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Continuing concerns over impunity, domestic violence, and discrimination against Roma and Egyptians

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Albania

Amnesty International commends Albania's acceptance of UPR recommendations, which - if implemented - will significantly enhance human rights protections.

Amnesty International welcomes Albania's commitment to integrate the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances into domestic legislation.¹ In keeping with this, the organization urges the government to promptly ensure that the family of Remzi Hoxha, disappeared by the Security Services in 1995, are given information on his fate and whereabouts, and his body returned to them for burial.

Impunity persists for abuses by law enforcement officers. Amnesty International welcomes Albania's acceptance of recommendations to prevent, investigate, and punish such violations,² and notes the potentially valuable role of the newly established Internal Issues and Complaints Service in this regard.³

Albania has also accepted recommendations on ending discrimination against Roma and Egyptian communities,⁴ but regrettably continues to deny Egyptians minority status.⁵ Roma and Egyptians continue to live in inadequate housing, without security of tenure, and vulnerable to forced eviction. More generally, Albania's implementation of national plans for the integration of Roma remains slow, due to insufficient resources, inadequate coordination, deficiencies in monitoring and evaluation, and a lack of political will. Amnesty International urges Albania to implement recommendations to ensure the right to adequate housing to Roma and Egyptians,⁶ and to redouble its efforts to fully implement the National Action Plan and Strategy for the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

Albania has also accepted 15 recommendations which address domestic violence.⁷ While significant progress has been achieved, high levels of domestic violence – including murders – continue to be reported. A pattern of protection orders being withdrawn by plaintiffs persists, and where orders are issued they are often not implemented.⁸ More needs to be done.

Progress in all these areas will require financial and political support, the implementation of coordinated programmes of action at both national and municipal level, and meaningful consultation

¹ Recommendation 104.11 (Uruguay)

² Recommendations 104.41-42, 104.75 (USA, Germany, France).

³ Service for Complaints and Domestic Affairs, Ministry Of Interior, 2 May 2014,

http://www.parlament.al/web/PROJEKTLIGJ_P_R_SH_RBIMIN_P_R_ANKESAT_DHE_C_SHTJET_E_BRENDSH_ME_N_MINISTRIN_E_PUN_VE_T_17065_1.php

⁴ Recommendations 104.100, 101 (DRC, Slovakia).

⁵ Recommendation 106.7 (Switzerland).

⁶ Recommendations 104.101, 104.103 (Slovakia, Australia).

⁷ Recommendations 104.44-104.52, 104.54-104.59 (Algeria, Slovakia, Turkey, Italy, Australia, Denmark, Ireland, Hungary, Lithuania [x2], USA, France, Slovenia, UK, Belgium).

⁸ Recommendations 104.52 (Hungary).

with all relevant stakeholders. Amnesty International hopes that this review will help to prompt that progress.

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Albania on 18 September 2014 during its 27th session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above.

Amnesty International had earlier submitted information on the situation of human rights in Albania:
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR11/004/2013/en/b9e2d3cb-589e-42b1-8376-45ad1dc3e218/eur110042013en.pdf>

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