



REPUBLIKA E KOSOVËS - PRESIDENTI
REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO - THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIKA KOSOVO - PRESEDNIK

Prishtina, November 17th, 2016

Dear, Dr. Shimon Samuels

I want to thank you for your letter dated November 15. 2016 and also thank you for your continuous cooperation with Kosovo. I highly value the work of your organization as well as your personal involvement with Kosovo. I remember fondly the inauguration of the "White Hat's Exhibition" in Prishtina, a testimony of a lasting friendship between the Jewish and the Kosovo people.

Kosovo takes pride in its rich historical, cultural and religious heritage. In order to preserve and promote this heritage, we have taken pro-active steps in many levels. Kosovo's Constitution holds references to the most important International Charters and Conventions, committed of upholding the highest standards in human rights and freedoms for all citizens of Kosovo. Our Constitution and our Laws prohibit and sanction hatred speeches and inciting of hate against any community or against any individual.

Kosovo is an active member of the Global Coalition Against Terrorism and we have been constantly praised as the leader in the region in fighting radicalism and terrorism. As part of our efforts to prevent and to sanctions extremisms and radicalism, we have taken a number of steps and we have achieved notable successes. Only last year, institutions of rule of law in Kosovo arrested and put on the trial a dozen of persons, among them some influential imams, for inciting hate and for promoting extremist and radical ideology. Last week, our security agencies, in close cooperation with their counterparts from the region and from Israel, successfully prevented a planned terrorist attack targeting the football match between Israel and Albania.

Our efforts are focused also in prevention measures. As part these efforts to promote our rich heritage, every year Kosovo organizes an international conference called "Inter-Faith Kosovo" which brings together religious leaders, academics, politicians, journalists from all over the world to discuss the dialogue between faiths. In June this years, in its 5th edition, Inter-Faith Kosovo brought together more than 300 participants from all over the world.

Kosovo continues to strive to further strengthen and promote our heritage.

Nevertheless, we remain vigilant and alerted to the possibility of new individuals penetrating Kosovo with the goal of indoctrinating and spreading radical ideologies, threatening achievements that we have made as a state and as a society.

This is why we take seriously any information about any such activities.

Therefore, I would like to thank you for raising with the Kosovo authorities the issue of selling anti-Semitic books in Prishtina. Regardless how isolated this incident might be, I reassure you that I have

urged all relevant authorities to investigate this case and take all the necessary measures to prevent spreading of hate which is in violation of the founding documents and principles of the Republic of Kosovo.

Please accept my sincere sympathies.

Sincerely

Hashim Thaçi



President of the Republic of Kosovo