

# HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 2015 - KOSOVO

## SUMMARY REPORT ON CORRUPTION AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

### Achievements:

The EU's Rule-of-Law Mission (EULEX) prosecutor placed in the Special Prosecutor's Office filed an amended indictment combining earlier corruption indictments from 2012 and 2014 against various officials including the president of the Initiative for Kosovo political party and former minister of transportation Fatmir Limaj. The accusation includes abuse of position or authority, accepting bribes and other corruption-related charges. Investigations on public officials by the Office of the Auditor General revealed violations of the law governing public procurement and rules governing public finance; about the financial disclosure most of the officials have accomplished their obligation prescribed by the law and those who are in violation have been reported for sanction.

### Key issues:

Corruption in the government and the private sector and lack of punishment for corruption acts; corruption in the prisons; lack of control and inspection of prison facilities due to corruption and political influence (director of the Prizren Detention Center Ilir Gutaj resigned following allegations of corruption); government mechanisms for corruption investigations are not sufficiently effective; intimidation of journalists who want to publish stories on high-level government corruption; lack of effective judicial oversight and general weakness in the rule of law.

### Statistics:

As of August the Kosovo Anticorruption Agency (ACA) received more than 160 reports alleging corruption, 120 of which concerned conflict of interest, 70 cases have been referred for prosecution and 4 cases have been forwarded against 12 persons to police. A number of 80 cases have been closed from 2015 and previous years for lack of evidence. According to ACA 98.4 percent of officials declared their property and finances.

### Public access to information:

There are concerns about the transparency because even if the access to information is guaranteed by the law, the authorities use regularly the excuse of classified or secret information to block the access. Also courts are reluctant to introduce charges against institutions that ignore document requests. This is perceived by civil society organizations as an obstacle to the law's effectiveness.

Source: U.S. Department  
of State

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