



Content Committee: Ghana

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1 Kosovo / Serbia Conflict Overview

2 Ghana's Stance on the Kosovo Conflict

Having originally recognized Kosovo's independence in 2012, Ghana revoked this recognition in November 2019, noting, in a letter addressed to Serbia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that its prior recognition had been "in contravention of the Helsinki Final Act and, more fundamentally, of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244." [1]

The Helsinki Final Act (also known as the Helsinki Accords) was signed by all of the European states apart from Albania and Andorra, along with Canada and the U.S. at the end of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, in August 1975. Among other provisions regarding international cooperation on humanitarian and economic matters, the Helsinki Final Act specifies that the signatory states shall "regard as inviolable all one another's frontiers as well as the frontiers of all States in Europe" and, furthermore, "respect the territorial integrity of each of the participating States." [2] Notably, the Helsinki accords aren't binding, and do not have treaty status. [3] Ghana is not a signatory of the Helsinki Accords.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1244 authorizes the UN Secretary-General to "establish an international civil presence in Kosovo in order to provide an interim administration . . . under which the people of Kosovo can enjoy substantial autonomy within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia." The interim administration was to allow for the "development of provisional democratic self-governing institutions," which would enable a return to peace and normality in Kosovo's territory.[4] Following Kosovo's unilateral proclamation of independence in 2008, several countries, including Serbia, have posited that Resolution 1244 ought to remain legally binding, suggesting that Kosovo's independence may therefore not be accepted as legitimate.[6]

Earlier in 2019, the Serbian Government's plans of strengthening diplomatic relations with Ghana through re-opening its diplomatic mission in Ghana as well as reinforcing the two countries' trade ties. In a recent speech, Serbia's Minister of Foreign Affairs highlighted the roughly five-fold increase in trade volume between the two countries between 2000 and 2008 as an indication of the great potential linked to the renewal of the two countries' commercial relations. [7]



Fig. 1: The relative positions of Serbia and Ghana (in red). Kosovo is shown in green..

3 References

- 1 Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia
<http://www.mfa.gov.rs/en/press-service/statements/19074-ghana-revokes-recognition-of-kosovo>
- 2 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe: 'Helsinki Final Act'
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- 4 UN Digital Library: 'Resolution 1244'
<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/274488?ln=en>
- 5 Wikipedia: 'United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244'
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_1244#cite_note-5
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- 7 GhanaWeb: 'Serbia to re-open diplomatic mission in Ghana'
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