

Why Self-determination?

Self-determination is the right of all colonized peoples. The absence of preparation in the fields of politics, economics, society or education cannot be used as a pretext to delay independence. (UN SC Resolution 1514, 1960)

VETËVENDOSJE!
<http://www.vetevendosje.org>

Newsletter from the Movement for SELF-DETERMINATION!

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THIS WEEK:

- Hidden concessions of negotiation team
- Exhibition in Mitrovica
- 7 goals of 'ex-territoriality' and decentralization
- European hypocrisy
- Decentralization and 'sustainable return' create ethnic division

Hidden Concessions of Negotiation Team

On Wednesday, 20th September 2006, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held a press conference in which we presented the concessions the so-called Negotiation Team has made to Serbia over decentralization and the 'ex-territoriality' of Orthodox objects.

We also presented the maps of the special protection zones around just 15 of the churches and monasteries out of 39 offered by the negotiation team to Serbia in the last Vienna meeting. These maps have not been made public.

They reveal that hundreds of hectares of land are being placed within each of these zones, including major roads and strategic heights.

7 goals of 'exterritoriality'

1. Appropriation of hundreds of hectares of territory for each of at least 39 special zones offered so far to Serbia by the negotiation team of Kosova.
2. Usurpation of Kosova's cultural and historic values, delegitimization of Albanians as the autochthon population of Kosova, turning them into immigrants.
3. Closure of social and public enterprises and suspension of their privatization.
4. Obstruction of residents' right to use their private property.
5. Obstruction of freedom of movement of local people.
6. Obstruction of building and economic activities.
7. Formation of new Serb villages in these special zones based on 'sustainable return': re-colonizing Kosova

Exhibition in Mitrovica

This week our photographic exhibition went to the town of Mitrovica in the north of Kosova. Hundreds of

people came to see the 280 photographs that depict our actions over the last year and a half.

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7 goals of Decentralization

1. Expansion of Serb enclaves which include Albanian villages in the name of multi-ethnicity, but in which Albanians remain a minority.
2. Territorial connection of the expanded Serb enclaves.
3. Legalization of parallel structures of Serbia in Kosova.
4. Formation of an autonomous Serb entity inside Kosova, like the Serb Republic in Bosnia.
5. Isolation of the Albanian inhabited valley of Presheva, encircling and cutting it off from Kosova.
6. Taking control of strategic military points on hills and mountains.
7. Organized return of Serbs in the name of 'sustainable return', not where they lived before, but where they are now a majority, where they will become majority or wherever enclaves will be connected. Thus, the re-colonization of Kosova.

Chronology of compromise: 'ex-territoriality'

Zones demanded by Serbia	Zones offered by Kosova Team
40	0
40	1
40	8
40	13
42	15
42	39

European Hypocrisy

A draft resolution of the European Parliament stated last week that an independent Kosova is the best way to achieve peace and stability. 'While respecting Serbia and her territorial integrity, the Assembly of the European Parliament believes that an independent Kosovo, *under some preceding conditions*, would be the solution which – except the fact that it would suit the will of the majority of citizens of Kosova – would also provide the best chance for long-term peace and stability in the region.'

But 'independence under conditions' means the *de facto* ethnic

partition of Kosova by decentralization and 'ex-territoriality' of Orthodox objects. It also means a Kosova run by a new EU mission that will have the authority to supervise the realization of decentralization and the 'protection' of cultural heritage in Kosova, the rule of law and security issues, with the right to intervene in these issues.

If the EU has control of the security of Kosova, its economy, and its justice system, then the EU will hold the power that should belong to democratically elected institutions in Kosova. If the EU is here to ensure that decentralization and 'ex-territoriality' are implemented, then it will certainly not be 'helping' Kosova, as it claimed this week, but destroying it.

No change in Belgrade

"Kosova shall always remain the heart of Serbia", said Prime Minister, Vojislav Kostunica, speaking to the cadets of the military academy last week. "It's the same old idea, only Milosevic is missing", Cedomir Jovanovic, head of Liberal-Democratic Party of Serbia, said to AP News.

Decentralization and 'sustainable return' create ethnic division

The combination of decentralization and 'sustainable return' will create and maintain ethnic divisions within Kosova.

In the Protocol on Return (June 2006) UNMIK, the PISG and Serbia agreed that in order to return, displaced persons must be guaranteed access to social, economic and communal infrastructure and services and security (article 1). Returnees also have the right to settle in alternative places in Kosova (article 2).

In the context of ethnic decentralization, where proposed Serb majority municipalities will provide services like education and policing on the basis of ethnicity, there is an unavoidable logic to 'sustainable return'.

In order to guarantee services and security, the displaced will be returned to Serb municipalities rather than their place of origin, thus reinforcing the Bosniaization of Kosova.