



STATE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2025

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This edition of the Bulletin highlights the activities of the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor for the month of FEBRUARY 2025.

Acting Chief State Prosecutor held a training for new notaries

Prishtina, February 1, 2025 – At the invitation of the Chamber of Notaries of Kosovo, the Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, held a training for new notaries on the topic "Criminal Responsibility of Notaries."



The purpose of this training was to discuss various areas of law, including criminal law and notarial practice, with the aim of professionally preparing the participants for the challenges of the profession.



Acting Chief Prosecutor Kelmendi Attends Meeting of the Coordinator of the Office for Advocacy and Assistance to Victims with Regional Office Heads

Prishtina, February 3, 2025 – The Acting Chief Prosecutor of the State, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, accompanied by the Director of the Secretariat of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Mr. Sami Istrefi, participated in a joint meeting with the Coordinator of the Office for Advocacy and Assistance to Victims (OAAV), Mr. Burhan Maxhuni, and the heads of regional offices for victim protection and assistance.



During the meeting, discussions focused on OAAV's 2024 annual report and the challenges anticipated for 2025.

In an effort to provide high-quality and professional services to crime victims, participants also reviewed the 2025 Work Plan of the Office for Advocacy and Assistance to Victims.

On this occasion, the Acting Chief Prosecutor of the State and the Director of the Secretariat of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council expressed their full support for OAAV and encouraged the Coordinator and regional office heads to continue their efforts in advocating victims of crime.

Prosecution System Leaders Visit the Court of Appeals Prosecution and the Basic Prosecution in Ferizaj

Prishtina, February 3, 2025 – The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, the Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Ardian Hajdaraj, and the Director General of the KPC Secretariat, Sami Istrefi, visited the Court of

Appeals Prosecution and the Basic Prosecution in Ferizaj, where they were welcomed by Chief Prosecutors Agron Bajrami and Burim Çerkini.

On this occasion, Mr. Hajdaraj and Mr. Kelmendi congratulated Mr. Bajrami on his appointment as Chief Prosecutor of the Court of Appeals Prosecution and Mr. Çerkini as Chief Prosecutor of the Basic Prosecution in Ferizaj. They emphasized their full support in implementing their constitutional and legal responsibilities.



On the other hand, the Chief Prosecutor of the Court of Appeals Prosecution, Agron Bajrami, and the Chief Prosecutor of the Basic Prosecution in Ferizaj, Burim Çerkini, expressed their gratitude to the leaders of the prosecutorial system for their visit. They provided updates on current work processes and the challenges identified following their assumption of new duties.



The interlocutors agreed during today's meeting on coordinating joint activities and creating more favorable working conditions, implementing work plans, and increasing efforts to strengthen the rule of law in the country.

Acting Chief Prosecutor Kelmendi attended the 262nd meeting of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council

Prishtina, February 5, 2025 – Acting Chief Prosecutor of the State, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, participated in the 262nd meeting of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC), chaired by Chairman Ardian Hajdaraj, during which the KPC made the following decisions:



Refused the establishment of the Investigative Panel AD.nr.01/2025 for the case of a prosecutor at the Basic Prosecutor's Office in Peja;

Approved the Report of the Commission for the Administration of Prosecutor's Offices regarding the handling of cases with unknown perpetrators, with the third option, and obligated the Acting Chief State Prosecutor to issue a binding decision for the implementation of this report;

Approved the request of the Chief Prosecutor of the Basic Prosecutor's Office in Gjakova and decided to announce a competition for the promotion of prosecutors for two positions: one (1) in the Juvenile Department and one (1) in the Serious Crimes Department;

Discussed the request of the National Coordinator for Elections and decided that it should be sent for review to the Budget, Finance, and Personnel Committee;

Informed about the retirement of the prosecutor from the Appeals Prosecutor's Office, Ms. Bedrije Sylja – Alshiqi, and will send a proposal to the President's Office for her dismissal from duty upon her retirement;

Approved the proposal of the Chief Prosecutor of the Basic Prosecutor's Office in Peja for the appointment of Ms. Arlinda Nallbani – Shabani as Deputy Chief Prosecutor of this prosecutor's office;

Approved the voluntary agreement for the alleged disciplinary violation in case AD.nr.6/2024-I.

Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi offered his support for the Asset Recovery Office

Prishtina, February 6, 2025 – Acting Chief State Prosecutor Mr. Besim Kelmendi participated in the joint meeting of the Head of the Asset Recovery Office – Prosecutor of the Chief State Prosecutor's Office Mr. Bahri Hyseni, with officials delegated from law enforcement institutions at this office. International partners who have supported the work of this office since its establishment also participated in this meeting.



During this meeting, the annual report for 2024 was discussed, as well as the work planning for 2025 and the challenges faced by the Asset Recovery Office.

On this occasion, the Acting Chief State Prosecutor, while highly appreciating the work done by the Asset Recovery Office since its establishment, offered his support and backing to this Office in order to achieve common successes for the Asset Recovery Office.

Also, during this meeting, the Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, thanked the

international partners for their support and assistance in various forms for the establishment and functioning of the Asset Recovery Office and expressed his readiness to continue cooperation with all other law enforcement institutions for the better functioning of this Office.

Acting Chief State Prosecutor held a meeting with coordinators for human trafficking cases and prosecutors from juvenile departments of basic prosecutions

Prishtina, February 6, 2025 – The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, held a meeting with the National Coordinator, Ms. Sebahate Sinani, and the coordinators of the prosecutions for human trafficking cases, where prosecutors from the juvenile departments of the basic prosecutions also participated.



During this meeting, the discussion focused on human trafficking cases in 2024, as well as a range of important professional issues related to

combating human trafficking, including the challenges faced by prosecutors in handling trafficking cases.

The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, emphasized his continuous readiness to support the prosecutors handling these cases, highlighting that human trafficking is one of the most complex crimes defined in the Penal Code, requiring a professional and constructive approach from prosecutors.

The meeting was supported by the regional project "EU Support for Improving the Fight against Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking in the Western Balkans EU4FAST WB," with the presentation of this project at the end of the meeting.

The National Election Coordinator from the prosecutorial system met with representatives of the Ombudsperson's institution

Prishtina, February 7, 2025 – Representatives from the Ombudsperson's institution, led by the Deputy Ombudsperson Ms. Majlinda Sinani Lulaj, visited the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor today, where they were received for a meeting by the National Election Coordinator, prosecutor from the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor, Ms. Laura Pula.



During this meeting, the progress of the electoral process for the regular elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, which will be held on February 9, 2025, was discussed, with a particular focus on the operational plan of the State Prosecutor on Election Day.

The National Election Coordinator, Mrs. Pula, informed the attendees about the involvement of the State Prosecutor regarding the protection of the free vote of the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo for the regular elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, which will be held on February 9, 2025.



During this meeting, there was also a discussion about the coordination between the prosecution offices and the National Coordinator regarding all the activities of the State Prosecutor that will be undertaken in the event of an election process violation, as well as including inter-institutional cooperation within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation for the electoral process.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Ombudsman, Ms. Majlindë Sinani Lulaj, informed Prosecutor Pula about the engagement of monitors from the Ombudsman's institution for the electoral process, their role, and their distribution throughout the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.

To protect the free vote of citizens, today around 100 state prosecutors are on duty

Prishtina, February 9, 2025 – For the parliamentary elections of the Republic of Kosovo, taking place today in our country, the State Prosecutor has made all necessary preparations to ensure the protection of the vote.



In these elections, around 100 prosecutors and a sufficient number of staff from the prosecutorial system are engaged, who will remain on duty until the completion of the electoral process, with the aim of addressing any irregularities that may occur during this year's elections.

Prosecutors will remain in their offices in cities where basic prosecution offices exist, while in places where the prosecution does not have a building, prosecutors will stay at police stations, where, in cooperation with the investigators of the Kosovo Police, they will ensure the protection of citizens' free vote.

Meanwhile, the national election coordinator, prosecutor Laura Pula, will oversee the implementation of tasks by regional coordinators, engaged prosecutors, and the prosecutor on duty at the CEC.

The State Prosecutor calls on the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, all political entities, institutions, and various organizations, to report to the relevant prosecutors any cases in which they suspect that the vote is being misused or manipulated in any way and by anyone.

State Prosecutor detains 8 individuals for criminal offenses against voting rights

Prishtina, February 9, 2025 – As previously informed, regarding the elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo held today in our country, the State Prosecutor has made all necessary preparations to ensure the protection of the vote. Around 100 prosecutors and a sufficient number of staff from the prosecutorial system have worked and continue to work to ensure the smooth running of the electoral process..



Today, the State Prosecutor received several pieces of information and, after verifying them until the closure of the voting process, four cases were opened against eight individuals, while other information is still being processed.

Among them: The Basic Prosecutor's Office in Mitrovica, following information received from citizens, has initiated two separate cases related to criminal offenses against voting rights. In the first case, four individuals were detained due to reasonable suspicion that they committed the criminal offense through their actions:

The interference with the free determination of voters," under Article 210 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo.

Meanwhile, in the second case, a person was detained on the basis of reasonable suspicion that their actions had committed the criminal offense: "Interference with the free determination of voters," under Article 210 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo.

The Basic Prosecution in Pristina has initiated two separate cases related to criminal offenses against voting rights.

In the first case, a person was detained based on reasonable suspicion that their actions had committed the criminal offense: "Assault against an official," under Article 402 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo.

Meanwhile, in the second case, two persons were detained based on reasonable suspicion that their actions had committed the criminal offense: "Prevention of the exercise of the right to vote," under Article 209 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo.

State prosecutors will continue to oversee the counting of votes at polling stations until they are sent to municipal centers.

On this occasion, the State Prosecutor thanks the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, the media, and civil society for their cooperation with the State Prosecutor in the prevention and successful prosecution of criminal offenses related to these elections.

The State Prosecutor arrests 5 individuals for the criminal offense: "Violation of the Free Determination of Voters"

Prishtina, February 9, 2025 – The Basic Prosecution in Mitrovica, following information received from citizens, has initiated two separate cases related to criminal offenses against voting rights.

In the first case, four individuals were arrested on the basis of suspicion that their actions constituted the criminal offense: "Violation of the Free Determination of Voters," under Article 210 of the Penal Code of the Republic of Kosovo. Meanwhile, in the second case, one person was arrested on the basis of suspicion that their actions constituted the criminal offense: "Violation of the Free Determination of Voters," under Article 210 of the Penal Code of the Republic of Kosovo.



State prosecutors, who are on duty today, will act urgently in each case that may arise in order to prevent any possible misuse during this electoral process.

The State Prosecutor once again calls on the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, all political entities, institutions, or various organizations, to report to the respective prosecutors any case where they suspect that the vote is being misused or manipulated in any way and by anyone

Public Announcement

Prishtina, February 11, 2025 – The Office of the Chief State Prosecutor informs the public that the Basic Prosecution Office in Prishtina, after receiving information about the malfunctioning of the CEC platform, has requested this institution to provide the necessary information to verify

whether there are elements of the commission of any criminal offense or not.



Acting Chief State Prosecutor and Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands discuss advancing cooperation in the field of rule of law

Prishtina, February 12, 2025 – The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, met with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Kosovo, Ms. Karin Boven..



Acting Chief State Prosecutor Kelmendi and Ambassador Boven held constructive discussions on matters of mutual interest in the field of the rule of law, including strengthening mutual cooperation through projects focused on the justice sector, the progress and challenges faced by the State Prosecutor in combating various criminal offenses, the implementation of judicial reform, and the efforts of the prosecutorial system in maintaining institutional independence and integrity.

At the end of the meeting, Acting Chief State Prosecutor Mr. Besim Kelmendi thanked Ambassador Boven for the support and assistance provided by the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the State Prosecutor's Office in strengthening the rule of law, expressing his institutional willingness for the continuation of the tradition of mutual cooperation in the future.

Workshop held for finalizing the Strategic Plan of the prosecutorial system for the years 2025-2027

Prishtina, February 13, 2025 – The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, specifically the Working Group for drafting the 2025-2027 Strategic Plan of the prosecutorial system, led by the Deputy Chairwoman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Ms. Jehona Grantolli, organized a two-day workshop for finalizing the Strategic Plan and the action plan of the prosecutorial system for the years 2025-2027



Present at this workshop, alongside members of the working group, were the Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Mr. Ardian Hajdaraj, Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, members of the KPC, prosecutors from the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor, chief prosecutors and prosecutors from the country's prosecutorial offices, the General Director of the KPC Secretariat, Mr. Sami Istrefi, and administrative staff.



Initially, during the first session of this workshop, Ms. Grantolli thanked the representatives of international partners, specifically the U.S. Embassy, for their assistance in drafting the main draft through their experts in the previous workshop. "This strategic plan, which is in the final stages, will assist the prosecutorial system in planning and providing clear direction, aiming to improve transparency and accountability within the prosecutorial system," said Ms. Grantolli.

In their speeches, both Chairman Hajdaraj and Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, emphasized the great importance of defining objectives, sub-objectives, planning actions, and specific activities for the prosecutorial system, which will serve to strengthen the rule of law in Kosovo.

Additionally, other participants in the workshop discussed issues related to maintaining independence, impartiality, and the functioning of the prosecutorial system, as well as increasing the effectiveness and efficiency in handling criminal cases.

This workshop will continue tomorrow, and upon the full finalization of the Strategic Plan and Action Plan for the prosecutorial system for 2025-2027, it will be submitted for approval to the KPC.

The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, congratulates the citizens of our country on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Kosovo.



February 17, 2025 –

Dear citizens of the Republic of Kosovo,

Today, on Independence Day, we come together to celebrate one of the most significant events in the history of our state.

At the same time, we honor the efforts and the difficult journey, full of sacrifices, of many generations for freedom, democracy, and independence!

Remembering the achievements of our country, we remain steadfast in strengthening the rule of law in the Republic of Kosovo and protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens.

Furthermore, we remain committed to building a future where justice and law are the main pillars upon which our social progress and development are based.

Happy February 17th – Kosovo's Independence Day!

Respectfully,

Acting Chief State Prosecutor

Besim Kelmendi

Acting Chief State Prosecutor Requests Chief Prosecutors to Implement Mandatory Guidelines and Enhance Work Efficiency

Prishtina, February 25, 2025 – Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, held a meeting with all chief prosecutors of the country's prosecutor offices and prosecutors from the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor..



During professional discussions with the chief prosecutors of the prosecutor offices, Acting Chief State Prosecutor Kelmendi requested that the mandatory guidelines issued by the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor be implemented in order to unify practices for the effective enforcement of the law.

Additionally, during this meeting, the Acting Chief State Prosecutor raised the issue of the performance of all prosecutors across the prosecutor offices over the past year, urging that greater attention be given to enhancing the efficiency of prosecutors in line with the guiding standards, with the aim of improving overall work results..



One of the topics discussed in this meeting was also the prioritization of criminal offenses against the environment, animals, plants, and cultural heritage sites, as well as the appointment of coordinating prosecutors for different fields across all prosecutor offices in the country.