# Serbian Government Approves $500 Million Luxury Hotel Project Led by Jared Kushner on Former Defense Ministry Site



The Serbian government has approved a $500 million luxury hotel project on the site of the former Yugoslav Ministry of Defense in Belgrade. Jared Kushner, former White House adviser and son-in-law to Donald Trump, is spearheading the project through his investment firm, Affinity Partners. The site was bombed by NATO forces in 1999 during the Serbia-Kosovo war.

Serbian Minister of Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure, Goran Vesić, announced the project on Wednesday, highlighting the selection of a "reputable American company." Kushner's statement praised Serbia's economic progress and expressed optimism about enhancing Belgrade's status as an international destination.

The development involves a memorial for those killed during the bombings, a condition insisted upon by Serbian authorities. Despite receiving official approval, the project has met resistance from some local residents and opposition figures. Over 22,000 people have signed a petition to preserve the former ministry site, viewing the US's involvement in its bombing 25 years ago as a point of contention.

Protests have emerged in Belgrade, with demonstrators expressing their opposition to the redevelopment. Dragan Jonic, a Serbian parliament member, voiced strong disapproval, underscoring ongoing local resentment. Critics have also raised ethical concerns, given the possible return of Donald Trump to the presidency and Kushner's business ties to foreign governments.

Kushner maintains that he has no plans to return to a governmental role, dismissing potential conflicts of interest. However, Democratic members of the US House of Representatives have called for an investigation into his overseas dealings, citing national security risks.