

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.25, 15th January, 2007

THIS WEEK:

- Demonstration in Geneva 27th January
- Public meetings
- Yet more negotiations
- Media campaign for Ahtisaari's report
- Boycotting the elections in Serbia

Demonstration in Geneva 27th January

At 14.00 on Saturday 27th January, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! will hold a demonstration outside the UN HQ in Geneva, Switzerland.

Kosova is entering its 8th year under the undemocratic international administration of UNMIK which denies our people the right to self-determination. We are not only being denied freedom, but we are now being threatened with partition via decentralization, the usurpation of our culture through the creation of special zones around Orthodox churches and monasteries, and an autonomous Serb entity within our borders, as in Bosnia. These damaging processes are all part of the famous packet of Ahtisaari which will endanger us and the generations to come. Our freedom is not negotiable. And so we call you to join our demonstration on 27th January at the UN HQ in Geneva.

Public meetings in Besianë, Kastriot and Fushë Kosovë

This week, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held three public meetings. On Tuesday, Xhelal Sveçla and Visar Ymeri talked with people in the district of Kuvajti in Besianë (Podujeva). The residents there told them that they understood what the term 'temporary' really means when it is said by UNMIK because 7 and a half years later, they are still living in 'temporary' housing built after their houses were destroyed during the war.

On Wednesday, Glauk Konjufca went to meet the villagers of Obrancë, in Besianë. The meeting took place in the school where all public meetings are held, despite the attempts of the local director of education to stop us. One day later, Albin Kurti and Frashër Krasniqi talked with residents in the village of Muzakaj in Kastriot. One of the villagers said, 'I agree completely with Albin. The international community has never helped us without us helping ourselves.'

On Saturday, Albin Kurti and Xhelal Sveçla also met with residents of Fushë Kosovë.

And yet more negotiations

EU, US and NATO sources state that there will be a further two months of negotiations after the publication of Ahtisaari's report on 26th January.

What more can the Kosova Negotiation Team possibly offer? They have already via decentralization given up one third of our territory to Serbia. They have already, without even an argument, agreed that the Orthodox church in Kosova is Serb, and agreed to create 39 'exterritorial' zones around its churches and monasteries. They have accepted the continuing presence of NATO here without a SOFA agreement. They have agreed that instead of UNMIK, Kosova will now be governed by the EU.

What else could there be to negotiate? Last August, when Ahtisaari visited Prishtina, we displayed a map which depicted his plans for decentralization. This map, which is attached, shows the existing 5 serb majority municipalities (Zveçan, Zubin Potok, Leposaviq, Shtërpçë and Novobërdë); it shows the current 5 + 1 'final' offer by the Negotiation Team (North Mitrovica, Graçanica, Partesh, Ranillug, Kllokot, and the trebling of Novobërdë); and, it also showed 4 extra municipalities in Pejë and Burim, which we predicted the negotiation team would offer: Bajë, Osojan, Binçë and Gorazhdec. It is these additional municipalities that will become part of these new negotiations.



Campaign for Ahtisaari's report

The Group of Unity is preparing a media campaign to sell Ahtisaari's report to the people of Kosova, and the two main enemies they identify in their 'axis of evil', are the media and Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE!

We are glad that the Unity Group recognizes that we are one of their main

enemies and an enemy of the Ahtisaari report which will ensure that Kosova has no sovereignty and no independence. But we disagree about the media. Obviously they don't know who their friends are, or they are intentionally trying to create a smokescreen so that people really believe there is an independent and critical media in Kosova.

Boycotting the elections in Serbia

The Albanians of Presheva are right to boycott the Serbian elections on January 21st. Voting legitimizes Serbia's oppression and creates a false image of democracy.

First, Serbia is institutionally repressing the Albanians of the Presheva Valley. They live in a militarized zone with policing still in the hands of the Serbian special police, the gendarmerie, some of whom served in Kosova during the war. Teaching is still according to the serbian curriculum and promises to provide school books in albanian have only been partially fulfilled. Unemployment is at 70%, and state provided investment has been biased towards municipalities with a greater percentage of Serb residents. The number of Albanians employed in public administration and enterprises still does not reflect the proportion of the population. In Bujanoc, 34% of the population is Serb, yet they constitute 95% of employees in state administration. By law, Albanians are not allowed to display their flag on public buildings because it is the same as the flag of Albania. A boy who raised the flag on 28th November is now being sought by the police.

Albanians are not treated as equal citizens in the state of Serbia. Whilst Serbia is seeking decentralization and extensive minority rights for Serbs in Kosova, she is at the same time centralizing power and repressing minority rights within Serbia. Voting in the elections is an acceptance of this injustice and a legitimization of institutional repression.

Second, in October 2006, the Albanians of Presheva boycotted the referendum held on the new constitution of Serbia because it claims that Kosova is, and always will be, an integral part of Serbia. Those participating in the elections of January 21st, are now affirming the legality and legitimacy of this new constitution, and thus denying the possibility of freedom for Kosova.

Dignity and freedom for Presheva will come from organization and resistance. Boycott to reject oppression.