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Refugee Documentation Centre

Country Information Pack

## ALBANIA

### Disclaimer

Country Information Packs (CIPs) are prepared by researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. CIPs contain a selection of representative links to sources under a number of categories for use as Country of Origin Information. Links are correct at the time of publication. Please note that CIPs are not, and do not purport to be, exhaustive with regard to conditions in the countries surveyed or conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or protection. The General Human Rights Reports category contains links to information which may be useful for a number of the other categories.

### Contents

1. Nationality/Citizenship/Residency .....	2
2. Maps .....	3
3. Local Information/Languages/Culture/Customs.....	3
4. General Human Rights Reports .....	4
5. Conflict/Security .....	5
6. Minorities/Ethnic Groups .....	6
7. Religion/Cults .....	8
8. Political .....	9
9. State Protection (For State Protection of Particular Groups, see the relevant section) .....	10
10. Government/Civil Society/Legal Systems .....	10
11. Press/Media/Freedom of Expression .....	11
12. Women/Children/Family .....	11
13. Prisons/Detention/Torture/Slavery .....	12
14. Crime/Corruption.....	13
15. Education .....	14
16. Health.....	14
17. Asylum seekers/IDPs/Internal Flight .....	14

## List of Documents

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Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (7 February 2014) ALB104753.E - *Albania: Birth certificates, including appearance, details of information included; whether the certificate is a standard form used nationally or whether it varies depending on region or city; whether the certificate is used for other official documents; authorities responsible for issuing birth certificates, including any identifying codes that would appear on the certificate*  
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<http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/Eng/ResRec/RirRdi/Pages/index.aspx?doc=455738&pls=1>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (28 February 2014) *ALB104752.E - Albania: Task force established to investigate falsified attestation letters for blood feuds, including activities and cases investigated; reconciliation groups, including whether any have been investigated for providing false attestation letters (2012-February 2014)*

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[http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx\\_ttnews%5Bpointer%5D=1&tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=44446&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=228&cHash=f8a0b90c08b6fcf81ea54035198eb817#.Vwy-C9ROPK5](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx_ttnews%5Bpointer%5D=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=44446&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=228&cHash=f8a0b90c08b6fcf81ea54035198eb817#.Vwy-C9ROPK5)

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United States Department of State (19 June 2015) *Country Reports on Terrorism 2014 - Albania*  
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Amnesty International (1 August 2012) *Albania must suspend discriminatory measures against Roma*  
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Australia: Refugee Review Tribunal (18 August 2010) *Albania: 1. Please provide current information on the extent to which gay men in Albania are at risk of violence or other forms of serious harm. 2. Please provide current information on whether the police provide protection to gay men, and if not, whether the reason for this failure of State protection is the police attitude towards gay men or alternatively a lack of resources. 3. Please provide current information on whether there are areas in Albania where a gay man could relocate to remove the risk of serious harm and/or obtain police protection.*

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<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4d2ec61b2.pdf>

Council of Europe (4 June 2012) *Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities - Third Opinion on Albania adopted on 23 November 2011*

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<http://www.errc.org/article/roma-rights-2012-challenges-of-representation-voice-on-roma-politics-power-and-participation/4174>

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<http://www.hrw.org/news/2010/02/16/albania-anti-bias-law-victory>

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Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (24 June 2013) *ALB104457.E - Albania: Situation and treatment of sexual minorities, including legislation, state protection and support services (2011-June 2013)*  
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International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) (May 2015) *Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex People in Europe 2015*  
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## **7. Religion/Cults**

Australia Refugee Review Tribunal (8 October 2009) *Albania: 1. Are Roman Catholics subjected to ill-treatment in Albania? 2. Are supporters of the Christian Democratic Party subjected to ill-treatment in Albania? 3. Are the authorities in Albania able and willing to provide protection to all citizens of*



*Albania, irrespective of religion or political opinion? 4. Do ethnic Italian Albanians have access to permanent residence in Italy?*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/4f40dc5d2.html>

Australia Refugee Review Tribunal (9 July 2010) *Albania: 1. Please search for information on Greece in relation to whether a person cannot be baptised Orthodox if they are illegally in Greece. 2. Please provide information generally about the Orthodox Church in Albania including, if possible, details about the order of the church service. 3. Please search for information as to whether the Orthodox Church has a presence in Tirana. 4. Question deleted. 5. Please provide information on which Orthodox Churches are in the Trikala prefecture of Greece and their location. 6. Question deleted.*

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United States Department of State (14 October 2015) *2014 Report on International Religious Freedom – Albania*

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## **8. Political**

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<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/europe/balkans/albania/op-eds/the-dangers-of-albanias-disputed-election.aspx>

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<http://www.refworld.org/docid/55b5f40911.html>

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (10 October 2012) *Albania Receives EU Candidate Status, With Conditions*

[http://www.ecoi.net/local\\_link/228634/336713\\_en.html](http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/228634/336713_en.html)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (11 June 2012) *Albanian Parliament Elects President At Fourth Attempt*

<http://www.rferl.org/content/albania-elects-president/24611131.html>

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (8 December 2015) *Albanian opposition takes to streets, demands government resign*

<http://www.rferl.org/content/albania-opposition-protests-government-resign/27414580.html>

**9. State Protection** (For State Protection of Particular Groups, see the relevant section)

Council of Europe - Commissioner for Human Rights (16 January 2014) *Report by Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, following his visit to Albania, from 23 to 27 September 2013* [CommDH(2014)1]

[http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/1226\\_1390300219\\_com-instranet1.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1226_1390300219_com-instranet1.pdf)

## **10. Government/Civil Society/Legal Systems**

Council of Europe - Group of States Against Corruption (15 April 2016) *Fourth Evaluation Round; Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors; Compliance Report Albania* [GrecoRC4 (2016)6]

[http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/1226\\_1460957810\\_grecorc4-2016-6-albania-en.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1226_1460957810_grecorc4-2016-6-albania-en.pdf)

Council of Europe (January 2013) *European Committee of Social Rights Conclusions 2012 (ALBANIA)*

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<http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/01/26/albania-independent-inquiry-needed-protester-deaths>

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## **11. Press/Media/Freedom of Expression**

Balkan Insight (3 December 2015) *Self-Censorship Rampant in Albanian Media, Study Says*

<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/self-censorship-rampant-in-the-albanian-media-birn-study-finds-12-02-2015>

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<http://cpj.org/2011/03/cpj-concerned-about-fatullayevs-safety-calls-for-h.php>

Committee to Protect Journalists (16 February 2010) *Attacks on the Press 2009: Europe and Central Asia Developments*

<http://cpj.org/2010/02/attacks-on-the-press-2009-europe-and-central-asia.php>

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<http://www.refworld.org/docid/55e970b5e.html>

IREX (2016) *Media Sustainability Index 2016 - Albania*

[https://www.irex.org/sites/default/files/u105/EE\\_MSI\\_2016\\_Albania.pdf](https://www.irex.org/sites/default/files/u105/EE_MSI_2016_Albania.pdf)

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) (5 June 2015) *OSCE Representative condemns attacks on journalists in Albania*

<http://www.osce.org/fom/162556>

Reporters Without Borders (10 May 2012) *Public television prevented from covering Tirana street demo*

<http://en.rsf.org/albanie-public-television-prevented-from-10-05-2010,37437.html>

## **12. Women/Children/Family**

Amnesty International (20 May 2010) *In Search of Shelter: Leaving Social Care in Albania*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/4c7e82472.html>

Amnesty International (20 May 2010) *Memorandum to the Albanian Government: Orphans and Other Children Deprived of Parental Care*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/4c7e7eea2.html>

Amnesty International (25 March 2010) *Albanian women deserve justice*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/4bb056d32.html>

The Guardian (UK) (17 October 2015) *Surge in Albanian child slaves trafficked to Britain*

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/17/albanian-trafficked-child-slaves-surge>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (10 September 2015) *Albania: Statistics on blood feuds; state protection and support services available to those affected by blood feuds, including whether individuals have been prosecuted for blood feud-related crimes (2010-2015)* ALB105255.E

<http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/Eng/ResRec/RirRdi/Pages/index.aspx?doc=456093&pls=1>

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