

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must complete this form and file it with the Committee on Ethics within 30 days after travel is completed.

Please file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

1. Name of Traveler: Ritchie Torres
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: None None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 11/18/22 Return: 11/22/22
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: None None
4. Departure City: Dulles Airport, Virginia Destination: Prishtina, Kosovo Return City: New York, NY
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Vasfije's Initiative
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): Met with the President of Kosovo, the Speaker of the Parliament, the U.S. Ambassadors Office in Prishtina, survivors of sexual assault from the war, visited multiple cities, met with local elected officials, and visited non-profit organizations
7. Attached to this form are _____ of the following. Signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor _____ to the trip. Attachments _____ the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer;
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. Signify statement is true by checking the box.
b. If not, explain: _____

I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: X 

Date: 5/7/2024

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: Vasfije's Initiative, Inc.

2. Travel Destination(s): Prishtina, Kosovo

3. Date of Departure: Friday, November 18, 2022 Date of Return: Tuesday, November 22, 2022

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Congressman Ritchie Torres & Chief of Staff Angel Vasquez

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.

5. Actual amount of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$2,220.16	\$600	\$700	\$1200 for Meetings, Interpreter, Venues
Accompanying Family Member				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: V Blair Date: 5/3/2024

Name: Vasfije Krasniqi Goodman Blair Title: Founder

Organization: Vasfije's Initiative, Inc.

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 7318 Harbor Dr Rowlett, TX 75088

Telephone: 214-926-0777 Email: vasfije.bb@gmail.com

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.



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TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. This form and any attachments may be delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth or e-mailed to travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Ritchie John Torres

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Ritchie Torres

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: 317 Cannon House office Building Washington DC, 20515

Telephone Number: 646-531-2910

Email Address of Contact Person: Angel.Vazquez@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via e-mail: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.



TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Ritchie John Torres
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
Vasfije's Initiative
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Kosovo
4. a. Date of Departure: 11/18/22 Date of Return: 11/22/22
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
(2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
(3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:**
7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties.
Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.
Rep. Ritchie Torres is the Co-Chair of the Albanian Issues Caucus and is engaged on issues related to Kosovo and the surrounding region. He has large Albanian constituency in the district who regularly engages the Congressman's office on issues concerning Kosovo including seeking justice for war crimes. The Congressman has met with and spoken out on behalf of victims of Sexual War Crimes during the war in Kosovo. As the itinerary suggests, the Congressman will be visiting Kosovo to visit several NGO's related to servicing victims of war crimes.
9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member Ritchie Torres Date 10/12/22



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PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
Vasfije's Initiative, Inc.
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. Signify that the statement is true by checking box.
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**
 - b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**
 - c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):
1. Congressman Ritchie Torres 2. Chief of Staff Angel Vazquez (See attached for explanation)
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: Friday, November 18, 2022 Date of return: Tuesday, November 22, 2022
7. a. City of departure: Dulles Airport Washington, DC USA
b. Destination(s): Prishtina, Kosovo
c. City of return: New York City, NY
8. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. **Check only one of the following:**
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:



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10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. **Check only one of the following:**
 a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box; OR*
 b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
 Please see attached.
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
 a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
 b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
 c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*
15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
 a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
 b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.
 If "b" is checked:
 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):

 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
 Hotel Name: Swiss Diamond City: Prishtina Cost Per Night: \$200
 Reason(s) for Selecting: Security and Strategic Location
 Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
 Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
 Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
 Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*



18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$1221	\$600	\$700
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$1200	Meetings, Interpreter, Venues
For each Accompanying Family Member		

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. Check only one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. Not Applicable. Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Vasfije Krasniqi Goodman Blair Date: 10/10/2022
 Name: Vasfije Krasniqi Goodman Blair Title: Founder
 Organization: Vasfije's Initiative, Inc.
 Address: 7318 Harbor Dr Rowlett, TX 75088
 Email: vasfije.bb@gmail.com Telephone: (214) 926-0777

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC 20515

November 16, 2022

The Honorable Ritchie Torres
U.S. House of Representatives
317 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Kosovo,¹ scheduled for November 18 to 22, 2022, sponsored by Vasfije's Initiative.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$415 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$415] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan Wild". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "S" that loops around the rest of the name.

Susan Wild
Acting Chairwoman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Guest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michael Guest
Acting Ranking Member

SW/MG:tn

Attendees List

Ritchie Torres
Congressman United States House of Representatives
6465312910
Ritchie.John.Torres@gmail.com

Angel Vazquez
Chief of Staff
United House of Representatives
2123808926

Vasfije Krasniqi Goodman
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214-926-0777

Vera Mjeku
albamedia@aol.com
914-309-9757

Ismer Mjeku
Imjeku@aol.com
914-309-9430

Harry Bajraktari
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917-418-7474

Florim Bajraktari
Florim@hrlanding.com
914-693-0033

Vasfije's Initiative
Rep. Ritchie Torres Kosovo Trip Agenda
November 18th - November 22nd

November 18, 2022

Day 1: Travel

10:40pm Departure from Dulles International Airport

November 19, 2022

Day 2: Travel

6:30pm Arrival at Adem Jashari Airport, Prishtina

7:30pm Check in Swiss Diamond Hotel

8:30pm-9:30pm Dinner

November 20, 2022

Day 3: 3.75 hours

8:15am-8:45am Breakfast

9:00am Travel to Drenas

10:00am-11:00am Meet with Kadire Tahiraj, Director of the Center for the Promotion of Women's Rights, Drenas and Survivors of Sexual War Crimes.

About Center for the Promotion of Women's Rights in Drenas;
While the center opened in 2013 and provides services and support for over 312 survivor members, Tahiraj has been working with survivors since 2003 and while working with them

she recognized how difficult it is to break the silence of women who suffer from trauma and fear stigmatization. Her sustained advocacy is a large part of the reason that the government of Kosovo has passed legislation establishing the official status of thousands of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. In 2017 survivors started handcrafting unique pieces of jewelry and artifacts to share their story, express their inner creativity and empower the survivors socially and economically.

12:00pm-12:30pm Lunch

1:30pm Travel to Prishtina

.75 2:30pm-3:15pm Tentative Meeting President of the Republic of Kosovo Vjosa Osmani

1 3:30pm-4:30pm Tentative Meeting with Speaker of the Kosovo Parliament Glauk Konjufca

1 5:30pm-6:30pm Meet with Atifete Jahjaga, Founder and Chair of the Jahjaga Foundation.

About Jahjaga Foundation; The mission of this Foundation is to contribute to the democratization process in Kosovo through social inclusiveness, support for marginalized groups including survivors of sexual war crimes and creating conditions for peace in the region, by serving as a mechanism for strategic advocacy, mobilization and empowerment. Founded by Atifete Jahjaga, former President of Kosovo, Jahjaga is the first female head of state in the modern Balkans. She constantly participates in national and international conferences and initiatives aimed at

empowering women and supporting the survivors. She continues to be resolute in her fight against violent extremism and radicalization and a staunch promoter of peace and stability in the Balkans and beyond.

7:00pm-8:00pm Dinner

November 21, 2022

Day 4: 3.75 hours

8:15am-8:35am Breakfast

9:00am Travel to Gjakova

1 **10:00am-11:00am** Meet with Veprorë Shehu, Executive Director of Medica Kosova, Gjakova and Survivor Members.

About Medica Kosova: Medica Kosova was established right after the war in August 1999 and covers the Dukagjini Region. This was the first NGO to address access to justice and documentation of rape as a weapon of war with direct empowerment of the survivors to access justice. Among others the program supported 68 survivors and their economic empowerment through distribution of bees, capacity building in bee-care and honey collection as part of reparation and empowerment of women to rebuild their lives.

11:30am Travel to Prishtina

.75 **12:30pm-1:15pm** Tentative Meeting with Prime Minister of the Republic Kosovo Albin Kurti

1:30pm-2:15pm Lunch

2:30pm Travel to Krusha e Madhe

3:30pm-4:30pm Meeting with Fahrije Hoti, Founder and Director of Koperativa Krusha e Madhe.

About Koperativa Krusha e Madhe: Also known as the Village of War Widows, Krusha e Madhe went through one of the worst massacres during the war in Kosovo, where the whole male population of the village was killed and some still missing. To date, Fahrij Hoti's husband remains on the list of missing people, while she the other women of Krusha were faced with tremendous problems. Despite the brutal circumstances, Hoti built a successful business model and led her village out of poverty employing more than 50 women. Recently voted European of the Year, Hoti was also the main character of Hive, a feature film nominated for an Academy Award in 2021.

5:00pm Travel to Prishtina

6:00pm-7:00pm Tentative Meeting with US Ambassador Jeffrey M. Houvenier

8:00pm-9:00pm Dinner

November 22, 2022

Day 5: Travel

9:30am Depart Kosovo from Adem Jashari Airport

4:15pm Arrival in NYC