

Republika e Kosovës

Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo

Qeveria - Vlada - Government Zyra e Kryeministrit - Ured Premijera - Office of the Prime Minister

> Date: 23/02/2023 Ref: 476/2023

H.E. Volodymyr Zelenskyy President of Ukraine

Dear Mr. President,

In the daily communications between the representatives of states, there are many congratulatory letters commemorating anniversaries of independence and liberation. But it is rare in history to send a letter of commendation to a President on the anniversary of his country's ongoing resistance.

Mr. President, you are at war - a war of liberation for Ukraine, for Europe and for democracy. You occupy the highest echelon of the future's history and people's sacrifice. We cannot wish you more, in terms of moral and political consciousness, than what you have already been doing for a year. You have embodied your people and their sense of freedom.

From our hearts we express our deepest sympathy and our most sincere empathy. We are two peoples who have lost many of our best citizens to the imperialist, land-grabbing designs of neighboring countries. Though we are geographically distant, with populations of very different sizes, our respective histories in the past century and today share remarkable similarities. It is in this historical likeness that our paths intersect.

Twenty-three years ago we mounted our resistance, and NATO helped us put an end to Serbia's genocidal cycle. Nineteen of the world's democracies came together to stop Serbia's genocide against our people. Now you are on the front lines of a new war that must put an end to Russia's genocide against your people, and to its imperial attempts to take over your territory. And again, democracies, members of NATO, are supporting you, as they supported us.

You are fighting to defend democracy, territorial integrity, human rights and freedoms, the right of a people and the sovereignty of a state. These values are still at stake in our region as well: Russia's main ally in the Balkans, our north-by-northeast neighbor Serbia, still harbors a thinly-veiled desire to undermine our sovereignty and take our homes. There is nothing Russia and Serbia would like more than to expand the conflict from your region to ours. Therefore, in a very real sense, your purpose is our purpose; your struggle is our struggle.

Dear Mr. President, you have the full support of the state and the people of Kosova. From the Ukrainian journalists we are sheltering in Prishtina, we are even better informed about the daily reality in your country. Stories of soldiers' courage and sacrifice, of their devotion to country and to cause which has beaten the odds against them and inspired the world — stories of people's resilience and perseverance in the face of a brutal invasion — have mobilized the free world to stand up to Russia's aggression.

Dear President Zelenskyy, with the highest respect for you and the Ukrainian people, we wish you a decisive victory. We will be with you for the reconstruction of your cities, the return of your people, the mental and physical rehabilitation of your society, and your quickest possible accession to NATO and the EU.

Glory to Ukraine, Slava Ukraini!

Sincerely,

Albin Kurti

Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosova