

Chronology of Security Sector Reform in Kosovo

This paper addresses the political and security events starting from June 1999 until the present time (June 2009). As it will be clearly elaborated in the context paper, the Security Sector Reform (SSR) cycle in Kosovo is split into three periods:

- First period starting from 1999 – 2005 is referred to dominantly as the Security Sector Building (SSB). As written in the chronology below, the efforts were directed towards building security institutions such as: Kosovo Police Service (KPS), Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) and other relevant mechanisms. This period is well known as the time when the responsibilities of the security institutions were reserved for the SRSG and locals had limited responsibility.
- Second period starting from the end of 2005 until the beginning of 2008 is broadly known for the initial transfer of responsibility from the international community to locals. The Internal Security Sector Review (ISSR) is considered as a turning point towards building new security architecture in Kosovo and assessing the current state of the security sector. In addition, the establishment of the MoIA and MoJ and the shift of responsibilities from UNMIK to these ministries characterized the importance of the SSR during this period.
- Third period is indeed affiliated to the declaration of independence and the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo. The new security architecture in Kosovo allows the establishment of new security institutions such as KSF, KSC, KIA as well as the reform for police and emergency services.

1999

- **(June)** Kumanovo Agreement has been signed between NATO and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This technical agreement foresaw the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army, Police and other security mechanisms from the territory of

- Kosovo. In addition, this agreement addressed the ground security zone 5 km from the border line with Kosovo as well as the airspace security zone 25 km from the border.¹
- The UN Security Council approved Resolution 1244² on deploying civil administration (UNMIK) and international military presence (KFOR) in Kosovo.
 - 50.000 KFOR troops entered Kosovo.
 - General Mike Jackson from the UK was appointed as the first KFOR commander. He served as a KFOR commander until 8th October 1999.
 - The Russian Contingent from BiH arrived in force at Prishtina Airport creating serious tensions between NATO and Russia³
 - **(July)** UN Secretary General Kofi Annan nominated Bernard Kouchner as the first UN Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.
 - Kosovo Provisional Government transferred in Prishtina. This government was disbanded after the establishment of governmental council.
 - **(August)** UNMIK Police took over law enforcement duties in Prishtina.
 - **(September)** The agreement for the demilitarization of the Kosovo Liberation Army and the transformation into the Kosovo Protection Corps has been signed by COMKFOR General Mike Jackson, Political Director of KLA, Hashim Thaçi, NATO Allied Commander in Europe, General Wesley Clark and Commander of KLA, General Agim Çeku.
 - OSCE opened the Kosovo Police Service School in Vushtrri/Vucitrn
 - **(October)** KPC started to function. Initial tasks included civil protection and reaction to catastrophic emergencies. It had a General HQ, 6 Protection Zones based in Prishtina, Prizren, Peja/Pec, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovica and Skenderaj and other supportive units
 - **(October)** German General Klaus Reinhardt was appointed as KFOR Commander, succeeding General Mike Jackson. He served on as KFOR Commander until 18th April 2000.

¹ See NATO Webpage <http://www.nato.int/kosovo/docu/a990609a.htm>

² UNSC Resolution 1244 <http://www.unmikonline.org/press/reports/N9917289.pdf>

³ Clark Wesley, Waging Modern War, p.57

- IOM initiated the reintegration programme for former KLA combatants. There were around 18.000 former combatants registered at IOM
- First generation of the Kosovo Police Service started to operate
- **(November)** The conflict in Presevo Valley had repercussions in Kosovo especially in the eastern part

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- **(February)** The Protection Academy of KPC has been established as well as other supportive units
- SRSG signed administrative instructions for appointment of KPC senior officers
- Several riots occurred in Northern Mitrovica resulting in numerous fatalities and collateral damages. Protests were repeatedly held by the Albanians and Serbs⁴
- **(April)** The UNMIK administration started the registration of residents and the new ID cards were released
- The conflict in Macedonia also had repercussions in Kosovo. The border line with Macedonia was porous and allowed for smuggling and the influx of refugees from the border zone
- The Spanish General Juan Ortuño was appointed as the new KFOR commander, succeeding German General Klaus Reinhardt. He served as a KFOR Commander until 16th October 2000.
- **(September)** 13 prisoners with high criminal records managed to escape from the Mitrovica prison
- Huge weaponry arsenal discovered and KFOR capture Serbian MoIA officers in Gracanica
- **(October)** The Italian General Carlo Cabigiosu was appointed new KFOR Commander succeeding Spanish General General Juan Ortuño. He served as a KFOR Commander until 6th April 2001.
- The first free election has been organized in the local level. LDK lead by Ibrahim Rugova, who won the majority of the municipalities followed by PDK lead by Hashim Thaçi and AAK lead by Ramush Haradinaj. Serbs refused to participate in the elections

⁴ <http://www.unmikonline.org/civpol/photos/covermriot210200.htm>

- **(November)** Among some departments, UNMIK established the Department for Civil Security and Emergency Preparedness⁵

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- **(January)** UN Secretary General Kofi Annan nominated Danish Social Democrat Hans Hækkerup for SRSG as a replacement for Bernard Kouchner.
- First UNMIK Travel Documents distributed⁶
- **(February)** The agreement between FRY and Macedonia on the border demarcation signed. The Kosovo villagers claimed there were around 2.500 ha passed to Macedonia
- **(March)** COMKFOR allowed the decrease of the ground security zone
- **(April)** The Norwegian General Thorstein Skiaker was appointed as the new KFOR Commander Succeeding the Italian General Carlo Cabigiosu. He served as KFOR commander until 3rd October 2001.
- Confrontations between the Serbian demonstrators and the UNMIK police in Mitrovica resulted in several police officers wounded.
- **(May)** The Constitutional Framework⁷ has been drafted and approved leaving the main competencies to the UNMIK SRSG based on Resolution 1244. The Constitutional Framework was used as the basis for organizing elections and establishing the Kosovo Assembly, Kosovo Government and President. It also foresaw the functionality of the municipalities.
- **(September)** The Department for Emergency Preparedness ceased to exist
- **(October)** French General Marcel Valentin was appointed as the new KFOR Commander succeeding Norwegian General Thorstein Skiaker. He served as KFOR Commander until the 4th October 2002.
- **(November)** The first general elections have been held. The LDK won, followed by PDK and AAK
- Hans Hackerup was appointed the new SRSG replacing Bernard Kuchner

⁵ UNMIK Regulation on Establishment of Department for Civil Security and Emergency Preparedness

⁶ <http://www.unmikonline.org/press/press/pr481.html>

⁷ See Constitutional Framework

http://www.unmikonline.org/pub/misc/FrameworkPocket_ENG_Dec2002.pdf

2002

- **(January)** Euro (€) officially became the currency used in Kosovo. Euro replaced the German DM which was in use after 1999 in Kosovo. The currency is not regulated through the European Central Bank in Frankfurt.
- The Kosovo Assembly has been inaugurated having 120 seats. 100 seats from the elected representatives with 20 seats reserved for the minority communities (10 for Serbs and 10 for other minority communities). Nexhat Daci became the first chair of the Kosovo Assembly.
- The Kosovo Assembly voted for Ibrahim Rugova as the first internationally recognized Kosovo President
- **(February)** UN Secretary General Kofi Annan nominated Michael Steiner as Hans Hakkerup's successor.
- **(March)** The new Kosovo Government has been established and the first prime minister is Bajram Rexhepi. It was a government of unity, including three main political parties (LDK, PDK, AAK) and creating a climate without opposition. This government had limited responsibilities in certain areas, such as finances, economy, youth, sports, culture, education, agriculture, environments etc. The responsibilities reserved for the SRSG remained the security sector (KPS, UNMIK Police), KPC, Correctional Services, Justice, Internal and Foreign Affairs, Border Management and Customs and other important areas.
- **(April)** Earthquake hit the eastern part of Kosovo and especially the town of Gjilan/Gnjilane. Its magnitude was at 5.9 Richter. Collateral damages occurred.
- KFOR reduced its troops from 50.000 to 39.000⁸
- **(July)** A disaster occurred in the Kosovo Electro Distributor (Kosova 'B'). Kosova 'B' was the main power supplier for the KEK
- **(October)** Italian General Fabio Mini was appointed as the new KFOR Commander succeeding French General Marcel Valentin. He served as KFOR commander until 3rd October 2003.

⁸ http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_48818.htm

- Second local elections have been organized. LDK won the main municipalities followed by PDK and AAK.

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- **(June)** KFOR reduced troops to 26 000⁹
- **(August)** UN Secretary General Kofi Annan nominated Harri Holkeri for SRSG as Micheal Steiner's successor.
- Several protests took place organized by Serbs, blocking the main roadways between Prishtina and Skopje and Prishtina and Gjilan
- **(October)** German General Holger Kammerhoff was appointed new KFOR Commander Succeeding Italian General Fabio Mini. He served as KFOR Commander until 1st September 2004.
- For the first time, direct talks between the Kosovo Albanians and the Serbian leadership took place.
- **(December)** The international community launched the so-called 'standards before status' for Kosovo¹⁰
- KFOR reduced troops to 17 500¹¹

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- **(March)** Violent riots occurred. By March 17 there were around 18 people dead and hundreds wounded.¹²
- NATO urgently deployed 2500 additional troops to reinforce the existing KFOR strength
- UNMIK released the "Standards Implementation Plan."

⁹ http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_48818.htm

¹⁰ See the full content <http://www.unmikonline.org/standards/priorities.htm>

¹¹ http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_48818.htm

¹² The protests started after the media announced the headline news that three Albanian children's in Northern Mitrovica have drawn in the river. One of the children who survived claimed they were attacked by the Serb villagers. The exaggeration by media has been considered as 'tuning point' for the violent demonstrations in all over the Kosovo. This resulted with the displacement of refugees especially from the Serbian community. Several private properties have been destroyed in particular some Serbian orthodox church have been burned.

- **(April)** The Provisional Criminal Code and Procedural Code entered into force.
- **(June)** Søren Jessen-Petersen was named Special Representative of the new United Nations Secretary-General for Kosovo and head of UNMIK and held the position until the end of June 2006. He was brought in to succeed Harri Holkeri
- **(August)** A report by the Kai Eide, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, argued that the "standards before status" policy lacked credibility and that a priority-based standards policy aimed at facilitating orderly future status discussions should replace it.
- **(September)** French General Yves de Kermabon was appointed the new KFOR Commander succeeding German General Holger Kammerhoff. He served as KFOR commander until the 1st September 2005.
- **(November)** The parliamentary elections took place. LDK and AAK created the government leaving the PDK in opposition.
- **(December)** Ramush Haradinaj from AAK, formed the government. Ibrahim Rugova was re-elected president and Nexhat Daci as the Chair of Assembly.

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- **(March)** ICTY launched an indictment against Ramush Haradinaj while he held the position of the Prime Minister. He immediately resigned and went to the Hague. Bajram Kosumi became his successor as Prime Minister¹³
- **(May)** Kai Aide has been appointed special envoy of UN SG for reviewing the implementation of standards in Kosovo
- **(September)** Italian General Giuseppe Valotto was appointed the new KFOR Commander succeeding French General Yves de Kermabon. He Served as a KFOR Commander until the 1st September 2006.
- **(October)** Kai Aide recommended the beginning of negotiations for the final status of Kosovo¹⁴

¹³ <http://www.icty.org/sid/8631>

¹⁴ <http://www.unosek.org/docref/KaiEidereport.pdf>

- **(November)** The UNDP in cooperation with Kosovo Government, British Government and other stakeholders started the Internal Security Sector Review (ISSR)
- The Border Police has been established as a centralized unit within the Kosovo Police Service
- For the first time, the debate started over the functionality of intelligence services; SHIK controlled by PDK and “Sigurimi i Atdheut” (Homeland Security) controlled by LDK
- Koffi Annan appointed Martti Ahtisaari as Special Envoy for status talks
- **(December)**, The SRSG signed the administrative instructions for establishing two ministries as part of the Kosovo Government: the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice. This was the first step towards the transfer of responsibility in the security sector

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- **(January)** The President of Kosovo, Ibrahim Rugova died at the age of 61 from lung cancer.¹⁵ Thousands of citizens salute at the funeral of their president. The successful management of the situation during this time was highly appreciated.
- The Commander of the KPC Guard refused to obey the order of the KPC Commander on engaging the Battalion for Ceremony in the mortuary ceremony for the president. This case has been considered as politically affiliated by the media.
- **(February)** Fatmir Sejdiu became the new Kosovo President.
- In Vienna the UN launched the first direct talks on the status of Kosovo between Belgrade and the Kosovo authorities.
- **(March)**, The Prime Minister, Bajram Kosumi resigned under pressure from the international community and the AAK appointed Agim Ceku as the new Kosovo Prime Minister. Also the Chair of Assembly, Nexhat Daci resigned and LDK appointed Kolë Berisha as his replacement.

¹⁵ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4634616.stm>

- General Sylejman Selimi became the new KPC Commander replacing General Agim Ceku.
- **(April)** The European Union deployed the EU Planning Team Mission in Kosovo¹⁶.
- The ISSR has been published and the report has been distributed
- **(June)**, NATO reorganized the multinational brigades, creating a multinational task force, consequently enhancing the mobility of the troops.¹⁷
- **(July)** The Inspectorate of Kosovo Police has been established. It is an executive agency of MoIA.
- The Government established the Anti-Corruption Agency. This Agency acts independently. Hasan Preteni became the director of the agency.
- **(September)** German General Roland Kather was appointed the new KFOR Commander succeeding Italian General Giuseppe Valotto He served as KFOR Commander until August 31, 2007.
- The Parliamentary Committee on Emergency Preparedness has been transformed into the Committee on Security

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- **(February)** Violent demonstrations organized by the “Vetvendosja” movement took place in Prishtina opposing the negotiation talks for Kosovo. Two demonstrators were fatally shot by the UNMIK police and others were heavily wounded.¹⁸
- **(March)** After the maratonic negotiations, the UN special envoy, Marti Ahtisaari publicized his plan, recommending the supervised independence for Kosovo. As regarding the security sector this plan foresaw the establishment of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), Kosovo Intelligence Agency (KIA), Kosovo Security

¹⁶ The Council of European Union, Joint Action – 7771/06 http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_5903_en.htm

¹⁷ See NATO webpage http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_48818.htm

The new architecture of the KFOR presence in Kosovo was split into five multinational task force: Multinational Task Force Centre based in Lipjan, MNTF North Based in Novo Selo, MNTF South based in Prizren, MNTF West based in Peja/Pec, MNTF East based in Ferizaj/Urosevac

¹⁸ The investigations concluded the Rumanian Gendarmerie overwhelmed the use of force

- Council and Civil Aviation Authority. In addition, it foresaw the reform of the Kosovo Police. This plan opened the possibility for of modification regarding the security sector, five years after it enters into force.
- **(April)** UN Fact Finding mission visited Pristina and Belgrade to assess the progress made.
 - **(July)** Fires occurred all over the Kosovo forestry.
 - **(August)** Five prisoners with high criminal records escaped from the Dubrava Prison
 - French General Xavier de Marnhac was appointed new KFOR Commander succeeding German General Roland Kather. He served as the KFOR Commander until 29th August 2008.
 - **(September)** Joachim Rücker was named Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Kosovo and head of UNMIK and held the position until the end of 15 June 2008.
 - **(November)** Parliamentary and local elections held in Kosovo. PDK won the elections followed by LDK and AKR.
 - Two of the escapers from Dubrava prison were killed by the Macedonian police in an incident in the village of Brodec
 - **(December)** Hashim Thaci formed the Government made up of the coalition partners PDK – LDK

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- **(January)** The Parliamentary Committee on internal Affairs renamed as Committee on Internal Affairs and Security
- **(February)** Kosovo Assembly declared the independence of the Republic of Kosovo. It received immediate recognition by USA, Albania, UK, Afghanistan and Turkey. At the present time, the Republic of Kosovo has been recognized by 60 countries.¹⁹
- The Serbian demonstrators burned two border crossing points at 1 (Bernjak) and 31 (Jarinje). Up until now the Kosovo Police and Customs have only controlled

¹⁹ See the Declaration of Independence, http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/Dek_Pav_sh.pdf

- the goods coming from Serbia in South Mitrovica. This state led towards the growth of smuggling in the Northern Part of Kosovo
- Several violent demonstrations occurred in North Mitrovica
 - Serbian police officers boycotted the Kosovo Police
 - The EU established a European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) to provide support for Kosovo through its Council's Joint Action.
 - An "International Steering Group" for Kosovo was formed.²⁰ It appointed Peter Feith as Head of International Civilian in Office in Kosovo.²¹
 - **(March)** Kosovo Assembly approved the package of laws according to Ahtisaari's plan. In this case the majority of Laws on the security sector have been approved.²²
 - President Bush announced the US will provide Kosovo with weapons.²³
 - UNMIK reasserted control over a rail line in northern Kosovo which had been used by Serbia to send two of its trains south.²⁴
 - Serbs organized violent protests in North Mitrovica and occupied the district court of Mitrovica. A UN Ukrainian special police officer died. Few protesters were arrested.
 - The UN police, backed by French NATO peacekeepers, retook the court building
 - **(April)** The Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo has been signed by the MP's
 - Kosovo Government established the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Skender Hyseni from LDK became the minister.
 - **(June)** The Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo entered into force.

²⁰ Initial membership included the UK, France, Germany, Italy, the US, Austria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden, Turkey, Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, Slovenia and Switzerland.

²¹ For more details about ICO please see <http://www.ico-kos.org/>

²² See webpage <http://www.assembly-kosova.org/>

Law on KSF, Law on Service in KSF, Law on Ministry of KFS, Law on Kosovo Intelligence Agency, Law on Kosovo Security Force, Law on Dissolution of KPC and Law on Police

²³ <http://www.itsallpolitics.com/forum/index.php?topic=1989.0%3Bwap2>

²⁴ <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/c.gIKWLeMTIsG/b.2693009/>

- According to the new Law on Police, the Kosovo Police Service changed its name to Kosovo Police and implemented a new structure for police.
- Kosovo Government took over responsibility from UNMIK Customs, consequently renamed as Kosovo Government.
- Lamberto Zannier was named Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Kosovo. He is the current SRSG of Kosovo, even though the role of UNMIK in Kosovo is reduced and the domestic leaders of Kosovo have asked several times for UNMIK to leave Kosovo as they considered it's mission Kosovo is has been accomplished.
- At a NATO defence ministers meeting, agreement was reached to launch and train a civilian-controlled Kosovo security force
- SHIK announced it ceased to exist
- Kosovo Government and Macedonian Government started the demarcation of the border line between two countries
- Joint inter-institutional exercise on emergency response took place. KPC had the leading role and the main stakeholders were involved.
- **(July)** First Kosovo Embassies opened in nine countries²⁵
- Dangerous materials coming from Iran entered freely Kosovo. Strong reactions from the population.
- Republic of Kosovo issued its first passports.
- **(August)** The Kosovo Government established the Ministry of Kosovo Security Force. Fehmi Mujota from PDK became the minister.
- Italian General Giuseppe Emilio Gay was appointed the KFOR Commander succeeding French General Xavier de Marnhac. He is the current KFOR Commander.
- **(October)** The UN Security Council voted on the Serbian Government proposal for the opinion of International Justice Court on the declaration of Kosovo independence legacy.²⁶
- Macedonia and Montenegro recognized independence of Kosovo.²⁷

²⁵ Ibid,

²⁶ <http://www.icj-cij.org>

- **(November)** UNMIK Customs has been formally renamed Kosovo Customs
- **(December)** The EULEX Mission formally started its mission in Kosovo after the approval at the UN Security Council
- The President of Kosovo appointed General Sylejman Selimi as the Commander of KSF.
- The Prime Minister of Kosovo appointed General Sheremet Ahmeti as the Director of Kosovo Police²⁸
- Civil Airspace Authority of the Republic of Kosovo took over the control of Prishtina International Airport²⁹

2009

- **(January)** KPC has been formally disbanded. The UNDP started the reintegration programme for the former members of KPC not part of KSF. KFOR announced it will include approximately 1.500 former KPC members in KSF. The other KSF members are being recruited from the open society.³⁰
- KSF started to function. It will have 2.500 active troops and 800 reserve troops. Its initial tasks will include civil protection and assisting the police and international presence on specific issues. KSF will also be deployed for international peacekeeping missions.
- The Barracks of the 3rd Rapid Reaction Brigade in Peja have been attacked.
- **(February)** Kosovo President and Kosovo Prime Minister appointed Bashkim Smakaj for the Director of Kosovo Intelligence Agency.
- KFOR and Ministry of KSF announced and promoted the recruitment from the open society for the Kosovo Security Force.
- KFOR commences training for KSF members in the Kosovo Centre for Public Security, Education and Development based in Vushtrri/Vucitrn
- Violent demonstrations took place as the unsatisfied groups of the former KPC alleged an unfair selection process for KSF.
- Kosovo Security Council held its first constitutive meeting.

²⁷ <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27106251/>

²⁸ <http://www.evropaelire.org/content/News/1358320.html>

²⁹ <http://www.kosova.com/artikulli/50385>

³⁰ See webpage of Ministry of KSF <http://mksf-ks.org/?page=2,1>

- **(April)** MoIA adopted the Strategy for Integrated Border Management.
- Serious robbery occurred at the Kosovo Police HQ. Strong reactions from the opposition parties and civil society.
- Serbs repeatedly protested after the Kosovo Government started to build houses for the Albanians displaced from the village Kroi i Vitakut.
- **(May)** Kosovo Security Council held the second meeting. It initiated the drafting of National Security Strategy after continual pressures from the civil society for the delay. It also approved the logo of KSC.
- Kosovo Assembly elected the local judges of Constitutional Court of Kosovo. Six judges are locals and three internationals.³¹
- Minister of KSF announced that the institution will be semi-operational by September 2009.
- MoIA released a final deadline (30 June) for Serbian police officers of Kosovo Police who boycotted the institution since the declaration of the independence. New police officers will be offered the positions of those who do not respond positively.
- **(June)** Kosovo has been admitted at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.
- NATO announced it will gradually reduce the number of KFOR troops. This year the troops will be downsized to 10,000 soldiers and the number of troops will drop by 2,500 each year until 2011.
- Kosovo President approved the emblems for KSF units.³²
- The first generation of the KSF recruitment finished the basic trainings

³¹ <http://english.eri.cn/6966/2009/05/16/1721s485014.htm>

³² <http://botasot.info/home.php?gjuha=0&category=6&id=19110>