Musine Kokalari was born in Adana, Turkey on 10th February 1917. Musine was educated in the well known Alı NewASA, F. Rilindja – Newpaper, „Ndryshe“ , Thursday, – either in official sources, or historical and political books of that of the time, a fact that quite frequently has gone unmentioned activity, it remained as an alternative to the political spectrum 1944:2) Social Democratic Party („ASA, f. 837, 1938:5, 38, Dos. 7) «Nana Mbretereshe» in Tirana and from the University of Rome time: she gratuated from “Liria” school in Gjirokastra, Institute of Gjirokastra known nationwide, such as: Koto Hoxhi, Pandeli Sotiri, the brothers Topulli, Andon Zako Cajupi, Urani Rumbo, Rauf Fico, Khevat Kallajshi, Avni Rustemi (Akademia e Shkenc – was distinguished, who acted with the strength of a demon, the Olympic calmness, maturity of a politician and strong will. (Albanian State Archive 1946:12). She worked and acted with the sharpness of a proved diplomat, the prophecy and the determination of the apostles, with dear democratic conviction (Newspaper „Shtyp“, nr. 120, 1937:2) and national character (Newspaper, “Lajmi i Ditës”, 12 february 1997). Musine Kokalari, with her work and activity (although lasting only eight years) could list her name and image, along with other prominent figures of Gjirokastra known nationwide, such as: Koto Hoxhi, Pandeli Sotiri, the brothers Topulli, Andon Zako Cajupi, Urani Rumbo, Rauf Fico, Khevat Kallajshi, Avni Rustemi (Akademia e Shkencave, Vol. I, II, 2008: 370 -371, 669; Vol. II: ‘962, 1097-1098; Vol. III:267, 2269, 2372-2373, 2729 -2730). Musine was educated at the best schools in the country of the time: she gratuated from ”Liria” school in Gjirokastra, Institute «Nana Mbretërëshe» in Tirana and from the University of Rome (ASA, f. 837, 1938:5, 38, Dos. 7) with a degree in literature. Her studies were concluded with the highest grades. After graduation she was asked to work as a university teacher in Rome, but she preferred to return in Albania. Besides publications, upon her return, she kept in contact with patriots of the time like Lumo Skendo and others, and became involved in the current politics. Her sole aim was « the country needed the thoughts of women and of social democracy ». Consequently, on 6th November 1943, she became the founding protagonist of the Social Democratic party. After the war, in November 1945, this party was involved in anticommunist organizations like Albanian Democratic Union ».

In the arena where multidimensional Albanian events emerged, including political, cultural, military ones, during the years 1937 - 1945, among other prominent figures a girl from Gjirokastra was distinguished, who acted with the strength of a demon, the Olympic calmness, maturity of a politician and strong will. (Albanian State Archive 1946:12). She worked and acted with the sharpness of a proved diplomat, the prophecy and the determination of the apostles, with dear democratic conviction (Newspaper „Shtyp“, nr. 120, 1937:2) and national character (Newspaper, “Lajmi i Ditës”, 12 february 1997). Musine Kokalari, with her work and activity (although lasting only eight years) could list her name and image, along with other prominent figures of Gjirokastra known nationwide, such as: Koto Hoxhi, Pandeli Sotiri, the brothers Topulli, Andon Zako Cajupi, Urani Rumbo, Rauf Fico, Khevat Kallajshi, Avni Rustemi (Akademia e Shkencave, Vol. I, II, 2008: 370 -371, 669; Vol. II: ‘962, 1097-1098; Vol. III:267, 2269, 2372-2373, 2729 -2730). Musine was educated at the best schools in the country of the time: she gratuated from ”Liria” school in Gjirokastra, Institute «Nana Mbretërëshe» in Tirana and from the University of Rome (ASA, f. 837, 1938:5, 38, Dos. 7) with a degree in literature. Her studies were concluded with the highest grades. After graduation she was asked to work as a university teacher in Rome, but she preferred to return in Albania. Besides publications, upon her return, she kept in contact with patriots of the time like Lumo Skendo and others, and became involved in the current politics. Her sole aim was « the country needed the thoughts of women and of social democracy ». Consequently, on 6th November 1943, she became the founding protagonist of the Social Democratic party. After the war, in November 1945, this party was involved in anticommunist organizations like Albanian Democratic Union ».

Musine was educated in the well known schools of the time; she finished the school « Liria » in Gjirokastra, ‘N’an Mbretërëshe’ Institute in Tirana and the University for literature in Rome. There, she achieved the doctoral thesis. At the end of her studies, she graduated successfully, graded as ‘excellent’. After her graduation, she was asked to be a professor in Rome, but she preferred to return in Albania. Besides publications, upon her return, she kept in contact with patriots of the time like Lumo Skendo and others, and became involved in the current politics. Her sole aim was « the country needed the thoughts of women and of social democracy ». Consequently, on 6th November 1943, she became the founding protagonist of the Social Democratic party. After the war, in November 1945, this party was involved in anticommunist organizations like Albanian Democratic Union ».

In the house of the teacher Razia Hallulli, in which were gathered Razia, Mefarete Frashëri, Musine, Aferdita Alassiani, Aferdita Gjokoreci and Nexhmije Hoxha. This gathering of intellectual women enabled the publication of a magazine titled «Gruaja shqiptare” (The Albanian woman) (Marko, Petro, 2000:175).

which was published by Musine three times. Nexhmije sought to run the group and demanded that the members followed her orders, while Musine suggested joining the Albanian National Liberation Front, not as individuals but as a group, as the Social Democratic Party which should represent the middle road that could attract undecided forces.»

b ) Musine discussed with Skender Muço, Selman Riza, Jusuf Luzzi the idea of forming a democratic coalition. This coalition was to rely on the Front Decalogue in order to form the Social Democratic Party.

c) To achieve a treaty with the National Front (Balli Kombëtar), Musine spoke with Hasan Dosti (Deputy of National Front Party), who refused to sign a treaty for the recognition of PSD. Skender Muço was in charge of organizing the first meeting which was to announce the formation of Social Democratic Party of Albania. The latter was formed on November 6, 1943 in a house in Elbasan Street, attended by its 60 representatives of various political convictions (Newspaper, “Ndryshe”, Thursday, 9 august 2007:20). Skender Muço addressed many issues such as the actual situation, the in-fighting that had taken place in the district of Vlora, the unity of the people, efforts to reach an agreement with the Front, and the creation of the Social Democratic Party of Albania. Musine read aloud the program (ASA, F. 837, 1946:6, Dos. 7).

The party also approved the publication of its newspaper «Zëri i Lirisë» (The Voice of Freedom), which came only in six numbers.

The program of the Social Democratic Party was published in the newspaper «Zëri i Lirisë», on 1 January 1944 (Newspaper, «Zëri i Lirisë», 1 January 1944:1)

1. A primary objective of the Social Democratic Party is to ensure social justice and political freedom.

2. The Social Democratic Party takes an evolutionist stance as a primary objective of the Social Democratic Party is to ensure social justice and political freedom.

3. Other primary objectives of the Social Democratic Party are to ensure enough land for the farmers to work on, and to eliminate exploitation, speculation and parasitism. It also aims at providing food, housing and other needs for the working class to make their lives liveable. Agrarian reform – initial steps will be taken to divide up the land. The Party

IJSR - INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH 511
Philo sophical ideas and concepts of Musine
« It is the environment that moulds people and the circumstances that toughen them up.» (ASA F. 837, 1937, date: 7)
« The most important power of the prudent man is controlling one’s own.» (Newspaper, “Korrieri”, Thursday, 29 January 2002:12).

As for her life she said: «I want to live, I do not want to depart this life before those who brought about this tragic situation in my country, which is facing complicated, strange and vague conditions.»
« The prosperity of Albania depends on the country’s stability and mutual understanding. It is evolution that causes it and not Stalin revolution.» (Newspaper, “Drita”, Sunday, 2 November 2003).
« Violence and hatred are disastrous phenomena.»
« No one was born perfect, but hard work and persistent efforts can help one progress in life, a process that might involve pain and sacrifice. Hardly ever can one work his/her way to the top without zeal and strong will.»
« School is the magic key that will unlock the doors to a better future of Albania.»
« Faith, hope, love. These build us up. Division and insanity humiliate and impoverish us.» (Newspaper 55, Wednesday, 10 February 1998:16).
« The book is an overview of the developing world.»
“We should embrace European humanism which made people free and equal. The liberation of people does not come from God, but from perfectly moral and physical heroes.» (Newspaper 55, 11 February 2000:12 – 13)
“Nations advance if they are guided by enlightened, good, fair leaders and not by leaders who have corrupted conscience.” (ASA F 837, dos:7)
« The young generation always looks further away than the older generation, but it takes secular educated youth.» (Newspaper “Bota Social Demokratike”, Thursday 23 March 1995:5 – 6)

Evaluations of Musine’s work by different personalities
The creativity, work, political and social activity of Musine have been evaluated by many personalities during 1930 – 1940 and after 1990 such as: M. Lambertz, Ernst Kolliqi, Branko Merxhani, Xhevdaj Kallajdhi, Lasgush Poradeci, Lumo Skendo, (Newspaper per 55, Saturday, 15 April 2000:22). Eqrem Çafej, Ismail Kadarë, Pjetër Arbnori, Bedri Dedja, Roland Qafoku, Mevlan Shapilo, Asitrit Bishqimi, Petraq Risto, Novruz Shehu, Englantina Mandia to mention but a few.

Quotations about Musine:
Endowed with a versatile talent Kokalari has given us a scenic picture of a language with vivid wonderful colors. (M. Lambertz)
Musine Kokalari directly penetrates into the psychological core. Soon she coexists with what surrounds us. (ASA F. 837, dos.7)
A talented woman in literature, but life was not very generous to her (Roland Qafoku) Musine is the pioneer of artistic elaboration of Albanian folklore for children. (Asitrit Bisqemi) I dare not call her an Albanian Andersen, but she is the kind of writer that tried to make it known to everyone people’s grievances. (Bedri Dedja)

Musine Kokalari, Bubulina of the twentieth century began her political activity early in school. (Agim Musta )

The city of Gjirokastra unlike any other city in Balkan, has given birth, has produced citizens and among them the remarkable writer persecuted over half of the twentieth century, whom I strongly appreciate. (Ismail Kadarë)
Musine Kokalari was a great woman for a small country like Albania. She lit a light to illuminate the darkness of ignorance. She worked for the unity of the people when they were divided. She
sacrificed her life in the war against communism for freedom and democracy. (Jenla Gödel).

Musine is the first Albanian female writer, she is like a fresh lilac water, a glass-veiled bride, she can only utter sweet words. (Petroq Risto)

Institutions that bear the name of Musine
Former 8-year school 50th Anniversary in Tirana today 9-year old school was named after Musine Kokalari.

There is a cultural foundation named «Musine Kokalari» whose leader is Mr. Agim Musta. Because of her patriotic and political activity and intellectual values (Kokalari, M.1995:5-64) she possessed Musine was arrested on January 23, 1946 and was sentenced to 20 years in prison (ASA, F. 837, 1946:230, Dos. 7). Based on decision no. 5, July 2, 1946 (ASA, F 837, year 1957:84, dos. 6).

She was released from prison on October 7, 1961. She was interned at Rërshen for 22 years. She died on August 14, 1983 (“Gazeta Shqiptare”, Thursday, 3 february 2000:13 – 14) in Rërshen. However, Albanians will always remember her ideal Political freedom, social justice, in a society run by laws and inspired by European humanism.

Musineja was awarded «Martyr of Democracy» (“Gazeta Shqiptare”, 16 february 2000) by the President of the Republic Mr. Sali Berisha based on the Decree no. 517, Tirana on 22 April 1993 with the following motivation: «Distinguished for her strong patriotic conviction and for her uncompromising attitude to the end of her life.» (Newspaper 55, Wednesday, 10 february 1998:16).

The Municipal Council of Gjirokastra awarded her «Honor of Gjirokastra» in a ceremony held on 14 February 2000 in Gjirokastra (Newspaper “55”, Sunday, 21 may 2000:13) Musine Kokalari was posthumously awarded the “Honor of the Nation” by the President of Albania Mr. Bamir Topi, on 22 February 2008.


The moon itself can give witness to the values, work, sacrifice, and ideal of Musine. Whenever we bring her to mind, her fragile portrait will appear, in front of which every Albanian should confess and swear that will carry on those intellectual and patriotic values, democratic ideal for which Musine was sacrificed.

REFERENCE
Albanian State Archive (ASA), fascicle, 837, 1946: 12, Dossier. 7; F. 837, 1938:5, 38, Dos. 7; F. 837, 1946:6, Dos. 7; F. 837, 1937, date. 7; F. 837, Dos. 6).


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