

## My Soil, My Soul: The Cham Struggle to Remember and Revive



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**M**y Soil, My Soul: The Cham Struggle to Remember and Revive explores the intersection of displacement, memory, and cultural preservation within the context of the Cham people, who were forcibly expelled from their homeland in Chameria (modern-day Greece) between 1944 and 1945. This research-driven documentary investigates the ongoing effects of this historical trauma on two generations of Chams: one that experienced exile and another that is actively working to reclaim and revive the lost cultural heritage. Through in-depth interviews with Cham survivors and contemporary cultural advocates, the film examines the enduring struggle for recognition, property restitution, and the acknowledgment of atrocities that have largely been ignored by Greece and the international community. Central to this project is the paradox of displacement: how the memories of an uprooted homeland are carried through generations, and how a younger generation, distanced from direct experience, navigates the complexities of preserving a history that is at once both distant and immediate. By combining historical context with personal narratives, this documentary highlights the Cham community's ongoing fight for justice, belonging, and the preservation of a cultural identity that has been displaced but not forgotten. This ongoing research draws on both oral history and contemporary activism framing the Cham struggle as a case study in post-conflict memory, transgenerational trauma, and the politics of historical erasure.

### Biography:

Isra Fejzullaj is an Albanian journalist and researcher focused on migration, identity, and conflict. As a 2025 #IAS\_NUQ Global Undergraduate Fellow, she is conducting a research project exploring the Cham people's displacement and cultural preservation. Fejzullaj has experience in production and reporting, having worked on notable platforms such as Doha Debates and Fox Sports. Her work combines storytelling with deep research into human rights, memory, and the impact of historical trauma, particularly in the context of the Albanian Cham diaspora. Isra is passionate about bridging global narratives and amplifying marginalized voices.