

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)

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Newsletter from the Movement for SELF-DETERMINATION!

Nr.82, 18th February 2008

**The Declaration: One step forward – three steps back
Expell the Romanian Police
The new flag of Kosova**

One step forward – three steps back

The announcement of the Declaration of Independence and recognition by the US, France, and the United Kingdom is a step forward. Kosova for the first time has been recognized as an independent state from these significant states of the world. However the Declaration of independence has turned Kosova three steps back.

1. EULEX – the direct restriction of internal self-determination, in the sense that Kosova will not be able to govern itself in the future
2. The Package of Ahtisaari – the creation of an autonomous Serb entity inside Kosova under the direct control of Serbia
3. The party – the euphoria created by the announcement is being exploited to distract attention from:

- The reaction of the parallel structures of Serbia (the burning of the police and customs stations of Kosova in Leposaviq and Zveçan)

- The hurried smuggling of the flag, emblem and laws which derive from the package of Ahtisaari which began to be approved without debate starting on Tuesday 19th February.

The Declaration was an investment in encouraging the ignorance and oblivion of people for the reality of what is happening on the ground. Politicians continuously talked about the date and the hour of independence in order not to talk about the contents and the quality of the independence they were declaring; they focused the media on the party before, during and after the declaration in order to silence any discussion about what Serbia might do with its parallel structures which control one quarter of the territory of Kosova. The Declaration included the Package of Ahtisaari which will create a Serb Republic inside Kosova (similar to that of Bosnia) and will install the executive and un-democratic rule of EULEX (again similar to Bosnia).

The Package of Ahtisaari was accepted by the Negotiation Team and the Assembly of Kosova a year ago because it was interpreted as the price for independence which would be accepted by Serbia and Russia, and consequently the UN Security Council. Now even though the independence declared has not been accepted by Serbia or Russia (and consequently not by the UN Security Council), the Government and Assembly of Kosova have promised to implement the Package of Ahtisaari (which was refused permanently by the never satisfied Serbia). This is a stab in the back for the people of Kosova.

The independence described in this declaration does not include an army and will not guarantee territorial integrity or a seat in the UN. Thus Kosova remains without the factual ability to defend itself through its own army, and without legal defence that comes from becoming an international subject, won through a seat in the UN. Any eventual attack by Serbia against a Kosova which is not an international subject, according to international law, will

not be considered as aggression. Not being a member of the UN means that Kosova cannot be a signatory to any of the United Nations Conventions dealing with political, economic, social, security, ecological, health, educational and other forms of cooperation necessary for a healthy society.

The impossibility of being an equal member of this international circle means that the citizens of Kosova will be constrained in their rights and possibilities of exploiting this cooperation for continual emancipation and at the same time they will not have the possibility to contribute in global developments. A Kosova that is not a UN member will not be able to use this Organization which is above all nations for its own needs at all.

In no place does the Declaration mention explicitly our separation from Serbia. It mentions the 'non-consensual breakup of Yugoslavia'. However it is known across the world that Serbia was made the direct inheritor of Yugoslavia in Resolution 1244 after the dissolution of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro. The Declaration of independence has been trumpeted as an historic act however it does not mention the history of Kosova. This declaration absolves Serbia of guilt by not mentioning anywhere Serbia's aggression and occupation of Kosova and the century of crimes and genocide that Serbia has committed against the people of Kosova.

The Declaration focuses on the obligations and duties of Kosova and not on its rights or freedoms. It sees Kosova only as a tool of regional and international interests. Above all, this declaration focuses on the promise to implement the Ahtisaari Plan. Ahtisaari is mentioned eight times, whilst independence just three times (including the title). 'Free' is not mentioned once, 'freedoms' just once, as is 'freely'. This shows that the Ahtisaari Plan in fact was not the price that politicians had to pay for independence, but the Declaration of independence was the price that international diplomatic officials had to pay for the implementation of the Ahtisaari Plan. Because of the opposition of Serbia and Russia towards the Ahtisaari Plan, this remained the only way that the EU and the US could implement it.

This Declaration of independence is considered as an issue of agreement between some local politicians with some internationals and not as the independence of a country of a free people. Only self-determination will bring true independence for each and all in Kosova, because such an independence would be the decision of the people.

The Declaration of the 17th February is one step forward for Kosova in the aspect of external self-determination. But not for internal self-determination. In this aspect nothing has changed. Kosova will continue to be a country governed by an un-democratic mission installed from outside and not chosen from inside.

The Romanian Police should be expelled

A police force is meant to serve its people by creating a secure environment for all to live. The Romanian police violated this principle last year, when they murdered peaceful demonstrators, and they violated it once again yesterday, when they refused an order to go to the North of Kosova. They clearly serve interests other than those of the people of Kosova. They have long outstayed their welcome.

It is time for them to be expelled from Kosova and never to return.

A year ago, the Romanian unit policing the peaceful demonstration of 10th February 2007, fired rubber bullets indiscriminately into the crowd. They killed two young men, Arben Xheladini and Mon Balaj, the latter whom they shot in the back of the head. With UNMIK's agreement, this unit secretly left Kosova before the publication of the Dean Report which identified them as the unit responsible for these murders. Romania has done nothing to bring these police to justice. The Romanian Minister of the Interior has never responded to two letters sent by Amnesty International calling upon it to return these police to Kosova to face trial. Instead, the President of Romania awarded them medals for their service, and at the end of last year, UNMIK allowed the Minister of the Interior to visit Kosova to give medals of service to its currently serving police in Kosova.

Their actions last year should have been sufficient to expel all Romanian police from Kosova. But this did not happen. **And so yesterday, the Romanian Special Police Unit assigned to Kosova were ordered to move to the North of Kosova in response to the burning of two border posts by Kosova Serbs organized by the Serbian Ministry of the Interior and the Coordination Centre. They refused.** With this act, they refused not just an order, but an order to protect the territorial integrity of Kosova. This occurred not surprisingly on the same day that the Romanian government stated that it will not recognize the declaration of Kosova's independence and that it will close its Liaison Office in Prishtina. Here we have a clear example of why Kosova has no need of a mixed international or European police force which takes orders first from its masters overseas, second from UNMIK, or EULEX, and never from Kosova's institutions. Kosova needs its own army and a police force with the right to protect its people and its territory.

The people of Kosova have no need to be policed by internationals, let alone representatives from a country which clearly intends to harm them, rather than protect them, and who at the same time enjoy an immunity which protects them from the consequences of their crimes. We have enough problems to deal with. It is time for the Romanian police to be told to get out of Kosova and never return.

The new flag of Kosova

While the people of Kosova were celebrating in the streets outside the Assembly with the Albanian flag, inside the Deputies were approving a new state flag, which they could not have smuggled in on any other day, or any other time. **This new flag shows the map of Kosova, representing its territorial integrity (the reality of which is division) The only other country with a flag which shows its territory is that of Cyprus, which as of 1974 was also divided into two political entities.** The new flag includes two colours, yellow and white, which are colours from the Serbian flag. None of the Albanian colours (red and black) are included. It also has six stars which are meant to represent the six communities of Kosova. This implies that Albanians, who make up 90% of the population, are a community, rather than a majority!