Appointments begin**
- **Rexhepi: Kosovo's Sheiks**
- **The strong hand of the President**

Other headlines

- **Kosovo's independence – a guarantee for peace in Balkans (4)**
- **Solana: We will talk later about recognitions (6)**
- **U.S. supports EULEX and Kosovo's integrity (7)**

Kosova Sot

Front page

- **CEC, ready for elections**
- **Ahtisaari receives Nobel**
- **Sheremet Ahmeti nominated chief of police**
- **Bosniaks criticize Serb Ministers of Thaçi's Government**

Other headlines

- **The Prime Minister today two hours in front of Assembly "court" (2)**
- **Kermabon: Our chief is Brussels (3)**
- **Difficult with the gangs (3)**
- **Kosovo with the Constitutional Court (4)**
- **Sejdiu: A deserved honour (4)**
- **Kaidanow: KEK should privatize (7)**

Epoka e Re

Front page

- **Rexhepi: EULEX – a concrete step toward integration of the north**
- **His efforts for peace awarded**
- **Wisner: Kosovo is a state, full stop**
- **PM Thaçi to face deputies today**

Other headlines

- **The U.S. support Kosovo's territorial integrity (3)**

- Solana doesn't want to relate Kosovo with Serbia's EU integration (3)
- UNMIK, completely unnecessary (6)
- Establishment of Council for Kosovo Security, strengthens the state (7)
- Human rights in Kosovo (8)
- Health care threaten with strike (8)
- Qatar and Maldives Islands to recognize Kosovo soon (9)

Lajm

Front page

- Soon Qatar and Maldives
- Hopes at EULEX
- I deserve the gratitude
- Fight the crime

Other headlines

- US: Support for the Kosovo's territorial integrity (2)
- Solana: Issue of recognizing from Serbia shouldn't be open now (3)
- The success of EULEX implementation of constitution (4)
- Sheremet Ahmeti General Director of Police (4)
- Constitutional court , this year (4)
- Observance of human rights – road towards Europe (5)
- Sejdiu: The Serb integration was obstruct by Belgrade and UN

Bota Sot

Front page

- EULEX to undo the Organized crime
- Wisner: For America, Kosovo is member of family countries
- Sejdiu: Kosovo constitution to be respected from EULEX
- The Kosovo institutions wont be deployed in the north of country

Other headlines

- Second hand of problems (2)
- EULEX to fulfil its responsibilities (2)
- USA supports EULEX and the Kosovo's territorial integrity (4)
- Gratitude for the leader of the independence process of Kosovo (5)
- Sheremet Ahmeti the head of police (5)

InfoPress

Front page

- Statehood not recognized in visas
- Nobel in right hands
- Again the first

Other headlines

- **USA welcomes the deployment of EULEX (3)**
- **Kosovo independence (3)**
- **EU supports civil society (4)**
- **Pacolli guarantees two recognitions (4)**
- **KEK privatization ‘sooner better’ (4)**

Belgrade Media Highlights

- **ICJ will publish written statements on Kosovo in July 2009 (*Tanjug*)**
- **Serb Council protesting against pressure on the Serb judiciary (*Tanjug*)**
- **Serbs unsatisfied with human rights situation in Kosovo (*Tanjug*)**
- **Kosovo benefits to be decreased by half (*B92/Tanjug*)**
- **Sejdiu: Kosovo respects minority rights (*Beta*)**
- **Kosovo Serb families ask for help (*B92*)**

ICJ will publish written statements on Kosovo in July 2009 (*Tanjug*)

The President of the ICJ in The Hague Rosalyn Higgins stated that the court will publish written statements on unilaterally proclaimed Kosovo independence in July 2009. The case has not been fully reviewed, and more time is needed to clarify some details, Higgins said during the video conference between Moscow and The Hague. She added that the second round is planned for early next fall with participation of all interested parties, *Itar-Tass* reported. The Court earlier defined 17 April next year as a final deadline by which written statements must be available and 17 July as a final deadline by which the UN and its members, who submitted written statements on unilaterally proclaimed Kosovo independence, might submit their written commentaries on stances of other sides.

Serb Council protesting against pressure on the Serb judiciary (*Tanjug*)

The Serb National Council (SNC) for Kosovo protested against the pressure exerted on the judiciary in Serb regions in Kosovo. An announcement reads that Pristina is exerting constant pressure on the judiciary in Serb regions in Kosovo to reject the current principle of work, which UNMIK administration has been in charge of, and continue to work on the basis of the illegal constitution of the self-proclaimed republic of Kosovo. Such an approach of Kosovo Albanian institutions is unacceptable for Kosovo Serbs and contrary to international law and documents, the announcement reads. The Council remarks such an approach is contrary to UNSCR 1244 and not in line with the official statement of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the six-point plan, according to which EULEX is competent for that.

Serbs unsatisfied with human rights situation in Kosovo (*Tanjug*)

Serbian Minister for Kosovo Goran Bogdanovic said that in Europe, it is in Kosovo that human rights are being violated the most. There is no rule of law in the province and full freedom of movement for Serbs and they live in fear and uncertainty for almost 10 years, Bogdanovic said. He added that many Serbs in Kosovo do not have

access to their personal property. The international community must realize that Kosovo is a black hole when basic human rights are at issue, he emphasized.

The Head of the CCK Zvonimir Stevic said that elementary human rights of Serbs and other non-Albanians are being violated in Kosovo. Unfortunately, the international community, which had an obligation according to UNSCR 1244 to protect safety and enable freedom of movement, has done almost nothing in that field, Stevic assessed. Human Rights Day is observed in remembrance of December 10, 1948, when the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, whereby human rights were established.

Kosovo benefits to be decreased by half (B92/Tanjug)

According to a new decision by the Finance Ministry, Serbs in Kosovo employed in public services will no longer be receiving double wages. These bonuses will be decreased from 100 to 50 percent of their wages. The Kosovo benefits were introduced in 2003 with a government decision, and since then all public employees in Kosovo have been getting their wages doubled.

Finance Minister Diana Dragutinovic said that they will not be cut off completely, however. "There will be a maximum addition of 50 percent. So wages will be 50 percent higher compared to average wages in the public sector. Everything will be decreased. There are contributions that depend on the living conditions, but they will be decreased as well," Dragutinovic said.

State Secretary with the Ministry for Kosovo Oliver Ivanovic told *Tanjug* that the "Serbian government will not cut off the bonuses, but it is certain that we have much less money than last year, so there will be a reduction."

Sejdiu: Kosovo respects minority rights (Beta)

Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu said on Dec. 10 that Kosovo had ensured guarantees for ethnic minorities that were above international standards. Sejdiu said that those rights were especially secured for the Serbs, but added that "everything is being obstructed" by the Belgrade authorities and the parallel Serb structures in Kosovo.

Kosovo Serb families ask for help (B92)

Three Kosovo Serb families spent the day in front of the Federation Palace in Belgrade, asking for assistance. The families wish to continue living in Kosovo, but say that life for the Serbs there is impossible, and want the authorities to provide them with better conditions. "We went to the municipal president, envoy and district president, to no avail. We arrived here, we sent a fax, no one answered. Then, we came here," Krstic spoke in front of the Federation Palace building, where the Ministry for Kosovo is located.

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.