



Embassy of the Republic of Serbia

**Written statement by H.E. Mihailo Papazoglu to Weekly Magazine
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It is true that Canada did recognise the UDI (unilateral declaration of independence) of Kosovo. We deeply regret it - because territorial disputes or armed conflicts are not that simple. Countries, both friends and partners of Serbia and Canada, like Ukraine or Israel, understand that and that is exactly why they are opposed to do the same. Like many others, some of them UNSC members, like Russia or China, or all others within the BRICS. Or EU member states like Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Slovakia or Spain, like majority of governments from Arab world or geographically distant but like-minded countries from Latin America, Asia or Africa. All those countries around the world that, by size of their population, represent the overwhelming majority of the world. On the other hand, Canada was and is supportive of political process Belgrade-Pristina and is militarily present in Kosovo and Metohija assuring the peace and stability. It is our hope that this will create conditions for the safe return of 220.000 IDP, mainly Serbs and Roma to our southern province - 16 years after the end of conflict. For that support we are grateful.

By saying that - someone coming from the region of Kosovo and Metohija to Canada is to me a citizen of Serbia, the same as any other - regardless of what his or her religious or ethnic affiliation may be. No less, no more.