



Security Council

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United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction and Mission priorities

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#), by which the Council established the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and requested the Secretary-General to report at regular intervals on the implementation of its mandate. The report covers the activities of UNMIK, and developments related thereto, from 16 September 2021 to 15 March 2022.

2. The priorities of the Mission remain to promote security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and in the region. In furtherance of its goals, UNMIK continues its constructive engagement with Pristina and Belgrade, all communities in Kosovo, and regional and international actors. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Kosovo Force continue to perform their roles within the framework of resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#). The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo continues its presence in Kosovo, in line with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 26 November 2008 ([S/PRST/2008/44](#)) and the report of the Secretary-General of 24 November 2008 ([S/2008/692](#)). The United Nations agencies, funds and programmes work closely with the Mission.

3. On 16 January, the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of UNMIK, Caroline Ziadeh, arrived in Pristina and assumed leadership of the Mission.

II. Key political and security developments

4. The key political and security developments during the reporting period centred around the conduct of Kosovo local elections; tensions between Pristina and Belgrade over arrangements related to freedom of movement; the holding on 16 January 2022 of the Serbian constitutional referendum in Kosovo; and the forthcoming Serbian parliamentary and presidential elections in Kosovo. The European Union intensified efforts to advance the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, with bolstered support from the United States of America and European actors.

5. On 17 October, municipal elections were held in all 38 municipalities of Kosovo, followed by run-offs in 21 municipalities on 14 November. A total of 89 political entities participated, of which 32 were political parties. Overall voter turnout



VII. Rule of law and human rights

42. Kosovo prosecution offices filed several high-profile corruption-related indictments during the reporting period. On 1 October, the Special Prosecution Office of Kosovo filed an indictment against a former official of the Ministry of Finance and a businessperson on charges of stealing 2 million euros from the Kosovo treasury. On 27 October, the Basic Court of Pristina confirmed an indictment against five suspects, including a former Minister of European Integration, on charges of abuse of office. The indictment was upheld by the Court of Appeals. On 18 November, the Basic Prosecution Office in Gjilan/Gnjilane filed an indictment for smuggling and other offences against 73 individuals, including 14 former Kosovo police officers, in the so-called “Karaçevë/Karačevo case”. The Basic Court of Pristina imposed detention measures on 31 individuals, including municipal and other officials, suspected of abuse of position or authority and involvement in fraud related to agricultural subsidies. On 22 February, the Special Prosecution Office filed indictments against 21 of the suspects. On 14 March, in a large-scale operation, the Kosovo police arrested 48 police officers and two customs officers serving at the crossing points of Qafa e Prushit/Ćafa Prušit and Morinë/Morina, on the boundary line with Albania, suspected of organized crime, abuse of official position or authority and taking bribes, with criminal proceedings launched against a total of 68 individuals.

43. On 17 December, the Special Department of the Court of Appeals upheld the decision of the Special Department of the Basic Court of Pristina regarding the expulsion in March 2018 of six Turkish nationals from Kosovo, confirming indictments for abuse of official position or authority against the former heads of the Kosovo Intelligence Agency, the Department for Citizenship, Asylum and

Immigration in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Directorate for Migration and Foreigners in the Kosovo Border Police, respectively.

44. On 24 January, the Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency launched proceedings, in accordance with the Law on the Declaration, Origin and Control of Assets of Senior Public Officials, to review the financial records of several officials of the Serbian List, including its president, Goran Rakić, and the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of Kosovo, Slavko Simić, for allegedly failing to report assets or incomes received from Belgrade-financed institutions.

45. On 16 September, the Ministry of Internal Affairs signed an agreement with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) on the appointment of a liaison officer to Europol and the establishment of a secure line of communication and exchange of information. The Kosovo government also approved a concept document on the development of a new vetting process for the Kosovo justice system and established a working group tasked with drafting relevant legislation. On 25 February, the Minister of Justice of Kosovo submitted the draft legislation to the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) of the Council of Europe for its review, which provided its opinion in mid-March. On 29 December, the Kosovo government submitted to the Assembly of Kosovo a draft law on the State Bureau for Verification and Confiscation of Unjustified Assets, which would introduce the concept of civil confiscation in addition to criminal confiscation. On 9 March, the government also approved the draft amendments to the Law on the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council. However, the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council voiced concerns regarding the expeditious approval of the draft amendments, stressing the need for prior consultation with all relevant stakeholders to ensure inter-institutional coordination.

46. Kosovo courts continued to pursue some cases of alleged war crimes and related offences. On 5 October, the Basic Court of Pristina sentenced a former reservist of the Serbian police forces, Goran Stanišić, to 20 years' imprisonment for the killing of 13 civilians in the municipality of Lipjan/Lipljan in 1999. On 9 November, the Special Prosecution Office filed an indictment against an individual for alleged war crimes against the civilian population between 1998 and 1999 in the village of Bellopojë/Belo Polje.

47. The Kosovo judicial authorities continued to prosecute individuals involved in terrorism and foreign conflicts. On 9 October, five individuals were arrested as part of a group of radical Islamist militants on suspicion of preparing terrorist attacks in Kosovo and placed in pretrial detention. On 19 January, a woman, previously repatriated from the Syrian Arab Republic received a two-year suspended sentence, while two men were sentenced to two years and six months and three years and eight months, respectively, for having joined Da'esh.

48. On 27 October, the government approved its programme for the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms for 2021–2025 and the related action plan for 2021–2023 to support the implementation of directly applicable international and regional human rights standards under the Kosovo Constitution and to harmonize the legal framework with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

49. Against the backdrop of repeated incidents of discrimination against Kosovo Egyptians and Kosovo Roma individuals, Kosovo institutions highlighted the failure to effectively implement the Law on Protection from Discrimination. To this end, the Committee for Human Rights, Gender Equality, Missing Persons and Petitions of the Assembly of Kosovo organized a series of meetings to review the obstacles to implementing the law and how best to address them.