

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. 7, 3rd September 2006

THIS WEEK:

- Vitia protests against ethnic decentralization
- 11 activists still in prison
- Bomb in Mitrovica
- Boycott party in Prizren
- We are still missing them

Vitia protests against ethnic decentralization

On Friday, 1st of September the people of Vitia, in the South East of Kosova, protested against plans to divide their municipality in two. Last week, the leaders of the municipality learned through the television news that the negotiation team had offered to create a new Serb majority municipality called Klokot, by splitting Vitia in two. Neither the Albanians nor the Serbs living in this municipality were consulted about this plan.

At midday, the leaders of the local political parties in Vitia (LDK, PDK, AAK, PDSHK), the Organisation of UÇK veterans, the Society for Ex-Political Prisoners, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! and the people of the villages of Zhiti, Mogillë, Podgorc and the town of Viti protested against this proposal. Then the municipal assembly held a special meeting to reconfirm their official opposition to decentralization.

Creating a new Serb majority municipality of Klokot is both an economic and political mistake. It will remove from Vitia the major economic enterprise of the region, Klokot mineral water factory and the health spa, and it will create an artificial ethnically based municipality in an area where the integration between Serbs and Albanians has been historically good. Incorporating these villages into a new unit is simply a political project to extend the territorial continuity of the Serbian majority municipalities in the East of Kosova, in order to create the potential for an ethnically autonomous entity in this region.

Meanwhile in Prishtina, as if in a different world, the negotiating team was reporting to Parliament on their plans to implement the very

process that the people of Vitia were opposing. But it is the people of Kosova who will have to live with the reality of compromise. It is Albanians who live in the villages of Zhiti, Mogillë and Letnicë who will find themselves once more under the control of Belgrade-directed institutions, and it is the Serbs in the villages of Vërbovc, Podgorc and Gërçarë who will find themselves once again an instrument of Belgrade's ambitions for territory.

20 Days in Prison

The 11 activists still held in Lipjan prison for blocking Ahtisaari's decentralization meetings on August 23rd: Xhelal Sveçla, Dardan Molliqaj, Zgjim Hyseni, Sami Beqiri, Xhavit Haziri, Nexhip Mehmeti, Avni Sylejmani, Shpend Terziu, Gazmend Kajtazi, Miftar Mehmeti and Rexhep Selmani

Bomb in Mitrovica

Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! believes that nonviolence is the most practical and effective form of resistance in Kosova today. There is no need to use violence against UNMIK or KFOR, even though they represent a structured violent system and are condoning the use of violence by the police against our activists. Nor is there any sense in acts of political violence against individual Serbs or Albanians. It is only through the organization and mobilization of the people in demonstrations that significant political change can be achieved in Kosova.

Last week, a bomb was thrown at the Dolce Vita cafe just north of the bridge in Mitrovica. No one knows who is responsible for this act, and the evidence held on a CCTV film has mysteriously disappeared from the police station in the North. But, despite this, already Serbia has accused Albanians in Kosova of organized terrorist acts.

Serbia will use and create any pretext to paint us as incapable of governing Kosova. In this manner, they are trying to justify criminal partition in the north and their plans for decentralization, towards the creation of a Serb ethnic autonomous entity within Kosova.

Boycott Party in Prizren

On Saturday 2nd of September, Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! held a pa-

arty to support our boycott campaign in Prizren. Hundreds of young people came and listened to performances by Etno Engjujt, Lyrical Son, MC Kresha, DJ Flow and Hekuran Krasniqi. These singers sang free of charge in order to support the campaign to boycott Serbian products. All the drinks sold at the party were made in Kosova as part of the goal of the boycott campaign is to support Kosovar producers.

This week we have also produced a new poster as part of our campaign. It shows the barcode identifying products made in Serbia: 860. BOYCOTT 860!

We are still missing them

On Wednesday 30th August, the International Day for the Missing was marked by a public meeting and a photographic exhibition, the latter attended by both the Prime Minister Agim Çeku and the Deputy UN Special Representative, Steven Schook. Both reaffirmed their empty promise to find the 2,287 people still missing in Kosova today, an empty promise the leaders of UNMIK and the PISG have been making for 7 years.

These two leaders of Kosova, looked at photographs which showed politicians shaking hands with the families of the missing. The same families whose street protests they silenced with brutal arrests by the Special Police. They watched a video which blamed UNMIK and the PISG for the lack of political will to pressure Serbia for information about those missing, as if they were watching a film about another country. Yet it is they who have failed to give political muscle to the 'working group' between Belgrade and Prishtina which has almost nothing to show from its 5 or 6 meetings in the last year.

It is time for an honest and serious commitment to find information about the location of the 2,287 still missing. We are all still missing them.

Logic Strikes Police

Police Investigator: What level of education do you have?

Activist: I'm a student in the Faculty of Philosophy

Police Investigator: So did you complete high school?

Activist: Obviously, obviously ...