

Albania is not part of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, in which Canada has emphasized human rights and human contacts (including family reunification). On family reunification, the Albanian authorities do not seem receptive to Canadian positions on the need to permit Albanians to join relatives here. (The Department of External Affairs has two active family reunification cases. The Canadian Embassy in Belgrade has already made representations on one of these, as well as six other immigration cases.)

CANADIAN POSITION:

- We still have very little information on the human rights situation and on individual cases in Albania. We value the information on Albania provided by Amnesty International and other interested groups.
- We know that many rights and freedoms we value highly are severely limited or non-existent in Albania: religious worship, freedom of expression and of association, the right to travel or emigrate, the rights of prisoners. Amnesty International believes that Albania has an undetermined number of prisoners of conscience. We have no reason to doubt this.
- We are particularly concerned about the uncompromising official Albanian attitude on family reunification. The Albanian authorities have said that anyone is welcome to return to Albania for such purposes, provided they left legally. Those who have left illegally are subject to criminal charges. There is no indication that Albanians would be allowed to join relatives in Canada.
- In the United Nations during 1989, Canada voted for the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council on human rights in Albania.