

ALBANIA

Date of admission to UN: 14 December 1955.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Albania has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 4 October 1991.

Albania's initial report was due 30 June 1994.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 4 October 1991.

Albania's initial and second periodic reports were due 3 January 1993 and 1998 respectively.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 11 May 1994.

Albania's initial and second periodic reports were due 10 June 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 11 May 1994.

Albania's initial report was due 10 June 1995.

Torture

Acceded: 11 May 1994.

Albania's initial report was due 9 June 1995.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 27 February 1992.

Albania's initial report was due 27 March 1994.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/68, paras. 12, 37; E/CN.4/1998/68/Add.1, para. 4)

The Special Rapporteur sent an urgent appeal to the government following the declaration of a state of emergency in March 1997. The appeal noted that fears had been expressed that the emergency provisions might lead to violations of the right to life since they reportedly authorized security forces to open fire to disperse crowds, and to shoot without warning people who had failed to surrender their arms.

Freedom of opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur on:

(E/CN.4/1998/40, paras. 8)

The Special Rapporteur has requested an invitation to visit Albania but, as of the date of the report, the government had not responded.

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on:

(E/CN.4/1998/6, paras. 48, 61, 94)

The report refers to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and conscientious objection. The Special Rapporteur (SR) noted that there appears to be no legislative provision for alternative service or unarmed military service for conscientious objectors, who may be subject to judicial proceedings, fines and imprisonment. The SR stated that exemption from military service, granted against monetary payment, may be regarded as discriminatory.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on:

(E/CN.4/1998/38, para. 11; E/CN.4/1998/38/Add.1, para. 3)

The report notes that an urgent appeal was sent to the government on behalf of a large number of demonstrators who had allegedly been arrested in connection with protests said to have taken place in several towns. According to the information received, some of these detainees, particularly at Vlora, Berat and Korça, were severely beaten in police stations. The government replied that, since no complaint had been lodged with the Government Procurator's Office or the courts against the armed forces, it was impossible to confirm the allegations.

Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on:

(E/CN.4/1998/10, para. 73)

The report refers to export practices of the OECD countries and states that Albania is among the destination countries for the illicit movement and dumping of toxic wastes and dangerous products.

Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:

(E/CN.4/1998/54, Section II.D)

In the section providing examples of custodial violence against women, the report refers to an incident in May 1994 when police forcibly entered a factory in Tirana to enforce an order of the Mayor of Tirana calling for part of the property to be handed over to the Women's Democratic Front. Six women were among those at the factory and, despite their requests to have the police wait for the director of the factory to arrive, the police subjected them to ill-treatment, including punching. The vice-president of the opposition party, a woman, was taken into custody, punched, kicked, insulted, sworn at, and when she refused to enter the cell, was beaten repeatedly and called a whore.

