

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!

Nr.18, 21st November 2006

THIS WEEK:

Political Arrests

'Down with the Negotiation Group'

Meetings in Dardanë: in Karaçevë and Dardanë

We did not chose these politicians

Reviewing decentralization

Meetings in Burim: in Kosh and Kërninë

Political Arrests

On Monday, November 20th, just before 11am, about 10 police entered our office in Prishtina with force in order to arrest Albin Kurti. Our activists tried to prevent the police from arresting Albin, and in the process, Frasher Krasniqi was also arrested.

Albin was taken to court in connection with charges relating to our action on 23rd August when we blocked Ahtisaari's exit from the Parliament of Kosovo. He was released because the two witnesses, members of the riot police, did not appear to testify against him. Frasher Krasniqi was sentenced to 10 days in prison.

UNMIK is masking its political persecution of our activists under a legal cover. It is keeping all charges open so that at an opportune moment, it can arrest our activists. It is not accidental that these arrests occurred one week before our protest on 28th November.

Albin Kurti: Why did you intervene against us violently?

Isak Ejupi, Commander of Prishtina South Police station: Because I was ordered to.

Albin Kurti: And if you are ordered to shoot at the people in our demonstration, will you do that?

Isak Ejupi: If the order is issued and it is necessary, then I will shoot at the people.

'Down with the Negotiation Group'

On Monday our activists in Ferizaj wrote the slogan, 'Down with the Negotiation Group' on the wall of the Municipal Assembly in the town. Local officials had erased, 'No Negotiation, Self-Determination' which we wrote earlier this year.

The Kosovo Negotiation Team is acting as the implementing partner of Serbia in Kosovo. In the negotiations so far, they have allowed Serbia to

usurp our culture and history; they have agreed to decentralize Kosovo before it has sovereignty; and they have accepted the existence of an autonomous serb entity within our borders. They are not representing the will of the people of Kosovo: 'Down with the negotiation team'.

Meetings in Karaçevë and Dardanë

On Friday, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held public meetings in Karaçevë and in Dardanë.

Under the Agreement of Kumanova in 1999, signed by KFOR and Serbia, the border of Kosovo was altered. KFOR recognized a border change that means that the main road into Karaçevë and part of the village are officially treated now as part of Serbia. The villagers say that the border used to be up on the top of the ridge of hills that divide Kosovo from the valley of Presheva. It has shifted down into the plain and now Serbian police and military have the right to patrol up to the outskirts of this village. This is the result of the absence of sovereignty in Kosovo.

Later we held a public meeting in Dardanë. Our photographic exhibition in this town was closed by the municipality at the request of KFOR. This is the first and only municipality that has closed our exhibition. According to KFOR, it displayed too much violence! This is the reality of how UNMIK treats nonviolent protest.

We did not chose these politicians

Our politicians were elected in Kosovo, but they do not represent us. Only 49% of the population voted in the last general election in 2004. Why? Because they know that democracy in Kosovo is a farce. The foundation of our government is Resolution 1244 which recognizes the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Serbia over Kosovo, and which created UNMIK as the wielder of executive power without accountability. All UNMIK employees are immune from prosecution.

UNMIK then created the PISG to give us the illusion of self-government and freedom, without giving it to us in reality. In the same way Ahtisaari, with the agreement of the negotiation team of Kosovo, is planning to give us the illusion of 'independence', whilst fatally undermining our sovereignty and

dividing our country into ethnic entities.

Reviewing decentralization

Our politicians argue that in a couple of years, decentralization can be reviewed, thus implying that it might be possible to stop or change the current plans for serb majority municipalities. This is a false hope.

One of the main criteria for a new municipality to be established is the numbers of its inhabitants (you need over 5,000 to form a municipality). The other criteria is the ability of the area to maintain itself both financially and economically. On this basis, Serbia will argue for *more* municipalities: Serbia will be able to provide the financial resources necessary to make new municipalities viable, and the people via 'sustainable returns'.

It will be the new EU mission that makes decisions about future municipalities because Kosovo will have no sovereignty. As the EU's competences will include the implementation of decentralization, it is clear that Kosovo will be required to implement Ahtisaari's plans. There will be no turning back.

Meetings in Kosh and Kërninë

On Sunday, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! met with the villagers of Kosh and Kërninë in the municipality of Burim.

We met with villagers here because we believe that there are plans to create another serb majority municipality around Osojanë, in what is now Burim (Istog). This new municipality will, like the other 6 that have been accepted by the Negotiation Team, include Albanians only as a minority. It will also be linked territorially with the North of Kosovo, now controlled directly by Serbia. We believe there are plans also for municipalities in Binça, Bajë and Gorazhdec. In this manner, Serbia intends to extend its autonomous ethnic entity of the North.

All day, our car was accompanied by three police cars and one KFOR vehicle. With this security convoy, UNMIK sought to frighten people from meeting with us, and carelessly wasted the budget of Kosovo. The police should be fighting crime, not obstructing freedom of speech and assembly. Despite their presence, the people of Kosh confirmed that they would never agree to join with a new municipality of Osojan.

In the evening, we also held two meetings in Kraishte and Poturoc in the municipality of Lypjan.

DEMONSTRATION
28th November 2006
Against the Negotiation Team