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Skopje and Pristina begin “border” demarcation

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The placing of a border post at the Macedonia-Albania-Kosovo three-border junction point at Serupa on Sar Mountain, at about 2,100 meters above sea level, officially marked Monday the beginning of Macedonia-Kosovo border demarcation process.

The border line runs through a rough terrain, and the demarcation job could be carried through the summer when the weather condition is better.

Delegations from Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo, as well as international officials attended the border demarcation launch.

Belgrade is declaring this process null and void.

The leader of the Democratic Party of Serbs in Macedonia Ivan Stojiljkovic said that UN Envoy Martti Ahtisaari's plan quoted by Macedonia and a part of the international community as a basis for demarcation is a document which has no international validity and that Macedonia cannot demarcate its northern border without involving Serbia too.

Macedonia signed an agreement on border demarcation with Serbia in 2001 – deposited with the UN Security Council -- but Kosovo refused to recognize the stretch between itself and Macedonia, saying that would hand a swath of 2,000 hectares of Kosovo's territory to Macedonia.

Macedonia regards it as a precondition for it to recognize Kosovo's independence.