

Veli KRYEZIU* (University of Prishtina, Republic of Kosovo)

Bujar DUGOLLI** (University of Prishtina, Republic of Kosovo)

The Armed Resistance Movement in Kosovo 1918-1928 according to the Albanian press

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Abstract: *Political Albania continuously made efforts to help the Kachak resistance in Kosovo, which in 1918 took over through the Committee for the National Defence of Kosovo, this resistance Albania supported by arming, of the Albanian rebellious groups. However, this Committee, except in Kosovo, its activity extended to Albania, in the consolidation and democratization of the Albanian state. To realize the National Union Hasan Prishtina established contacts with some Italian deputies from whom he received support and secured weapons to organize an armed uprising and thus overthrow the Serbian invader in Kosovo.*

Key words: Kosovo, Albania, Uprising, Drenica, Serbia, Press, Inter-Ethnic Relations, the Committee for the National Defence of Kosovo

“Albanians will have Albania, only when all those who are sore nation, all who know every saying to the Albanian name to all those who join in a strong party that will summarize only people who are in the nation. Then we will have Albania”

[*Shqipëri e Re*, May 1, 1921, no. 3: 4]

Introduction

The inventor of the creation of Albanian rebellious forces in Kosovo was Hasan Prishtina together with Hoxhë Kadri Prishtina, they organized meetings with military leaders Azem and Shotë Galica,¹ the latter coordinated military actions

* ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8426-7145>. veli.kryeziu@uni-pr.edu; Faculty of Education.

** ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7211-8038>. bujar.dugolli@uni-pr.edu; Faculty of Philosophy, Department of History (Corresponding Author).

¹ Xhaferaj, 2007: 63; Ahmeti, 2009: 147; Verli, 2014: 101.

against the Serbian gendarmerie and army units stationed in Kosovo.² This force numbered up to 10 thousand insurgents, mainly located in Prizren, Dukagjini Plain, Drenica and Llapë.³

Albanian insurgents organized into committees, anarchic armed groups, disorganized, or Kachaka groups, such as the Podgorica Committee led by Musa Leka; then Azem Galica who operated in the Kosovo and Drenica Fields; Ajet Çausi, comrade-in-arms of Azem Galica in the Fields of Kosovo; Beqir Rexha in Bajraktar Gashi and many other groups of fighters in the district of Istog and on the side of Rugova.⁴ This movement to resist the Serbian terror was organized to attack the police stations and the institutions of the administration of the Serbian government, to protect the honor of the family and their lands also through the guerrilla war against the Serbian army and gendarmerie units.⁵

The armed resistance of the Kachak Movement in Kosovo passed in 4 phases within 1918-1928:

- The first phase of the Kachak Movement was of a local character and lasted from October 1918 to March 1919,
- The second phase, which began in March 1919 until December 1921, with the general character of an armed organization against Serbian forces, this uprising spread throughout Kosovo,
- The third phase covers the period July 1923 to July 1924 with the creation of the free zone in Drenica by Azem Bejt Galica and in Dumnica by Mehmet Konjuhi, in 1924 the Kachak Movement begins to fade and enter into negotiations with the Serbian administration to solve the problem of Kosovo,
- The fourth phase, which includes the years 1924-1928, during this time the free zones were extinguished and at the end of 1928 the Kachak Movement was extinguished as a result of the great losses that the entire structure of the Kachak Movement suffered.⁶

The commander of the Kachak Squads, Azem Galica, knew very well how to fight against Serbia. Fearless and war strategist used the strategy used by Skanderbeg in the Battle against the Ottoman army. So hence the guerrilla war by attacking police stations and the Serbian administration wherever possible and fled the scene, inflicting heavy losses on the Serbian occupying forces.

Bejta Azem was the only one at this time when Kosovo was occupied, who disturbed the comfort of the Serbian occupiers, with a rifle in his hand prevented

² Rushiti, 2009: 32.

³ Shala, 2014: 113.

⁴ ASHAK, F. nr.872: 1-2.

⁵ Rushiti, 2002: 311-313.

⁶ Rushiti, 1990: 297-306.

the implementation of Serbian policy in Kosovo aimed at killing, deporting and denationalizing the Albanian people.⁷

The government of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (SCS), took a decision on January 6, 1921, for the clearing of the terrain from the Kachaks and their hosts, this expedition started in the Dukagjini Plain, Drenica and in Llapë. During this expedition, unable to capture the Kachaks, the Serbian army burned hundreds of houses and killed many Albanian civilians.⁸

Press Informations

The Newspaper *Shqipëri e Re* ('New Albania') of Constanta writes [May 1, 1921]: "The hearth of America, the hearth of Albania, National Defense and any other society we must work for this national interest, the unification of Albanians in one state".⁹ Albania's independence forced the Albanians into a territorial division, but the Albanians never accepted the division of Albania and made efforts for national unification.¹⁰ Kosovo Albanians aspirations for Kosovo Albanians expressed their aspirations for liberation and national unity in the *Komiteti Mbrojtja Kombëtare e Kosovës* (the Committee for the National Defence of Kosovo; hereinafter: KMKK) which had a nationwide character in order to organize armed resistance to confront Serbian politics.¹¹

The Newspaper *Liruesi i Shqypënisë* ('Brotherhood') of Vienna [March 18, 1916], says in an article that Hasan Prishtina established contacts with the insurgents of the Kachak Movements, on the basis of these efforts he had invited military leaders such as Azem Bejtë Galica for talks, in order to coordinate and coordinate the Albanian factor to fight the invaders.¹²

Ferizi Niman in his report sent to the KMKK in Shkodra, informed that Elez Aga from Vuçitrna with a group of people joined Azem Galica.¹³ Among Azem Galica's comrades-in-arms, with the expansion of the armed liberation war, his wife Shotë Galica also joined. The Albanian woman gave very high assistance in the liberation war as a fighter in the armed uprising against Serbian forces.¹⁴ The armed struggle took place in the region of Macedonia: Dibër, Gostivar, Kicevo, in Kosovo: Llapë, Gollak, Karadak and Anamorava and the neutral zone of Junik

⁷ Shala, 2009: 85.

⁸ Berisha & Berisha, 2009: 116.

⁹ 'Shqiptarë', *Shqipëri e Re*, 1 maj 1921, no. 3: 4.

¹⁰ Rushiti, 2008: 409.

¹¹ Abdyl, 1994: 25.

¹² *Liruesi i Shqypënisë*, 18 mars 1916, no. 5: 1.

¹³ F.418, D.8/2, fl.381.

¹⁴ Musaj, 2002: 55.

and Drenica, which were controlled through his squads Azem Galica and Mehmet Konjuhi.¹⁵

During the years 1918-1924 at the forefront of the armed resistance against the establishment of the power of the Kingdom of SCS, well-organized Kachaki gangs attacked the Serbian administration, forcing the Serb-appointed mayors to be expelled from it, position if necessary and be killed.¹⁶ In 1919 the Albanian insurgents led by the KMKK drafted a program, this regulation made clear instructions on how to act in Kosovo against Serbian forces, but without compromising the lives of civilian Serbs. We highlight some of the points of this program from where the instructions were received on how to deal with all strata of society in Kosovo:

- I. No insurgent should harm the country's Serbs, except those who stand with guns in their hands and work against the Albanian cause;¹⁷
- II. No insurgent dares to burn down houses and destroy churches;
- III. ...,
- IV. ...,
- V. The most lively action would have been against the Serbian army, gendarmerie and committees, which commit atrocities against Albanians.¹⁸

We are highlighting the 10th point of this program:

“Killed Albanians unarmed victims and massacred by Serbs and Serbian army will not be buried until a foreign commission comes and verifies Serbian atrocities against Albanians, and informs Europe and America about these cruelty.”¹⁹

The political and military activity of the KMKK in Kosovo was also assisted by Beqir Vokshi. Reports coming from Kosovo to the address of the KMKK by Niman Feriz wrote that in Tashligje – Senica, roads have been learned and severe uprisings are being carried out by highlanders. Every day here and there are heard thunders of cannons that are cracking in the Province of Suhareka.²⁰ The news coming from Gjakova shows that the Serbs of Peja, Mitrovica, Gjakova, Prizren and Pristina, have sent a letter to the Yugoslav parliamentary cabinet in Belgrade asking the government to uproot all the Kosovo Albanian people.²¹

¹⁵ *Kosova në vështrimin enciklopedik*, 1999: 113.

¹⁶ Gjoshaj, 2015: 46.

¹⁷ ASHAK, F. nr.872: 45.

¹⁸ Malcolm, 2001: 285.

¹⁹ ASHAK, F. nr.872: 45.

²⁰ ASHAK, F. nr.872: 382.

²¹ AQSH, F.418, V.1920, D.8/2, fl. 382.

From the documents that we possess, which were taken in the Archive of Tirana, we talk about the report of Niman Ferizi sent to the KMKK. The answer for Kosovo Serbs was also received by the Albanian deputy in Belgrade, Nexhip Draga, who says that the uprisings in Kosovo are being carried out mainly by Kosovo Albanians to protect the doorstep of the Serbian gendarmerie and army in Kosovo, which is mercilessly killing children, women and old people, with the only pretext because they are Albanian.²² From the Albanian pressure (June 15, 1920) it is said that two Yugoslav ministers left for the Province of Kosovo, one stopped in Mitrovica where he gathered the leaders of the majority of Kosovo, and only Cena Begu from Gjakova was one of the Muslims.²³

The Newspaper *Të arratisunit* ('Hak') of Skopje writes [February 21, 1921]: there are uprisings in Kosovo, where some men took up arms to face Serbian atrocities, they are: Azem Bejtë Galica, Beqir Rama, Selim Ajeti, Sadik Rama and many other comrades who returned the rifle to the Serbian army. The attempt of the Serbian gendarmerie to capture them turned out to be in vain with some gendarmes killed.²⁴ During the years 1919, 1920, 1921 the Serbian army continued to pursue the Albanian insurgents, the fact that they did not respond to the call of the state to surrender and to use the right to pardon them, but those who surrendered are being killed on the streets, and many others are being sent to Serbian prisons.²⁵

Albania as a mother country of Albanians, who remain unjustly outside of natural Albania tried to cover the educational gaps in Kosovo and other Albanian areas outside Albania through scholarships for education of the Albanian Government, for this event writes the newspaper *Shqipëri e Re* [December 31, 1922], the Government decided to allocate 36 scholarships for the Albanians left abroad, for Kosovo 15 scholarships were awarded, Triesht, Hot and Grudë 3, Krajë and other places in Montenegro 4, Dibër and Bitola 8, and Chameria 6, with this decision the Government proves that it is also interested in Albanians living outside Albania.²⁶

Kosovo Albanians constantly made efforts for liberation and national unification, the newspaper *Ktona* ('Kosova') of Constanta [March 20, 1933], writes about the nationalism of Kosovo, since the time of Turkey, in Kosovo at that time was thought to live for approximately 1 million Albanians but the poor faced violence and repression from both Turkey and Serbia during the Balkan wars and the First World Cup, but unfortunately their oppression and confrontation with the Serbian regime is still going on.²⁷

²² AQSH, F.418, V.1920, D.8/2, fl. 382.

²³ AQSH, F.418, V.1920, D.8/2, fl. 387.

²⁴ *Të arratisunit*, 21 shkurt 1921, no. 138: 2.

²⁵ *Të arratisunit*, 21 shkurt 1921, no. 138: 2.

²⁶ 'Për shqiptarët të mbetur përjashta kufive', *Shqipëri e Re*, 31 dhjetor 1922, no. 111: 2.

²⁷ 'Nacionalizmi i Kosovës është tregu qysh në kohë të Turqisë', *Ktona*, 20 mars 1933, no. 26: 1.

Kosovars were determined for freedom and unification, during August 1920 a steamer with weapons arrived in Durrës for Kosovars who would use it against the Serbian invaders. The Albanian government did not allow this weapon to be emptied in Durrës, however the uprisings against the invaders broke out Serb, on which occasion the insurgents hit the Yugoslav army in Debar.²⁸ From the writings we receive from D. GJ. Bisak who wrote a feuilleton in the newspaper *Ktona* ('Kosova') of Constanta, [March 20, 1933], with the title 'Tears of Dukagjini – Kosovo enslaved' each time brings us innovations for the 20s and 30s about events that took place throughout Kosovo.²⁹

The Newspaper *Ktona* ('Kosova') of Constanta [June 11, 1933] dedicates a special article to Ismet Kryeziu, patriot and ex kosovar deputy in Yugoslavia and today the mayor of Korça, he was active in the Balkan wars.³⁰ As a deputy of Gjakova in 1919, when the political parties began to strengthen, he joined the Democratic Party and was elected deputy of Gjakova, he made an effort to gather 12 Kosovar deputies around himself and to form a parliamentary group separated from non-Albanian parties.

In 1922, Mr. Kryeziu requested an interpellation from the Minister of Internal Affairs of Yugoslavia on the killing of 522 Albanian women, men and children in a village near Pristina. Minister Draskovic expressed regret to Mr. Kryeziu for this, but always justifying the Serbian army, that the peasants had provoked the thing. The Newspaper *Ktona* ('Kosova') of Constanta [June 11, 1933] writes about the report of the Yugoslav ministers stated about the Serbian massacres against the Albanians, in the investigations made by the Yugoslav ministers it turned out that the villagers had raised the Albanian flag and wanted not to recognize the Serbian government. The colonel who led the crimes against Albanians was appointed commander of the garrison in Gjakova in order to organize the assassination of Ismet Kryeziu.³¹

According to the newspaper *Shqipëri e Re* [May 1, 1921], the Albanian state sent a note of protest to the Serbo-Croatian-Slovenian kingdom, prompting the latter to withdraw the Yugoslav army to the 1913 border, otherwise it would make demarches in the League of States.³² The people of Dibra are also protesting against the Serbian army which has entered Albania, and they have even sent a telegram to the Italian and British consuls who were residents in Durrës.³³

The Newspaper *Shqipëri e Re* [September 11, 1921] reports on the illegal activities of Serbian Chetnik groups. From the field news we learn that in Kosovo on August 31 went the Serbian committees of crna ruka (black hand) assisted by

²⁸ Dervishi, 2006: 123.

²⁹ 'Lotët e Dukagjinit – Kosova e robnueme', *Ktona*, 20 mars 1933, no. 26:: 2.

³⁰ *Ktona*, 11 qershor 1933, no. 32: 2.

³¹ *Ktona*, 11 qershor 1933, no. 32: 2.

³² 'Shqipëria dhe Serbia', *Shqipëri e Re*, 1 maj 1921, no. 30: 2.

³³ 'Shqiptarët e Dibrës protestojnë kundër pushtimit serb brenda kufirit', *Shqipëri e Re*, 1 maj 1921, no. 30: 2-3.

the Serbian army have burned in the districts of Peja and Gjakova 300 houses, and have killed more than 350 people, looted over 1000 houses in Dukagjini and robbed about 1200 large and small cattle.³⁴ The Newspaper *Shqipëri e Re* [December 25, 1921] writes, with the recognition of the borders of 1913 by the Peace Conference in Paris, finally Kosovo remains under the Serbian clutches, the Serbian army forced to make moves start the withdrawal from the side of Buna across the Drini.³⁵

Albanian patriots were active for the time being, we single out the patriotic gesture of Hasan Prishtina who in Durrës took out his watch and donated it to the government to fight Serbia.³⁶ The armed movements in Kosovo were of a Kachak character, not institutional, mainly small armed groups who resisted as much as they could against the Serbian occupiers in Kosovo, these movements sent the program message of the KMKK, which was based in Shkoder.³⁷

An article published in the Albanian press, respectively in the newspaper *Politika* ('Policy') [November 28, 1924], which was published in Vlora, writes about the Albanians of Kosovo, on the eve of the manifestation of November 28 entitled 'Spirit of Prizren', with the message that Albania is small, everyone will die but will never be torn apart, because this had previously been defended by Isa Boletini and many other Kosovars.³⁸

The Newspaper *Politika* [September 3, 1924] further writes about the events in Kosovo, entitled 'What was the cause of the recent massacres in Kosovo':

“Azem Galica committee heard not only in the Yugoslav press but also that of Europe, had recently made a agreement with the Yugoslav authorities, this ceasefire agreement and Aleks Martinoviçi had issued a non-prosecution with the approval of the Yugoslav Ministry of Della, and Azem Galica, who was allowed to live freely in his family. From this agreement, the Yugoslav government had arranged a building for Azem Galices as compensation, because when they had killed his mother together with 5 other family members, they had also burned down his house”.³⁹

To counter Serbia's policy of institutional violence, the Albanian people organized themselves into an armed resistance through the Kaçak Movement. This movement in Kosovo 1918-1928 was actualized as a movement of broad popular masses based on traditions and the struggle for national freedom.⁴⁰ On July 15, 1924, the Serbian army again surrounded the towers of Azem Galica, the Serbs used

³⁴ 'Komitë serbe në Dukagjin', *Shqipëri e Re*, 11 shtator 1921, no. 46: 1.

³⁵ 'Ushtria jugosllave zuri po hiqet', *Shqipëri e Re*, 25 shtator 1921, no. 60: 1.

³⁶ 'Hasan Prishtina', *Shqipëri e Re*, 25 dhjetor 1921, no. 60: 1.

³⁷ Rushiti, 2009: 27.

³⁸ 'Shpirti i Prizrenit', *Politika*, 28 Nandor 1924, no. 35: 4.

³⁹ 'Ç'ka ke shkaku i masakrave të fundit në Kosovë', *Politika*, 3 shtator 1924, no. 35: 6.

⁴⁰ Lita, 1982: 13.

the amnesty they had approved of Azem the day before, in order to capture him, kill him or capture him alive.⁴¹ The Newspaper *Politika* [September 3, 1924], continues the article which describes in detail the further course of the event. It is learned that on the day of Eid the Serbian army consisting of 5000 troops beat with cannon and machine gun his tower from three sides. Azem Galica with some friends more difficulty achieves to weep for the siege only after darkness falls and take the mountains of Drenica. The Yugoslav government under the pretext of pursuing Azem Galica burned entire villages and carried out numerous massacres of the civilian population, killing women, children and the elderly in revenge for the Kachak Movement and especially its leader Azem Galica.⁴² So writes Mira Popovci in her work published in the Yearbook.⁴³

The Joint Committee of Albanians in the League of Nations with representatives: Bajram Curri, Hasan Prishtina and Bedri Pejani, who sent a petition to the League of Nations, through this petition provided evidence of violence, killings, arson and looting committed by Serbia against Kosovo Albanians.⁴⁴

Comparing the Albanian press of the time inside and outside Albania, we have noticed that many articles in the Albanian press have been dictated, or with political directives that often make the reader question the truth of the press. See the newspaper *Shqipëri e Re* [January 22, 1922], we are mentioning an article entitled 'Anachronism in Albania' accusing the best patriots of Kosovo and Albania as are: Hasan Prishtina, Haki Tevfiku, Hoxha Kadri Prishtina, Zija Dibra, etc., as foreign agents for the destruction of Albania as a Young Turk current, analyzing this article we think that from here Kosovar patriots were seen as rivals within Albania.⁴⁵ State ignorance went so far as to imprison Zija Bej Dibra, Qazim Kocili and Hasan Prishtina, the latter escaping from prison.⁴⁶

From the latest news in the newspaper *Dielli* ('Sun') of Boston [February 14, 1923] writes about an Albanian armed uprising in the neutral area of the Albanian-Serbian border. This uprising is thought to have been organized by Hysni Curri. According to the newspaper this may not be true because the same news says that Hasan Prishtina has organized a number of 10 thousand troops and is marching towards Tirana to overthrow the Albanian government. If it were true this would not happen in the direction of Tirana, but that of Pristina.⁴⁷ However, Hasan Prishtina made an attempt to remove Zogu from the political scene and from this attempt there was a conflict between the supporters of Ahmet Zogu and those of Hasan Prishtina. This conflict within the Albanians was resolved by the British diplomatic

⁴¹ Rushiti, 2003: 193.

⁴² 'Ç'ka ke shkaku i masakrave të fundit në Kosovë', *Politika*, 3 shtator 1924, no. 35: 6.

⁴³ Popoci, 2008: 433.

⁴⁴ Milo, 2013: 603.

⁴⁵ 'Anarkizmi në Shqipëri', *Shqipëri e Re*, 22 janar 1922, no. 64: 1.

⁴⁶ 'Zija Be Dibra', *Shqipëri e Re*, 23 prill 1922, no. 76: 3.

⁴⁷ 'Tjetër kryengritje', *Dielli*, 14 februar 1923, no. 2557: 4.

representative Swr Harry Air, who managed to persuade the commander of Hasan Prishtina to withdraw from Tirana.⁴⁸

The Albanian press was in step with the information that beats the events in daily life. The political assassinations that often happened in Albania. E.g. The assassination attempt of Prime Minister Ahmet Zogu on February 23, 1924 in the corridor of the Assembly, who fortunately escaped with two minor leg injuries and hand. The newspaper *Drita* ('Light') of Gjirokastra [March 1, 1924], writes that these ugly events that are happening among Albanians are raising insecurity among all our citizens, political assassinations and the recent assassination of the Prime Minister are a black stain which is left to our nation for life.⁴⁹

It should be noted that the newspaper *Dielli* [May 13, 1924], until 1924 he was interested in and wrote from time to time for the Albanians of Kosovo. But as it seems from the following writings he dealt more with the problems of the diaspora in America. Maybe this could have been as a means for benefits, or survival of organized as a social group. However we single out the article 'Ahmet Zogu murderer of Americans and Avni Rrustemi'. It is possible that Ahmet Zogu had a hand in the murder of Avni Rrustemi, whose goal was to eliminate the opposition, create insecurity and is creative of turmoil, in order to make it known that peace and order in Albania are possible only through him. Taking advantage of these circumstances Yugoslavia worked in the direction that St. Naum and Vermoshi were not given to a ruined Albania.⁵⁰

Ahmet Zogu proves that he was an unworthy man for the Albanian Nation with his Agreement with Nikola Pashiqi. If this agreement were implemented now, there would be no state or Albanian nation. So much was the cold blood of Ahmet Zogu in the national betrayal he committed through to this agreement, so much so that he accepted all those points to sign that if he had made a whole side of this agreement, the government of Pashiq would have had better days to make demands on Albania. This agreement was signed in August 1924, the title of the agreement is: *Agreement concluded in Belgrade in August 1924 between President Pashiq-Ahmet Zogu*. The agreement reached between the two contenders has a total of 16 points, we are mentioning some of them, each of which is more harmful than the other, to the point:

1. "Albania is forced to join Yugoslavia by personal union, the purpose of this point was for Albania to merge within Yugoslavia and as such to disappear forever".
2. "The President of the Albanian state will be Ahmet Zogu, who will later recognize the Kingdom of the Karagjorgjeviqëve", even at this point Zogu

⁴⁸ Malcolm, 2001: 288.

⁴⁹ 'Morali i një atentati', *Drita*, 1 mars 1924, no. 161: 1.

⁵⁰ 'Ahmet Zogu vrasës i amerikanëve dhe i Avni Rrustemit', *Dielli*, 13 maj 1924, no. 2713: 8-9.

agrees to recognize the rule and authority of the Yugoslav Kingdom over Albania.

In point 4. The Albanian Ministry of War would be extinguished, and Albania would give up having a national army, here it is proven that Ahmet Zogu was interested in nothing that was a national interest, except the benefits of being the head of state,

9. “The foreign diplomacy of Yugoslavia will be representative of Albania, which gives up having consulates and diplomacy abroad”.

11. “It was said, – The Albanian Orthodox Church would withdraw from the Patriarchate of Constantinople and join the Orthodox Patriarchate of Belgrade, so the Albanian Muslim Mufti would depend on the Yugoslav one”;

14. “If Yugoslavia goes to war with Bulgaria, or Greece, it is obliged to mobilize 25,000 Albanian soldiers to defend the borders of Yugoslavia”.⁵¹

If these points of the agreement were realized, on this occasion Albania would extinguish its internationally recognized sovereignty at the London Conference and the Peace Conference, etc. These points that we presented above and the others were to be worried about, but none of them were implemented except point no. 2 and that partly because Ahmet Zogu really became Prime Minister (and later President of Albania, to continue from 1928 the King of the Albanians), well that these notorious points for Albania were never implemented.

Serbia was constantly trying to undermine the functioning of the Albanian state, to sabotage the institutions. There it had sent to Tirana Lieutenant Colonel Tanasije Deniq, who (on May 25, 1926) wrote to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia about the arrival in Tirana of Branko Lazarovi. Lazarovi had mission to support and strengthen the current regime in Albania led by Ahmet Beu-Zogu. Our ally Ahmet Bey has asked for help in supplying weapons and officers, as well as financial means in order to buy 49% of the shares of the imitation bank.⁵²

Salih Vuçiterrni in ‘the lies of Belgrade politics’ published in the newspaper *Shqipnija* of Tirana [February 23, 1927] denies an article (a correspondence from Tirana) in the Serbian newspaper *Politika Beligrad* [January 15, 1927]:

“according to which I was a member of the Kosovo Committee and I was reorganized for revolution in Kosovo, and my goal was Southern Serbia. These lies do not deserve an answer, but since this newspaper is a government body I am obliged to answer:

⁵¹ AQSH, F.251, D.105: 1-2.

⁵² *Komiteti i Kosovës ndërgjegje e Shqipërisë Etnike ...*, Unpublished. F. Hakif Bajrami, D. 4.

1. I am an idealistic Albanian Kosovar, convinced that the Albanian people and Albania need peace;
2. As Kosovar irrident we aim to appeal and lobby the international community for the rights of our Kosovar brothers who are under Serbian;
3. The ideal of our goal is peaceful;
4. As for the fact that I am in constant contact with Italian agencies, this does not stand at all. With this reaction I hope to understand my role in Belgrade politics.”⁵³

The armed movements in Kosovo were more of a local and self-defense character (Kachak movement) without any proper military structure, as the circumstances in which the Albanian insurgents operated were difficult. Kosovo was in fact occupied by the political state of the Kingdom of SCS, but that in essence, the territory of Kosovo was controlled by the invading Serbia from 1912 onwards and with its reconquest in 1918, when Serbia legally annexed Kosovo and placed the territory of Kosovo under its sovereignty. During this time, the security organs of Serbia are established and a continuous war begins against all strata of the Albanian society in Kosovo.

Conclusion

From the above we conclude that according to the Albanian-wide press the armed resistance movement in Kosovo (1918-1928) was the best initiative of the military organization against the Serbo-Montenegrin occupiers. The unification of political and military forces between the KMKK and the Kachak Movement in Kosovo made the first steps towards national liberation. During this period Kosovo was in difficult circumstances, isolated from the army and gendarmerie of the Kingdom of SCS. Albanians in Kosovo made efforts to protect the national interests through political participation alongside armed movements, thanks to this effort Albanians gathered and established in Skopje the political party *Xhemjet* with political-religious character for representation of Muslims of Kosovo, Macedonia and other areas. Here the Albanians dominated with the elected Albanian patriot leader Nexhib Draga and a prominent group of representatives of the nation.

The Armed Resistance in Kosovo led the implacable activist by Azem Galica, who together with his military subordinates managed to mobilize about 10,000 armed insurgents around the national ideal. Their liberation war was always coordinated with the other military arm of the KMKK, which was a form of government of Kosovo in exile, so the seat of this committee (government) was in Shkodra. Hoxhë Kadri Prishtina and Hasan Prishtina were the most sublime figures of the committee.

⁵³ S. Vuçiterni, ‘Trillimet e politikës së Beligradit’, *Shqipnija*, 23 shkurt 1927, no. 49: 3.

The armed resistance focused on Dukagjini, Drenica, Kosovo plain, Llapë, and Anamorava.

With the death of Azem Galica, the end of the KMKK, the imprisonment of *Xhemjet* leaders, the arrest and deportation of many Albanian patriots, the killing of many others from Serbia, and the narrowing operational space of Kosovo Albanian insurgents within Albania from Ahmet Zogu's regime, also the open military activities against the Serbian-Montenegrin occupiers was rested.

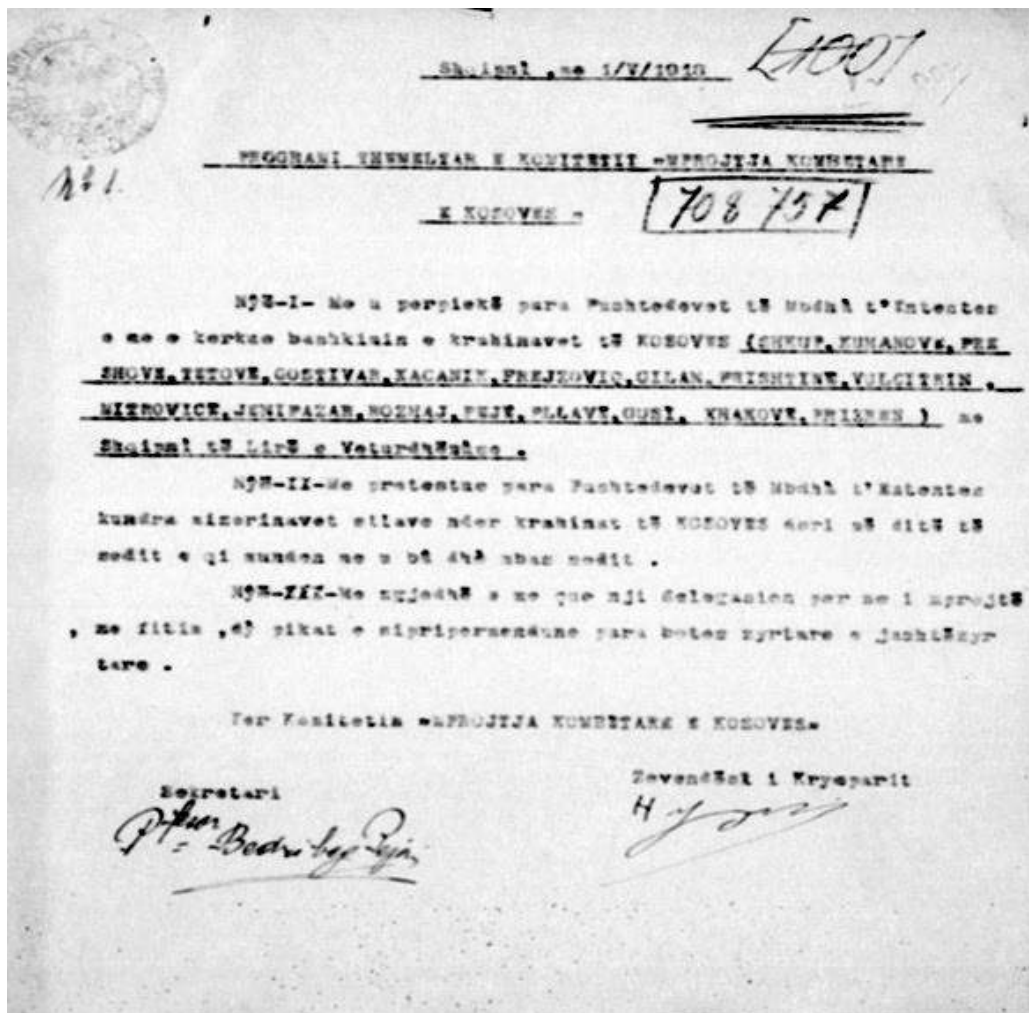


Fig. 1. Komiteti Mbrojtja Kombëtare e Kosovës, (Voksh: 10.3.1920), ASHAK. F. nr.872 [mikrofilm nr 0015].

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