

KOSOVO: A New Mosque Permission Granted

By Draško Djenović, Center 9 (www.centar9.info), 28 June 2011

Peaceful Friday-noon public prayer in Priština on June 24, ended in clashes with the police units and two people arrested. Prayer was organized as a form of protest, at one of the main crossroads of the Kosovo capital, so the traffic was blocked for hours. In this way, more than five thousand Muslim believers supported requests from their leadership to get a new mosque downtown Pristina. When the police tried to disperse the crowd and restore traffic, clashes occurred.

In the last several months, Muslim believers in Priština expressed their displeasure with the city leaders at various occasions. They are demanding a building location for a new mosque in downtown area, close to a newly built Roman Catholic Cathedral "Mother Theresa" (still not completed) and a decade old Serbian Orthodox church "Christ the Savior."

Dr. Naim Ternava, chairman of the Islamic community of Kosovo, at the earlier occasion of the public ceremony of opening of the Cathedral, shared his vision for the new mosque: "I would like that our responsible leaders follow a political vision of the US president Barack Obama, who supports building of the mosque in New York."

Latest reports from Kosovo confirm that Mayor of Priština and president of the Democratic League of Kosovo Dr. Isa Mustafa agreed with the new mosque location and building request.

„Today the municipality finally promised building permission for the new mosque, “stated Dr. Adnan Adnani, chairman of the Islamic community of Preševo (southern Serbia) for Center 9 on June 27.

Dr. Adnani explains: "There was no census in Kosovo for more than two decades. We estimate that the population is 95% of Muslim faith, but the number of mosques in Priština is so small, that even our Preševo situation looks good in comparison."

RTK video report (in Albanian) on the Friday June 24 events at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfsqobOZVw4>