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# VADEMECUM ALBANIA





# VADEMECUM ALBANIA

A guide to archives, research institutions, libraries,  
associations, museums and sites of memory



## FEDERAL FOUNDATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP IN EASTERN GERMANY

The Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Eastern Germany is tasked under public law with the comprehensive investigation and study of the causes, history and impact of the dictatorship in the Soviet occupation zone in Germany and the GDR, to promote and consolidate the process of German reunification, and to contribute to the reappraisal and study of dictatorships at an international level. It promotes the study and reappraisal of the former Communist dictatorships in the Soviet occupation zone/ GDR and East Central Europe as well as advancing public awareness and an understanding of Communist dictatorship more generally. The Foundation's work is guided by the principles of instigating and supporting, informing and networking. It entertains partnerships with museums, memorial sites, institutions of political education, schools and universities, independent archives, historical societies, and, not least, associations of the victims of Communist dictatorship in East Germany. The Federal Foundation was established through specific legislation passed by the German Bundestag in 1998.

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Image Credits: Title: Bust of Enver Hoxha, May 2019 in the backyard of the National Art Gallery in Tirana (Photo: Dr Anke Geier), Page 4, 6: "Posts-Bllok" Memorial in Tirana (Photo: Federal Foundation, 2019), Page 15: Former Spa Labor Camp (Photo: Federal Foundation, 2019)



<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>16</b>
General Directorate of Archives (GDA)	16
Central State Archives (CSA)	17
<b>Local Archives</b>	<b>19</b>
Archive Corner in Gjirokastra	20
Archive Corner at State Archives of Kosovo Agency	20
Archive Corner at Reading Room Skopje	20
Archive Corner at “Mitrush Kuteli” Library in Pogradec	20
Archive Corner at “Qemal Baholli” Library in Elbasan	20
Archive Corner at Saranda Library	20
Archive Corner at Delvina Library	20
Archive Corner at Podujeva Library	20
Archive Corner at “Sadik Tafarshiku” Library, Ferizaj	20
Archive Corner at the University of Tetova	20
Archive Corner at “Koço Racin” Library, Kërçovë	20
Archive Corner at City of Lushnja Library	20
Archive Corner at “Haxhi Buharaja” Library, Berat	20
Archive Corner at the Palace of Culture “Riza Cerova”, Çorovodë	20
Archive Corner at “Marin Barleti” Library, Shkodra	20
<b>System Archives</b>	<b>21</b>
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archive (MFAA)	21
Ministry of Internal Affairs Archive (MIAA)	22
Albanian Armed Forces Archive (AAFA)	23
Authority for Information on Former State Security Document Archives (AIDSSH)	24
<b>Other Archives</b>	<b>25</b>
Central State Film Archive	25
<b>Archive of public and non-public Institutions</b>	<b>26</b>
Archive of the Franciscan Church, Shkodra	26
Institute of History Archive (IHA)	28
<b>LIBRARIES</b>	<b>28</b>
National Library of Albania (NLA)	28
Library of the Academy of Sciences (LAS)	29

<b>University Library</b>	<b>30</b>
Albanological Scientific Library	30
Library of the History and Philology Faculty	30
Library “J. Limprecht” of the Faculty of the Economics	31
Faculty of Law Library	31
Academy of Arts Library	31
School of Magistrates Library	31
Library of the Armed Forces Academy	32
Scientific Library of “Luigj Gurakuqi” University, Shkodra	32
Library of “Aleksandër Moisiu” University, Durrës	33
Library of Korça University	33
<b>Other University Libraries</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Libraries of State Institutions</b>	<b>34</b>
The Prime Minister’s Office Library	34
Parliament of Albania Library	34
Library of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs	35
<b>Libraries of public Institutions</b>	<b>35</b>
Library of the National Gallery of Arts	35
Library of Shkodra Historical Museum	36
<b>Local public Libraries</b>	<b>36</b>
Public Library “Dritëro Agolli”, Fier	36
Public Library “Qemal Baholli”, Elbasan	37
Public Library of Kruja	37
Public Library “Gjergj Fishta”, Lezha	37
Public Library “Mitrush Kuteli”, Pogradec	38
Public Library “Apostol Meksi”, Gjirokastra	38
Public Library “Marin Barleti”, Shkodra	38
Public Library of Puka	39
<b>Public Library of Tirana</b>	<b>39</b>
Library of the Neighborhood No. 2 “Moikom Zeqo”	39
Library of the Neighborhood No. 9 “Musine Kokalari”	40
Other local public libraries	40
<b>Libraries of the religious Institutions</b>	<b>40</b>
Albanian Evangelical Brotherhood Library (AEB)	40
Inter-Diocesan Seminary Library, Shkodra	41
Franciscan Province Library, Shkodra	42

<b>PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>42</b>
Academy of Sciences of Albania (ASA)	42
Academy of Albanological Studies (AAS)	43
Institute of History (IH)	43
Institute of Linguistic and Literature (ILL)	44
University of Tirana, Faculty of History and Philology (FHP)	45
Institute for the Studies of Communist Crimes and Consequences (ISCC)	45
Institute for Political Studies (IPS)	47
Albanian Institute for International Studies (AIIS)	47
Albanian Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (AIITC)	47
Institute for Historical Studies “Lumo Skëndo”	48
Institute for Democracy, Media and Culture (IDMC)	48
Institute of Romani Culture in Albania (IRCA)	49
Albanian Human Rights Group (AHRG)	49
Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC)	50
European Institute “Pashko”	50
<b>FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>51</b>
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Office in Albania (KAS)	51
Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES)	51
OSCE Presence in Albania	51
<b>MUSEUMS</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>National Museums</b>	<b>52</b>
National History Museum (NHM)	52
Museum of Secret Surveillance “House of Leaves”	53
National Gallery of Arts (NGA)	54
National Museum of Photography “Marubi”	55
<b>Regional Museums</b>	<b>56</b>
New Museum of Gjirokastra	56
History Museum of Lushnja	56
History Museum of Dibra	57
Galery of Arts, Shkodra	57
House Studio “Kadare”	58
<b>Museum of Weapon, War an Communist Crimes</b>	<b>59</b>
Armed Forces Museum, Tirana	59
Armaments Museum and Prison, Gjirokastra	59
Site of Witness and Memory, Shkodra	60
Cold War Tunnel, Gjirokastra	61

<b>Museums of religious Institutions</b>	<b>61</b>
Sapa Diocese Museum, Shkodra	61
Pult Diocese Museum, Shkodra	62
Bektashi Museum, Tirana	62
<b>Art Installations and Exhibitions</b>	<b>63</b>
Bunk'art 1	63
Bunk'art 2	63
<b>Private Museums</b>	<b>64</b>
Women's Museum (WsM)	64
<b>ORGANIZATIONS OF FORMERLY POLITICALLY PERSECUTED PEOPLE</b>	<b>64</b>
Albanian Anti-Communist Association of Formerly Politically Persecuted	64
Anti-Communist Association of Politically Persecuted, Tirana Branch	65
Pan-National Union for the Integration of former Political Prisoners and Persecuted Persons	65
Albanian Rehabilitation Center for Trauma and Torture (ARCT)	65
Other Organizations of Formerly Persecuted People	66
<b>MEMORIALS AND COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES</b>	<b>66</b>
"Post-Bllok" Memorial, Tirana	66
Memorial in Remembrance of the former persecuted Persons, Shkodra	66
Memorial of Internments during the Dictatorship, Lushnja	66
Monument of the Communist Martyrs in Ngurrëz e Madhe, Lushnja	67
Memorial of the Poets Genc Leka and Vilson Blloshmi, Librazhd	67
Monument of the Martyr Poet Havzi Nela, Kukës	67
<b>Commemorative Plaques</b>	<b>68</b>
Commemorative Plaque at Tepelena former Camp	68
Commemorative Plaque at Postriba	68
Commemorative Plaque at Qaf-Valmir, Mirdita	68
Commemorative Plaque at Matjan	68
Commemorative Plaque on 302 Prison Wall, Tirana	69
Commemorative Plaque former Secret Surveillance Unit, Tirana	69
Commemorative Plaque for the shot Journalist of Radio Tirana	69
Commemorative Plaques for the Victims accused of Bombing the Soviet Embassy, Tirana	69
Commemorative Plaque of Qaf-Bari Prison	69
Commemorative Plaque in Tamara	70
Commemorative Plaque in Honor of Musine Kokalari, Gjirokastër	70

<b>Authentic Sites discussed for Museumization</b>	<b>70</b>
Spaç Labor Camp	70
Tepelena barbed Wire Camp	71
<b>ONLINE PLATFORMS ON THE COMMUNIST PERIOD IN ALBANIA</b>	<b>72</b>
Kujto.al	72
Observatorikujteses.al	72
Muzeuimemories.info	73
<b>ACRONYMS</b>	<b>74</b>

## INTRODUCTION

This guide is the first of its kind and refers to all the most important institutions and sites that focus on recognizing the historical past of Albania during the dictatorship period. The communist dictatorship in Albania, which was installed after World War II and lasted until March 1991, was one of the most oppressive dictatorships in Central and Eastern Europe. Dictator Enver Hoxha led the country with an iron fist until the day of his death in April 1985, isolating the Albanian people from the rest of the world. After his death, Hoxha's policy, without much change, was followed by his successor Ramiz Alia, and for the very way the transfer of power was negotiated from the old to the new regime, there was no real revolution in Albania from below. The transition came as a domino effect after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the bloody events in Romania. The fall of the communist regime was accompanied by a general euphoria of the society, but it would soon fade in the face of the challenges posed by the democratic order, whose experience was lacking until then in Albanian history. The transition seemed from the beginning that it would not be easy: The planned economy and isolationist policies had plunged Albania into an economic abyss; the democratic political culture in the country was lacking; dissident elites and groups were systematically eliminated through executions and imprisonment; there was no independent civil society; there was no tradition of independent media; paranoia and mistrust had left deep traces in Albanian society.

In terms of dealing with the communist past, unlike other Eastern European countries, there was almost no attempt to implement long-term memory policies so that repression and injustice to more than a third of Albanians would find their proper place in collective memory. During the transition many scholars have tried to shed light on this part of history, the consequences of which are innumerable to the present day. However, the extent of persecution in Albania has not yet been adequately investigated. The difficulties have been great, as access to the archives has been difficult for a long time. Still historians continue to operate with figures left by the communists before the fall of the regime. Public institutions dealing with the rehabilitation of victims and the study of the crimes of communism have made new calculations over the years. According to them, for the whole communist era we can assume that these are the categories of direct communist persecution:

- Executed for political reasons: 6,027 persons (including about 300 women);
- Political prisoners: 34,135 persons (including about 7,000 women);
- Dead in custody: about 1,000 people;
- Severely mentally injured by violence, torture and imprisonment: 308 persons;
- Interned: 60,000 persons (or 20,000 families), of whom 7,000 died.

In this situation, any kind of initiative to make an “inventory” of data on the dictatorship is very necessary. Through this study, we have tried to summarize a list of research institutions that play a direct or indirect role in the further study of the dictatorship period. The richest documentary fund for the study of this period is kept in the Central State Archive, in the Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Central Archive of the Armed Forces, in the Archive of the Ministry of Interior and in the Authority for Information on SIGURIMI Files (AIDSSH). Another large fund of materials is found in typology archives, or private ones. Despite the fact that after the fall of the regime many libraries were destroyed and many books published during that period were burned, including the works of the dictator, in many libraries there are publications, periodicals and studies, which focus on this period of history.

We have tried to include in this guide research institutions, foundations, non-governmental organizations, which give their contribution in the field of memory. Also included in this guide are memorial sites and memorial plaques, which, although few in number, are intended to preserve historical memory by reminding us of the crimes of the dictatorship period. While collecting materials for this guide we noticed that memorials commemorating anti-communist movements, resistance and people killed, imprisoned and interned during communism are extremely few. In one case it was a memorial erected with the support of the local government, while others are individual initiatives by family members or victim associations of the politically persecuted. They were set up mainly in Shkodra, where the persecution of the Catholic clergy took place, and Lushnja, where the largest internment camps were held until 1991. State indifference to the protection, documentation and musealization of places of suffering has not helped society’s serious confrontation with the dictatorial regime.

The museums included in this study aim to give us quick information on a certain period and preserve objects, documents and photographs, which enable us a better knowledge of the history of the dictatorship. In the National Historical Museum this period is presented in a special pavilion, through photographs focusing on the persecution during the dictatorship period. Although museums have been set up focusing on this period of history, during our research, we noticed that in some of the district museums the access to this period in the context of crimes committed has not been adequately covered. Two museums remain the most prominent: House of Leaves (“Shtwpia me gjethe”) in Tirana (national museum), which brings to attention the work of the State Security (Sigurimi) during the dictatorship period. As well as the Place of Testimony and Remembrance in the city of Shkodra (“Vendi i

Dwshmisw dhe Kujtesws”, local museum), which brings a completely new approach to communism and the suffering of intellectuals, clergy and other persons convicted during the dictatorship. Therefore, this guide is of special importance as many interested people will find in it various information and a short material for institutes that undertake to study and document this period in a museum way.

This guide can also be used on a daily basis by ordinary people who are curious to know more about the contemporary history of the country, the communist period and its consequences in society. The guide will serve local and foreign history and social science scholars who encounter difficulties and lack of information on institutions focused on the communist past. History professors and teachers can find in this guide information on places that have references about this period. Students and pupils can refer to this material to be inspired for various history projects. This material can of course be used for touristic guides as well, who will know the sites of memory by giving information to local and foreign tourists on this period of history, which should not be forgotten.

In Albania, as in many other countries in recent years, the interest for this period has increased not only of scholars, but also of ordinary people and young people who feel the need to clarify this historic period. Therefore, we believe that through this compact informative guide we contribute to the undertaking of new studies and projects in this field by all institutions, researchers and other stakeholders.



## ARCHIVES

### GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ARCHIVES (GDA)

Jordan Misja Street, Tirana, 8303, Albania

 +355 4 4541798

 dpa@albarchive.gov.al

 <http://albarchive.gov.al>

The General Directorate of Archives is subordinate to the Council of Ministers and includes the entire national network of archives. According to Albanian legislation, archives are all “state or non-state specialized institutions that collect, process, manage, preserve and serve archival property, which is protected and secured by the state”.<sup>1</sup> These include the System Archives (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archive, Ministry of Internal Affairs Archive, Central Archive of the Armed Forces, Authority for Information on Former State Security Documents Archive); Typology Archives (such as the Film Archive), as well as permanent archives and secretariat-archives of all public authorities and state or private institutions in Albania. This network preserves, processes, manages and serves the National Archival Fund of the Republic of Albania.<sup>2</sup> The archives preserve all the documentation created by state or non-state entities, which are considered of historical, legal, political, socio-cultural or economic<sup>3</sup> importance and constitute the National Archival Fund.

Number of archival funds: nearly 6,000–6,100

Archives have published various periodicals over the years, such as archival journals or collections of documents from different periods.

The following archives are part of the structure under the authority of the General Directorate of Archives, and the entire national archival network operates under the legislation entered in force in November 2003, Law No. 9154 on archives.

The Central State Archive and the Local Archives are under the GDA administrative and professional subordination. Meanwhile, other archives are under the methodological and professional authority of the General Directorate of Archives.

Exhibitions by GDA and its network of archives: “Books banned under communism” (2020) in collaboration with the National Library of Albania and the National Museum “House of Leaves”; “From the Hellenistic-Roman city to the socialist settlement: Butrint and Ksamili”, (2018); “Musine Kokalari” (2021).

1 Law no. 9154, dt.6. 11. 2003, For Archives, p. 2. [https://www.idp.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Ligj\\_9154\\_dt.06.11.2003\\_Per\\_arkivat\\_2020.pdf](https://www.idp.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Ligj_9154_dt.06.11.2003_Per_arkivat_2020.pdf)

2 General Directorate of Archives, webpage: <https://arkiva.gov.al/>

3 Law no. 9154, 6. 11. 2003, For Archives, p. 2. [https://www.idp.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Ligj\\_9154\\_dt.06.11.2003\\_Per\\_arkivat\\_2020.pdf](https://www.idp.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Ligj_9154_dt.06.11.2003_Per_arkivat_2020.pdf)

Publications by GDA and its network of archives: “Albanian-Yugoslav relations 1945–1948”, (1996); “Enver Hoxha’s anti-national policy” (1995); “The history of the central archive of the Albanian Labor Party”, (2004); “Albania in the history of the Cold War” (2007).

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## CENTRAL STATE ARCHIVE (CSA)

Jordan Misja Street, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 4541798

✉ [dpa@albarchive.gov.al](mailto:dpa@albarchive.gov.al)

🌐 <http://albarchive.gov.al>

Records of preserving valuable manuscripts in our country are found from the time when the first state structures were established. The institutional structures were certainly not organized as they are today and the documents were mainly preserved by certain individuals in libraries, religious, cultural or economic institutions (such as craftsmen and guilds). Although there were undeveloped forms of document-keeping institutions, there has been no national archival network before the declaration of independence and establishment of institutional bodies of the Albanian Independent State in 1912. In fact, during that time, the relevant legislation was designed regarding establishment, organization and functioning of institutions that would deal with the arrangement and preservation of important historical documents created by state institutions and beyond.

However, the first document stored in the Central State Archive which mentions the efforts on establishing a Central Archive, is the decision of the High Council of State dated 02.01.1932 for reviewing the draft regulation on registering important events. This draft-regulation set out the establishment the General State Archive<sup>4</sup>. This is a very important moment for the history of the Albanian archives. The draft law of 1932 “On establishment of the General State Archive and the History Chronicle”, article 1 provided for as follows: “The General State Archive is established in the capital to collect and preserve all official documents”. This draft law was not implemented as expected, but gave an impetus to the further development of archival activity in Albania.

All initiatives undertaken during the period of the Second World War were limited to the creation of the secretariat-archives, which have preserved and processed a large number of documents that is preserved nowadays in this institution.

Upon the liberation of the country and the establishment of the communist regime in 1947, the “Documentary Archive of the Institute<sup>5</sup>” was created at the Institute of Studies. It collected a considerable amount of important historical documents, but the competencies were limited. In 1949, the Council of Ministers decided the establishment of the Central

<sup>4</sup> General Directorate of Archives, webpage: <https://arkiva.gov.al/>

<sup>5</sup> General Directorate of Archives, webpage: <https://arkiva.gov.al/>

State Archive (CSA) as a national central body, although under the auspices of the Institute of Studies.

From 1951 to 1962, the archive was under the care of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In 1962 it was decided that this institution would pass under the authority of the Council of Ministers, thus creating the General Directorate of State Archives (today GDA). In addition to being a central body, this Directorate had and still has the attributes of the Central State Archive, as the most important and richest archive of the national archival network.<sup>6</sup>

By collecting all the documentation of the institutions in the country, this archive keeps important documents of the central bodies created during 1945–1990, except for those institutions, which function nowadays as separate archives keeping the relevant documentation within the institution. All the documents that have passed through the declassification stage are accessible to the public or researchers. After the modernization of the CSA, the relevant catalogs are now available online at: <https://katalogu.arkiva.gov.al/>. Upon registration, all interested persons can apply for access to the files they want to examine based on the regulation of this institution. The online catalogue system and the digitization of the documentation stored at CSA have greatly facilitated the research work even remotely. Today, the CSA sector comprises categorized funds of central state institutions which include documents created by existing institutions before and after 1944. These funds have a considerable number of documents created during the dictatorship. Local state institutions constitute separate categories such as clergy funds, personal funds, documents belonging to the period before the declaration of independence; collections of funds and funds donated by other countries; funds of various organizations, private economic companies and clubs. A special collection mainly for history scholars is the fund of the former Central Archive of the Party containing the most required documents for historical studies related to the dictatorship period.

## SECTOR OF THE FORMER CENTRAL PARTY ARCHIVE (FORMER-CPA)

After the liberation of the country and establishment of the dictatorial regime, the offices of the Party Archive were set up, laying the foundations for establishing an institution where the documents of the party structures' activity would be stored. CPA was established in 1955 and at the same time, the instructions about its operation were designed, which included collection and processing of documents. From 1965 to 1983 the archival network was reorganized and a plan for securing archives during emergencies was put in place. The last stage of the existence of this body covers the period until 1992 when CPA was given the status of a scientific<sup>7</sup> institution, when the party archives were opened for scholars. After the fall of the regime, this institution was included in one of the sectors of the CSA, which is known nowadays as the former CPA sector.

<sup>6</sup> General Directorate of Archives, webpage: <https://arkiva.gov.al/>

<sup>7</sup> Kujtim, Nako. "History of the Central Archive of the Albanian Labor Party", Tirana: General Directorate of Archives, 2004, p. 12.

This sector houses today all the documents of the Communist Party's activity and is composed of several funds: The personal funds of 93 well-known personalities of this period such as the personal fund of dictator Enver Hoxha, Hysni Kapo, Vito Kapo, Mehmet Shehu, Adil Çarçani, Behar Shtylla, Gogo Nushi, Koci Xoxe, Liri Belishova, Margarita Tutulani, Miladin Popovic, Todi Lubonja, Nexhmije Hoxha, Tuk Jakova etc.

Another sector is that of the former Party Organizations which includes the Party organizations of the Central Committee Apparatus and the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the party organization of Porto-Romano and Tirana Prison, the grassroots party organizations in France and Egypt. The sector of the former Party Committees houses funds of the Communist Youth Committees in different districts, the Anti-fascist National Liberation Committee, the Central Committees of the ALP (bureau, secretariat, plenums, and congress), the Albanian Labor Party Committee, etc.

Another fund group is the papers of the first communist groups' activity, the labor and trade union movement. The documents of the military formations 1941–1944 make up also a fund group and the papers on the National Liberation Councils 1941–1944 are classified in a separate fund group. Meanwhile, two other fund groups belong to the opposing political formations of the former ACP (ALP), institutions, commissions and councils.

This sector, which is also one of the sectors most referred to by researchers in recent years, houses all the documents related to the above activities.

## LOCAL ARCHIVES

The local archives are divided into twelve regions within the territory of Albania and abroad. The storage areas that house and manage the documentation created by the local bodies after 1945 are located in several cities, such as: in Lushnja is the storage area of the documents for Vlora, Fier and Gjirokastra region; in Elbasan the documentation for the regions of Elbasan, Korça and Berat are stored; in Rrëshen is the storage area of documents created by local bodies of the regions of Lezha, Shkodra, Dibra and Kukes); while in Tirana the documents of the districts of Tirana and Durrës are stored and managed. These documents are open to be accessed by researchers and other stakeholders as provided for in the applicable law. These documents can be accessed and studied at the study halls of GDA in Tirana, or at the archive corners recently established with the latest initiative of GDA.

Archival corners are found inside and outside the Republic of Albania, including countries where a significant number of Albanians live, such as in the Republic of Kosovo, Montenegro and Macedonia. Most archival corners operate in the libraries of the following cities, the archival records can be searched and used online through the GDA.

**Gjirokastra Archive Corner,**

operating near the library “Apostol Meksi”, opened on November 15, 2020.

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**Archive Corner at Kosovo State Archives Agency,**

located in Pristina, opened on November 24, 2020.

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**Archive Corner “Leximorja”,**

located in Chair, Skopje, opened on November 22, 2020.

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**Archive Corner at the Library “Mitrush Kuteli” in Pogradec,**

opened on November 26, 2020.

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**Archive Corner at the Library “Qemal Baholli” Elbasan,**

opened on January 29, 2021.

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**Archive Corner at Saranda Library,**

inaugurated on February 2, 2021.

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**Archive Corner at Delvina Library,**

opened on February 18, 2021.

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**Archive Corner at the Library of Podujeva city,**

opened on March 22, 2021.

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**Archive Corner at the Library “Sadik Tafarshiku” in Ferizaj,**

opened on March 23, 2021.

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**Archive Corner at the Library of Tetova University,**

opened on March 24, 2021.

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**Archive Corner at the Library “Koço Racin” in Kërçova,**

opened on March 24, 2021.

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**Archive Corner at City of Lushnja Library,**

opened on June 2, 2021.

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**Archive Corner at “Haxhi Buharaja” Library, Berat,**

opened on June 3, 2021.

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**Archive Corner at the Palace of Culture “Riza Cerova”, Çorovodë,**

opened on June 4, 2021.

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**Archive Corner at “Marin Barleti” Library, Shkodra,**

opened on July 2, 2021.

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## SYSTEM ARCHIVES

The following archives are part of the System Archives, which also depend on GDA.

### MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARCHIVE (MFAA)

Gjergj Fishta Boulevard, No 6. Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 2340358

✉ DK@mfa.gov.al

🕒 Monday–Thursday: 8:00–16:30; Friday: 8:00–14:00

The Archive of the Ministry of Foreign affairs manages all documents created by the Albanian Diplomatic Foreign Service and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since the formation of the modern Albanian state until today. The agreements entered into between our state and other states, whether multilateral or bilateral agreements, as well as the correspondence of Albanian diplomats in foreign countries with this institution are part of the archive fund of MFAA. According to the legislation on the functioning of archives, the documents which are administered by the state archival institutions are allowed for use after 25 years since the day of their creation,<sup>8</sup> while for documents classified as “state secret”, it is limited by the measures provided by Law No. 8457, dated 11.2.1999 “On information classified as “state secretstate”.”

The Directorate of Historical Archive and Documentation, in addition to maintaining the documents, also keeps open a study hall for the purpose of research work by researchers. The content of the documentation, as already has been functioning in other archives in the country, is reflected in the relevant catalogs.

In this archive are preserved the documents and the extensive correspondence of diplomats with the ministry during the dictatorship period. To shed light on historical truths and multilateral or bilateral interstate relations between our country and other countries, scholars refer to the documents stored in this institution. They are classified in 45 catalogs referring every year from 1945 until 1990.

Until 1997, the documents managed by this directorate were physically stored in a building in Gramsh. The events that happened in that year endangered the national wealth, so the documents were transferred, overnight, with the help of the army, to the institution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where they are still preserved today.

Today the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs is a sole fund (former MFA), the 151 funds in the national list of archival funds. Following the merger with the Ministry of European Integration, the former MFA fund is considered a sub-fund within the MEFA fund. On the other hand, the former MEI fund is processed and then is submitted every year to the State Archive until 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Albania web: <http://www.punetejashtme.gov.al/>

The Historical Archive of Albanian diplomacy is a member of the International Council of Archives (ICA), based in Paris.

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## MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ARCHIVE (MIAA)

Dëshmorët e Kombit Boulevard, Nd. 1, 1001 Tirana, Albania

✉ [ministria.Brendshme@mb.gov.al](mailto:ministria.Brendshme@mb.gov.al)

🕒 Monday–Thursday: 8:00–16:30; Friday: 8:00–14:00

In 1963, the draft decision No. 0339, dated 23.10.1963, launched the idea for establishing the system Archive of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In January of the same year, the Council of Ministers decided that the Central Archive Directorate, which until 1963 had been under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, should be separated from this ministry and would be dependent on the Council of Ministers. Thus, the entire archival fund that until then was managed by MIA, would now be administered by the State Archive, which would be subordinated to the Council of Ministers, as it is today.

The above-mentioned draft decision emphasized the fact that the nature of the documentation created by the Ministry of Internal was special, but above all it was a state secret. Given the special nature of the archival documentation created by MIA, this archive would be directly dependent on the latter, while the methodological aspect would be managed by the State Archives Directorate (as is the case today). The idea that both the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have their own independent archives was also reflected in this draft-decision.

Following the draft decision, DCM no. 89, dated 21.03.1964 “On the establishment of archives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs” was issued. According to point 3 therein it was stated that “the archives established by this decision shall manage all documentation created by these institutions”.

After the ‘90s, the three above-mentioned institutions continued to function in the same way. Their function is provided for under Law no. 9154, dated 6.11.2003 “On archives”, which is applicable today.

The MIA Archive has currently a register of 149 sub-funds, out of which 9 funds have been transferred under the administration of the Authority for Information on Former State Security Documents, according to the law of 2015 on the establishment and functioning of AIFSSD.

The vast majority of these sub-funds belong to closed institutions (institutions that no longer function), such as the former branches of internal affairs in districts, re-education facilities or various border facilities. In addition, over 90% of the archival materials are classified as secret and need to be declassified to make them accessible to the public but especially to scholars and researchers.

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## ALBANIAN ARMED FORCES ARCHIVE (AAFA)

Dibra Street, Garrison “Skënderbej”, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 2226601/1506 or 1516

✉ arkivifa@mod.gov.al

🕒 Monday–Thursday: 8:00–16:30; Friday: 8:00–14:00

The Central Armed Forces Archive (CAFA) is subordinate to the Ministry of Defense. This institution houses a considerable amount of documentation created by institutions under this ministry. In terms of methodology and professionalism of how the documents are operated and managed, this archive cooperates with the General Directorate of Archives. This archive was established in March 1964 by the decision of the Council of Ministers of that time, as a separate institution under the authority of the Ministry, given the fact that many documents created by these institutions were considered as “state secrets of high security”.

The set of documents of military nature drafted by military formations during the Antifascist War, and those created by the Armed Forces after the liberation were transferred to the administration of this institution. Upon the liberation of the capital in November 1944, the General Staff of the National Liberation Army ordered the establishment of a commission, which would deal with the submission of all official documents of the Albanian state, created by central and local institutions, and they would be preserved by the Armed Forces. This documentation would be the basis for the establishment of the national archival fund<sup>9</sup> and the institutions to manage the documents would be established later on.

AAF manages the funds of documents inherited and those created by the Ministry of Defense and its subordinate bodies, such as the General Staff of the Armed Forces, military units and units and commands. According to the law on archives, under which the AAF archive functions and operates, the documents that are stored, processed and managed by this institution can also be accessed by the interested researchers or private persons.

There are currently 516 archival funds in total. In terms of documentary heritage, it is estimated to be around 4,325 ml (35 million pages) of which the processed funds are: 1,340 ml (10,350,000 pages) and unprocessed: 2,985 ml (23,536,000 pages).<sup>10</sup>

This archive houses an extensive fund of documents covering the period before the ‘90s, including military agreements, correspondence with other countries, regulations on AF functioning of, as well as references to the military on various issues.

<sup>9</sup> Albanian Armed Forces Central Archive <https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/arkivi-i-fa/1111-arkivi-qendror-i-forcave-te-armatosura>

<sup>10</sup> Albanian Armed Forces Central Archive <https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/arkivi-i-fa/1111-arkivi-qendror-i-forcave-te-armatosura>

## AUTHORITY FOR INFORMATION ON FORMER STATE SECURITY DOCUMENTS ARCHIVE (AIDSSH)

Guard of the Republic of Albania, Ibrahim Rugova Street, Tirana

 +355 4 2210424

 [info@autoritetidosjeve.gov.al](mailto:info@autoritetidosjeve.gov.al)

 <http://autoritetidosjeve.gov.al/>

The law on the opening of former State Security files has been one of the most discussed issues in recent years. According to Law no. 45 approved in 2015 “On the Right to Information on the Former State Security Documents of the People’s Socialist Republic of Albania”, which is not the first regarding this issue, the institution which would deal with the administration and organization of the relevant procedures was established. This law applies to documents which are certified to have been created by the former Security bodies from November 29, 1944 until the establishment of the National Intelligence Service on July 2, 1991<sup>11</sup>.

As provided by law, the Authority is a collegial body and is responsible for the implementation of this law regarding the collection, management, processing, use of former State Security documents and information about them.

According to the provisions of this law, AIDSSH cooperates with the archival network in the country for making available the documents created by the former state security.

The Authority: a) has no restrictions on the acknowledgement, study and use of original documents; b) does not submit to the applicant original documents, but duplicate documents issued by the Authority. Any interested person shall submit a request to the Authority in order to review the materials of interest. Once the required documents are made available, the time and the data of the individual (institution or researcher) accessing these files are appropriately recorded.

The Authority “prohibits unauthorized persons from having access to former Security documents and data processing systems, which process information of documents; ensures that documents are not read, copied, altered, destroyed or removed without authorization; ensures that the documents are transported accompanied by at least two members of the Authority, or persons authorized by the Authority. After the expiration of the storage period, the documents created by the Authority must be submitted to the archive, from which they were received, or from which the created documents have been derived”<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> Albanian Armed Forces Central Archive

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/arkivi-fa/1111-arkivi-qendror-i-forcave-te-armatosur..al/autoriteti/historiku/> <http://autoritetidosjeve.gov.al/autoriteti/historiku/>

## OTHER ARCHIVES

### CENTRAL STATE FILM ARCHIVE (CSFA)

“Aleksandër Moisiu Street”, 76/1, Tirana, Albania

✉ info@aqshf.gov.al

🌐 www.aqshf.gov.al

Based on the Council of Minister’s Decision and Law No. 422 “On the transfer of the cinemas into state property”<sup>13</sup> a national film enterprise was established. At the outset it was estimated to serve as a basis for storing the films collected from the nationalization of private cinemas and until 1997 the Archive functioned as a branch of “New Albania” Film Studio (Kinostudio “Shqipëria e Re”). In 1970, the Film Archive was admitted as a full member to the International Federation of Film Archives. After the ‘90s, the archive modernization process began, and in 1997 the CSFA detached from the former Kinostudio and was established as a cultural institution. In 2001, the digital inventory of archival information began by a special initiative and two years later, the digitalization of the film fund began by a project of LUCE Institute.

In 2005, based on Law No. 9353, the state production fund of the former Kinostudio including feature-length films, documentaries, and chronicles was transferred to the administration of the National Cinematography Centre. In 2010, the cinema hall of the CSFA was fully operational and it started to project the available film fund.

The CSFA collection includes a wide range of materials produced during the period 1952–1992, when Kinostudio was operating, but not only. The film fund also includes archival materials of documentaries, chronicles, feature films produced abroad that belong to the period before the Second World War. An integral part of this fund is also the filming of foreign filmmakers, copies purchased by the Albanian government, as well as archival filming or the exchange of film materials with other countries. The materials produced after 1992 are also part of this fund. Any independent producers can voluntarily deposit their works at the CSFA.

In addition to the film collection that includes the original negative copy the central archive stores and maintains original materials of the film productions, such as film scripts, director’s notes, editing lists, photographs, negatives of the photographs, promotional materials, soundtracks and notes of the soundtracks, and posters<sup>14</sup>. In most cases, these materials also entail additional documentation, such as photographs, press materials and publications, information on the biography of filmmakers, etc.

<sup>13</sup> Albanian National Film Archive, web: <http://www.aqshf.gov.al/historik.html>

<sup>14</sup> Albanian National Film Archive, web: <http://www.aqshf.gov.al/koleksioni.html>

In this context, today CSFA has over 6,000 historical photos inherited from the photo library of the former Kinostudio dating from the early 1900s, which include photos of historical, political and cultural personalities, photos from World War I and II, photos of cities, historical events, and art as well as from the history of Kinostudio. There are also over 4,000 negatives of photographs from the history of Albanian cinematography and the activity of Kinostudio during 1953-1992, photos from movie scenes, shooting set, posters, etc.<sup>15</sup>.

Many researchers have expressed interest in the film materials available at the CSFA, so as already provided in the legislation this institution can sell to other parties the film sequences of the available funds. One of the most discussed issues regarding the movies and documentaries produced during the communist regime, is the ideological approach they have. During the last years you can watch these movies on TV, without any additional information regarding the ideology and communist propaganda they reflect. A lot of historians, professors and activists have raised the voice to not transmit these movies without underlining that the message they give is full of propaganda and state ideology about the communist regime.

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## ARCHIVE OF PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

### ARCHIVE OF THE FRANCISCAN CHURCH IN SHKODRA

At' Gjergj Fishta Street, No.22, Shkodra, Albania

 +355 222 42725

The Franciscan Archive is probably one of the most rich archives in the country, both regarding its content and its history. The center of this archive has been in the city of Shkodra and the Franciscan friars have worked on a regular basis to maintain, preserve and enrich this archive, unique in its kind for our country.

Establishment of the communist regime was fatal for the Franciscan friars, who were targeted by the regime, executed, persecuted and imprisoned in the most notorious prisons of that period. The Archive set up by the Franciscans, which was destroyed by the State Security in 1946, had the same fate. However, the story of this archive would not end here, as three of the personalities of this Order, Father Luigj (Jak) Marlekaj, Father Daniel Gjeçaj and Father Paulin Margjokaj, would re-establish in exile the Franciscan Archive<sup>16</sup>.

Prior to the destruction, important documents of this order and its activity in Albania, as well as documents of the national history dating back to 1415, were preserved in this archive. Many of the documents were lost when the security of that time seized the materials and the communist government converted this facility into a prison, as Father Zef Pllumi, an

<sup>15</sup> Albanian National Film Archive, web: <http://www.aqshf.gov.al/koleksioni.html>

<sup>16</sup> Father Vitor Demaj, OFM Siva Kodheli, "Antique Book for Albania", in the Franciscan Library, Shkodra: FRANCISCAN PUBLICATIONS, 2015. p. 46.

eyewitness to this event<sup>17</sup>, testified. According to his testimony, the former archive was divided into three sections before its destruction: a) the most insignificant one, which was exhibited; b) Order of the Church c) documents containing history, relationships, chronicles, diaries, demographic registers, etc.<sup>18</sup> The latter were stored in metal suitcases and behind walls, like the manuscripts of Father Shtjefën Gjeçovi, Vinçens Prendushi, Luigj Gurakuqi, D. Pjetër Zarishi, etc. The majority of the archive of “Hylli i Dritës” periodical and a series of documents of our renaissance were stored here.

On December 14, 1946, security forces stormed the Franciscan Monastery. All the friars were arrested and the building was converted to prison. Father Gjergj Fishta’s room and all documents were confiscated and their destination was never known. Some of the archive documents were lost forever, and some were sent to the national archive. The majority of the materials, however, were taken by Yugoslav security claiming that they would reconstruct the document.<sup>19</sup>

The Franciscans who fled to escape persecution, tried to re-establish the archive by enriching it with new documents. During this period, they also manage to acquire important recollections of the communist persecution of the clergy, such as the personal archive of Father Luigj (Jak) Marlekaj, divided into several sections, including personal study materials, photographic reproductions of historical reports from the Vatican archives, fund with original letters and manuscripts regarding personalities of national culture, and finally the sector with works and photographic reproductions for the Arbëresh. There are more than 50 files with these works. There is also an archive of correspondence with original manuscripts of Renaissance writers such as Jeronim De Rada, and the well-known writers Ernest Koliqi, Karl Gurakuqi, Zef Valentini, Father Vinçenc Malaj, Martin Camaj, etc.<sup>20</sup>.

The personal archives of the Franciscan Friars enrich this archive with historical materials, including their manuscripts and memoirs related to the communist period. Father Paulin Markagonaj has conducted various studies on the causes that led to communism establishment, his memories about the situation in Albania during the dictatorship, etc. The archive of Father Daniel Gjeçaj contains materials and reports on the persecution of the clergy and the people during the communist regime, including oral testimonies of the fugitives during that period.

Nowadays, this archive is quite rich with original manuscripts, such as materials photographed for notable personalities and families starting from the XVI century, special manuscripts of well-known figures, such as Father Gjergj Fishta, Father Shtjefën Gjeçovi, Father Zef Pllumi, Ernest Koliqi, Luigj Gurakuqi, Dom Ndre Mjeda, Tonin Zada, etc. This archive houses important materials on the Arbëresh, desertions in various areas, more than 200 manuscripts, correspondence and memoirs of friars persecuted during the dictatorship.

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17 Ibid, pg. 47

18 Ibid, pg. 48

19 Ibid, pg. 50.

20 Ibid, pg. 51.

These materials are of great importance for all researchers of the national communist history and persecution.

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## INSTITUTE OF HISTORY, ARCHIVE (IHA)

Institute for History, Mother Theresa Square, No. 3, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 42 240 713

✉ ih@asa.edu.al

🌐 [http://asa.edu.al/site/ih/?page\\_id=543](http://asa.edu.al/site/ih/?page_id=543)

The Archive of the Institute of History was established thanks to its employees, who during their research work abroad, have brought and enriched the archive with documents (duplicates), various materials obtained in libraries and other institutions. IHA funds constitute an important basis for Albanian and foreign researchers providing them with primary and secondary resources. This archive houses various unpublished monographs, as well as primary documents brought from the Russian, Greek, English, Bulgarian, Serbian, Austrian, French, American archives, etc. History students can apply at this institute in order to use its materials.

Based on the institute data, the literature archive contains about 4,000 files with typed or orthographic materials. The digital archive entails about 700,000 images with documents obtained by the Institute's researchers in foreign archives during the years 2010–2016. The photocopy archive contains about 3,800 photocopied material files, as well as photographs.

Based on historical periods, the materials of this archive are divided into separate funds.

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## LIBRARIES

### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ALBANIA (NLA)

New Building, Scanderbeg Square, Old Building in George Bush Street (Tabaku Bridge), Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 422 69 955

✉ sekretaria@bksh.al

🌐 <https://www.bksh.al/>

🕒 Monday–Friday: 8:00–20:00/Saturday, Sunday: 8:00–14:00

It functions under the authority of the Ministry of Culture.

Founded in 1920, the National Library is the main bibliographic and archival book institution in Albania. The fund of the library of the “Albanian Literature Commission”, established in the city of Shkodra in 1917, served as a nucleus of the National Library. In 1920, this fund was placed at the Ministry of Education, Tirana.

The end of World War II found the NLA with a collection of 15,000 volumes. It was located in one of the best buildings of that time, which still serves as its “annex” nowadays. The collections of Albanological characters primarily increased as a result of confiscation of some private bookshops and libraries pertaining to personalities of culture. At the end of 1947, its fund counted about 100,000 volumes. This institution was subordinate to the Institute of Sciences but in 1959, the library passed under the authority of the Ministry of Education and Culture. In 1966, it was transferred to a new building of the Palace of Culture, where it is located even today. At present, the National Library funds about 1 million items, such as books, periodicals, maps, atlases, microfilms and other library items.<sup>21</sup>

On the National Library website are available online the bibliographies of periodical articles written during the totalitarian regime, as well as articles that are written for this period after the 1990s. Information on periodical articles written about the communist period in Albania can be found in “The Bibliography of periodical articles 1941–1960”, “The Bibliography of periodical articles 1961–1979” and “The Bibliography of periodical articles 1980–2004”.

The bibliography of books published in the totalitarian regime in Albania can be found online on the website of the national library in two bibliographies of the Albanian book: “The Bibliography of the Albanian book 1945–1958”, “The Bibliography of the Albanian book 1959–2004”.

## LIBRARY OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (LAS)

Fan Noli Square, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 2253617

✉ sabina.vaqari@yahoo.it

🌐 <http://www.akad.edu.al>

🕒 Monday–Friday: 9:00–15:00

It functions under the care of the Academy of Sciences.

The Scientific Library of the Academy of Sciences of Albania (LAS), established in 1975, is one of the most important libraries in the country and is also considered as the main center of genuine scientific information in Albania. The Library of the Academy of Sciences has a legacy of about 65,000 volumes. Its activity has been conducted in cooperation with scientific, research and cultural institutions both at home and abroad.

The Library also contains periodicals of scientific research institutes of Albania and those of other countries; information sources such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, bibliographies, etc. Information about publications related to the period of communism can be found in the bibliography with publications of the Academy of Sciences during the years 1972–2012.

<sup>21</sup> Albanian National Library, web: <https://www.bksh.al/>

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

### ALBANOLOGICAL SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY (ASL)

Head Offices, Mother Theresa Square, Nr. 3, Tirana, Albania

 +355 42 240 713

 info@asa.edu.al

The Albanological Scientific Library is the largest library of the Academy of Albanological Studies. Its beginnings relate to a fund inherited from the Institute of Sciences (1948–1957). Upon establishment of the Academy of Sciences, in 1972, the scientific library was called “Library of the Institute of History and Linguistics-Literature”.

After 2008, upon the establishment of the Center of Albanological Studies (today the Academy of Albanological Studies), the Albanological Scientific Library passed under the auspices of the CSA. In 2013, the library fund of the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Art Studies was added to its fund, enriching it with about 10,000 other titles.

Today, over 64,000 volumes and about 10,000 collections are registered in the library, which consist of books and periodicals in the area of Albanology. ASL has also a special fund with antiques, which belong to the XV–XIX century. In the funds of this library are also available books and periodicals that can provide more information about communism in Albania.

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### LIBRARY OF THE HISTORY AND PHILOLOGY FACULTY

Elbasani Street, Tirana, Albania

 +355 4 2369664

 teasula@yahoo.com

The Library of the Faculty of History and Philology (FHP) was established in 1969, after being separated from the Scientific Library of University of Tirana. The library has a fund of about 157 thousand copies (books, periodicals, dissertations, works of scientific masters, maps and atlases) of various fields in Albanian and foreign languages.

The funds of this library house also literary texts and dissertations on art and translation in Albania during the dictatorship, on diplomatic relations 1945–1990, on the punishment system in Albania, on freedom and human rights in the totalitarian regime during 1945–1990.

The Library also contains cultural periodicals from the dictatorship regime in Albania, as well as many literary works of socialist realism that testify the propaganda and ideology of the time.

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## LIBRARY “J. LIMPRECHT” OF THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS

Arben Broci Street, Tirana, Albania

The Library of the Faculty of Economics houses mainly literature in the area of economics and doctoral dissertations graduated from the Faculty of Economics. The archive includes the works of Lenin, Engels, and Marx, pamphlets by Ramiz Alia, magazines and periodicals in the area of economy, fiction and Russian encyclopedias.

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## FACULTY OF LAW LIBRARY

Milto Tutulani Street, Tirana, Albania

✉ ylkena\_al@yahoo.com, monika.tangu@yahoo.com, ana\_nebo@yahoo.com

The Faculty of Law Library offers literature in Albanian and in foreign languages. The majority of the literature covers subjects of the field of law and the rest are historical, philosophical, psychological books, dictionaries and fiction. The funds of the Library of the Faculty of Law offer information about the law during the dictatorship in Albania. There are 1,700 periodicals (magazines), which include the collections of the Official Journal from 1942 at present, the magazine “People’s Justice” (1948-93), “Legal Studies” (2000-2013) and various collections of legal journals.

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## ACADEMY OF ARTS LIBRARY

University of Arts, Mother Theresa Square 2, Tirana, Albania

The Library of Arts, which was established 1966, counts today about 45,000 volumes. Its funds entail various materials such as books, parts, manuscripts, dissertations, diplomas, periodicals, references, audiovisual materials, electronic literature. In this library can be found more information related to artworks during the communist regime in Albania.

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## SCHOOL OF MAGISTRATES LIBRARY

“Poli i Drejtësisë” Building, Ana Komnena Street, Tirana, Albania

✉ elaqokaj@magjistratura.edu.al; desaramema@magjistratura.edu.al

Status: Special – public administration library

The library was established at the same time as the opening of the School of Magistrates in 1997 and aims to serve candidates for magistrates, academic and administrative staff of the school, but also experts in the relevant field. The Library Fund is constantly enriched

with contemporary literature, even in foreign languages. The library's fund also provides legal texts from the period 1945-1990, such as the Criminal Code and the Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, as well as studies conducted on the system of punishments in Albania during the communist regime (1945-1990).

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#### LIBRARY OF THE ARMED FORCES ACADEMY

Dibra Street, Tirana, Albania

Since May 10, 1958, the library has been part of the Military Academy. In the early years, the library fund contained military educational literature published during the dictatorship, publications of the Military Academy, regulations and manuals of the Ministry of Defense as well as art books published after the '80s.

In 2006 the new library was put into operation and the total library fund counted 1,400 titles (7,000 copies). Today, the library fund contains 8,847 titles (46,848 copies) of which, 1,000 titles belong to the military literature fund, while the fund of Albanian non-military literature counts for 4,657 titles.

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#### SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY OF "LUIGJ GURAKUQI" UNIVERSITY

Jeronim De Rada Street, Shkodra, Albania

 +355 6840 674 50

 valbona.berdica@unishk.edu.al

 Monday-Friday: 8:00-19:00 Saturday: 8:00-13:00

The beginnings of the University Library date back to the establishment of the Higher Pedagogical Institute in 1957. Initially, the fund of books consisted of one thousand copies, while today there are about 170 thousand copies in Albanian and foreign languages covering all faculties of Shkodra University "Luigj Gurakuqi". 85% of the fund has been recorded in the electronic catalog and can also be accessed from outside the library.

The library fund is divided in 6 sections, respectively in the book section in Albanian; in the Albanian-Balkan section and the rare book section; the Austrian library section which is part of the Austrian library network worldwide and which constitutes a separate library within the University Library; book section in foreign language; the section of faculties, the section of serials and reference materials; the print media section (newspapers) belonging to the years 1945 and onwards counting about 50 newspaper titles; section of non-book materials with about 700 multimedia materials.

The publications of the period of communist state in Albania (1945-1990) available at this library are divided into 5 funds, respectively as follows:

- 1 - Albano-Balkanological Fund 436 titles
- 2 - Albanian Fund 5,244 titles
- 3 - Faculty Fund 4,698 titles
- 4 - Serial Fund (periodical) 47 titles
- 5 - Newspaper Fund 50 titles

The library also conducts activities such as cultural activities dedicated to the International Book Day, book promotions, commemorations of Albanian and foreign authors on birth anniversaries.

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### LIBRARY OF "ALEKSANDËR MOISIU" UNIVERSITY

Neighbourhood No.1, "Currila", Durrës, Albania

☎ +355 69 257 86 51

✉ bibliotekauamd@yahoo.com; veneraalaj@uamd.edu.al

The library was established at the end of 2007 and its fund is composed of about 8,000 titles in Albanian and foreign languages, in paper and electronic format. The library fund covers, in Albanian and foreign languages, mainly the fields of politics, law, history, linguistics, literature, economics, business, psychology, natural sciences. The library contains publications after the '90s, but also foreign studies dedicated to the period of communist dictatorship.

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### LIBRARY OF KORÇA UNIVERSITY

"Rilindasit" Avenue, Korça, Albania

☎ +355 822 42230

✉ rektorati@yahoo.com

🌐 www.unkorce.edu.al

Hours during weekdays: 8:00-16:00

The Library of "Fan S. Noli" University has a fund of about 30,000 books with over 12,000 titles belonging to various areas. This fund is currently distributed as follows: University Scientific Library (Rectorate) and the libraries of the faculties of Education and Philology, the Faculty of Economics, Agriculture, Natural Sciences and Humanities. Some of the books are related to the period of communism in Albania.

## OTHER UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Other libraries of higher education institutions in the public and private sector that house literature for the period 1945–1990, are also the libraries of Vloora University “Ismail Qemali”, the libraries of the European University of Tirana, “Petro Nini Luarasi”, and “Wisdom” University College.

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## LIBRARIES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS

### THE PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE LIBRARY

“Dëshmorët e Kombit” Boulevard, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 227 75 46

✉ cod@kryeministria.al

The Prime Minister’s Office Library was opened on July 8, 2015 and includes rare collections of books, manuscripts, various periodicals and the entire fund of Council of Ministers Decisions from 1945 at present. Also, the digital archive of documents and photos of the Council of Ministers from 1912 can also be used in its premises.

The Library fund is also enriched with special collections donated by various embassies, but also with a collection selected from the personal library of Ardian Klosi. The Prime Minister’s Office Library also offers special editions digitized by the National Library, collections mainly on the formation of the Albanian state, laws, decrees, territorial divisions, etc. from 1912–1939, journalism and publications by Albanian and foreign scholars on dictatorship and democracy in Albania.<sup>22</sup>

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### PARLIAMENT OF ALBANIA LIBRARY

Parliament of Albania Library. “Dëshmorët e Kombit” Boulevard, No. 4, Tirana, Albania

✉ library@parlament.al

🕒 Monday–Friday 8:00–16:00

The Library of the Albanian Parliament is part of the group of special libraries and its main mission is to support MPs, parliamentary committees and their staff with the information they need while conducting their legislative activity. The library contains the full texts of Albanian legislation published in the “Official Journal”, starting from 1991.

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<sup>22</sup> Prime Minister’s Office, websit: <https://kryeministria.al/en/>

## LIBRARY OF THE MINISTRY FOR EUROPE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MEFA)

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, “Gjergj Fishta” Boulevard, No. 6. Tirana, Albania

✉ [liridona.bodi@mfa.gov.al](mailto:liridona.bodi@mfa.gov.al)

🕒 Monday–Thursday 8:00–16:30, Friday 8:00–14:00

The establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the modern Albanian state dates back to the establishment of the Provisional Government of Vlora on December 4, 1912, a few days after the declaration of Albania’s secession from the Ottoman Empire. Ismail Qemali, the Prime Minister of the Provisional Government, held until June 1913 the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In January 1932, by Royal Order of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Library of the institution was established, which would house the funds of all printouts of all activities carried out by the League of Nations. 171 books of all acts approved by this organization were sent from Geneva to open this Library.<sup>23</sup>

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## LIBRARIES OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

### LIBRARY OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ARTS

“Dëshmorët e Kombit” Boulevard, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 222 60 33

🕒 Monday–Friday 8:00–16:30 (the services for the public have been reduced and the library serves the Gallery only)

The National Gallery Library was established in 1999 to provide cultural and artistic information to the art public, students, scholars, etc. Materials such as encyclopedias, monographs, dictionaries, catalogs in foreign languages and in Albanian are reserved an important place in the literature of this library.

Various catalogs of the Art Gallery exhibitions include paintings from the second half of the twentieth century, paintings depicting socialist realism, and also paintings by painters who were punished by the communist regime for not applying the rules of communist propaganda and ideology.

The library also houses a catalog with the works of Albanian socialist realism, a study of the phenomenon based mainly on the collection of the Art Gallery. There are also other catalogs that exhibit the art of the communist period 1945–1990, such as “100 years of Albanian drawing” with works selected from the fund of the National Gallery of Arts;

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<sup>23</sup> MEFA, website: <http://www.punetejashme.gov.al/>

Catalog no.3 “Albanian socialist realism, the study of the phenomenon based mainly on the collection of the Art Gallery”; “Monograph with Albanian artists of the twentieth century”.

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### **LIBRARY OF SHKODRA HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

Oso Kuka Street, No.32, Shkodra, Albania

✉ kontakt@muzeuhistorikshkoder.com

🌐 <http://www.muzeuhistorikshkoder.com/>

🕒 8:00–15:00

The Library of Shkodra Historical Museum has a relatively rich collection of 15,000 books of the related fields of Albanology, literature of Albanian and foreign authors, in many languages of the world. The oldest books belong to the 17th century, where we could find the “Dottrina Christiana” by P. Budi (1618). A special place is reserved to the collections of books, magazines and periodic newspapers starting from the end of the 19th century. The “Pipa” family donated to the Historical Museum of Shkodra, a fund of 2,000 volumes, increasing thus the values of the Library.<sup>24</sup>

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### **LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

#### **PUBLIC LIBRARY “DRITËRO AGOLLI”, FIER**

15 Tetori Neighbourhood, Kastriot Muça Street, Fier, Albania

☎ +355 64 2293

It functions under the authority of Fier Municipality.

Fier Library contains articles from magazines and newspapers in collections connected and sorted by numbers and years. In addition, the Procurement Bulletin and the Official Journal are also available. The periodical sector is an important sector of great cultural values. The fund of this sector consists of 2,000 magazines and newspapers in foreign languages and Albanian. The Library fund has books and periodicals of the period 1945–1990, a minimum of 1–3 copies for each publication of those years are preserved. There are also publications of the works of the dictator Enver Hoxha and the Communist Party in foreign languages.

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<sup>24</sup> Historical Museum of Shkodra, website: <http://www.muzeuhistorikshkoder.com/>

## PUBLIC LIBRARY “QEMAL BAHOLLI”, ELBASAN

Rruga 11 Nëntori 59, Elbasan, Albania

☎ +3555453527

🕒 Monday–Friday 9:00–19:00, Saturday 9:00–13:00

Established in 1934, with over 200 thousand books, the library of the city of Elbasan is one of the main libraries in the country and is supported by the authority of Elbasan Municipality. It offers special services for the Albanology fund, the pre-liberation periodical, the French hall, the English literature hall, the post-liberation periodical hall and artistic and specialized literature related to several fields. Part of the funds of this library are also publications related to communism in Albania or publications that are published during that period.

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## PUBLIC LIBRARY OF KRUJA

Palace of Culture, Kruja, Albania

It functions under the authority of Kruja Municipality.

The Public Library of Kruja was opened in 1959 and its fund comprises over 42 thousand books, periodicals, divided in foreign languages and in Albanian. They are for all age groups and fields of knowledge. It has been providing open fund services since 1997. Upon moving to the new building near the Palace of Culture, there are only two open-fund halls. In addition to providing a wide range of books, massive activities in the function of readers and the community in general are also organized during the year.<sup>25</sup> Like many other local libraries in Albania, in the funds of this library, there are texts and books belonging to the communist period.

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## PUBLIC LIBRARY “GJERGJ FISHTA”, LEZHA

“Gjergj Fishta” Boulevard, Lezha, Albania

🕒 From Monday–Friday at 8:00–15:00; Saturday: 8:00–12:00

It functions under the authority of Lezha Municipality.

The library was created as a modest reading room within the premises of the former House of Culture in the city of Lezha. In 1962, the library with a fund of 1,200 books was transferred to the second floor of the former cinema “Drini”. It was at this time that the youth book department was opened. In 1976, given that expansion was necessary, the library was moved to a one-storey building on the banks of Drin River. This library can offer information about communism in Albania.

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<sup>25</sup> Prime Minister’s Office, website: <https://kryeministria.al/en/>

## PUBLIC LIBRARY “MITRUSH KUTELI”, POGRADEC

Rinia Street, Palace of Culture, Cultural Center “Lasgush Poradeci”, 2nd Floor, Pogradec, Albania

☎ +355 695856320

✉ dukaferdita1@gmail.com

🕒 Monday–Friday 8:00–17:00; Saturday: 8:00–15:00

It functions under the authority of Pogradec Municipality.

The Library of Pogradec City, opened on February 7, 1935, was originally a pedagogical library and its first members were teachers. The library has a fund of about 40 thousand books and it is divided into several sectors such as the foreign book library, the children’s book library, and the adult book library. This fund also contains ideological and propaganda texts, the works of Enver Hoxha, Lenin, as well as periodicals and magazines published during the dictatorial regime.

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## PUBLIC LIBRARY “APOSTOL MEKSI”, GJIROKASTRA

“Varosh” neighborhood, Gjirokastra, Albania

✉ armindamevlani@gmail.com

🕒 Every day 8:00–16:00, Saturday 9:00–14:00

It functions under the authority of Gjirokastra Municipality.

The library dates back to the 1920s, but was officially opened in 1951. In 2008, it was named after “Apostol Meksi”. It has over 100,000 copies in Albanian and foreign languages, including the periodical. The fund also includes books on “socialist-realism” and periodicals published during the dictatorial regime, as well as books on the politically persecuted people.

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## PUBLIC LIBRARY “MARIN BARLETI”, SHKODRA

“2 Prilli” Square, Shkodër, Albania

☎ + 355 22 400 010

✉ info@bibliotekashkoder.com

🕒 Monday–Saturday 8:00–17:00

It functions under the authority of Shkodra Municipality.

The public library was established in 1931 in the center of the city and was called “Milet Bahçe” by the inhabitants of Shkodra. The books’ fund of this library was initially financed by the Municipality of Shkodra. Its establishment was the fruit of a long tradition dating back to the Middle Ages, such as the library of the High Madrasa near the Castle, the precious libraries of the Jesuit Priests (1858) and the Franciscan Friars (1875). The city library has been transferred several times to various buildings. In 1946, it was moved to the Old Museum

or the “Ingliz” Clock Tower, as it is called by the residents. Later on, the library was transferred to the City Hall building. In 1968, it was moved to the current building and was named after “Marin Barleti”. The library preserves in its fund’s books belonging to the 15th–16th century printed in major centers of Europe such as: Germany, Switzerland, Paris, Italy, etc.<sup>26</sup> In the funds of this library there are also publications and periodicals that can provide information about the communist period.

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## PUBLIC LIBRARY OF PUKA

Palace of Culture, Puka, Albania  
It functions under the authority of Puka Municipality.

In 1953 it served as a reading hall, while in 1959 it was officially named “Puka City Library”. Today there are over 60 thousand books, over 45 thousand are publications in Albanian. The Palace of Culture was built in 1974, and it houses the library fund and the reading hall. “The periodical” is reserved a special place, and it includes newspapers and magazines, particularly those before the ‘90s (1968–1991).

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## PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN TIRANA

### LIBRARY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD NO. 2 “MOIKOM ZEQQ”

“Tefta Tashko Street”, near “Avni Rustemi” Square, Tirana, Albania  
🕒 Monday–Friday 8:00–19:00

“Moikom Zeqq” Library is in Tirana, at the following Rruga “Tefta Tashko”, near “Avni Rustemi” Square. The new library was reopened on February 5, 2021, and its fund comprises over 1,000 copies of various publications.

The books belonging to the period of dictatorial regime in Albania (1945–1990) are mainly books of natural, historical and ethnographic sciences, but there are also many books of socialist realism. There are no journals, no periodicals, but there are publications of various institutes. The publishing houses are “Naim Frashëri”, “November 8”, “House of Agricultural Propaganda”.

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<sup>26</sup> “Marin Barleti” Library, SHKODRA, website: <http://www.bibliotekashkoder.com/>

## LIBRARY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD NO.9 “MUSINE KOKALARI”, TIRANA

“Gjergj Fishta” Boulevard, P.18, Tirana, Albania

🕒 Monday–Friday 8:00–19:00

“Musine Kokalari” Library is located in Tirana and is one of the first reconstructed facilities. It is located near the “Vasil Shanto” School. This library has been functioning since 1968, but it was reopened at the beginning of 2018. It provides books of all genres such as novels, short stories, poetry of Albanian and foreign literature. There are also feature books written during the period 1945–1990, as well as natural sciences textbooks, publications of the Linguistic Institute.

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## OTHER LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Other libraries in various cities of Albania that preserve literature for the period 1945–1990 are as follows: Public Library of Kavaja, the public library of Korça “Thimi Mitko”, the Public Library of Durres, the Public Library of Berat “Vexhi Buharaj”, Roskovec Library, Public Library of Rrëshen “Gjon Gazulli”, Public Library of Vlora “Shefqet Musaraj”, the public libraries of Saranda and Tepelena. During the transition period many of the books published in the years 1945–1990 were lost, while the rest was damaged.

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## LIBRARIES OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

### ALBANIAN EVANGELICAL BROTHERHOOD LIBRARY (AEB)

Zenel Baboci Street, No. 37, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 69 20 65 914

✉ vush@vush.org

🌐 www.vush.org

🕒 Monday–Friday; 8:30–16:00

The Evangelical Brotherhood of Albania was established on November 14, 1892 by Gjerasim Qiriazi, Sevasti Qiriazi, Gliğor Cilka, Herakli Bogdani, Fanka Eftimiu and a group of patriots, followers of the evangelical faith. Upon the establishment of democracy, the Evangelical Brotherhood of Albania resumed its activities in 1992 on the foundations laid by Gjerasim Qiriazi.

Today, the Evangelical Brotherhood of Albania represents 300 Christian churches and organizations. The library of the Evangelical Brotherhood offers 1,200 titles, including liturgical texts of the Protestant religion and beyond, texts adapted for children, literature in foreign languages, texts testifying the influence that the Protestant religion had in

developing the Albanian language, biographical and historical books for the founders of the Evangelical religion in Albania. The publications belong mainly to the Institute of Albanian Protestant Studies.

Publications such as: “Chronology of the Protestant Movement among Albanians 1816–2016” and “Protestant Movement among Albanians 1908–1991” aim to tell the history of the Protestant movement in Albania. Therefore, some chapters are dedicated to the years of atheism and the burning of scriptures, imprisonment of religious persons, banning of publications and developments within the territory of Albania during the dictatorship period.

### INTER-DIOCESAN SEMINARY LIBRARY

Inter-Diocesan Seminary Library, Albanian Inter-Diocesan Seminary “Our Lady of Good Council”, Jesuit Street, Shkodra, Albania

☎ +355 694277642

✉ seminar.biblioteka@gmail.com

🕒 Every day from Monday to Friday 9:00–13:00, and in the afternoon every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 15:00–18:00

The Library of the Albanian Interdiocesan Seminary, as well as the Albano-Balkanological Library “Father Giuseppe Valentini S.J.” are the descendants of the Old Library of the Jesuits in Shkodra established around 1858. Both of them are known to the public as a single one, called the Jesuit Library.

By 1946, the Jesuit Library had about 13,000 volumes. The Jesuits had also established five other small libraries: The Circular Library, the Deacons Library, the Library of Orphans, the Mission Library, and the Library of Father Cordignano.

Upon the establishment of the dictatorial regime in 1945, the fund was taken over by the communist state. The items that were not looted, were completely destroyed and burnt despite the Jesuits’ attempt to save what they could by distributing them to the local families. After the fall of the communist regime and reopening of the Seminary in 1992, the library was enriched and specialized mainly in the field of philosophy and theology. Today, the library has about 15,000 volumes, which include various publications, studies and evidence related to the persecution of the Catholic Church in Albania, published by clerical publishing houses. It comprises, however, periodical works such as: the works of Enver Hoxha, “Nëntori” magazine as well as many scientific and study journals of the period 1945–1990.

The library archive also contains collections of religious publications as well as textbooks and general culture books published by the printing house “The Immaculate Conception” from 1870–1946, also from Gallarate. Among the periodicals we can mention the collections of old magazines such as: Hylli i Drites, Leka, Zani Shna Ndout, Elçia/Lajmtari i Zembrës Christit (with some absences), Albania (photocopy) etc.

## FRANCISCAN PROVINCE LIBRARY

Albanian Franciscan Province, At' Gjergj Fishta Street, No.22, Shkodra, Albania

✉ sekretariaekustodies@gmail.com

🌐 <http://www.ofm.al/>

According to the scholar Lluka Karafili, the origins of the Franciscan Library date back to around 1875. This library became famous thanks to the care of Father Pal Dodaj, particularly of the poet Father Gjergj Fishta and contribution of Father Shtjefën Gjeçovi. Upon the establishment of the dictatorship in Albania, the Franciscan library and archive were destroyed. In 1990, the Monastery and the Church began to operate again in Shkodra, and their restructuring began. On May 19, 2003, the new Franciscan Library was inaugurated. It preserves the features of the previous library by housing the library collections of 3 Franciscan friars who lived outside Albania: Paulin Margjokaj, Jakob Marlekaj, and Daniel Gjeçaj.<sup>27</sup>

Part of this library are the publications and studies dedicated to dignified figures of resistance during communism.

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## PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

### ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF ALBANIA (ASA)

"Fan Noli" Square, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 2230305

✉ info.akad@akad.gov.al

🌐 <http://www.akad.gov.al/ash/>

Until 1972, there were 25 scientific research institutions operating in Albania, making it necessary to establish the Academy of Sciences as a national scientific research institution.

On October 10, 1972, it was decided to establish the Albanian Academy of Sciences. The first meeting of the Assembly of the Academy of Sciences was held on January 25, 1973 and Prof. Alex Buda was elected its chairman.

Today, the Academy is divided into two main sections: The Section of Social Albanology Sciences Section and the Section of Natural Technical Sciences. Part of its structure also are: the Albanian Encyclopedia Center, the Project Unit, Foreign Relations Unit, the Publishing Sector and the Central Scientific Library. The main functions of ASA are: conducting studies and research of theoretical and practical character in various fields of science; cooperating

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<sup>27</sup> Father Vitor Demaj, OFM Siva Kodheli, "Antique Book for Albania", in the Franciscan Library, Shkodra: FRANCISCAN PUBLICATIONS, 2015. p. 46.

with universities and other research institutions; supporting and encouraging the active participation of associations, scientific foundations and collaborators in scientific activity.

The Academy of Sciences of Albania publishes a large number of monographs, scientific works, as well as periodicals, thus covering a wide range of results of Albanian science in the humanitarian, physical and natural fields and other cross-cutting sciences.

Information about communism in Albania can be found in some of the representative works published by the Academy of Sciences of Albania, such as: History of the Albanian People, History of Albanian Literature, The Dictionary of Today's Albanian Language.

Information about publications related to the period of communism can also be found in the bibliography with all publications of the Academy of Sciences during the years 1972-2012.

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#### ACADEMY OF ALBANOLOGICAL STUDIES (AAS)

Head Offices, "Mother Theresa" Square, No. 3, Tirana, Albania

 +355 42 240 713

 info@asa.edu.al

The Center for Albanological Studies (today the Academy of Albanological Studies) was reorganized as a scientific research institute on March 10, 2008 and received the status of an inter-university body, providing its experience both in implementing projects of scientific and public interest, and providing knowledge through the Master's and Doctoral schools.

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#### INSTITUTE OF HISTORY (IH)

Mother Theresa" Square, No. 3, Tirana, Albania (IH)

 +355 42 240 713

 ih@asa.edu.al

 [http://asa.edu.al/site/ih/?page\\_id=543](http://asa.edu.al/site/ih/?page_id=543)

The Institute of History was founded in 1972 (1940). Its main focus is on studying the history of the Albanian people inside and outside the territory of Albania, from antiquity till today. The purpose of this institute is to study and prepare for publication scientific articles, monographs, documentary collections and studies on various historical periods. Within its activity, IH organizes and participates in scientific activities such as national and international conferences, talks, trainings, seminars and symposiums which aim at studying the historical past in the entirety of political, economic, social-cultural developments on national level and beyond.

This institute is composed of several departments organized as per the different historical periods. After the fall of the regime, the Department of Contemporary History re-evaluated the scientific activity, removing the communist ideology from the history and reviewing it based on the recently declassified documents, enabling scholars to use foreign archives and lack of pressure imposed by the regime for writing history.

The activity of this department has been focusing recently on studies related to the resistance of the Albanian people towards the occupier and the relations of the National Anti-Fascist Liberation Movement of the Albanian people with the Anti-Fascist Movement of neighboring countries and the Antifascist Coalition; Relations of political forces in the country during NAFLM. Important studies have been conducted and published on the anti-communist resistance, institutionalization of the one-party system, its ideology and role in all fields of life in the country, liquidation of private property and the communist state's attitude towards religion, education, international relations of the Albanian state during dictatorship, political struggle within the ALP, etc.

Some of the most important publications of IH that can offer information about the dictatorial regime in Albania are as follows:

Co-authored: History of the Albanian People (1984, 2009); History of Albanians during the 20th century Communist Indoctrination through Culture, Literature and Art – Historical Documents (1974–1976), (3 volumes) etc.

Periodicals: In the first years after the liberation, the “Bulletin of Sciences” was published and within the State University of Tirana, the “Social Sciences Series” was published. The Institute of History has published since 1972 “Historical Studies” magazine, collecting studies of specialists on various topics related to the Albanian national history.

This institute has published various monographs, volumes with collections of documents and studies, publications with scientific articles of special interest to shed light on the features of the communist regime.

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## INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTIC AND LITERATURE (ILL)

“Mother Theresa” Square, No. 3, Tirana, Albania

 +355 42 240 713

 info@asa.edu.al

 <http://asa.edu.al/site/igjl/>

The Institute of Linguistics and Literature is a scientific research institution which focuses on the study of the Albanian language and literature. It traces its origin in the Institute of Albanian Studies founded on April 8, 1940. After the Liberation, in 1946 the Institute of

Scientific Research took over, and was renamed in 1948 to the Institute of Sciences. Upon the establishment of the Academy of Sciences in 1972, the linguistic and literary sectors formed the Institute of Linguistics and Literature. On March 1, 2008, after the reform of the Academy of Sciences, the ILL together with other Albanological institutes, established the Center for Albanological Studies, today the Academy of Albanological Studies. ILL has conducted studies and publications for all periods of Albanian literature, including the literature of socialist realism created during the period of dictatorship in Albania.

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#### UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA, FACULTY OF HISTORY AND PHILOLOGY (FHP)

Elbasani Street, No.2, Tirana, Albania

 +355 4 22369987

 fhf@fhf.edu.al

 <https://www.fhf.edu.al/>

The Faculty of History and Philology was established in 1951, as part of the Higher Pedagogical Institute, which was the first institution in Albania to prepare teachers with higher education in social and natural sciences. With the establishment of the University of Tirana in 1957, the Faculty of History and Philology became one of its seven faculties. Initially it consisted of branches of history, linguistics-literature, journalism, and later on, it was expanded into the branch of foreign languages. After 1982, the history branch was separated from the geography branch in order to offer the possibility of conducting in-depth studies. This faculty is one of the most important research institutions in the country with a wide scientific activity and contribution to monographic publications, scientific papers or textbooks, participation in regional and international scientific conferences.

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#### INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDIES OF COMMUNIST CRIMES AND CONSEQUENCES (ISCC)

George W. Bush Street, No.1, Tirana, Albania

 +355 4 2255442

 [info@iskk.gov.al](mailto:info@iskk.gov.al)

 <http://www.iskk.gov.al/>

The Institute for the Studies of Communist Crimes and Consequences was established in 2010 and approved by the Albanian Parliament's Decision No. 10242. It is funded by the state budget and other sources and is a Central Independent Public Institution and enjoys the status of the legal person. ISCC is governed by the Supervisory Board, which makes important decisions and elects by vote the director of the institute. It also has a Scientific Council.

The primary mission of ISCC is the study and identification of the communism crimes and consequences, uncovering and documenting historical truth objectively and indisputably.

The history of communism in Albania has not been clarified yet, so the work of the institute, in addition to research in archival documents, is also focused on the collection of oral testimonies of the survivors of the system.

ISCC also aims to increase the level of information among the younger generation regarding the communism period and crimes committed during that time. Therefore, this institution conducts various information activities in schools, universities and proves through its research projects the size of the crimes committed during the dictatorship. Focusing on the violation of the human rights and freedoms, forced expropriation, imprisonment, internment and execution, this institute also holds various scientific conferences in cooperation with international and domestic partners working in this field.

Part of the long-term projects are the virtual museum of different forced labourers in Albania and the creation of the Audio-visual Archive of the Testimony of the Former Politically Persecuted.

During its activity, ISCC has published several studies related to the dictatorship period, such as:

Periodicals: ALMANAK 1 and 2, summaries of studies on various topics, interviews and documents.

Study column, including various studies, such as: “Prisons and camps of communist Albania”; “The crimes of communism during the war”; “Border killings in 1990”; “Encyclopedic dictionary of victims of communist terror”, “The beginnings of the communist dictatorship in Albania; 1944-1948”, etc.

Memoirs column, a series of publications by the people who suffered during the communist period and wrote down their memoirs, such as: A life of worries; Memory items; “Voices of Remembrance”; “The ordeal of women in communist prisons”, which is a collection of stories of Albanian women who suffered in the prisons and camps of communist Albania; “Remember, so are we!”, (1991-2010); Spaçi; Prison Pain Saga etc.

Journalism column consisting of journalistic publications such as: Pamundun Replica; from youthful dreams to the world of deception; Not seen for half a century, etc.

Creativity and translations from prisons, which mainly include publications of the protagonists of the events.

All the above publications, but also others are available in the Library of ISCC and can be obtained free of charge from interested parties.

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## INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES (IPS)

“Luigj Gurakuqi Street”, Shk. A, P.89, 3rd Floor, Ap 16 A, Tirana, Albania

✉ contactaips@gmail.com contactaips@isp.com.al

🌐 <http://isp.com.al/>

The Institute of Political Studies is a non-profit organization established in 2006 and is focused on the field of political studies. During its activity, IPS has monitored the process of institutional democratization, integration and the level of political representation, as well as has dealt with the main issues encountered during the transition. The IPS has also focused on studying the dictatorial regime in the country and the problems carried forward from the communist system.

IPS has been focusing for several years now on monitoring the Albanian Parliament, political parties and electoral processes, EU negotiations and important reforms, transparency programs with the right to information, justice reforms, etc. IPS has published several publications focused on democratization processes, electoral reforms, decriminalization, representation and exercise of the right to vote, as well as several studies on the dictatorial regime in our country.

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## ALBANIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (AIIS)

Anton Zako Çajupi Street, No. 20/5, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 444 000 84

✉ [aiis@aiis-albania.org](mailto:aiis@aiis-albania.org);

🌐 [www.aiis-albania.org](http://www.aiis-albania.org)

The Albanian Institute for International Studies (AIIS) is a non-governmental, non-profit research and policy institute created in recognition of the need for independent, in-depth analysis of the complex issues surrounding Albania's security. AIIS was founded by a group of academics and analysts with experience on foreign policy and policy-making issues.

AIIS mission is to study key Balkan issues and to promote peace through conflict resolution, dialogue and reconciliation, public information and policymaking activities. AIIS mission is also to contribute to international issues, through academic publications and reports.

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## ALBANIAN INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT AND CIVILIZATION (AIITC)

Isuf Elezi Street No.10, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 67 206 3709

✉ [contact@aiitc.net](mailto:contact@aiitc.net)

Albanian Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (AIITC) was established in 1996. It is an independent institution that contributes in the field of science and culture through the conduct of scientific activities, publications, promotions and academic studies on issues related to culture, civilization, art, tradition and Islamic customs among Albanians.

With the establishment of AIITC, its library was created. It preserves about 20 thousand titles of books of various genres, some of which are publications of the Institute of Cultural Monuments before and after the '90s, works related to the communist period published after the years '90. The fund of this library contains also studies on the Ottoman architecture in Albania by Albanian and foreign scholars, describing the history of the monuments of the Islamic religion and the closure of mosques and madrasas, the loss of various sections, their demolition or conversions after Albania was proclaimed an atheist country during the dictatorial regime. It also contains AIITC studies on the development of Albanian Islamic culture during the 20th century, also recounting the persecution of the Islamic religion by the dictatorial state.

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#### INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDIES "LUMO SKËNDO"

"Kajo Karafili Street", Tirana, Albania

☎ +355696092598

✉ institutulumoskendo@gmail.com

🌐 www.institutistudimevelumoskendo.al

The Institute for Historical Studies "Lumo Skëndo" was created in 2016 with the main goal of researching, studying and publishing an untold or unwritten history, at the same time correcting the Albanian history alienated and falsified by the communist regime.

The main mission of the Institute for Historical Studies "Lumo Skëndo" is to promote the study of Albanian modern history, by organizing cultural activities such as symposia, conferences or international and national seminars. The Institute has developed various projects related to the dictatorship period and the features of the totalitarian regime in our country. One of the main contributions of this institute is to present for a wider public the complete work of Mid'hat Frashëri, a well-known diplomat, politician and writer during the Albanian national renaissance.

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#### INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY, MEDIA AND CULTURE (IDMC)

Bardhok Biba Street, A Entrance, 11-th Floor, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 44521899

✉ info@idmc.al, office@idmc.al

🌐 www.idmc.al

Institute for Democracy, Media & Culture (IDMC) is an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organization, which inspires and supports projects with an interdisciplinary approach to study, understand and promote the development of democratic values, the role and impact that media and culture can play both locally and abroad. It was founded in 2014 and its activities lie in three main directions: democracy, media and culture.

Raising the awareness of the youth about the communist past is also important for IDMC, which undertakes to carry out this mission through activities, trainings of young people, but also teachers. Study trips and competitions such as “Born in the 90’s”, “Ask your Grand-parents”, “30 years with/without democracy” encourage the younger generation to reflect on both the past and the future. Through documentaries such as “Children of the Dictatorship” and several exhibitions, which can be accessed online ([www.observatorikujteses.al](http://www.observatorikujteses.al)) IDMC aims to influence a large part of the society. Since 2016, IDMC supported by Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (KAS) has organized “Memory Days”, an annual international event with a series of activities, panel discussions, conferences, exhibitions, etc.

Since 2016 IDMC has been a member of the Platform for European Memory and Conscience (PEMC) based in Prag.

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#### INSTITUTE OF ROMANI CULTURE IN ALBANIA (IRCA)

Myslym Shyri Street – S. Pitarka 24/b, P.O. Box 154 Tirana 1001, Albania

☎ +355 4 2425717

✉ [info@irca.al](mailto:info@irca.al)

The Institute of Romani Culture in Albania deals mainly with projects aimed at promoting the culture of this minority, as well as its integration through education and upbringing of the younger generation. During its activity, this institute has conducted numerous studies related to the history of this community in Albania, focusing on the history, way of life, rights and freedoms of this community during the communist period, such as: Roma in History, State Policies in Communism; Research on the Social-Political Profile of the Roma Population in Albania; Study to assess the needs of Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania.

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#### ALBANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP (AHRG)

Executive Director: Elsa Ballauri

☎ +355 68 202 3950

✉ [el.ballauri@gmail.com](mailto:el.ballauri@gmail.com)

The Albanian Human Rights Group is a non-governmental organization, established in 1996, that lobbies, oversees and monitors observance of human rights in Albania, focusing on the rights of people persecuted by the totalitarian regime.

Since 2012, the Albanian Human Rights Group has organized the Academy of Human and Minority Rights in Voskopoja. This Academy aims to provide the Albanian youth with the basic concepts of human rights in all the fields, in order for them to understand and consider activism as a civic duty. This organization, in cooperation with the former political persecuted, has been lobbying and supporting the initiative to open the files of the communist period.

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#### ALBANIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE (AHC)

Brigada e VIII Street, “Tekno Projekt” Tower, Shkalla 2, Apt 10, 6 Floor, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 223 3671, Mobil: +355 68 20 236 99

✉ office@ahc.org.al

Executive Director – Erida Skëndaj

On December 16, 1990, the first non-governmental organization in Albania “Human Rights Forum” was established, a name which later changed upon its membership in the International Helsinki Federation on March 22, 1992. The first statement of the Albanian Helsinki Committee was the request addressed to the Albanian Parliament on releasing all political convicts and internees.

Initially, the organization focused on the rights of persons persecuted by the totalitarian regime, which ruled Albania in the second half of the 20th century, and played a leading role in educating Albanian society about the international human rights framework. The AHC has set up a network of correspondents in Albanian cities to oversee and monitor observance of human rights.

The Albanian Helsinki Committee published the first publication on human rights in post-communist Albania in 1990.

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#### EUROPIAN INSTITUTE “PASHKO”

Contact: Executive Director, Prof.Asoc. Dr Ervis Iljazaj

✉ ervis.iljazaj@uet.edu.al

Since its establishment, the European Institute “Pashko” has been committed to recognizing the communist past, by considering this as an important process for Albanian society. UET PRESS, part of the European Institute “Pashko”, has contributed for almost a decade by publishing the testimonies of those who experienced communism, historical books on this period or memoirs.

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## FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS

### KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

Dëshmorët e Kombit Boulevard, Twin Tower 1, 11th Floor, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 22 66 525

✉ info.tirana@kas.de

Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) is a political foundation, which is close to the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of Germany and is named after Konrad Adenauer (1876-1967), co-founder of the CDU and the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. His name stands for democratic reconstruction of Germany and the vision of European unification.

KAS in Albania supports and implements projects with parliamentarians, academics, rule of law people and players, with civil society organizations to fulfil the conditions that Albania can be a member of EU. KAS is one of the main supporters of the issue of dealing with the communist past in Albania. KAS is also one of the main institutional partners of IDMC and ISCC, whose activities are focused on the legacy of the period 1945-1990. They also support the associations of the politically persecuted and their awareness-raising activities in this field.

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### FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG

Kajo Karafil Street, Nd-14, Entrance 2, Floor 1, Post Box 1418, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 22 50 986 +355 4 22 73 306

✉ info@fes-tirana.org

Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) began its activities in Albania in 1991 with a conference on democracy and market economy. FES in cooperation with Albanian partner organizations, aims to strengthen a democratic political culture, a fair and sustainable socio-economic development which protects and recognizes the interests and rights of workers, the establishment of functioning state structures and an active society. In the last years they have supported studies relating to the communist past and how to deal with that in Albania.

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### OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA

Mak Albania Hotel, Italia Square, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 223 59 93

✉ pm-al@osce.org

The OSCE Presence in Albania has supported for many years now various initiatives regarding dialogue on human rights violations during the dictatorship in our country. In order to raise the awareness of young people about the negative effects of the dictatorial regime in Albania, the OSCE has implemented various projects related to the discourse on the communist past in the country.

On 26 November 2020, the OSCE Presence in Albania in cooperation with the University of Tirana launched the Center for Justice and Transformation. This center, which is situated in the premises of the Faculty of Social Sciences, will function as a multi-disciplinary research center in the field of transitional justice, aiming to strengthen research and scientific debate regarding the human rights violations during the Communist regime and the impact that the transitional justice measures have in democratization of institutions in Albania. This center is a collaboration among the Faculty of History and Philology, the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Law.

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## MUSEUMS

### NATIONAL MUSEUMS

#### NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM (MHK)

Skënderbej Square, Tirana, Albania

 +355 4 222 3977

 muzeuhistorikombetar@yahoo.com

 <http://www.mhk.gov.al/>

 Monday-Sunday 9:00-19:00 MD

It functions under the authority of the Ministry of Culture.

The National History Museum houses material evidence of the cultural and historical heritage of Albania. The National Museum was established in 1976 and inaugurated on October 28, 1981, as part of the celebrations of the proclamation of Independence of Albania. This institution preserves in its premises about 6,200 objects, dating back from the 4th millennium BC and up to the second half of the 20th century<sup>28</sup>. The mosaic called “Albania” is displayed on the front of the building in an area of 400m<sup>2</sup>.

The museum, as the institution preserving the historical memory of the country, consists of several pavilions. Until 1992, the following pavilions were operating: Antiquity, the Middle Ages, the National Renaissance, Independence, the Anti-Fascist National Liberation War and Socialism. Some of them closed after 1992. The pavilion of communist persecution was set up in 1996, the Albanian Iconography pavilion was set up in 1999 and the pavilion

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<sup>28</sup> Guide to the National Historical Museum, Communist Persecution Pavilion, Tirana: 2016, p. 167.

of the Anti-Fascist National Liberation War was rebuilt in 2004, adding new elements. Today, this museum has seven pavilions divided as per the historical periods.

About 180 items are displayed in the pavilion of communist persecution and most of the events are presented in the form of an exhibition through photographs, documents and objects which are placed according to a thematic-chronological timeline. This pavilion covers various topics that affected the Albanian society during the dictatorship period. The pavilion starts with the anti-communist resistance in the country describing the Uprising of Postriba. This pavilion displays also a map showing the internment camps, forced labor camps as well as the infamous prisons of the dictatorship period. The photos displayed show the interior premises of a prison cell, where the means of torture used against prisoners are displayed, photos from the border killings, various execution sites, etc.

A special place is reserved in this pavilion to the trials held during that time against the opponents of the regime. Under a metaphorical title “dictatorship eats its own offspring” the visitor is introduced to the murder of the four main ministers of communism regime, Koçi Xoxe, Beqir Balluku, Mehmet Shehu (former Prime Minister), Kadri Hazbiu, who were accused of as “people’s enemy”<sup>29</sup>. The persecution of artists is reserved a dedicated place in this pavilion. The social aspects and the extreme poverty of Albanians during the communist isolation, is illustrated by the photos showing the long queues outside shops to buy food or food coupons used during the isolation of the country. One of the sectors that draws most attention is the persecution of clergy of all religions as well as the destruction of religious institutions after the adoption of the decree of 1967 declaring Albania the only atheist country in the world.

The last showcase exhibits photos of Albanians breaking into the embassies and photographs related to the great exodus; student protests as well as the toppling of the dictator’s statue marking the fall of the dictatorial regime in Albania. The camera used by the British journalist Daniel Damon of “Sky News” television and the Albanian journalist Azis Gjergji to film the events of 1990–1991 in Albania, including the fall of Enver Hoxha’s monument are also exhibit here<sup>30</sup>.

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## MUSEUM OF SECRET SURVEILLANCE “HOUSE OF LEAVES”

“Dëshmorët e 4 Shkurtit Street”, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 42222612; +355 699676116

✉ info.gjethi@muzeugjethi.gov.al

🕒 Monday–Sunday 9:00–19:00

It functions under the care of the Ministry of Culture.

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid, pg. 167-181.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid, pg. 167-181.

The building known as the “House of Leaves” (so called because of the clambering plant covering its facade), has now returned to the Museum of Secret Surveillance. This building was the headquarters of the Secret Surveillance Service from 1944–1991. Opened on May 23, 2017, this museum is conceived in 9 sections and 31 rooms. This museum tries to narrate the tone of the darkest periods of the country’s history, by commemorating the psychological violence and complete control of the citizens during the communist regime in Albania (1944–1991).

“House of Leaves” aims to promote recognition and study of the Albanian communist period through the annual publication of the museological magazine “Dritëhije” and educational programs for young people, mainly high school students. The purpose of educational programs such as “Remember not to forget” and “Impression” is to acquaint younger generations with the Albanian communist past and raise their awareness about the consequences of communism by involving high school students in creative and educational activities. The National Museum of Secret Surveillance “House of Leaves” was awarded the “Council of Europe Museum” prize for 2020.

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## NATIONAL GALLERY OF ARTS

“Dëshmorët e Kombit” Boulevard, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 4 222 60 33

✉ [info@galeriakombetare.gov.al](mailto:info@galeriakombetare.gov.al)

🕒 Tuesday–Sunday 10:00–18:00

It functions under the care of the Ministry of Culture.

The beginnings of the National Gallery of Arts can be traced back to the endeavors of a group of Albanian Artists and the Arts’ Committee of 1946, to be officially opened to the public on January 11, 1954. In 1956, as a result of the rapid growth of its artwork fund, the Gallery moved to a more spacious building in the “Fortuzi” Street.

The Gallery worked in two main directions, exhibiting the permanent collection and opening temporary exhibitions of Albanian and foreign artists. Increasing number of artworks brought about the need for a larger and more functional building, which was inaugurated on November 29, 1974, on the boulevard “Martyrs of the Nation”, which is the existing building where the Gallery is located today.

Given the fact that the Gallery was created after the establishment of the dictatorship in Albania, some of the current works of the Gallery belong to that period of time. They are called works of socialist realism. Artists had to follow up or create stereotypes and clichés, paintings dedicated to leaders, triumphant heroes, cooperatives, teachers, miners, and industrial development. The National Gallery of Art houses a collection of sculptures by the former Lenin-Stalin Museum.

Some exhibitions by NGA were related to art created during the dictatorial regime: “Albanian socialist realism in NGA”, “Art in Communism”, Temporary exhibition “Workers leave the studio. Seeing no more socialist realism”, “Albanian film art and design – Selected works from the years of the film studio”, “Lapidaries and Monuments” by Australian photographer Robert Hackman, which focus on a personal photographic observation of the author on the lapidaries and monuments of the Albanian post-socialist landscape.

Publications by NGA: “100 years of Albanian drawing” with works selected from the fund of the National Gallery of Arts; Catalog no.3 “Albanian socialist realism, the study of the phenomenon based mainly on the collection of the Art Gallery”; “Monograph with Albanian artists of the twentieth century”.

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## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY “MARUBI”

Kolë Idromeno Street, No. 32, Shkodra, Albania

 +355 22 400 500

 info@marubi.gov.al

 10:00-19:00

It operates under the care of the Ministry of Culture.

Marubi Photo-Studio was established in 1970. At the center of the museum is the legacy of the “Photo-Studio Marubi”, founded in 1856 by Pietro Marubi, an Italian painter and photographer. Later on, during the dictatorial regime in Albania, historical images from the archive were, in many cases, used in the editions of the time manipulated and alienated.

The Marubi Archive contains over 500,000 images, half of which belong to the dictatorship period. The latter are partially scanned, but they are not accessible online. The museum has held several exhibitions dedicated to propaganda during the communist regime in Albania such as “Angjelin Nenshati” and “Atheist Museum”. The latter opened at the PhEST photography festival in Monopoli, Italy. Some of them are also part of the edition “Marubi: The moving objective of an archive” (2015), displaying all the photographers of the archive. The exhibition “Manipulation”, tries to highlight for the first time, the photographs manipulated both before and during the communist regime in order to eliminate the enemies of the regime from the photographs.

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## REGIONAL MUSEUMS

### NEW MUSEUM OF GJIROKASTRA

Gjin Bue Shpata Street, Gjirokaštër, Albania

The “New Museum of Gjirokastra” was opened on September 28, 2012, inside the castle. The new museum tells the story of Gjirokastra, from prehistoric fortified settlements to the period when the city became an important administrative center of the Ottoman Empire and most recently, the birthplace of the communist leader Enver Hoxha. This narrative is presented through a combination of historical objects, archival materials, photographs, films and oral histories.

### HISTORY MUSEUM OF LUSHNJA

Center of Lushnja, Albania

 +355 69 451 2500

 kongresilushnjes@outlook.com

 <https://muzeu-historik-lushnjewebs.com/>

 Monday–Friday 8:00–16:00; Saturday: 8:00–12:00

This museum displays some of Albania’s communism history as an exhibition illustrated with photos. Regardless of the fact that information about this period is missing in many regional museums, this sector is given a special meaning in Lushnja, referring also to the internment camps and villages set up in this region during the dictatorship.

In this context, the memory of the city is closely related to the life stories of the people who were interned in Plug village, and later on, in Savër, Rrapëz-Sektor, Gjazë Thanë etc. The Plug village camp was the first to be set up in 1950, under the code name “29 November Farm”. Initially, there were 200 internees working in this camp, 60 men and 140 women, and many minors, some of whom were born there.

However, one of the most infamous camps in Lushnja was that of Savër, which was established during 1952–1953, and about 1500 people were interned there. According to the documents of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, this camp was surrounded by barbed wire and 12 state security agents were snatched inside the camp, 1 resident, 1 secret agent, 1 host.<sup>31</sup>

In 1973, the villages: Bubullimë, Halilaj, Kurtinë were also included in the map of camps. Other camps were set up between 1980–1984 in Hysgjokaj, Fier-Shegan, Gorre, Këmishtaj, Zgjana, Dushk, Imshta, Delisufaj, Krutje, Toshkëz, etc.<sup>32</sup>. Several villages remained

31 AMPB. F50. D.642. V1955

32 AMPB F.4 D.370. V.1984

underdeveloped, and 30 villages of this sub-prefecture were converted into internment centers by 1989.

Even though Lushnja district is important for the study of the communist period and mass internments, Lushnja Museum, where this pavilion was established three years ago, is missing a lot in displaying its historical past. This museum exhibits, within a small space, the photos of interned families, houses that manifest former poverty as destroyed buildings, a list of the communist dictatorship victims, and a small map showing the villages as centers of internment.

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## HISTORY MUSEUM OF DIBRA

Safet Zhulali Street, Peshkopi, Albania

Institutional subordination: Directorate of the Palace of Culture and Municipality

The museum is situated in the center of the town of Peshkopi. It has been located in various buildings, but since 2010, the museum has been housed in the building of the former House of Culture “Haki Stërmilli”.

The museum is organized in three pavilions with 2,000 relics belonging to various time periods. The historical, ethnographic, and archeological pavilions provide a clear picture of the past. In 1969, the pavilion of historical data was initially opened, then it was merged in 1987, with the largest ethnographic pavilion. Some of the museum stands offer information about the National Liberation War. The archive also contains documents regarding the period of the dictatorial regime in Albania.

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## GALLERY OF ARTS IN SHKODRA

“Selaudin Bekteshi” Street, Nd.12, H.8, Ap.1, 4001 Shkodra, Albania

✉ [galeriaearteveshkoder@gmail.com](mailto:galeriaearteveshkoder@gmail.com)

🌐 <http://www.gashkoder.com/>

🕒 9:00–15:00

It functions under the care of Shkodra Municipality.

The origins of the Art Gallery are traced back when it was part of the Shkodra House of Culture, but in the early 70s of the last century, it was inaugurated as a separate institution, when the local government of the time set up a historical building in the museum center of the city. In the early 1990s, the Gallery was moved to a former industrial building, near the city center, adapted for this purpose. Its mission is to collect, preserve and exhibit works of visual art as well as to promote the creativity of artists in the city of Shkodra.

The collection of the Art Gallery of Shkodra consists of about 700 paintings, sculptures, drawings and photos made by Albanian artists over a time span of about one hundred years.

The names of Kole Idromeno – founder of the new Albanian pictorial tradition, Ndoc Martin, Simon Rrota, Andrea Kushi, Zef Kolombi, are considered of special importance for the Albanian painting of the first half of the 20th century. Some of their creative works are exhibited in the National Gallery of Arts, Tirana.

Some of the works in the collection of GA Shkodra belong to the period from 1946 to the end of the 80s. The works of this period predicate the subjugation of art to propaganda, but also the dichotomy of the artist between freedom of creation and conformism. The collection of this gallery, although still with a limited number of works, displays the developments in Shkodra and Albanian art after the '90s.

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### HOUSE STUDIO “KADARE”

Dibra Street, Pll. 85, Palace with cubes, Shk. 1, 3rd Floor, Tirana, Albania

✉ shtepiakadare@tirana.al

🌐 shtepiakadare.tirana.al

🕒 1 May–15 October; Tuesday–Saturday 9:00–19:00; Sunday 10:00–17:00

15 October–1 May, Tuesday–Saturday 10:00–17:00; Sunday 10:00–15:00

It functions under the care of Tirana Municipality.

House Studio Kadare is both the apartment where the writer Ismail Kadare lived from 1974 to the beginning of 1990, and his place of creation. House Studio Kadare, which is composed of 6 rooms, aims to attract local and foreign visitors towards an in-depth understanding of the Albanian history during the period of totalitarianism.

The Fund of House Studio Kadare includes a variety of source materials, over 1,000 books by the author or translations of Ismail Kadare's never-published poems. Also, it counts many manuscripts and typographies of the author and his wife, writer Elena Kadare, original personal and family photographs, objects and items of the author, first copies of various publications and other elements that guide the researcher towards the cultural space under the communist regime.

The House Studio Kadare is located on the third floor of a palace in Dibra Street designed by the architect Maks Velo in 1972.

The building or as it was called at that time “the palace with cubes” is as emblematic as the apartment itself. It has been the center of accusations of the regime of that time as a modernist and Cubist work, while its designer was imprisoned for 10 years.

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## MUSEUM OF WEAPONS, WAR AND COMMUNISM CRIMES

### ARMED FORCES MUSEUM (AFM)

Dibra Street, Garrison “Skënderbej” (Former - Armed Forces Academy), Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 692179230

✉ asllanzemani@yahoo.com

🌐 www.mod.gov.al

🕒 Monday–Thursday: 9:00–16:00, Friday: 9:00–13:00

The Armed Forces Museum (AFM) is a typological museum and reflects the most important military events and the development of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania. The Museum of the Armed Forces exhibits 3,600 objects of museum value and its mission is to identify, collect, select and put into use for all stakeholders the educational values of the military heritage of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania. The objects exhibited in the pavilions of the museum are mainly: weapons, techniques and equipment, documents, symbols and other objects.

The museum has four pavilions and two pavilions can offer information about armed forces during the dictatorial regime:

Pavilion of Central Lobby

Pavilion of the period 1470–1939

Pavilion of National Liberation War (LANÇ), years 1939–1945

Pavilion of the Cold War during 1945–1990

### ARMAMENT MUSEUM AND PRISON, GJIROKASTËR

“Gjin Bue Shpata Street”, Gjirokastrë, Albania

🕒 8:00–16:00

The Armament Museum, the prison and the Museum of Gjirokastra are all located inside the Castle of Gjirokastra. The Armament Museum opened in 1971 as the National Armament Museum where all the weapons and their types used during World War I and II were brought here. The weapons in the museum belong from the war for independence in 1912 to the war for the liberation of Albania. Among these weapons is also an American fighter jet that has remained there since the Cold War.

The entrance to the prison is in the first gallery of the Armament Museum. Completed in 1932, the prison was used by the Italian and German occupation forces during the Second World War. The prison was also used for convicts during the communist regime, but this period is not recorded at all in the museum. It was closed in 1968, a part of the prison was developed as a museum. There are still writings on the wall and parts of newspapers or

letters from communists and activists who were imprisoned during the Zog regime, during the German and Italian occupation, as well as slogans in favor of communist rule.

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#### SITE OF WITNESS AND MEMORY, Shkodra

Skënderbeu Boulevard, No.26, Shkodra, Albania

✉ pjerinmirdita@gmail.com

🌐 <http://www.vdkshkoder.com/>

🕒 Monday-Friday 9:00-15:00, Saturday: 9:30-12:30

The “Site of Witness and Memory” is the first in its kind in our country, giving this museum a unique value. This museum was established in 2014 to commemorate the victims of the communist dictatorship.

This museum was first established in Shkodra, as the capital of northern Albania, which has experienced the brutality of the dictatorship more than any other city, where many local citizens and intellectuals were persecuted, interned, imprisoned and executed by the regime. The first anti-communist uprisings started in this prefecture, such as Malësia e Madhe, Kelmendi and Postriba.

At the entrance of this museum is displayed a map with the countless prisons that were set up in every corner of the city after communism establishment in order to imprison and torture the opponents of the regime, intellectuals, clergy, etc. Houses were confiscated and converted to prisons or places of torture, such as: the house of Fasil Demi, the house of Çurshisë, that of Shkrelëve, that of Sander Saraçi, Ulqinakëve, the Franciscan College, etc. Two large prisons were also situated in this city such as the one near the Prefecture, and the New Prison adjacent to the house of Çeka family.

The building was converted from a place of culture to the infamous communist prison situated in the heart of the city. This building was designed by Arsen Idromeno and was owned by the Rrakacolli family. Later, it was bought by the Austro-Hungarians to house a dormitory for orphans or children in need. In this building were housed and educated about 100 children. At the end of the First World War, this building passed under the administration of the City Hall and it was decided to transfer it to the Civil Hospital. In 1930 this building was purchased by the Franciscan Order whose college was transferred there.

The history of this building changed when the Communists started confiscating the properties and persecuting the Catholic clergy. This building was used by the state security as the Branch of Internal Affairs, Shkodra. Numerous interventions were made to adapt the building to an organ where the most inhuman tortures would take place, setting up 14 cells opposite each other. In these corridors, lightened by two small windows and a cell without ventilation, well-known figures such as Father Zef Pëllumbi, Marie Tuci, Hazif Ali Kraja, etc. would suffer their punishment.

After the fall of the communist regime, this building was turned into a Police Station and the cells served as pre-trial detention cells. In 1997 this building was returned to the owners of the Franciscan College, and the Monastery of Clarissa Sisters and a small church, would later be established.

The Site of Witness and Memory was established in 2014 within the cells of the building to give a voice to the suffering of the people who were convicted during the dictatorship. The museum preserves the original pre-trial detention cells, the former Local Branch and the torture room. The passage to the cells area (50 m) is the route that the prisoners had to cover from the security car to the suffering cells. This passage is rich in objects used by prisoners, and it also offers a collection of original evidence documents donated by former prisoners or their families. This museum transmits to the young generation the voice of the people who suffered during communism, to show them the true face of dictatorship.

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## COLD WAR TUNNEL, GJIROKASTËR

Museum area of Gjirokastra

🕒 April-October 9:00-18:00 and November-March 8:00-14:00

The Cold War Tunnel Museum is an underground tunnel that was created as an emergency shelter in case of nuclear attack in the latter part of Albania's communist era (1944-1990). The project of building this tunnel started around the '70s and it was finished around the year '85. The tunnel was built as forced labor by a group of political prisoners. About 800 m long, the tunnel has 4 entrances and many rooms with different functions. The main entrance of the Tunnel is close to the Municipality building, which once served as the headquarters of the Party Committee. There are rooms for government ministries, local government, interrogators, etc. A part of the original furniture was looted from the site after the transition during 1990-1997. The tunnel has been opened for visitors since 2014.

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## MUSEUMS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

### SAPA DIOCESE MUSEUM

Sapa Diocese, "Mother Theresa" Square, Vau i Dejës, Albania

✉️ kuriasape@hotmail.com

At the end of 2014, the Sapa Diocesan Museum, the first of its kind in Albania, was inaugurated. The Diocesan Museum of Sapa is of special value and exhibits ecclesiastical and archeological objects and items found, collected and preserved over the years as important historical evidence, from the ancient past to the present times, such as the persecution period in the atheist dictatorship.

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## PULT DIOCESE MUSEUM

“Gjon Pali II” Square, Shkodra, 4000, Albania

☎ +355 67 555 2076

✉ muzeudioqezansp@gmail.com

🕒 Monday-Friday: 9:00-17:00

The Diocesan Museum is a permanent, non-profit institution, whose purpose is to better serve society and its development by preserving and displaying the historical heritage of the religion and culture of the Albanian people. This is mainly related to the special territorial area part of Shkodra-Pult Archdiocese. The museum exhibits works of art, church items, items of use and personal devotion objects, fragments, documents, and evidence.

The Museum has a close connection with the diocesan territory and the cultural sites within it. The cathedral is an integral part of the Museum’s story and of the history that unites all the items found. A special place is also reserved to the martyrs of the Catholic Church in Albania, where the map of the infamous prisons and camps during the communist dictatorship is also exhibited.

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## BEKTASHI MUSEUM

“Dhimitër Kamarda Street”, No.10 Tirana – Albania

☎ +355 67 6096052

✉ sheldaagaraj@yahoo.com

🕒 9:00-19:00

The Bektashi Museum was inaugurated on September 7, 2015, on the premises of the Odeon (Great Shrine) in the Bektashi World Center. It is designed in 12 stands and 12 showcases, respecting the 12 Imams. The museum presents, through documents, photographs and relics organized through a chronological timeline, the 800-year history of Bektashism. In the center of the museum is found the corner of memory, in honor of the Bektashi clergy persecuted for centuries. The religious harmony, as a prominent value of Bektashism, in important historical periods of the Albanian people, is reserved a special place. Rare relics of Bektashi World Leaders are also on display. In addition to the activity of the National Renaissance patriotic clergy, a special showcase is dedicated to Frashëri brothers. There are also monitors in place, through which the visitors are presented with various views of the tekkes, the persecution of the clergy.

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## ART INSTALLATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

### BUNK'ART 1

Fadil Deliu Street, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 67 207 2905

✉ info@bunkart.al

The “Bunk’Art” project has its origins in November 2014, with the opening to the public of Bunk’Art 1, situated on the outskirts of Tirana, and continued with the opening on November 19, 2016 of Bunk’Art 2 in the center of the capital. Bunk’Art symbolizes the isolation of Albania, the paranoia of the dictator Enver Hoxha and the Cold War of the communist bloc with the west. It was originally built in 1970 to accommodate Enver Hoxha and the political elite of the communist regime, in case of a nuclear attack. Upon being turned into a museum, its interior premises were conceived for historical, museum and artistic exhibitions. The preservation of the bunker architecture with long tunnels and labyrinths has attracted considerable attention of foreign visitors, the international media and international tourism sites. The creator and general curator of the project is the Italian journalist, Carlo Bollino. Bunk’art is not under the institutional authority of the Ministry of Culture, regardless of the fact that it was an initiative taken by the latter. Bunk’Art is supported by the Albanian NGO “Qendra Ura”.

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### BUNK'ART 2

Abdi Toptani Street, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 67 207 2905

✉ info@bunkart.al

The tunnel of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was originally built between 1981 and 1986 to house Interior Ministry officials in case of a nuclear attack. About 30 years after its construction, it was inaugurated on November 17, 2016, as a museum-installation Bunk’Art 2. In the early 70’s, the mass construction of bunkers began in Albania. There were three types of bunkers constructed: mountain sites, buildings and underground pits. The bunker, code-named “Pillar Facility”, is an underground bunker of the “pit” type, with an area of 1,000 square meters. The twenty-four rooms in the museum present the names of 6,027 people executed during the Communist regime, 34,000 prisoners and more than 50,000 sent to isolated camps, telling visitors how communist police acted against opponents of the system. The entrance and exit of the bunker were built only after the building was claimed to be turned into a museum, as in the initial project the sole entry to the tunnel was within the Ministry premises.

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## PRIVATE MUSEUMS

### WOMEN'S MUSEUM

Myslym Shyri Street, P. 44, shk. 4/37, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355 68 202 3950

✉ el.ballauri@gmail.com

🕒 Monday–Friday: 10:00–17:00, Saturday 10:00–16:00

The Women's Museum is an initiative of the human rights activist and collector Elsa Ballauri. The museum was established in December 2018 and it is located in the center of Tirana, in an old apartment build in the '60s. The museum is conceived as per a thematic chronological timeline starting with Antiquity, continuing with the late Middle Ages, Renaissance, Independence, 20s and 30s, World War II, Dictatorship period 1944–1990 and it also displays the period after the years' 90. The artifacts of this private museum have been provided thanks to the collection tradition and passion of Ballauri family.

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## ORGANIZATIONS OF FORMERLY POLITICALLY PERSECUTED PEOPLE

### ALBANIAN ANTI-COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION OF FORMERLY POLITICALLY PERSECUTED

Dëshmorët e Kombit Boulevard, Tirana, Albania

☎ +355693241558, +355672086213

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The Anti-Communist Association of the Formerly Politically Persecuted of Albania is a political, social and independent organization that represents the ideals and interests of the anti-communist and the politically persecuted people, through their political and social representation until full integration of this part of population, which was denied many civil rights during the 50 years of dictatorship. The association has its own articles of association, bodies and the main headquarters located in Tirana. Its other branches have their headquarters in the respective municipalities. The National Assembly is the highest governing body that meets once every four years and consists of delegates representing all branches. The Chairman, leadership and the National Council are elected by the Assembly.

The Anti-Communist Association of the Politically Persecuted is an active member of the European Union associations of the people politically persecuted by communism. The association holds commemorative ceremonies for important dates of the anti-communist opposition in Albania.

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## ANTI-COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION OF POLITICALLY PERSECUTED, TIRANA BRANCH

 +355 68 393 5688

The focus of the activity of the Anti-Communist Association of the Politically Persecuted – Tirana Branch is to integrate and promote both the former persecuted by the communist regime and those people who still suffer the consequences of dictatorship. This association contributes that the inhuman communist crimes and tortures are not forgotten, that justice be done and the past is never repeated.

This association has other branches in Pogradec, Lezha, Shkodra, etc.

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## PAN-NATIONAL UNION FOR THE INTEGRATION OF FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PERSECUTED PERSONS

 +355 67 4806145

 besimndregjoni@yahoo.com

This organization was established to reintegrate and represent the interests of former political persecuted, to commemorate and honor the martyrs of communism. Given the fact that there have been minor efforts to commemorate and honor the victims of the dictatorial regime in the country, the Union has organized various activities such as the National Convention held in 2017, and has been the initiator of proclaiming 2018 as the year of finding the missing persons by the communist regime.

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## ALBANIAN REHABILITATION CENTER FOR TRAUMA AND TORTURE (ARCT)

Kont Urani Street, No. 10, Tirana, Albania

 +355 42 239121

 <http://www.arct.org>

Founded in 1994, Albanian Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma and Torture (ARCT) represents a non-profit organization which aims at “contributing in building a democratic society without use of torture and social justice in a country where strong political persecution has been seen for a long, almost 50 years period”. Through the international support, ARCT has been able to provide services to a large number of torture victims in the country aiming social integration of former political persecuted people. There is no accurate data.

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## **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF FORMER PERSECUTED PEOPLE**

During the transition years, various organizations have been established recently, which focus on the integration and protection of the rights of former political prisoners and interned families. Such organizations are: Association of the Albanian Religious Persecuted; National Association of Heirs of Political Shot People, etc.

On the other hand, various sites have been created on social networks which show the violation of human rights and the suffering of prisoners during the dictatorial regime.

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## **MEMORIALS AND COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES**

### **“POST-BLLOK” MEMORIAL, TIRANA**

The “Post-blok” memorial was inaugurated on March 26, 2013. This memorial is the work of the writer and former political dissident Fatos Lubonja and the painter Ardiان Isufi, and it commemorates the victims of the communist regime in Albania. This memorial consists of three “symbol” objects: a part of the Berlin Wall, a mushroom bunker as symbol of dictatorship in Albania, which was built to guard the main entrance of the residential block, where dictator Enver Hoxha and other senior communist officials lived, and a few pillars from the Spaç prison, where many opponents of the communist regime were held prisoners and sentenced to forced labor.

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### **MEMORIAL IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE FORMER PERSECUTED PERSONS, SHKODRA**

The memorial in remembrance of the former persecuted by the communist regime was inaugurated in Shkodra on May 20, 2019. This is the first memorial of this size and was built in the city of Shkodra, where the communist persecution was harsher than anywhere else. The memorial was made possible by the Municipality of Shkodra in cooperation with the political persecuted persons and foreign and local donors. The following has been written on this: “It is dedicated to the persecution, sacrifices and resistance of the people of Shkodra during the communist dictatorship.” The author of the memorial is Hashim Kruja.

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### **MEMORIAL OF INTERNMENTS DURING THE DICTATORSHIP, LUSHNJA**

The Institute of Former Political Persecuted (IFPP) established in Lushnja in September 2016 a National Memorial commemorating the communist persecution, dedicated to the Internment-Deportation period during 1954–1991. This four-meter-high memorial with the bare feet symbol of those who suffered the dictatorship represents over 14 internment centers in

the district of Lushnja and is dedicated to the suffering, pain and sacrifice of the former politically persecuted people, interned in this area.

There have been 14 internment centers in the Lushnja district since 1954, starting with Savër, then Pluk, Gjaza, Ngurrezë, Gradishta, Ferrasi, Grabian, Dushku, Bedat, Adriatik, Bicukas, Germenj, Çerma and Shen e Premte.

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#### MEMORIAL OF THE COMMUNISM MARTYRS IN NGURRËZ TË MADHE, LUSHNJA

On April 21, 2021, the Memorial of the Communism Martyrs was inaugurated in Ngurrëz e Madhe. The memorial of the sculptor Emanuel Koko was selected as the winning work of the competition organized by the Association of the Politically Persecuted. The memorial was built during January-April 2021 and is dedicated to the 12 anti-communist martyrs of Ngurza e Madhe in Lushnja, erected on the site where four of them were shot in 1951. According to the sculptor, the work witnesses that the people executed and interned by the communists do not physically disappear, but leave behind their image and trace. The memorial is dedicated to innocent people, such as Taip Kurti, Vesel Cela, Hamdi Sefa and others, who were shot and had their property confiscated from 1944 to 1951 in Myzeqe because they disobeyed the communist regime's order regarding the cooperative system.

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#### MEMORIAL OF THE POETS GENC LEKA AND VILSON BLOSHMI, LIBRAZHD

On July 17, 1977, two young poets, Genc Leka and Vilson Blloshmi, were executed by the communist regime. In 1994 Blloshmi and Leka were awarded as "Martyrs of Democracy" and in 2006 they were declared "Honored Citizens" of the Librazhd district.

A memorial in honor of the two poets was placed in the city of Librazhd in 2006. On a surface ten meters long and five meters wide, lined with marble where verses of two poets are stamped, two busts are placed. The author of this memorial is Sadik Spahija.

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#### MONUMENT OF THE MARTYR POET HAVZI NELA, KUKËS

On June 12, 2018, the monument of the martyr poet Havzi Nela, work of the sculptor Ilmi Hoxha was placed in the gymnasium named after the poet. His persecution began in 1967, when he opposed the ideology of the dictatorial regime. Havzi Nela was imprisoned in 1987 and on August 10, 1988 was hanged in the center of the city of Kukës. Havzi Nela was awarded the title "Martyr of Democracy" and "Honor of the Nation" Decoration.

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## COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

### COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE AT TEPELENA CAMP

In August 2015, in the framework of the International Day of Missing Persons, a commemorative plaque was placed in honor of the people missing during the communist regime in the former camp of Tepelena, where over 3,000 people, families of political opponents of the regime were interned. More than 500 people lost their lives in this camp, including children, women and older people.

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### COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE AT POSTRIBA

The Postriba anti-communist uprising, which is considered the first uprising of its kind in Eastern Europe, began on September 9, 1946. About 200 villagers rebelled against the newly established regime and the collectivization process. The clash with security forces went on overnight. Twentyeight villagers were shot without trial in the following days, many others were imprisoned and interned while some houses were burned down. To commemorate the victims of the communist regime, a memorial plaque was placed in Postriba. Every September 9 bouquets of flowers are placed in honor of the martyrs of democracy.

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### COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE AT QAFË VALMIR, MIRDITË

The victims of the Valmir massacre, ten men were executed and four others were hanged for their anti-communist beliefs, are commemorated on August 18. About 500 men were imprisoned and about 300 families were interned as they were found guilty as opponents of the regime. The victims of this massacre were declared “Martyrs of Democracy”, by the Decree of the President of the Republic in 1993 and in 2017 President Nishani awarded the martyrs the “Golden Eagle Decoration”. A memorial plaque has been erected at the site to commemorate their anti-communist activity every August 18.

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### COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE AT MATJAN

A memorial has been erected in the center of Divjaka to commemorate the victims of the communist regime. 82 nationalists of the area were killed by the First Communist Brigade led by Mehmet Shehu and Dushan Mugosha on October 21, 1943. The victims of the Matjani massacre were declared “Martyrs of Democracy” by the President of the Republic. Every year, wreaths are laid at the memorial erected in this city by the relatives.

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### COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE ON 302 PRISON WALL, TIRANA

In September 2013, a memorial plaque was placed on the wall of Prison 302 in Tirana, in respect and honor of the people convicted during the dictatorship period (1944–1990) for freedom and democracy in Albania.

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### COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE FORMER SECRET SURVEILLANCE UNIT, TIRANA

On March 16, 2016, the Association of Former Political Prisoners of Albania placed a commemorative plaque near the place where the State Security Directorate was once located and where many citizens of Tirana and other districts, suspected as anti-communists, were isolated and tortured.

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### COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE FOR THE SHOT JOURNALISTS OF RADIO TIRANA

In June 2019, in the premises of the Prime Minister's Office of Albania, a memorial plaque was placed for the shot journalists of Radio Tirana, Fadil Kokomani and Vangelj Lezho.

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### COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE FOR THE VICTIMS ACCUSED OF BOMBING THE SOVIET EMBASSY, TIRANA

According to the decision of Tirana Municipal Council in October 1996, a memorial was decided to be erected in Tirana to commemorate the 22 victims killed without trial by the communist regime. They were unjustly accused of planting a bomb at the Soviet Embassy in February 1951. The victims were intellectuals of the time who had studied abroad and found it impossible to embrace communist ideology. Therefore, they were regarded as enemies of the regime. They were killed secretly near Beshir Bridge. Dr Sabiha Kasimati was the only female among those executed. The commemorative plaque is placed near the common grave of the victims in the Martyrs' Cemetery in Tirana.

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### COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE OF QAF-BARI PRISON

On the 35th anniversary of the revolt of May 22, 1984, a memorial was placed in honor of all the convicted people serving the sentence in Qafë Bari Prison. Many convicts lost their lives in this prison due to malnutrition, hard work, miserable conditions or even torture and executions. In commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the revolt in Qafë Bari prison, the Municipality of Fushë Arrëz, at the initiative of the Kujto.al Foundation decided to name a street after the "Revolt of Qafë Bari". Upon erection of this memorial and upon naming the street in 2019, in honor of the people who were imprisoned and lost their lives in Qafë Bar, there were greater possibilities for returning this prison to a place of memory

in the future. A few meters far from the infamous prison, on a mountain slope there is a sign with no. 8. It was placed there to show the place where 9 dead people were buried in this prison.

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### COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE IN TAMARA

A memorial has been erected in Tamara in honor of the leader Prenk Cali, who was killed by the communists for organizing the Malësia e Madhe uprising. The highlanders of Mbishkodra could not accept the communist ideology, so the leaders of these areas, led by Prenk Cali, ambushed the communists at Tamara Bridge, in Kelmendi highlands. The communist forces led by Mehmet Shehu, supported also by the Yugoslav communists, waged a bloody war with the highlanders. Prenk Cali was assassinated by the communists in 1945. Cali fought all his life against the Serbian occupiers and communism. On the memorial of Tamara is written: "Prenk Cali, Defender of Albanian territory. Victim of communism together with his fighters." The memorial honors all the persons killed by the communist regime in this province from January 1945 to 1990.

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### COMMEMORATIVE PLATE IN HONOR OF MUSINE KOKALARI

On June 16, 2021, with the initiative of the Institute of Democracy, Media and Culture (IDMC) and with the support of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), a memorial plaque was placed in the house of the intellectual Musine Kokalari. Musine Kokalari studied at the University of La Sapienza, Rome where she defended the degree of Doctor of Science in Literature. Kokalari was one of the founders of the Social Democratic Party of Albania, so after the Second World War, she was imprisoned and exiled by the communist regime. She died in exile in August 1983 in complete poverty and isolation. The house where she grew up in Gjirokastra has been left in oblivion and this plaque is the only one in memory of her to honor her work.

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### AUTHENTIC SITES DISCUSSED FOR MUSEUMIZATION

#### SPAÇ LABOR CAMP

Spaç Prison was an infamous labor camp set up in 1968 by the Communist government. This place was chosen to build this camp, because there was a copper and pyrite mine nearby, where the work of the prisoners could be exploited, and because it was located in a mountainous area where it was impossible to escape. Prominent political and intellectual prisoners of the regime have served their sentences in the Spaç camp. It is described as one of the most horrific camps at the time. In May 1973, a prisoner revolt broke out in Spaç Prison, which was suppressed by the regime. The prison was in place until the early 1990s, and was completely abandoned, while the building was dilapidated. During the

transition, the attention turned to Spaç only in recent years, and a few young people visited it in the framework of projects of various organizations.

Many scholars, organizations and politically persecuted people, many of whom served their sentences in Spaç have emphasized the fact to turn this complex into a museum. There is an urgent need to transform this prison into a center of remembrance and education to give voice to the stories of more than 1,000 political prisoners who suffered and were imprisoned there. This place has seven buildings that served as prison cells and administration offices, all of them almost destroyed. Given the fact that there is no other place as a former prison of the communist period that shows the atrocities of the regime toward political prisoners, there were made on this site some interventions in 2017. The intervention works included site cleaning, roof repairs and temporary structural stabilization of buildings. It is foreseen to turn this place into an educational museum center, but so far nothing is done. The political prisoners testify and tell stories about the life and extremely difficult conditions of the life there, but this place still has no voice. Different NGO such as IDMC and KAS have organized group trips on this site, with history teachers, youth, students and activists to give voice to the untold stories from one of the most horrible prisons of the dictatorship in Albania.

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#### TEPELENA BARBED WIRE CAMP

During the communist period in Albania there were a lot of labor camps. Some of them were barbed camps, the most infamous one was built in Tepelena and operated from 1949 to 1954. More than 3,000 people were interned in this camp, including babies, children, women and elderly people. The witnesses testify about the extremely horrible living conditions of this camp. The barracks were the houses of the internees accused by the communist regime as families of kulaks, bourgeois, traitors, and enemy of people or foreign agents.

The camp was organized as a miniature of the soviet gulag camp, where in a very small area were forced to stay more than 600 people including children. They slept in wood beds, without any hygienic conditions or proper bathrooms. The cold and lack of food made this place even more horrible to live in and a lot of elderly people, women and children lost their lives and they were not even properly buried. People who suffered in this camp were forced to work without any compensation until 1954 when this camp was closed.

A lot of activists, professors, and persecuted people have been raising their voice to the need to convert this place into a museum or commemoration site.

The idea of building a museum in this place is still on paper, so far you can see only destroyed buildings that hide the untold stories of those who lived there. Young people know little about this place and most of them never visited this former camp. The Institute of the Studies of the Communist Crimes in Albania, have done a video presentation of the camp as a first step toward the need of converting it into a museum.

## ONLINE SITES ON THE COMMUNIST PERIOD IN ALBANIA

### KUJTO.AL

 <https://kujto.al/>

Kujto.al was founded in 2018 als a non-profit foundation by Agron Shehaj, entrepreneur, investor and member of Albanian Parliament (Democratic Party). The foundation is focused on Albania's collective memory for the period 1945–1991. The purpose of the Foundation is to record as thoroughly as possible facts related to victims, launch publications and initiatives aiming awareness raising and education through videos, confessions and testimonies, through columns like the calendar of communist terror; register of political prisoners, internees and executed persons; online map of barbed wire prisons. Through various documentaries they provide data and facts of the communist regime and play an important role in dealing with the past.

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### OBSERVATORIKUJTESES.AL

 [info@idmc.al](mailto:info@idmc.al)

 <https://www.observatorikujteses.al/>

Observatori i Kujtesës (Observatory of Remembrance) is an online platform of IDMC, that aims to keep alive the collective memory of Albanians regarding the past.

The Observatory of Remembrance publishes articles of various kinds especially related to the memory for the period of communist dictatorship. In this online platform are also published articles published in mainstream media as well as other materials provided by different institutions or people that carry important evidence of the past. The main categories of content published on this site are related to evidence and facts, memory in the media, youth, and memory, education and memory, reflections on memory.

In particular, virtual exhibits can be used by history teachers in their classes such as “The Fall of a Dictator”; “Totalitarianism in Europe” (in collaboration with PEMC); “Light Beyond darkness”, an exhibition of photographic and historical materials on state atheism and the persecution of the clergy in Albania, but also the resistance of the clergy and believers during the communist dictatorship; “Propaganda during the dictatorship” also supported by the Central State Archive.

“The memory Calendar” summarizes the most important historical dates and exists virtually, as well as in hard copy, being enriched each year with new events.

The multimedia project “The communist terminologist” aims to make Albanian youth reflect on the communist past through language, terms, expressions as part of ideological indoctrination, but also as a reflection of the reality of the time.

The oral history project “I testify” aims to gather as much evidence as possible of former political prisoners and their families, so that the past is not forgotten. These short videos can be used in class from both students and teachers.

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## MUZEUMEMORIES.INFO

 [www.muzeumemories.info](http://www.muzeumemories.info)

The virtual Museum of Memory was created by the Institute for Political Studies with the support of the Ministry of Culture during 2014–2015 to build a virtual museum in memory of the crimes and victims of communism entitled [www.muzeumemories.info](http://www.muzeumemories.info).

The Museum of Memory offers information about the communist past in different virtual pavilions: “A day in communism”, “Anti-communist resistance”, “Special and military trials”. Other “pavilions” are “Stalinism in Albania”, “Torture”, used in interrogation halls and prisons, “Artists, convicted and exiled”, “Religion”, “Self-isolation”, “Forced labor and deeds”, “Dictator and his sons”, “Revolts” and closes with “February 20, 1991”, time when the dictatorship began to disintegrate.

Exhibition: “21 Immortals”, “Museum of Memory” held in several cities in Albania.

## ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS

AAFA	Albanian Armed Forces Archive (Arkivi i Forcave të Armatosura të Shqipërisë)
AAS	Academy of Albanological Studies (Akademia e Studimeve Albanologjike)
AFA	Armed Forces Academy (Akademia e Forcave të Armatosura)
AHC	Albanian Helsinki Committee (Komiteti Shqiptar i Helsinkit)
AIDSSH	Authority for Information on Former State Security Documents Archive (Arkivi i Autoritetit Për Informimin e Dosjeve Për Ish-Sigurimin e Shtetit)
AIIS	Albanian Institute for International Studies (Instituti Shqiptar Për Studimet Ndërkombëtare)
AIITC	Albanian Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (Instituti Shqiptar i Mendimit dhe i Qytetërimit Islam)
ALP	Albanian Labor Party (Partia e Punës e Shqipërisë)
ASA	Academy of Sciences of Albania (Akademia e Shkencave të Shqipërisë)
ARCT	Albanian Rehabilitation Center for Trauma and Torture (Qendra Shqiptare e Rehabilitimit për Traumën dhe Torturën)
CAS	Center for Albanological Studies (Qendra e Studimeve Albanologjike)
CPA	Central Party Archive (Arkivi Qendror i Partisë)
CSA	Central State Archives (Arkivi Qendror Shtetëror)
CSFA	Central State Film Archive (Arkivi Qendror Shtetëror i Filmit)
EBA	Evangelical Brotherhood of Albania (Vëllazëria Ungjillore e Shqipërisë)
FHP	Faculty of History and Philology (Fakulteti i Historisë dhe Filologjisë)
GDA	General Directorate of Archives (Drejtoria e Përgjithshme e Arkivave)
IDMC	Institute for Democracy, Media and Culture (Instituti për Demokraci, Media dhe Kulturë)
IFPP	Institute of Former Political Persecuted (Instituti i Ish-të Përndjekurve Politikë)
IH	Institute of History (Instituti i Historisë)
IHA	Institute of History Archive (Arkivi i Institutit të Historisë)
ILL	Institute of Linguistic and Literature (Instituti i Gjuhësisë dhe Letërsisë)
IPS	Institute for Political Studies (Instituti i Studimeve Politike)
IRCA	Institute of Romani Culture in Albania (Instituti i Kulturës Rome në Shqipëri)
ISCC	Institute for the Studies of Communist Crimes and Consequences (Instituti i Studimeve për Krimet dhe pasojat e Komunizmit)
KAS	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
LANÇ	Antifascist National Liberation Movement (Lëvizjes Antifashiste Nacionalçlirimtare)
LAS	Scientific Library of the Academy of Sciences (Biblioteka Shkencore e Akademisë së Shkencave)
LSHU	Library of Shkodra University (Biblioteka e Universitetit të Shkodrës)
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministria e Punëve të Jashtme)
MFAA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archive (Arkivi i Ministrisë së Punëve të Jashtme)
MEI	Ministry of European Integration (Ministria e Integritimit Evropian)
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs (Ministria e Brendshme)
MIAA	Ministry of Internal Affairs Archive (Arkivi i Ministrisë së Punëve të Brendshme)
NGA	National Gallery of Arts (Galeria Kombëtare e Arteve)
NLA	National Library of Albania (Biblioteka Kombëtare e Shqipërisë)
NHM	National History Museum (Muzeu Historik Kombëtar)
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Organizata për Siguri dhe Bashkëpunim në Evropë)



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