

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:

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Gjilan action against Rücker

Yesterday, whilst distributing newspapers, activists of Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! in Gjilan learnt that the SRSG was visiting the municipality officials to persuade them to accept the decentralization plans of the negotiation group of Kosova.

40 of our activists immediately blocked the main entrance to the municipality and forced Mr Rücker to enter through the back door. Although our activists were removed forcefully by the local police, it was the bodyguards of the politicians who punched 5 of our activists. One of them threatened them saying, 'We'll meet again, and then I'll slit your throat'.

We blocked Mr Rücker's entrance into the municipality building because we believe that decentralization is going to create the ethnic partition of our country, like Republika Serbska in Bosnia. The current plans for 5 + 1 serb majority municipalities will legalize the parallel structures of Serbia within a contiguous area of territory largely in Anamorava, in the east of Kosova. In the name of 'multi-ethnicity', these municipalities are being constructed so that Albanians will always be a minority, and thus always under the control of Belgrade directed institutions. Decentralization will not bring government closer to the people in these areas, but closer to Belgrade.

Public meeting in Skënderaj

On Monday 9th, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held a public meeting in the Palace of Culture in Skënderaj. About 300-400 local people attended. Albin Kurti and Liburn Aliu gave a presentation regarding the impact of decentralization and special protection

zones around Orthodox monuments, two of the 'technical issues' being negotiated in Vienna.

Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! has held hundreds of public meetings in all the major towns and many villages of Kosova over the last year warning people of the dangers of the negotiation process. We are now giving a new presentation which explains in detail the dangers inherent in these processes and shows to the people for the first time, the maps and plans of the negotiation team that have not been made public and which our TV stations are not brave enough to broadcast.

You have the right to read this newsletter!

- 'Everyone has the right to freedom of thought,' (Article 9).
- 'Everyone has the right to freedom of expression,' (Article 10).

The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Address to the Protestant Churches

Albin Kurti was invited to address members of the Protestant community in Prishtina on Tuesday. Albin talked about our movement, presented our political concepts, and answered questions. He received a very warm reception.

This meeting took place after the latest attempts by the Orthodox Bishop Artemije of Graçanica, during his visit to the United States, to persuade politicians and church leaders that the conflict between Serbia and Kosova is about faith: that Kosova will be a bastion of support for Al Qaeda, just because the majority of the population are moslem, and thus the Orthodox church here requires protection through 'extraterritoriality'.

In contrast, on Thursday, the Protestant Church in Kosova stated that the conditions for freedom of worship in Kosova are the best in Europe. They concluded by stating that they are 'fully convinced that only a future state of Kosova, a juridical and democratic state, can defend all the rights of its citizens, including christianity and all its cultures and traditions, catholic, orthodox or protestant' (Express, 12.08.2006)

Public meeting in Pejë and in Prizren

On Friday 13th, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held public meetings in Pejë and in Prizren. In Pejë, Albin Kurti gave a presentation to about one hundred students at the Business Institute of the University of Prishtina. In Prizren, Albin Kurti and Liburn Aliu gave a presentation to about 400 citizens of the town in the main square by the fountain. After this meeting, over 100 people signed up to become activists.

Debate in Besianë (Podujevë)

On Saturday 14th October Albin Kurti took part in a debate hosted by LPK (The People's Movement of Kosova) in Besianë (Podujevë). The other participants in the debate were LPK leader, Emrush Xhemalji, and Professor Rifat Blakaj.

Paying for phone codes

Because Kosova is not an independent state, it has no right to an international dialling code. Thus, we currently pay to use two. We pay E30 million to Serbia every year to use the code 381 for fixed calls, and another E50 million to Monaco Telecom every year to use the code 377 for mobile telephones.

Organized return in Graçanica

In February, the municipality of Prishtina gave 54 fields of socially owned land in order to build 4 apartment blocks in Graçanica for 'returning Serbs'. But no serbs left Graçanica – why then is the PISG building homes for them with public land? Why is ethnicity determining the aid you get from the state, when 15% of the *whole* population of Kosova are surviving on just 1 euro a day and 37% are living on under 1.42 euros a day?

The victims of the last war

Serbia during the last war in Kosova killed over 12,000 people. Over 95% of them were unprotected civilians, mostly children, women and the elderly. Approximately 20,000 women were raped, 740,000 people deported by force, and 120,000 houses destroyed. There are still over 2,000 people missing in Kosova today.