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Forumi i Iniciativës Qytetare Forum of Civic Initiative



Duke ndërtuar sigurinë në Kosovë

Izgradimo bezbednost na Kosovu

Building security in Kosovo

Press Release
30 March 2007

New intelligence service for Kosovo

Today, Saferworld and the Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ) publish a new report, *Intelligence in Kosovo: Looking ahead*. The United Nations (UN) final status proposals for Kosovo include plans to establish a Kosovo Security Service (KSS). The report looks at the implications and challenges of establishing the KSS for Kosovo and the region.

“Given the current political situation in Kosovo, people need to know that the proposed Kosovo Security Service will be impartial, apolitical and accountable. Decision-makers must ensure it protects and serves the public rather than criminal or political factions,” said Robert Parker, Head of Europe, Saferworld.

Kosovo's recent history of authoritarian rule has left most Kosovars with the impression that intelligence services are, by nature, a tool of repression, or an instrument of abuse controlled by small interest groups or criminal gangs. Public discussion of the subject is rare and generally confined to the circulation of rumours and allegations about the misconduct of Kosovo's informal intelligence services.

The report seeks to open a public discussion on these issues. It explores best practices developed internationally in the field of intelligence reform and makes recommendations on how they should be applied in Kosovo. The European Union (EU) is due to launch its mission in late 2007 and will take on some strategic responsibilities in the fields of security and rule of law. It is vital that the EU supports a more open and realistic process for security sector reform so that the Kosovo Government and the wider public can take greater ownership of such key decisions.

Saferworld and FIQ call on the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the EU and the relevant Kosovar institutions to ensure that:

- sufficient legal safeguards are put in place to effectively regulate the KSS, taking into account Kosovo's complex legal framework and the limited capacities of the Assembly of Kosovo;
- a clear decision is made on whether members of existing, unofficial intelligence organisations can be recruited into the KSS or excluded;
- advice and support by donors, interested governments and international agencies is taken on board and co-ordinated to help establish the KSS;
- due consideration is given to the need to protect the new service from infiltration or undue influence, whether of a political, criminal or foreign nature;
- steps are taken to build public trust in the KSS and involve parliamentarians, civil society and the wider public in an open debate on how these difficult problems can be overcome.

The report is available in English, Albanian and Serbian on SafePlace's website:
<http://tinyurl.com/2hertv>

The handout on *Understanding intelligence services* is also available on SafePlace's website:
<http://tinyurl.com/23xsup>

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Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ) and **Saferworld** are the joint implementers of the SafePlace Project, a programme of work designed to support the development of an effective, accountable and conflict-sensitive security sector in Kosovo (www.safeplaceproject.org).

Saferworld is an independent non-governmental organisation that works to prevent armed violence (www.saferworld.org.uk).

FIQ is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation working for the integration of the Kosovar citizens into social and decision making processes, through programmes designed to focus attention on the values and functioning of an open and democratic society (www.fiq-fci.org).

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