

The historical role of the 1981 demonstrations in Kosovo

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Abstract

The scientific treatment of demonstrations is not merely a mechanical or empirical treatment, to show someone's dissatisfaction with someone else, or the party which creates premises of dissatisfaction for another party. The meaning of the word demonstrate, belongs not only to the performance of dissatisfaction and experimentation of violence but, also to delight or make someone else happy and, in various forms. In the communist system of the former Yugoslavia, precisely this synonym that has been typical to oppose the violence and persecution and imprisonment of Albanian activists only who have asked for one and not only, the right that the Albanian people, and in particular that of Kosovo, be recognized the right to equality, freedom and independence, has caused dissatisfaction and, as a result of those dissatisfactions, circumstances have been created that the people of Kosovo and not only, to raise their voices throughout all time phases faced with a brutal system of rule over Albanians and Kosovo Albanians. Referring to and approaching this issue from a scientific point of view, then we will get the scientific answer to what is the meaning of the phenomenon that is valued as a permanent tool around the globe and meaningful for humanity, in the realization of their fundamental rights based on international conventions.

Keywords: The historical role, 1981 demonstrations, Kosovo.

Introduction

The notion "demonstration" in the etymological sense and origin of the word, directs us to the Latin language and is derived from the Latin word "Demonstratito", an expression which consists of several elements:

- The prefix "de-", which is used to mean division;
- The verb "monster", which can be understood as "show";
- The suffix „-cion", which was used as an indicator or indicator of its action and efficiency.

In the philosophical field, the term we are talking about, is used for some meanings and with a frequency. Specifically used to mark the following three aspects:

- The truth of any theory or even of a certain principle, applying a host of certain experiments or arguments that presuppose truths;
- The end of that would be deductive action;
- Evidence of something that is concrete.

In this case, something is applied that, on this basis, is done for something that is explicitly assumed by universal rights. So "demonstration" means: Massive manifestation of dissatisfaction with someone or a situation, exposure of something, military movements, such as of the fleet or air force to deceive the enemy, action of the threatening character of one state against another state.

1. Historical perspective

Historically observed and, through different stages of historical events, The Albanian nation, and in particular the people of Kosovo, has experienced savage powers and rulers from which it has been treated as a people of the lower strata and without dignity, has been raped, persecuted, imprisoned, killed and shot to the point of intentional extermination or genocide.

Without entering into the analysis of history and historians of power and Ottoman captivity for a full five hundred years, with irreparable consequences for the Albanian being. Suffering and captivity have been two vital elements that the Albanian people have experienced and survived, but also lived in such circumstances. The high consciousness of the patriots and intellectuals of that time was never extinguished or agreed to such rule.

The prince of Arbër, Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu, although he was educated in a then hostile country, but his conscience and ideal for the homeland did not betray him. He returned to his homeland and created the Principality and the army to “oppose the enemy many times stronger in number but, not even in spirit in his country, to protect the homeland from the Ottoman hordes and to preserve the Albanian being. He waged 25 years of battles and wars against various Sultans and Emperors, defeating and expelling them from the lands of ethnic Albania. With this war Skanderbeg also defended civilization for the good of humanity, never agreeing with the ruler.

With the shameful departure of the Ottoman rulers in the scene of the occupier as usual another ruler is presented to us, which this time had its roots in the Russo-Slavic Carpathians, which laid the foundations as early as the seventh century and settled in our ethnic lands.

This ruler, also savage and furious towards the Albanian being and, in those circumstances, the same enemy implements invasion policies with fascist ideology to an indigenous ethnic people in his country who were of Illyrian descent. This is evidenced by the historical facts of ancient Dardania.

So, the enemy, the invader and the ruler of that time not far away expanded, even in some places of ethnic Albania and today up to the city of Durrës. The renaissance and the enlightened, as if the activists of the homeland and the prominent of the time, did not stand idly by and calmly wait for the flow of history, but decided to make history themselves, taking in their hands the fate of the Nation. There were many of them, but we are only pointing out some of the most imposing figures.

Isamil Qemali, Hasan Prishtina, Luigj Gurakuqi, Isa Boletini and many other personalities of the Nation, who with feathers and who with weapons and who with the amalgamation of wealth for the National cause, decided, on November 28, 1912, to declare the Independence of Albania, being instructed and assisted by some respected international circles of the time such as Austria, USA, Great Britain, although this assistance was somewhat truncated and not full.

We say truncated for the fact that almost half of the ethnic lands remained under the rule of Serbo-Slavic Kraljevo, ie Kosovo and other parts of Macedonia and Montenegro.

The eras walked, flowed, time passed but, the Albanian people and especially that of Kosovo outside ethnic Albania suffered the consequences of the then policy-making of the great powers, such as the London Conference and the Berlin Conference, with

the consent of which our ethnic lands were divided, creating an artificial creature Yugoslavia which then in the 90s of the last century collapsed as if it did not exist and, all this happened for hegemonic reasons of Serbo-Slavic politics. The Albanian nation and in particular the people of Kosovo, for their freedom and independence lined up side by side with the military forces of the then regime being convinced that, the right is on our side and that one day the promised independence will be gained but, it did not happen because they were deceived and manipulated and blackmailed by giving promises that for commitment to the liberation of the South they will be rewarded. They, the brave and patriotic men of the time fought together to drive fascism from our lands and beyond, sacrificed, faced life and death falling martyrs on all war fronts during World War II. The promise of war leaders like Tito to create and gain independence and the Seventh Republic was a complete deception and lie of that time. This did not happen but, an event happened that during 1945, shook the democratic and civilized world. The Bar massacre where hundreds of Albanian liberation soldiers were shot after disarming just because they were Albanian fighters, this whole event happened as a deliberate genocide against Albanians, reddening the sea with the blood of Albanians.

Generation after generation, history followed this event, but also many other serious events for the people of Kosovo. Against a serious socio-economic situation of the people of Kosovo, without having the opportunity and conditions to ensure an existence to live like other privileged peoples, for the Albanians, violence was exercised against the Albanians by the government, persecuting them for handing over their weapons, in addition to the deportation to Turkey, actions that are beyond the reach of the human mind.

In such situations created and, extraordinary circumstances of the exercise of violence against the Albanian population and in particular the activists of the case by imprisoning them in the most famous barracks and heavy prisons, their loss, deportation, which made it impossible for them to stay in their homeland, they invaded the enemy countries of the previous systems, and this reached alarming proportions until the deliberate genocide.

In the face of this extremely difficult situation, thinkers, devoted patriots and activists of the cause throughout Kosovo and other ethnic lands from Macedonia, Montenegro and other countries, for which they never ceased their commitment until the sacrifice, they raise their voice on October 6, 1968 to raise the National Flag of Kosovo as an inalienable right of ours that we were separated from after the Second World War. This brought to light the Yugoslav occupation system to stop the injustices done to the people of Kosovo. To stop the persecution and imprisonment of our personalities of the people of Kosovo and beyond, because they were only demanding their rights for what they had fought for but, you also owed independence and be free to decide for your own destiny, thus being equal to other peoples living in that artificial community. Many figures of this time were sacrificed for their own purposes. Aziz Zhilivoda, Hisen Tërpeza, Metush Krasniqi, Fazli Greiçevci, the ideator of unity, Professor Ukshin Hoti, who for his attitudes was imprisoned several times by the Serbo-Slavic regime and the last time in Dubrava prison in Kosovo, from which he came out but, unfortunately for him, nothing became known and is considered

missing, Adem Demađi imprisoned with 28 years in prison who was and remains the icon of our Nation. There are many others, whose list is very long and, for whom many books have been written, which the reader has available in our libraries.

Even the sacrifice of patriots, men and women activists of history, can not convince the system of that time that, in Kosovo and other Albanian-populated areas need to change their approach to understanding their basic rights on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to self-determination, which was not the intention of the Albanians for any secession from the former Yugoslavia but, she was only irritated by the degrading behavior towards the Albanian population as a majority in Kosovo, being accompanied by arrests, imprisonment, persecution of many activists, such as in this case the brothers Jusuf and Bardhosh Gërvalla and Kadri Zeka, who were later liquidated in Germany. But, they were not the only ones killed because the drama and persecution continued both inside and outside Kosovo as if it were the murder of Enver Hadri but also many other activists. In the sense of independence and respect for basic human rights, let alone that they were not respected, but also violated in the most inhuman way, increasing the pressure and harassment that the system inflicted on certain persons in Kosovo and beyond. These injustices and other violent and illegal actions against the people and institutions of Kosovo became unstable for many people and different groups of our society of that time. So, this systematic violence produces crises not only for certain individuals, family crises but also for society itself, producing also dissatisfaction and revolt in all directions, as in the case of intellectuals and other strata, but especially in the student masses in Kosovo. Due to such a situation, the student youth, having no other way out, rose in demonstrations on March 11, 1981. The initial requirements were:

1. To recognize the status of the Republic of Kosovo as if there were 6 other Republics;
2. That Kosovo be treated as a federal unit equal to the natural resources it possesses and that it uses these resources;
3. To stop discrimination against the Albanian people in all areas, respecting the fundamental rights under international conventions;

There were also a number of reasonable demands, but all of them are heard in the ears of the centers of the establishment of the then Yugoslavia and its leader, ostensibly in the name of brotherhood union, and in circumstances where there was no democracy but a one-party system or Communism.

All these demands and their non-realization caused revolt in the mass of the people, especially among the student youth and, they continued with their activities until the demands were met, which did not happen. In the organization of the demonstrations, a lot of effort was made, a lot of sweat was shed and a lot of blood was shed by young people, but also at all ages, Convinced that independence and freedom can not be achieved only with words and slogans for the Republic of Kosovo, but, aware that weapons must be compressed, which in the later stage happened being such a situation imposed by the fascist government of Serbia under the leadership led by criminal Slobodan Milosevic.

So, the systematic resentments and violence by Serbia produce a negative effect to continue the situation in such conditions and, the people do not do something with all the danger that reigned in all spheres of life, such as education, health, army,

police thus, a total suffocation in all institutions in Kosovo, those that had remained fragile and insecure, imposing a state of emergency with strict police and military measures.

Patience comes to an end once and for all. Activists like us in the homeland and those in Exile, did not stop acting for their ideal and liberation from occupation and the ancient invader.

From 1981 until 1998, a not short period was ominous for Albanians, being forced to leave their homeland and invade exile only to escape the clutches of the occupying enemy who filled the prisons with Albanians every day for their actions as they called them "irredentist and separatist". But, this was not true for the fact that, we only wanted to be equal with other Republics and, that the natural resources that Kosovo had should not be alienated by the occupier of the country. As this did not yield results then, followed the demonstrations of 1981 of the majority population in Kosovo and then the armed war, for the fact that the war was imperative of the time.

2. Demonstrations of 1981 and the impact on the structures of Albanian soldiers and officers

The spring of 1981 was one of the most problematic seasons at first glance, but it was the spring that brought the hopeful news for the people of Kosovo. It was, therefore, the organization of student demonstrations, which awakened and unified the Albanian conscience throughout Kosovo and beyond for the change of the situation that reigned for decades in Kosovo regarding the situation installed in our country and beyond that reigned in relation to basic human rights but, not only but, also with the legal-state, economic, educational, social, security and other fields that violated every Albanian field of activity and being Albanian. This, because of the installation of an unequal and savage, undemocratic regime, not humanely based on the absolute discrimination of the Albanian people of Kosovo but, even wider in all ethnic territories that were within the former Yugoslavia. Although, this momentum was just the beginning of an unresolved and denied issue for the independence of the people for years and decades.

Undoubtedly, this historical event for Kosovo and its people brought to the surface many things and phenomena of injustice and violence against the people of Kosovo, such a situation had an indirect impact on the structures of the Albanian army and officers in the service of the former Yugoslav army, who were inspired by the intellectual of the time and the patriotic professor from the early school benches and especially the lecturers of the subject Defense and Security. It is worth mentioning, since high school, the professor from this field, Hajzer Seferi of the Heroic Prekaz, who, inspire us rightly to define ourselves for this profession as something that is in the best interest of Kosovo and its future, for the fact that prof. Hajzeri had his knowledge, experience and attitude as, one of the reserve component officers who knew the value and meaning of an officer especially with the level of the Military Academy.

The 70s and those following the twentieth century were years when Kosovo's consciousness and interest was to start, along with the University, with the military

education of Albanians in the former Yugoslavia in order for Kosovo to have educated staff even on the military plane, which begins well by ending discrimination against Albanian youth who wanted such a profession, always being aware of the need for such staff for Kosovo. For illustration we will mention only the year 1978, where according to the processed information only in the Military Academy of the Land Forces in Belgrade-Sarajevo graduated 25 officers of different genders of this generation.

Taken as a whole by other Academies such as that of Aviation and Navy, this number is twice as high. The number of officers in the years 1970 to 1990 in all military directions, genders and components exceeds the total figure of 700, senior career officers, generals,¹ senior officers,² ranks major, lieutenant colonel and colonel, officers, lieutenant-captain first class and non-commissioned officers, sergeant to aspirant. In addition to the active staff, a number of 20,000 officers and non-commissioned officers of the reserve component in Kosovo should be added to this number, which was a force which, according to the Yugoslav military and security services, did not suit the adversary and the enemy. We must say that within the former APJ, the number of Albanian soldiers in military units throughout Yugoslavia was about 40% of the total number. This was also a situation which the leading military structures but also the state ones did not make comfortable assistance towards the cadres and the number of Albanian soldiers, and that after the events of 1981 they considered it as a threat and danger to the security and constitutional order of the former Yugoslavia.

The year 1981 also exposed the activities of the secret services of all kinds, especially those of intelligence and anti-military intelligence, for an increased "care" for the military cadres, as well as for the officers as well as the Albanian soldiers wherever they served. These services were closely related to the secret civil and security services, starting from the municipal levels of the defense sector, as well as sending classified information to Albanian soldiers that we did not have access to such documents. So, the Albanian soldiers were accompanied by documents from their bases and with abundant information, and in particular those soldiers who had eventually been involved in various activities as they were called at the time counter-revolutionary, irredentist and separatist. This was transformed into a special model for the persecution of soldiers but also Albanian officers wherever they served. The purpose of these services was to justify their work and actions, they used every means and method to punish as many soldiers and officers as possible, they were organized to forcefully overthrow the constitutional order of Yugoslavia. This course of action and their assessment turned out to be inaccurate, due to the fact that we had neither the strength nor the organization in such an organized army, and the power was fourth in Europe, and this makes us even now realize that the goal was elsewhere, in reality to suffocate the most vital part of the people of Kosovo, Kosovo youth servng in the Albanian military and professional military intelligence versus student

¹ Major officers, well-known generals that we have information were as follows: Ethem Reçica, Ramiz Avdyli,

Fadil Quranolli, Ali Muhaxheri, Ismet Krasniqi, Ibrahim Ibrahimimi (Macedonia).

² Senior officer included: Tomë Berisha, Ramadan Qehaja, Shukri Galani, Zaim Berisha, Ahmet Krasniqi, Ali Aliu, Halit Xoxa, Bashkim Përgjegjaj, Xhemajl Bejta, Ismajl Maliqi, Tahir Zemaj, Rrahim Ademi, Shefket Ismajli.

organizations seeking their legitimate rights to legal justice, equality and security in their lands and institutions that were already suspended by the then system. In the former APJ, Albanian cadres were involved in education from all existing components and genders in the military structure,³ this was a model of education that suited us Albanians and, it was in our favor to have heterogeneous cadres thinking that one day, as it happened, the country will need the Liberation Army-KLA (UÇK).⁴ After the events of 1981 and in the continuation of the pressures that the military security bodies put on the Albanian soldiers and officers, it was an unprecedented hunt. These organs by observing them from afar and having no knowledge of what they are doing and acting. We were handicapped and did not have any information at all. Their purpose was not only to blackmail the soldiers with methods that only they knew but, the main goal and objective was to the Albanian officers to reveal the undiscovered.

We were at a young age and, in return for the love for the chosen profession, we possessed a fervent love for our homelands and Kosovo, that they can never take it away from our hearts and souls with all the methods they applied. We also had a personal mission to create families like any other layer of citizens. Our worries were not over for the fate of what is happening in Kosovo with him and around her. On the other hand, to create our own families that the vast majority of officers had chosen to crown their lives with Albanian women. This was also one of the focuses of the secret military services, which did not apply to the officers of other nations.

This made us, in front of various services inadequate and promotion and discriminated by expressing in various forms distrust of us Albanian officers. Despite this situation, Albanian officers showed skill and commitment to duties and service, always being vigilant at the right level. Instructions and advice to Albanian soldiers were daily work for us, showing care for the fact that the power of secret military services in combination with civilian ones was unsurpassed for us. There were imprisonments, murders of Albanian soldiers who sadly returned to the coffins of their families, until their number in the period 1980 -1990 exceeds the three-digit number. There was almost no service garrison that did not have at least one murder of Albanian soldiers, which the competent bodies presented in various false forms, until the situation was quite different. Only in my Barracks in Zagreb⁵, during this period v '83-'90 2 soldiers

³ The largest number of professional cadres were from the Infantry Command, the most necessary military gender for the command of troops, their leadership and command. , engineer, communication and liaison, chemical defense, technical sciences and armaments and other services within the structure of education and training of officers such as economic management, geodesy, military police, special units as separate units.

⁴ In the aviation component, there were also pilots of supersonic aircraft, MIG (Ali Aliu) and Jastreb (Shaban Shkreli, Besnik Sadriu, Avni Kastrati), but they were accompanied by an Albanian aviation engineer and a large number of technical aviation, who were tasked with preparing the aircraft for flight. The largest group of such technicians was concentrated in Brezhice, Slovenia. While their training centers were in Rajlovac, Zadar, Mostar which depended on the direction within the Combat Aviation Component. Another component was the War Navy, in which there was a considerable number of Albanian cadres, which served mainly in the sea areas with the main center in the Croatian city of Split.

The epicenter of the infantry was in Belgrade-Sarajevo, Artillery-Zadar, Tank units in Banja Luka, Chenjo in Karlovac, Croatia, Communication in Belgrade, Chemical Defense-Krusevc, Economy (Logistics, Finance, Intra-University) Technical Academy, Zagreb, center.

⁵ The blackmail did not stop, but from these infamous services for us Albanian officers. Involving soldiers

were killed, with the justification that they have committed suicide and that does not stand. We at that time had no possibility or mechanism to verify the events and, to react because we put ourselves in great danger by getting involved as they said in their affairs. Following the dramatic situations that continued at that time, especially in the years 1981 until 1990, when the destruction of Yugoslavia began, have been gloomier times for Albanian soldiers and officers.

On the basis of the experiences from this time with full arguments we say that, can not be found a single officer of military career from the Albanians who has not been treated in the most rude way by the military security organs, wherever they have served.

Despite this situation, most of the Albanian officers almost all remained manly, with dignity, commitment to work and in relation to the Albanian soldiers correctly, advising and helping them not to fall prey to service blackmail, producing enmity among us, but those actions were unsuccessful, anipse on the part of the services was our every action under strict control using various methods without choosing the means. It is worth distinguishing as: observation with bodies, close-up recordings through informants and at a distance even when we were on vacation with family, using their collaborators and their network in Kosovo, blackmailing, misleading both soldiers and officers, various misinformation to put in insurmountable stress situations up to anomie situations or the application of suicides, which has happened by soldiers in various barracks like the soldier's event in Mostar in v. 1981.

The intelligence and military intelligence services have not hesitated to include in their investigations, blackmail and other methods the senior officers who were in small numbers. Such treatment was given to General Qehaja during the exercise of various career tasks, transferring him unnecessarily from one place to another in the service. The same thing happened to Ahmet Krasniqi, the same fate befell me, precisely because of the situation in Kosovo, because the transfers with service to different countries was their goal to keep the ranking officers under control strict to them and the possible connections they could make. But the connection of secret military services was not independent of the secret services of the state. They extremely cooperated with each other, coordinating their actions and in particular with Albanian student organizations and students studying in different countries such as Zagreb, Ljubljana, Sarajevo and elsewhere. The most striking case is the combined imprisonment of Albanian students and several officers in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁶

in intelligence operations putting them in very difficult positions. Specifically to the soldiers by doing them favors only to provide information about their Albanian superiors. In 1981, after the events in Prishtina, at the place where I served, 11 soldiers were imprisoned and convicted. Biank Dinaj, Xhavit Makaj, Mustafë Lipaj, Agim Ymeri, Fadil Dani and others who are no longer in memory. They were sentenced to capital judgments for no reason just because they associated with each other. The aim was to make substantiated facts and evidence which were directed at the Albanian officers who were 4 of us officers. My probation of 4 months imprisonment was an unstable assembly, for that we were not sentenced to effective imprisonment. One of the soldiers who initially accepted according to the obstructions prepared that, even after the completion of the military service, paid with dizzying amounts to be put on the observation and observation and follow-up of my movements with my family for a full month. Soldier M.L seeing that he was manipulated and being convinced of my purity, withdrew but was later sentenced to 7 years in prison. Such cases have been numerous.

⁶ The methodology of certain service officers but also unit commanders has been that; offering favors such as

This has been a case and secret action against this group and a total information blockade about which event we have been informed by the Croatian media for a long time but, also shocked by the case, recognizing that this group had not violated the order or the constitution of Yugoslavia, except that they demanded the same rights as those in Pristina and throughout Kosovo and beyond. Their arrest and sentencing to effective imprisonment was a serious event for the general public. The Albanian public in these countries was surprised because the activities faded, which produced a kind of distancing and fear among us that this hack will continue and that no one will escape evil. Although these arrests, imprisonments and capital sentences for this group took place, the morale and will for our cause was not destroyed and each time these crisis and dangerous situations only strengthened us and we gained experiences to find different methods of our actions and engagement in the framework of illegal activity, always thinking in the forms of organization in relation to the situation that Kosovo faced until the final destruction of the former Yugoslavia.⁷

Conclusion

An issue like the one of demonstrations and sacrifice of the people of Kosovo, certainly wants and requires a more thorough research and conclusions of the scientific model. Description of major events of historical character for Kosovo and around Kosovo, in relation to the situation produced and fabricated by the former communist system in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, was nothing but, it resembled a fierce hunt against the people of Kosovo to discriminate in every direction of its existence. Persecutions, rapes, murders and imprisonments with capital punishments of prominent activists of the time, was a wild indicator of the power of that time and the infamous state security services. The proclamation of the slogan of coexistence in the name of brotherhood-union was just another farce of deception and injustices done to Albanians as in the ethnic, socio-economic, educational, health, security and development of our country Kosovo. The exploitation of Kosovo had reached the peak of exploitation of natural resources and other economic potentials. All these actions produced a situation where, further, the Albanians could not cope. The demonstrations were not of a moment but, they had started long ago, from 1968, demanding the minimum rights of Albanians to be identified with their symbol like other peoples and, to avoid injustices done during other long-standing Ottoman rule of foreign Kings. Denigrating and degrading policies towards Albanian factors did for holidays soldiers and performing tasks on the Kosovo field, allowing exits to cities where they have served to establish contacts with Albanians in different businesses, providing information from the field and possible connections, the purpose of all these actions was to have information on the organization of the inter-Albanian network, to discover these organizations and organizations with their activity. Thanks to this information, the authorities gained the opportunity to file indictments against innocent people by collecting false information, to create an alibi for criminal acts, which had to do as they called a counter-revolution with irredentist and separatist intentions.

⁷ In the group of arrested, imprisoned and convicted there were active students of the case and high level officers. It included Fehmi Lladrovci, Xhel Canzibaj, Ton Marku, all students of the University of Zagreb. Sarajevo and did not even manage to move home. Absolutely unjust trial and blackmailed because they were not the destroyers of order but, they had the right to demand what the people of Kosovo demanded with full right by alluding to the Freedom and Independence of Kosovo.

not stop and this caused discontents and demonstrations. Sacrifices and sacrificers did not stop, against a savage power installed, especially in the last decade of the 20th century. The bequest of all those who fell in different phases, is being realized by time, which is the most powerful evidence for the blood shed by Kosovo Heroes.

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