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Mitrovica Problem and Status of Kosovo

Again about Mitrovica. This time it is not mentioned regarding crime or disorder, or any strategic plan done by UNMIK, but about a plan which is proposed by ESI (European Stability Initiative) and a declaration by Javier Solana (the High Representative of EU Security and Foreign Policy).

All initiatives and proposals until now to initiate a process of reunifying Mitrovica town had many advantages and one big defect. They have plenty of arguments which are in favor of supporting the necessity of the unification of the town, they offer ideas and proposals which explain the unification and socio-economic development of the town in all aspects, but in very rare cases they take into consideration one truth: the division of Mitrovica by the Serbian Government was done on purpose, the division of Kosovo happened for political reasons when the issue of the final status of Kosovo will be raised, and not for security reasons or for protection which they wanted from UNMIK or the Government of Kosovo, or for a new offer for economic development of this part of Kosovo.

(Regardless of) any offer from UNMIK or ESI or somebody else, Belgrade and the Serbian politicians in Kosovo – they will do what they want. They will keep the Mitrovica issue *alive* to be solved as part of the *Kosova status package*.

Exactly for this reason, Javier Solana's declaration given a few days ago is of huge importance. The prime – diplomat said that the Mitrovica problem should be solved until next year, or before the final evaluation of the standards, which is the prologue for Kosovo's final status. If Solana's attitude will be official US and EU policy then there are chances that the issue of Mitrovica will be addressed prior to the issue of Kosovo's status



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