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A photograph of a person's arms and hands hugging a large tree trunk in a forest. The person's hands are placed on either side of the tree trunk, with fingers spread, suggesting a protective or affectionate embrace. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees with green foliage, slightly out of focus. The ground is covered in dark mulch or fallen leaves.

Struggle for The Park

In 2016

1. Tirana is estimated to have only 0.8 m² gs/c (green space per capita).
2. The air is 2 times more polluted than the European norms.
3. Every 4 years we have a new city master plan.
4. There are 8000 unsold apartments right now.
5. There is only one public park for 800 thousands citizens.



The Grand Park of Tirana

And now they are sacrificing the sole green area, the Tirana Lake Park

Tirana Park North boundary 2014



Tirana Park North boundary 2015

The trees were flattened to open space for a 25+ story buildings





Tirana Park East boundary

2014



2015

Park Entrance Competition. 4 new towers appear



THERE IS A HIDDEN PURPOSE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO URBANIZE

First Protests



February, 2015. Protests in front of the government building.



VENETO BANK
CASA DI VENEZIA

TE PRISJET
KRUEHINISTIA

After 20 weeks of protests, and many court hearings
The court decides to stop the 2 buildings inside the
north lake boundary. The case was appealed to the
High Court by the building company. Yesterday the
decision was taken in favor of the building company.





February 10,2016 With a new mayor a new fence raises,
this time in the heart of the park.

February 12, 2016, The first tree is cut down.



Consequences of extractive/exclusive decision/policy making.

- Sociologically, these projects disregard the common values
- Institutionally, the belief of the citizens towards their own institutions decreases further.
- Seen from the socio economic perspective, such projects lack social cohesion.
- Public policy perspective, such projects disintegrate the society further.



February 21, we decided to put down all the fences and open the space to public again



13 activists were arrested and one woman went to hospital



February 22, We received information of metallic fences being raised in the midnight.



March 16, After 2 other unsuccessful attempts to break the metallic fence and police cordon we decided to sleep there.



March 20, the first concrete machinery entered the park,
We made a chain with our bodies, but the police forces doubled in
minutes.

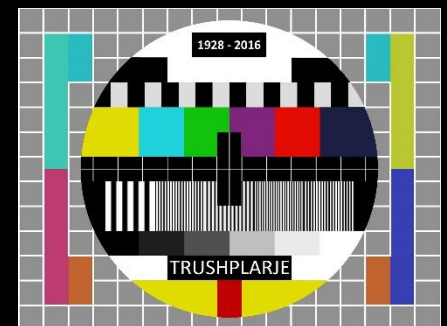


March 21, the first pictures from inside the fence





TELEVISIONI 2.0




We also tried to be heard internationally.

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Albanian Activists Rally Against a 'Concrete' End for Tirana's Last Public Park

Posted 24 March 2016 14:18 GMT



Written by Alida Karakushi

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Citizens trying to stop a cement mixer truck. Photo by "Qytetari për Parkun". (Citizens for the Park).

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Albanian Police Use Force Against Protesters Defending the Capital's Last Public Park

Posted 22 February 2016 2:04 GMT



Written by Alida Karakushi

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Citizens attempting to remove a fence in Tirana Lake Park, Feb 21, 2015. Photo by Qytetari për Parkun, used with permission.

March 28, Democratic Party organized an protest to break The metallic fence

LSAPHOTO.COM



The government reinforced the cordon with special forces.
The attempt from the Democratic Party failed.



We were still there, the temp dropped to 2° at night.
20 police forces stayed there every night too.



There were many days of rain too.



But still we tried to make it funny!





A wall filled with concrete raised inside the park.

On June 1, the municipality removed the fences,
And showed what they called “The Children's Playground”,
A space filled with concrete and synthetic grass.



The struggle for the green space in
Tirana is still ongoing since 2 years.
The 24 hour resistance lasted for 77 days

We achieved:

1. Public awareness and public support
2. The government retreated temporary in regards to the parks' entrance plans.
3. The first instance court stopped the 2 buildings on the north.
4. The municipality edited the “Children Playground”
5. Forced Government to do more transparency
6. Many new people joined the movement

We didn't achieve:

1. Stopping 900 m3 concrete poured into the heart of the park
2. 43 activists have open cases in the court
3. We failed to delay the building in the East part of the park
4. Of the +100 Environment NGO that are in Albania, none helped us in the struggle for The Park.



RUPTLY