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Kosovo Albanians vow to make “order” in North, US tells them to cool down

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Kosovo's Deputy Prime Minister Hajrudin Kuci vowed on Monday to establish “law and order” in the Serb-populated north, prompting US ambassador Tina Kaidanow to advise Pristina to focus on “more important” issues, such as economy and the social situation.

Kuci said that Pristina will return its judges and customs officials to northern Kosovo "without the use of force".

After a government meeting, he said that work was ongoing with the president of Kosovo's constitutional court "to normalize the judicial system in the whole territory of Kosovo".

Kuci also quoted "three conditions" for this, and specified that they include "enforcement of Kosovo's laws, that will be a part of the Kosovo court system", while judges must be appointed and dismissed by a court council set up in Pristina.

But US ambassador to Pristina, Tina Kaidanow, said that “too much attention” was given to northern Kosovo by the ethnic Albanian authorities.

“There are more important challenges for Kosovo, which must develop progressively. To be exclusively focussed on northern Kosovo is not a good thing”, she said.