

ALBANIAN

International Mother Tongue Day, February 21st

“The Turks and Albanians are two people living together for centuries. Both have a very rich culture.

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When we study the culture of a society, we would see how important the mother tongue of that society is. The language is the indicator of how old and rooted that society is. And when we look at it from this point of view we'd see the importance of the Albanian language. Albanian belongs to one of the oldest language families, the Ural-Altay family. This means that Albanian is not only a contemporary language spoken in Albania and Kosova, but also it was the language of a historical civilization, that is, the Ilirians.

In the history, we see that the Albanian Frasheri brothers had contributed to the Turkish language. For instance, the first Turkish dictionary was written by the brothers.

One of the leading associations that represents the Albanians of Turkey is the Albanian Kinship Association. Another active group is the online Albanian Youth Platform which communicates through the Internet and organizes various activities.

The Albanian youth who live in big cities of Turkey do not know their mother language. Therefore they strive for speaking their own language and communicate with the people Albania. To satisfy their need however little, the Albanians in Turkey celebrate the independence days of Albania and Kosova. The young people communicate in Turkish and they resent failing to communicate in their mother language.

“I am an Albanian in Turkey without Albania!”