

Appendix 13

NATION BUILDING AS A PRETEXT TO CREATION OF MONO-ETHNIC KOSOVO Fr. Sava's letter to Washington Post

Tuesday, October 22, 2002

From: "Miroslav Antic" <miroslav@antic.org>
Date: Fri, 25 Oct 2002 16:30:48 -0400
Subject: [sorabia] Fr. Sava's letter to Washington Post
Reply-To: sorabia@yahoogroups.com

Dear editor,

I would strongly disagree with Mr. Rubin on his position on Kosovo. The work of the UN Mission in Kosovo after the war in 1999 has been more a failure than success, especially in the eyes of Kosovo Serbs. Three years after the war Kosovo society is still based on ethnic discrimination and the lack of basic rights and freedoms for Serbs and non-Albanians. More than 200,000 Serb refugees still cannot return to their homes while thousands of Serb homes, destroyed after the war, lie in ruins. I live in a monastery which is only 10 minutes away from the town of Decani. There I cannot buy anything, I am not free to visit a doctor, when I travel I need a military escort. I am not a free citizen in my own country. Serbs who still live in their isolated enclaves do not have normal education for their children and cannot have employment in Albanian inhabited areas. Probably the worst disappointment for Kosovo Serbs is continuation of desecration of Serbian Orthodox churches and monasteries. More than 100 churches have been desecrated or destroyed after the war, despite the UN and NATO presence. Even old Christian cemeteries are not spared by Moslem Albanians.

In short, things are not essentially improving for all citizens of Kosovo, despite some progress in general reconstruction of infrastructure and institutions. In fact, only Kosovo Albanians feel true benefits from the international mission. Two weeks ago a group of elderly Serbs was attacked in the city of Pec by a crowd of Kosovo Albanians. The hooligans hurled stones and petrol-bombs not only on Serbs who were waiting to get their pensions, but also on Italian and Spanish peacekeepers who were protecting them. This incident is not an aberration, but rather a general symptom of anti-Serb feelings among Kosovo Albanians. Society which is still based on ethnic discrimination, harassment of elderly people and disrespect towards Christian holy shrines is not a success, but rather a source of political destabilization in the Balkans.

We expect the U.S. Administration to support equally all communities and not to allow building of a society which would be tailored for one ethnic group only. This is completely opposite to all values on which American society is established.

Fr. Sava (Janjic)
Serbian Orthodox Monastery of Decani
Information Service of the Diocese of Raska and Prizren
Kosovo and Metohija
<http://www.kosovo.com/rep241002.html#letter>

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**SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH REQUESTS FROM UNMIK RECONSTRUCTION
OF ALL CHURCHES DESTROYED UNDER ITS RULE**

To: <sorabia@yahoogroups.com>
From: "angelina markovic" <ninam@bitsyu.net>
Date: Tue, 19 Nov 2002 20:05:07 +0100
Subject: [sorabia] Fw: ERP KIM SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH REQUESTS FROM UNMIK
RECONSTRUCTION OF ALL CHURCHES DESTROYED UNDER ITS RULE
Reply-To: sorabia@yahoogroups.com

SERBIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF RASKA AND PRIZREN
KOSOVO AND METOHIJA
INFORMATION SERVICE

<http://www.kosovo.com/ljubovo.jpg>

(Photo) Ruins of the St. Basil's church at Ljubovo, near Istok

ERP KIM Info-Service

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH WILL REQUEST FROM UNMIK
AND KFOR RECONSTRUCTION OF ALL POST-WAR
DESTROYED HOLY SITES

UNMIK and Kosovo Government have moral obligation to fund reconstruction of holy sites because they were destroyed under their rule Orthodox Christianity in Kosovo is still severely discriminated religion which makes the province the shame of civilized Europe GRACANICA November 19, 2002 Serbian Orthodox Church would request from UNMIK and Kosovo Government to provide funds for reconstruction for all post-war destroyed Serbian Orthodox churches and monasteries, it was said at the meeting of Diocesan council. UNMIK and international community have moral obligation to support rebuilding of these sites because they were destroyed after the war, under the rule of UN Mission in Kosovo and new Kosovo institutions, said Bishop Artemije. Although UN Resolution 1244 made very clear provisions that the UN/NATO Mission should prevent acts of violence and bring the rule of law and order, Serbian Orthodox Church has been exposed to barbarous destructions after the conflict in 1999 with 110 destroyed or severely damaged churches. So far UNMIK and international donors have done absolutely nothing to help reconstruction of these sites although in the same time all mosques damaged during the war were reconstructed and many new ones were built by ample funding from Islamic countries. Such discrimination on ethnic and religious basis in the UN administered province is without any precedent and makes many Kosovo Serbs think that UN Mission in Kosovo has arrived only to help ethnic Albanians and Muslims. At the same time the Church would urgently request more efficient protection of all remaining holy sites. In the last several months many churches have remained unprotected which encouraged Albanian extremist to desecrate dozens of cemeteries and churches. This summer additional damage was found on many churches, especially in the western and southern part of the province. The Church is specially alarmed because of continued desecration of cemeteries which have become public garbage dumps. This is widely tolerated by Albanian municipal councils and UNMIK administrators.

Yesterday's decision of SRSG Mr. Steiner to allocate certain funds from Kosovo Consolidating Fund for the repair of the church in Djurakovac is the first encouraging step that UNMIK is ready to take responsibility for the endangered Christian cultural heritage. It is generally believed in the Serbian Orthodox Church that if Albanian dominated municipalities were obliged to provide at least part of financial support for reconstruction of destroyed Serbian Orthodox Churches, extremists will have to think twice before they blow up the next church because they will burden their own community. Additional problem is the KFOR protection which is needed for the reconstructed churches and monasteries. So far there has been a very rigid position that KFOR would not be able to provide security for all the churches, which was the reason that not a single one has been reconstructed after the war. The

most painful example is the monastery of Zociste in the German zone of responsibility. After many attempts to get the support of Brig. Gen. Wolf-Dieter Skodowsky Bishop Artemije was finally informed by the German general that Albanians do not want reconstruction of the monastery and that KFOR does not have enough troops for its protection. Such a defeatist and openly pro-Albanian position is seriously compromising the position of KFOR and openly encourages extremists to prevent reconstruction of destroyed Serbian Orthodox churches and the return of Serbian refugees.

Finally, Serbian Orthodox Church will initiate a wide action to inform all relevant political and cultural forums in the world about the post-war destruction of its Christian heritage in Kosovo Province.

With 110 churches destroyed after the war, under the UN and NATO rule, Kosovo has become a part of world in which Christianity is severely discriminated and Christian clergy and faithful do not enjoy a minimum of religious freedom. Similar examples can only be found in some Moslem fundamentalist societies which makes the example of Kosovo a shame of civilized world and Europe.

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<http://www.serbia.sr.gov.yu/news/2002-11/18/326720.html>

SERBIAN GOVERNMENT

Coordinating Centre calls for protection of Serbian sacred sites in Kosovo

November 18, 2002

Pristina, Nov. 17, 2002

President of the Coordinating Centre for Kosovo-Metohija Nebojsa Covic condemned in the harshest terms the latest destruction of Orthodox churches in Djurakovac and Ljubovo. Covic told the Tanjug news agency that the two churches had been under the protection of Spanish KFOR soldiers until two months ago, but were removed under the unfounded pretext that safety in Kosovo had improved.

"Two Serbian churches were torn down in just one night. Over 138 Orthodox objects in Kosovo-Metohija have been torn down, with not a single perpetrator caught, interrogated or jailed. What kind of safety are we talking about here?" Covic said, adding that such crimes deserve the severest condemnation. He announced that he will urge UNMIK head Michael Steiner to bring back KFOR troops responsible for guarding Serbian sacred sites in Kosovo-Metohija. Covic added that safety in Kosovo has deteriorated since the elections, and that Belgrade will request that KFOR again start guarding Serbian pupils who live in enclaves and need to be protected on their way to school. Covic criticized Kosovo authorities for "acting" that security in the province was high so that they could send "positive reports" to their head offices and the public. "It is obvious from looking at these typical problems that (the authorities) have achieved zero results. Without solving the problem of safety, it is impossible to discuss any future plans," Covic said.

In two separate incidents, bombs exploded at the Svih Srpskih Svetaca Church in Djurakovac and the Church of St. Vasilija Ostroskog in Ljubovo, in the Istok municipality. The bomb almost completely destroyed the St. Vasilija Ostroskog Church, sparing only its front façade. Coalition Povratak (Return) caucus in the Kosovo parliament whip Rada Trajkovic and the Bishop of Raska and Prizren Artemije also condemned the attack in separate statements to the Beta news agency. "We saw this coming when KFOR withdrew its troops guarding our holy sites. This latest incident shows that they don't know their enemy," said the Bishop.

UNMIK head Michael Steiner and Kosovo Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi visited the two churches and said that KFOR will examine the possibility of taking additional security measures. Several officials remained at the sites where the explosions occurred to make sure that the reconstruction of one of the churches would begin as soon as Monday, UNMIK reported.

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 TV Novi Sad

Rada Trajkovic Will Demand Restoration Of Monasteries

Pristina, 18 Nov (TV NS)

The chief of the Parliamentarian Club of "Povratak" Coalition, Rada Trajkovic, stated that she will demand from Kofi Annan better safety, faster return and integration of Serbian community into all the social developments in Kosovo. Before the talks with Annan, which starting in 1800 hrs on Monday,

Trajkovic said that after Saturday's demolishing of the churches in the Istok municipality, she will demand from Annan that all Orthodox monasteries demolished after the arrival of the peacekeepers in Kosovo be restored.

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Tanjug - Belgrade

Churches In Ljubovo Selo, Djurakovac Mined In Expert Way Prizren, Nov 18 (Tanjug) - UNMIK police officials said on Monday that the Church of St Vasilije Ostroski in Ljubovo Selo near Istok had been destroyed and the Church of All Serbian Saints in nearby Djurakovac had been damaged in explosions on the night between Saturday and Sunday. According to KFOR commander Gen Fabio Mini, the attacks had been carried out in a professional way, since the explosives had been planted at sensitive spots with the aim of completely destroying the buildings.

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ERP KIM Info-service

SNIPERS TARGET WOMAN PHYSICIAN

Unknown attackers with sniper rifles open fire on Dr. Jelica Krcmarevic of Klokot - "I narrowly escaped certain death"

GRACANICA

November 18, 2002

Today at approximately 12:00 hours unknown attackers with sniper rifles opened fire on a hospital vehicle driven by Dr. Jelica Krcmarevic (51), a physician from the village of Klokot, near Vitina. As Dr. Krcmarevic was driving her vehicle, clearly identified by a red cross, on the road from the village of Mogila toward Kosovska Vitina, unknown attackers fired several shots from a sniper rifle which damaged the vehicle but missed the physician. Dr. Krcmarevic regularly visits patients in Serb villages in the Vitina area and is horrified that a person with a sniper rifle would dare to open fire on a hospital vehicle. Dr. Krcmarevic lodged a protest with UNMIK authorities following the incident.

The Diocese of Raska-Prizren and Kosovo-Metohija most strongly condemns this attack which again confirms that Serbs lack fundamental security and freedom of movement, even when they are in a vehicle identified by a red cross.

<http://www.kosovo.com/cruckosovoy.jpg>

Information on some Serbian Orthodox churches destroyed by Kosovo Albanian terrorists after the war, in the UN and NATO presence

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Disclaimer:

(The views expressed by the authors of newspaper articles or other texts which are not official communiqués or news reports by the Diocese are their own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Serbian Orthodox Church)

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Information Service of the Diocese of Raska and Prizren
Kosovo and Metohija
erpkim@gmx.net

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