Republic of Albania
COMMITTEE OF NATIONWIDE RECONCILIATION
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Tirana, on March 10th 2013

Regarding: The flagrant violations of the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the Albanian families involved in blood feuds.

To: His Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you from Albania, a country that is trying to become a member of the European Union, but due to the lack of efficient institutions of the rule of law is unfortunately facing the problems of blood feuds and self-justice that threaten the lives of many citizens.

Today, Albania is the only country in Europe where blood feuds and self-justice are so prevalent. Innocent people are getting murdered as a revenge of crimes committed by their relatives, and in some cases the revenge is taken for crimes committed many years ago. Albania is the only country where families self-isolate in their homes to protect their lives from threats of revenge.

This medieval atavism, which is completely barbarian and not based in the old Albanian Code (Kanun), is one of the most brutal violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms. Due to this situation, the foreign media identify Albania as a medieval museum, thus overshadowing many other aspects of Albanians’ virtues like hospitality, generosity, trustworthiness, religious and ethnic tolerance, the respect and embrace of other cultures and nations.

In the 22 years of the post-communist transition, with the help of the agencies of the United Nations in Albania, good progress has been made in the process of the reconciliation of families involved in blood feuds and in the protection of their right to life by the western countries where they immigrate due to the danger they face in their native country.
Unfortunately, in these times of economic crises that threaten many western countries, some of them are changing the laws to refuse asylum request, including the ones made by Albanian citizens that are in extreme danger of blood feuds in Albania.

Many of the western countries have declared Albania a safe place by referencing the declarations of the Albanian government that hides this phenomenon as it considers blood feud as an obstacle to the process of Albanian joining the European Union.

This recent situation has been created also from the phobia that exists in many European countries against the Albanian nation, which apart from being divided into 5 states plays a very positive role for peace in the Balkans. The number of Albanians that are threatened by blood feud and seek protection in the western countries is negligible when compared with immigrants of other countries. The Republic of Albania has a very small population, only three million inhabitants and only a few hundred families that are threatened from blood feud and were able to leave the country in these past years are seeking asylum. The majority of the families in enmities and blood feuds want to resolve the problem through reconciliation and live freely in Albania.

These days, the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation is informed that members of the families, Kola, Fikaj, Nikolli, Prenga, Tyrbetari and several others, are in great shock due to the lack of security for their lives after the pressures for refusals of asylum requests and warnings of deportation to Albania by the immigration offices in Belgium. It is not very hard for the asylum commissions, Immigration and Justice Ministries of western countries to identify the danger that these families face because they have their files archived near the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation.

Furthermore due to the criticism that Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation addresses to the Albanian Government for its inability to deal with the problem of blood feud, for several years now media attacks and scenarios are created in order to tarnish the reputation of the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation, thus also damaging the families that ask for protection of their right to life in the western countries.

Hoping that we will find your support in the protection of freedoms and the right of Albanian citizens involved in blood feuds, please accept our highest consideration and praise for your valuable mission in service of humanity.

Yours faithfully,

Gjin Marku
Chairman