



FLETA DERA E KAPIDANIT



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THE KULLA IS OFF LIMITS!



The interference of government entities and their assumption that because a private property was deemed a 'cultural monument' during the regime has to stop!

Let's look at the facts. My family home in Shkoder, known in Albania as the Kulla Markagjoni, was sequestered by the communists in 1945 by decree Nr. 39 dated 25 January, 1945. The family was taken prisoner and sent to jail and concentration camps for the next 46 years! In 1977, under the communist regime, the 'kulla' or 'tower', a section of the house, was declared a 'cultural monument'. I guess this was another mad scheme by a vicious dictator to put his stamp on a property which belonged to the 'enemy of the people'. In 1991, when the regime fell and the country became 'democratic', my family was released from their camps and reunited in Shkoder. The house was reclaimed legally and the process of reconciliation with the past was beginning.

However...the condition the house was found in was abhorrent. The interior was all but destroyed. Rats, the size of a cats, were running rampant. Only a few of the original 25 rooms were safe to live in. The bathroom and kitchen were all destroyed. Before the fall of communism, as a last good faith step, the perpetrators tore down the walls, destroyed floors and basically gutted the house. Nevertheless, my uncle, aunts and cousins happily moved in and began their life again.

Moving forward to 2019. The house is still only partially restored, livable but as with all homes over 200 years old there are many things that require maintenance. Between 2009-2012 the Ministry of Culture finagled their way in the house under the pretext of wanting to restore a 'cultural monument'. Only half the money budgeted was actually spent on the restoration, and a shoddy one at that. The 'tower', the 'cultural monument', was never completed. As of now it is in desperate need of repairs and unsafe.

Seven years after the completion of the 'restoration' and the lower rooms adjacent to the tower have sinking floors, walls which are cracking and the rest, as the say, is history.



Condition of house in 1991



www.gjonmarkagjoni.com

APOLOGIES, RESTITUTION, COMPENSATION. BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS!

In response to the government's frequent requests to use or look at the house under the pretext of it being a 'cultural monument', this is my reply:

- The Albanian government needs to publicly apologize to **ALL** the persecuted families for crimes committed against them during the Regime.
- Restitution of **ALL** our properties confiscated in these locations: *Qafe Molle, Orosh, Lac VauDejes, Balldren, Nderfushe, Zadrime, Kallmet, Kakarriq, Barbulloje and Hajmel.*
- Compensation to the families who suffered for over 40 years in concentration camps under orders of the regime. Compensation which, in over 28 years, has yet to be given to **ANYONE** for what they suffered in internment camps.

The so called restoration done on the house by the government was supposed to be part of **reparations** for the theft and destruction of the property and not something to do with it being a cultural monument.

Restitution of properties has been delayed by the government in the hope that those without heirs will die before they have to recognize their hardships and confiscation of land. The same goes for the compensation promised to those who spent a lifetime in concentration camps.

The family Markagjoni **does not recognize any claim by the government that the house in Shkoder is a 'cultural monument'**, as that declaration was made by the communist dictator who stole the property, and as such it is not a legal declaration. A declaration made by the communist dictator, Enver Hoxha, who has yet to be stripped of his royal status and recognized by the present government as the mastermind behind the murder of up to 10 percent of the Albanian population during his regime.

Until such time as the items above are recognized, compensation administered and lands returned based on the constitutional right of all Albanians under Article 41 of the Constitution **"the right of private property is guaranteed"**, our properties remain off limits to any government intrusions.

The government **owes us** many things: apologies, compensation, property restitution and a place in the history books of Albania. Until such time as these things are acknowledged our properties and especially our family home in Skoder, remains off limits to any government intrusion!

This is private property and it will stay as such. We don't owe you anything! We have paid enough with our blood. It is time for the government to step up, be accountable and do what is legally, constitutionally and morally right!

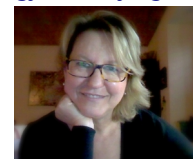
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Property today after many hours of dedication and labor.

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