

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)

VETEVENDOSJE!
<http://www.vetevendosje.org>

Newsletter from the Movement for SELF-DETERMINATION!

Nr.27, 29th January, 2007

THIS WEEK:

Arrests begin

Our activities this week

Denying Presheva's boycott

Unilateral Declaration of Independence impossible

What's in Ahtisaari's report?

Arrests begin before demonstration

No less than 24 hours after we announced our demonstration of February 10th, the police began to try to arrest activists based upon charges pending from previous actions. Today, they sought Albin Kurti and Vedat Xhymshiti unsuccessfully, and they arrested Kushtrim Kosumi at school. These arrests are political. We have the right to demonstrate. We have the right to freedom of speech and assembly.

Activities this week

On Saturday 27th January, 600 people demonstrated with our activists outside the UN HQ in Geneva against the negotiations.

After two days in Prishtina, our activists took the box prepared to visually represent the Ahtisaari plan to Vushtrri, Mitrovica, Besiana, and Lypjan, where they explained the project to people on the street, the majority of whom asked only one thing: when will the next demonstration be?

We held public meetings in Shipashnicë e Eperme in Dardana, Stanoc i Ulët in Vushtrri, Bradash in Besiana, and Skopje in Macedonia. We held round-tables in Peja and Klina.

Denying the Presheva boycott

There are rumours that Riza Halimi will be offered a position as a minister in the government of Serbia, and that Skender Destani will become a deputy. The majority of people in Presheva boycotted this election in order NOT to send their representatives to the Serbian government. For Halimi or Destani now to accept these positions, would mean directly ignoring the will of the people of Presheva. As a minister, Halimi will have to affirm the legitimacy of the Serbian constitution which claims that Kosova is and always will be part of Serbia, and he will have to support the Serbian government's position against the independence of Kosova. He will be doing this in the name of Albanians in Presheva, and without their consent.

Unilateral declaration of independence impossible

Newspapers have reported that Kosova may declare independence in the expectation that other states will recognize our declaration.

But how supportive are our so-called allies? Just one month ago, it was the US that sought new negotiations after the Ahtisaari report. Then, last week, the British representative on Foreign Affairs, John Sawyer, declared that any unilateral declaration by Kosova would be unacceptable. And, on the 24th January, the Assembly of the Council of Europe voted to remove from Resolution 1533 on Kosova, any reference to independence.

Regardless of their support, Ahtisaari's plan ensures the Provisional Assembly will not even be able to make such a declaration because in order to pass a law affecting minorities, a double majority will be required in the government: a majority of all 120 deputies and a majority of all the minority deputies. Serbs in Kosova now have 10 guaranteed seats and they have gained another 10 seats in the negotiations. Other minorities have 10. A declaration of independence must be accepted by a majority of minority deputies in order to be valid. Thus, the Serbs of Kosova, who are completely under Belgrade's control, will be able to block any declaration of independence.

ethnicity composition of the new municipalities, and their zones of responsibility will be in accordance with the borders of the municipality. This means Serb police and judges in Serb majority municipalities. Horizontal links between these municipalities will be realized through a regional association, and they will be directly linked to Belgrade, which will finance them tax-free. This is, in all but name, an autonomous Serb entity giving one third of the country to 6% of the population. It is an ethnic partition of Kosova made clear by the intention to establish two ICM/EU offices in Kosova: one in North Mitrovica for Serbs and one in Prishtina for Albanians.

The ICM/EU office: An International Civilian Presence led by the EU will rule Kosova, with the power to veto and change laws, and to remove officials who act contrary to the Ahtisaari agreement. It will have competences over policing, justice, economy and defence. This Mission will have an office in Mitrovica, responsible for the North of Kosova, and an office in Belgrade. If Serbia no longer has sovereignty over Kosova, then why do we need an office in Belgrade?

The debt: Instead of talking about the damages caused to Kosova by the war, and years of repression and exploitation by Serbia, they will talk about the debt Kosova will inherit from Serbia: €1,100,000,000 debt, but no sovereignty!

No army: The Kosovo Protection Corps will be dispersed, and the number of zones in which they operate reduced from 6 to 3. Two of the municipalities most endangered by the Ahtisaari report, Burim and Dardana will be left without a KPC base. Instead, they will create a so-called 'security force' of 2,500 soldiers with light arms, supervised by NATO. We will have no Ministry of Defence.

The Kosova Negotiation Team justify these concessions as the price for independence. But the word 'independence' will not be mentioned in the Ahtisaari plan. Kosova will not be independent. We are paying this price for nothing.

**DEMONSTRATE FEBRUARY 10TH
14:00 PRISHTINA
Against Ahtisaari's package and Ahtisaari
Against negotiations and the Negotiating Team
Against a Serb territorial entity and the ICO
FOR SELF-DETERMINATION**

What to expect from Ahtisaari

It is not rocket science to work out what will be in the Ahtisaari report. We know what the Kosovar Negotiation Team accepted in the negotiations. We've read all the leaks in the media. It is clear that it will neither reflect nor refer to the will of the majority of the people of Kosova. It speaks only about the rights and privileges of minorities, and in reality, only about the Serb minority.

Religious and Cultural heritage: The Orthodox heritage in Kosova will be defined as exclusively Serb. 39 special zones, consisting of hundreds of hectares of private and socially owned land, will be given to the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Decentralization: The plan will claim that the goal is to protect the rights of the Serb minority, but in fact, it will create what Serbia requested in the beginning: an autonomous Serb entity, like that in Bosnia. New Serb majority municipalities will have far wider competences than Albanian municipalities, in higher education and secondary health services, and in policing and justice. The police force and judiciary will reflect the

Are you listening Ahtisaari?

'It is my understanding that ethnic division is the defining element of this decentralization process. Indeed, if this amounts to permanent or semi-permanent ethnic enclaves, the idea itself of decentralization is dangerous. There is a genuine risk of applying to Kosova the shortcomings of the Dayton Agreements concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina.' (Lord Russell Johnston, Chair, Political Affairs Committee, Council of Europe, Report 11018, 18.09.06)