

## UPF Kosovo's conference on: Scanderbeg, Freedom and Peace

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On January 30th, 2018, the Universal Peace Federation of Kosovo organized a conference with the theme: "Scanderbeg, Freedom and Peace." The purpose of this conference was to evaluate the figure of Scanderbeg on the occasion of declaring year 2018 as the year of Scanderbeg, that's because of 550 years of his passing to the Spiritual World. The event was held in one of the main halls at hotel "Sirius" in Pristina.

The participants at the conference were Senior Leaders from Kosovo as: Chairman of the Assembly of Kosovo (2007-2014) Jakup Krasniqi. Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Mr. Skender Reçica. Ambassador of Albania in Kosovo H. E. Qemal Minxhozi. President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification for Southeast Europe. Mr. Jack Corley and about 100 other participants, including former PM's, Art and Media people, NGO leaders, and so on.

The first session started at 14:00 and its moderator was Mr. Daut Demaku, Vice Chairman of the Governing Board of the Universal Peace Federation – Kosovo. He welcomed the audience in the hall and added that the Ambassadors for Peace wanted to commemorate in this jubilee year great Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu. The first to greet the event was H.E. Jakup Krasniqi.

His Excellency Jakup Krasniqi welcomed those present and wished success to the Assembly. Then he reflected on Scanderbeg's story, pointing out there's no doubt from anyone that Gjergj Kastrioti Scanderbeg is one of the most glorious figures in our history. When our nation has been more in need, Scanderbeg has been in the service of his country, not only when he lived but also later. H. E. Krasniqi closed his speech saying that Scanderbeg was the greatest ambassador in history and quoting a saying: "Searching for war is madness, but responding to it when others impose it is wisdom".

Then Mr. Demaku gave the word to another honoured guest Mr. Qemal Minxhozi Ambassador of Albania in Kosovo. After greeting the participants, he said that Scanderbeg, in war and in the Peace, has given Peace messages to all those who lived at that time and for generations after him. We are proud that Albania and Kosovo have declared 2018 as Scanderbeg's year. Scanderbeg has left behind a story that has been studied by us and many European historians who wrote that he was the 2nd largest strategist at that time but also the man who brought peace throughout the region in a troubled time.

Then Mr. Jack Corley gave a welcoming speech, saying that he was very honoured to be present at the conference and that he had heard about Scanderbeg and have seen the statue of our National Hero in London.

He spoke about the roots of Universal Peace Federation, and brought the incomparable example of Rev. Moon who managed to forgive, accept, and love his enemy. He said that everywhere we see heroes, we see also enemies for other nations. The philosophy of UPF is to educate each of us that we have a common root, God and we are equal. If we have the love of God within ourselves, we can overcome

hatred and love our enemies. In the end he said: "It is easy to love a friend, but a challenge is to love the enemy."

Then Prof. Dr. Sabit Sylva made a statement on the Ottoman invasion period and the period of Scanderbeg. He said that Scanderbeg managed to unite all the Albanian vilayets at that time by organizing very well all the resources and contacts. Scanderbeg became a symbol of freedom and independence not only for Albanians but also in European level.



Mrs. Naxhije Doci after greeting all the participants, recited the poem for Scanderbeg, titled: "Memorandum of Pride in Pristina" written by her.

Mr. Demaku invited the following speaker Mr. Ali Laçej, Coordinator of the Albanian Peace Council, who among other things emphasized that we were led by great figures, Scanderbeg, who confirmed that it does not matter the number of soldiers to win the war, and Mother Teresa who stated that being wealthy it is not necessary to build hospitals. They both had a common strategy, the ability to make an assembly, and in the assembly, they cultivated Honour and educated Peace. What we are doing to Skanderbeg today is Honour, we are honouring him. Scanderbeg won because he held the highest values. He did not prevail but he led and brought the highest value to the Assembly, and that is the same what we are trying to do here today, to share the values of UPF.



Then Mr. Hydajet Hyseni, Chairman of the Council of the Universal Peace Federation (2008 – 2013) gave a short message. He welcomed the participants in the name of Peace. He said that we owe our peace to our ancestors, owe it to our children and to future generations. But above all, we owe our peace to our friends and in particular thanked Mr. Jack Corley and the UPF friends at world level that have always supported us. For us, friends are precious, President Clinton has left us a message: "We have won the war together, together we should win the Peace".

Then Mr. Demaku invited the last speaker of the first session, Mr. Gaqo Apostoli, who said that Scanderbeg is not only our National Hero, but many other European Nations have recognized him as a heroic figure.

At the end of the session, 4 people got the certificate of Peace Ambassador. Mr. Jack Corley gave the certificates to the new ambassadors, Skënder Reçica, Minister of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. H. E. Qemal Minxhozi, Ambassador of Albania in Kosovo. Prof. Dr. Sabit Sylva, Director of the Pristina Institute of History and Mr. Avni Nuha, Kosovo Cycling Director.

The first session was closed with a joint picture of panellists and new ambassadors. Then the participants were invited for a break and to enjoy coffee and tea.

The second session was the UPF Assembly and Election of presiding council of UPF Kosovo. This session was moderated by Mr. Binak Ulaj Member of UPF Council. Panel members were Ms. Hatixhe Hoxha, Chairwoman of UPF, Ms. Nafiye Gas, Member of UPF Council, Imam Rexhep Lushta member of UPF Council and Mrs. Savjola Konja director of FFWPU in Pristina.

Mrs. Hatixhe Hoxha wholeheartedly welcomed all the participants who had shared their precious time to be together in this important and significant activity for our nation. She also thanked the members of UPF Council for the great contributions and work they have done together during these three years. Ms. Hatixhe presented a presentation with pictures to the Assembly about all the activities that were held during the last 2 years.

Then Ms. Savjola Konja continued with the presentation of other activities, organized with the youth of FFWPU, and she encouraged the participants to be actively supportive to Peace in small or big things by working together. This is the only way we can achieve Peace.

Then Imam Rexhep Lushta presented the Assembly with the practical functioning of UPF Council and invited attendees to vote. Media was present during the event and broadcasted it directly in two channels. The session was closed with greetings and a joint picture.