



## **Albania - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 25 August 2016**

### **Information on honour killings**

A document issued in July 2016 by the *United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* notes that:

“The Committee notes the State party’s efforts to combat discriminatory gender stereotypes and harmful practices by launching awareness raising campaigns. However, it remains concerned that such stereotypes and practices remain prevalent. The Committee is particularly concerned about the persistence of harmful practices such as child marriage, families choosing husbands and payment of a bride price or dowry, which remain prevalent in rural and remote areas and among minority communities. It further notes with concern the re-emergence of concepts of justice (kanun) and codes of conduct that condone killings of women and girls in the name of so called “honour” (United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (22 July 2016) *Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Albania\**, p.5).

In July 2016 a compilation of COI sources on blood feuds issued in a report by the *United Kingdom Home Office* includes stating:

“Whilst there are still some active blood feuds in Albania – particularly in northern areas – they are few and in sharp decline” (United Kingdom Home Office (July 2016) *Albania: Blood feuds*, p.8).

The *Telegraph* in April 2016 points out that:

““There have been 35 revenge murders already in 2016,” says Gjin Marku, a former Albanian intelligence officer who now works mediating so-called “blood-feuds” (Telegraph (16 April 2016) *Behind the murky world of Albanian blood feuds*).

A report released in April 2016 by the *United States Department of State* reviewing events of the preceding year notes that:

“Incidents of societal killings, including both “blood feud” and revenge killings, occurred during the year. Media portrayed some gang-related killings as blood feud killings, and criminals at times used the term to justify their crimes. There were no cases of minors or women falling victim to blood feud killings. The ombudsman reported that authorities’ efforts to protect families or prevent blood feud killings were insufficient, although the government increased efforts to prosecute such crimes” (United States Department of State (13 April 2016) *2015 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Albania*).

Commenting on events of 2015 the *Albanian Helsinki Committee* notes in a report that:

“...there has been no case of blood feud...” (Albanian Helsinki Committee (12 February 2016) *Report on the Situation of Respect for Human Rights in Albania for 2015*).

A document issued by the *Bertelsmann Foundation* in 2016 states that:

“Cases of blood feud continue to occur mainly in rural northern areas of Albania” (Bertelsmann Foundation (2016) *BTI 2016; Albania Country Report, 2016*, p.13).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

## References

Albanian Helsinki Committee (12 February 2016) *Report on the Situation of Respect for Human Rights in Albania for 2015*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/report-situation-respect-human-rights-albania-2015>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 25 August 2016

Bertelsmann Foundation (2016) *BTI 2016; Albania Country Report, 2016*

<http://ecoi.net/doc/320231>

Accessed Thursday 25 August 2016

Telegraph (16 April 2016) *Behind the murky world of Albanian blood feuds*

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/16/behind-the-murky-world-of-albanian-blood-feuds/>

Accessed Thursday 25 August 2016

United Kingdom Home Office (July 2016) *Albania: Blood feuds*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/albania-country-information-and-guidance>

Accessed Thursday 25 August 2016

United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (22 July 2016) *Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Albania\**

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEAW/C/ALB/CO/4&Lang=En](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEAW/C/ALB/CO/4&Lang=En)

Accessed Thursday 25 August 2016

United States Department of State (13 April 2016) *2015 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Albania*

<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=571612aae>

Accessed Thursday 25 August 2016

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

## **Sources Consulted**

Amnesty International  
BBC News  
Electronic Immigration Network  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
Human Rights Watch  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre  
International Crisis Group  
IRIN News  
Lexis Nexis  
Minority Rights Group International  
Online Newspapers  
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library  
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database  
Reliefweb  
Reuters  
United Kingdom Home Office  
United States Department of State  
UNHCR Refworld