

### 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!

#### THIS WEEK:

- **Protest against Tadic in Sweden**
- **Ferizaj Against Decentralization**
- **A New Centre in Drenas**
- **Mogillë Against Compromise in Vienna**
- **Challenge to the KPC**

#### Protest against Tadic in Stockholm

The recent visit by Boris Tadic, Serbia's President, to Sweden was met by widespread protest. He was invited as a guest of the Social Democrats to support their Election Campaign. An invitation they are now regretting.

The Albanian-Swedish community organized a flood of protest letters to the Swedish Foreign Ministry, and denounced Tadic to the police for Serbia's failure to help find the 2,287 still missing from the war in Kosovo. Hundreds of families in Kosovo still do not know whether their relatives are dead or alive. This is despite the existence of a 'working group' between Belgrade and Prishtina that is meant to be co-operating to identify graves and return bodies. In a meeting Tadic held with Social Democratic sympathisers, he had to face critical questions from the Albanian community.

This is not the first time that a visit by Boris Tadic has been successfully obstructed by Albanians in Sweden. In March of this year, they organized a huge protest in front of the Swedish Parliament when he came.

This recent protest was so successful, and so widely reported in the media, that the organizers say it is unlikely that a leader of Serbia will be invited to help in an Election Campaign again.

Until Serbia returns the bodies of those missing from the war; until it accepts responsibility for the suffering it inflicted on the people of Kosovo during the war; and until it recognizes the right of the people of Kosovo to self-determination, Serbia's leaders must expect to be met by protests from Albanians all over the world.

#### Decentralization→Partition

On Monday, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! in Ferizaj hung a huge banner in the centre of the town depicting a map of Kosovo and the impact of decentralization upon the country. The banner clearly demarcates the areas in the north and the east which are in danger of becoming autonomous ethnic enclaves. The creation of autonomous enclaves will fatally undermine the sovereignty of an independent Kosovo and will lead to partition and thus war.

This map was displayed in Ferizaj as a demonstration against the negotiations taking place in Vienna and the statement of the Contact Group that implied decentralization is the way to prevent partition.

News reports stated that once again, no agreement was reached in Vienna over the level of autonomy that new Serbian municipalities will have within Kosovo, although the number of municipalities has increased. The same news reports suggest that in the beginning of September, Ahtisaari will propose a solution that will be imposed upon both sides.

The negotiating process has simply revealed Serbia's true intentions towards Kosovo. Now, the international community will decide Kosovo's status. Once again, the people of Kosovo are not being allowed to determine their own future.

#### Opening a new centre in Drenas

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! opened the office of its centre in Drenas, a town in the central part of Kosovo. Before opening the office, a large public meeting was held in front of the market centre in the town.

Since the summer of 2005, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! has held hundreds of public meetings in towns all across Kosovo.

What does a sovereign Kosovo mean?

- 1) A seat in the UN
- 2) Armed forces
- 3) A foreign ministry
- 4) No ethnically based autonomous territorial entity within its borders

#### Nr. 4 13<sup>th</sup> August 2006 Compromise in Vienna

On Wednesday, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held a public meeting in the village of Mogillë, in Vitia. This village is one of 7 which will be part of the new Serb majority municipality of Klokot. This extra municipality was offered to the Belgrade team in Vienna this week as yet another compromise in the negotiations over decentralization. The other villages to be included are: Zhiti, Klokot, Vërboc, Podgorc, Gërnëar and Letnicë.

It was clear from the meeting that the people of this village had at no stage been consulted about this offer. Decentralization is lauded as a means of bringing government closer to the people, and yet, it is being imposed upon people without seeking their views. The people of Kosovo are not allowed to participate in decisions about their local level of government, let alone their future as a state. And this is how the international community thinks democracy is built?

#### Challenge to the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC)

On 13<sup>th</sup> August, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! sent an open letter to the KPC. The KPC was created to incorporate and demilitarize the former Kosovo Liberation Army. Its members are not allowed to bear arms. Its duties are limited to aid during natural disasters and rebuilding of civilian infrastructure.

The letter argues that the KPC will never become an army because Kosovo is not going to become a sovereign state. Even though the International Crisis Group recommended creating a new army, this will be just a show, limited to 2000 members, with light arms, under the control of NATO and fully operational only in 2011.

The letter argues that it is Serbia that threatens the security of the region because it has not been demilitarized – not Kosovo which requires an army only for self-defence. Serbia still has an army of approximately 70,000 troops. In 2001, it built a new military base close to the Kosovo border, and it has also been purchasing new military equipment with a budget of 560 million euros in contrast to the 15 million euros of the KPC. Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! calls all members of the KPC to oppose the negotiation process and stop the destruction of their country.