

Juliet Yosif Saltiel



I am in front of our house in Odrin Street in the old Jewish neighborhood in Sofia in 1951 or 1952.

As a matter of fact, I don't remember any anti-Semitic reactions against me or my family before 1944 and after that. Gradually, my husband and I started leading a normal life (I mean in easy circumstances relatively). At the beginning Mois, who had just been employed with the People's Militia Directorate helped me find a new job as a clerk at the Interior Ministry's passport department. After that I was an Interior Ministry regional secretary. At that time I had already given birth to my first son, Solomon Mois Saltiel (1947) and he was already six months old. At that point I got fired from the passport department and I started work with Interior Ministry's political committee. My dismissal was not provoked by my Jewish origin, there were simply huge job cuts then and they had to dismiss 100 people for six months. However, I worked as an Interior Ministry's regional secretary long years after that. I was very pleased with my colleagues all of whom were Bulgarians. Mois then worked for the Youth Committee.

In 1951 I was suddenly dismissed by Kyosovski, who was my boss then (a regional leader). After that it was very difficult for me to find a job. My dismissal was something like a stain. I think the reason was his personal attitude towards me. At that time I gave birth to Yosif, my second son, and together with Mois and our first child Moni [Solomon] we already lived in Odrin Str., near Stamboliiski Blvd. We had our small garden with hens. However, we lived there only for one year. In 1953 we moved to a flat near the Fire brigade's office. After a long job seek I found a job as a foodstuff inspector in restaurants. It was not before this point that I managed to lodge my documents for continuing my education in RABFAC [Workers' Academy: In socialist times Workers' Schools were organized throughout the entire Eastern Block. Modes of instruction included both evening and correspondence classes and all educational levels were served - from elementary school to higher education]. The course there lasted for three years. I think it happened in the period between 1951 and 1954. When I graduated from the RABFAC I studied Physics at the university from 1955 to 1956 and simultaneously worked as a dressmaker at home. I sewed children's clothes: trousers, blouses etc. But it was a very low-paid job. So I worked as a

dressmaker until 1956 when my third child, Ani, turned one year of age. Then I stopped my studies at the university. Physics was my child's dream. I still regret I had to quit then, but I didn't have the choice. So I have an uncompleted level of higher education.