

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:

Action in Lypjan and Shtime
Action in Mitrovicë
Public Meeting in Runik, Skënderaj
Is Serbia trying to re-colonize Kosova?
Debate with Lutfi Haziri

Action in Lypjan and Shtime

On Wednesday 27th September, activists of Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! were in Lypjan and Shtime. Activists distributed our newspaper, put up boycott posters and handed out boycott leaflets with information about substitute products for food and pharmaceuticals not made in Serbia.

For the first time in Shtime, activists put up two large posters of a map which shows the impact decentralization will have on Kosova. Altogether, 40 maps of decentralization have been put up on walls throughout the major towns of Kosova.

BOYCOTT THIS BARCODE 860

Action in Mitrovicë

From mid-day until 7pm, on Saturday September 30th, activists from Vushtrri and Prishtina joined the centre in Mitrovica in order to place three large maps showing the impact of decentralization on walls in the centre of the town.

After this, boycott posters were stuck on walls all over the town centre, newspapers were distributed and leaflets handed out to passers-by with information about substitute products not made in Serbia. Shop-owners along the main street agreed to put 'boycott' stickers above the entrances of their shops, some coming out into the street to make sure we visited them.

Public Meeting in Runik, Skënderaj

On Thursday 28th September, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held a public meeting in the village of Runik. About 300 people gathered

in the school called 'Anton Çetta' to hear Albin Kurti explain the political principles of our movement.

The meeting was meant to be held at 12:30, but was delayed by one hour because a French KFOR checkpoint at Klinë e Epërme tried to prevent our activists from passing. This is the reality of 'freedom of movement' in the so-called 'democracy' of Kosova.

Why do we argue Serbia is trying to re-colonize Kosova?

Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! is not anti-Serb. Serbs who have been displaced have every right to return to their homes in Kosova where they lived before.

We are concerned by the link between decentralization, which intends to create new Serb majority municipalities mainly in the east of Kosova, and the changed principles behind UNMIK's policy of 'sustainable return'. This policy now states that displaced people can choose to return to places other than those where they lived before, in order to make their return more 'sustainable'.

We oppose the deliberate structuring of the choices of these returnees. The logic of this new policy is that returnees will either choose individually to live in the new Serb majority municipalities, or that through organized return, Serbia will encourage them to make this decision. This will simply reinforce the creation of an autonomous Serbian territorial entity, and end any pretence at recreating multi-ethnicity throughout Kosova.

The night of 3rd February 2000: 11 Albanians were killed by Serb 'bridgewatchers' from North Mitrovica in front of the eyes of French KFOR.
February 2000: 11,364 Albanians were expelled from their homes in North Mitrovica

Debate with Lutfi Haziri

On Friday 29th September, Lutfi Haziri held a debate with representatives of civil society hosted by ATRC in Prishtina. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Haziri accepted that Serbia's intentions through decentralization were to expand the territory it controls in Kosova. He explained that Serbia has sought to create Serb munic-

ipalities where there are no Serb residents; where there is the potential to settle new residents to live near Serb monuments, like Gazimestan; and where there are already a few Serb residents and thus the potential for return, like Osojan. He claimed that the negotiation team had eliminated these threats in their proposals.

Our activists challenged him. Glauk Konjufca argued that the negotiation team's plan contradicted the fundamental principles of decentralization itself. First, he argued, it was legalizing mono-ethnic enclaves, through the creation of Ranillug. Second, it was creating larger, rather than smaller municipalities through the trebling in size of Artana (Novo Bërdë). Thirdly, there is clearly territorial continuity between the new municipalities of Ranillug and Artana, and Klokot and Partesh. Glauk concluded that the politicians of Kosova were willingly creating a Serb entity within the borders of Kosova, in contrast to Croatia, which fought to prevent the creation of the same kind of entity.

Visar Ymeri argued that decentralization was being implemented in opposition to the wishes even of Serbs in Kosova. He quoted an interview from the daily paper, The Express, with Serbs in Ranillug who said that they simply wanted jobs, not a new municipality. They said they had no one local qualified to run their municipality, so they would have to invite someone from Belgrade. This, Visar argued, was not decentralization because it was bringing Serbs in Ranillug closer to Belgrade and further from Prishtina.

Lastly, Liburn Aliu showed Mr. Haziri two maps. One map was from the Coordination Centre of Serbia and illustrated their initial plan for the organized return of displaced Serbs to Kosova. The second map was created by Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! to illustrate the last proposal of the negotiation team of Kosova. Liburn argued that these two plans were almost identical, demonstrating that Serbia was creating these new Serb municipalities with the intention of directing all Serb returnees to live there, rather than in their original homes. This strategy, Liburn argued, would reinforce the ethnic partition of Kosova.