

Resolution on Kosovo and Metohija

For the Serbian people, the disputed Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija is the historical heart and cradle of their national and religious consciousness. It was here that the ancient Serbian state was founded and centered, and it was here that the Serbian people under their holy Prince Lazar laid down their lives “for the honorable cross and golden freedom” on the Field of Blackbirds in 1389. They did this not merely for themselves, but for all of Christian Europe, which was threatened by the Turkish onslaught. It is in Kosovo and Metohija that the great historical religious and cultural centers of the Serbian people were built, and it is where they have remained not only as witnesses to the Serbian history and character of Kosovo through centuries of oppression, but also as seats of the living faith and traditions of the Serbian people.

The international community is now orchestrating the final chapter in this tragedy as they force negotiations which are aimed at complete independence for Kosovo and Metohija. There is no evidence to suggest that an independent, Albanian-led Kosovo will ever protect the human rights of all its inhabitants, and that the great cultural and religious heritage of the Serbian people, including such UNESCO protected universally recognized artistic treasures of world-wide significance as the monasteries and churches of the Patriarchate of Pec, Gracanica, Bogorodica Ljeviska and the Serbian Seminary in Prizren, and Visoki Decani, will fall prey to Albanian nationalism and uni-culturalism. Moreover, many in the Albanian-led provisional government are products of the terrorist Kosovo Liberation.

Under their leadership Kosovo has become a center for trafficking in drugs, arms, explosives and human beings, posing a continuing threat to Europe as a whole.

As Serbian Orthodox Christians of the United States and Canada, we call on our countries to do more than pay lip service to the ideals of multiculturalism and security for all people in Kosovo and Metohija.

Therefore, we support the position of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Serbian government that Kosovo and Metohija remain a part of Serbia with broad autonomy. To dismiss the historical Serbian sovereignty over Kosovo and Metohija is an injustice and crime before God. We call on the world community to ensure that Kosovo and Metohija will become once again a multicultural society with room and respect for the human rights of all its inhabitants, allowing for the return of all displaced persons and with a determination to restore and protect the living monuments of its long cultural and religious history.