

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!

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THIS WEEK:

- **Exhibition in Klina and Mitrovica**
- **Boycott party in Pejë**
- **Usurpation of our culture**
- **Moving local government further from citizens**
- **Villages most threatened by decentralization**
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Exhibition in Klina and Mitrovica

This week our photographic exhibition went to the town of Klina in the east of Kosova. Hundreds of people came to see the 280 photographs that depict our actions over the last year and a half.

This week, the exhibition will travel to Mitrovica.

Boycott Action and Party in Pejë

On Friday, activists from Prishtina, Klina and Istog met in Pejë to raise awareness about the boycott of Serbian products. At midday, fifty activists walked through the centre of Pejë putting up boycott posters and distributing leaflets that explain why we are boycotting Serbian products, and others that give the names of substitute products not made in Serbia.

At 8pm, hundreds of young people came to Camp Caffe to support the boycott campaign. The party was moderated by Fehmi Ferati, the comedian, and there was live music from MC Kresha, Eliza Hoxha, Mad Lion, Speja and Whit OG (Daligs). All these bands sang free of charge in support of the boycott.

**BOYCOTT THIS
BARCODE 860**

Usurpation of our culture

In the last round of negotiations in Vienna, the list of Orthodox churches and monuments to be surrounded by special zones increased to 39. These zones are not being created for environmental protection, but in order to make permanent Serbia's usurpation of

the culture of all the people of Kosova.

The Serb claim that all Orthodox monasteries and churches in Kosova are Serb, has been accepted, without argument. Yet it presumes that no Albanians lived in Kosova in the past or practised the Orthodox religion, a claim which historical research reveals to be untrue.

Defining the Orthodox heritage of Kosova as Serb has three very damaging consequences. First, it provides Serbia with the basis for a permanent claim to Kosova as the heartland of its religion, and thus part of Serbia. Second, it repoliticises the church as a representative of Serbia in Kosova, making it a potential target. Third, it creates the potential for conflict in Kosova to be understood as religious, rather than the political will to be free of Serbia. In this way, 'exterritoriality' perpetuates conflict in Kosova.

If UNOSEK can accept that the ancient city of Artana (Novo Brdo) reflects the many cultures of Kosova, the same logic surely has to apply for churches which are 800 years old.

Moving local government further away from citizens

The villages of Kollolëç, Moçarë and Qarakofc lie just to the west of the town of Dardana in the east of Kosova. In the latest plan for decentralization, these villages will be included in the expanded municipality of Artana (Novo Brdo).

This means that these villagers will have to drive *through Dardana*, their old municipal center, and then 23km to reach their new municipal centre in Artana.

Decentralization on an ethnic basis is about strengthening the Serbian state within Kosova, not about bringing government closer to the people.

The villages most threatened by decentralization

Busovatë, a village in the east of Kosova, just west of Dardana. Under the latest decentralization plan, this village will become an Albanian enclave. To the north and west, it is surrounded by the expanded municipality of Artana (Novo Brdo). To the south, by the municipality of Ranillug. To the east, by two Serb villages.

Zhegër and its surrounding Albanian villages will become an enclave in the south east of Kosova. Although remaining part of the municipality of Gjilan, they will be cut off from it by the proposed Serb majority municipality of Partesh, whilst in the south, they will be surrounded by the proposed Serb majority municipality of Kllokot.

Mogillë is a mixed village of Albanians and Serbs in the proposed new municipality of Kllokot. It threatens the success of Serbia's plans to create a territorially contiguous entity in Anamorava. Cernica, in the new municipality of Partesh, is endangered for the same reason. It too is a mixed village and has the potential to prevent the territorial connection between the Serbian municipalities.

Albin Kurti: 7 aims of decentralization

Speaking in Gjilan last Saturday, at a protest against the negotiation team's plans for decentralization in Anamorava, Albin Kurti identified 7 goals behind this process:

1. Expansion of Serb enclaves which include Albanian villages in the name of multi-ethnicity, but in which Albanians remain a minority
2. Territorial connection of the expanded Serb enclaves
3. Legalization of parallel structures of Serbia in Kosova
4. Formation of an autonomous Serb entity inside Kosova, like the Serb Republic in Bosnia
5. Isolation of the Albanian inhabited valley of Presheva, cutting it off from Kosova
6. Taking control of strategic military points on hills and mountains
7. Organized return of Serbs in the name of 'sustainable return', not where they lived before, but where they are now a majority, where they will become majority or wherever enclaves will be connected. Thus, the re-colonization of Kosova.

The current offer in Vienna

- 5 + 1 new Serb majority municipalities being offered to Serbia (Graçanica, expanded Artana (Novo Brdo), Ranillug, Partesh, Kllokot + North Mitrovica)
- 39 Special Protection Zones around Orthodox Churches and Monasteries