



MJAFT!
TELEGRAF

You radiate hope
ISMAIL KADARE

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The third shock
ARDIAN KLOSI

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3 years later
CHECKPOINT

page 5



3 years old

Urimet me te mira nga me te vegjelit e MJAFT... (Ne fakt urimet me te bukura)



Mijaft!
Dhe 300 vjet Fitore!
Andi Katri

Fjala "Mijaft" nuk shpreh me nje paralajmerim por procesin e kolimit nja erresira me drite.
Ardit Rada

Mijaft
3 vjet Perpekje
3 vjet Liri
dhe 1 Jete me Mijaft, jet me drejtesi.

MUNDIM
JETE
ANGAZHIM
FORCE
TOLERANCE

EMVORFOR MEDRA

STAFF

Editors
Endri FUGA
Sokol SHAMETI
Kristi PINDERI
Elsi RIZVANOLLI

Contributors
Arbjan MAZNIKU
Sagita MUÇO
Besjan PESHA
Marinela LIKA
Leart KOLA
Anis BRAHIMI
Rubin BEOQ
Agim DOBI
Erida MUKA
Dalina JASHARI

Photos by
MJAFT TELEGRAF

Translation
Ujvara ELEZAJ
Besmir GJOKUTAJ
Monika MARKO

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cprstudio.com

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Kadare: "You radiate hope"

>> The famous writer Ismail Kadare preferred to meet the MJAFT staff in private without the presence of the media. During a normal weekday of work, he visited the headquarters of this movement on the Elbasani Street, where he met all its members. "Your image radiates hope", he said to the MJAFT staff, reminding them that many people will try to demoralize them, applying all kinds of pressures and moral attacks. "But you" said the well known writer, who has been several times a Nobel Prize nominee, "shall not be afraid."

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Three years later

>> "Albania will be a better place when every citizen will understand that he is important and that his voice is and must be considered, when our communities will become stronger, and when we will understand that in democracy we have the right to demand and we have responsibility to take part in the decision-making processes. This is our greatest challenge, but MJAFT has never backed off when facing a challenge."

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These lines are for you. For you, as you waiting for the night to find the appropriate background of your thoughts. For you, as you are delighted by the depression of the others, by their pain, failure and misfortune. For you, as you could never know courage, altruism and solidarity.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS
All writing for MJAFT
"The Guardian", "The New York Times", "The Independent", Radio "Europa e Lirë", "Frankurt Allgemeine Zeitung", "DiePresse", etc.

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For your curiosity, but mostly to understand the dynamics with which the leaders of MJAFT have worked during these 3 years, we asked them one by one, what was the first memory of MJAFT that came to their mind.

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3 years old





TELEGRAF FOKUS

ENOUGH to the destruction of the environment

A group of Organizations, including the MJAFT Movement, The EkoMovement, The Co-Plan, The Albanian Trust of Heredity, The Albanian Fund on Monuments, The Jurists for the Environment Protection, Mr. Ardian Klosi and Mr. Lavdosh Ferruni requested in a letter to PM Berisha and the Speaker of the Parliament Topalli, to protect the Albanian territory from degradation. "Almost everywhere on tourist areas, national parks and protected areas abusing and informality is dominant, and the situation risks to aggravate as a result of the draft-law 'For some changes on the law for the return and compensation of land properties'" - stated this letter. Lately, in many areas of the country there have been hundreds of un-licensed constructions with the hope of being included in the Draft Law "For the Legalization, Urbanization and Integration of unlicensed constructions". "If this abusive phenomenon is not stopped, there will be considerable damages to the tourism, the agricultural lands and the protected areas", warned these organizations. They requested the immediate intervention of the government and parliament to stop this phenomenon.

To Moisiu: Do not approve the law on legalizations!

After lobbying in the parliament against the approval of the law "For the Legalization, Urbanization and Integration of unlicensed constructions", the MJAFT Movement took the final step, sending an open letter to the President Alfred Moisiu,

requesting the disapproval of this law. "The law has been formulated without a genuine policy and as a consequence it does not calculate the real costs of this process, it does not define who will pay for it... The government rushed towards

a short-term solution instead of looking for a permanent explanation to the legalization issue, not following the necessary steps to establish a genuine policy on this issue", stated the letter that the MJAFT Movement sent to Mr. Moisiu.

ENOUGH increasing electricity bills

The MJAFT Movement requested halt of the increasing electricity bills, at least until some essential issues are solved. Right after this request, Mjafst took the initiative of gathering signatures for a petition that will be deposited to the appropriate institutions. During a press conference, Erion Veliaj, leader of the MJAFT Movement, declared that "first of all, the entire approximate bills phenomenon should be stopped." He described these

bills as a "national injustice which is being done to the Albanian families". "It is not important how much energy you consume, in the end everybody is paying the same! It is absurd to request the citizens to pay a bill which is sometimes higher than their actual consumption" declared Veliaj to the journalists. According to the MJAFT Movement, the injustice done by KESH continues in the form of collective punishments.



Hundreds of families which regularly pay their monthly bills to KESH, sometimes pay more than they should as a result of the approximate bills, and still suffer the interruption of energy, just because KESH is not able to interrupt the energy only to those who do not pay for it.

You taught us to debate with arguments!

The MJAFT Movement congratulated all Albanian teachers on the 7th of March. Part of the MJAFT staff finished their studies in the "Sami

Frashëri" high-school in Tirana. This is the reason why MJAFT chose this school as the venue to greet the teachers. In the teachers-room of the "Sami

Frashëri" school the leaders of MJAFT met their professors and remembered with nostalgia the times spent in the school. "You are part of our movement



since you were the ones teaching us that democratic battles are not fought on individuals but through ideas. This is how debate is strengthened by arguments" said Erion Veliaj during this meeting. The meeting was followed by chats between the MJAFT staff and the teachers. At the end the staff gave the teachers as a present a plaque, which will be placed on a wall inside the school.

Three years later

CHECKPOINT VIEWPOINTS OF MJAFT!

>> Those of us that were there when MJAFT was conceived, had never thought that three years from that day, we would be here. Like most of the Albanians, we were fed up with the long hours of lack of electricity, with the taps that did not leak water, with the streets full of holes and mud, with the notoriety that haunted us in the world, more than the fame of politicians who show off in TUAREG off-road vehicles, or chatter in headquarters.

That December (just like at the end of every year since then), in the Tirana coffee bars, you felt a confusion where the joy and sadness interweaved. The joy came from tens of known faces of young people, who had come back for the holidays of the studies in the most prestigious schools of the world. Almost no one saw a future in Albania, in the sadness of their discussions with each other, and in January they would leave again. We were like them, we had just completed our studies, a part of us abroad, others here; we had however the same dilemma. Leave Albania and work elsewhere, or make a modern "Don Quixote" attempt to change something in our country? We could not wait until Albania was suddenly a fine country, like the way we wanted it while we were away. We agreed that if we wanted an Albania that resembled to the Albania of our hopes, we would have to get ready to turn the steering wheel to that direction. We were only a few at the time, but we knew that there were thousands of others thinking the same way.

We knew from our experiences and studies that in Europe the governments were more responsible not because their politicians were better people, but because citizenry created a constant pressure for accountability. If we wanted a better governance, we had to encourage a more active citizenship, conscious, critical and participant. If the demand for a better and more responsible policy-making would increase, the supply from the political class would have to answer this demand, sooner or later. This change would happen naturally while the Albanian society developed in democracy, but we wanted a movement to be the essence to accelerate this process. That is how MJAFT was born, at first it was a campaign, and then a movement, aiming at encouraging the active citizenship, to rehabilitate the sense of protest, and to improve the image of Albania. During these three years, our achievements can be divided in two categories, which are inseparable. During these three years, MJAFT counts tens of successful initiatives, that vary through raising awareness in the public and changing laws, or the budget of the state. In each case, MJAFT has aimed, besides reaching the specific goal of that action, at creating a precedent and giving the example that change is attainable. In 2004, MJAFT was awarded by UN with the prize of the Civil Society, an annual prize that UN gives to the most prominent organization in the world for that year. Therefore, we can say that after three years, besides the results of our actions, we can say that we have influenced the culture of protest in

Box: Albania will be a better place when every citizen will understand that he is important and that his voice is and must be considered, when our communities will become stronger, and when we will understand that in democracy we have the right to demand and we have responsibility to take part in the decision-making processes. This is our greatest challenge, but MJAFT has never backed off when facing a challenge.

Albania, in the mentality of the citizens to react and to request more from their elected, and we have contributed to the improvement of the image of Albania.

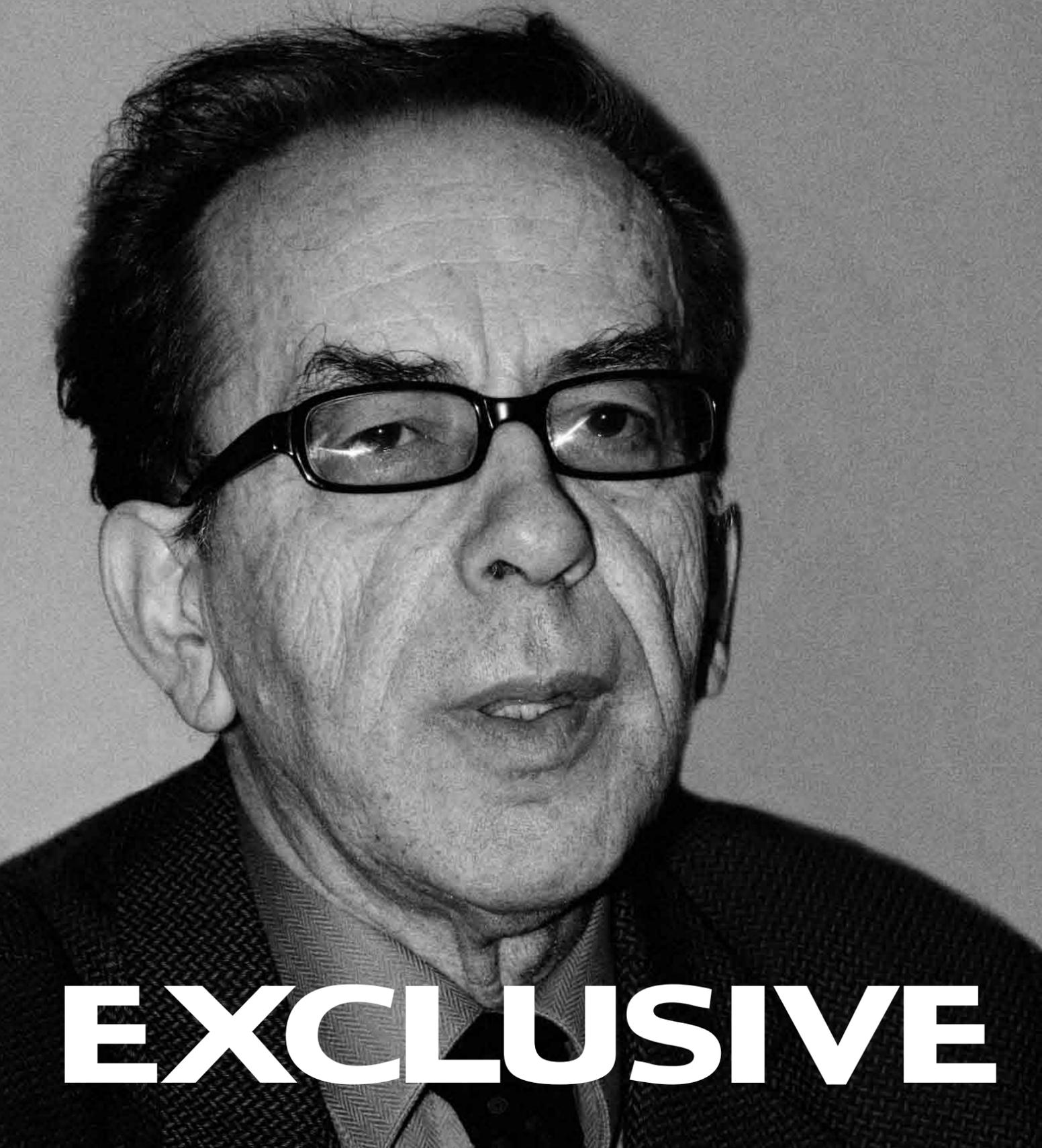
MJAFT has grown as a movement. It is now one of the most important actors of the civil society, a strong voice in the Albanian public opinion. Thousands of citizens have invested in MJAFT their trust, their hopes for a voice that defends their interests. They are the force that encourages us to go on every day, and we owe them every achievement.

Albania is a little better today than it was three years ago; however, it is still far from the Albania we would wish for. Thus, the challenges of MJAFT are still immense. Now, we have to bring back the support and the trust that the citizens have invested in MJAFT, to transmit the values that the movement represents into the veins and capillaries of the Albanian society. Albania will be a better place when every citizen will understand that he is important and that his voice is and must be considered, when our communities will become stronger, and when we will understand that in democracy we have the right to demand and we have responsibility to take part in the decision-making processes. This is our greatest challenge, but MJAFT has never backed off when facing a challenge.

telegraf@mjaft.org



Ismail Kadare:



EXCLUSIVE

“You radiate hope”

The famous writer Ismail Kadare preferred to meet the MJAFT staff in private without the presence of the media. During a normal weekday of work, he visited the headquarters of this movement on the Elbasani Street, where he met all its members. Calm, regardful to every concern expressed by the MJAFT members in this meeting, but overall conscious of the importance of his words, Kadare gave his full support to MJAFT. “Your image radiates hope”, he said to the MJAFT staff, reminding them that many people will try to demoralize them, applying all kinds of pressures and moral attacks. “But you” said the well known writer, who has been several times a Nobel Prize nominee, “shall not be afraid. Afraid should be the ones that attack democracy and not those who defend it”. Below you will find what he said during his meeting with the MJAFT staff. telegraf@mjaft.org

By Ismail Kadare

>>The MJAFT Movement is quite famous in Albania. It is known for good things, even though some people have tried to deviate your recognition, a tentative that has had no success. Your image gives hope, causes curiosity and this brings efficiency to your movement. Many want to get you down spiritually, to break you morally. And breaking you morally is the only weapon they can use to paralyze you, especially when they try to affect your closest people. They hope they can shrink you by applying such pressures. You have undertaken an action for the Albanian community; you have undertaken action to build. But unfortunately those who build today in Albania are not favored by the political, social or criminal groups. Because they do not want morality to overcome the immorality they

represent. Everywhere there are forces that aim to demolish more than to construct. Even in the US such forces exist but this country mobilizes immediately its constructive movements to put them against the demolishing ones. I will take another example: the hippy movement in the US. This movement was somewhat blurry, with many facets; on one side it was progressive and on the other it was thought anarchic. I am taking this example to explain the many facets a movement can have, but its principle is important: whether

in contrast to many forces or social groups. To every idealistic movement – because yours is an idealistic movement since you have a constructive vision – conflicts are inevitable. You ruin the mobsters sleep, you ruin the sleep of the criminal politicians, of those who have no principles, of those who yell for Europe but in reality do not want to become part of it. In a match between Democracy and its adversaries, those who are frightened are the ones who attack democracy, not the ones

that violence is not the solution. However nowadays in the world, there are entire regiments that go to war. Why? Because solidarity exists between soldiers....

You should continue to defend democracy, because this is a true issue nowadays in Albania. You should continue to be what you really are: unbiased. You should continue to take great actions, especially to fight against anti-culture in Albania, which is a serious threat to the nation. Have you noticed how the temples



it is constructive or destructive. This is the principle showing the true face of a movement.

You want to construct, to repair! This noble mission is acknowledged by the Albanian people. Therefore you should not fear from your mistakes, you should not be diplomats in calculating every action of yours, because that will paralyze you. You cannot work in Albania without making mistakes. It is important to be conscious of the purity of your actions. This is what matters. Personally, I believe in this fact, because a writer can be

who defend it. Even though the Albanian dictatorship was well organized, it was terrified of its inner lines!

You are not a part of any political group therefore, you hold no complexes in opposing them, or, for that matter, congratulating them, when they do a good job.

Your young age is characterized by solidarity, and this is quite a strong weapon. Have a look at soldiers nowadays! Why do they fight? Normally they shouldn't be fighting since they were all taught

of knowledge are diminishing nowadays and the religious ones are rising? That's what happened during the Ottoman Period: the Turks allowed any religious temple, but not once did they allow the construction of a school!

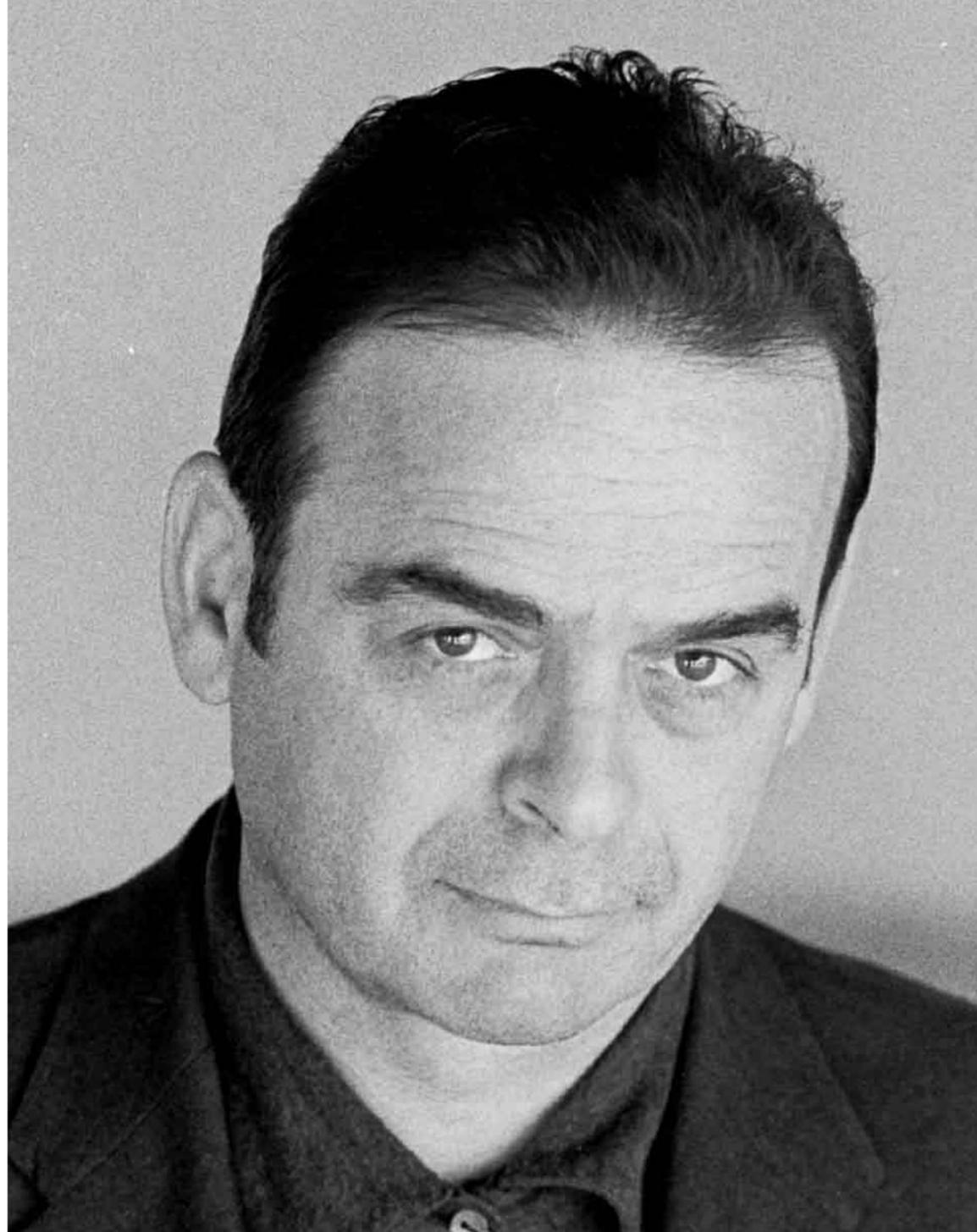
You should continue to deal with the daily issues that worry the Albanian people. Your responsibility is 10 times greater than the responsibility of any citizen, because you are organized.

And remember, you shouldn't be afraid of attacks against you... ■

For the third time in a period of sixty years, the land issue is becoming the biggest and gravest problem in Albania. It is quite a short period to suffer such shocks, but this is the reality and this reality has to be shown with all the harshness and danger that it implicates.

By
ARDIAN KLOSI

Foto "Kult"



SHEKULLI

>> For the third time in a period of sixty years, the land issue is becoming the biggest and gravest problem in Albania. It is quite a short period to suffer such shocks, but this is the reality and this reality has to be shown with all the harshness and danger that it implicates.

The first shock for the Albanian Lands occurred right after the Second World War, during the massive confiscation of land and the so-called agrarian reform. This complete re-division and change of the ownership relation on one hand, ruined the big-landowner system all over the Albanian lowland and the fertile lands of the south, and on the other hand opened a new path for radical changes on geophysics, and the inherited ecological equilibriums of entire region. We can mention the drying of huge quagmires such as those of Tërbuf, Durrës, Maliq and their transformation into socialist state farms, the transformation of the hills into fertile lands all over the country, or the transformation of the ancient pastures into "bread lands" etc.

We cannot discuss much on the negative or positive effects of this radical transformation during the period between the 50s and the 70s, since the context is much complicated and it cannot be seen as either black or white, which is a mistake most political forces do nowadays, from republicans to socialists. It is enough to mention that there is no doubt that the drying of the Maliq

or Myzeqe quagmires not only created fertile lands but also wiped off an old wound such as Malaria (and it is another issue that slaves performed these gigantic works). On one hand there is no doubt that the transformation of hills into fertile terraces, where nowadays no drop of water can reach, was again a half absurd project which seemed to be continuing just to keep busy the political convicts, the youth and the army. So catastrophic for the ecology were such projects as the transformation of the pastures into bread lands, the deviation of the Mat river course (that nowadays causes the ruining of the Patok beach), the usage of the Small Prespa lake's water for watering (!), the construction of chemical factories nearby untouched beaches, the primitive usage of oil sources, etc.

On the other hand it is indisputable the fact that because of the discipline of that state, many regions with unique ecological values were saved, areas like the lagoons, from Lezha to Narta, entire forests, areas like the woods and lakes of Lura, which nowadays are almost or already ruined. Also the Saint Prokop Park with the artificial lake and the green surroundings of Tirana, which were conceived in that regime, are degrading during the current "system".

The Albanian land would experience the second shock after the year 1992, with the uncontrolled migration of population and the notorious law 7051, which made a proletarian or small villager style agrarian reform, solving only part of the historical

injustice, and not stimulating modern agriculture on large farms. Still, the severe shock to our land would not come from the small portions of land that this law gave away, but from the huge areas that were left neglected to the massive poverty, the push to invade, the eagerness to make a profit, which brought the cutting of the ancient woods, the ruining of new areas such as the Golem seaside, the uncontrolled and generally aesthetical constructions on the suburbs of large Albanian cities, the stealing or extinction of the Albanian fauna, from the uncontrolled barbarian dynamite hunting etc.

Currently, a third shock is about to hit the Albanian land, which in essence is the continuing of the second shock, since it is caused by the same people, politicians and lawmakers who were beginners, or better, spectators during the 90s. There are actually two laws the first one created as a "premier" and the second created through amendments, which attempt at the official completion, without a vision for the future, of the abuse on the Albanian lands during these last 15 years.

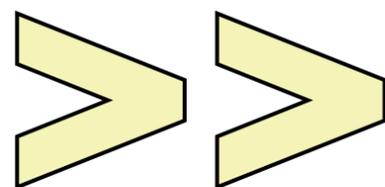
The first law is the "Law on the legalization, urbanization and integration of the unlicensed constructions"; this law gives the lands to the families that invaded them, in a simplistic and myopic way. I don't want to analyze it, but I will refer to a letter sent to the president by the MJAFT Movement not to approve this law. Among others in this letter is stated: "The law has been formulated without a genuine policy and as a consequence it does not

calculate the real costs of this process, does not define who will pay for it... The government rushed towards a short-term solution instead of looking for a permanent explanation to the legalization issue not following the necessary steps to establish a genuine policy on this issue. The actual law only gives to the "informal" owners the ownership papers but does not give them a normal life, the promising future or a suitable environment for their children to be raised in. The plan neither predicts a time limit for the urbanization to take place nor a clear project for their integration in the city life. And what's worst is that at the current moment nobody has no idea, even an approximate value, of how much the urbanization will cost..."

This means that these citizens become owners (without knowing what will happen to the old owners, but let's not mention this), but they keep living in the anarchy they felt and assisted. Instead of using this situation to create entire neighborhoods of dignified life, with the infrastructure, the green areas, and all the other things that make up the citizen life quality, a partial measure is taken, similar to that of apartments privatization, where everybody felt free to adjust his new property, to narrow and disfigure as they liked the common habitat (according to the principle: the building has a lot of small owners but the garden has no owner).

The second one is the draft-law entitled "For some changes to the law on the return and compensation of the properties", which is

The third shock





www.virtola.huone.net

actually being discussed in the parliamentary committees; it provides for the drastic removal or narrowing of the obstacles in returning the ex-owners properties found in environmental areas (national parks, protected areas) or areas that have a historical or cultural value to our country.

This means that important national parks such as the Butrint Park, Llogara, protected areas such as the Kune-Vaini, Divjaka, Karavasta, Narta etc. will be granted

for consumption. This will inevitably bring the complete devastation of these areas: At the end of this process Albania would end up to be the only country in the world not having protected areas or national parks.

Therefore the third shock during Albania's brief history of property, since the creation of the state that has the same name, comes through the legalization of some

instinctive-chaotic processes that began with the transition that is continuously opening wounds in this country from 15 years now.

However something has changed now. One week ago representatives of the civil society, the MJAFT

It is enough to mention that there is no doubt that the drying of the Maliq or Myzeqe quagmires not only created fertile lands but also wiped off an old wound such as Malaria

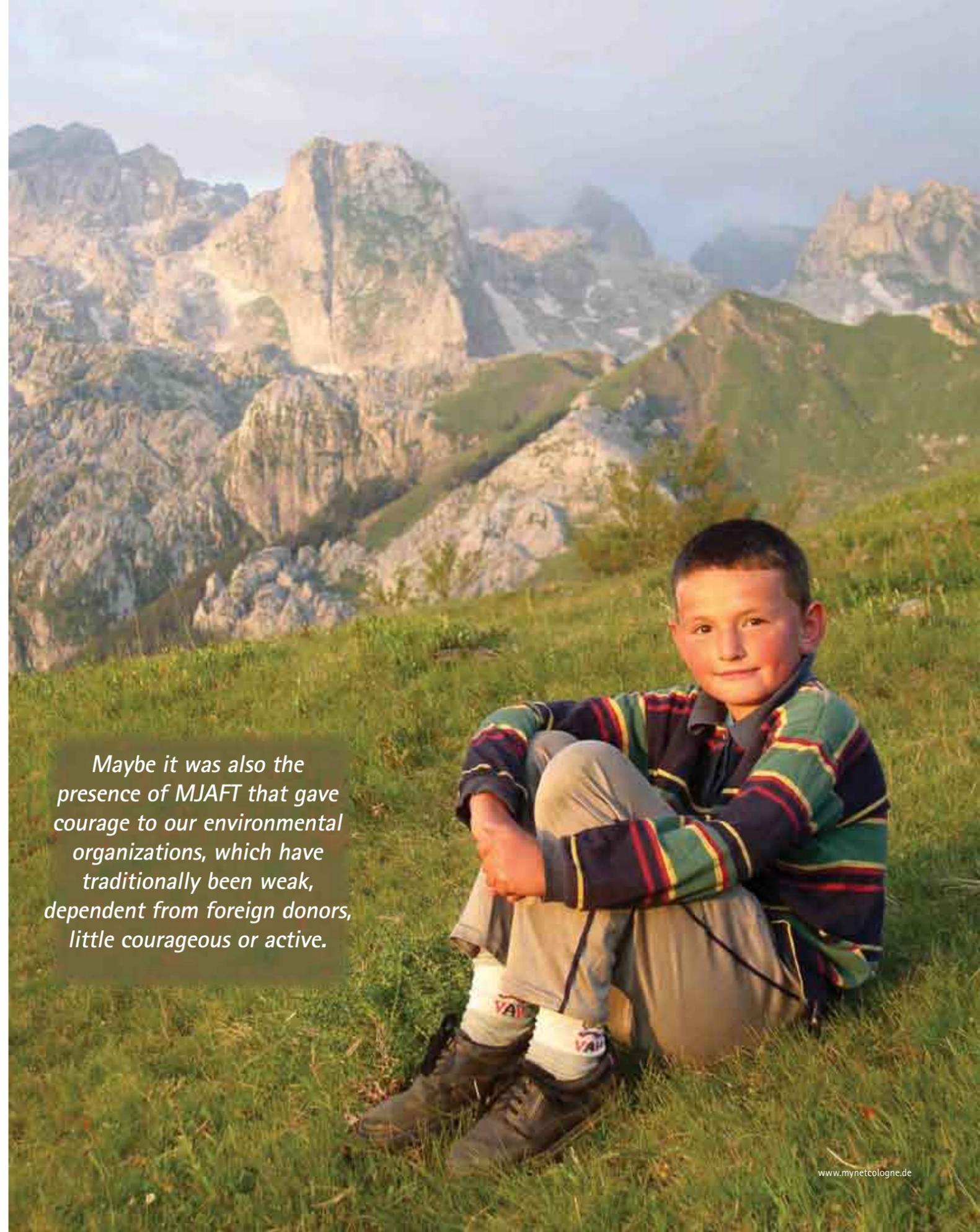
Movement, some environmental organizations and some organizations for the protection of cultural heridities, gathered to say no to the law that sacrifices all the national parks and protected areas. What surprised me was the quick way they reached to an agreement, leaving apart ego and individualism. Maybe the reason for this is that the situation has come to a point where people

cannot bear anymore, and they have understood that they need to act. Maybe it was also the presence of MJAFT that gave courage to our environmental organizations, which have traditionally been weak, dependent from foreign donors, little courageous or active.

It was made clear during this activity that devotion and insistence only can cause the turndown of the lawmakers and politicians on a case which is too great to be left in their hands. A good example of turndown is the law on the media, where after the pressure applied from the owners of these media and from different journalists the law was reviewed. Even though it seems as if there is no material profit of the actors involved in the case of protecting the national parks, there is no reason for this to fade the force of the movement. The issue is much more important, because it has to do with the image of Albania itself, with the existence of the people in it. And, after all, we have borrowed the land from our children. ■



www.virtola.huone.net



Maybe it was also the presence of MJAFT that gave courage to our environmental organizations, which have traditionally been weak, dependent from foreign donors, little courageous or active.

www.mynetologie.de

What is **MJAFT** “hiding”?

Marinela Lika (in the picture), the projects coordinator of the Mjaft Movement asserts: “...We continue to struggle in finding ways of how to bring back the much deserved dignity of the Albanians, in every aspect...”

Telegraph: Many people connect Mjaft only with the creative protests that they orchestrate. Is this all Mjaft does?

M.L: It is a very common link, especially because the protests attract great media attention, helping our collective memory to position them deeper. Nevertheless, the protests are one of the many tools that Mjaft operates, in order to fulfill its duty as civilian movement. There have been times of confusion for the public, observing the protest as the actual goal of the movement; a concept very far from what we view it as; that it needs to serve the

realization of a set goal. Let's for example consider one of the grotesque protests, when Mjaft sent a donkey dressed as a student in front of the parliament, to show that the education's anticipated budget could not generate anything other than ignorance. This protest was the highest peak of a multi-annual battle in this sector, and its goal was to hit the conscience of the governmental officials, as well as that of the common public, in taking a stand to change the merciful state of our educational system. However the education is only one of the fields where Mjaft has turned its focus. In January, Mjaft started a project in decreasing the number of non-reading civilians in the rural areas, in the form of a pilot program, first in a restricted number of sites, with the hope to expand and stabilize in the future.

The Institution of Youth Leadership (YLLI), is another program that educates, in average, about 70 young people per year, in how to become leaders of their communities, teaching them through various modules how to organize and set in motion, the importance of media and their campaigns, as well as advocate and strike in certain issues, the culture of the debate, etceteras. Telegraph: Let's pause and elaborate on the culture of the debate for a bit...

M.L. Since we have touched this point, it is relative to mention the fact that Mjaft has contributed massively in the position and the development of the public debates among the legislatives and the representatives of the communities, ensuring the participation of the civilians in the decision-making. This used to be a no existential practice or maybe too restricted. We could mention the debates among the candidates and the civilians, in the local or general elections, in addition to the frequent public debates among groups of interest whenever there are problematic concerns in a city or in a community.

Treating the open debate very essential in the building and conserving an open democratic society, Mjaft, for many years now, implements the debate program in the high school and universities, of 17 Albanian cities, which approximately 1200 young people benefit from. The participants are educated on the subjects of critical thinking, expressional and argumentative attributes, respecting the different opinions, while they are equipped with many other practical tools. Another important participation of Mjaft is the monitoring of the local and national government. An indispensable role have played the Civic Clubs, which have

brought Mjaft aura in a more local level, establishing activist groups, which exercise their influence in the formation and monitoring of the politics, as well as advocating and striking campaigns on outstanding issues. In order to enforce this wing of the movement, an Internet page has been designed www.unevotoj.com, which documents information on the activities undertaken by the local and national levels.

Another field, engaged by Mjaft, is the promotion of national goods. In August-September of the last year, Mjaft implemented a campaign, which encouraged the communities to buy local goods, by the slogan: "Buy Albanian Products!" Our objective is to expand this campaign even further this year.

There are tens of hundred of initiating projects every year (youth's employment, youth training and student orientations, etc), however I am ending this question with the note of mentioning the role of Mjaft in international development level, through the exchange of experiences and developmental capacities with fraternal organizations in Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Iraq, Italy, England, Sweden and more.

Telegraph: Earlier you mentioned a variety of project undertaken by Mjaft. Is there

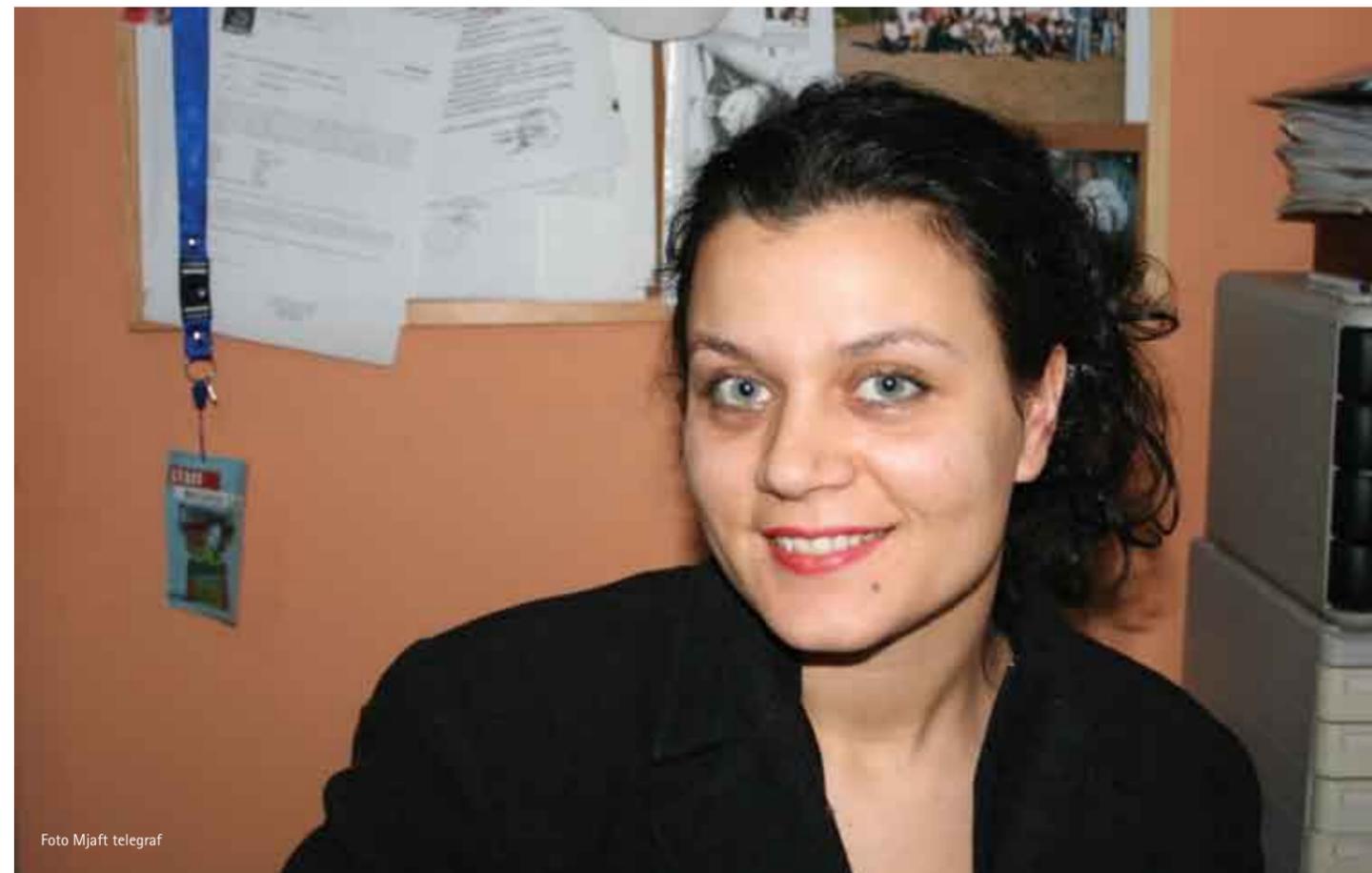


Foto Mjaft telegraf

a 2006 strategy, according to which Mjaft will base the future goals?

M.L: At the end of each year, Mjaft formulates a strategic plan for the oncoming year, in the base of which programs, projects and activities are fulfilled. The starting point of this plan, is founded on the Vision of the Movement (a better governed Albania, with active civilians, strong communities, and a positive image for the world), and in general strikes to increase

the active participation of civilians, to influence in the development of the civil society, to enforce the notion of a community, to promote the way of governing generally and to better Albanian's image in the world.

Telegraph: Until now we haven't heard of innovation...

M.L.: (laughs). I like your insisting. It shows you are an active citizen! In regards to innovations, this year, aside others, Mjaft has decided to be even more ambitious! We

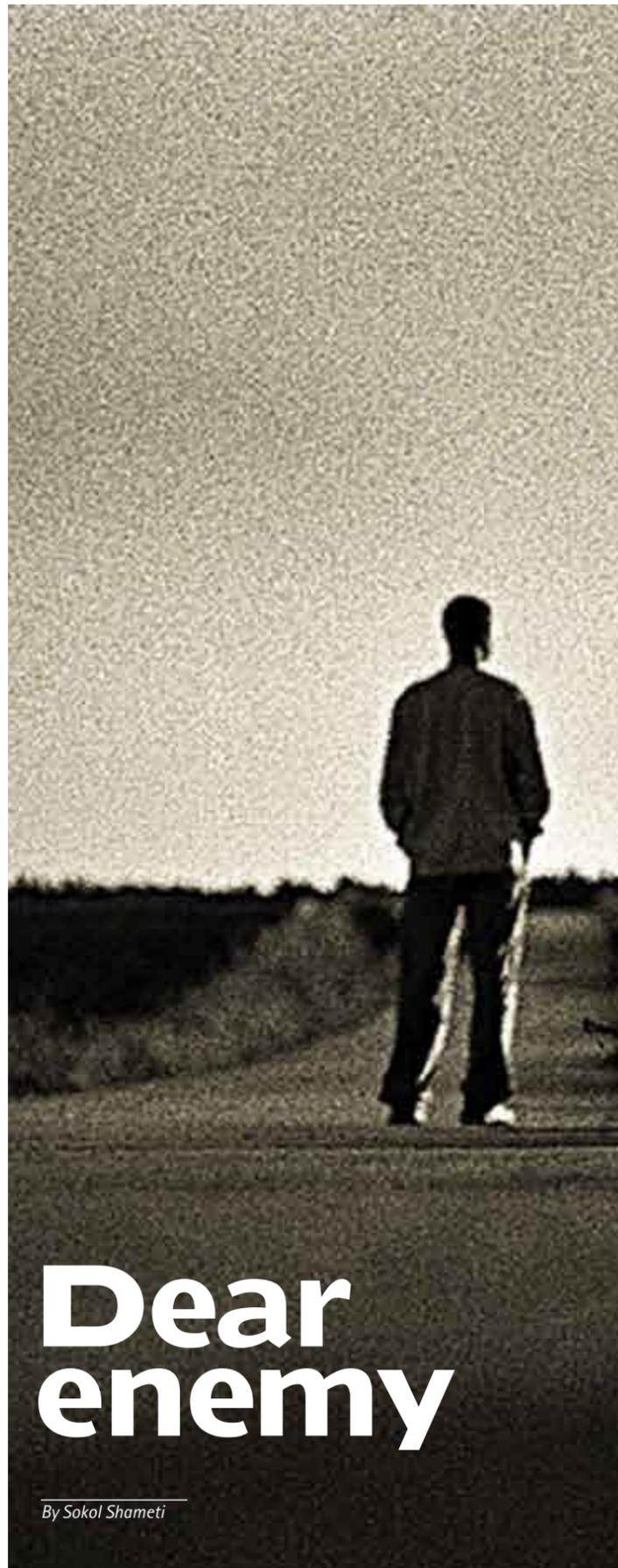
have decided to construct a non-commercial radio, which would represent the real voices of the civilians, considering and answering on social and political issues facing the Albania of today. Also, we have started working in establishing a site, whose structure would have research, analytical and devising capacities. "Mjaft Telegraph", is also another engagement of ours that we believe to be doing even better in the future.

Telegraph: If we translate the protest into challenges, then what would be the biggest challenge of Mjaft this year?

M.L: We continue to struggle in finding ways of how to bring back the much-deserved dignity of the Albanians, in every aspect.

Interview by Kristi Pinderi

marinelalika@mjaft.org



Dear enemy

By Sokol Shemeti

>>>These lines are for you. For you, as you waiting for the night to find the appropriate background of your thoughts. For you, as you are delighted by the depression of the others, by their pain, failure and misfortune. For you, as you could never know courage, altruism and solidarity.

We have a present for you today, for you who wishes our worst. We are your inspiration, the object of passion, a reason for your sleepless nights, for your nervously bitten nails and tons of liters of black ink, used in the printing-houses, faxes, printers and coffee cups. We landed at the coasts of your attention three years ago. We fooled the international donors, for them to finance our project, to ruin this country's sleep. We played drums, we painted our hands with the red of the blood, we scrawled walls, and corrupted media organizations. We devastated the NGOs of that time, who were shaking the world with their dynamism and their progressive ideas; we stole from them the projects, the people, and the plasma. We stepped on their honor, we drained their sources. We applied black magic, hypnosis, the sleep of the death. We burned shirts and symbols and danced the Indian dance of rain. We falsified the diplomas of our Western schools. We booked expensive apartments in the downtown with the money of the stolen projects. We populated with arrogance the hopes of the people giving the example: where there is good will, there is always a way out. We violently privatized the representation of the youth, building concentration camps, where we keep thousands of people locked down. We modeled based on our image entirely political organizations and initiatives, which, because of the poverty of ideas, decided to even borrow their name from us, shamelessly abandoning their tradition. In this way, many movements were born, the parasite "movement" Nano go, the Party: Socialist Movement for Integration, and the coalition: The Movement for National Development. Even this would be enough for you to understand the wide dimensions that we, as a virus or infection, took in this country. But we did not have enough of

it. We served to the yesterday opposition like paramilitary troops. We impeded the development of the country. We ruined the parties of the former and forgotten prime minister and we followed him everywhere, displaying in front of the entire world his dance with the wolves of Thessalonica. We invented virtual realities, where people lived a miserable life, whilst in this country the abundance and the wealth were blooming. We became prosecutors, with guns always on the alert. We expelled ministers and caused government crises. We then threatened the United Nations, and made them award us the prize of the Civil Society. We made pacts with the devil. It was our fault for the pre-elections polls to reflect precisely the Albanian political reality (the one where the Dushk system is not used, of course). All this, because deep inside we were communists. Bolsheviks. Red. Redheaded. Left. Left-handed. This justifies your assumption, that we might have made a conspiracy against the new government. Yes, and we are telling it today openly: we have truly made such conspiracy. We are sabotaging the indisputable success of the government. We are throwing mud, we are cursing, and we are discrediting the apparent over-fulfillment of their first year of the four-year plan. But we do this only during the official hours of work. We also have a timetable for satisfaction. For the most pervert satisfaction. We sleep with prostitutes. We get drunk in nightclubs, where fine dancers are described to have offered us some company. We throw used condoms in our offices' yard. We have orgies. We are homosexuals. We are always drunk. We are thieves. We are even murderers. We are the devil itself. So, this was our present to you. Oh, but wait a second: if all the things you think and talk about us, were true, would we have survived for three years? Nevertheless, our precious worst enemy: now that we, instead of you, said everything that your black imagination has invented, is inventing, and will still invent about us, how will you use your time after this?

shemeti@mjaft.org

"Guerrillas without guns"

Politics under pressure

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
1 October, 2005

The idea started in a café in Tirana, on December 2002, when some young Albanians, in their twenties, were sitting together. In many aspects they were the same as their fellow young Albanians, in other aspects they were different: they had seen much of the world. It is a movement made mostly of students, with clubs spread all around the country, who consider it their duty to draw the politicians out of their nests. Two and a half years after it was founded, according to international polls, the Albanian people believes more in MJAFT than in the political parties of the country. RIGHT HERE and RIGHT NOW has got more meaning than RIGHT THERE and TOMORROW. Presently you cannot talk of the monster, recalling the communists of yesterday, or the ottomans of more distant past. That is why MJAFT enjoys this name.

Albania has changed - What about Berisha?

Die Presse (Austria), 5 September, 2005

Since two years, the youth MJAFT! Movement has become popular as well. Its main aim is to fight the "civil apathy", says Endri Fuga, who, like most of the MJAFT! activists, has studied abroad. Two things have gone wrong in Albania, explains Fuga. The huge protests of 1996 and 1997 ended up in parliamentary elections. And: the political class in Albania has been until now untouchable. "We want to promote the spirit of resistance", says Fuga.

Albania Prepares to Vote Amid Accusations of Fraud and Intimidation

New York Times, 3 July, 2005

The main rivals in the race - Prime Minister Fatos Nano's Socialist Party and the Democratic Party, led by Sali Berisha - were running neck and neck, according to an opinion survey taken June 26. The poll, which was carried out by Gallup International on behalf

of Mjaft, an Albanian nongovernmental group that is campaigning to get people to vote, gave the Socialists 34 percent and the Democratic Party 35 percent; 1,400 potential voters were questioned and the margin of error was plus or minus 2.6 percentage points.

Guerrillas without guns

By Andrew Mueller, 05 June 2005

The Tirana Activism Festival was hosted by Albanian organization, called Mjaft! (it also means "Enough!"). It was an inspiring, if somewhat tiring, weekend - a schedule which plots drinking and dancing to last until 2am, and then conference sessions to start at 9am, is clearly the work of people under 30. What was most noticeable about the organized discussions, which were conducted in English, was how free they were of any doctrinaire nonsense or dogma. There was an extraordinary focus on practicalities - what works, what doesn't, and how tactics can be adapted to circumstances. At one session, discussing relationships with the media, a delegate from Ukraine's Pora emphasized, with bracing but faultless cynicism, the importance of manufacturing a constant stream of stories for press, both national and international. Ah, said someone from Azerbaijan's Yox, but this won't work if there's no local independent media and little interest from the outside world. He explained that Yox were planning to overcome this impediment by leaving piles of leaflets in high locations, and letting Baku's wind do the rest. The thought of a roomful of young folk in t-shirts discussing how best to overthrow Europe's last dictatorships would seem absurd, were it not for the fact that they've already done it three times which is certainly why there are many suggestions at large that Otpor, Kmara, Pora, and their kin, are agents, wittingly or otherwise, of foreign (specifically, American) intelligence. There are, I think, a couple of problems with the idea that these movements are exclusively an American plot. One is that it credits the American intelligence services with rather more imagination and organization than they've demonstrated in Iraq, for example. The other is that it's more than slightly racist, implicitly arguing that the wit, invention, determination and courage demonstrated by the members of these movements is beyond the simple-minded, cabbage-munching peasants

who inhabit the former communist empire. I find it difficult to recall ever seeing so many bright and brave people in one room (or bar, or nightclub). There were people at the festival who will become prime ministers and presidents. It's also more than likely, unfortunately, that there were people at the conference who will end up in prison - several delegates, indeed, were already able to swap tales of prison food - or worse.

"The party of the unsatisfied" shouts "MJAFT!"

By CATHERINE A. FITZPATRICK

Radio "Free Europe", 1st of March, 2004

There are indications that a youth movement, such as the ones in Georgia and in Serbia, is growing in Albania. This movement is trying to attract the public into the war for social causes, and meanwhile is keeping a distance from the discredited political parties. On January 10th, a speedboat loaded with Albanians who were attempting to illegally go to Italy drowned in the cold waters and wind of the area near Vlorë. After this tragedy, MJAFT organized the procession "20,000 candles" before the Prime Minister's office for three days, and encouraged people to write messages of sympathy for the victims. The fact that it has remained a movement of massive protests, which attempts change without being directly involved in politics, is in a way as result of donor pressure, but also a sign of disappointment with politics in Albania. "Koha Jonë" commented on 13th of February that "MJAFT has objectives that are different from those of the opposition." "MJAFT Movement has turned from a group of activists that aimed at shaking off the apathy of the plain Albanians, into a force that, although not institutionally, morally represents their interests." - emphasized this daily newspaper. When MJAFT protested on the 16th of January, after the tragedy of Vlorë, "the Albanians realized that there is a group of young people that go out to protest not to benefit in politics, but only because they are hurt when they see that their co-nationals, in order to escape extreme poverty, attempt to cross in the middle of winter, a sea that has taken so many lives until now." - commented Koha Jonë. So, MJAFT seems to present itself more as a group of the civil society than as a political opposition. The new style of this massive movement is the "music of a

'party' that is constantly growing during the last 13 years in Albania -- 'The Party of the Dissatisfied' commented the daily 'Korrieri' on the 18th of January. The newspaper described the many people who were crying while they were lighting candles for the people who drowned in the sea as the people who "screamed from the bottom of their souls 'Mjaft!' - Enough!"

THE INDEPENDENT for "MJAFT!"

By Andrew Mueller, 13th of July, 2003

The one Albanian word we see everywhere, on posters and stickers next to a print of a red hand, is "Mjaft!". "Mjaft!" is an emphatic Albanian variant of "Enough!". Mjaft! is also a consciousness-raising movement which is acquiring significant momentum. Since its launch earlier this year, the young activists of Mjaft! have campaigned against all Albania's chronic ills - corruption, organized crime, the traditional blood feuds which still condemn rural families to avenge slights against their ancestors with murderous violence, lack of infrastructure (for most Albanians, water and electricity are erratic). Mjaft's tactics are borrowed from the situationists of Paris 1968 via the Serbian student movement Otpor!, which played a significant role in bringing Milosevic down. In May, Mjaft! staged a bogus criminal street fair in Tirana, pretending to offer weapons, drugs and forged visas. They received several genuine enquiries. "Albania's real problem is apathy," says Erion Veliaj, Mjaft's Campaign Director. Veliaj, 23, was raised in Tirana, educated in America, and worked in more than 60 countries for various NGOs before coming home. We meet Erion and Mjaft's Arbjan Mazniku, 24, in the excellent French cafe downstairs from their office. Like all Albanians we meet, Erion is acutely aware of, and depressed by, his country's reputation. "The worst thing is that people here have started to believe it," he says. "They read foreign newspapers, they see reports on Italian TV, and they start to believe that we are all gangsters, and that we're all doomed." "Albania's problem," says Arbjan, "is that too many smart people are leaving. All my friends left after school, and I'm the only one who came back. To me, it was a choice between leading a comfortable, mediocre life in Canada or somewhere, and staying here and struggling for a future." "Besides which," adds Erion, "this is really good fun."



www.albanianfoto.com

only 10 months ago, after the first activities performed in Fier the nucleus of our club, composed of 100 activists who now know that change starts from themselves, has already been created.

We wish MJAFT lots of new ideas.

The Civic Club of Fier

For a life with more dignity

What is the force that helps us recover after a fall? What is the force that helps us fight again after a loss? What makes us search? What is it that makes us love? Really, what is the force that makes us "fight"? Is it instinct? Or is it the will that becomes reality?

MJAFT is the first movement that motivated the entire society to raise the voice against the many injustices being done to the citizens. This movement encouraged volunteering. A movement whose main scopes are: shake off civic apathy and increasing the public request for a more dignified life.

For this reason each of us needs to directly contribute in creating and saving the interests of the community where we live.

The Civic Club of Lezha



Fier deserves more

The worst problem of Fier's youth is indifference, which has reached limits. This city with more than eighty-thousand inhabitants deserves more! "MJAFT" has been the green light for our city. This movement has all the positive energy, and such energy is needed for the youth of Fier. Even though our first contact with MJAFT was



Against taboos

We, the Civic Club of Shkodra wish to send our most sincere congratulations to the MJAFT Movement on its third anniversary. These three years have been characterized by intensive work, where the civic movement has acknowledged a new development. MJAFT should be proud of the fight they performed on the taboo phenomena which nobody dared to deal with. But MJAFT's efforts had their costs as well, especially lately when we have seen efforts to pale their fight and to diminish this movement's values.

We need to work more on gathering healthy public opinion and creating decentralized development strategies for the country!

The Civic Club of Shkodra



Remaining young with the passing of years

A 3 year period may not seem

like a long time, but if these 3 years are characterized by lots of works, engagement, insistence, sacrifice, results and success, as it has occurred with the MJAFT Movement, they become quite a long period! While the years pass MJAFT is remaining young, fresh and still unreachable. We wish you success at work!

The Civic Club of Peshkopia



Albania should also be the country of those who left.

The MJAFT Movement is improving Albania's image. It's the youth of initiatives, full of energy and experience, helping our democracy breathe. During these 3 years of MJAFT activity we notice something different in civic reactions towards wrong government politics.

Besides professionalism in different fields, the members of MJAFT are characterized by a strong "love for the nation" feeling, with the hope that Albania will also be the country of those who left. Our nation deserves the return of its lost dignity.

Despite the geographical location and the oblivion from our 4 years old politicians, it was possible for Kukes to become part of the MJAFT Movement. This is why we thank MJAFT for never hesitating to come to our city, which has been forgotten by politicians. We will continue to be led by MJAFT's civic feeling for as long as we will find in it the reflection of the population's interests, without any political influence.

The Civic Club of Kukes



We are expanding

The Civic Club of the MJAFT Movement in Korça has been created on April 20, 2004.

Since its creation this club has been engaged in actions, protests and public debates the main scope of which has been raising the civic voice against the different problems the city of Korça faces. Our club has a continuous collaboration with other NPO-s and intellectuals, who have helped us throughout our activities.

Today we are expanding and still trying to be a change factor for our city.

Let's all dare for a better reality.

The Civic Club of Korca



We are not far away

Maybe we are physically far away from Tirana, but we feel very close to all of you, who think this country deserves more. We feel close to those who think that, by raising the voice and not keeping quiet towards the injustices, we can change Albania. We also feel close to those who think that our image in the world must change; also to those who think that we have true values that must represent us. That is why, through the MJAFT! Movement, we feel so close to you...

The Civic Club of Gjirokastra



The MJAFT Yeast

>> It was that spring day of three years ago, when the red-painted hands of a big group of young people imprinted on a huge fabric in front of the Center of Culture (the pyramid in Tirana) the symbol of MJAFT, Albania entered a new era: the era of re-dimensioning the values of the community. Mjaft was able to shake the civic apathy. The MJAFT enthusiasm gave to the Albanian citizenship this force of transformation. Until then the citizens only followed the political leaders of the two political poles, and their energies channeled in transformation of powers of a political class that generated disappointments for the citizenship.

Mjaft was present, in some way, wherever there were concerns, always creative and credible. How can I keep from mentioning that in three civic-environmentalists movements, the greatest

ever organized in Albania, such as the one against the GMO-s (Genetically Modified Organisms) in the Albanian market, against the import of the urban garbage from Italy as well as in the huge civic movement for the protection of the Vlorë Bay, Mjaft has its mark, sometimes with direct action, sometimes with their support.

But our dough still needs the 'Mjaft Yeast' to be transformed in the long-awaited bread.

Lavdosha Ferruni

Association of the Organic Agriculture



*Naught, yet enough had I
when but a youth,*

*Joy in illusion, yearning
toward the truth.*

*Give impulse its unfettered
dower,*

*The bliss so deep 'tis full of
pain,*

*The strength of hate, Love's
mighty power,*

*Oh, give me back my youth
again!*

GOETHE

MJAFT, a reality that should be supported

"Mjaft" is now a reality that should not only be greeted, but above all, it should be supported. It should be supported by all those who share the same desire with this group of young boys and girls, exactly the desire to see this country changed, to make this country civilized and European. After all, I think that the existence of such movement is one of those things that – even among a thousand of

reasons to be desperate and frustrated, that our reality produces uncontrollably – make you believe that in the not-so-distant future Albania will be part of the western and European civilization. So I hope you will keep on struggling with the same enthusiasm, motivation and imagination, as you have done until today.

Piro Misha

The youth of ideas

MJAFT, not only a young movement, but also a movement that rejuvenated the civil society. To reach their goal, the members of MJAFT got out of the halls of seminars and conferences, and entered in the middle of the society, being often among them and each time in different ways, with ideas, rhythm, and youthful energy. In two years, they

became a continuous watchdog, and pretty effective towards wrong policies and actions of the governments and politicians. I wish that through time, through the aging of the organization and its members, they will preserve the youth of their ideas and actions.

Xhemal Mato
EkoMovement

MJAFT! London Club's first activity

**Londër
Nga Muhamed Veliu**

Initiated by MJAFT! London Club, and by Mr. Kastriot Robo, Ambassador of the Albanian Republic in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a meeting of the Albanian students in Great Britain took place in London. Students from Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia were present in this meeting. "The Albanian Embassy supported one of the main objectives of the MJAFT Movement London club; improving the image of Albania and Albanians in the UK" declared for "MJAFT! Telegraph" Ralf Gjoni, coordinator of the MJAFT Movement London Club. Greeting all those present in this evening, the ambassador

Kastriot Robo declared, "Activities with young students make me proud". He considered studying in the UK "as a great privilege" and "a challenge at the same time". "It is a privilege since you are able to follow your studies in a country, where the knowledge levels are on their highest peaks world wide, an opportunity which is a dream for many young people all over the world", said the ambassador.

While Ela Hoxha, cofounder of this club declared that "The Nature of this activity, initiated by the MJAFT Movement, shows that this movement is not just an opposing organization, but it also fights to promote coalitions and alliances, which increase the impact of politics". Orsida Gjebrea, in charge of public relations,



From right to left Ralf Gjoni, Ela Hoxha, Ambasadori Kastriot Robo, Orsida Gjebrea, Alban Bytyqi

emphasized the necessity of cooperation with other student organizations in the UK. "The MJAFT Movement London Club wants to cooperate with all the organizations (ASA, LSE Alb Society, the Student Awakening in Oxford, the

Academic Network, etc.) and the diplomatic authorities to improve the Albanians' image in the UK", declared Gjebrea. Alban Bytyqi, member of the club, declared: "We are not expressing political preferences since we are representatives of the Civic Society; this is why we are ready to collaborate with anyone, to serve Albanians wherever they are". MJAFT! London Club expressed its gratitude to the support of the Ambassador Robo and the other employees of the Albanian Embassy in London for organizing this meeting with the students. The owner of the "KOHA" Bar in London, Mr. Fadil Maqedonsi, also supported the Club.

ralfgjoni@mjaft.org

Greeting all those present in this evening, the ambassador Kastriot Robo declared, "Activities with young students make me proud".



Marrë nga www.sarukoem.com

ALBANIANS

need to laugh



Marrë nga www.buncalledgabe.tripod.com

By **Rubin Beqo**

>>> Albanians might not agree with me, but let me articulate the context of my expression in the specific case. The Albanian people can be entertained in different ways, they can laugh with plain jokes, they can laugh of embarrassment or of need, but their soul is not laughing.

We are one of the freshest victims of the Capitalism stress, where the notion of consumption has not spared the feelings. This happens because the feelings have been transformed as a consequence of the market. Our feelings today are conditioned by the way the economy is doing. When the economy is doing well, we feel happy because we can consume more. When it is down, we feel desperate because we cannot

consume as much as we would like to.

This samsara, this vicious circle of life created by materialistic needs, dominates the life of most Albanians, whose soul does not laugh for it is poor. The soul, our most sensitive, conscious and unconscious part, as any other aspect of life, requires care because the soul of everybody is unique and we cannot know what it can be able to do if it is not constantly fed and enriched. It's true that we are a nation characterized by the ego; however we cannot differentiate individualism among us, there is no creativity or experimentation among us, where the first cannot be perceived without the second. Our skepticism towards experimentation is one of the main barriers in the path of many Albanians to discover and

And when you find something better from what's common, do not hesitate showing it to others, to reflect and talk about your discovery, without thinking of who wrote, painted or sang it, but understanding how valuable this is for the inner beauty. Only then, you will be able to search for new, unconsumed, different things.

improve themselves. We are used to finding humor only in comics, but that's not how it all happens with the soul!

A people like ours, with such complex problems, cannot change immediately, simultaneously, but we have decided to make a call on the young generation, we risk to never know what it means to really laugh. The healing of the soul in this case, for those who think they need it, as it has happened in many capitalist countries, comes enriching the culture. And it would have been appropriate to explain what I call culture, or better say what I don't call culture. I do not call culture television shows, songs or copied images, artists singing on play-back, songs the only theme of which is sex, treated with total mediocrity, movies

shown more than 20 times per month, and everything else that takes no thoughts and is as easy to consume as a Coke.

My call is to search, not to become prey of the selling process, to respect your soul and not make it an object from which others can take advantage of, just search, there is a lot to find. And when you find something better from what's common, do not hesitate in showing it to others, to reflect and talk about your discovery, without thinking of who wrote, painted or sang it, but understanding how valuable this is for inner beauty. Only then you will be able to search for new, unconsumed, different stuff.

rubinbeqo@sanx.net ■

OUTSIDE TELEGRAF





Erion VELIAJ
(Executive director)

I remember when we were invited to testify in the American Congress

two years ago. Arbi Mazniku and I were in Maryland, near Washington, and together with Eduard Zaloshnja, Eduard Selami and Martin Vulaj of the Albanian-American Council, we were revising all the issues that MJAFT had raised and our concerns about the 2005 elections. The other day we had to meet some of the people we had read about so much in the university, so we wrote and re-wrote several times that speech. We stayed sleepless all night, and before going to sleep for only two or three hours, I remembered a present that Ed Selami had brought to me in the evening. It was a tie, light blue, very elegant, a friendly kindness of Selami, but, oh my God: we had forgotten to take a suit! Together with Arbi and Martin we spend two hours to find an open store. We found only one size 52, my size, and fortunately a nice color. We thought we made it, but we noticed that the suit needed to be ironed and the pants needed to be sewed at the bottom. In a supermarket, one hour away, we found thread, needle and an iron that we used only once. 7 o'clock in the morning, our eyes were red and we were laughing. We had some coffee and at 9 o'clock we were at the congress's stairs. "Good morning", I said to the congressmen, "I am happy to be here" (because there was a chance I wouldn't be here at all, or come dressed in shorter pants, I was thinking).



Arbjan MAZNIKU
(Policy Department)

I remember when we were all together

with all the journalists in front of the Ministry of Interior Affairs. At the end of the first protest, asking the former Minister Luan Rama to resign, we gathered to fix a time to assemble for a protest again, on the next day. But exactly in that moment, we learned that the former prime minister Fatos Nano, had just requested the resignation of Mr. Rama...



Endri FUGA
(Media and Communication Department)

I remember the March 15, 2003. We were only a few people,

in the first official day of MJAFT. We had to think about everything: receive guests, be journalists, give interviews at the same time, carry and transport everything, and of course, think about the upcoming day. We had however a moment of joy and relax. It was the moment we entered the office and greeted Megi, the white dog that everyone loved. But one of those days, Megi left the office and never came back. Some people told us that they had seen a "white thing, like a bunny" that ran through the bushes without stopping...



Besjan PESHA
(Department of Direct Action)

The protest of the January 16, after the tragedy of January 9th,

has been one of the most beautiful moments I have experienced with the MJAFT Movement. I felt so thrilled when I saw a big square filled with simple citizens, who were there not to cheer a political party, but to support a civic movement. We were all young and had no experience in massive protests, but 6000 citizens allowed us in that square to talk to them, to lead them. And they decided to follow us. The moment I was talking to all from the podium, and I was looking at the eyes of the people, filled with tears and desire for hope, gave me a lot of positive energy to continue my work at MJAFT with passion. On the other side, the goodwill of those people that day filled me with responsibilities, which I had not fully felt before.



Sokol SHAMETI
(Media and Communication Department)

I cannot mention a distinct moment. MJAFT and the time I

spent there, is a long and continuous nostalgic moment, which most probably is still continuing at this instant...



Leart KOLA
(Department of Direct Action)

The most interesting part of MJAFT has been and is the caravan! It feels

so nice to see support and you feel that people follow you even outside Tirana. The debates with the candidates, the possibility that the people had for the first time to publicly ask their candidates, made me proud; it was the pride of the transporter of this possibility and this culture, in a country where the politicians were present only once in four years, with the protective cloak of their party.



Anisa KALTANJI
(MJAFT Foundation)

The last night of the "Rock the Vote" caravan in Elbasan was very special to

me, where the thanks for the staff and the guests were communicated through applause, alternated with clashes of forks in the glasses and tables! Some kind of a tune was created, and it was fantastic, it thrilled us all. This was the end of the 10 tiring days of the caravan, from the north to the south.



Bojken ABAZI
(The project "Udha e shkronjave")

I remember very well the protest for the resignation of Mr. Luan Rama,

from his position of Minister of Inner Affairs!



Blerina GUGA
(Media and Communication Department)

I have been present since the first moments,

when the idea of MJAFT was born. I find it difficult to choose a specific memory through these years. I have seen MJAFT as a young actor in the Albanian civil life, an actor that promises a lot...

I REMEMBER THAT...

For your curiosity, but mostly to understand the dynamics with which the leaders of MJAFT have worked during these 3 years, we asked them one by one, what was the first memory of MJAFT that came to their mind.

We understood from their answers, besides the dynamics, something that we had missed

initially, or that we did not think it would be so apparent. We understood that besides being leaders or members of MJAFT, they are young. Therefore the answers were not formal, not exaggerated with passion, neither diplomatic. Their answers were mostly human...



Elsi RIZVANOLLI
(Media and Communication Department)

There are a lot of unforgettable

memories related to MJAFT Movement, but what impressed me the most, even though not being the most successful campaign of MJAFT, was the first campaign I got involved in: by the end of year 2004, the budget of the state for 2005 was being compiled and the budget line for the education was lower compared to the previous year. Even though all the politicians claimed education to be their priority, in reality they were not giving it the necessary importance, on the contrary. The MJAFT Movement initiated Campaign "A" – education a priority. Public debates were organized, articles were written, grotesque protests were organized in front of the Albanian parliament, a petition was signed, etc. At last, the budget line for the Education was raised. I was witness of the motto: Change is attainable! I realized that I was in the right place.



Erida MUKA
(Media and Communication Department)

I remember when a group of young people came from Tirana

to Gjirokastra to organize a protest for the improvement of the conditions in the dormitories of the Industrial

Middle School of the city. That was the first protest organized in Gjirokastra. The protest during a meeting that Mr. Memushi (former Minister of Education) had with some teachers was an achievement for the civic club of Gjirokastra, for the Ministry of Education granted a fund for the reconstruction of the dormitory.



Marinela LIKA
(Projects Coordinator)

I remember the 14th of March, 2004! During that day we organized a "MJAFT"

parade. We had a truck covered with a red cloth, just like the vehicles used during the 1st of May parades during the dictatorship. One side of the truck was "embellished" with the caricature of Mr. Berisha, with the slogan "Long Live the Democratic Party". On the other side we put the caricature of Mr. Nano, where the slogan "Long Live the Socialist Party" was visible. We wanted to convey a clear message against partisan fans and the division of citizens according to their fanatic affiliation in political parties! But you should have seen what happened during the parade, people on one side called us "berishians", and people on the other side called us "socialists"...



Sagita MUÇO
(Policy Department)

I remember the exciting moments during

the "Tirana Activism Festival", when youth activist groups from Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Serbia, Kosova, Macedonia, Croatia, Russia and Albania signed the "Pact of Kruja" at the castle of our national hero, Scanderbeg. We made a commitment to support each-other in our attempts to protect democracy and freedom



Jona REPISHTI
(MJAFT Foundation)

I remember the journey to the United States, where we went to

get the support of the Albanians living there. It was impressing to see that they all agreed with us: Albania should change...



Ornela HAMITAJ
(Information Office)

I remember many things, but also a constant overload of work.

They say that I am harsh, but believe me when I say that in a job like this you meet people of three categories: people with whom I feel very comfortable, and I can collaborate with no problems", people with whom I am a bit harsh otherwise they will walk on me, and people who are "neutral"! The best surprise ever was when the whole staff made to me for my 26th birthday. It was one of the best. Unforgettable!!



Ujvara ELEZAJ
(Department of Media and Communication)

I don't know whether I was prepared to

remember with nostalgia the moments I have spent at MJAFT. I was not prepared to be part of this Movement. I was not prepared to spent with it very special days at the beach, desperately looking for a place to sleep. I was not prepared to have so many friends around me, and never feel left aside. It would take a lot of efforts to remember a distinct memory, I wouldn't like the unmentioned memories seem less important.



Andi KANANAJ
(Department of Direct Action)

The most beautiful moment to me, was when we "challenged"

the fence of the Prime Minister's office, writing graffiti, expressing the fear and the irresponsibility of ex prime minister Nano. The adrenaline was high, because there were rumors in the media that the Republican Guard was ordered to shoot whomever got close to the fence. What makes me never forget that moment is the temperature during that night – it was 5 Celsius degrees...



Vinçenco KAÇORRI
(Department of Logistics)

I remember with great content the loaded days of

protests or trainings, or even the daily meetings in the office, talking about everyday things. And the latter include politics, music, and, why not, even personal things. Being part of a group, a community that attempted to break mentalities and barriers to see beyond, took some space from me and the others. And this constitutes contentment. Our dream took shape during every minute of its life, and we grew up with it! Being part of "Mjajt" means never being alone, and always have somebody by your side to give you a hand! It is a challenge toward the future, this is what I always keep in mind..



Dorian VELIU
(Department of Logistics)

I remember all the best moments at MJAFT. Don't ask me which:

they are so many! But above all, I remember the responsibility which everyone of us, including me, applied to deal with things. Surprisingly, it has been a nice confrontation...



Besmir GJOKUTAJ
(Department of Media and Communication)

Although at the time I wasn't

involved with Mjajt, the activity that impressed me the most was the SHAME campaign. Living outside Albania, I have seen it from the distance, and to me it has been the activity that really represents the full power of the Mjajt Movement.



Borana LUSHAJ
(Assistant of the Executive Director)

The most memorable moment that I remember is

15th of March 2003, when along with Arbi Mazniku, Marinela Lika and Endri, I believe, I don't remember very well, but those who know surely remember... we were looking outside the windows of the old office of the National Debate Association, and we were waiting for the first billboard with the logo of Mjajt to get lighted, and it was on the roof of the Opera House... That was late in the evening, when it got dark... I thought it was a historical moment!



Kristi PINDERI
(Department of Media and Communication)

I remember 3 years ago, a friend of mine, a journalist,

had just interviewed MJAFT leaders. It was 15th of March, 2003. She seemed enthusiastic about everything she had heard of the awareness-raising campaign. But at the time, both of us could not articulate the main objective of MJAFT: Albania must change. I could deduce by myself the logical articulation of the meaning of "Albania must change", until one day I found myself amidst the staff of this movement. I had noticed my ex-directors in various editorial offices, at first commenting on MJAFT saying that they're not at the height of the situation, and later got high on declaring to the journalists to take a look at the MJAFT people because some of them can write better than them. But, I will surely remember when at the time I was editing this issue, including what you're reading right now, I found myself among incredible young people...





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IN HISTORY

Years

3

Shqiptar, mos
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MJAFT

History through photos >>

