

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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**UN Human Rights Council
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Item 6:

Consideration of UPR reports

ALBANIA

Mr. President,

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

We welcome 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, we urge the government to promptly ensure that the family of Remzi Hoxha, disappeared by the Security Services in 1995, is given information on his fate and whereabouts, and his body returned to them for burial.

Mr. President,

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 we note the potentially valuable role of the newly established Internal Issues and Complaints Service in this regard.³

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_BRENDSHME_N_MINISTRIN_E_PUN_VE_T_17065_1.php

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 not only to insufficient resources, inadequate coordination, and deficiencies in monitoring and evaluation, but also to 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 fifteen 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 A pattern of protection orders being withdrawn by plaintiffs persists, and where orders are issued they are often not implemented.⁸ More needs to be done.

Finally, Mr. President,

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 with all relevant stakeholders. We hope that this review will help to prompt that progress.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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).