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Samardzic: Unilateral Moves Would Not Bring Peace to Kosovo

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Serbian Minister for Kosovo Slobodan Samardzic said on Thursday in the northern part of Kosovska Mitrovica, mostly inhabited by Serbs, that "there would be no peace in Kosovo" if the Albanians made a unilateral declaration of independence, which would then be acknowledged by certain countries.

"There would be no peace here with that kind of solution. It is the worst possible solution, and if that happens, not only will Serbia not accept it, but will do everything to punish such moves and return them to normal," Samardzic said.

Russian ambassador to Serbia Alexander Alexeyev, who also visited northern Kosovska Mitrovica, said that the Russian and Serbian policies on Kosovo were united, adding that the resolution of the Kosovo issue could be no exception.

"The law applies to everyone and we have two options – the implementation and the violation of international law. International law must be abided by. It was dangerous to set a status solution before the beginning of the talks and make artificial deadlines," Alexeyev said.

Alexeyev also said that Russia was working with Serbia on ensuring a fair solution for Kosovo, in line with international law and based on European security. He added that his country advocated the meeting of democratic standards in the province prior to defining its status.