

# ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE FACE OF GOVERNMENT SCANDALS

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## ABOUT KLI

Kosovo Law Institute, is a non-profit organization of public policy, a think-tank specialized in the justice sector.

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## 1. Executive summary

“Anti-corruption governance” entails the need for the government to proactively promote and take measures to prevent corruption. This includes reporting corruption cases, cooperating with justice system institutions in cases of suspected corruption, and ensuring public accountability, to the extent that it does not compromise ongoing investigations, particularly in cases where suspicions of corruption involving the government are raised publicly.

However, to date, the government has demonstrated an approach contrary to the principles of good governance in cases of numerous publicly raised corruption suspicions involving public officials. Instead of promoting transparency and cooperating with justice institutions, the government has often defended the individuals under suspicion, questioned the work of investigative bodies, and attacked prosecutorial institutions. The lack of public accountability regarding publicly raised suspicions of various scandals has undermined the principles of good governance. Rather than providing full and transparent explanations to the public, institutions have often ignored allegations or shielded the officials involved, failing to demonstrate adequate public accountability.

This report provides a summary of publicly raised suspicions concerning government scandals. All cases included are based solely on media reports related to the incidents summarized, as well as the materials published in these reports. The handling of these cases is elaborated in the context of accountability, a crucial element of good governance, while fully respecting the principle of presumption of innocence.

The report summarizes a number of cases reported with high public interest, covering various government sectors such as energy, public procurement, state reserves, diplomacy, public administration, culture, agriculture, and infrastructure.

Among these cases are publicly raised suspicions of abuses in the energy market, single-source contracts, mismanagement of state reserves, political interference in KEC, political appointments in public enterprises, contested allocations of subsidies and funds, and cases where suspicions of conflicts of interest arose in major infrastructure projects.

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## 2. Introduction

Through this report, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) summarizes publicly raised suspicions regarding government scandals that in recent years have been the subject of reporting, yet for which the public has not received answers. In this report, publicly raised suspicions as scandals refer to cases or situations in which the public has expressed doubts about legal violations, the commission of corrupt criminal acts, or any other actions that may constitute misconduct of public interest. This report is based solely on media reports related to the cases summarized, as well as the materials published in these reports.

In this regard, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) fully respects the principle of presumption of innocence, meaning that no one can be considered guilty until proven otherwise by a judicial decision. In this sense, the cases summarized in this report do not imply that the persons mentioned are guilty. The cases presented are public reports in which suspicions of various corrupt criminal acts have been raised and which constitute matters of public interest.

Nevertheless, in order to strengthen citizens' trust in the rule of law and the integrity of public institutions, the need for public accountability is indisputable. Unfortunately, as shown in the following chapters, even though the cases mentioned are of extremely high public interest, there has been a lack of full government accountability toward citizens and, in some instances, toward justice system institutions.

Therefore, this report compiles all of these cases with the aim of reflecting publicly raised suspicions on the one hand, and the essential need to strengthen government integrity, ethics, and accountability on the other.

In addition to updating cases addressed in KLI's previous report, titled "*Clean Governance and the Investigation of Government Corruption*"<sup>1</sup>, published in December 2024, this report also includes other cases that have been publicly raised as scandals.

## 3. Public accountability as a principle of good governance

At its core, "*good governance*" should underpin a democratic state that seeks sustainable development and public trust. Transparency, accountability, and the rule of law are recognized as key principles of good governance by leading international bodies such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)<sup>2</sup> and the Council of Europe (CoE).<sup>3</sup>

Accountability implies the obligation of institutions and public officials to answer to the public, providing explanations for their actions, decisions, and outcomes. Accordingly, accountability is considered one of the main criteria of good governance. Every public official must be responsible for their actions, and institutions must be accountable for overseeing these officials.

In other words, accountability minimizes the possibility of abuse of power, ensuring that public resources are used responsibly and that decisions are reasonable and compliant with the law. However, in practice, without the rule of law and transparency, accountability cannot exist.

Therefore, any government committed to good governance should adhere to these principles. In the face of any publicly raised suspicions or scandals, the government must provide the public with access to all

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<sup>1</sup> Shala, G. and Smajli, F. " *Clean Governance and the Investigation of Government Corruption*." Kosovo Law Institute. Prishtina. December 2024. (See the link: <https://kli-ks.org/qeverisja-me-duar-te-pastra-dhe-hetimi-i-korrupsionit-qeveritar/>).

<sup>2</sup> "Module 2 – Corruption and Good Governance". United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Page 13 and 15. (See: [https://grace.unodc.org/grace/uploads/documents/academics/Anti-Corruption\\_Module\\_2\\_Corruption\\_and\\_Good\\_Governance.pdf](https://grace.unodc.org/grace/uploads/documents/academics/Anti-Corruption_Module_2_Corruption_and_Good_Governance.pdf)).

<sup>3</sup> "12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance". Council of Europe. (See link: <https://rm.coe.int/12-principles-brochure-final/1680741931>).



necessary information and full explanations regarding the allegations. Conversely, when credible suspicions of misconduct exist, failure by the government to act, or remaining silent, constitutes a violation of this principle.

In the context of good governance, and in order to preserve institutional integrity and maintain public trust, public officials are expected to step back in cases of specific suspicions. This approach would allow justice system institutions to clarify the situation while sending a strong message of integrity to the public. At the same time, this in no way implies admission of responsibility. If this does not happen, it is important to consider the suspension or dismissal of officials, an issue addressed elsewhere in this report.

“*Anti-corruption governance*” requires the government to proactively promote and take measures to prevent corruption. This includes reporting corruption cases, cooperating with justice system institutions in cases of suspected corruption, and ensuring public accountability, to the extent that ongoing investigations are not compromised, especially when suspicions of corruption involving the government are raised.

However, this has not occurred in practice. The government has demonstrated an approach contrary to the principles of good governance in cases of numerous publicly raised suspicions of corruption involving public officials. Instead of promoting transparency and cooperating with justice institutions, the government has often defended the suspects, questioned the work of investigative institutions, and attacked prosecutorial bodies. The lack of public accountability for raised suspicions and the absence of dismissals have undermined the principles of good governance. Rather than providing full and transparent explanations to the public, institutions have often ignored allegations or shielded involved officials, failing to demonstrate proper public accountability.

#### 4. Summary of publicly raised suspicions as government scandals

In this chapter, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) summarizes publicly raised suspicions regarding government scandals that are of high public interest.

##### 4.1. Allegations of manipulations in the electricity market

##### 4.1.1. Suspicions that a company entered the electricity market aggressively

Regarding publicly raised suspicions about the company “*Noa Energy Trade*”, it was reported that in 2024 the company had entered the Kosovo electricity market aggressively, despite being licensed only in 2022. Specifically, reports indicated that around 90% of imported electricity came through this company. According to media reports, of the €68.9 million in imports from KESCO in 2024, over €62 million were realized solely through Noa Energy Trade. Further, the reports noted that when KESCO was asked whether the procedures for electricity imports were followed as required by regulations, they stated: “*Regarding procurement procedures for daily import operations, we have internal procedures in place that are approved by the Energy Regulatory Office (ERO).*” However, no response was provided regarding the specifics of these internal procedures.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> “NOA’s Monopoly ‘Inflates’ Electricity Import Prices in Kosovo during 2024.” Buletini Ekonomik. 16 April 2025 (See link: <https://buletiniekonomik.com/2025/04/321monopoli-i-noa-s-trashi-cmimet-e-importit-te-rrymes-me-2024/>)

On the other hand, the company reacted several days later, labelling the reports as false, one-sided, and intended to damage its reputation and credibility built over the years.<sup>5</sup>

Media coverage continued to emphasize that by the end of 2025, the company was expected to achieve a turnover of €357 million, potentially exceeding the revenues of the Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK) and the Kosovo Electricity Distribution and Supply Company (KEDS), making it the second-largest company in Kosovo. According to reports, the company allegedly had only two employees, no office, and a falsified address, while selling electricity up to 225% more expensive than the market rate in Kosovo.<sup>6</sup> Reports also mentioned claims of “*family connections*” between the owner of NOA and the managers of EFT’s branch in Albania, allegedly linked to Serbian businessman Vuk Hamović, reportedly recognized as a key player in the electricity trade in the Balkans and under investigation for suspicious transactions.<sup>7</sup>

Media coverage continued with the Agency for Information and Privacy (AIP), which was said to have issued two contradictory decisions regarding requests for access to contracts between KESCO and NOA, reasoning that publishing the contract details could “*disrupt ongoing investigations*” conducted by ERO regarding electricity imports.<sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, according to media reports, the Special Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK) has launched an investigation into the case.<sup>9</sup>

Regarding NOA, Armend Muja, in a press conference, called for an investigation into who brought NOA Energy to Kosovo. He denied any connection between the company and any LVV official, whether in government or parliament. During the conference, he presented contracts, stating that NOA initially entered Kosovo through KOSTT. He noted that the first contract was signed on 15 January 2018, adding that NOA’s entry into Kosovo dates back to 2017. He also presented a second contract signed on 9 May 2019 between KEC and NOA. The second contract, according to him, was signed on 11 October 2021 by KEC’s acting CEO, just four days before Nagip Krasniqi assumed leadership of KEK.<sup>10</sup>

Following this conference, reports stated that NOA Energy Trade was officially registered with the Kosovo Business Registration Agency (KBRA) on 29 June 2021. It was also reported that Muja presented a general or framework contract demonstrating that the company agreed to comply with European Federation of Energy Traders (EFET) rules for electricity trading. The reporting emphasized the need for clarifications regarding the licensing of NOA Energy Trade in Kosovo in September 2021 by ERO.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> “*Strong Statement from NOA Energy Trade: We Have No Political Connections and Do Not Influence Prices.*” Syri. 22 April 2025. (See link: [https://www.syri.net/syri\\_kosova/lajme/574205/deklarate-e-forte-nga-noa-energy-trade-nuk-kemi-lidhje-politike-dhe-nuk-ndikojme-cmimet/](https://www.syri.net/syri_kosova/lajme/574205/deklarate-e-forte-nga-noa-energy-trade-nuk-kemi-lidhje-politike-dhe-nuk-ndikojme-cmimet/)).

<sup>6</sup> “*The €357 Million Kiosk: NOA Energy Trade Opens an Office Where No One Works.*” Vox Kosova. 01 July 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/kiosku-357-milionesh-noa-energy-trade-hap-edhe-nje-zyre-ku-nuk-punon-askush/>).

<sup>7</sup> “*Connections’ of NOA Owner Gentian Sula with EFT Managers in Albania Lead to Serbian Energy Oligarch Vuk Hamović.*” Buletini Ekonomik. 12 May 2025.. (See link: <https://buletiniekonomik.com/2025/05/11lidhjet-e-pronarit-te-noa-s-gentian-sula-me-drejtuesit-e-eft-se-ne-shqiperi-cojne-te-oligarku-serb-i-energjetikes-vuk-hamovic/>).

<sup>8</sup> “*Suspected Interference: AIP Issues Two Contradictory Decisions in a Month Regarding ZRRE Contracts Between KESCO and NOA.*” Buletini Ekonomik. 19 August 2025.. (See link: <https://buletiniekonomik.com/2025/08/dyshohet-per-nderhyrje-aip-brenda-muajit-nxjerr-dy-vendime-kontradiktore-ndaj-zrre-se-per-kontratat-mes-kesco-s-dhe-noa-s/>).

<sup>9</sup> “*Special Prosecutor Initiates Investigation into NOA Energy Trade, Says Mehmetaj.*” Nacionale. (See: <https://nacionale.com/live/prokuroria-speciale-ka-nisur-hetimet-ndaj-noa-energy-trade-thote-mehmetaj>).

<sup>10</sup> “*Armend Muja Holds Press Conference to Justify Electricity Imports from Serbia.*” Lajmi Net. December 2025. (See link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLLEhL3bOc>)

<sup>11</sup> “*Who Owns NOA? How Vetëvendosje Humiliated Armend Muja, Forcing Him to Lie Publicly.*” Vox Kosova. 04 December 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/e-kujt-eshte-noa-si-e-turperoi-vetevendosja-armend-mujen-duke-e-detyruar-te-mashtroi-e-genjeje-publikisht/>).

#### 4.1.2. Suspicions regarding the company MDA

The Energy Regulatory Office (ERO) announced that on 10 July 2025, it had reviewed and approved the licensing application for wholesale electricity supply (trading) for the company *Energy Kosova V.B. sh.p.k.*, as well as the licensing application for electricity supply for the company *Management & Development Associates sh.p.k.* (MDA).<sup>12</sup> The licensing of the latter attracted media attention due to reports that the company had been founded by Luan Dalipi, chief of staff to the acting Prime Minister Albin Kurti, while the owner was said to be Dalipi's brother.<sup>13</sup>

On the other hand, it was reported that according to the latest asset declaration, Luan Dalipi does not hold any shares in MDA. When media reports emerged that the company was awaiting licensing from ZRRE, Luan Dalipi stated that his brother *"is not a minister, nor a counsellor."* He further explained that his brother *"is simply a private citizen who, after 20 years of successful work in business, decided about a year ago to try his luck in the liberalized energy market, like anyone else."* Among other statements, Luan Dalipi wrote on social media, *"The liberalization of the energy market is an exclusive decision of the Energy Regulatory Office (ERO), an independent body reporting to the Assembly"*.<sup>14</sup>

#### 4.1.3. Suspicions of interference in KEC

Another issue that raised public suspicions, according to media reports, concerned political interference in the Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEC). These suspicions intensified after the publication of messages exchanged between Dejona Mihali, coordinator of the Vetëvendosje Movement (LVV), and KEC's CEO, Nagip Krasniqi, which suggested the direct influence of a non-official individual on the corporation's internal processes.

The published messages contained instructions from Mihali to the CEO on operational matters, including periods when electricity reductions should be avoided, as well as requests for internal reporting from KEC.<sup>15</sup>

#### 4.1.4. Allegations of corruption against the former KEC CEO

In April 2023, the Special Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kosovo (PSRK) arrested Nagip Krasniqi on suspicion of "Abuse of Official Position or Authority," "Exercising Influence," and "Conflict of Interest." The Special Investigation Unit raided Krasniqi's office in Prishtina, as well as two separate apartments owned and used by him, with the aim of finding evidence related to the alleged criminal acts.<sup>16</sup> Two days later, he was suspended from his position as CEO of KEC.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> See press release: <https://www.ero-ks.org/zrre/sq/komunikate-55>.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.gazetaexpress.com/shteti-i-dalipeve-zrre-e-licencon-per-tregti-me-rryme-kompanine-e-themeluar-nga-luan-dalipi/>

<sup>14</sup> "The Dalipi State: ZRRE Licenses Electricity Trading for Company Founded by Luan Dalipi." *Gazeta Express*. 10 July 2025. (See link: <https://www.gazetaexpress.com/shteti-i-dalipeve-zrre-e-licencon-per-tregti-me-rryme-kompanine-e-themeluar-nga-luan-dalipi/>).

<sup>15</sup> "Messages between Mihali and Nagip Krasniqi trigger many reactions: Dejona even decided when to cut our electricity." *Nacionale*, 2024. (See link: <https://nacionale.com/politike/mesazhet-e-mihalit-me-nagip-krasniqin-shkaktojne-shume-reagime-dejona-paska-vendos-edhe-kur-me-na-ndal-rrymen>).

<sup>16</sup> "KEK Director Nagip Krasniqi Arrested." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 19 April 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/https-betimiperdrejtesi-com-wp-admin-post-phppost163001actionedit/>).

<sup>17</sup> "KEK CEO Nagip Krasniqi Suspended from Duty." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 23 April 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/pezullohet-nga-detyra-kryeshefi-i-kek-ut-nagip-krasniqi-i-arrestuar-per-korrupsion/>).

Following this arrest, Prime Minister Albin Kurti criticized the Prosecutor's Office, claiming there was a negative political bias against his government within the justice system. He also described Krasniqi's arrest as a "joy for the opposition."<sup>18</sup>

In September 2023, Krasniqi was released from pre-trial detention under the condition that he remain at least 50 meters away from KEK's premises and personnel.<sup>19</sup> Subsequently, on 23 April 2024, Krasniqi was officially removed from his position as KEK CEO.<sup>20</sup>

Following these events, the parliamentary opposition submitted a draft resolution demanding a full investigation into the case, seeking scrutiny of alleged illegal interference in management, the awarding of tenders, energy trading, and hiring processes. However, the governing majority did not support the initiative, and investigative procedures were not carried through to completion.

On 20 September 2024, SPRK interviewed Dejana Mihali as a witness regarding certain matters related to this case.<sup>21</sup> In October of the same year, the opposition requested another extraordinary session in the Kosovo Assembly to discuss KEK's management and the suspected interference by individuals connected to the ruling party. Government representatives and majority MPs boycotted the session, avoiding confrontation with the opposition's allegations. During 2024, Krasniqi was formally charged with corruption in two separate indictments.<sup>22</sup>

In the indictment filed in August, Krasniqi is accused of causing KEK damages exceeding €3.2 million and tax evasion exceeding €500,000 to the detriment of the Republic of Kosovo.<sup>23</sup> PSRK alleges that, starting from 15 October 2021 and continuing thereafter, Krasniqi deliberately approved purchases, signed contracts, authorized signatures, and confirmed ongoing electricity trading with the Slovenian operator *Holding Slovenske Elektrane* (SE), in violation of the Law on Electricity and the Law on the Energy Regulatory Office (ERO), fully aware that the operator could not legally trade electricity without a valid ERO license.<sup>24</sup>

The indictment further states that these actions allowed the operator to gain financial benefits and avoid tax payments in Kosovo, resulting in significant damage to the Kosovo budget amounting to €531,920.79. It also allegedly harmed and discriminated against other licensed electricity operators in

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<sup>18</sup> "Kurti on the KEK Director Case: His Arrest Delighted the Opposition." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 20 April 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/kurti-per-rastin-e-drejtorit-te-kek-ut-arrestimi-i-tij-e-gezoi-opoziten/>).

<sup>19</sup> Blendina V. "Nagip Krasniqi's Detention Measure Terminated." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 15 September 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/nagip-krasniqit-i-nderpritet-masa-e-paraburgimit/>).

<sup>20</sup> "KEK Releases Former CEO Nagip Krasniqi from Duty." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 24 April 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/kek-u-liron-nga-detyra-ish-kryeshefit-ekzekutiv-nagip-krasniqi/>).

<sup>21</sup> "Mihali Says She Was at the Special Prosecution to Help Clarify the Truth." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 20 September 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/mihali-thote-se-ishte-ne-prokurorine-speciale-per-te-ndihmuar-ne-zbardhjen-e-se-vertetes/>).

<sup>22</sup> "Indictment Filed Against Former KEK CEO Nagip Krasniqi." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 19 August 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/ngritet-aktakuze-ndaj-ish-kryeshefit-te-kek-ut-nagip-krasniqi/>) ; "Indictment Filed Against Former KEK CEO Nagip Krasniqi and Two Others." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 30 December 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/ngritet-aktakuze-ndaj-ish-kryeshefit-te-kek-ut-nagip-krasniqi-dhe-dy-te-tjereve/>).

<sup>23</sup> Albijona H. "Prosecution File Against Nagip Krasniqi: Over €3.2 Million Damage to KEK and Over €500,000 Tax Evasion." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 21 August 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/dosja-e-prokurorise-ndaj-nagip-krasniqit-mbi-3-2-milione-euro-dem-per-kek-un-e-mbi-500-mije-euro-shmangie-nga-tatimi/>).

<sup>24</sup> Albijona H. "Prosecution File Against Nagip Krasniqi: Over €3.2 Million Damage to KEK and Over €500,000 Tax Evasion." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 21 August 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/dosja-e-prokurorise-ndaj-nagip-krasniqit-mbi-3-2-milione-euro-dem-per-kek-un-e-mbi-500-mije-euro-shmangie-nga-tatimi/>).

Kosovo who complied with tax obligations.<sup>25</sup> The initial hearing for this case was held on 8 October 2024, during which Krasniqi pleaded not guilty.<sup>26</sup>

In the second indictment, filed in December 2024, it is alleged that Krasniqi, together with two other co-accused, caused damage to the budget of the Republic of Kosovo amounting to approximately €37 million.<sup>27</sup> The trial for this case began on 7 February 2025, during which Krasniqi and co-accused I.Z. pleaded not guilty, while the other co-accused, Y.D., admitted guilt.<sup>28</sup>

#### 4.2. State reserves

One of the most prominent cases involving the acting Minister, Rozeta Hajdari, is known as the “State Reserves” case. In this case, on 11 November 2025, the SPRK filed an indictment against her, former Deputy Secretary Irfan Lipovica, and the Director of the Department for State Reserves, Hafiz Gara,<sup>29</sup> for the criminal offenses of “Abuse of official position or authority” and “Disclosure of official secrets.” Additionally, a businessman, in whose restaurant approximately €11,000 was allegedly spent on official lunches, was also charged for aiding in the abuse of official duty.<sup>30</sup>

The SPRK alleges that through illegal procurement procedures for the purchase of state reserves in 2022, the budget of Kosovo suffered damage of nearly three (3) million euros. According to the indictment, contracts with a Turkish and a Polish company were signed while bypassing competition, at prices higher than market rates, with 100% advance payments, and without delivery of the contracted products. The prosecution claims that these actions favoured certain economic operators and severely harmed the public budget.<sup>31</sup>

Among other things, the accused are alleged to have circumvented open procurement procedures by unlawfully classifying the purchase of state reserves as “secret,” aiming to favour selected operators. The prosecution further asserts that the procedures were conducted through closed negotiations,

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<sup>25</sup> Albijona H. “Prosecution File Against Nagip Krasniqi: Over €3.2 Million Damage to KEK and Over €500,000 in Tax Evasion.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 21 August 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/dosja-e-prokurorise-ndaj-nagip-krasniqit-mbi-3-2-milione-euro-dem-per-kek-un-e-mbi-500-mije-euro-shmangie-nga-tatimi/>).

<sup>26</sup> Zamira K. “Former KEK CEO Nagip Krasniqi Pleads Not Guilty to Corruption Charge.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 8 October 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/ish-kryeshefi-i-kek-ut-nagip-krasniqi-deklarohet-i-pafajshem-lidhur-me-akuzen-per-korrupsion/>).

<sup>27</sup> “Indictment Filed Against Former KEK CEO Nagip Krasniqi and Two Others.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 30 December 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/ngritet-aktakuze-ndaj-ish-kryeshefit-te-kek-ut-nagip-krasniqi-dhe-dy-te-tjereve/>).

<sup>28</sup> Djellza B. “Trial Begins Against Nagip Krasniqi; Again Pleads Not Guilty to Corruption Charges.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 3 July 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/nis-gjykimi-ndaj-nagip-krasniqit-serish-deklarohet-i-pafajshem-per-akuzen-e-korrupsionit/>).

<sup>29</sup> Alberta H. “Special Prosecution files indictment against Acting Minister Rozeta Hajdari and three others in the case of ‘State Reserves’.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 11 November 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/prokuroria-speciale-ngrit-aktakuze-ndaj-ministres-ne-detyre-rozeta-hajdari-dhe-tre-te-tjereve-per-rastin-e-rezervave-shteterore/>).

<sup>30</sup> Alberta H. and Flamur K. “State Reserves case: How much money was spent from the Kosovo budget at Ridvan Muharremi’s restaurant ‘Bukë e Zemër’?” *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 11 November 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/dosja-e-rezervave-shteterore-sa-para-u-shpenzuan-nga-buxheti-i-kosoves-ne-restorantin-buke-e-zemer-te-ridvan-muharremit/>).

<sup>31</sup> Alberta H. “Exclusive: How did the damage reach nearly 3 million euros according to the Special Prosecution in the ‘State Reserves’ case?” *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 11 November 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/ekskluzive-si-shkoi-demi-afer-3-milione-euro-sipas-psrk-se-ne-rastin-e-rezervave-shteterore/>).



involving individuals in the commission who were not competent, while local operators were excluded.<sup>32</sup>

It should be recalled that media reports on this case began as early as 2023. However, at no point did the Government provide accountability. In addition to the lack of cooperation with justice institutions, it was reported that the whistleblower in this case was dismissed from their job, as they claimed this was retaliation regarding the state reserves issue.<sup>33</sup> Meanwhile, one of the accused had, at the time, reportedly qualified for the position of Director General of Accreditation.<sup>34</sup>

Contrary to “anti-corruption governance”<sup>35</sup>, standards, government officials, including Prime Minister Kurti, defended Hajdari. He stated that there was no misuse of state reserves and expressed trust in his subordinate. At the same time, he took the opportunity to attack the justice system and the media.<sup>36</sup>

After the indictment was filed, in a public statement, Hajdari accused the Prosecution of acting politically and using classified documents unlawfully by sending investigators without security clearance to the Department of State Reserves to obtain classified documents. She stated that MIET had reported the case to PIK, which identified legal violations by the investigators; however, the case was later closed by the same prosecutor who had authorized the seizure of the documents, despite the conflict of interest.<sup>37</sup> Lipovica himself confirmed that none of the MIET officials, including himself and Minister Hajdari, had security clearance related to this process<sup>38</sup>.

One of the clearest examples illustrating the lack of cooperation by government officials with justice institutions during this process was Prime Minister Kurti’s disregard of the court’s request to appear before the Prosecution as a witness.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Alberta H. and Flamur K. “*Lipovica accused of unlawfully establishing the Commission for contract negotiations, in which he participated along with Minister Hajdari and businessman Muharremi, while ‘excluding’ two members.*” *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 11 November 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/lipovica-akuzohet-se-themeloi-kunderligjshem-komisionin-per-negocimin-e-kontratave-ne-te-cilin-mori-pjese-vete-me-ministren-hajdari-dhe-afaristin-muharremi-duke-perjashtuar-dy-anet/>).

<sup>33</sup> <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/largohet-nga-puna-sinjalizuesi-i-mint-it-thote-se-kjo-eshte-hakmarrije-per-ceshtjen-e-rezervave-shteterore/>

<sup>34</sup> “Rozeta Hajdari rewards with a high position the person arrested for theft of State Reserves.” *Periskopi*, 22 November 2024. (See link: <https://www.periskopi.com/rozeta-hajdari-e-shperblen-me-pozite-te-larte-te-arrestuarinper-vjedhje-te-rezervave-shteterore/>).

<sup>35</sup> Gzim Sh. and Florian S. “*Clean Governance and the Investigation of Government Corruption.*” p. 13. Kosovo Law Institute, December 2024. (See link: <https://kli-ks.org/qeverisja-me-duar-te-pastra-dhe-hetimi-i-korrupsionit-qeveritar/>).

<sup>36</sup> “Kurti: There is no misuse; the corrupt are in the old political elite, courts, and media.” *KOHA*. 18 August 2023. (See link: <https://www.koha.net/arberi/kurti-kam-besim-te-plote-ne-ministren-hajdari-dhe-punen-e-saj>)

<sup>37</sup> “Hajdari says she acted during a global crisis while accusing the Prosecutor’s Office of acting politically and illegally using secret documents.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 14 November 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/hajdari-thote-se-ka-vepruar-ne-kohe-krize-globale-ndersa-akuzon-prokurorine-se-ka-vepruar-politikisht-dhe-ka-perdorur-dokumente-sekrete-ne-menyre-te-jashteligjshme/>).

<sup>38</sup> Alberta H. and Flamur K.: “Hajdari and Lipovica refused to respond to the PSRK claiming the reserve processes were ‘secret’; Gara also discussed Muharremi’s role.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 11 November 2025.. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/hajdari-e-lipovica-refuzuan-te-pergjigjen-ne-psrk-me-arsyetimin-se-proceset-e-rezervave-ishin-sekrete-gara-foli-edhe-per-rolin-e-muharremit/>).

<sup>39</sup> “Kurti ignores the court’s request to appear as a witness before the Prosecutor’s Office.” *Zëri*. 4 March 2025. (See link: <https://www.zeriamerikes.com/a/7997401.html>).

Throughout this procedure, the work of the SPRK was commented on by ministers, deputy ministers, and members of the ruling party.<sup>40</sup> Moreover, attacks on the Prosecution continued later from MP Albulena Haxhiu<sup>41</sup> and these did not cease even after the indictment was filed.<sup>42</sup>

#### 4.3. Single-source contracts

Single-source contracts represent one of the legal procedures for public procurement. Due to the manner in which these procurement procedures are conducted, without publishing a tender notice, they carry a high potential for corruption. For this reason, the use of this procedure should be strictly limited to cases where other procurement methods cannot be applied.

However, regarding the value of contracts awarded through negotiated procedures without publishing the contract notice, reports indicated a significant increase over the years. According to the reports, over €117 million in single-source contracts were awarded in 2023 alone by all institutions in Kosovo.<sup>43</sup>

The increase in single-source contracts was also highlighted in the European Commission's reports on Kosovo for 2024 and 2025. The European Commission assessed that the high use of negotiated procedures without prior publication of contract notices remains a challenge, emphasizing that it presents a risk of misuse and requires greater transparency, clear justification, and auditing.<sup>44</sup> In 2025, the European Union institution noted a substantial decrease in the use of negotiated procedures without prior notice, from 13.5% in 2023 to 5.71% in 2024, which was considered a positive development. Nevertheless, the report indicated that further improvements are needed in planning, as well as a continuous reduction in the use of negotiated procedures and the number of cancelled procurement activities, which had reached 24% in 2024.<sup>45</sup>

The increased use of this procedure had triggered multiple public reactions and became the subject of investigations by the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK). On 23 January 2025, it was reported that SPRK was investigating 1,600 single-source contracts.<sup>46</sup>

#### 4.4. Allegations regarding Ambassador Berishaj

From April 2022, reports began to surface regarding one of the largest scandals involving Ambassador Martin Berishaj. The case concerned millions of euros in bank transactions and hundreds of thousands in cash transferred between Kosovo, Montenegro, and Slovenia. This was alleged to be a money laundering scandal, with Ambassador Berishaj, the Kosovan ambassador to Croatia, suspected of

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<sup>40</sup> Even Murati and Haxhiu level accusations against the Special Prosecutor's Office." Betimi për Drejtësi. 20 August 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/edhe-murati-e-haxhiu-me-akuza-ndaj-prokurorise-speciale/>)

<sup>41</sup> "Attacks by the government against the Special Prosecutor's Office continue; the Minister of Justice asks for whom this institution works.." Betimi për Drejtësi. 24 August 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/vazhdojne-sulmet-e-pushtetit-ndaj-prokurorise-speciale-ministrja-e-drejtises-pyet-se-per-kend-po-punon-ky-institucion/>)

<sup>42</sup> "The Prosecutor's Office submits an indictment against Minister Hajdari and three others for the case of state reserves" 11 November 2025. (See link: <https://www.evropaelire.org/a/ministrja-hajdari-aktakuze-prokuroria-rezerva/33587615.html>).

<sup>43</sup> <https://nacionale.com/politike/prokuroria-po-heton-rreth-1-700-kontrata-njeburimore-te-geverise-kurti-tre-prokurore-po-merren-me-rastin>

<sup>44</sup> European Commission. "Kosovo Report 2024". (See link: [https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/kosovo-report-2024\\_en](https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/kosovo-report-2024_en)).

<sup>45</sup> European Commission. "Kosovo Report 2025". (See link: [https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/kosovo-report-2025\\_en](https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/kosovo-report-2025_en)).

<sup>46</sup> Albijona H. "The Special Prosecutor's Office investigates 1,600 single-source contracts." Betimi për Drejtësi. 23 January 2025.. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/prokuroria-speciale-po-heton-1-mije-e-600-kontrata-njeburimore/>).

involvement.<sup>47</sup> Berishaj stated that he filed a lawsuit against a foreign portal that had reported on the matter.<sup>48</sup>

According to *Betimi për Drejtësi*, the Kosovo Police Anti-Corruption Task Force, led by Major Shemsi Haziri, initiated the case against Berishaj, initially filing charges for tax evasion and subsequently expanding the investigation to include money laundering. Investigations reportedly documented that Berishaj had received over €1.5 million in his NLB bank account from the company GEN, headquartered in Belgrade, which was withdrawn in cash within two days. Additionally, in his account in Montenegro, he allegedly received over €600,000 from the same company, along with additional amounts from unidentified sources.<sup>49</sup> Berishaj described these reports as slander.<sup>50</sup> Meanwhile, President of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani, also expressed her support for him, stating that she trusts Berishaj.<sup>51</sup> However, the Presidency requested a written report from Berishaj. At the same time, the Government urged caution regarding such allegations against the ambassador.<sup>52</sup> In this context, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (MFAD), Donika Gërvalla, took a similar position.<sup>53</sup>

In April 2022, the Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) reportedly began procedures to verify Berishaj's assets.<sup>54</sup> In September 2022, Berishaj was interviewed by the Basic Prosecutor's Office in Prishtina on suspicion of failure to declare assets.<sup>55</sup>

The Task Force investigations extended to potential links between Berishaj and former KEK CEO Nagip Krasniqi, arrested in April 2022. Krasniqi is suspected of meeting Berishaj in Croatia during a visit with energy trading companies. The Task Force obtained evidence connecting Krasniqi to the issuance of several allegedly illegal single-source contracts worth approximately €22 million, where he allegedly influenced the selection of certain companies.

The reports also indicate that, according to the investigation's findings, five (5) to six (6) companies were involved in suspicious energy dealings, including the Slovenian company HSE, which did not have a license to trade energy in Kosovo. Nevertheless, since December 2021, KEC sold energy to HSE worth €37 million and purchased around €5 million from it. For these transactions, the Energy

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<sup>47</sup> <https://www.gazetaexpress.com/thellohet-skandali-i-martin-berishajt-thellohen-edhe-hetimet-kreret-e-shtetit-se-leshojne-ambasadorin/>).

<sup>48</sup> "The case of Ambassador Berishaj, all the accusations of the opposition and the government's clarifications." *Telegrafi*. 23 April 2022. (See link: <https://telegrafi.com/rasti-ambasadorit-berishaj-te-gjitha-akuzat-e-opozites-dhe-sqarimet-pushtetit/>).

<sup>49</sup> "The Martin Berishaj scandal deepens, investigations continue – state leaders don't release the ambassador." *Gazeta Express*. 12 January 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/ambasadori-martin-berishaj-e-kryeshefi-i-kek-ut-nagip-krasniqi-po-hetohen-nga-task-forca/>).

<sup>50</sup> "Ambassador Berishaj calls accusations of involvement in a financial scandal slander: My lawsuit paves the way for the final word in court." *Telegrafi*. 22 April 2022. (See link: <https://telegrafi.com/ambasadori-berishaj-quan-shpifje-akuzat-se-eshte-perfshire-ne-nje-skandal-financiar-padia-ime-hape-rruge-fjales-se-fundit-ne-gjykate/>).

<sup>51</sup> "Accusations against Ambassador Berishaj, President Osmani comments." *Telegraf*. 22 April 2022. (See link: <https://telegrafi.com/akuzat-ndaj-ambasadorit-berishaj-deklarohet-presidentja-osmani/>).

<sup>52</sup> "Reported for involvement in a financial scandal, President Osmani requests a report from Berishaj – Government asks for caution regarding the claims." *Telegrafi*. 22 April 2022.. (See link: <https://telegrafi.com/u-raportua-per-perfshirjen-e-ambasadorit-ne-skandal-financiar-presidentja-osmani-kerkon-raport-nga-berishaj-qeveria-kerkon-kujdes-ndaj-pretendimeve/>).

<sup>53</sup> "Gërvalla: I will speak with Ambassador Berishaj; I have no reason to believe the claims against him." *Telegrafi*. 22 April 2022. (See link: <https://telegrafi.com/gervalla-te-bisedoj-ambasadorin-berishaj-skam-arsye-te-besoje-ne-pretendimet-kunder-tij/>).

<sup>54</sup> "Anti-Corruption Agency begins verification of Ambassador Martin Berishaj's assets." *Telegrafi*. 26 April 2022. (See link: <https://telegrafi.com/agjencia-kunder-korrupsionit-nis-verifikimin-e-pasurise-se-ambasadorit-martin-berishaj/>).

<sup>55</sup> "Prosecutor's Office begins investigations against Martin Berishaj, suspected of non-declaration of assets." *Betimi për Drejtësi*. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/prokuroria-nis-hetimet-ndaj-martin-berishaj-dyshohet-per-mosdeklarim-te-pasurise/>).



Regulatory Office (ERO) had warned KEK not to cooperate with an unlicensed company, but the trading continued. As a result, ERO fined KEC €3.2 million and KOSTT €439,000 for illegal energy transactions.

On March 29, 2024, the Special Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK) interviewed Berishaj under suspicion of the criminal offenses of "*Money Laundering*," "*Tax Evasion*," and "*Failure to Report or False Reporting of Assets*." Furthermore, on June 26, 2025, it was reported that Berishaj was interviewed again by PSRK regarding suspicions of the same criminal offenses.<sup>56</sup>

#### 4.5. Dissolution of the Anti-Corruption Task Force

The Anti-Corruption Task Force within the Kosovo Police, established in 2010, had the mission of preventing and investigating criminal offenses related to the economy and finance, as well as all forms of corruption, including high-level corruption. This body consisted of local and international special prosecutors, 30 investigative police officers, and financial experts.<sup>57</sup>

Despite its significant importance, this body was dissolved on October 18, 2020, by the government led by Avdullah Hoti, with the justification that its establishment was unconstitutional.

The proposal sparked criticism from the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI), which stated that the decision contradicted the Functional Review process of the Rule of Law Sector and nullified all investments made by international partners in profiling investigators in the fight against corruption. KLI further emphasized that this action sent the worst possible message to independent institutions: that anyone acting against political interests would face the same fate.<sup>58</sup>

In addition to international and civil society reactions, the then-opposition vocally opposed the decision. While in opposition, the Vetëvendosje Movement had called for a parliamentary debate regarding the Task Force's dissolution. Its termination was seen as part of the Hoti government's agenda to shield itself from the Task Force's investigations and as a step back from the fight against corruption.<sup>59</sup> The Minister of Justice in the Kurti I and II governments, Albulena Haxhiu, interpreted the decision as retaliation against high-level figures, including former ministers and members of the LDK. Hekuran Murati, then a Vetëvendosje deputy and currently a minister in office, also criticized the decision, highlighting that the dissolution affected senior LDK officials.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> "Martin Berishaj interviewed by the Special Prosecutor's Office." Betimi për Drejtësi. 26 June 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/martin-berishaj-intervistohet-nga-prokuroria-speciale/>).

<sup>57</sup> "Blerta A.: "Why the Anti-Corruption Task Force in the Police was dissolved and who opposed this decision?" Betimi për Drejtësi. 15 July 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/pse-u-shua-task-forca-antikorrupsion-ne-polici-dhe-kush-ishte-kunder-ketij-vendimi/>).

<sup>58</sup> "KLI reacts to the Government of Kosovo regarding the proposal to dissolve the Special Anti-Corruption Department in the Kosovo Police." Betimi për Drejtësi. 19 October 2020. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/ikd-reagon-ndaj-qeverise-se-kosoves-lidhur-me-propozimin-per-shuarjen-e-departamentit-special-anti-korrupsion-ne-policine-e-kosoves/#:~:text=Sipas%20IKD-s%20C3%AB%20ky%20propozim%20vendim%20p%C3%ABr%20shuarjen%20e,e%20politik%C3%ABs%20C%20do%20ta%20ket%C3%AB%20fatin%20e%20nj%C3%ABjt%C3%AB.>).

<sup>59</sup> "KLI reacts to the Government of Kosovo regarding the proposal to dissolve the Special Anti-Corruption Department in the Kosovo Police." Betimi për Drejtësi. 19 October 2020. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/ikd-reagon-ndaj-qeverise-se-kosoves-lidhur-me-propozimin-per-shuarjen-e-departamentit-special-anti-korrupsion-ne-policine-e-kosoves/#:~:text=Sipas%20IKD-s%20C3%AB%20ky%20propozim%20vendim%20p%C3%ABr%20shuarjen%20e,e%20politik%C3%ABs%20C%20do%20ta%20ket%C3%AB%20fatin%20e%20nj%C3%ABjt%C3%AB.>).

<sup>60</sup> "KLI reacts to the Government of Kosovo regarding the proposal to dissolve the Special Anti-Corruption Department in the Kosovo Police." Betimi për Drejtësi. 19 October 2020. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/ikd-reagon-ndaj-qeverise-se-kosoves-lidhur-me-propozimin-per-shuarjen-e-departamentit-special-anti-korrupsion-ne-policine-e-kosoves/#:~:text=Sipas%20IKD->

#### 4.6 Suspicions in the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

On 23 August 2023, the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK) filed an indictment against 10 official persons, who are charged with “Abuse of official duty” and “Forgery of an official document.”

The indictment was filed against the officials Betim Reçica, Valmira Bllaca, Zymer Abdullahu, Jetmir Alaj, Emir Morina, Blerim Dina, Nuhi Paçarizi, and Goran Milenković, including now the deputy secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, who had caused damage of over 12 million euros.<sup>61</sup> According to the indictment, it is stated that the individuals in question, acting jointly, used their official duty and authority, and by exceeding their legal competencies, intentionally acted in violation of the Law on Procurement, the Law on the 2019 Budget Allocation, and the Law on Public Finance Management and Legal Responsibilities.<sup>62</sup> Meanwhile, the secretary of this department, Hysen Durmishi, had stated that the indictment raised against these officials relates to a case from 2019, specifically concerning the Prizren–Prevalle road.<sup>63</sup>

On 16 February, the Basic Court dismissed the indictment against Zymer Abdullahu, Jetmir Alaj, Emir Morina, Blerim Dina, Nuhi Paçarizi, and Muhamet Gashi, because the Prosecution failed to prove that they had committed the criminal offenses with which they were charged.<sup>64</sup> Meanwhile, on 17 October 2023, the proceedings against Milenković were separated because he did not appear at the hearing, and as a result, an international arrest warrant was issued for him.<sup>65</sup>

However, upon reinstatement, the court decided to dismiss the charges for all the accused except Milenković.<sup>66</sup>

One year later, on 8 October 2024, the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK) announced that, following an operation at the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MMPHI), the deputy secretary of the ministry, Izedin Bytyqi, had been arrested on suspicion of “abuse of official authority” and “illegal possession of weapons.” In the same case, the

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<sup>61</sup> Aurela M. “The names of the 10 officials against whom the Special Prosecution filed an indictment for corruption.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 23 August 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/emrat-e-10-zyrtareve-ndaj-te-cileve-prokuroria-speciale-ngriti-aktakuze-per-korrupsion/>)

<sup>62</sup> Aurela M. “Exclusive: What the 10 officials are accused of, against whom the Special Prosecution filed an indictment for corruption.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 23 August 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/ekskluzive-per-cka-po-akuzohen-10-zyrtaret-ndaj-te-cileve-prokuroria-speciale-ngriti-aktakuze-per-korrupsion/>)

<sup>63</sup> Aurela M. “Durmishi: The indictment for corruption against 10 officials is related to the Prizren-Prevallë road.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 23 August 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/durmishi-aktakuza-per-korrupsion-ndaj-10-zyrtareve-ka-te-beje-me-rrugen-prizren-prevalle/>)

<sup>64</sup> Flamur K. “The Basic Court dismisses the indictment against 6 officials related to the Prizren-Prevallë road project, confirming it for Reçica and two others.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 16 February 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/themelorja-hedh-poshte-aktakuzen-ndaj-6-zyrtareve-lidhur-me-projektin-e-rruges-prizren-prevalle-ia-konfirmon-recices-dhe-dy-te-tjereve/>)

<sup>65</sup> Kaltrina B. “The court finds that the indictment for corruption against the officials regarding the Prizren-Prevallë road is not supported by any concrete evidence.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/gjykata-konstaton-se-nuk-mbeshitetet-me-asnje-prove-konkrete-aktakuza-per-korrupsion-ndaj-zyrtareve-per-rrugen-prizren-prevalle/>)

<sup>66</sup> Kaltrina B. “The court finds that the indictment for corruption against the officials regarding the Prizren-Prevallë road is not supported by any concrete evidence.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/gjykata-konstaton-se-nuk-mbeshitetet-me-asnje-prove-konkrete-aktakuza-per-korrupsion-ndaj-zyrtareve-per-rrugen-prizren-prevalle/>)

other suspect was Naser Hafizi, who was suspected of “abuse of official duty and authority,” “money laundering,” and “failure to report or false reporting of assets, income, gifts, other financial benefits, or financial obligations.”

According to the SPRK case file, this case was related to the debt that economic operators owed to the Regional River Basin Authority within MMPHI, which amounted to nearly 20 million euros. However, the acting director of this Authority, Naser Hafizi, is suspected of illegally initiating decisions to reduce these debts.<sup>67</sup>

On 9 October 2024, it was reported that the Basic Court in Pristina had placed Bytyqi under a 30-day house arrest.<sup>68</sup> On 5 December 2024, it was reported that this measure was lifted at the request of the SPRK.<sup>69</sup> Meanwhile, just about two weeks later, it was reported that, by a decision of the former minister Aliu, Bytyqi was reinstated to his position as deputy secretary in the MMPHI.<sup>70</sup>

Meanwhile, after Hafizi’s arrest<sup>71</sup>, he was initially placed in pre-trial detention<sup>72</sup>, which was later replaced with house arrest on 6 March 2025<sup>73</sup>. About a month later, this measure was modified to a restriction preventing him from approaching the MMPHI and its officials.

In addition, Bytyqi had previously been suspended from this position when the ministry was led by Arban Abrashi. The then-minister had announced that a procedure had been initiated against his subordinate to investigate a serious disciplinary violation.<sup>74</sup>

On the other hand, sources from “Betimi për Drejtësi” indicated that the then-minister of this ministry, Liburn Aliu, was also under investigation in connection with this case. Aliu stated that he had not

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<sup>67</sup> Albijona H. and Blendina V. “The Prosecutor’s File on Naser Hafizi: How it is suspected that he lowered the debt for packaging operators, how many apartments he did not declare, and what he did with the illegally earned money.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 16 October 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/dosja-e-prokurorise-per-naser-hafizin-si-dyshohet-se-ua-uli-borxhin-ambalazhuesve-sa-banesa-si-deklaroi-e-çbente-me-parate-e-fituara-kundërligjshëm/>)

<sup>68</sup> “House arrest for the deputy secretary of the MMPHI, Izedin Bytyqi, suspected of abuse of official duty.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 09 October 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/arrest-shtepiak-ndaj-zevendes-sekretarit-te-mmph-se-izedin-bytyqi-i-dyshuar-per-keqpedorim-te-detyres-zyrtare/>)

<sup>69</sup> Kaltrina B. “The house arrest measure is terminated for the former deputy-secretary of the MMPHI, Izedin Bytyqi.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 05 December 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/i-nderpritet-masa-e-arrestit-shtepiak-ish-zevendes-sekretarit-te-mmph-se-izedin-bytyqi/>)

<sup>70</sup> “Izedin Bytyqi returns to his position in the ministry under Liburn Aliu; two months earlier he had been arrested in the packaging operators affair.” *Reporteri*. 19 December 2024. (See link: <https://reporteri.net/lajme/izedin-bytyqi-kthehet-ne-poziten-e-tij-ne-ministrine-e-liburn-aliut-dy-muaj-me-pare-ishte-arrestuar-per-aferen-me-ambalazhuesit>)

<sup>71</sup> “Naser Hafizi arrested.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 10 October 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/arrestohet-naser-hafizi/>)

<sup>72</sup> Kaltrina B. “One month of pre-trial detention for Naser Hafizi.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 11 October 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/nje-muaj-paraburgim-ndaj-naser-hafizit/>)

<sup>73</sup> Flamur K. “Court confirms it approved the prosecution’s request for house arrest for Naser Hafizi.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 07 March 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/gjykata-konfirmon-se-ka-miratuar-kerkesen-e-prokurorise-per-arrest-shtepiak-ndaj-naser-hafizit/>)

<sup>74</sup> “Izedin Bytyqi lirohet nga detyra sekretarit të MI-së, iniciohet procedurë për shkelje të rëndë disiplinore”. *Telegrafi*. 03 Mars 2021. (shih linkun: <https://telegrafi.com/izedin-bytyqi-lirohet-nga-detyra-sekretarit-te-mi-se-iniciohet-procedure-per-shkelje-te-rende-disiplinore/>).

received any official notification regarding the case and expressed his willingness to cooperate with the justice authorities.<sup>75</sup>

#### 4.7. Suspicions regarding the misuse of subsidies and grants

##### 4.7.1 Ministry of Regional Development

On 4 July 2025, the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK) filed a corruption indictment against the acting Minister of Regional Development, Fikrim Damka, and the acting Secretary General of this ministry, Besim Kamberaj. Both are accused of committing the criminal offense of “Abuse of position or official authority” by exceeding their competences, with the aim of obtaining financial gain for two NGOs: “Germin” and “Swiss Caritas”, and violating the rights of other persons, namely Civil Society Organizations registered in Kosovo.<sup>76</sup>

The initial hearing was held on 23 September 2025, during which Damka and Kamberaj pleaded not guilty.<sup>77</sup>

However, in this case, the acting government, on 1 August 2025, had suspended Kamberaj from his position as Secretary General of the Ministry of Regional Development<sup>78</sup>, while Damka continues to exercise his duties as minister.<sup>79</sup>

##### 4.7.2. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development

During the past year, suspicions arose regarding the allocation of subsidies by the Ministry of Agriculture, led by Faton Peci. Media reports highlighted cases in which relatives and party affiliates of high-ranking officials benefited from public funds, including the brother of MP Fitore Pacolli, who, through the company “Alda Farm Ria,” received a grant of 100,000 euros just four days after registering the business, as well as the minister’s advisor, Naim Huruglica, who also received the same amount.<sup>80</sup>

After the cases were published, it was reported that the ministry temporarily suspended administrative procedures and requested an internal audit, while the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (APK) provides its final assessment.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> Flamur K. “Aliu: I have not received official notification that investigations have started against me; I am ready to cooperate for justice.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 21 October 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/aliu-skam-marre-njoftim-zyrtar-se-kane-nisur-hetime-ndaj-meje-jam-i-gatshem-te-bashkepunoj-per-drejtesi/>)

<sup>76</sup> Flamur K. “Prosecution’s file against Damka and Kamberaj: How the budget was harmed by over 1 million euros benefiting two NGOs without a public call?” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 09 July 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/dosja-e-prokurorise-ndaj-damkes-dhe-kamberajt-si-u-demtua-buxheti-mbi-1-milion-euro-duke-perfituar-dy-ojq-pa-thirrje-publike/>)

<sup>77</sup> Flamur K. “Fikrim Damka and Besim Kamberaj plead not guilty in connection with the corruption charge.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 23 September 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/fikrim-damka-dhe-besim-kamberaj-deklarohen-te-pafajshem-lidhur-me-akuzen-per-korrupsion/>)

<sup>78</sup> “Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Development, Besim Kamberaj, suspended; accused of corruption together with Minister Damka.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/pezullohet-sekretari-i-ministrise-se-zhvillimit-rajonal-besim-kamberaj-akuzohet-per-korrupsion-bashke-me-ministrin-damka/>)

<sup>79</sup> Official Government of Kosovo – Cabinet Information. (Accessed 02 November 2025) <https://kryeministri.rks-gov.net/kabineti-qeveritar/>

<sup>80</sup> “Court confirms it approved the prosecution’s request for house arrest for Naser Hafizi.” *Reporteri*. 17 November 2024. (See link: <https://reporteri.net/lajme/skandali-me-subvencione-peci-opozites-kriminela-smund-te-me-ndalini-as-me-ujje-e-as-me-plumba/>)

<sup>81</sup> “Agency for Agriculture Development suspends the grants for the minister’s adviser Faton Peci and the brother of MP Fitore Pacolli.” 25 November 2024. (See link:

#### 4.7.3. Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports

In June 2024, various media outlets reported that this ministry had allocated 257,000 euros to a non-governmental organization, which, according to the reports, had been founded by the head of the ministry, Hajrullah Çeku.<sup>82</sup>

According to the reports, which also presented official documents, this support would be provided to the non-governmental organization over three years: 2024 (82,000 euros), 2025 (85,000 euros), and 2026 (67,000 euros). Furthermore, it was reported that the minister Çeku's brother also worked in this organization.<sup>83</sup>

#### 4.8 Suspicions of corruption against the CEO of “Ibër – Lepenc” and an adviser in the Ministry of Agriculture

On 14 July 2023, *Betimi për Drejtësi* exclusively reported the arrest of Faruk Mujka, the Chief Executive Officer of the Board of the Hydro-Economic Enterprise “Ibër-Lepenci”, and Hysen Muzliukaj, an adviser in the Ministry of Agriculture.<sup>84</sup> Both were arrested on suspicions of corruption. During the searches, 60,000 euros in cash were also found in Mujka's possession.<sup>85</sup>

After two years, on 10 September 2025, it was reported that the Basic Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (PSRK) had filed an indictment against Mujka and Muzliukaj.<sup>86</sup> According to the indictment, Mujka, in his capacity as Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Mitrovica, and Muzliukaj, in his capacity as Director for Geodesy, Cadastre, and Property in that municipality, are accused of abuse of official duty in connection with the case of exchanging the property of the former Bankos with private property.<sup>87</sup>

Mujka is also accused of failing to report or of falsely reporting assets, on the grounds that, in his capacity as the CEO of Ibër-Lepenc, he did not declare €60,050 that was seized from his home.<sup>88</sup>

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<https://telegrafi.com/agjencia-per-zhvillimin-e-bujqesise-pezuillon-grantet-per-keshilltarin-e-ministrit-fton-peci-dhe-vellain-e-deputetes-fitore-pacolli/> )

<sup>82</sup> “End of term / Hajrullah Çeku allocates 257,000 euros to the NGO he himself founded.” *Periskopi*. 26 June 2024. (See link: <https://www.periskopi.com/fundi-i-mandatit-hajrullah-ceku-i-ndan-257-mije-euro-ojq-se-ku-vet-eshte-themelues-i-saj/>)

“Hajrullah Çeku ‘soars’ with figures, allocates 257,000 euros to the NGO he himself founded.” *Paparaci*. 26 June 2024. (See link: <https://paparaci.com/436183/hajrulla-ceku-fluturon-me-shifra-ndan-257-mije-euro-per-ojq-ne-ku-vete-eshte-themelues/>).

<sup>83</sup> “End of term / Hajrullah Çeku allocates 257,000 euros to the NGO he himself founded.” *Periskopi*. 26 June 2024. (See link: <https://www.periskopi.com/fundi-i-mandatit-hajrullah-ceku-i-ndan-257-mije-euro-ojq-se-ku-vet-eshte-themelues-i-saj/>).

<sup>84</sup> “The Prosecutor's Office confirms the report by ‘Oath for Justice’: Faruk Mujka, suspected of corruption, has been arrested.” *Oath for Justice*, 14 July 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/prokuroria-konfirmon-raportimin-e-betimit-per-drejtesi-eshte-arrestuar-faruk-mujka-i-dyshuar-per-korrupsion/>).

<sup>85</sup> “The Prosecutor's Office confirms the report by ‘Oath for Justice’: Faruk Mujka, suspected of corruption, has been arrested.” *Oath for Justice*, 14 July 2023. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/prokuroria-konfirmon-raportimin-e-betimit-per-drejtesi-eshte-arrestuar-faruk-mujka-i-dyshuar-per-korrupsion/>).

<sup>86</sup> “Indictment for corruption against Faruk Mujka and the former Director for Geodesy.” *Oath for Justice*, 10 September 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/aktakuze-per-korrupsion-ndaj-faruk-mujkes-dhe-ish-drejtorit-per-gjeodezi/>).

<sup>87</sup> Flamur K. “The Prosecutor's Office case against Mujka and Muzliukaj: The property proposed for exchange was presented as municipal even though they knew it was not.” *Oath for Justice*, 18 September 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/dosja-e-prokuroris-ndaj-mujkes-dhe-muzliukes-pronen-e-propozuar-per-kembim-e-paraqiten-si-komunale-ndonese-e-dinin-qe-sishte-e-tille/>).

<sup>88</sup> Flamur K. “The Prosecutor's Office case against Mujka and Muzliukaj: The property proposed for exchange was presented as municipal even though they knew it was not.” *Oath for Justice*, 18 September 2025. (See link:



The trial against Mujka and Muzliukaj began on 20 October 2025, where both pleaded not guilty.<sup>89</sup>

Meanwhile, Mujka continues to serve as the CEO of the Hydro-Economic Enterprise “Ibër-Lepenc.”<sup>90</sup>

On the other hand, following the arrests, the acting Minister of Agriculture, Faton Peci, dismissed his advisor, Hysen Muzliukaj.<sup>91</sup> However, in August 2025, it was reported that he was appointed head of the Kosovo Institute for Public Administration during a government meeting.<sup>92</sup>

#### 4.9. Suspicions of misuse related to animal waste

Another report, raising public suspicion as a scandal, is related to the contract for the “Functionalization of facilities for processing animal products.” Initially, this was reported in May 2025. The reports suggest that the acting minister at the time, Faton Peci, signed an illegal contract with a newly established private company, causing a loss of €60 million to the Kosovo budget. According to the report, this contract was signed on 10 January 2025 by Peci with the private company.<sup>93</sup>

Then, on 26 May 2025, PDK publicly denounced that Peci, without any public tender, had leased the public property of the animal waste processing plant for 20 years to a company.<sup>94</sup> According to them, the Ministry of Agriculture, under Peci’s leadership and with the approval of Prime Minister Albin Kurti, leased a public plant worth over €10 million for only €30,000 per year, for a 20-year period, to a company that benefits over €3.2 million per year. The political party emphasized that the beneficiary company was registered only five days after the announcement and does not meet any of the legal criteria for the required technical and financial experience stated in the tender documents. It was also highlighted that its owner is linked to three other companies with no experience in processing animal by-products.<sup>95</sup>

The following day, on 27 May 2025, the Basic Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (PSRK) conducted raids at the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agency for the Development of Agriculture and Veterinary, and the location of the company that won the contract.<sup>96</sup> Meanwhile, Peci was interviewed as a suspect by the Special Investigative Unit and was later released following proper procedure. In

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<https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/dosja-e-prokurorise-ndaj-mujkes-dhe-muzliukes-pronen-e-propozuar-per-kembim-e-paraqiten-si-komunale-ndonese-e-dinin-qe-sishte-e-tille/>).

<sup>89</sup> Flamur K. “Mujka and Muzliukaj plead not guilty to corruption charges.” *Oath for Justice*, 20 October 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/mujka-dhe-muzliukaj-deklarohen-te-pafajshem-lidhur-me-akuzat-per-korrupsion/>).

<sup>90</sup> “Mujka: Human action is not the cause of the flooding at the workshop near the bridge over the Ibër.” *Oath for Justice*, 1 November 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/mujka-nuk-eshte-dora-e-njeriut-shkaktare-per-vershimin-ne-vendpunishten-tek-ura-mbi-iber/>).

<sup>91</sup> Altina M. “The Minister of Agriculture dismisses advisor Hysen Muzliukaj – suspected of abuse of official duty.” *Albanian Post*, 14 July 2023. (See link: <https://albanianpost.com/ministri-i-bujqesise-e-liron-nga-detyra-keshilltarin-hysen-muzliukaj-i-dyshuari-per-keqperdorim-te-detyres-zyrtare/>).

<sup>92</sup> “Suspected of corruption, Faton Peci’s former advisor is appointed director of IKAP by the Kurti Government.” *Gazeta Infokus*, 1 August 2025. (See link: <https://gazetainfokus.com/i-dyshuar-per-korrupsion-ish-keshilltari-i-faton-pecit-emerohet-drejtor-i-ikap-it-nga-qeveria-kurti/?page1=1116>).

<sup>93</sup> “60 million € loss: Mehmetaj reveals Faton Peci’s illegal contract with a private company.” *Nacionale*, 2025. (See link: <https://nacionale.com/live/60-milione-euro-dem-mehmetaj-nxjerr-kontraten-ilegale-te-faton-pecit-me-nje-kopmani-private?tztc=1>).

<sup>94</sup> “PDK: Multi-million scandal, Faton Peci leased the animal waste plant without a public tender.” *Dukagjini*, 26 May 2025. (See link: <https://www.dukagjini.com/pdk-skandal-milionesh-faton-peci-dha-me-qira-impianitin-e-mbetjeve-shtazore-pa-ankand-publik/>).

<sup>95</sup> “PDK: Multi-million scandal, Faton Peci leased the animal waste plant without a public tender.” *Dukagjini*, 26 May 2025. (See link: <https://www.dukagjini.com/pdk-skandal-milionesh-faton-peci-dha-me-qira-impianitin-e-mbetjeve-shtazore-pa-ankand-publik/>).

<sup>96</sup> “Prosecutor Shala provides details on the operation at the Ministry of Agriculture, these are the locations where the raids are taking place.” *Oath for Justice*, 27 May 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/prokurori-shala-jep-detaje-per-aksionin-ne-ministrine-e-bujqesise-keto-jane-lokacionet-ku-po-zhvillohen-bastisjet/>).

addition, the CEO of the Food and Veterinary Agency, Bekim Hoxha, was also interviewed.<sup>97</sup> According to a statement from the Kosovo Police, electronic devices and various documents were seized during this operation, and the case was initiated as “Abuse of Official Duty.”<sup>98</sup> Furthermore, according to reports, on 18 June 2025, the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo, Besnik Bislimi, was interviewed as a witness in this case.<sup>99</sup>

#### 4.10. Suspicions regarding fish with worms

Another publicly exposed suspicion, regarded as a scandal, concerned the allowance of fish with worms in the Kosovo market. According to reports, the Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA), which operates under the Ministry of Agriculture, concealed the presence of a parasite (*Anisakis* spp.) in hundreds of imported fish samples in Kosovo. Laboratory analyses, conducted from 24 November 2023 to 6 February 2024, detected the presence of larvae of this parasite, which were visible to the naked eye and reached lengths of up to 3.1 centimeters.<sup>100</sup>

Furthermore, the article states that laboratory reports signed by the FVA document that a type of fish imported from Canada, Argentina, Spain, and North Macedonia was found to be contaminated in all 28 analyzed samples. However, even though these shipments posed a risk to public health, the FVA destroyed and published information about only two shipments, while the rest were allowed to circulate in the Kosovo market without notifying consumers.<sup>101</sup>

In September 2024, the FVA announced that it had destroyed 21 tons of contaminated fish, but the article emphasizes that this represents only a small portion of the previously identified shipments. Furthermore, it is alleged that during 2025 no analyses were carried out to check for the presence of parasites, raising suspicions of a deliberate lack of oversight.<sup>102</sup> Following this, additional reports with even more concerning details continued to emerge.

The report emphasizes that the acting Minister Faton Peci and the FVA, despite having detected the presence of worms in the fish, had made decisions regarding destruction and had won the case in the Commercial Court. They later issued a public statement claiming that the fish on the market was safe for consumption. An internal whistleblower had informed the minister about the serious risk to consumer health and pointed out that the FVA’s 16 May 2025 statement, which claimed that the presence of worms did not pose a risk, contradicted the official decisions of the Inspectorate regarding the destruction of the product. According to the article, the whistleblower was not aware that the minister himself had been part of the decision-making process that was being contested.<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> Blendina V. “Interviewed as a suspect, Minister Peci is released following proper procedure.” *Oath for Justice*, 29 May 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/u-intervistua-si-i-dyshuar-ministri-peci-lirohet-ne-procedure-te-rregullt/>)

<sup>98</sup> “Police provide details on yesterday’s raids at the Ministry of Agriculture.” *Oath for Justice*, 28 May 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/policia-jep-detaje-per-bastisjet-e-djeshme-ne-ministrine-e-bujqesise/>)

<sup>99</sup> “The interview of Bislimi as a witness at the Special Prosecution concludes.” *Oath for Justice*, 18 June 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/perfundon-intervistimi-i-bislimit-ne-cilesine-e-deshmitarit-ne-prokurori-speciale/>)

<sup>100</sup> “Scandal, Periskopi: Fish with dangerous worms sold in the Kosovo market, FVA kept it hidden.” *Gazeta Express*, 16 May 2025. (See link: <https://www.gazetaexpress.com/skandal-periskopi-peshku-l-me-krimbin-e-rezikshem-u-shit-ne-tregun-e-kosoves-auv-e-mbajti-fshehur/>)

<sup>101</sup> “Scandal, Periskopi: Fish with dangerous worms sold in the Kosovo market, FVA kept it hidden.” *Gazeta Express*, 16 May 2025. (See link: <https://www.gazetaexpress.com/skandal-periskopi-peshku-l-me-krimbin-e-rezikshem-u-shit-ne-tregun-e-kosoves-auv-e-mbajti-fshehur/>)

<sup>102</sup> “Scandal, Periskopi: Fish with dangerous worms sold in the Kosovo market, FVA kept it hidden.” *Gazeta Express*, 16 May 2025. (See link: <https://www.gazetaexpress.com/skandal-periskopi-peshku-l-me-krimbin-e-rezikshem-u-shit-ne-tregun-e-kosoves-auv-e-mbajti-fshehur/>)

<sup>103</sup> “WORM-SCANDAL: With Faton Peci’s permission, Kosovars eat worms every time they buy frozen fish.” *Vox Kosova*, 25 September 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/krimb-ineli-me-lejen-e-fatton-pecit-kosovaret-hane-krimba-sa-herë-blejne-peshk-te-ngrire/>)

According to the reports, the issue began on 17 November 2023, when a citizen reported to the FVA that “worm-like organisms” were visible in frozen fish purchased from a store. After an increase in complaints, the FVA sent samples to a laboratory, where the report confirmed the presence of *Anisakis simplex* parasites, measuring 2–3 cm in length. Subsequent inspections of all fish importers in Kosovo resulted in the discovery of worms in almost all samples from the tested companies, including MC FOOD, Mediterran, KAM Kosova, and Delfin.<sup>104</sup>

It was further stated that the final laboratory reports indicate that in 28 combined samples, between 3 and 10 *Anisakis* parasites—measuring 1.7 to 3.1 cm—were visible to the naked eye. While MC FOOD and Mediterran agreed to destroy the product, the company Delfin refused and requested a review of the FVA’s decision of 8 March 2024, which had ordered the immediate cessation of sales and the destruction or return of the product to its country of origin within 60 days.<sup>105</sup>

According to the report, an internal ad-hoc commission of the FVA reconfirmed that the product was unsuitable for consumption and had to be destroyed, relying also on the opinion of the Italian expert Mario Masaro, who stated that the presence of parasites makes the fish unfit for consumption and that such products are used only as animal feed. The Court likewise rejected Delfin’s requests on 5 and 27 February, emphasizing that fish containing *Anisakis* parasites poses a risk to consumer health.<sup>106</sup>

Even after the reporting, the company did not carry out the destruction. Meanwhile, it was reported that, in contradiction to its own decisions and those of the Court, the FVA issued a public announcement stating that the fish on the market was safe for consumption. According to the reports, the announcement acknowledged the presence of worms but explained methods for “killing the larvae,” including heating the fillet for 10 minutes, implying that fish containing parasites could still be consumed. The report emphasizes that all of this was done with the knowledge of Minister Peci.<sup>107</sup>

#### 4.11. Reports of favoritism toward a friend

The media has continuously reported on the close relationship between the current Acting Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Hysen Durmishi, and the owners of one of the construction companies, “Bageri.” Moreover, reports have repeatedly indicated that this company has been the beneficiary of numerous tenders awarded by this ministry during Kurti’s government. Durmishi himself has acknowledged his social ties with the owners of this company.<sup>108</sup>

Although it had been reported that Durmishi is a former employee of this company, he denied ever having been employed there, adding that he had only helped his friend with advice.<sup>109</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> “WORM-SCANDAL: With Faton Peci’s permission, Kosovars eat worms every time they buy frozen fish.” *Vox Kosova*, 25 September 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/krimb-ineli-me-lejen-e-fatone-pecit-kosovaret-hane-krimba-sa-herë-blejne-peshk-te-ngrire/>)

<sup>105</sup> “WORM-SCANDAL: With Faton Peci’s permission, Kosovars eat worms every time they buy frozen fish.” *Vox Kosova*, 25 September 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/krimb-ineli-me-lejen-e-fatone-pecit-kosovaret-hane-krimba-sa-herë-blejne-peshk-te-ngrire/>)

<sup>106</sup> “WORM-SCANDAL: With Faton Peci’s permission, Kosovars eat worms every time they buy frozen fish.” *Vox Kosova*, 25 September 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/krimb-ineli-me-lejen-e-fatone-pecit-kosovaret-hane-krimba-sa-herë-blejne-peshk-te-ngrire/>)

<sup>107</sup> “KRIMB-INELI Me lejen e Faton Pecit, kosovarët hanë krimba sa herë blejnë peshk të ngrirë”. *Vox Kosova*. 25 Shtator 2025. (Shih linkun: <https://voxxosova.com/krimb-ineli-me-lejen-e-fatone-pecit-kosovaret-hane-krimba-sa-herë-blejne-peshk-te-ngrire/>).

<sup>108</sup> “Facts for the Special Prosecution: Hysen Durmishi rewards his former employers with millions of euros.” *Oath for Justice*, 8 January 2025. (See link: <https://paparaci.com/477607/fakte-per-prokurorine-speciale-hysen-durmishi-shperblen-me-miliona-euro-ish-punedhenesit-e-tij/>)

<sup>109</sup> “Facts for the Special Prosecution: Hysen Durmishi rewards his former employers with millions of euros.” *Oath for Justice*, 8 January 2025. (See link: <https://paparaci.com/477607/fakte-per-prokurorine-speciale-hysen-durmishi-shperblen-me-miliona-euro-ish-punedhenesit-e-tij/>)



In 2021, the media reported that the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESP) had awarded a tender worth over 1 million euros to the company “Bageri” for summer and winter maintenance of national and regional roads in the Prishtina 1 area for the 2021–2022 period. The company “Bageri,” together with other operators, had applied for three lots of the re-opened tender on 31 May 2021. Meanwhile, “Bageri” and another company, “A.B.C.,” shortly before winning this tender, had also secured another contract from the same ministry for additional works in the project for the rehabilitation of regional roads in the area “Gërlic e Epërme – Shtërpçë – Brezovicë and Road 210 Brezovicë – Ski Center.”<sup>110</sup>

According to reports in 2023, regarding the tender for the Podujevë–Prishtinë road works, specifically for Lot 2, 17 companies had competed. However, the group of economic operators “Bageri,” “Asfalti,” and “El Bau” was declared the winner with an offer of 8.6 million euros, even though their bid was not the lowest. Seven companies with lower prices were eliminated on the grounds that they did not meet the tender criteria. Meanwhile, Durmishi, who has friendly ties with the owner of the company Bageri, denied any influence on the process, emphasizing that tenders are managed by the Procurement Office. However, he himself had affixed his signature to the document that would be submitted to the contracting authority.<sup>111</sup> One day prior, the company ‘Dio Bes SH.P.K,’ run by the brother of Bageri’s owner, had been declared the winner together with another company for the rehabilitation and asphaltting of the regional road Shipashnicë–Desivjocë–Tërstenë.<sup>112</sup>

Meanwhile, in 2024, Hysen Durmishi was summoned by the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo regarding the signing of the contract for the same road. On social media, he expressed surprise at this summons, calling it meaningless. He also complained that the Prosecution was not addressing the cases he himself had submitted for investigation and requested that all cases be handled with the same level of attention.<sup>113</sup>

Furthermore, it was reported that on 27 December 2024, the Ministry of Infrastructure awarded 4.2 million euros to the company “Bageri” for the construction of the Kishnicë-Bresalc segment as part of the Gjilan highway. This company was reported to have been declared the winner in a consortium with the company “EL BAU SH.P.K.,” even though the price was hundreds of thousands of euros higher than that of other companies that had competed in this tender.<sup>114</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> “Hysen Durmishi’s former chief receives another tender in the Ministry of Infrastructure, this time worth over 1 million euros.” *Reporteri*, 1 July 2021. (See link: <https://reporteri.net/lajme/ish-shefi-i-hysen-durmishit-merr-nje-tjeter-tender-ne-ministri-te-infrastruktures-kete-here-ne-vlere-mbi-1-milione-euro/>)

<sup>111</sup> “Hysen Durmishi personally awards the €8.6 million contract to his friend.” *Buletini Ekonomik*, 22 June 2023. (See link: <https://buletiniekonomik.com/2023/06/hysen-durmishi-ia-dhuron-me-dore-te-veten-kontraten-8-6-milione-e-dosit-te-tij/>)

<sup>112</sup> “Facts for the Special Prosecution: Hysen Durmishi rewards his former employers with millions of euros.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 8 January 2025. (See link: <https://paparaci.com/477607/fakte-per-prokurorine-speciale-hysen-durmishi-shperblen-me-miliona-euro-ish-punedhenesit-e-tij/>)

<sup>113</sup> “Contract for the Prishtinë–Podujevë road: Special Prosecution summons Hysen Durmishi for an interview.” *Nacionale*. (See link: <https://nacionale.com/politike/kontrata-per-rugen-prishtine-podujeve-prokuroria-speciale-fton-per-intervistim-hysen-durmishin>)

<sup>114</sup> “Facts for the Special Prosecution: Hysen Durmishi rewards his former employers with millions of euros.” *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 8 January 2025. (See link: <https://paparaci.com/477607/fakte-per-prokurorine-speciale-hysen-durmishi-shperblen-me-miliona-euro-ish-punedhenesit-e-tij/>)

## 4.12. Suspicions of Exploiting Employment for Favors

### 4.12.1 Employment in Prishtina WSCC and KEC

In August 2025, it was reported that the ruling party had employed its activists in the public enterprise “Prishtina WSCC.” The report published the names of those hired and their connections to the ruling party, noting that it involved over 30 individuals.<sup>115</sup>

The report linked the employment to Valon Prebreza, who had been appointed Head of the Unit for Monitoring Public Enterprises and was running for mayor of Fushë Kosova in the 2025 Local Elections. It was also reported that he had not provided a response regarding the matter.<sup>116</sup>

Meanwhile, another report raised suspicions that the same person was involved in the employment of 70 activists in the Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEC). The report suggested that there had been pressure on the KEC Board to establish a Physical Security Department within the corporation, which would then open the way for new recruitment competitions. Through these, workers who had previously provided services to KEC via private operators were expected to be integrated as internal staff of the corporation. Furthermore, it was reported that the same individual had exerted influence over the structuring of the recruitment committees.<sup>117</sup>

Meanwhile, the names of those employed through this recruitment process were also mentioned, appearing in photographs with Prebreza or being considered connected to him. In fact, it was reported that some of the employees had publicly referred to Prebreza as the person who had facilitated their hiring.<sup>118</sup>

### 4.12.2. Employment of Investigators’ Wives

Another case concerns the reported employment of investigators’ wives in the Ministry of Agriculture, headed by Faton Peci.<sup>119</sup> According to media reports, at the time when Acting Minister Peci was under investigation for several corruption cases, the wives of the investigators handling his cases were employed in the subordinate institutions of the ministry in question.<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> “Floods in the Waterworks: Vetëvendosje hires over 30 people in a single enterprise.” *Vox Kosova*, 25 August 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/militantokracia-vetevendosje-puneson-mbi-30-veta-vetem-ne-nje-ndermarrije/>)

<sup>116</sup> “Floods in the Waterworks: Vetëvendosje hires over 30 people in a single enterprise.” *Vox Kosova*, 25 August 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/militantokracia-vetevendosje-puneson-mbi-30-veta-vetem-ne-nje-ndermarrije/>)

<sup>117</sup> Endrit D. “CRIME IN KEC: Around 70 activists were employed through Valon Prebreza.” *Vox Kosova*, 28 September 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/krimi-ne-kek-permes-valon-prebrezes-u-punesuan-rreth-70-militante/>)

<sup>118</sup> Endrit D. “CRIME IN KEC: Around 70 activists were employed through Valon Prebreza.” *Vox Kosova*, 28 September 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/krimi-ne-kek-permes-valon-prebrezes-u-punesuan-rreth-70-militante/>)

<sup>119</sup> Endrit D. “SILENCE WITH A CONTRACT: The Wives of Three Investigators Who Had Pursued Peci Are Employed in the Ministry of Agriculture.” *Vox Kosova*. 18 September 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/heshtje-me-kontrate-tre-hetuesve-qe-kishin-ndjekur-pecin-u-punesohen-grate-ne-ministrine-e-bujqesise/>)

<sup>120</sup> Endrit D. “SILENCE WITH A CONTRACT: The Wives of Three Investigators Who Had Pursued Peci Are Employed in the Ministry of Agriculture.” *Vox Kosova*. 18 September 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/heshtje-me-kontrate-tre-hetuesve-qe-kishin-ndjekur-pecin-u-punesohen-grate-ne-ministrine-e-bujqesise/>)

The report states that the wife of investigator P.K. was employed at the Kosovo Forestry Agency, which operates under the Ministry of Agriculture, headed by Faton Peci. She was appointed as Budget and Finance Officer in February 2024.<sup>121</sup>

Also, in this Agency, the wife of another investigator (F.H.) was reported to have been employed as a Legal Officer. Meanwhile, the wife of another investigator (G.Z.) was reported to have been employed at the Food and Veterinary Agency as a Phytosanitary Inspector.<sup>122</sup>

## 5. Lack of Cooperation and Institutional Disregard

The lack of cooperation by high-ranking government officials with judicial authorities constitutes one of the most serious forms of institutional disregard.

Such behavior undermines the rule of law and creates the impression that government officials are above the law. In cases where justice system institutions initiate investigations or bring charges related to corruption involving government actors, according to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the government is obliged to cooperate with judicial authorities. This cooperation includes informing institutions in cases of suspected corruption and responding to requests from justice system bodies for access to all necessary information.<sup>123</sup>

### 5.1. Failure of Kurti to Appear before the Kosovo Special Prosecution (KSP)

The case that best illustrates the lack of institutional cooperation and disregard for judicial decisions is that of Prime Minister Kurti in relation to the summons from the Prosecution to provide testimony in the state reserves case.

On December 10, 2024, Kurti was summoned by the Kosovo Special Prosecution (KSP) to be interviewed as a witness regarding the state reserves scandal.<sup>124</sup> The Government spokesperson, Përparim Kryeziu, and Deputy Prime Minister Besnik Bislimi, linked this summons to the election campaign.<sup>125</sup> Meanwhile, Kurti did not appear before the KSP due to an official trip<sup>126</sup>, instead requesting that the justice authorities interview him at the Prime Minister's office.<sup>127</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> Endrit D. "SILENCE WITH A CONTRACT: The wives of three investigators who had pursued Peci are employed in the Ministry of Agriculture." Vox Kosova. 18 September 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/heshtje-me-kontrate-tre-hetuesve-qe-kishin-ndjekur-pecin-u-punesohen-grate-ne-ministrine-e-bujqesise/>)

<sup>122</sup> Endrit D. "SILENCE WITH A CONTRACT: The wives of three investigators who had pursued Peci are employed in the Ministry of Agriculture." Vox Kosova. 18 September 2025. (See link: <https://voxxosova.com/heshtje-me-kontrate-tre-hetuesve-qe-kishin-ndjekur-pecin-u-punesohen-grate-ne-ministrine-e-bujqesise/>)

<sup>123</sup> United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). (See link: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/brussels/UN\\_Convention\\_Against\\_Corruption.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/brussels/UN_Convention_Against_Corruption.pdf)). Article 38.

<sup>124</sup> "Kurti summoned to testify by the Special Prosecution." Radio Free Europe. December 11, 2024. (See link: <https://www.evropaelire.org/a/kurti-ftohet-te-deshmoje-nga-prokuroria-speciale/33236448.htm>)

<sup>125</sup> "Kurti summoned to testify by the Special Prosecution." Radio Free Europe. December 11, 2024. (See link: <https://www.evropaelire.org/a/kurti-ftohet-te-deshmoje-nga-prokuroria-speciale/33236448.htm>)

<sup>126</sup> "Kurti abroad, does not appear for an interview at the Special Prosecution." Betimi për Drejtësi. December 16, 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/kurti-jashte-vendit-nuk-paraqitet-per-intervistim-ne-prokurorine-speciale/>)

<sup>127</sup> "Kurti on the Special Prosecution summons: Let them come to the Prime Ministry to interview me." Betimi për Drejtësi. December 24, 2024. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/kurti-per-ftesen-e-prokurorise-speciale-te-vijne-ne-kryeministri-te-me-intervistojne/>)

Later, on February 19, 2025, the court accepted a request to order Kurti to appear and testify before the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo.<sup>128</sup> On the other hand, on February 28, 2025, the Prime Minister's Office requested the court to oblige the prosecution to interview Kurti at his office.<sup>129</sup> However, it was reported on February 28, 2025, that the court, through a decision dated February 21, had already obligated Kurti to give his testimony at the SPRK<sup>130</sup>. Regarding reports about this court decision, the Government spokesperson stated that they were not based on any new response from the Court, but rather on an earlier notice from it.<sup>131</sup> He also emphasized that this court statement was being used to misinform, creating the false impression that the decision to summon Kurti came after a response from the Prime Minister's Office.<sup>132</sup>

The court decision obliging Kurti to testify at the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK) was not complied with by him. In fact, he announced that he would attend the groundbreaking ceremony of a kindergarten in Gjilan at the very time when he was supposed to testify at the SPRK, according to the court's decision.<sup>133</sup>

On the other hand, although Kurti did not appear to give testimony at the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK) despite the court's decision, the prosecution stated that they had not had any communication with Kurti but were awaiting his appearance.<sup>134</sup>

In the wake of these developments, the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC) and the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor (OCSF) expressed encouragement and support for the Special Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK) in carrying out its legal duties and responsibilities, emphasizing that *"the enforcement of the law cannot be misinterpreted according to the tastes, interests, and daily needs of the Acting Prime Minister, by making statements outside the fundamental principles of the rule of law in the Republic of Kosovo."*<sup>135</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> Flamur K. "The Prosecution submits a request to the Court to order Kurti to appear and testify before the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK)". *Betimi për Drejtësi*. February 19, 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejttesi.com/prokuroria-paraqet-kerkese-ne-gjykate-per-te-urdheruar-kurtin-te-paraqitet-per-te-deshmuar-ne-psrk/>)

<sup>129</sup> <https://betimiperdrejttesi.com/zyra-e-kryeministrit-kerkon-nga-gjykata-te-obligoje-prokurorine-qe-kurti-te-intervistohet-ne-zyren-e-tij/>

<sup>130</sup> "The Prime Minister's Office asks the court to oblige the Prosecution to interview Kurti in his office." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 28 February 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejttesi.com/gjykata-e-obligon-kurtin-te-jape-deshmi-si-deshmitar-ne-prokurorine-speciale-javen-e-ardhshme/>)

<sup>131</sup> "Government Spokesperson: We are waiting for a response from the court regarding Kurti's testimony." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 28 February 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejttesi.com/zedhenesi-i-qeverise-po-presim-pergjigje-nga-gjykata-per-deshmine-e-kurtit/>)

<sup>132</sup> "Government Spokesperson: We are waiting for a response from the court regarding Kurti's testimony." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, 28 February 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejttesi.com/zedhenesi-i-qeverise-po-presim-pergjigje-nga-gjykata-per-deshmine-e-kurtit/>)

<sup>133</sup> "At the time he was obligated by the Court to testify at the Prosecution, it was announced that Kurti would lay the foundation stone of a kindergarten in Gjilan." *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 03 March 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejttesi.com/ne-kohen-kur-eshte-i-obliguar-nga-gjykata-te-deshmoje-ne-prokurori-paralajmerohet-se-kurti-do-vendos-gurthemelin-e-cerdhes-ne-gjilan/>)

<sup>134</sup> Albijona H. "Prosecutor says they are waiting for the witness, Kurti in Gjilan says the Prosecution is fighting the Government." *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 04 March 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejttesi.com/pavarerisht-urdhrit-nga-gjykata-kurti-sparaqitet-per-te-deshmuar-ne-prokurori/>)

<sup>135</sup> "KPC and the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor: The enforcement of the law cannot be misinterpreted according to the tastes, interests, and daily needs of the Acting Prime Minister." *Betimi për Drejtësi*. March 4, 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejttesi.com/kpk-dhe-zkpsh-zbatimi-i-ligjit-nuk-mund-te-keqinterpretohet-sipas-shijeve-interesave-dhe-nevojave-ditore-te-kryeministrit-ne-detyre/>)

On April 2, 2025, when Kurti was asked about the court fine for his failure to appear before the SPRK, he told reporters that people should not be upset when he is occasionally fined.<sup>136</sup> Meanwhile, on April 18, 2025, it was reported that Kurti's appeal against the 250€ fine for refusing to testify before the Prosecutor's Office had been rejected.<sup>137</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> Flamur K. "Asked about the court fine, Kurti: Sometimes they punish me, but don't worry yourselves." Betimi për Drejtësi. April 2, 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/pyetet-per-gjoben-e-gjykates-kurti-me-denojne-mua-nganjehere-por-mos-u-merzitni-ju/>)

<sup>137</sup> Flamur K. "Kurti's appeal against the €250 fine for refusing to testify at the Prosecutor's Office is rejected." Betimi për Drejtësi. April 18, 2025. (See link: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/refuzohet-ankesa-e-kurtit-per-gjoben-prej-250-eurosh-per-refuzim-te-deshmise-ne-prokurori/>)





