

## UPR Submission

47th session of UPR Working Group (Nov. 2024)

Albania



سازمان دفاع از قربانیان خشونت  
Organization for Defending Victims  
of Violence

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## About ODVV

1. The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organization in Special Consultative Status to ECOSOC. ODVV was established in 1988 in Tehran and has been active in the field of human rights and humanitarian activities.
2. ODVV is also associated to the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO). ODVV has cooperated with international organizations in a variety of issues and has working relations with many NGOs in Iran and around the globe.
3. ODVV is focused on promoting human rights, supporting victims of violence, empowering Iranian civil society, and offering human rights consultations to the Iranian institutions and organizations. ODVV is actively involved in running various human rights education courses, workshops, seminars, and conferences. Other activities include:
  - a. Participation in the Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva;
  - b. Publication of different books and booklets on human rights such as Rights of the Child, Unilateral Coercive Measures (Economic Sanctions), Racism, Racial Discrimination, Islamophobia and Xenophobia;
  - c. Publishing *Defenders* Quarterly (in English), human rights news and developments *Weekly* (in Farsi), daily updating ODVV websites in English, Farsi and Arabic;
  - d. Posting Human Rights Council developments for Iranian audience on social media.

4. ODVV is submitting the following report on the human rights situation in Albania to contribute to the improvement of human rights in the country.
  
5. In the time interval between the adoption of the outcome of the previous round of UPR in 11-2019, Albania has made efforts to improve the domestic situation of human rights. ODVV notes the efforts, however, would raise the following concerns that still exist in the country and request the States, the UPR working group and Albania to pay due attention to them.

#### *Equality and non-discrimination*

#### ***Situation of Minorities***

6. We are particularly concerned with the reports of hate speech and expressions of hatred<sup>1</sup> against minorities and migrants, stigmatizing and expressing negative feelings toward the people of other nationalities, ethnicities as well as Albanian minorities, such as the Roma and Egyptians.
  
7. We also express worries that Albania courts do not make use of Article 50 of the Criminal Code providing for increased punishment for racist motivation, while the Article provides legal grounds for combating racism. In 2019, the country has received 3 recommendations<sup>2</sup> on combating hate speech and using legal frameworks to attain such a goal.
  
8. We are still concerned about the long history of discrimination against minorities, including the serious ones against primary school children, such as the case presented by six Roma families in a European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) application on Naim Frashëri primary school<sup>3</sup>, which is considered as a violation of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reportingdiversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Monitoring-Report-on-Hate-Speech-in-Albania-12072022.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Recommendations No: 95.46; 95.47; 95.48.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.rolplatform.org/discrimination-based-on-segregation-of-roma-and-egyptian-children-in-primary-school/>

the right to inclusive education.

9. However, we note the initiative by representatives of Albanian institutions to address segregation in schools and advance the integration of Roma and Egyptian children in education, in response to the judgement of ECHR who found discrimination based on ethnicity in the case before the Court. We are looking forward to witness such efforts are translated into concrete results for the primary school children belonging to minorities. In 2019, the country has received and accepted 22 recommendations<sup>4</sup> on education and issues such as providing full access to education for all children, including the children with disabilities and the minority children, such Roma and Egyptian communities.

10. This is while the country has received and accepted 15 recommendations<sup>5</sup> on strengthening the protection of minorities, fighting discrimination against them and improve their enjoyment of all human rights including the right to healthcare and education, in May 2019.

### ***Right to Life, liberty and Security of the Person and the Rights of the Child***

11. We note the steps taken by the country, as well as the studies<sup>6</sup> conducted to address the issue of blood feuds, however, the situation of families, especially children, who are affected by the crimes committed long before they were even born, is a source of serious concern, specifically for NGOs that work for victims of violence.

12. We call on the country to take more effective steps to improve the human rights and the quality of life for these people and the affected children.

13. In the previous round of the UPR, Albania received 79 recommendations and accepted 78, on protection of children, especially the ones in vulnerable situations or

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<sup>4</sup> Recommendations No: 95.17; 95.48; 95.88; 95.100; 95.107; 95.108; 95.109; 95.110; 95.111; 95.112; 95.113; 95.114; 95.115; 95.116; 95.117; 95.118; 95.119; 95.121; 95.192; 95.193; 95.194 and 95.179.

<sup>5</sup> Recommendations No: 95.17; 95.88; 95.94; 95.101; 95.111; 95.118; 95.122; 95.181; 95.182; 95.183; 95.184; 95.185; 95.186 and 95.188.

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2078886/ALB\\_CPIN\\_Blood\\_feuds.pdf](https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2078886/ALB_CPIN_Blood_feuds.pdf)

subjected to domestic violence and facilitate their access to education.

### ***The Issue of Terrorism***

14. Considering the fact that Albania is party to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (ICSANT), from 20 September 2023, which emphasizes on cooperation among States in devising and adopting effective measures for the prevention of the financing of terrorism.
15. We call on Albania to stop hosting the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) which was enlisted as a terrorist group in the United States until 2012 and in Europe till 2009. MKO is responsible for the documented killing of 12000 people in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
16. In 2019, Albania has received three recommendations<sup>7</sup> on combating terrorism and compliance with counter-terrorism resolutions.

### ***The Situation of Migrants and Asylum Seekers***

17. We express deep worries over the agreement signed between Italy and Albania in Nov. 2023 to detain asylum seekers in two detention centers in Albania. We believe that the decision would seriously violate a series of human rights for these people including the right to life at sea, as well as their physical and mental health; their right to seek asylum; to freedom of movement and the right to liberty. The adverse human rights consequences of the agreement question the legality and the effectivity of the Italy-Albania decision.
18. In 2019, Albania received five recommendations<sup>8</sup> on strengthening measures to protect the right of refugees and asylum seekers, while the mentioned agreement would lead to more violations of their human rights.

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<sup>7</sup> Recommendations No.: 95.32; 95.33; 95.34.

<sup>8</sup> Recommendations No.: 95.48; 95.76; 95.196; 95.197; 95.188.

19. We call on the country to effectively address the situation of the migrants and asylum seekers and present the victims with adequate and timely remedy and redress, while preventing the violation of a range of human rights from taking place against these people, especially their deprivation of multiple liberties as a result of the Italy-Albania decision.