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THE ARCHIVAL FONDS IN ASHAK "ASSOCIATION THE LEAGUE OF PRIZREN IN EXILE - NEW YORK, 1962-2012": MANAGEMENT, CONTENT AND HISTORY

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Abstract:

This paper aims to elaborate the management and the content of the archival fonds The League of Prizren in Exile Association - New York, 1962-2012, held by the State Agency of Kosovo Archives (Agjencia Shtetërore e Arkivave të Kosovës - ASHAK) and the historical and political circumstances in which this fonds was created. What exactly does this voluminous fonds contain; how it is currently regulated; based on which law, regulations and international standards the documents are managed in ASHAK, are the issues examined in this article. The paper also aims to emphasize this fonds' relevance for the scholars of different disciplines of history, as its detailed research will shed light on certain aspects which need a further scientific examination.

Keywords:

Association The League of Prizren in Exile, New York, archival fonds management, fonds content

Izvleček:

Arhivski fond »Združenje Prizrenska liga v izgnanstvu, s sedežem v New Yorku, 1962–2012« – vsebina, historiat in strokovna obdelava v Državni agenciji za arhive Kosova

Avtorja obravnavata ureditev in vsebino arhivskega fonda Združenje Prizrenska liga v izgnanstvu, s sedežem v New Yorku, 1962–2012, ki ga hrani Državna agencija za arhive na Kosovu, ter zgodovinske in politične okoliščine, v katerih je ta fond nastal. Članek podaja raziskavo o vsebini tega obsežnega fonda, njegovi trenutni ureditvi, zakonodaji in mednarodnih standardih, na katerih temelji upravljanje z dokumenti. Prav tako je poudarjena pomembnost fonda za raziskovalce različnih zgodovinskih področij, saj bo podrobno znanstvenoraziskovalno delo na fondu osvetlilo posamezne vidike zgodovine, ki zahtevajo nadaljnje raziskave.

Ključne besede:

Združenje Prizrenska liga v izgnanstvu, New York, ureditev arhivskega fonda, vsebina

1 Introduction

The Albanian League of Prizren (1878-1881) was the pan-Albanian political and military organization established on June 10, 1878, on the eve of the beginning of the Berlin Congress. The initial purpose of the organization was the unification of Albanian territories into a single vilayet and the opposition to the partition of Albanian territories among neighboring countries. Although this organization was extinguished by the Ottoman Empire, its objectives remained alive among the Albanian people. It is considered the beginning of the Albanian people's struggle for self-determination and independence (Akademia e Shkencave dhe e Arteve e Kosovës, 2018, pp. 975-977; Elsie, 2004, p. 111).

In the circumstances of the Second World War, in September 1943, when Italy had already capitulated and Germany's policy towards Albania was still unclear, *The Second League of Prizren* (1943-1944) was established, as a political and military organization in Kosovo, which aimed for the protection and unification of all the Albanian territories into one state. Its appeal was to Albanian nationalism and to anti-Communism. It conducted military and political actions until the end of 1944 when its forces were crushed by the partisan forces. Its leaders, who remained in Kosovo, were terrorized by the new communist regime, whereas the ones who managed to leave the country, could pursue their political activities abroad (Malcolm, 1998, pp. 305-306; Akademia e Shkencave dhe e Arteve e Kosovës, 2018, pp. 972-9773; Akademia e Shkencave e Shqipërisë, 2008, pp. 1508-1509).

After the Second World War, Kosovo and other ethnic Albanian territories that had hoped for unification and inclusion in Albania, remained again within Yugoslavia, oppressed and marginalized under the communist regime. Kosovo was dominated by the Serbs and Montenegrins in the entire state apparatus, while the Albanian population possessed "a second-class position" there (Malcolm, 1998, pp. 314).

In 1962, a part of the Albanian diaspora, mainly from Kosovo, founded the association *The League of Prizren in Exile* in New York, which was considered by its founders as a continuation of the two aforementioned organizations. From its establishment in 1962, it has formed four branches in USA, 2 branches in Canada and one branch in each of the following states: Belgium, Germany, Australia, France and Turkey. The main goal of its magazine "The League of Prizren" ("Lidhja e Prizrenit") was the appeal for the liberation of the Albanian territories that had remained outside the political borders of Albania, and their union with Albania. In the wake of association's many activities, the continuous correspondence and demonstrations stand out, especially during the period 1979-2008, against the oppression that was being done to the Albanian people in Kosovo and in other countries in the former Yugoslavia, sensitizing the American and European governments, UN and other organisations on the violation of basic human rights against the Albanian people outside the state of Albania (Akademia e Shkencave dhe e Arteve e Kosovës, 2018, pp. 973-974; cfr. Mrijaj & Kapinova, 2002, pp. 29-31). In its statute, the organization had emphasized that it had a Kosovar character and did not interfere in the internal politics of Albania, but it would be ready to help overthrow the communist regime there (ASHAK, Nr. 676. Statute: Statuti i Organizatës "Lidhja e Prizrenit.").

In the State Agency of Kosovo Archives (ASHAK) one voluminous fonds of this association is stored with documentation from all their work and activities.

The first part of this article provides a general overview of the association's 50-year activity, and the contribution it offered to the Albanian national cause. The second part

provides information on how this archival fonds has been managed since its arrival at ASHAK; on which law and which regulations and international standards is this institution based on for the management of archival materials. The third part elaborates the content of this fonds, showing in details what documentation researchers can rely on to deal with many issues related to this period. The last part will address the relevance of this fonds for further historical studies.

2 Research Methods

As indicated in the article title, the research question in the article is how the fonds Association The League of Prizren in Exile – New York, 1962-2012 is managed in ASHAK, what is its content, what is the history of this fonds as well as its relevance for historical studies. To address these issues the research of this archival fonds, of the law and regulations related to the management of archival records and of the literature related to this question was conducted.

Initially, a research of the relevant literature regarding the historical background of this association was conducted. This literature review served to present the historical and political circumstances during the existence of this association, for which the method of synthesis was applied.

The next research was conducted in the ASHAK, in the Central Archives, where the fonds is stored. This qualitative research included the detailed systematic analysis of the fonds' content, as it is stored in many boxes. Notes were taken systematically on the content of the researched records. In addition, notes were taken on how to reference the records of the fonds in the article, so that it can serve as a guide for researchers in the future, since, as mentioned, the fonds is voluminous. As there was no chronological order of records within boxes, and the records were versatile (including unpublished and published documents, newspapers, photos, cassette tapes etc.), a careful selection of items was necessary. The documents, which were most important to be included in the article were selected and photographed. In particular, unpublished letters and correspondence of association members with international political personalities and organizations were photographed. Afterwards, the comparative method was used in order to compare historiographical data with the data found and collected during the fonds research.

The analyses of the collected data served to provide information regarding the history and activities of the association and the content of the fonds. A report on the official visit in USA of the representatives of the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Kosovo and the representatives of ASHAK was also provided by ASHAK. This was an important document to collect data regarding the history of the fonds, particularly its transfer from the fonds creator to the Central Archives in 2014.

After the detailed analysis of the collected data in the archive the question regarding the relevance of this fonds for various disciplines of history was also addressed. This analysis brought to the conclusion that the further research and study of the fonds can bring many innovations on the history of the political, social and cultural developments in Kosovo during the second half of the 20th century and on the history of Albanian associations in exile.

3 Association *The League of Prizren in Exile*: 50 years of activity for the Albanian national cause

The League of Prizren in Exile association manifested its objectives for the liberation of Albanian territories from Yugoslavia and communism throughout its activity and existence with numerous and various activities, including direct lobbying and correspondence addressed to the most important international personalities and institutions, organization of conferences, various publications and financial assistance. Since the establishment, and in particular at the moments of historical turning points in Kosovo and in other Albanian territories in Yugoslavia, their commitment was always present. Their anti-communist tendencies made it easier for them to lobby against communist Yugoslavia to Western countries.

Among the many telegrams and letters that the association had sent to institutions and political personalities, we will mention only a few below. In 1964, this association sent a memorandum to the United Nations with a request to give the people of Kosovo the right to self-determination and independence of their country (ASHAK, Nr. 676, Memorandum Kombeve të Bashkueme me Seli në New York City).

Documents of this fonds indicate the significant commitment of the association, especially in the years 1968 and 1981, the years of the great Albanian demonstrations (initiated by Albanian students in Kosovo) with the request for the "constitution of Kosovo as a republic with equal rights to other republics of the former Yugoslavia" (Akademia e Shkencave dhe e Arteve e Kosovës, 2011, p. 272). At the beginning of 1969, the Secretary General of The League of Prizren in Exile sent a telegram to the Secretary General of the United Nations with the request for intervention to respect human rights for the Albanian population in Yugoslavia. He notified about the brutal behavior and repressive measures taken against the Albanian population in Kosovo and Macedonia during the 1968 demonstrations (ASHAK, Nr. 676, Ismet Berisha to H. E. U. Thant, January 6, 1969).

On April 4, 1981, the association sent a telegram to the Vatican, the American President, Amnesty International, United Nations Organization, United Nations - Division of Human Rights, protesting against the repression and violence that was being exercised against the Albanian population in Kosovo, a situation that the foreign press, had written about. The request of The League of Prizren in Exile to these institutions was the investigation of the events of 1981 in Kosovo and the fulfillment of the aspirations of the Albanian people in Kosovo, which was the status of the Republic (ASHAK, Nr. 676, Ismet Berisha to S. S. Giovanni Paolo II, April 4, 1981¹). On April 20, 1981, The League of Prizren in Exile addressed telegrams to Western governments, the USA, West Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy and to Japan, notifying them about the situation in which the Albanian population was in communist Yugoslavia. The association called on these governments to open their consulates in Pristina, Kosovo, and to take immediate measures for peace in Kosovo and the Balkans in general (ASHAK, Nr. 676, Ismet Berisha to Hans Dietrich Genscher, April 20, 1981²). The association also addressed telegrams to international institutions against the Milosevic regime. The fonds stores a telegram the association sent to President of USA, Bill Clinton, which warned about the

¹ *Telegrams of the same content were also addressed to The President of The United States of America, Ronald Reagan; Amnesty International; Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General, United Nations Organization; United Nations, Division of Human Rights.*

² *Telegrams of the same content were also addressed to London, Paris, Tokyo, Washington, Rome.*

genocide in Kosovo against the Albanian population, if measures were not taken and Kosovo was not liberated (ASHAK, Nr. 676, I. Berisha to President Clinton, 9/3/95).

This association had made a great contribution during the War in Kosovo, 1998-1999, both financially and in counseling in the field of military organization (ASHAK, Nr. 676, 10 Qershor, 2004).

The League of Prizren in Exile had continued communicating with political personalities even after the War in Kosovo. For example, in 2000, the president of the association, Ismet Berisha, wrote to President Bill Clinton that Kosovo, Montenegro and Vojvodina should be allowed to become independent from Yugoslavia. In this case, Montenegro would have to return the Plav-Gusinje region to Kosovo, while Ulcinj to Albania. He also demanded that reparations be paid to Kosovo for the crimes Serbia had committed there (AHAK, Nr. 676, I. Berisha to President Bill Clinton, October 15, 2000). On February 27, 2004, according to a telegram stored in this fonds, Hillary Rodham Clinton, in the capacity of US senator, thanked Ismet Berisha for the support he had given her in politics (ASHAK, Nr. 676, Hillary R. Clinton, February 27, 2004).

The preserved documents prove the continuous support, both financial and organizational, that this association and other Albanian associations in the diaspora offered to the people in Kosovo. For example, in December 1999, the association appealed to all Albanian political and social entities in America and Canada to contribute financially to the children of the war martyrs, who were left orphans (ASHAK, Nr. 676, Thirrje).

4 The management of the fonds in ASHAK

The archival service in Kosovo dates back to 1948, when the Archival Center was founded within the Provincial Directorate for Education and Culture. In 1951, the State Archives of the Province was founded, which until 1970's covered archival services for the entire country. From 1967, regional and sub-municipal Archives were gradually established (Krasniqi, 2012, p. 79; Arkivi Kombëtar i Kosovës, 2002, pp. 17-22, Agjencia Shtetërore e Arkivave të Kosovës: Historiku). After the War in Kosovo (1998-1999), the archival organization underwent changes. Initially, the Archives were included within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, from 2006 to 2016 they were organized in the State Agency within the Office of the Prime Minister, while from 2017 the State Agency of Kosovo Archives was included within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (Agjencia Shtetërore e Arkivave të Kosovës: Historiku).

The voluminous fonds "The League of Prizren in Exile Association - New York, 1962-2012" was brought to Kosovo, to ASHAK, in the Central Archives, in 2014. Based on the decision of the Minister of Diaspora, Republic of Kosovo, and the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Diaspora and ASHAK, for the collection of documents and museum exhibits in the Albanian diaspora, a working group was formed, with representatives from the Ministry, Prof. Dr. Muhamet Shatri (Senior Official of the Ministry of Diaspora) and Hamdi Bërbatovci (Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Diaspora) and representatives from ASHAK, Ramë Manaj (Chief Executive of ASHAK), and Ma. Sc. Ruzhdi Panxha (Director of Directorate of Archival Activities, ASHAK). This working group visited the USA with the aim of collecting archival materials created by the Albanian diaspora in the USA.

The fonds was received in the office of the association, which was located in the house of the president of this association, Ismet Berisha, by the president himself. The working group had taken care to arrange documentation in boxes to send them to the Archives of Kosovo. Archival material was transported by ship from the Port of New Jersey to Durrës, from where it was sent to the Central Archives, ASHAK, Prishtina (ASHAK, Raport nga vizita zyrtare në Shtetet e Bashkuara të Amerikës, Nju Jork, 20.09 – 06.10.2014). Archival material was received in good condition, there was no need for restoration and conservation. In the archives, it is regulated according to the fonds creator. In the near future, ASHAK plans to make a professional regulation of all the archival material of this fonds, based on the ISAD(G) international standard.

The management of archival material, including its collection, storage, protection, arrangement, systematization, digitization and use in the Republic of Kosovo is defined by Law No. 08L-111 for the Archives. According to this law, ASHAK operates as "*the only executive institution of the state administration that organizes, directs and controls archival activity in the country*" and the Central Archives, as part of it, which "*administers and manages archival materials of public institutions at the central level*" (Ligji NR. 08/L – 111 për Arkivat). Essential documents for the management and use of archival materials according to which ASHAK operates are: *The Regulation for Official and Archival Management* (Rregullore për Menaxhimin Zyrtar dhe Arkivor, No. 01/389/17) and *The Regulation for the Use of Archival Material*, which defines the conditions and procedures for the use of archival material of ASHAK (Rregullore për Shfrytëzimin e Lëndës Arkivore, No. 01/87/17).

Since the Archives of Kosovo has been accepted as a category A member of the International Council of Archives (ICA), it endeavours to work in compliance with international standards of archival science (Arkivi Kombëtar i Kosovës – Prishtinë, 2003, 5; Këshilli Ndërkombëtar i Arkivave, ed Osmani, 2009, 5). In particular, it endeavours to follow two international standards: *ISO 15489 Information and documentation – Records Management* (Këshilli Ndërkombëtar i Arkivave, ed Osmani, 2009) and *General International Standard Archival Description ISAD (G)* (ICA, 2000). The archival fonds "The League of Prizren in Exile Association - New York, 1962-2012" is available only in physical form, and has not been digitized yet.

5 Content of the fonds

The fonds "The League of Prizren in Exile Association - New York, 1962-2012" contains documents from the entire 50-year activity of this association. The documentation is organized in boxes, which together occupy a space, in professional archival terms, 6 linear meters long (ASHAK, Raport nga vizita zyrtare në Shtetet e Bashkuara të Amerikës, Nju Jork, 20.09 – 06.10.2014). Although the boxes are named according to their contents (correspondence, statutes, photos, maps, cassette tapes, etc.), their content do not entirely correspond to the name of the box. It is also noted that there is no chronological order of the documents. As mentioned above, their arrangement is planned to be done by ASHAK staff.

A significant part of the fonds consists of correspondence, which includes correspondence of the association addressed to international institutions and political personalities of the time, as well as with Albanian political personalities. In particular, the letters addressed to the most prominent statesmen of the time attract attention, especially in periods of great historical turning points for the people of Kosovo, such as during the demonstrations of 1968 and 1981 and during the Milosevic regime, 1989-

1999. Also, this fonds stores correspondence between members of the organization on their various organizations.

A significant part of this fonds are also articles from various newspapers and journals, mainly international ones, but also regional or Albanian ones, which were related to events that took place in Kosovo. Various congratulatory telegrams, memoranda, letters, etc., are also stored. A box named "FOTO" ("PHOTOS") contains various photographs of prominent Albanian personalities, photos of meetings of members of the association with political personalities of the time, postcards that the members of the association had received from their colleagues, etc. (ASHAK, Nr. 676, Foto).

An important part that provides detailed information on the internal organization of the association and its operation are also the statutes of the association, which are stored in this fonds (ASHAK, Nr. 676, Statute), then the lists of members, programs of organizations and gatherings, minutes of meetings and congresses, plans, etc. One box contains various maps mainly of Albanian ethnic territories (ASHAK, Nr. 676, Harta), while another contains cassette tapes (ASHAK, Nr. 676, Kaseta).

This documentation shows that from its beginnings the association has changed its name several times, therefore it can be found under different names: *The League of Prizren in Exile*, *League of Prizren*, *Albanian League of Prizren*, *The Third League of Prizren*.

6 The relevance of the fonds for historical scientific studies

The questions that this fonds deals with, in many aspects, has not been treated sufficiently in Albanian or international historiography from different perspectives, be it political, social, geostrategic, economic, etc., so the detailed research and its analysis is expected to bring new scientific results. A significant part of the documentation is unexamined or unpublished. In historiography, there is a book dedicated to this association, which also contains documents from the documentation of this association.³ However, there is a lack of detailed scientific works published in historical or archival journals, which approach this issue from different perspectives.

Albanian historiography has considerably examined the determining role of the international factor regarding the question of Kosovo during the second half of the 20th century (especially in its last decade, when the War in Kosovo, 1998-1999, and the intervention of NATO occurred), and the beginning of the 21st century. It is also known that the Albanian community in America, with its lobbying, has had an impact on American foreign policy (Schmitt, 2012, p. 221) but it remains to be further studied how the Albanian diaspora influenced the shaping of American and European policies, in general, on Kosovo and the Albanian population remaining outside the borders of the Albanian state and what was the contribution of each organization and association. The consulted records show the calls and appeals that *The League of Prizren in Exile* made to international institutions and statesmen of the time through telegrams. What has been their direct impact on the official policies of America and European countries, in different periods, remains to be analyzed further.

³ Mrijaj, T & Kapinova, K., "Lidhja e Prizrenit" (1962-2002): Themeluesi e Udhëheqësi Ismet Berisha.

Another very important issue is the further scientific study of the coordination of various Albanian organizations in exile to help the Albanian population, especially in Kosovo. These organizations also held scientific conferences where researchers from Kosovo could participate. The support, both financial and organizational, that the diaspora has given to Kosovo, especially during the period of the parallel system in Kosovo, in the 1990s, has been decisive for the existence and survival of the Albanian people (Schmitt, 2012, 221-223) and the research of this fonds will further confirm this thesis.

Another aspect that is expected to be addressed with the detailed research of this fonds is the non-communist factor in Kosovo at the end of the Second World War, part of which was the Second League of Prizren, as the predecessor of the association League of Prizren in Exile. Communist historiography for a long period has propagated against the anti-communist movements during the Second World War, and detailed research as well as objective interpretation of them has been almost impossible. New studies, in light of the unresearched documentation, will shed light on many aspects that have not been discussed so far and will pave the way for new interpretations on many issues that are still considered contradictory.

7 Conclusion

Among various organizations and associations created by the Albanian diaspora in different countries of the world, which had a vital role for Kosovo during the second half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, was *The League of Prizren in Exile*, established in New York in 1962, as a continuation of the *Albanian League of Prizren* (1878-1881) and the *Second League of Prizren* (1943-1944). Its mission were efforts for the liberation of the Albanian territories remaining outside the political borders of Albania and their union with Albania in one state. Throughout its 50 years of activity, voluminous documentation has been preserved, which, on the initiative of the Ministry of Diaspora of Republic of Kosovo and based on a *Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Diaspora and ASHAK* was handed over to ASHAK in 2014.

The special feature of the archival fonds "The League of Prizren in Exile Association - New York, 1962-2012", in addition to its historical relevance, is the variety of documentation it contains, starting from association correspondence, organizational documents, various photos, statutes, maps, minutes of congresses, cassette tapes, etc. Nowadays, the fonds is stored in ASHAK, an institution which operates in accordance with the Law on Archives, its regulations and endeavors to follow the principles and practices that emerge from international standards of archivistics, particularly of *ISO 15489 Information and documentation – Records Management* and *General International Standard Archival Description ISAD (G)*. The fonds was well maintained by the fonds creator. It is arranged according to the fonds creator, but in the near future it is expected to be arranged by the professional staff in ASHAK.

The documentation that this archival fonds possesses provides detailed information of how this association and other organizations, associations and committees in exile functioned, as their contacts with each other were continuous. It also provides data on the history of the Albanian population in the former Yugoslavia, on Kosovo in particular, since the diaspora had been an important part of its organization and financing, especially during the parallel system in the 1990s, when it contributed significantly from abroad.

Numerous telegrams, that the members of this association addressed to the most influential statesmen of the time, presidents, ministers, senators etc., and to the most important international institutions, including United Nations and Amnesty International, lobbying for the Albanian cause, attract attention in particular. The calls made were for the respect of human rights in Kosovo; for the status of the Republic, especially during the 1968 and 1981 demonstrations initiated by the Albanian students in Kosovo; for aid to refugees during the War in Kosovo (1998-1999); appeal against genocide during the war, etc. It is considered that this archival fonds can bring historiographical innovations by being researched by historians of different disciplines and from different perspectives but also by researchers of other humanities and social sciences, therefore in the near future it is planned to be digitized, so that it can be researched more easily by scholars outside Kosovo.

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POVZETEK

ARHIVSKI FOND »ZDRUŽENJE PRIZRENSKA LIGA V IZGNANSTVU, S SEDEŽEM V NEW YORKU, 1962–2012« – VSEBINA, HISTORIAT IN STROKOVNA OBDELAVA V DRŽAVNI AGENCIJI ZA ARHIVE KOSOVA

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Med različnimi organizacijami in združenji, ki jih je ustanovila albanska diaspora v različnih državah sveta in ki so bile v drugi polovici 20. stoletja in na začetku 21. stoletja velikega pomena za Kosovo, je bila tudi Prizrenska liga v izgnanstvu, ustanovljena leta 1962 v New Yorku kot naslednica Prizrenske albanske lige (1878–1881) in Druge prizrenske lige (1943–1944). Njeno poslanstvo so bila prizadevanja za osvoboditev albanskih ozemelj, ki so ostala zunaj političnih meja Albanije, in njihovo združitev z Albanijo v enotno državo. V 50 letih delovanja se je ohranila obsežna dokumentacija, ki je bila na pobudo Ministrstva za diasporo Republike Kosovo in na podlagi memoranduma o sodelovanju med Ministrstvom za diasporo in Državno agencijo za arhive Kosova (ASHAK) slednji predana leta 2014.

Posebnost arhivskega fonda Združenje Prizrenska liga v izgnanstvu, s sedežem v New Yorku, 1962–2012, je poleg njegovega zgodovinskega pomena tudi raznolikost dokumentacije, ki jo vsebuje – od korespondence združenja, organizacijskih dokumentov, različnih fotografij, statuten, zemljevidov, zapisnikov kongresov, magnetofonskih trakov itd. Danes je fond shranjen v Državni agenciji za arhive Kosova, ustanovi, ki deluje v skladu z zakonom o arhivih in njegovimi predpisi ter si prizadeva upoštevati načela in prakse, ki izhajajo iz mednarodnih standardov arhivistike, zlasti standarda ISO 15489 Informacije in dokumentacija - Upravljanje zapisov in splošnega mednarodnega standarda za arhivsko popisovanje ISAD (G). Ustvarjalec gradiva je arhivski fond dobro vzdrževal. Urejen je po ustvarjalcu fonda, v bližnji prihodnosti pa naj bi ga uredilo strokovno osebje v Državni agenciji za arhive Kosova.

Dokumenti, ki sestavljajo arhivski fond, podrobno prikazujejo delovanje združenja in drugih organizacij, društev in odborov v izgnanstvu, saj so bili le-ti v stalnih stikih. Vsebuje tudi podatke o zgodovini albanskega prebivalstva na območju nekdanje Jugoslavije, zlasti na Kosovu, saj je bila diaspora pomemben del njegove organizacije in financiranja, še zlasti v času vzporednega sistema v devetdesetih letih 20. stoletja.

Posebno pozornost vzbujajo številni telegrami, ki so jih člani tega združenja naslovili na najvplivnejše državnike tistega časa, predsednike, ministre, senatorje ipd. ter na najpomembnejše mednarodne institucije, vključno z Združenimi narodi in Amnesty International, ter v njih lobirali za albansko stvar. Pozivi so se nanašali na spoštovanje človekovih pravic na Kosovu; na status republike, zlasti med demonstracijami leta 1968 in 1981, ki so jih sprožili albanski študenti na Kosovu; na pomoč beguncem med vojno

na Kosovu (1998–1999); poziv proti genocidu med vojno itd. Menimo, da lahko ta arhivski fond osvetli nekatera zgodovinska dejstva, če ga bodo raziskovali z različnih vidikov tako zgodovinarji z različnih področij kot tudi raziskovalci drugih humanističnih in družboslovnih ved, zato je v bližnji prihodnosti načrtovana njegova digitizacija, s čimer ga bodo lahko lažje raziskovali tudi znanstveniki izven Kosova.

About the authors:

Albina Drançolli Ramadani, Ph. D., was born on May 4, 1982, in Prishtinë, Kosovë. Since October 2004, Albina has been an integral part of the Department of History at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina. Starting as a Teaching Assistant, she advanced to the role of Professor Assistant at the same department in 2018.

Ruzhdi Panxha, M. Sc., is currently the Director of the Department of Archival Activities. He shares his expertise as a lecturer at the College of Humanities in Ferizaj, where he has been teaching the History of Political Ideas since 2011. Ruzhdi Panxha started his career in the archives in October 2002.

O avtorjih:

Dr. Albina Drançolli Ramadani se je rodila 4. maja 1982 v Prištini na Kosovu. Od oktobra 2004 je zaposlena na Oddelku za zgodovino na Filozofski fakulteti Univerze v Prištini. Začela je kot asistentka, leta 2018 pa je napredovala do vloge docentke na istem oddelku.

Mag. Ruzhdi Panxha je direktor oddelka za arhivske dejavnosti. Svoje strokovno znanje deli kot predavatelj na Visoki šoli za humanistične študije v Ferizaju, kjer od leta 2011 poučuje zgodovino političnih idej. Ruzhdi Panxha je svojo poklicno pot v arhivih začel oktobra 2002.