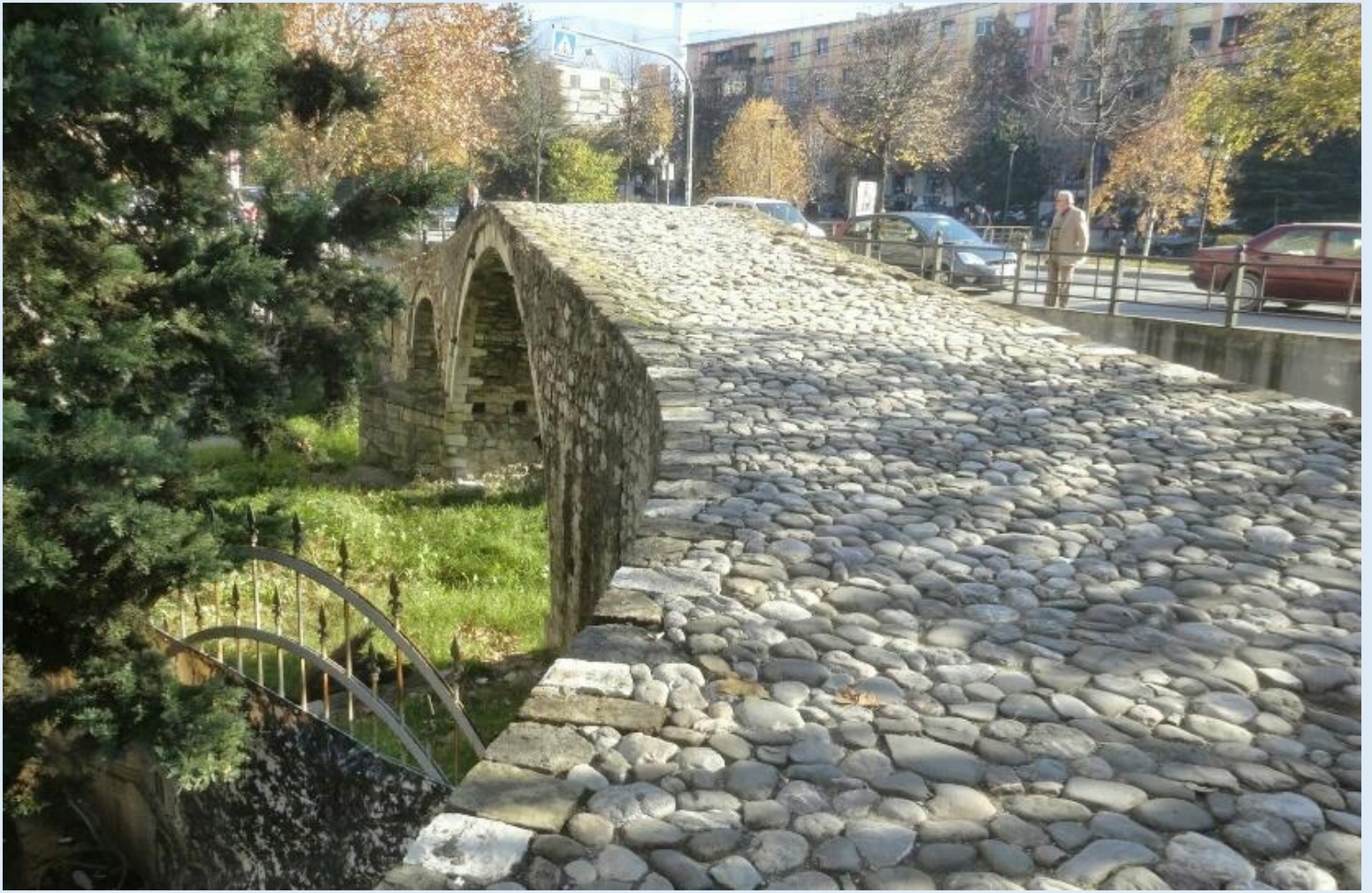


Tirana, Albania

December 2015: In 1989 I made my first attempt to enter Albania to no avail. The country was totally isolated due to the policies of its recently deceased dictator Enver Hoxha. Hoxha broke relations with Yugoslavia's Tito, the Soviet Union's Khrushchev and China's Mao Zedong calling them traitors to true communism. At one point one third of the population of Albania was either incarcerated, in labor camps or being interrogated by the secret police.

All of this ended 25 years ago today when student protests ended one-party rule and led to free elections.

Today citizens of Albania are in the streets again to protest corruption and a poor economy.



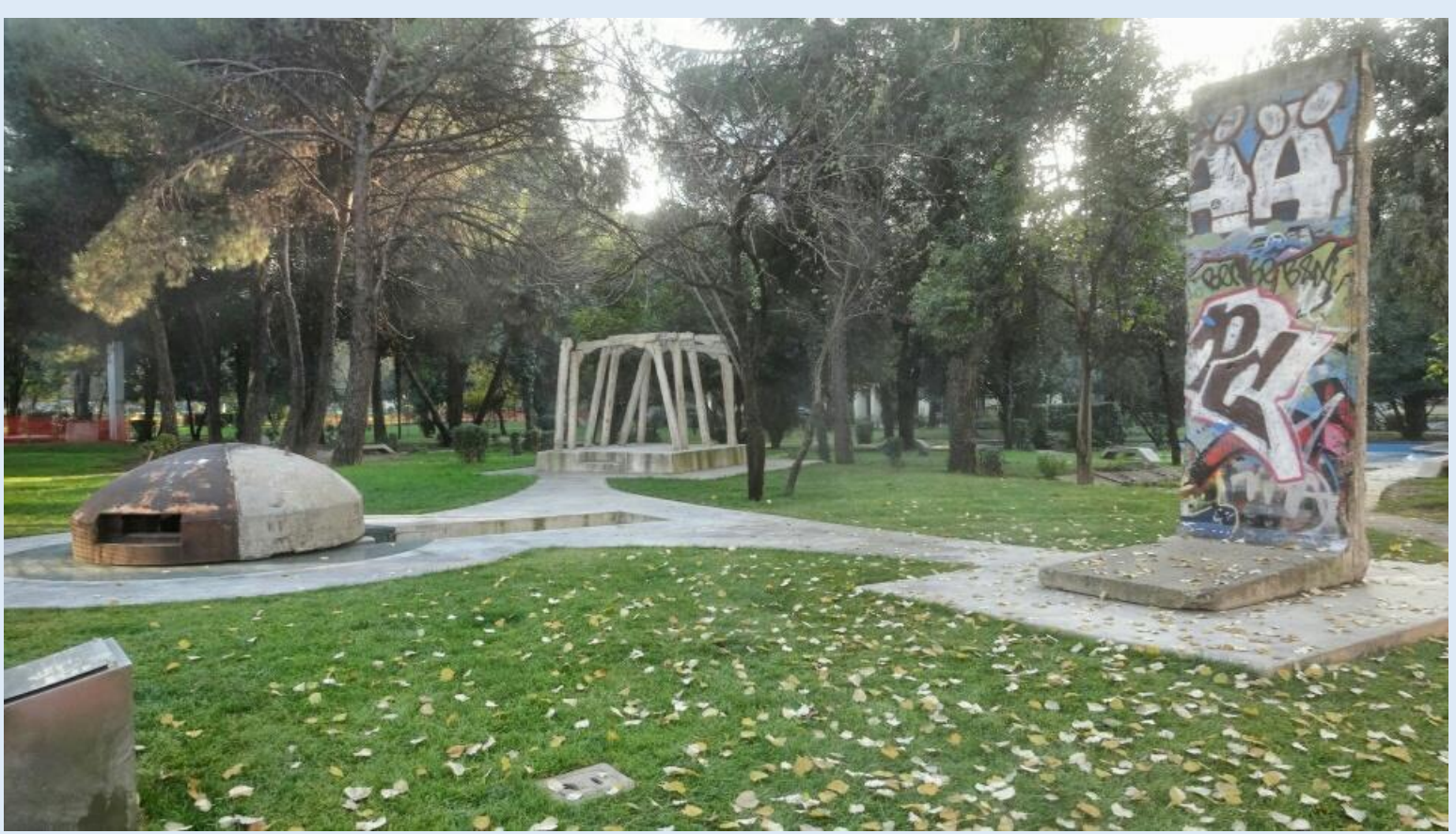
Tanners Bridge



Skanderbeg Square



Et'hem Bej Mosque and Clock Tower



Postbllok – Checkpoint



Tirana e Re Piramida



The Protest



