

Body found in U.S. embassy in Belgrade

by UPI

BELGRADE, Serbia - A burned body was removed from the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, which was set afire by demonstrators protesting Kosovo's break from Serbia. The U.S. State Department said none of the embassy's personnel was in the building during the demonstration but its security guards and U.S. Marines were at the facility, B92 reported Friday. A spokesman said Thursday that embassy officials were certain the victim "did not die in any kind of contact with the embassy's security." Local police haven't released a statement. An autopsy was scheduled for Friday, B92 reported. Serbian police and other law enforcement agencies said 150 people were injured in the rally-turn-riot against Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence. Officials said groups broke away from the estimated 250,000 demonstrators and vandalized embassies of countries recognizing Kosovo, banks and restaurants. Rioters forced their way into the U.S. Embassy, climbed to the balcony, took down the American flag, set it on fire and replaced it with the Serbian flag, B92 said. Flames eventually engulfed the first two floors of the structure, police said. Protesters also damaged embassies for Croatia, Turkey and Germany. Incidents of vandalism were reported at the Canadian, British and Belgian embassies.

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