

## U.S. to recognize Kosovo's independence

*by UPI*

PRISTINA, Serbia - The United States and several European Union members are expected to officially bless Kosovo's declaration of independence from Serbia, it was reported Sunday. The BBC reported following Sunday's declaration by Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci that U.S. officials would likely endorse the country's newfound independence from Serbia this week. "From this day onwards, Kosovo is proud, independent and free," Thaci said during an emergency legislative session Sunday. The United States has been accused by Serbian leaders of helping to create a "false state" and of being prepared to "violate the international order for its own military interests." CNN reported U.S. President George Bush has supported limited statehood for Kosovo during the contentious independence debate. Despite the fervent opposition from Serbia, Kosovo residents took to the street to celebrate their newfound independence and an honorary ceremony is due to take place in the capital of Pristina. The BBC said giant iron letters that spell out "newborn" will be signed by top Kosovo leaders in a show of support of the country's newly claimed national status.

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