

### 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!

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### THIS WEEK:

**Albin Kurti arrested again**

**The war of the resolutions**

**Albin Kurti: Press conference**

**11th May**

#### Albin Kurti arrested again

Albin Kurti was transferred on Thursday 10th May into house arrest with severe restrictions on his freedom. He was not allowed to have any contact with activists of VETËVENDOSJE! – in person, by telephone or even by email. In addition he was not allowed to contact the media, and he was not allowed to leave his house. These restrictions were designed to limit his freedom of expression and freedom to organize opposition to the current political process. They were designed to be impossible to accept, and thus were simply a tool to justify arresting him once more and keeping him in jail whilst Russia and the US and Europe play diplomacy games with Kosovo's fate.

Albin broke the conditions of his house arrest on his arrival in Prishtina, where he was greeted by his family, a group of activists outside his apartment, and by the editor of Epoka e Re. The following day, on Friday, he held a press conference at the offices of Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! where he stated that he would not accept the decision of the court, and that he would be going that day to visit the two families of the boys killed by Rumanian police on 10th February. On leaving the house of the family of Mon Balaj, Albin's car was surrounded by police, and he was arrested once more. He is now in Prizren prison in detention for another 30 days.

As of today, the following activists are still in prison:

- Albin Kurti, in detention pending investigation of the demonstration of 10th February. Up for review 10th June.

In detention since 13th April and under review:

- Salih Zyba, Blerim Maqastena, Arbnor Dehari

Released from detention in prison:

- Frashër Krasniqi, Zgjim Hyseni,

Transferred from detention to house arrest:

- Hasan Hajdari

#### The war of the Resolutions

Kosovo is a spectator in the battle taking place in the Security Council over two resolutions. The American resolution offers endorsement of Ahtisaari's recommendation of 'supervised independence' plus the Ahtisaari Settlement, whereas the Russian resolution offers the Ahtisaari Settlement with the continuation of Resolution 1244, and no status. If one assumes that a compromise is found on common ground, that leaves us with the Ahtisaari Plan and

possibly a promise of status in a few years time. This will be just enough time for Serbia to create new obstacles to any future negotiation over independence through decentralization and special zones around Orthodox objects. Next time, they will not just threaten to partition Kosova at Mitrovica, but also in Anamorava in the east.

#### Article 278: House Detention (Provisional Criminal Procedure Code of Kosova)

(3) The court shall determine in the ruling that the defendant may not move from the premises in which he or she permanently or currently resides or from a public treatment or care institution. The court may restrict or prohibit contacts between the defendant and persons with whom he or she does not live or persons who are not dependent on the defendant. Exceptionally, the court may allow the defendant to move for a specific time away from the premises where house detention is being implemented whenever this is unavoidably necessary to ensure essential living needs or to perform work.

#### Albin Kurti: Press Conference, 11th May

"On 10th February this year, the police did not bring their arms to Mother Theresa Street to exhibit them, but use them. Their criminal plan had criminal consequences: Arben Xheladini and Mon Balaj were killed (the newest martyrs for Kosova), 82 demonstrators were injured, 15 were arrested, and tens of others fell and were hurt. Since 10th February 2007, UNMIK is not only an anti-democratic and colonial regime, but also a terrorist regime. The premeditated murder of civilians and planting of panic and fear in the masses are two fundamental characteristics of terrorism. UNMIK police had these two characteristics on the 10th February.

The political commander was Steven Schook, and the operational commander was Steven Curtis. Steven Curtis gave his resignation so that Steven Schook would not give his resignation. Beforehand, Steven Schook had notified the negotiation team, the members of which agreed with this police plan. Fatmir Rexhepi gave his resignation so that the government of Kosova did not. Meanwhile, Sheremet Ahmeti did not resign because UNMIK wanted it like this. UNMIK can more easily replace Steven Curtis than Sheremet Ahmeti in whom they have invested 7 years. Although Sheremet Ahmeti was subordinate to Steven Curtis, he has the greater investment by UNMIK and has a longer deadline than Steven Curtis.

The approval for the killing of demonstrators on 10th February was followed by the approval of the escape of the killers. Now, while trying to soften this act, my detention is being replaced with severe house arrest. As the regime in Kosova could not influence me, it wants to be sure that I cannot influence Kosova. The continuation of detention is only a sentence. The prisons and courts are the continuation of

the bullets of the police. Another 30 days, another 60 days, another 30 days, and like this in a row, just like the nature of UNMIK. The courts never dealt with my actions in the past, but with speculations for my actions in the future. Not with what I did, but what I might do. They did not deal with my actions, but with my character. And I, I was dealing with the character of the courts which is completely political. In order to explain their situation and that of Kosova; in order to continue the arbitrary rules of detention they were using these so-called justifications:

- They say that it is not possible to release me since I will leave Kosova. If they were really convinced that I would leave Kosova, they would have released me. Their concern is that I will remain in Kosova.

- They say that I could repeat my actions. I am not guilty for what I have done. I would be guilty if I had not done what I have done. And, because there has been no change to the circumstances and the system, I will be guilty exactly if I do not repeat my actions.

- They say that I might frighten witnesses. It is the witnesses themselves who are frightening: the international police of 10th February that are either killers or collaborators in killing.

I am not defended in court but have represented myself while being attacked by UNMIK. Ahmet Hasolli is not my lawyer, as is said in the media. He is assigned by the court. So, Ahmet Hasolli is the choice of the judge, completely unacceptable for me and not my choice. His nonsense about the so-called objectivity of the courts prove that not only judicially but also practically he is the lawyer of the court, and not mine.

The courts of UNMIK are not led by the rule of law, but by the rulers of law. Their victims are also many distinguished fighters of the Kosova Liberation Army who are being held hostage. The most scandalous case is that of Commander Naser Shatri who is suffering a sentence given 16 years ago by a Serbian court.

I have no need nor respect for the so-called justice of these political courts. Political courts have need for justice. I am completely indifferent towards the decisions of the courts and I do not consider them. Courts that are not independent cannot be just. Despite their decisions, I am going to continue my political activity with Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE! which is the only true opposition and the only opposition that has meaning in Kosova. Currently 6 activists of our movement are in UNMIK's prisons. They are only one of the innumerable stories of repression in Kosova.

The demonstrator on 10th February who was arrested by the Carabinieri while just shouting 'vetevendosje' is evidence that in Kosova there is freedom of expression when you do not say 'vetevendosje'. And that there is freedom of movement only in front of the television to listen to the lies of the negotiators. Freedom of movement matters inside your home and not in the street. However, freedom is in the street, the freedom that we must take."