

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!
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Newsletter from the Movement for SELF-DETERMINATION!

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An EU protectorate

Continuing the tradition of discussing Kosovo's future anywhere but in Kosovo's so-called Parliament, and amongst its people, FORUM 2015 gathered most of Kosovo's political leaders to discuss the future EU presence in Kosovo.

Mr Sohlstrom, Solana's representative, told the meeting that the EU would act as a football coach, or a coach who takes part in the game, or a goalkeeper. Yet in the same breath, he confirmed that the EU presence would have the right to intervene if the status agreement was not being implemented correctly in Kosovo. A football coach is selected and employed by a club to train its players. A football coach can be sacked if he does not do a good job. Kosovo is not being allowed to choose who coaches its players, nor is it being given the right to change its coach if the relationship doesn't work. If Kosovo was given sovereignty and IF Kosovo had invited the EU to advise it, then this analogy might work. Instead, it is just another in the long line of half-truths and deceptions being used to deceive the people of Kosovo.

A few days before this meeting, the UK newspaper, The Independent, wrote an article under the following headline, 'Kosovo follows risky path with plan to give EU sweeping powers.' It stated, 'Kosovo is set to follow the path of Bosnia-Herzegovina in giving the balance of power to international overseers enabling them to ignore elected leaders, under draft UN plans seen by The Independent.'

For 7 long years Kosovo has been under international supervision. As UN resolution 1514 states, 'inadequacy of political, economic, social or educational preparedness should never serve as a pretext for delaying independence.'

Meeting in Batllavë in Besianë

On Sunday 10th December, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! was invited to speak to the villagers of Batllavë in Besianë. Albin Kurti, Xhelal Sveçla and Liburn Aliu explained the political

position of Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! and answered all their questions.

What is a multi-ethnic state?

On December 11th, Agim Çeku wrote in The Washington Post, that decentralization 'guarantees that the majority of Serbs – most of whom live in communities dispersed across Kosovo – will live under Serb mayors and chiefs of police, visit Serb doctors and go to Serb schools.' This, he argues, will create a multi-ethnic state.

This word 'multi-ethnic' is being used to describe communities where different ethnicities live together without regard for their identity. Çeku's vision of decentralization, which is the vision of Ahtisaari's report, promises quite the opposite for Kosovo. It foretells the creation of a territory in which Serbs live in separate enclaves. It presumes that just policing, health and education can only be delivered by someone of the same ethnicity. And it presumes that Serbs of Kosovo can only live in security if they maintain political, economic and social ties with Belgrade, rather than Prishtina.

This is not the way to build a sovereign state in which all citizens can live in security and with justice. This is a method of unofficial partition. It will institutionalize permanently Belgrade's control of parts of Kosovo and thus, will create the conditions for Serbs of Kosovo continually to be used as an instrument of Belgrade.

'You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.' Abraham Lincoln

Using electricity to divide us

Over the last couple of weeks, UNMIK has been negotiating whether to allow Belgrade to provide electricity to Serb enclaves in Kosovo.

If Belgrade wants to help pay for electricity for people in Kosovo, then let them provide a donation to the central government to be used for all of the 15% of the population who survive on under 1 euro a day. To provide electricity on the basis of ethnicity is discrimination worthy of an apartheid regime. It is intended precisely to create conflict in Kosovo.

Excerpts from Albin Kurti's interview in 'Shqip', 15th December

1. Why are Kosovo's politicians compromising, according to you?

"They are blackmailed. Politicians are the richest people in Kosovo. How did

they become rich in a poor Kosovo? How did they become rich with salaries of 400 euros a month? All the contraband that is done in Kosovo and mafia structures are connected with them."

2. Will you accept a future mission such as the EU?

"No, we will demonstrate so that they never come, so that one bureaucracy is not replaced with another. We need Kosovo in the UN, not the UN in Kosovo; we need Kosovo in the EU, not the EU in Kosovo . . . The future mission of the EU, that will be in fact, but not in name, will deny us a seat in the UN, a Ministry of Defence and an army, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its priority will be decentralization, which under these circumstances will fragment Kosovo."

'What do I think of western civilization? I think that it would be a very good idea' Mohatma Gandhi

3. What will you do if independence is conditional?

"9 months ago, Albert Rohan said that the more you use the word 'independence', the better go the negotiations. 'Conditional independence' is in the same groove. By using this term, given that it is considered a mental need for Albanians, you can then take whatever concessions you want. 'Conditional independence' means conditions before independence, which means that again we have to fulfill arbitrary standards . . . This means that you can take away independence anytime. 'Conditional independence' is not a guarantee for independence at all. They can always say to us, you haven't fulfilled the conditions. It's a contradictory term that psychologically manipulates the people of Kosovo on purpose. In fact, it will be a definition of status that is completely empty of the substance of independence, and thus empty of sovereignty."

4. Who finances the movement?

"We finance ourselves. Middle class activists give 50 euros a month. Those who have a lower standard of living pay a membership of 2, 5 or 10 euros, according to their means. The poor do not pay, while we don't have any rich members. Our movement centres in the diaspora collect a little for us, and also small and medium sized companies, supporters of our movement, offer us free services, like computers or cars to use to travel to the public meetings that we hold throughout Kosovo."