

## Albanian Peace Council

Gi Young Shin  
April 26– 27, 2014



The Albanian Peace Council established by UPF-Albania and Kosovo in November 2013 visited Serbia from April 26– 27 to organize a Peace Council in the city of Presheva, the cultural center of Serbians of Albanian ethnicity. A delegation of more than twenty ambassadors for peace and other dignitaries from Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo traveled many hours to attend the conference. In the group were people from the Chameria area of Albania. These are mainly descendants of Muslims of Albanian ethnicity that had long lived in Greece, until their expulsion at the end of World War II.

Dr. Alfred Moisiu a former president of the Republic of Albania (2002– 2007) now senior adviser to UPF Albania and Kosovo; and Cheon Il Guk Special Envoy Gi Young Shin headed the group. On the evening of April 26, Mayor Ragmi Mustafa of Presheva Commune, an ambassador for peace, welcomed them. Early the next morning, the whole delegation traveled to the nearby city of Bujanoc, where ethnic Albanians comprise the majority of the population. The mayor's office expressed its appreciation to the visiting delegation.



### A Peace Council in Southern Serbia

In front of an audience of nearly a hundred government officials, academics, teachers and civic leaders a conference began at the TV station conference hall. Mr. Bajram Ibraj, chairman of the Presiding Council of UPF-Albania, moderated. Dr. Moisiu gave the keynote address in Bujanoc. He expressed joy at being able to be among the Albanian people of Presheva Valley, giving him the opportunity to better understand their situation. He advised them on how to deal with the challenges they face. He expressed appreciation to UPF and its ambassadors for peace for their initiative to establish a UPF Peace Council in that area.

Rev. Shin gave a profound talk, pointing out the sad reality of humanity today. He emphasized the need for peace and reconciliation by putting God at the center of one's life. He described the vision for a Balkan Peace Council to bring reconciliation and peace between the Balkan nations, who have suffered so much. Mr. Gani Rroshi, national leader of UPF-Albania, gave a presentation about the UPF's five fundamental principles of peace. He and the secretary general of UPF-Albania, Mr. Sokol Rexhepi, gave heartfelt talks and conveyed messages of peace, love, reconciliation, encouragement and faith based on the examples of the UPF founders. At the end of the conference, they appointed seven people ambassadors for peace and established a Peace Council. The four-hour conference was broadcast live to enable all the people of Presheva Valley to see it.

## Tirana, Albania



*Gi Young Shin*

After the successful event in Serbia, the Albanian Peace Council, a structure of UPF Albania and Kosovo, organized another one at the Academy of Science in Tirana, Albania, on "The cultural and historical inheritance of the Cham ethnic group and perspectives on the peaceful solution of its cause." This year marks the seventieth anniversary of the displacement of the Muslim population of Albanian ethnicity from their lands and homes in Western Greece, an area then known as Epirus, which currently is the district of Thesprotia, Greece.

The program was divided into two sessions with a dozen of speakers from Albania and abroad. Mr. Bajram Ibraj, chairman of the UPF Albania Presiding Council, moderated the first session, presented the speakers and described the mission and the path of Albanian Peace Council.

### **A North Korean Analog**

Lan Young Moon, vice-president of FFWPU International, who was visiting Albania at that time, was the first to speak the audience. She recalled the pain of leaving her hometown in North Korea fifty-five years ago and called for forgiveness and overcoming the resentment over the past based on our common desire to see one family under God. She emphasized her gratitude that through Father Moon's teachings she could forgive the North Korean leaders who killed her father and brought so much suffering in her family.

Lan Young Moon, vice-president of FFWPU



Mr. Jonuz Musliu, one of the signatories of the Albanian Peace Council and head of Communal Council of Bujanoc, Serbia, gave a congratulatory message. Mr. Enver Kushi brought to the attention of the audience a golden era of Albanian-Greek relations when Mr. Theodor Pangallos, led Greece as its president and prime minister (1925-1926). He quoted some of Mr. Pangalos declarations to the press that serve as a model for today's leaders on handling this issue.

The order of speakers was concluded with Mr. Ali Laçej, co-coordinator of APC who spoke on "The identity of Chameria on the focus of integration." In conclusion, he said, "The solution of Cham issue absolutely demands implementation of EU integration policies and it can only be successfully addressed by turning reciprocal hatred and contemptuousness into understanding and love, through seeing diversity as richness, for those who exchange it. The solution will never come if we curse each other, nor if we ever think that one side will eradicate the other. We pray to God this will never happen!"

Reports of the event appeared on news broadcasts of major television stations. A few days later Mr. Ali Laçej, coordinator of Albanian Peace Council, appeared on a talk show to explain in detail about council along with the chairman of the Chameria Association, Mr. Ardian Tana.