

Serb Sheriffs in Action

By Xhavit Shala

Doctor Marek Valdenberg, a Polish political sciences scholar¹, and one of the advisors of the Serb party on Kosova status negotiations,² said last week in an interview for Marko Lopushina,³ editor in chief of the Serb daily Nedeljni Telegraf, that “the United States and the EU want a new Islamic country, the Greater Albania, a country which within ten years could become “their deputy sheriff,” that is, their logistic and political base of support for the occupation of the Middle and Near East.”

In his interview, the Polish researcher speaks openly against the resolution of the Albanian issue in the Balkans and in favor of sacrificing it for the sake of Serb interests. The interview is permeated by an islamophobic spirit. The author is convinced about the existence of an international conspiracy directed against Serbia and one which promotes the idea of Greater Albania. “The disintegration of the Serbia-Montenegro Union is part of the new Western strategy for the domination of the world... By strengthening the Albanian separatists and terrorists, the United States and the EU⁴ have decided to brake up the Serbian state. Doctor Vandenberg’s statement sound very similar with the ones made by other senior Serb officials that were later charged by The Hague tribunal. Introduced by the Serb media as an expert on population and minority issues, the Polish doctor has fully exposed himself for what he really is, a Serb sheriff forced into action by his bosses in Belgrade.

“If we look at the matter from the perspective of international law, the Polish professor says, the demand of the Albanians for independence is illegal.” According to him, “there exists no international law or convention that recognizes the right to secession.”⁵ The language used is the same with that of all Serb officials, beginning with Milosevic who deprived Kosova of its autonomy to today’s so-called moderate leaders who have shown no will to resolve the matter.

The argument of the Polish professor does not stand the test of truth, because, contrary to what he says, Kosova’s mother state was Albania and not Serbia. The professor chooses to ignore the fact that while Kosova was an autonomous region, it was directly represented in the Yugoslav Federation and, like all the other republics, was entitled to

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² The article was first published in the daily "Shqip" of June 6, 2006.

³ Marko Lopusina “Stvaranje Velike Albanije izazvaće novi Balkanski rat.”
<http://www.serbianna.com/columns/lopusina/086.shtml>.

⁴ Ibid (<http://www.serbianna.com/columns/lopusina/086.shtml>) -

⁵ Ibid.

the same right to self-determination. He also must know that the right to self-determination is a universal right recognized by international conventions. For this purpose, the UN has in place a mechanism⁶ that aims at resolving territorial problems in semi-independent and autonomous regions or other territories that seek independence because of disintegration of empires or states. “Even the independence of Slovenia and Croatia from the Federative Republic of Yugoslavia is illegal,” the professor says. While continuing to put forth arguments against the dissolution and showing his love for the first Yugoslavia, the second Yugoslavia (the Serb-Montenegro union) has already been dissolved and there shall be no third Yugoslavia (a Serbia-Kosova Federation or Confederation). Very soon, all three new states that were once part of the first Yugoslavia, namely Serbia, Montenegro and Kosova will seek entry as independent states into the UN.

Doctor Marek Valdenberg seeks to blackmail the European public opinion with the allegations that an independent Kosova would threaten the stability of the Balkans, would boost the Islamic threat for Europe and risks creating a mafia states in the Balkans. “I envisage that if Kosova becomes independent in 2006, by 2010 we would have had five other wars in Europe,” the professor says. The new war in the Balkans will start with the creation of the inducement Kosova and the crystallization of the new Greater Albania Islamic state that would embark into a campaign to occupy the other Albanian populated areas in Macedonia, Montenegro and Northern Greece.” The same language of blackmail was used by Milovan Dreçun, a military analyst, in an article published by the Serb daily Glas Javnosti on March 1, 2006. “The Albanians have a strategy and a military plan to create the United States of Albania in the Balkans,”⁷ Dreçun says.

The Polish professor is concerned only with the Serb cause. He is upset by the successful political and diplomatic efforts of the Albanian factor in the Balkans to gain the rights that have been denied them for more than a century. His goal is to compromise the actions undertaken by the Albanians on the eve of the determination of the Kosova status. He is trying to build up external support to the Serb claims that the Albanians would only destabilize the Balkans.

Taking advantage of the rise of Islamophobia in the West, the Polish professor tries to portray the strengthening of the Albanian factor in the Balkans as an Islamic threat for Europe. He tries to present Serbia as a rampart that will defend Christianity against the Islamic penetration into the Balkans. “Once Kosova is stabilized as a state, Tirana will insist on unification and with it will come the creation of Greater Albania. All it would take is a referendum for a new Islamic state to be created.”⁸ The professor cannot see the

⁶ks-rek.net/Sekretariati%20i%20OKB-se%20dhe%20Sekretari%20i%20Pergjithshem.doc

⁷ Milovan Dreçun: “The Union of the Albanian States until 2010” published in “Glas Javnosti” 01.03.2006

⁸ Marek Valdenberg –Excerpts from the interview with Marko Loposhina: “Tek u drugoj fazi, kada se Kosova kao država stabilizuje, Tirana će da insistira na spajanju i stvaranju Velike Albanije. Dovoljan će biti jedan referendum dva naroda i da se takva islamska država stvori. Uz obaveznu naznaku da pravo na samoopredeljenje, otcepljenje, ali i pripajanje imaju i regioni sa albanskim stanovništvom u Makedoniji,

difference between an Islamic state and a secular one that with a proportionally large Muslim population.

Albanians have parted ways with the Islamic state ever since they broke free from the Ottoman Empire in 1912. From its creation, the Albanian state, unlike the Serb one, was a secular state with religion regulated to playing only a spiritual role. Islam, which is one of the three main religions in Albania, carries the traits of a European Islam that has never presented a threat to Europe. In spite of their size in numbers, the three religious communities in Albania have always been treated equally and considered themselves as equals. The professor also chooses to show complete disregard for the assurances provided consistently by officials in Tirana and Prishtina who have stated clearly their policy against changing the borders in the Balkans. The Greater Albania is a product of the imagination of certain Serb circles and certain sheriffs who are on their payroll.

The theory about an alleged Albanian Islamic threat for Europe goes back to older times. The Serbs have consistently used this theory to justify their continued violence against Albanians. They have used this strategy as an instrument of creating a negative image about the Albanians. This was the argument trumpeted by Milosevic when the KLA appeared on the scene. He rushed to label it as terrorist organization with Islamic links. The former Macedonian Minister of Interior, Buckovski, tried to use the same ploy when he ordered the murder of Pakistani refugees and tried to present them as mujahedins who were fighting alongside the KLA in Macedonia.⁹ The KLA in Kosova and Macedonia vigilantly guarded itself from these allegations and allowed no Islamists to penetrate their ranks. During the air raids, the KLA served as NATO's principal ally in the battlefield.

In addition to the Polish professor, another Serb sheriff is trying to blackmail Europe with the same alleged Islamic threat. The German analyst and writer Jürgen Elsässer says: "Al Qaeda is ready to finance a new war in the Balkans with the goal of not only creating a Greater Albania but a new Islamic state also. The Islamists would like to create a new Islamic confederation out of the unification of Greater Albania, Bosnia and Kosova that would bring into existence a new large Islamic state in Europe."¹⁰ As far as Mr. Elsässer is concerned, "Al Qaeda has already secured the tacit approval of the United States and the EU on this matter." Such statements deserve no comment, as it is clear that hatred of Albanians has darkened the logic of these Serb sheriffs.

Crnoj Gori i Grčkoj – objasnio nam je profesor Marek Valdenberg.
(<http://www.serbianna.com/columns/lopusina/086.shtml>.)

⁹ Former Macedonian Minister of Interior, Lube Bockovski, charged by the Hague Tribunal for Crimes against Humanity. He is charged with the murder of ten innocent Albanian citizens of the village of Lubeten near Skopje, on August of 2001, and the premeditated murder of seven foreign emigrants in the Vineyards of Rashtak in March of 2002.

¹⁰ Marko Lopušina, "Al kaida se sprema za rat na Srbiju" Nemački analitičar i pisac Jirgen Elzeser, u svojoj novoj knjizi "Džihad na Balkanu" dokazuje da su Nemačka i Amerika, preko Albanije i Bosne uvele Al kaidu u Srbiju i na Kosmet." <http://www.serbianna.com/columns/lopusina/085.shtml>

It is no coincidence that the Polish professor and the German writer have both been interviewed by the same journalist, Marko Lopushina, editor-in-chief of the Serb daily “Nedejlni Telegraf.” This journalist has often enjoyed exclusive rights to news and interviews with senior Serb Secret Services officials.¹¹ It stands to reason that he is one of the Serb sheriffs in Belgrade with ties to the same political elite that is keeping Serbia hostage. His actions only discredit the Serb servants who live in the West. In spite of all this, Albanians remain convinced that the solution they seek it is not Greater Albania. Their goal is the integration of Albania, Kosova and any other Balkan state where Albanians live into the EU as the most acceptable solution for the Albanian issue.

¹¹ Interview by Marko Loposhina of the General Ljubisha Jokić, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro.