



Albania – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 13 November 2012

Information on police protection available against influential people in Albania

The 2012 US Department of State country report on Albania, in a section titled “Arbitrary Arrest or Detention”, states:

“Police officers did not enforce the law equally, and an individual's political or criminal connections often influenced enforcement of laws. Low salaries contributed to continued corruption and unprofessional behavior, which remained impediments to the development of an effective police force.” (US Department of State (24 May 2012) *2011 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Albania*)

In a paragraph headed “Arrest Procedures and Treatment While in Detention” this report states:

“Courts routinely denied prosecutors' requests for detention of well-connected, high-profile defendants.” (ibid)

A report published by the European Commission, in a section titled “Anti-corruption policy”, states:

“Limited human and financial resources remain a constraint for the Joint Investigative Units, the HIDAA, the Prosecutor's Office and the different departments dealing with anticorruption measures. Internal control departments often lack specialist expertise and remain insufficiently focused on fighting corruption. The level of cooperation between law enforcement agencies, in particular between the police and prosecutors, remains insufficient. Institutions in charge of investigations, inspections, and sentencing remain vulnerable to political pressure and undue influence.” (European Commission (10 October 2012) *Albania 2012 Progress Report*, p.15)

A report from the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), in a paragraph headed “Findings”, states:

“During fieldwork, several respondents mentioned a popular media story about 'Mire', the wife of a wealthy, politically-connected man who was being sheltered by various individuals and agencies in Albania. The story told of violent abuse in the marriage from which the wife was currently hiding and attempting to escape entirely. However, due to the political and corporate affiliations of the husband, her attempts were repeatedly blocked. With a fragile legal infrastructure and a police force which can be easily overstepped by money and political influence, the husband repeatedly swept her attempts away.” (International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) (February 2011))

Gender, Law and Transition in Albania: Assessing the Impact of Albania's Domestic Violence Prevention Law)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit 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.

References:

European Commission (10 October 2012) *Albania 2012 Progress Report*
http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2012/package/al_rapport_2012_en.pdf
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