



**General Assembly**

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/HRC/7/G/17  
16 April 2008

Original: ENGLISH

---

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Seventh session  
Agenda item 3

**PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL,  
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS,  
INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**Letter dated 21 March 2008 from the Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of Serbia addressed to the  
President of the Human Rights Council**

I am writing to you regarding the conduct of business during the high-level segment of the current seventh session of the Human Rights Council.

On 4 March, during the high-level segment, the delegation of the Republic of Albania was given the right of reply with regard to the statement delivered by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić, the previous day. The first procedural question that raises concern is why the representative of the Republic of Albania was given the floor, since there had been no reference to Albania in Mr. Jeremić's statement. The reply of the representative of Albania which was entirely dedicated to the southern Serbian Province of Kosovo and Metohija, contained false, biased and fully unsubstantiated allegations regarding the situation of Kosovo Albanians in the Province. In order to respond to the statement delivered by the representative of Albania, the delegation of the Republic of Serbia asked for the right of reply the following day, 5 March, during the same high-level segment. The Serbian delegation was however denied that right, although there was a direct reference to the Republic of Serbia in the reply of the delegation of Albania.

GE.08-13117

In view of the facts presented above, I would respectfully request an explanation from the Bureau of the Council regarding the conduct of business during the high-level segment. Furthermore, given that the delegation of the Republic of Serbia was denied the exercise of its right of reply, I respectfully request that the information\* attached to the present letter be published as a document of the seventh session and distributed to all Council members and observers.

*(Signed)* Slobodan **Vukčević**  
Permanent Representative

---

\* Reproduced in the annex, as received and in the language of submission only.

### **Annex**

#### **THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA ON THE RIGHT OF REPLY EXERCISED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

The Government of the Republic of Serbia is surprised by the fact that the representative of the Republic of Albania used the right of reply to the address of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia Vuk Jeremic during the High Level Segment, because he made no reference whatsoever to the Republic of Albania in his address.

The representative of the Republic of Albania has obviously abused his right of reply, with the sole purpose of reiterating the position of his country with respect to the attempt at illegal secession of Kosovo and Metohija. The position of the Republic of Serbia concerning the illegal unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo and Metohija by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in the Province and possible recognition of this illegal act by other states are well known and it is not necessary to repeat them on this occasion.

The reply of the representative of the Republic of Albania was mostly devoted to the crimes committed against the Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija. It is an opportunity to recall the principled position of the democratic government of the Republic of Serbia that all peoples in the territory of the former Yugoslavia have, above all, a moral and civilizational obligation to face their recent past. On their part, the democratic authorities of Serbia have condemned all crimes committed against members of other nations and ethnic groups during the regime of Slobodan Milosevic and have undertaken all measures that those responsible be brought to justice and punished.

Although the Kosovo Liberation Army, condemned for its terrorist acts by a number of UN Security Council resolutions, had also committed a series of crimes against the Serb population and the representatives of Serbian authorities in Kosovo and Metohija, none of these crimes have been condemned thus far by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government nor have any measures been taken against the perpetrators. This is the difference between the democratic authorities in Serbia and the “democrats” in Pristina.

The representative of the Republic of Albania also made insinuations about the alleged dangers to individuals in the Republic of Serbia because of their ethnic or religious affiliation or political belief. These allegations are absolutely false. The Republic of Serbia guarantees all the internationally recognized human rights and freedoms to all its citizens, without any discrimination. At the same time, my country is actively engaged in the promotion of human rights issues at all domestic and international fora. The only real human rights problems exist in the Province of Kosovo and Metohija, to which Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Vuk Jeremic, referred at the session for High Level Segment.

As the Albanian representative stated himself, the time of conflicts and hatred in the Balkans is behind us. The Republic of Serbia remains fully committed to regional stability and the realization of the region's common European future. Unfortunately, some acts of the Republic of Albania, such as the contents of the right of reply of its representative in the Human Right Council, do not contribute to the strengthening of good-neighbourly relations, cooperation and trust in the region, which has no European perspective without it.

-----