

**THIS WEEK:**

- **Albin Kurti: Speech to the 8<sup>th</sup> General Council meeting**
- **Socialist Party of Kosovo joins VETËVENDOSJE**
- **Parliamentary debate on health**

**Albin Kurti: Speech to the 8<sup>th</sup> General Council meeting**

On Sunday April 21, VETËVENDOSJE held its 8<sup>th</sup> General Council meeting and Albin Kurti addressed delegates, talking about the agreement that the Prime Minister announced he would discuss in Parliament that evening. Among his comments, Albin Kurti stated, "Friday's agreement has produced two types of normalization of relations between Kosova and Serbia. In the first type, between Thaçi-Dacic, Serbia takes and Kosova gives. In the second, between Serbia and the European Union, Serbia progresses toward Brussels and the EU pretends it is unaware that war criminals are in charge of that state. Yesterday's agreement did not normalize Kosova -Serbia relations, but definitively abnormalized the state of Kosova.

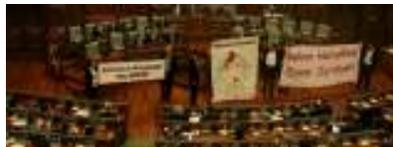
With this Government and this sort of government, Kosova will never integrate into the European Union. Even visa liberalization, the Government's key topic, is nowhere on the horizon. This is no surprise considering that government corruption involves the production of passports, and endless scandals.

You will remember that government leaders said that at the end of political dialogue on normalizing relations, there would be mutual recognition and a peace treaty between Kosova and Serbia. Not only has neither occurred, but Serbia confirmed its non-recognition of Kosova as an independent state and has simply become more anti-Albanian.

As we warned long ago, Kosova is being bosniazed and Friday's agreement in Brussels is a big step in the wrong direction. The part of Mitrovica which is north of the River Ibër is being transformed into a parallel capital in Kosova. Albanians will have Prishtina as their capital and Serbs the north of Mitrovica. A site where ethnic cleansing and colonization has never stopped since the war will become a parallel capital. This agreement is a reward for the violence of criminal structures there

and their *posteriori* political legitimization and justification.

For Kosova from now onwards, there are two addresses: Prishtina and the north of Mitrovica. One will be the President and Prime Minister of Kosova and the other, the President and head of the Council of the Association or Community. The context of a weak prime minister in Kosova facing an emboldened and encouraged Serbia will no doubt be reflected in negative and unclear interpretations throughout the implementation of this agreement. Implementation in the terrain will be far worse than what is written in the document."



*Symbolic action by VETËVENDOSJE deputies on Sunday night, attempting to stop a vote on a parliamentary resolution supporting the agreement with Serbia*



*Meanwhile, outside the Assembly, activists and members of the public protested against the vote on the resolution supporting the agreement with Serbia*

**Socialist Party of Kosovo joins VETËVENDOSJE**

On Friday, members of the Socialist Party of Kosovo (formerly in the LPK) at the national and local level announced that they would join VETËVENDOSJE, adopting its manifesto and political program. The announcement was made in a joint press conference, including Albin Kurti, Shpend Ahmeti and Ilaz Kadolli, head of the SP. Speaking about the decision, Ilaz Kadolli, stated, "This is a natural union between two political subjects with similar political and

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economic programs. It is the will of the membership of the Socialist Party of Kosova and its structures, that we unite. We united together in the struggle against occupying forces. Now we have even more reason to unite to build the state of Kosova and I consider that our country today has more need than ever before for political subjects with clear political and economic programs in the interest of Kosova's citizens, subjects offer something new and which seek to protect the values of our society, to achieve economic development and to push forward the essential process of national unification. National unification and the country's economic development are priorities. I hope that we will work together for a long time."

**Parliamentary debate on health**

On Thursday, VETËVENDOSJE deputies participated in an interpellation with the Minister of Health in the Assembly of the Republic of Kosova. Among other comments, Liburn Aliu, VETËVENDOSJE's representative in the parliamentary committee on health, stated, "Health reform is very difficult without reforming the entire governing system in Kosova. To reform health in an environment of corruption and according to the logic of profit, is impossible." He charged the Minister with, "protecting health businessmen against patients and doctors." Visar Ymeri said, "Kosova's citizens pay two or three times for health services. First, they pay through their taxes, which finance the health system. Second, they are forced to pay bribes for 'extra' health care; and third, in 90% of cases they have to pay for medication which is essential." He concluded, "The terms corruption, organized crime and the tendency to create monopolies in the health sector are not sufficient to describe the severe social pathology which the health sector has become for Kosova's citizens. The purposeful degrading of this sector has one address, and this address is the Ministry of Health and the government."