

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.23, 25th December 2006

THIS WEEK:

- UN lies about protest
- Decentralization roundtable in Ferizaj
- Interview with Albin Kurti

Just another Christmas without...

A seat in the UN
An army
A foreign ministry
Territorial Integrity

... SOVEREIGNTY

UN website fabricates lies about our protest

"Just two days ago, 2,000 pro-independence Albanians attacked UN personnel in the capital, Pristina, pulling down a 4-metre high concrete barricade outside UN headquarters and hurling concrete blocks and an incendiary device at police officers within."

This is how the UN has reported our protest on its official news website (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=20795&Cr=kosovo&Cr1=#>) Despite the following email of complaint, there has been no reply, and no change to the news report.

Dear Sir,

Your news report of 30th November 2006, regarding Kosovo and the demonstration on 28th November, is either an example of bad reporting or intentional lies. It is disgraceful.

First, you state that UN personnel were attacked - this is not true. No one was injured or attacked during the demonstration which was directed against institutions, against the PISG and UNMIK.

Second, you state that we hurled concrete blocks at police officers. We are not that strong. We threw bottles with red paint in them at the building. We warned police officers to move out of the way. The crowd also threw stones.

Third, we did not throw incendiary devices at the police. They shot tear gas at us.

Fourth, the police state there were 2,000 people there. We believe there were at least 10-15,000.

We challenge you to find any evidence for the first three accusations that you have made. Reporting should be based on evidence - especially reporting on the UN website. Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE!

Decentralization roundtable in Ferizaj

On Tuesday, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! in Ferizaj organized a discussion on decentralization. Representatives of local political and civil society organizations took part, including Muharrem Rushiti (AAK), Remzi Hasani (LPK), Nehat Mustafa (OVL të UÇK-së), Sadik Sadiku and Naim Ramadani (SHBP), Lumni Salihu (KMDLNU), Bedri Pajaziti (Avonet - Etika), Kenan Gashi (Avonet - IRP), Shaban Shabani and Vjollca Dushi (Avonet-QAP).

The discussion touched on the territorial implications of decentralization, the potential competences of the new Serb municipalities and the predicted outcome of war.

You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.
Malcolm X

Interview with Albin Kurti in LAJM

1. Why does Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! want the principle of self-determination respected in Kosova?

This is clarified in our Manifesto, and in numbers 2 and 16 of our newspaper. There are three fundamental arguments.

The argument of occupation by force: Kosova was militarily occupied by Serbia in the year 1912. This occupation of Kosova was reconfirmed - after World War One, with the peace treaty of Versailles in 1919 - and after World War Two by trampling on the will of the people expressed in the meeting held between the 31st December 1943 and the 2nd January 1944 in Bujan.

The argument of state repression towards a people: Without mentioning at all the repression exercised by the Serb state towards the people of Kosova since 1912, but only the repression caused in the years 98/99, which unjustly is not defined by the United Nations as genocide, is enough to justify the right for separation, because only during these two years, the Serb state killed over 12,000 people, mainly children, women and elderly men; it kidnapped over 3,000 people, from which the majority are still missing; it raped close to 20,000 women; it expelled violently 740,000 people; and it destroyed 120,000 houses.

The argument of the will of the people: The will of the people to separate from the Serb-Yugoslav state is also critical. It has never been consi-

dered or respected. It is permanently denied and trampled by an unjust political system and undemocratic regime.

2. Can you explain the connection between 1991-1992, when the principle of self-determination was applied in the 6 Republics of ex-Yugoslavia, and yet was repressed in the case of Kosova and Vojvodina by the Badinter Commission, which had as its goal the partition of the heritage of ex-Yugoslavia?

Badinter excluded Kosova for two reasons: One judicial, the other political. The first reason has been elaborated. Kosova was only an autonomous socialist province and not a socialist republic and Albanians did not qualify as a nation, but only a nationality. Yugoslavia was considering Albanians as a nation only in Albania. Kosova, legally, according to the Constitution of 1974, was part of Yugoslavia, but also a part of Serbia. This premise, unjust towards us, was used by Badinter and came to this conclusion.

The other reason is political. In the year 1991 and 1992 Albanians of Kosova waited in silence for what the world would bring them. At the same time, they were holding a referendum and 'democratic elections,' but Albanians at that time were not demonstrating and they were not fighting a liberation war, something that would influence world factors, and also the Badinter Commission.

3. Why also in the current context is the principle of self-determination being trampled, and yet was promoted in the beginning of the last century by the former American President Wilson and in international documents?

The self-determination of Wilson was only internal self-determination. Kosova needs both: external and internal self-determination. We need to choose our political system, but before all of this, separation from Serbia is necessary. It is Resolution 1244 which represents the basis of UNMIK's regime in Kosova that does not recognize the will of the people of Kosova and affirms and accepts the sovereignty and territorial integrity of former Yugoslavia, now Serbia, over Kosova. So, this Resolution foresees for Kosova only substantial autonomy, which means that the maximum according to this Resolution is only internal self-determination, and not external. The lies of this Resolution are in the Rambouillet Agreement to which Resolution 1244 refers.