

Tirana - Albanian Peace Road concluded with public event at one of the main squares in Tirana Albania on July 17, with program starting at 7 PM. It begun with a manifestation and parade of about 70 bikers through the main Boulevard, about 1,5 km long.

They arrived at Mother Theresa square where the main program featuring guest speakers and music from an international quire and two songs from maestro K. Tusha, a famous Albanian tenor.

The bikes were offered by a local company but some members and ambassadors for peace joined with their own bikes. They had a police escort from the beginning until the end of the ride.

In all the program lasted about one hour beginning with familiar Albanian and international songs by some Japanese sisters dressed in traditional kimono and a quire made of 20 young members of CARP Albania.

One of the guest speakers was the viceminister of Education and Sports, himself a former athletics champion, who attended from the beginning and gave some congratulatory remarks to the participants. Supporting messages were delivered by Mr. No Hi Pak, who visited Albania with dr.Moon. They were very enthusiastic to be able to participate to such an historical and global event.

Profesor Shezai Rokaj, the vice chairman of National Peace Council, who participated also at the opening event in Prishtina on July 10, gave a very positive remarks reminding the audience that this project was initiated by Rev. Moon with the purpose of unifying the Korean Peninsula and that Albania becomes part of an international project by participating at Peace Road 2015.

Finally the 13 members of the team that rode 250 km from Prishtina to Tirana were awarded with certificates for successfully completing Peace Road 2015. Mr. Sokol Rexhepi, bike team coordinator, said “we are all proud of you” considering that this was the first time for all team members to go such a long distance on bikes with no professional guidance or experience.

This event was a very powerful conclusion of Peace Road in Albania and made everyone proud of our movement and what we can do, as this was the first public and open (on the square) program of our movement in Albania and Kosova.

Peace Road Albania begun with smaller events in Elbasan, Durres and Fier cities where about 20 bikers in each city had a rally with Peace Road T-Shirts and flags on main streets. In Durres some professional bikers joined and the local police supported. In Fier the Municipallity endorsed the activity and helped with announcing and inviting the local media.



Peace Road Participant in Tirana Mother Theresa Squara – 17 July

Peace Road Participant in Tirana Mother Theresa Squara – 17 July



AfP and famous opera singer K. Tusha singing for Peace Road Albania; Prof. Shezai Rrokaj greeting the participants



Viceminister of Education and Sports and Rev. No Hi Pak congratulatory messahes



Peace Road certificate award to participants



Durres Community Leader, Arjan Haziraj explaining about Peace Road to members before departure



Group Picture of Durres members before starting Peace Road tour



Durres Peace Road



ELBASAN Peace Road



ELBASAN Peace Road



FIER Peace Road. Peace Council Chair interviewed by local media



Pristina-Tirana – The main part of Albanian Peace Road project was a trip from Prishtina, Kosova to Tirana, Albania. In both these countries live about 5 million Albanians and it is a very similar situation to that between the two Koreas. Also this itinerary is basically good for our amateur bikers - generally on the highway. It started with a ceremony in Prishtina’s main square with city mayor, Shpend Ahmeti and Albanian ambassador to Kosova, Mr. Qemal Minxhozi giving congratulatory speeches. There was also a ceremony of dove releasing and final with flying white air balloons. Everything was perfect apart from the surprise rain that made it difficult for more people to come.



Pristina mayor Mr. Shpend Ahmeti giving a message to Peace Road participants



Albanian ambassador to Kosova, Mr. Qemal Elezi greeting Peace Road

Almost 20 bikers were escorted by police to outside of the capital of Kosova. After that, a team of 7 bikers continued on the highway to Prizren. On the first day, 10 of July, they traveled from Prishtina to Prizren which is about 90 km, departing at noon in Prishtina and arriving at 6 in the afternoon in Prizren. It was a real challenge as it was the first time for each of the members to go such a long distance and considering the high summer temperatures it became very tough. However, the team was very united and determined to go until the end. On the way to Prizren, even though escorted by traffic police, the team suffered a grave accident during a pause, on the highway, where miraculously no one was hurt. After driving for about 20 minutes we decided to go on the road again and made it to Prizren safely.



Audience at the Zahir Pajaziti square in Prishtina – 10 July 2015

Before start - at the Zahir Pajaziti square in Pristina – 10 July 2015



On the road to Prizren – 10 July



Next morning the team started for the border, about 20 km from Prizren. There, a small group of ambassadors for peace from Albania and Kosovo were waiting for a symbolic ceremony. In about 90 minutes Peace Road bikers were at Morinë checkpoint where they had a stop, friendly talks and pictures with Kosova and Kukës peace ambassadors.

We reached Kukes, the nearest border city on Albanian side one hour latter. There we got on our cars as the terrain was too uphill, the heat was unbearable and we had to save some energy for later.

A group picture with the police escort at the arrival in Prizren (10 July afternoon)



11 July –towards the border



11 July –at Kosova-Albania Border group picture with the police escort



11 July – After crossing the border with Ambassadors for Peace



11 July – towards Kukes



After Kalimash Tunnel we jumped on our bikes to continue to Rreshen about 60 km from the end of the tunnel. It was mainly downhill so the team enjoyed it very much. Our next stop was Milot, 40 km latter, where we were supposed to stay overnight. It was seven o'clock in the evening with the sun still visible and one or two more hours of daylight. As the road was flat, the air was fresh and we made most of our journey in harsh conditions we decided to head towards Tirana the same day as we departed from Prizren. It was a race against time. The sun was going down, the traffic was intensifying (as people were coming back from the beach) and energy was depleted.

At 9 PM we entered Tirana and reached Mother Theresa square at 9:30... Everyone was exhausted but uplifted as enjoying the taste of victory...

