



June 2008

Monthly Newsletter



Representative Eliot Engel and Representative Jean Schmidt receive a warm welcome to Peja/Pec, June 14, 2008 on "Eliot Engel Street." Photo: Merita Musmurati, Embassy Pristina.

CODEL ENGEL MARKS KOSOVO'S CONSTITUTION

Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Representative Jean Schmidt (R-OH) visited Kosovo to mark the entering into force of Kosovo's Constitution. They were warmly welcomed by all, and Rep. Engel's nearly 20-year commitment to the Kosovo cause of freedom and independence was the lead story in all news outlets over the weekend and into the following week. Highlights of the visit included a visit to the American University in Kosovo, a stop in Peje/Pec to stroll down "Eliot Engel Street," above which a forty-foot poster of the Congressman hangs, and his address – the first by a foreigner since independence – to a session of the Kosovo Assembly convened especially in his honor. Engel highlighted in his address that "Kosovo must be a multi-ethnic democracy, with protection for minority rights and religions," concluding that "we must never treat Serbs in Kosovo and other minorities the way [former Serb dictator Slobodan] Milosevic mistreated Albanians." The Pristina Public Affairs Section was involved in every detail of his visit, including the handling of the massive media coverage of a very popular American.



"If You Did Not Have a Fiqa, You Will Not Have a Mercedes" by Bekim Gllogu. Photograph by Enver Bylykbashi, Kosovo Gallery. June 25, 2008.

EMBASSY-SPONSORED COMPETITION SELECTS AN "ARTIST OF TOMORROW."

On June 25th, six finalists out of over 30 young artists showed their best work in the sixth-annual "Artists of Tomorrow" competition co-sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, the Kosovo Gallery and the New-York-based Foundation for Civil Society.

The contemporary videos, installations, paintings and photography expressed current issues and obstacles facing Kosovo and its people. PAO Karyn-Posner Mullen served on the three-person jury charged with selecting the winner. The award, a six-week arts residency in New York, went to Bekim Gllogu, whose photographs and sculptures addressed issues of poverty, homophobia and Kosovo's transition after independence.

In New York Gllogu will join artists from neighboring countries like Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Macedonia, Slovakia, Albania and Bulgaria. Through this award, the winner will forge artistic ties with the United States and the region, thus strengthening the Kosovo arts scene and promoting regional integration.



Kosovo Serb journalists in front of the Missouri State Capitol, Jefferson City, MO

KOSOVO SERB JOURNALISTS STUDY INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING AND NETWORK WITH FELLOW JOURNALISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD...AND IN MISSOURI

The Public Affairs Section and the Broadcasting Board of Governors, in cooperation with the University Of Missouri School Of Journalism, organized a 10-day visit to the U.S. for a group of young Kosovo Serb aspiring journalists. Led by Professor Kent Collins, Head of TV/Radio Broadcast Division at the University of Missouri and funded by SEED, the trip acquainted them with the ways journalists in the U.S. and the rest of the world deal with the lack of transparency in public and political life. At the annual International Conference on Investigative Reporting, organized by the Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) in Miami, FL, the visitors made important contributions to a session called “Investigative Reporting in Ethnic Communities.”

The second half of their trip, held at The University of Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia, MO provided the Kosovars with much-needed knowledge on how to implement some contemporary techniques and standards. Visits to local media affiliates and the Missouri State Capitol linked them with fellow young journalists and gave them a first-hand glimpse of how local, state and the federal government work together.