



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Working Session 2 – Combating Intolerance and Discrimination**

**Statement by
State Secretary of the Ministry for Kosovo and Metohija,
H.E. Dušan Proroković**

Delegation of the Republic of Serbia

Warsaw, 24 September - 5 October 2007

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished colleagues,

While we are talking about the fight against intolerance, discrimination and the promotion of understanding, our delegation must say a few words about the situation of human rights in Kosovo and Metohija.

As you know, Kosovo and Metohija is a Serbian autonomous province, temporary administered by the international civil and military mission. In the last eight years, there have been several processes of transferring authority from the international administration to provisional institutions governed by Kosovo Albanians.

I personally have nothing against such a process if it turns out to be justified. However, it turned out to be completely unjustified. Namely, the situation of human rights in Kosovo and Metohija has not been in the least improved. On the contrary, it has even worsened in some segments. This was also concluded by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Kai Eide, who was given a mandate to evaluate Kosovo and Metohija's progress on Standards.

I would like to remind you that out of 240,000 refugees and internally displaced persons, the victims of the ethnic cleansing of non-Albanian population as of July 1999 and March 2004, only 7 percent have returned to Kosovo and Metohija, while the majority of the remaining 120,000 in Kosovo and Metohija live in very deprived conditions.

Unfortunately, the principles of ghettoisation still exist in Europe. People in Kosovo and Metohija live in enclaves an other name for settlements of only a few kilometers in diameter. Their movement is limited to that area, because the freedom of movement has been restricted as a result of the absence of basic security.

The basic human rights of freedom of movement and personal security cannot be currently guaranteed to all in Kosovo and Metohija.

Ever arising incidents are usually not investigated, and those responsible are left unpunished. I have to point out that there have been committed some of the most monstrous crimes, like killing of children.

Also, the majority of the Serbian property has been occupied, so that the people do not have access to their property. The property registration process is under way and we expect more than 50,000 individual cases.

The issues of ensuring the freedom of movement, basic security and the fight against intolerance based on national affiliation, must be priorities of the international community. Serbia is interested to make available all its capacities and resources and to play a constructive role in the process so as to find the quickest possible solution. We must see to it that Serbs, Romas and Gorans in Kosovo and Metohija live lives worthy of human beings.

I thank you.