

### 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:

- Diplomacy of deceit
- Denying our freedom of speech
- Intimidation in Gjilan
- Meetings in Krushë e Vogël and Zojs
- Photographic Exhibition
- Meetings in Lypjan and Vushtrri

#### Diplomacy of deceit

It appears that the sovereignty of Kosovo is being given to anyone other than the people who actually have a right to it, the citizens of Kosova.

In the parts of Ahtisaari's plan published in the media this week, it is implied that a new UN resolution would pass the sovereignty of Kosova to the EU, and thus away from Serbia. But, the word 'independence' does not appear anywhere in this document. This is because nothing in the document describes the attributes of an independent and sovereign state. And this is because there is a lack of will to clearly cut the tie between Kosova and Serbia.

Kosova will not have a seat in the UN. As a sop, it will be offered instead the right to make treaties and to join international organizations, the former something it has already begun to do through free trade agreements.

Kosova will not have a foreign ministry, and so it will have no embassies, and no representatives to promote and defend its interests throughout the world.

It will not have an army, but instead something called a 'security' force, with 2,500 active members and 800 in reserve, armed only with light weapons. With this kind of force, it is clear that it will only be providing the 'security' for Serbia to attack Kosova, and not security to the people in Kosova. The final joke is that the so-called Ministry of Defense, will be called the Civilian Led Organization. One of the key services that a state offers its citizens is protection from other states: it promises to defend them. Thus, it has a Ministry of Defense. What on earth does a Civilian Led Organization do or mean?

Lastly, Kosova will have within it an ethnically autonomous entity created by decentralization. The plan confirms that there will be 5+1 new Serb majority municipalities which are

territorially linked. In a final and most ludicrous twist, it suggests that the *number* of municipalities will not increase, but adds that their *size* will. Kosova must be the only location in the world where decentralization is actually increasing the size of municipalities, rather than reducing them. If Artana gets any bigger, it will incorporate all of Anamorava.

This is the diplomacy of deceit and cowardice. The people of Kosova have the right to decide how to govern themselves. They should not have to wait for the scraps left over after Serbia, or Russia, or China have squabbled over how much freedom they can have. Kosova should have the right to self-determination.

#### What does a sovereign Kosova mean?

- 1) Armed forces
- 2) A seat in the UN
- 3) A foreign ministry
- 4) No ethnically based autonomous territorial entity within its borders

#### Denial of freedom of speech

On Tuesday 31st October at 11am, 4 of our activists in Mitrovica were arrested for trying to attend a meeting with the Negotiation Team of Kosova in the local Municipal Assembly.

Our activists were exercising their right as citizens of Kosova to take part in the meeting, and to ask questions. The drivers of the Negotiation Team were allowed to take part in the meeting, but our activists, (Jeton Ademi, Bujar Voca, Besnik Latifi and Valon Ademi), were arrested before even entering the room. They were held in the police station from 11am until 1.45, when the Negotiation Team left Mitrovica.

This shows clearly that if you dare to voice your opposition to the negotiation process taking place now in Kosova, you have no right to freedom of speech. This freedom is available only to those who support the process. Such is 'democracy' in Kosova.

It is hardly surprising that the people of Kosova are being denied their right to self-determination, when they are being denied even the right to question the politicians who are so shamelessly bargaining over their future.

#### Intimidation in Gjilan

On Wednesday 1st November, the Kosovo Police Service arrested 6 of

our activists without charge. They did this to intimidate them, threatening them with 30 days in detention unless they left Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! Vedat Xhymshiti was sought twice at his home. 5 other activists were arrested whilst in class at school. These included Kujtim Kosumi who was held at the police station for 2 hours, Durim Neziri and Driton Abazi, and three other pupils.

These activists were not arrested in relation to any action. They were arrested in order to intimidate them.

#### Meeting in Krushë e Vogël and Zojs

On Saturday 4th November, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! was invited to hold meetings in two villages near Prizren, Krushë e Vogël and Zojs. Both meetings were held in the local school.

These villagers are painfully aware of the consequences of allowing Serbia to have control of their lives. In Krushë e Vogël alone, in two days, 112 villagers were killed by Serb police, soldiers and paramilitaries between the 25th-26th March 1999. Most of their bodies are still missing today.

There are still 2,202 people missing in Kosova today as a result of the war.

We are all missing them.

#### Exhibition of photographs

Our exhibition of 280 photographs is continuing to travel around Kosova. Last week it was displayed in Skënderaj, and this week it will be in Lypjan.

#### Meeting in Lypjan and in Vushtrri

On Monday 30th October, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held a public meeting in Lypjan, and on Friday 3rd November, a meeting in Vushtrri. In both of these meetings, we presented our reasons for opposing the negotiations with Serbia. Lypjan is under threat from both of these processes. The new municipality of Graçanica will stretch into urban Lypjan, forming a border that links with the new special zone surrounding the church. This will create a division in the town of Lypjan, similar to that of Mitrovica. The people who fall on the wrong side of the border will be under the jurisdiction of Serb parallel structures in Graçanica. The municipality of Lypjan will be divided. This is just one example of the internal borders being drawn within Kosova by the Negotiation Team and Serbia.