

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:

- Roundtable discussions
- Public meetings
- Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! in 2006

Roundtables on decentralization and 'exterritoriality'

In the last two weeks, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held a series of roundtables in Viti, Ferizaj and Burim, all areas threatened by decentralization and 'exterritoriality'. Leaders of local political parties, non-governmental organizations and representatives of civil society attended and unequivocally expressed their opposition to the negotiations, and to these damaging processes.

Public meetings in Janjevë and Drenas

Public meetings were held in Janjevë, a district of Lypjan, and in Nekoc, a village in Drenas. Janjevë is threatened by decentralization because it will become part of the new Serb majority municipality of Graçanica. Currently, Graçanica is run by the parallel structures of Serbia. As UNMIK has shown itself to be unwilling to dismantle these structures, this means that the residents of Janjevë will find themselves once more ruled by Belgrade.

Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! 2006

Public meetings. In 2006, we organized 68 meetings and debates with people in towns and villages across Kosovo, and many meetings with students in their dormitories and faculties.

Arrests and sentences: 322 activists were arrested this year. Of this number, 110 were sentenced to prison. 81 activists were sentenced to 10 days in prison, 12 activists to 20 days in prison and 17 to 30 days of house arrest. Activists are routinely beaten inside the police station. Recently, many earlier investigations against activists have been reactivated, and families of activists have been put under psychological pressure by the police by constantly seeking them at their homes, and searching their houses without permission.

7th January: '12:44 time's up - UNMIK go home'. This was written on UNMIK jeeps in Prizren because UNMIK is an anti-democratic regime which is trampling and ignoring the people's will.

11th January: FUND ('end'). First written on UNMIK jeeps in Viti because the end of this regime, will be the beginning of a new chapter of hope for us.

20 January: Sentencing UNMIK. We deflated the tyres on UNMIK jeeps by removing the valves. UNMIK is here without a deadline for departure, it denies our people's freedom and instead increases their social and economic misery, and it is working with our enemy, Serbia, to divide our country. Jeeps are a symptom of neocolonialism: to UNMIK, Kosova seems like desert or jungle and that's why they use jeeps, besides that they want to have the advantage in case of a car crash.

20 February: WANTED: a band of murderers and robbers of Kosova.

We put up posters which showed the faces of the negotiation team of Kosova with this caption because they are trading away the future of 2 million people, without asking them.

18 February: Burning an 'UNMIK' acronym in the centre of Gjilan.

1 March: Decentralization=> Partition, Partition => War. When Marti Ahtisaari visited Kosova, we placed a huge banner opposite UNMIK's HQ which showed how decentralization will partition Kosova and lead to war.

26 March: Vaccination against the virus U1N2M4I4K. People were vaccinated against the virus 'UNMIKitis'.

13-14 April: Protest in Deçan against extension of Executive Order 2005/5. For 2 days we blocked the UNMIK office in Deçan because this order 2005/5 placed 800ha of land around the Monastery of Deçan in a 'special protection zone' independent of the legal and financial administration of Kosova. About 600ha of this zone are private property and 200ha are socially-owned.

24 April: Hay for Petersen. The only activity allowed to villagers who own private land in this special zone at Deçan is cutting grass. So, we sent a tractor full of hay to UNMIK's entrance and dumped it there for the SRSG.

5 May: 'Evacuation'. We threw leaflets with '10 Evacuation Orders for UNMIK' from the building opposite UNMIK and at the same time, broadcast a voice saying, 'this is an emergency announcement: Evacuate the building immediately.'

21 May: Boycott against Serbian products. We began a campaign to boycott products made in Serbia, like food, hygiene, construction materials and pharmaceuticals. We did this to send a political message to Serbia that we are determined to be free.

26 May: 50 weeks>>>organization-confrontation. This was the title of a

photographic exhibition that we opened in Prishtina and has since then traveled around the country. It shows 258 photographs of our actions and meetings, and the brutal response of the police.

8 June: Demonstration of the people in front of UNMIK HQ in Prishtina. We demonstrated and blocked the entrance of UNMIK for a day and a half. At 3am, the 'special police units' intervened violently. Many activists were arrested, and sent to prison.

28 June: Milosevic all over again. We blocked the border entrance where Koshtunica, the Prime Minister of Serbia, intended to enter. He was visiting Graçanica in order to publicly mark the 28th June, the day when Milosevic first declared his intention to destroy Kosova. The 'special police units' intervened violently to remove us from the road. Activists were arrested and held overnight in detention.

24 July: Demonstration of the people against negotiations. We demonstrated together with the organizations that came out from the war, the LPK, LKÇK, Mothers' Appeals, 26 March 1999 and IQLL.

23 August: Against Ahtisaari. We blocked the entrance of the Assembly of Kosova where Ahtisaari was meeting with the negotiation team. The 'special police units' intervened brutally. Activists were arrested and sentenced to prison.

1 and 9 September: Demonstrations against decentralization in Viti and Gjilan.

27 October: More st from UNMIK** We placed a toilet in front of UNMIK and threw brown paint at the building because they had permitted Serbia to hold a referendum on their new constitution within Kosova. The preamble to this constitution states that Kosova was and always will be a part of Serbia.

3 November: Blocking Ruecker in Prizren. We blocked the entrance of the municipal building to obstruct Ruecker's campaign to persuade people that there is no threat from decentralization or 'exterritoriality'.

28 November: Making the PISG and UNMIK blush with shame. 20 thousand people demonstrated for the right to self-determination. We threw bottles of red paint at the PISG and UNMIK, and we symbolically removed part of the wall that separates UNMIK from the people.

"We here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Abraham Lincoln