

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!
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Newsletter from the Movement for SELF-DETERMINATION!

Nr. 5 20th August 2006

THIS WEEK:

- **Ahtisaari and UNOSEK pressure Prishtina**
- **Why Nonviolence?**
- **Monastery of Deçan refuses road improvements**
- **Photographic Exhibition moves to Ferizaj**
- **Who will hold executive power in Kosova?**

Ahtisaari and UNOSEK pressure Prishtina

On Tuesday August 22nd, Ahtisaari and three teams of experts are due to visit Prishtina to present a new series of plans that are meant to 'speed up' the negotiation process. The Kosovar team have been told they must be more 'flexible', a polite way of saying, more concessions needed. Not surprisingly, Mr Ahtisaari has no plans to visit Belgrade in this round of discussions precisely because it is Prishtina that is under pressure to accept Serbia's demands and not the other way around.

There are reports that the plans will suggest the creation of even more new Serb majority municipalities, and the creation of 25 Orthodox sites as special protection zones, rather than the 15 discussed last time.

'Speeding up' the process means only greater pressure on the Kosovar team to compromise, or that we are moving closer to an imposed decision. It is crystal clear that negotiation means only one thing: compromise. And compromise as always has meant no sovereignty for Kosova.

Why non-violence?

Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! is a non-violent movement for self-determination because we believe that this is the most effective means of confronting non-democratic rule in Kosova. This does not mean non-violence as the stereotype of a religious preference or moral choice. Nonviolence should be understood

as a confrontation with UNMIK for democracy, for justice, and equality. It means the tools of strike, boycott, civil disobedience and demonstration. There is nothing passive about non-violence. It is an active form of resistance.

The International Centre for Nonviolent Conflict states that the overwhelming majority of activists who use nonviolence do not have nonviolence as their goal. They want and are prepared to fight for their rights and interests. But they choose means other than guns and bombs because they have decided that violence is not necessary or useful, or because they do not have the resources.

When a nonviolent movement aims at organizing the people and replacing a nondemocratic government with a regime supported by the people, it brings freedom closer to them. It is the only road to freedom for the people because it helps them to help themselves and to liberate themselves.

In Kosova we do not have arms, and our people have no military experience. In the last 15 years, only 1% of the population has had the experience of fighting, and most of that 1%, just under a year in the war of 1999. 70% of the people of Kosova are under 30 years of age and the majority know nothing of the army.

We have many people and, in particular, many young people. And this is all that we need. Serbia may have much experience in war, but so Kosova has experience in nonviolent demonstration.

Monastery of Deçan refuses improvements to road

It is reported that the Monastery of Deçan has opposed two offers of financing for improvements to the road that passes through the monastery's Special Protection Zone. This road is important for the economy of Deçan because it links the town with Pejë.

Only a few months ago, Petersen argued in Deçan that the Special Protection Zone was necessary for economic reasons. Yet the very existence of this zone means that the monastery has just made a decision negatively affecting the economic potential of the town. This was a decision for the municipality and not for the Monastery. It is just one indication

of the negative effect that the creation of the special protection zones will have on the communities in which they are placed.

Photographic Exhibition in Ferizaj

This weekend, the exhibit of photographs depicting our movement's struggle for self-determination was on display in Ferizaj. The exhibition is being held in a popular restaurant and cafe in the town.

It will continue to move around all the major towns in Kosova so that everyone has the opportunity to see the nonviolent actions that we have undertaken and the violent response of the authorities.

Why self-determination?

- Because no one has the right to decide for us
- All colonized people's have the right to self-determination (UN Resolution 1514, 1960)
- Individual freedom derives from collective freedom
- It is the foundation of democracy

Who will hold executive power in Kosova?

Ahtisaari has proposed that any future central government in Prishtina will not be able to annul decisions taken by local government. The only authority that will be able to annul decisions at a local level will be the new EU mission. Not only does this fatally undermine the sovereignty of any future central government in Kosova, but it is suggested that the EU mission will also have the power to annul decisions taken by the central government.

Thus it is clear that there will not even be a pretence of sovereignty for the people of Kosova. The EU mission that was described as just a supervising presence will actually still hold executive power.

The 'independence' of Kosova is becoming the worst joke in the region. It is just an empty word meaning only that sovereignty will continue to be denied to the people of Kosova.