

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:

- Public meeting in Syrganë
- Ferizaj and Gjilan debates
- KFOR in Kosova with our consent, not Serbia's
- Why boycott products made in Serbia?
- How Resolution 1244 protects Serbia's sovereignty over Kosova.

Public Meeting in Syrganë

On Friday 20th October, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held a public meeting in the village of Syrganë in the municipality of Skënderaj. Albin Kurti and Liburn Aliu addressed those attending and delivered our presentation regarding the dangers posed by decentralization and the creation of special protection zones around Orthodox churches and monasteries.

A meeting was held in this village because the people here are directly under threat from decentralization. We believe that Mr. Ahtisaari will recommend the creation of 4 extra serb majority municipalities in the north west of Kosova in what is now Skënderaj, Burim (Istog), Klina and Peja, based on the villages of Baja, Osojan, Binça and Gorazhdec.

We oppose the creation of these municipalities because they will be directly linked territorially to the existing serb municipalities of the north which Serbia governs through its parallel structures. Creating these municipalities before Kosova has sovereignty will enable Serbia to extend its control of this area. The village of Syrganë is in danger: as a mixed village, they'll try to incorporate it within the new municipality of Baja and use it as a bridge to the planned municipality of Osojan. Villagers of Syrigana agreed that they should resist decentralization. Certainly there is potential to block Serbia's plans to create an autonomous ethnic entity in this area.

Debating in Ferizaj and Gjilan

Continuing our public meetings across the country, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held a debate in Ferizaj and Gjilan on Saturday 21st October. The activists Hysen Durmishi and Albin Kurti spoke in both locations.

In contrast to our politicians who have done everything possible to keep secret the deals they are striking in negotiations, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! is talking directly to the people and sharing with them the information we have gathered about the negotiations process.

KFOR in Kosova with our consent, not Serbia's

Currently the NATO KFOR mission is in Kosova on the basis of the Kumanovo Military Technical Agreement of 9th June 1999.

This Agreement was signed between KFOR and the leading Generals of the Yugoslav Army. The people of Kosova were not signatories. The agreement states that KFOR will be bound by UNSC Resolution 1244, which reaffirms the sovereignty of Yugoslavia (now Serbia) in Kosova.

Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! is in favor of a continued NATO presence in Kosova after self-determination, while we train and consolidate our own armed forces. But, their presence here must be with the consent of the people of Kosova. We should have the right, like all other countries, to sign a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with NATO. Only on this basis, can NATO troops be seen as partners for peace in Kosova, and not as an occupying force.

ALL FOR EACH

We declare that WE ARE CITIZENS of Kosova, and that we have the right to enjoy all human and citizenship rights in accordance with international and European conventions. As citizens and activists of Kosova, we pledge that with commitment and determination and by nonviolent means we will fight for our rights and freedom. Citizens are the fundamental source of sovereignty.

Why we are boycotting products made in Serbia.

Since May, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! has been organizing a boycott of products made in Serbia. A boycott is a recognized political weapon of nonviolent resistance, first used in Ireland in the 19th century by the Land League against absentee landlords. We are boycotting products made in Serbia because Serbia was, and will be the enemy of the people of Kosova, until we are allowed to

exercise our right to self-determination.

Through this boycott we aim to achieve two things. First, we want to damage Serbia so that she recognizes our right to self-determination. We can do this by placing her under economic pressure. Although Kosova is a small market, between 1999-2006, it spent 856 million euros on products made in Serbia, mostly food, construction materials, hygiene products and pharmaceuticals. This figure does not include the 60% of products that enter the border illegally. Boycotting products made in Serbia sends a strong message to Belgrade.

Secondly, we want to help Kosova. By relying on imports from Serbia, Kosova is failing to develop its own production capacity. We need to encourage people to buy products made here in order to develop our own economy [see our website for substitute products].

Why should people in Kosova buy construction materials from Serbia when during the last war, Serbia's forces damaged or destroyed 119,855 of our homes? Why should we buy pharmaceuticals made in Serbia, when during the last war, Serbia's forces killed 12,000 unarmed civilians in Kosova?

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How Resolution 1244 protects Serbia's sovereignty over Kosova.

In the preamble, UNSC Resolution 1244 reaffirms 'the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the other States of the region, as set out in the Helsinki Final Act and annex 2'.

Annex 2.8, states that the Resolution is committed to 'a political process towards the establishment of an interim political framework agreement providing for substantial self-government for Kosovo, taking full account of the Rambouillet accords and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the other countries of the region'. The Rambouillet Accords (2.23.1999) reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia over Kosova.