

## Refugee Documentation Centre

### Country Information Package Albania

#### List of Documents

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. 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 contain links to information which may be useful for a number of the other categories.

#### **1. Nationality/Citizenship/Residency**

Embassy of the United States (19.2.2010) *Residency in Albania*  
<http://tirana.usembassy.gov/residency.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (01.10.2008) ALB102933.E  
*Albania: Whether a new national identity card has been issued; whether the leternjofitim is a common identity document used in the country*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/492ac7c6c.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (1.10.2008) ALB102934.E  
*Albania: Whether a person in Albania may apply for and pick up identification documents on behalf of another person*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/492ac7c4c.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (10.10.2007) ALB102520.E -  
*Albania: Procedure to obtain a passport from outside the country; type of identification needed to apply for a passport overseas; whether the policy for obtaining a passport has changed*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/474e89521a.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (03.10.2007) ALB102600.E -  
*Albania: Description of valid birth and marriage certificates, including the general paper quality of original documents; register numbers and register years; description of family certificates; whether an individual with power of attorney who is applying for a birth certificate on behalf of an applicant may provide the applicant's photo to the authorities*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/474e89541e.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (09.10.2007) *ALB102602.E - Albania: Whether Albanians who work in Albania are required to have employment booklets that record their hours, wages and other employment data*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/474e8956c.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (01.10.2007) *ALB102599.E Albania: Identity documents required to obtain social services*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/474e8958c.html>

UNHCR Refworld (21.10.1998) *Albanian Constitution*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,LEGAL,,LEGISLATION,ALB,,3ae6b5dd0,0.html>

UNHCR Refworld (6.9.1998) *Law No. 8389, Law on Albanian Citizenship*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,LEGAL,,LEGISLATION,ALB,,3ae6b5c10,0.html>

UNHCR Refworld (21.1.1999) *Law No. 8442 on Some Changes in Law No. 8389 dated 5 August 1998 "On Albanian Citizenship"*

[http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,LEGAL,,LEGISLATION,ALB,,3f4e16744\\_0.html](http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,LEGAL,,LEGISLATION,ALB,,3f4e16744_0.html)

UNHCR Refworld (12 .6.1990) *Decree No. 7393, on the Issue of Passports and Visas (last amended 1993)*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,LEGAL,,LEGISLATION,ALB,,3ae6b54d4,0.html>

US Office of Personnel Management Investigations Service (March 2001) *Citizenship Laws of the World*

<http://www.opm.gov/extra/investigate/IS-01.pdf>

## **2. Local Information/Maps/Language**

BBC (25.11.2009) *Country profile: Albania*

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country\\_profiles/1004234.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1004234.stm)

CIA (4.3.2010) *The World Factbook: Albania*

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/al.html>

Department of Foreign Affairs (29.9.2009) *Albania – Travel Advice*

<http://foreignaffairs.gov.ie/home/index.aspx?id=8768&media=print>

Ethnologue (Undated) *Languages of Albania*

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=AL](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=AL)

Foreign & Commonwealth Office (16.3.2009) *Country Profile: Albania*

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/country-profiles/europe/albania>

Infoplease (Undated) *Information on Albania*

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107268.html>

Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection (undated) *Albania Maps*  
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/albania.html>

UN Cartographic Section (June 2004) *Map of Albania*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,REFERENCE,UNCART,MAP,ALB,,460793d02,0.html>

UNHCR, (undated) *Map of Albania*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/publ/PUBL/3dee189b4.pdf>

US Department of State (14.7.2009) *Albania: Country Specific Information*  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1076.html?css=print](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1076.html?css=print)

US Department of State (June 2009) *Background Note: Albania*  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3235.htm>

World Atlas (undated) *Map of Albania*, World Atlas,  
<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/europe/al.htm>

World Bank (2010) *Albania Country Brief 2010*  
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/ALBANIAEXTN/0,,menuPK:301417~pagePK:141159~piPK:141110~theSitePK:301412,00.html>

### **3. Culture/Customs**

Albania Tourism (undated) *About Albania – Cultural Heritage*  
<http://www.albaniantourism.com/>

Department of Foreign Affairs (28.9.2009) *Albania - Local Laws and Customs*  
<http://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=8768>

### **4. General Human Rights Reports**

Amnesty International (28.5.2009) *Amnesty International Report 2009 – Albania*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,AMNESTY,,ALB,,483e2775c,0.html>

Albanian Helsinki Committee (24 April 2008) *Albania - Report On Human Rights – 2007*  
<http://www.ahc.org.al/raporte/HR%20Report%20in%20Albania%202007%20%20AHC.pdf>

Council of Europe ( 18.6.2008) *Report By The Commissioner For Human Rights Mr Thomas Hammarberg On His Visit To Albania 27 October – 2 November 2007*  
[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CommDH\(2008\)8&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864#P307\\_63341](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CommDH(2008)8&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864#P307_63341)

European Commission (6.11.2007) *Albania 2007 Progress Report*  
[http://www.ecoi.net/file\\_upload/432\\_1194602205\\_albania-progress-reports-en.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/432_1194602205_albania-progress-reports-en.pdf)

Freedom House, (16.7.2009) *Freedom in the World - Albania (2009)*  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2009&country=7551>

Freedom House, (30.6.2009) *Nations in Transit 2009, Albania*  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/uploads/nit/2009/Albania-final.pdf>

Human rights Watch (15.4.2009) *UPR submission on Albania*  
<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/04/15/human-rights-watch-upr-submission-albania>

UK Home Office (23.11.2009) *Country of Origin Information Key Documents*  
[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country\\_reports.html#countries](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html#countries)

US Department of State (11.3.2010) *2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - Albania*  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/eur/136016.htm>

## **5. Conflict/Security**

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (May 2008) Issue Paper: Albania blood feuds  
[http://www2.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/ndp/ref/index\\_e.htm?docid=381&cid=0&sec=TOC](http://www2.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/ndp/ref/index_e.htm?docid=381&cid=0&sec=TOC)

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (22.10.2009) *ALB103193.E - Albania: Attestation letters for blood feuds; issuing organizations; how letters are issued, processed and stored; whether issuing organizations are recognized by the government; whether the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation (CNR) has the full authority, approved by the government and recognized by international organizations and institutions, to verify the authenticity of blood feuds*  
[http://www2.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index\\_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=452575](http://www2.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=452575)

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (20.5.2009)- *ALB103123.E - Albania: Whether health officials at hospitals and clinics are required to report cases of trauma, accidents and injuries to the police; procedures for reporting these cases*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4b20f030c.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (14.4.2009 ) *ALB103111.E - Albania: Whether any level of government or the municipality of Vau Dejes maintains a list of existing blood feuds in order to provide financial assistance to those who are unable to leave their homes because of the blood feuds*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4b20f02cc.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (22.09.2006) *ALB101462.E - Albania: Conditions of military service; consequences of evading military service or alternative service; whether one may legally refuse military and alternative service, and if so, in which cases; whether passports may be issued to individuals who have not completed their military service, including students; whether a military service certificate must be presented in order to obtain a passport; whether passports contain a field for information regarding military service (2004 - June 2006)*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147da11.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (19.09.2006) *ALB101494.E - Albania: Structure and location of the police force; whether regional police forces share information with each other; procedure for filing a complaint with police; responsiveness of police to complaints (January - September 2006)*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147db0.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (16.09.2004 ) *ALB42913.E - Albania: Municipalities with a municipal police force; powers invested in the municipal police*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/42df609828.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (13/09/2006) *ALB101479.E - Albania: Possibility for those targeted in blood feuds to relocate within Albania; whether avengers can locate targeted individuals who have relocated in other areas of Albania (2005 - 2006)*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147db2d.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (22.01.2008) *ALB102748.E - Albania: Whether Albanians who have lived abroad and return to Albania are targeted by criminal elements in Albanian society because of a perception of their affluence*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/485ba84da.html>

International Crisis Group (25.2.2004) *Pan-Albanianism: How Big a Threat to Balkan Stability?*  
[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/europe/balkans/153\\_pan\\_albanianism\\_how\\_big\\_amended.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/europe/balkans/153_pan_albanianism_how_big_amended.pdf)

US Department of State (30.4.2009) *Country Reports on Terrorism 2008 - Albania*  
<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2008/122432.htm>

War Resisters International, 15 May 1005, *World survey of conscription and conscientious objection to military service, Albania*  
[http://www.wri-irg.org/programmes/world\\_survey/country\\_report/en/Albania](http://www.wri-irg.org/programmes/world_survey/country_report/en/Albania)

## 6. Minority/Ethnic Groups

Council of Europe: European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (2.3.2010) ECRI Report on Albania

<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Albania/ALB-CbC-IV-2010-001-ENG.pdf>

Council of Europe: Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (1.12.2008) *Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities: Second Opinion on Albania, adopted on 29 May 2008*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4938ef322.pdf>

Council of Europe: European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (31.12.2003) *National Legal Measures to Combat Racism and Intolerance in the Member States of the Council of Europe: Albania*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,COECRI,,ALB,,46f286a70,0.html>

Council of Europe: Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (18.5.2007) *Second Report Submitted by Albania Pursuant to Article 25, Paragraph 1 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,COI,COESFCPNM,,ALB,,465d7c692,0.html>

European Roma Rights Centre (undated) *Threats to Roma Housing Rights in Albania,*

<http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2662&archiv=1>

European Roma Rights Centre (9.8.2006) *Albania: Roma Housing Rights Abuses*

<http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2612&archiv=1>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (08/09/2006) *ALB101493.E - Albania: Treatment of homosexuals by society, police, judiciary and government; protection available to homosexuals who have been subject to ill-treatment; existence of establishments catering to homosexual clientele (2005 - 2006)*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147dc2.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (19/03/2004 ) *ALB42437.E - Albania: Ethnic group called "Katavarosh"; treatment of families with mixed Egyptian-Albanian or Roma-Albanian marriages; state protection*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/41501be615.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (09/03/2004) *ALB42364.E - Albania: Situation of Roma; state protection*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/41501be623.html>



Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (27/01/2004) *ALB42235.E - Albania: Treatment of members of the Gay Albania Society by the general population and by the authorities; number of members by gender; whether the society issues membership cards, and if so, whether the cards are signed by a party official; description of membership cards; whether the society holds meetings and, if so, in which Albanian cities (2003-2004)*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/403dd1e08.html>

Minorities at Risk Project (31.12.2003) *Assessment for Greeks in Albania*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,MARP,,ALB,,469f3a532,0.html>

Minorities Rights Group International (Date Unknown) *Albania, Roma*  
<http://www.minorityrights.org/1398/albania/roma.html>

Minorities Rights Group International (Date Unknown) *Albania, Egyptians*  
<http://www.minorityrights.org/1377/albania/egyptians.html>

Minorities Rights Group International (Date Unknown) *Albania, Greeks*  
<http://www.minorityrights.org/1400/albania/greeks.html>

Minorities Rights Group International (Date Unknown) *Albania, Macedonians*  
<http://www.minorityrights.org/1399/albania/macedonians.html>

## **7. Religion/Cults**

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (07/06/2005) *ALB100203.E - Albania: Whether the "Peace Missionaries Union of Albania" has begun to function again since the murder of its founder; whether a new group has adopted the same name (March 2005-June 2005)*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/440ed6cab.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (17/02/2004) *ALB42316.E - Albania: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Albania; treatment of members*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/41501be77.html>

Miranda Vickers, 2008, *Islam in Albania*, Advanced Research and Assessment Group  
<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Digital-Library/Publications/Detail/?fecvnodeid=106547&groupot593=0C54E3B3-1E9C-BE1E-2C24-A6A8C7060233&fecvid=33&ots591=0C54E3B3-1E9C-BE1E-2C24-A6A8C7060233&lng=en&v33=106547&id=55215>

Religious Intelligence (undated) *Country Profile*  
<http://www.religiousintelligence.co.uk/country/?CountryID=103>

US Department of State (26.10.2009) *International Religious Freedom Report 2009 Albania*  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127295.htm>

## 8. Political

CIA, 27 March 2008, *World Leaders, Albania*

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/world-leaders-1/world-leaders-a/albania.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (15/11/2006) ALB101858.E - *Albania: Balli Kombëtar (National Front Party, NFP); party status; number of members; whether any party candidates ran in the 2005 parliamentary elections; whether the party holds any seats in parliament; whether the party holds office at the local level; treatment of party members (2003 - 2006)*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147dd20.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (14/09/2006) ALB101497.E - *Albania: Regions in which the Democratic Party of Albania is in the majority or in control (July 2006)*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147e1a.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (14/09/2006) ALB101496.E - *Albania: Treatment of members of the Democratic Party of Albania by police and government; protection available to members through government, police, judiciary and non-governmental organizations; whether relatives of members are at risk of ill-treatment (2005 - 2006)*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147e037.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (21/02/2006) ALB100979.E - *Albania: Treatment of Socialist Party members and supporters by state authorities and by Democratic Party members and supporters since the Parliamentary election of July 2005 (July 2005 - 2006)*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147dd2.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (20/02/2006) ALB100875.E - *Albania: The Christian Democratic Party and the treatment of its supporters by the police and government*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147dd11.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (29/04/2005) ALB43530.E - *Albania: The date on which the Association of the Formerly Politically Persecuted (or National Association of Anti-Communist Former Political Prisoners, Internees and Persecuted Persons) began issuing identification documents to its members (1991-April 2005)*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/42df608f20.html>



Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (11/02/2005) *ALB43379.E - Albania: Update of ALB31220.E of 24 February 1999 on the treatment by the authorities of members or families of the Association of Former Victims of Political Persecution (Association of Politically Persecuted) (February 1999-February 2005).*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/42df609020.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (08/05/2003) *ALB41433.E - Albania: The difference between the PBDNj and PDNj acronyms for the Human Rights Union Party; whether it has some way to publicize human rights violations against the party; reported assassination attempts against party members*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3f7d4d51e.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (03/04/2003) *ALB40942.E - Albania: The treatment of members of the Albanian Party of Democratic Right (PDD) by state agents and/or the civilian population*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3f7d4d5023.html>

International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Undated, *[Election Guide, Albania]*

[http://www.electionguide.org/search-results.php?type=&country=3&search\\_year=any&submitted=1&submit.x=31&submit.y=8](http://www.electionguide.org/search-results.php?type=&country=3&search_year=any&submitted=1&submit.x=31&submit.y=8)

IPU (19.11.2008) *Albania, Kuvendi (Assembly)*

<http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/reports/2001.htm>

OSCE, 5 June 2007, *Republic Of Albania, Local Elections, 18 February 2007, OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report*

[http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2007/06/24859\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2007/06/24859_en.pdf)

OSCE (7 November 2005) *Republic Of Albania, Parliamentary Elections, 3 July 2005, OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report*

[http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2005/11/16905\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2005/11/16905_en.pdf)

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[http://www.rferl.org/content/Albanias\\_Youth\\_Launch\\_Political\\_Party\\_In\\_Protest/1378609.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Albanias_Youth_Launch_Political_Party_In_Protest/1378609.html)

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<http://rulers.org/rula1.html>

## **9. Government/Civil Society**

Alertnet, undated, *Country Profile, Albania*

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Bertelsmann Transformation Index, 2008, *Albania Country Report*

[http://www.bertelsmann-transformation-index.de/fileadmin/pdf/Gutachten\\_BTI\\_2008/ECSE/Albania.pdf](http://www.bertelsmann-transformation-index.de/fileadmin/pdf/Gutachten_BTI_2008/ECSE/Albania.pdf)

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[http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/Albania\\_factsheet\\_Nov2008.pdf](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/Albania_factsheet_Nov2008.pdf)

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<http://www.devdir.org/files/Albania.PDF>

International Social Security Association, 1 January 2008, *Albania, Scheme Description, Unemployment*  
<http://www.issa.int/aiss/Observatory/Country-Profiles/Regions/Europe/Albania>

International Trade Union Confederation, 20 November 2008, *2008 Annual Survey of violations of trade union rights, Albania*  
<http://survey08.ituc-csi.org/survey.php?IDContinent=4&IDCountry=ALB&Lang=EN>

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<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2008-2009/europe/albania.pdf>

World Bank, 3 December 2007, *Albania, Urban Growth, Migration and Poverty Reduction, A Poverty Assessment*  
[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2007/12/19/000020953\\_20071219095420/Rendered/PDF/400710AL.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2007/12/19/000020953_20071219095420/Rendered/PDF/400710AL.pdf)

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<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UNTC/UNPAN014893.pdf>

World Law Guide (undated) Legislation Albania  
<http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/eur/lxwealb.htm>

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

Committee to Protect Journalists (29.6.2007) *Police block newspaper staff from entering offices*  
<http://cpj.org/2009/01/police-block-newspaper-staff-from-entering-its-off.php>

Freedom House (1.5.2009) *Freedom of the Press Albania*  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=251&year=2009>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (29/12/2003) *ALB42176.E - Albania: Information on the newspaper Gazeta 55; where it is based; political orientation; circulation*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/485ba84c8.html>

Reporters Without Borders (13.1.2009) *Police prevent staff of Tirana-based daily from entering their offices*  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,...ALB,,496c5be5c,0.html>

## **11. Women/Children/Family**

Amnesty International (30.3.2006) *Albania Violence against women in the family: "It's not her shame" AI Index: EUR 11/002/2006*  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR11/002/2006/en/dom-EUR110022006en.pdf>

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<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR11/008/2007/en/dom-EUR110082007en.html>

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<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR11/001/2007/en/dom-EUR110012007en.html>

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[http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country\\_pdfs/FINAL\\_2008\\_Global\\_Report.pdf](http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf)

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