MEMO
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RECONCILIATION MISSIONARIES

To: the high institutions of the Albanian State and representatives of the international community

About the scenarios and political setups against the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation to cover the reality of blood feuds and honor killings as well as the mafia connections with the Albanian state.

Tirana on December 28th 2011

The National Assembly of the Reconciliation Missionaries of Albania, expressing the deepest indignation for the scenarios and setups against the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation in the latest media and pseudo-legal game against the image of this Committee and its chairman, Mr. Gjin Marku, considers it important to address the high institutions of the Albanian state and the international community about the following:

In the continuation of the now and again setups, on December 2nd and 3rd, while the chairman of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, Mr. Gjin Marku, was in the United Kingdom to assist some families that have emigrated because of the threat of blood feud, the Albanian State Police, without first informing or even contacting Mr. Gjin Marku, broadcasted for two days straight the news that it has denounced him as the chairman of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation on the ground of suspicions of document falsification in support of Albanians that emigrated because of blood feud.

This denunciation comes after a scenario organized by traffickers in cooperation with police officers to send about 400 Albanian families in Brussels so they could seek asylum, when there were only 7 families threatened by blood feud that moved there in 2011 and had filed their case through the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation. Until June 2011, Belgium was not facing any worries about these issues with Albania because it was checking all the cases through the office of the chairman of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation.

The National Assembly of the Reconciliation Missionaries and the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation have warned about the presence of 11 traffickers in Tirana that have created different organizations like ‘institutions’ and ‘reconciliation associations’ only for profiting through deceiving the citizens and the public, since the spring of 2011. The Albanian state and international institutions have received this information from the report of a two-months expedition of reconciliation missionaries (March 20th – May 20th 2011), which confirmed the criminal activity of these traffickers (Seksers) that have created pseudo-associations and ‘reconciliation institutions’ to favor the release of murderers from prison. Some of these prisoners are released so that they can commit murders for revenge and blood feud, and some of
them fall victim of blood feud themselves as has happened with the prisoners Admir Tafili and Astrit Kurtmema respectively, the first was released temporarily and did not return back to prison until he murdered the Petrushi brothers to take revenge for his father, and the second was murdered for blood feud on the doorstep of his house only five days after he was out on parole, and some months after attempts to kill his 16 years old son for blood feud had been made. 11 such traffickers in Tirana and 7 others in Shkodra are connected to state police officers for many years and have created pseudo-associations for profiting in doing a double play in the enmities and blood feuds, through deceiving people that are wanted by the revenge seeker into falling in setups where they are murdered, for an amount of 50000 or 100000 Euros.

The National Assembly of reconciliation missionaries emphasizes the worry that the majority of the aforementioned traffickers are mainly security officers or ex-security officers in the Internal Affairs and Justice Ministries. Some have been fired because of their connections with criminals and thieves involved in kidnappings, racketeering and theft. Others continue their criminal activity whilst still being in the police force through their fathers as leaders of these ‘institutions’ or ‘reconciliation missions’. The Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation has discovered several cases when these traffickers had falsified the stamp and signature of the chairman of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, and has presented these documents to the police, which remained silent.

The Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation not only has not brought any trouble in the case of the support of the emigrants that seek asylum but has even been supported from the immigration offices of many western countries because every year it has acted in a rigorous way to primarily follow the possibilities of reconciliation and has supported asylum seekers only in the cases of high threat considering that asylum is not the principal and long term solution of the problem. This has enable the list of the families that seek asylum from Albania to remain light and not cause any worries on the western countries. Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation is informed that 300 other families and individuals are equipped with certificates of such traffickers in the United Kingdom which has brought some worry. The High Court of United Kingdom and the representative of Home Office expressed this issue to Mr. Gjin Mark on September 27th 2011, in London.

The traffickers are part of the criminal media and pseudo-legal game against the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation by pouring large sums of money to criminalize this Committee and its chairman, and the state police is also involved in this game. This scenario primarily aims to attack the data of the report of the expedition that exposes these traffickers and their connections with the state structures, organized crime and murders. They want, by any means, to weaken the trust of the international organizations toward the reports of the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation for the presence of mafia in the decision making process of the government and the Albanian parliament. The Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation has denounced the Albanian government twice in Hague and several others in the Strasburg Tribunal as responsible for the 3000 murdered in 1997 and the other 26 victims of an underground arms trafficking in 2008, as well as for the flagrant violations of human rights in regards to the right to life, property and family. The revenge of the government toward the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation for years has consisted in the abandonment of its public activities and the lack of support from the donors connected to the government and lately has involved traffickers and the state police for the criminalization, by any means, of the activity of this committee that works totally on voluntary basis and does not get funds from the government or donors from within and outside Albania.

Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, in all its national meetings of reconciliation missionaries and associations has accentuated that providing the asylum right cannot be based on the issuance of a certification as these traffickers with pseudo-association, ‘missions’ or
The asylum commissions and the western tribunals have continuously communicated with the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation for the verification of the issues of asylum seekers, but in the last case in Belgium organized by the traffickers, they said that it was impossible to communicate with the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation due to the overload with cases of other countries and the unexpected gathering of these asylum seekers in the offices of Brussels. They have expressed the worry about the efforts to criminalize the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation from the Internal Affairs Ministry. The declaration of the Internal Affairs Minister in media that they are working for the criminalization of the non-governmental organizations for the cases of asylum is an indicator of a prepared plot. This methodology for the criminalization of an individual or of an organization for political purposes was not even allowed as a practice even by the Internal Affairs Ministry and the Secret Police of the communist state.

The National Assembly of the Reconciliation Missionaries, with the request of the board of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation made an internal audit in the offices of the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation on December 9th 2011. The audit was conducted according the request and decision of the Board of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, nr. 1/11, on November 23rd 2011, for the clarification of the broadcast of a hidden camera recording in the office of the chairman of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation from the TV show “Fiks Fare”, of Top Channel TV, on October 27th 2011. Even though there was a just reaction from the Board of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation toward the “Fiks Fare” show as well as from the directing staff of this show for the clarification of the truth, that was conducted professionally by “Fiks Fare” itself, on October 31st 2011, the National Assembly considered it reasonable to conduct such an audit for further clarification.

The auditing group, made of Mr. Pashk Lleshhi, chairman of the National Assembly of the reconciliation missionaries, Mr. Preng Cara, vice chair of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, Mr. Mahmut Coka, secretary and vice chairman of the National Assembly of the Reconciliation Missionaries, Ms. Aferdita Avgji, missionary, member of the National Assembly of reconciliation missionaries, and Mr. Zef Cara, missionary, representative of the secretary of the National Assembly of the reconciliation missionaries, conducted its activity independently of the board of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation and with the presence of only one member of this board. After the control of all the practices and activity of the office of the chairman of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation as well as of the board of this committee, all the conclusions were noted in a report signed by all the members of the audit team, and together with the other files and documents this report was handed to the leading organ of the National Assembly of reconciliation missionaries for examination. The leadership of the Assembly, after examining this report together with the other documents of the activity of the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, discussed with the members of the Assembly and decided to inform the institution of the Albanian state and international community for the following:

As the reaction broadcasted by the staff of the TV show “Fiks Fare”, on October 31st 2011, the episode registered with the hidden camera in the office of the chairman of Committee of
Nationwide Reconciliation has nothing to do with problems caused in the Kingdom of Belgium, nor is it a corruption act. The case was handled according to the regulations of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation approved for such cases, on October 8th, 2010, in the Extraordinary Conference of Reconciliation Missionaries and Associations in the Academy of Sciences where was also present Deputy Minister of Interior Ministry, Mr. Avenir Peka, and representatives of the international organizations as well as diplomatic body. These rules were approved after the tragic event that happened whilst the conference was going on, when the priest Dritan Prroni was murdered for blood feud. A month before the murder relatives of the priest had approached the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation for assistance and protection. The same situation happened also in the case of the families Mulliri and Mahmuti, where three brother were murdered in Devoll and four members of one family in Elbasan, a few days after their relatives had approached the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation for a certificate of the conflict, which was not released because the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation was not familiar with their problem and because the persons that showed up declared that we are not in a blood feud but we need the certificate. The case recorded in the hidden camera was treated according to the decision of the board of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, on July 3rd, 2008, which has decided that in particular case, when time cannot wait for the verification of the case, to issue the certificate, which in every case is released without any charge, but also to ask for a payment that will cover the logistics cost of analyzing the case with emergency, in the amount determined by the regulations. The families in blood feud that seek the assistance of the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation make a request for the coverage of the logistics expenses when they are unable to afford them, and the board of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation convenes every month and depending on the available funds covers almost all the requests of these families, often with the help of local businesses. The decision to cover the charge determined by the regulation is a competency only of the board of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, and this decision is made monthly and needs a simple majority of votes to pass. The chairman of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation is obliged to follow the determined rules and does not have any decision power in providing coverage for the charges determined, apart the individual vote that it has in the board of the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation.

The Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, in all the cases has acted in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, for the protection of human rights, in accordance with the law for private activity, for NGOs, and law nr. 2051 of the date July 2nd, 2010, for the protection of personal data, and in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities in the process of archiving the cases of blood feud near CNR. Apart the work in the reconciliation of enmities and resolution of conflicts, Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation has provided assistance and will continue to do so to all those families and individuals that seek asylum outside of Albania due to the endangerment of their life. The refusal of the right to asylum has many times brought tragic events, as was the case with two Albanian families in Germany and Ireland respectively, which committed suicide by jumping from atop buildings as soon as they got the notice of deportation, or the case of the 20 year old that jumped in front of the train in London after losing every hope for the right to stay in England.

The media and pseudo-legal plot for spoiling the image of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation is an attack on the only independent voice of Albanian civil society that continuously keeps a constructive attitude against the mal-governance of the country, against the connection of organized crime with the state structures and reports without any political tendencies about the real situation of crime in Albania.

The Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation has continuously been attacked by the Albanian government for its reports about the reality of the murders for honor, lands, revenge and blood feud as well as the connection of the organized crime with representatives of the government.
The goal of the Albanian government to cover the real situation of the murders for revenge, blood feud, and honor issues and the capture of the state by the crime, through the action of the police against the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, has consequences for the Albanian society and the European community in which the Albania must be integrated.

The National Assembly of the reconciliation missionaries continues to deal also with murders that are caused by the leak of information, often in an intentional way, from the structures of the police, from the office of the legalization of the documents in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or from the Embassies which, in opposition with the law for the protection of personal data and sensitive information, presents such documents to the police. The latest murder for blood feud in the Gresha family in Shkodra, just after the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation had helped in providing their relatives asylum, as well as many other cases is a very serious alarm for the Albanian state in regard to the protection of sensitive information and personal data from these offices. The persons that violate this law in the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the State Police should face penal prosecution. In the case of Gresha family, the killer is a sentenced murderer that was released from prison, who was actually favored in receiving a quick release.

Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation and the National Assembly of the Reconciliation Missionaries work on voluntary basis and are applying voluntarism and the tradition not only in the reconciliation process but in the support of rule of law as well, thus promoting the culture of law and order in community. Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation and the National Assembly of reconciliation missionaries has made possible the reconciliation of 1500 families in blood feud for murders, 4000 other for enmities caused by land conflicts, 800 for trafficking and over 20 000 for smaller conflicts. The lack of support and the abandonment of this activity hinder the cooperation that Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation has in terrain with the police structures and the cooperation of the community with the law and state institutions of rule of law. On November 17th 2011, Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation and the National Assembly of reconciliation missionaries started the annual expedition of reconciliation for the unconditional liberation of isolated women and children throughout the country. The fact that the Agency for the Protection of Civil Society which manages the funds of the government for the support of the activities of NGOs, refused the support toward this initiative as well as toward previous initiatives, is an indicator of this extreme and partial attitude toward the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, and toward its impartial strategy.

The National Assembly of the Reconciliation Missionaries asks all the western countries to continue to support the liberty and the independence of Albanian NGOs, human rights in Albania and especially the rights of Albanians that seek asylum because of blood feud, by checking the cases rigorously and in accordance with their immigration laws and international human right conventions.

The National Assembly of reconciliation missionaries and the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation have always been and remain cooperators of the Albanian institutions and international community for the progress of democracy and culture of law in Albania, and cooperators of the offices of immigration and justice institutions in the western countries in support of the human rights and for not allowing abuses that favor criminals, or people that violate the laws and cause trouble in these countries.

**On behalf of the National Assembly of the Reconciliation Missionaries**

Pashk Ulaşhi
Chairman of the Assembly

Preng Cara
Vice – chairman of Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation

Mahmut Coka
Secretary and vice chairman of Assembly