

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)

VETĚVENDOSJE!
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Newsletter from the Movement for SELF-DETERMINATION!

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THIS WEEK:

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Rewarding Serbia, punishing Kosovo

At NATO's conference in Latvia, Serbia was invited to join the Partnership for Peace Program, a precursor to NATO membership. Javier Solana suggested that after the elections in January, the EU would reconsider offering Serbia membership. Why is Serbia being rewarded by the International Community with military, economic and political alliances, whilst Kosovo is being told to wait with patience for another colonial master?

Only in the last war in Kosovo, Serbia was responsible for killing 14,000 people, most of whom were unarmed civilians; for destroying 119,855 houses and for the raping of 20,000 women. Serbia committed these crimes and yet is being rewarded without conditions. Kosovo was the victim, and yet it is under international administration and has to fulfill 'standards' in order to attain a 'status' that is not freedom.

Albin Kurti wrote this week: "The non-punishment of Serbia is the main reason why amongst the people, society and state of Serbia there is no regret, repentance nor apology for the crimes of the past which were done in their name. The absence of justice for the victims of Kosovo and the denial of the will of the people for freedom and independence is the main reason why the dignity of Albanians in Kosovo has not been restored and why they have not been able to progress. Not punishing Serbia only encourages her to repeat her crimes."

KPS 'no show' at debate with Lëvizja VETĚVENDOSJE!

On Saturday, Lëvizja VETĚVENDOSJE! was invited to take part in a public debate with the Kosovo Police Service about nonviolent protest. This was part of the annual human rights film festival. We agreed. 25 minutes before the debate was due to start, the police backed out.

We are sorry that the KPS are not willing to engage in an open and democratic debate. But, we understand

that perhaps they did not want to explain to the audience why they are arresting activists and searching their houses without warrants, why they are beating activists inside police stations with their hands bound, and why no police officer has been suspended for mistreating our activists.

71 EU colonialists

Gradually, the authorities are leaking Antisaari's plan so that it is not such a terrible shock in January. This week, we were told about the proposed plan for the EU governance of Kosovo. This EU mission will consist of 4 parts: a mission for defense and security, a NATO force, an International Civilian Office (ICO) and the OSCE, all of which will be directed by an EU Special Representative. We are told that a) this is not like Bosnia and b) this is not like UNMIK. But there seems to be little difference.

The EU Special Representative will have the power to annul laws or to expel from office politicians who act against the implementation of the status agreement. An agreement about which the people of Kosovo have not been consulted, and which will not give Kosovo sovereignty. This EU mission will deal with security, justice, economy and policy making. Whoever controls policy making, controls law making. Whoever controls the military, has executive power.

There will be two very telling sub-offices: one in Mitrovica, thus institutionalizing the partition of Kosovo; and one in Belgrade, because still after the resolution of 'status', Kosovo will not be separated from Serbia. The only office that Kosovo needs to establish in Belgrade is an embassy.

The only major difference is that just 71 people will run this mission.

What does Vuk Drašković, Serbian Renewal Movement, and so-called 'moderate,' think decentralization means? "The decentralization agreement will enable '95 percent of Kosovo Serbs to live in the Serb majority municipalities', and control education, healthcare, judiciary, policing, with direct economic relations with Serbia."

What does he think Special Protection Zones are for? "He also added that 'almost all' Serbian Orthodox monasteries in the province will be incorporated in the protected zones, which will be off limits to Albanians who may wish to take residence in the zones." (10th December, B92)

This has been treated as good news, as if this is something Kosovo should be pleased about. But colonial rule is still colonial rule, with 2 people or 500. The point is that none of them have been elected by the people of Kosovo. The EU Special Representative will not be from Kosovo. This is an oligarchy of 71. A continuing form of oppression. We have not said FUND to UNMIK in order to welcome the next colonizer.

What is nonviolent action?

Albin Kurti wrote this week in the Express: "We have not exercised any violence towards people. Towards objects you cannot exercise violence. Only towards a subject can you have violence, since as Michel Foucault writes, only the subject can resist. What is more we, in essence, did not act with force against objects, but against symbols which they represent. If someone from these so-called institutions had intervened against us, only then would it have been violent since in that case, we would be the subject that could resist their force."

The value of damage

A lot of noise is being made about the €32,000 cost of the 17 windows we broke in the new government building because they must be paid for from the budget of Kosovo. Does this mean that it was OK to break the windows of UNMIK, since they come from a separate budget?

Why is no one complaining about the staggering €8 million budget of the Negotiation team of Kosovo? €8 million which is being used to negotiate away the will of the people. This €32,000 is less than one half of the cost of a jeep misused by our so-called representatives in the PISG. It is nothing in comparison to Daci's €250,000 car that never arrived, or the €80,000 that X has admitted to stealing today. Why, more importantly, is the government not concerned that when 15% of the people of Kosovo are living on less than €1 a day, they thought it necessary to buy such expensive glass? The €1,882 they paid for each window, is more than the average family earns here each year.

We have seen only stealing and betrayal from these institutions with unbroken and darkened windows. Let us see whether they change now that their windows have been broken, and some transparency and daylight has been brought to government.