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Oktaj Hasani* The attitude of the international community to the October 1997 student protests in Kosovo, before and after the outbreak
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## ***EDITORIAL NOTE/NOTA EDITORIAL***

**Antonio Marquina<sup>1</sup>**  
*Director, UNISCI*

This issue of the journal includes a wide selection of studies on international relations and security issues.

First of all, there is a study on the Sahara conflict by Professor Lofti Sour who explains the new situation created after the recognition by the United States of the annexation by Morocco of the majority of the territory of Western Sahara and the resumption of hostilities between Morocco and the Polisario Front in November 2020. The perspective is typical of an Algerian professor, and presents elements for reflection in view of the new situation opened up since November 2020.

As the author explains, the objective of the article is to study the rivalry between Algeria and Morocco and its interaction with the Sahara issue and how the relationship between these two countries affects the Arab Maghreb and the Western Sahara issue.

The article is not a study that reviews the main events and initiatives launched since 1975. Rather it focuses on the most recent developments, the existential crisis of the peace process dynamics, the role of different players at the United Nations Security Council, the European Union approach, the Algerian policies and Moroccan reactions. The article presents at the end two possible scenarios for the future relations of Morocco and Algeria in order to deal with the conflict transformation - something very relevant to which politicians generally pay little attention.

A second article includes a study of the October 1977 riots in Kosovo and their internal transformation: the mobilization of the masses, the unification of society, the change of methods of resistance, from passive to active, and the gradual mass organization of the KLA, as a military formation, where a large part of the students were finally integrated. A significant radicalization process that also transformed the conflict and its actors. The article also emphasizes the change of attitudes in the international arena regarding the problem created in Kosovo as a result of the student protests, an important instrument in the internationalization of the Kosovo issue.

Several studies deal with the terrorist threat, threat that has not diminished in importance, despite the strong competition between states that we are witnessing. In this regard, the final article by Liu Chunlin and Rohan Gunaratna is a strong reminder of the transformation of this threat and the new role that Afghanistan will play.

Two other articles explain an interesting and at the time shocking event, the terrorist attacks in Bali. They explain the radicalization process of the terrorists who planted the bombs and try to explain their mentality, based on their memoirs, as well as the collaboration on terrorist issues that took place between Indonesia and Australia after the attacks.

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Finally, three articles deal with various topics of special interest in the Indonesian international relations: The United Nations mission in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, explaining its complexities and results; the disputes between Indonesia and the European Union on the issue of biodiesel, an issue that remains on the table and hinders good relations between the European Union and ASEAN; and, finally, a study of the negotiation process for reaching an economic partnership agreement between Indonesia and Japan, its difficulties and, in particular, the Indonesia's negotiating weaknesses, which is quite illustrative.

UNISCI thanks all the authors for their contributions to this issue of the journal.