

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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*Contact: Clarkson Hine*  
*(202) 224-5358*

## **KOSOVA CRISIS**

### **DOLE-ENGEL RESOLUTION OPPOSES LIFTING SERBIAN SANCTIONS UNTIL KOSOVA SITUATION IS RESOLVED; URGES PRESIDENT TO APPOINT SPECIAL ENVOY**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today released the following statement to Albanian-American rally:**

"I am sorry that I cannot be with you. I count Albanian-Americans among my closest friends. Your presence here in Washington is an important reminder that the crisis in the former Yugoslavia is not over. There is still a crisis in Kosova -- a crisis that began before the wars against Croatia and Bosnia. The Belgrade regime is still waging a silent war against the two million Albanians who live there - and, the world is doing nothing about it.

"In the wake of the signing of the Dayton Accords, there are those who claim that Slobodan Milosevic is a peacemaker. What short memories they have. The world cannot be allowed to forget that Milosevic climbed to power on the backs of the Albanian people, and the severe and crushing repression of the Albanians by the Milosevic regime continues to this day. There will be no real peace in the Balkans until the status of Kosova is resolved and until the Albanian people gain the rights and freedoms to which they are entitled -- freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, the right to self-government, the right to work.

"The situation in Kosova must be resolved before any further sanctions are lifted on Belgrade. The United States must stand firm and must not give in -- even if our allies are pushing in another direction. Since 1991, President Rugova, Prime Minister Bukoshi and the rest of the Albanian leadership have been deliberately excluded from all of the negotiations related to the former Yugoslavia. Kosova cannot be ignored indefinitely. Peace in the Balkans is at stake.

"Today I will be introducing a resolution focusing attention on Kosova and the plight of the Albanians there. Among other things, this resolution states that Serbian sanctions must not be lifted until the situation in Kosova is resolved, that human rights must be restored to the people of Kosova and that the United States should support the legitimate claims of the people of Kosova to determine their own political future. The resolution also urges the President to appoint a special envoy to work on the resolution of the Kosova issue.

"This resolution is also being introduced in the House by Congressman Engel. It should send a message to the administration that the present policy of pushing Kosova to the sidelines is unacceptable. The United States must exercise leadership in support of human rights and freedom in Kosova."

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