

ARTISTIC INSTALLATION

Communist crimes, for quite a long time now, roughly 28 years of democratic ruling, were left out of the public attention and any reflecting approach.

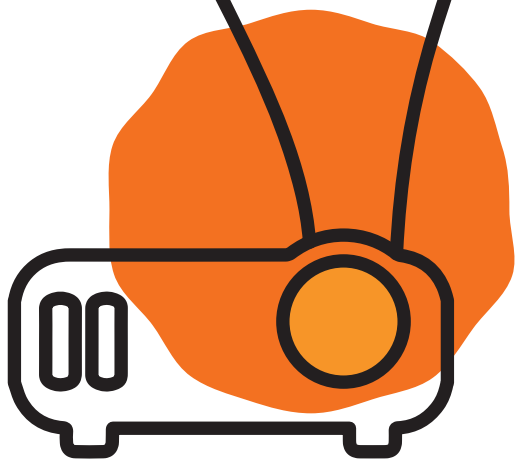
EVEN | WALLS
HAVE | EARS

Issue

Lack of social interest and-sometimes-refusal to accept the bitter truth of communist crimes is a real concern to Albania. This apathetic attitude may influence future generations. It is necessary to find the most efficient tools to transmit the stories of violence and terror of the dictatorship of proletariat state and survival of communist crimes victims.

Role of the Authority

The Authority has undertaken a large-scale awareness campaign on communism crimes and to encourage dialog with universities, academics, local communities, communist dictatorship crimes survivors and their family members, media and the broader public.



Milestones

- The installation “Even walls have ears” was projected simultaneously, throughout the night until dawn, in the main squares of six cities Tirana, Shkodra, Berat, Korça, Tepelena, and Gjirokastra on the 8th of May 2018, on Europe Day.
- The installation designed by multiple prominent artists and communication experts is a multi-dimensional work commemorating the collective memory for those who got imprisoned and lost their liberty or their own lives in communist dictatorship prisons and camps. Expressions or quotes describing the human tragedy caused by communist crimes were excerpted from inmates or internees’ manuscripts, documents, or personal archives and selected from survivors’ oral testimonies. Expressions once forbidden were displayed in giant projection screens in the main facades of cities till dawn, thus re-affirming European values, which were also the vision of narrators.
- The project aimed at informing and inviting youth, communities and the wider public to reflect through art on the heritage of communist past.
- Communication means with the wider public in and out of country were reproduced via website “Even walls have ears - <http://evenwallshaveears.org/>”, which enables, among others a database ongoing enrichment with testimonies added to the Authority archive.
- Oral testimonies were filmed in a documentary, so that people can follow the journey of such an artistic product, recognize the faces and listen to the stories of Albanians who dignifiedly stood up against the totalitarian rule.
- Establishment of dialog with youth, students and academic staff to tackle the meaning of the communist past in Albania was achieved through open days in three universities in Shkodra, Durrës and Korça. Such open days were attended by approximately 300 students, lecturers, communist regime survivors and their family members.



Installation in Tepelena



Installation in Tirana



Installation in Shkodra

Future work

- Using arts and a variety of communication means- including social networks- to inform, raise the awareness, and to further the dialog with youth, stakeholders, media and the wider public on historical transparency.
- Delivering open lectures on this topic in public and non-public Albanian universities.
- Incorporating in teaching programs at different pre-university education levels one or several classes tackling the topic of the communist past, including forced labor.



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