

**Annual Report**  
*The activities of the Albanian Helsinki Committee during year 2001*

**The Albanian Helsinki Committee**

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**The Albanian Helsinki Committee is a non-governmental organization which aims at promoting and protecting human rights, member of the International Helsinki Federation (IHF) since year 1992.**

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## **I. PUBLICATIONS**

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*Dear reader,*

The Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) comes now in front of you with a new publication in its series during more than ten years of its existence. This is a short period during which its word has become more and more present in the life of the Albanian society. Being the first human rights organization in Albania, founded in December 1990 based on the initiative of some intellectuals who felt the need and the responsibility to protect these rights, the Albanian Helsinki Committee has justified its mission during this long and transitory period. Nowadays the AHC is a prestigious organization, a member of the International Helsinki Federation. The AHC has broadened its activity and its word has had its impact on the public not only to make it sensible to different human rights violations but it has also affected the proper government institutions with a contemporary legislation in accordance with the current democratic standards and in respecting and applying this legislation. From the statements denouncing the cases of the non-respect of the legislation on the human rights to manifold projects covering some of the main fields touched by the non-respect of these rights, from the professional assistance for a number

of legal acts arranging the relations of the society and those of the individual with the state to different observations all around the country, from the publication of the monthly bulletins and quarterly reports reflecting the Committee's activity to publications of special nature on the human rights field -- that has been the long difficult road held with much idealism and devotion, especially under the difficult financial situations and the lack of many resources and means needed in such an undertaking.

The work results justify this devotion and the Albanian Helsinki Committee is now committed in some projects and activities aiming at further improving the situation of the human rights and freedom in Albania by having its impact through its word and publications. The goal of these publications is, on one side, making known to the public opinion its rights problems and, on the other side, the establishment of a dialogue with the proper government institutions directly linked with the legislation on the exercising of these rights. That is the goal of the publication now put in the hands of the public opinion hoping it will be welcomed.

**Prof. Jorgo BULO**

**Chairman of the AHC Board**

Following a year of work the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) comes with a report on its activities held during 2001. The AHC, the first human rights organisation in Albania, continued to carry out its difficult but also noble mission for the respect of the human rights, reacting against their violations, raising the public awareness on their rights and it has given its contribution in the improvement of the situation of the human rights in Albania.

The AHC activity was based on the mission of the organisation and in its strategic plan. It was focused in some areas of the human rights like: respect of the political rights, of the freedom and rights of the persons deprived of liberty, operation of the local government authorities, respect of the social rights of the individuals of different age-groups and strata.

Observations of the rights, noticing of the violations, their verification and after that reacting against them has been one of the way of carrying out the AHC mission.

Public awareness and sensibilising activities in the human rights field, their information and protection they offered to the young age-groups and other social ones made up an important part of the AHC work. These activities were based on the monitoring held by the AHC and conclusions coming out of them.

Letters, phone calls and complaint coming to the Committee have always served as a source of information to base its work.

The preparation of the informing materials like brochures, leaflets, calendars, reports on human rights in Albania, preparation of bulletins and other briefings have been another important aspect of the AHC activity.

The whole AHC activity, briefed in this report, was held due to the tireless working and professionalism of its staff, the Board, its activists and collaborators who are greatly thanked for.

All the AHC activities were made possible to be held due to the financial support from its partners and donors. There could be a good opportunity to extend to them our hearty thanks for their support, willingness and evaluation for the AHC.

Special thanks are for the CORDAID and the Norwegian Foreign Ministry that supported the Committee's institutional functioning for 2001.

Prof. Dr. Ass. Vasilika Hysi

AHC Executive Director

## **A. PROJECTS**

### **A.1 CLOSED PROJECTS**

#### **Legal Education of the Voters for Elections of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania**

AHC during March-June 2001 was involved in implementing the project "Legal Education of the Voters, Elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Albania". This project was financed by the Commissions of Grants for Democracy, American Embassy in Tirana.

AHC during the implementation of this project had as priorities to provide:

- ☉ Its contribution in the process of democratization and integration of Albania in a democratic society as well as in strengthening the Albanian civil society;

Participation of a considerable number of voters greater than that which was foreseen in the project, showed that citizens are more aware of the necessity to be informed on legal acts which sanction these rights and procedures of exercising them.

In order to achieve a greater level of awareness **a sensitizing campaign where 15.000 leaflets were prepared and distributed.** These leaflets provided voters with information on procedures for reviewing the preliminary voters' lists, the right of the voters to address themselves to the justice court in cases their names are not in these lists, voting procedures etc. **1000 copies of brochures on "Knowledge on the Assembly of the Republic of Albania and the Elections System in Albania"** were prepared and distributed.

Another effective tool for awareness raising was **making use of the electronic and written media** which published **different public statements of the AHC** regarding the electoral campaign and the electoral process. In addition, **a series of radio programs** were organized where legal experts of the Electoral Code and the electoral process took part and gave explanation on these issues.

AHC worked actively for raising the awareness of the citizens and the civil society on the political rights and how they should be respected on the eve of the elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Albania through a full program of educational seminars on the Electoral Code, through brochures and leaflets as well as through electoral and written media.

Project Coordinator:  
Project Assistant:

Mimoza Arbi, Jurist  
Sonila Aliaj, Jurist

## **Monitoring Elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Albania June 2001**

Monitoring how the political rights of the citizens are respected through the exercise of the free vote is one of the areas of particular concern for the AHC, which has a long and rich experience in this field. Even during year 2000 AHC monitored local government elections. Along with the foreign monitors of the international organizations, monitoring the general elections was carried out by AHC too.

The project “Monitoring Elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Albania” was implemented thanks to the financial support given by the Commissions of Grants for Democracy, American Embassy in Tirana.

The main focus of this project was **monitoring the electoral campaign and the electoral process in the majority of our country’s territory**. For this reason, 80 monitors were involved in monitoring the electoral campaign and the electoral process of 24 June and 8 July 2001. There were 52 electoral zones which were monitored during the first monitoring round, and 35 electoral zones (more than 300 voting centers) during the

second round. These were from zones no. 2 and 4 in Shkodër to zones 99, 100 in Sarandë. It was for the first time that the electoral process was monitored even in the remotest areas of our country. AHC's monitors sent updated information on how the law and the CEC's (Central Electoral Commission) instructions have been applied and respected by the electoral subjects, how did they work, problems observed and cases of law infringements.

One very important activity of this project was **monitoring the electoral and written media during the electoral process**. Among the most acute issues with which media was faced were: a) voters' lists, b) the issue of the independent candidates, c) electoral campaign, d) the second round of elections. AHC had a fruitful co-operation with the media through its **public statements** regarding the above-mentioned issues and irregularities which were observed.

At the same time, **AHC provided council to CEC** through its letters on a series of issues discussed related to the strict application of the Electoral Code.

AHC in co-operation with Albanian Group of Human Rights, Association for Democratic Culture and OSCE held a **press conference** on the developments of the first round of elections.

In addition, at the conclusion of this project a **Report of the Monitoring of Elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Albania** was released. This report came not only with conclusions on the monitoring but presented at the same time recommendations and suggestions for changes and improvements of the Electoral Code. Above all for this report aimed at a better respect of the political rights of the citizens in Albania.

Monitoring how the political rights of the citizens are respected through the exercise of the free vote is one of the areas of particular concern for the AHC where this Committee is working actively. With its long and rich experience in this field, AHC with its conclusions from monitoring, suggestions and recommendations contributed to further improvements of the Electoral Code as well as in better respecting political rights of the Albanian citizens.

Project Coordinator:  
Project Assistant:

Sonila Aliaj, Jurist  
Luljeta Ikonimi, Jurist

**Assessing, advocating for, and implementing human rights in the Balkans and strengthening the Balkan human rights networks: A co-operative program with local human rights NGOs**

AHC during the period from June 2000 till November 2001 was involved in the implementation of the project “Assessing, advocating for, and implementing human rights in the Balkans and strengthening the Balkan human rights networks: A co-operative program with local human rights NGOs” funded by the European Commission. The main partners of this project were International Helsinki Federation (IHF) and the Balkan Human Rights Network with approximately 60 NGOs working in this field. Among these NGOs, Helsinki Committees in the Balkans played a key role.

The immediate objectives of this project was to develop regional networking of NGOs working in this field and local capacity for monitoring and implementing human rights based on the rule of law. Three were its main directions in order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives:

- Assessing and advocating human rights in the Balkans;
- Exchanging information on human rights among NGOs in the Balkan Human Rights Network and strengthening their co-operation;

- Improving the capacity of local human rights organizations to monitor, promote and implement international human rights standards;

The above-listed directions were achieved through different activities. AHC undertook **a several days monitoring mission** where monitors of the AHC, Albanian Group of Human Rights and IHF took part. Monitoring covered areas such as the religious freedom, women's rights with a special focus on the rights of the victims of trafficking and minorities and communities' rights in Albania.

Based on the findings of these monitoring missions, apart from the reports addressed to the competent organs, AHC in close co-operation with IHF organized **a round table in Tirana** with the participation of different actors of the civil society such as native and foreign NGOs, representatives from state organs and international organisms. This round table not only assessed the human rights situation in Albania but it built an action plan aiming at further improvements of this situation in our country in close co-operation with all the active actors of the civil society and state structures.

Trainings played an important role in this project, therefore, AHC organized **a training seminar on the advocating techniques-with the focus media**. Activists of the AHC and representatives of the media were trained and exchanged experiences.

Another significant activity of this project was **the Civil Society Conference** where the role of the civil society in combating different forms of intolerance in Albania in areas like the electronic and written media, minorities and communities, religion and politics. In the framework of this conference different actors discussed ways of co-operation in order to find efficient means in combating forms of intolerance present in the Albanian society.

The implementation of this project was a successful experience regarding the exchange of experiences among homologue partners acting in the region in the field of human rights. In addition, AHC had the opportunity to monitor different areas of human rights in Albania, to assess the present situation in the country and to explore ways of co-operation with NGOs working in this field as well as with state organs aiming at further improving human right situation in our country.

Project Coordinator:  
Project Assistant:

Vasilika Hysi  
Edlira Papavangjeli

**Awareness Campaign**  
**Fostering Public Opinion after the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Albania**

During the period January-December 2001, AHC implemented the project “Fostering Public Opinion after the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Albania” with the financial support of the Council of Europe and European Commission.

In the framework of this project the following were realized:

- ❖ **An information pack for the Albanian public which AHC compiled in close co-operation with the Albanian Group for Human Rights;**
- ❖ **A documentary film “No to death Penalty”;**
- ❖ **24 awareness raising seminars with an audience of different age groups, professions and districts all over Albania;**

The aim of all the seminars of this project was to sensitize public opinion that rule of law is the most efficient tool in combating criminality. In addition, all these activities aimed at building confidence and urging co-operation between citizens and state organs specialized in preventing and combating crimes effectively.

Among lots of achievements of this projects, one very important one was that it covered a variety of target groups such as women, students of the middle schools, veterans, victims and their family members, migrant communities in the peripheral districts of Tirana, representatives of different political forces, representatives of police forces and the judiciary, as well as representatives from prefectures and mini-municipalities in rural and urban areas. During the implementation of this project the need to work more with communities especially in the neglected rural areas of Albania and with target groups which were rarely involved in activities driven by NGOs was taken into consideration.

These were also made clear in the assessments of the participants in these seminars regarding the topics treated. Based on such an assessment, it was concluded that discussing the issues openly and informing adequately the public is very effective in awareness raising process.

As it was mentioned above, another important component was the production of **the documentary film “No to the Death Penalty”**. The purpose of the film was to raise the awareness of the public in general, state institutions and different actors in the civil society in order for them to find ways of co-operation in the process of preventing and combating criminality effectively in Albania.

Through this awareness campaign AHC sensitized the Albanian public opinion that the rule of law is the most efficient tool in combating criminality. In addition, all these activities aimed at building confidence and urging co-operation between citizens and state organs specialized in preventing and combating crimes effectively in our country.

Project Coordinator:

Arta Mandro

Project Assistant:

Luljeta Ikonomi

Edlira Papavangjeli

## **A. 2 PROJECTS IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Long-Term Monitoring of Prisons and Pre-Detention Sites Conditions in Albania; Strengthening the AHC”**

During year 2001, AHC in co-operation with the Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC) continued to implement the program ” Long - Term Monitoring of Prisons and Pre-Detention Sites Conditions in Albania; Strengthening the AHC”. This project is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The objectives of the project for this year has been the following:

- Providing citizens with information on their rights at the moment police officers accompany, detain and arrest them;
- Monitoring how the rights of the citizens have been respected by police organs and imprisonment institutions;

- Assisting the respective state structures in further improving the prisons and pre-detention sites conditions in Albania and in better respecting the rights of the detained and arrested persons;
- Increasing the professionalism of the personnel in prisons and pre-detention sites;
- Providing detainees, arrested persons and their families with legal information and counseling on issues and procedures of concern;

The above-mentioned objectives were achieved through the following activities:

### ***Monitoring missions in police commissariats, pre-detention sites and prisons***

During year 2001, AHC organized two monitoring missions, respectively during periods January-February 2001 and September-October 2001. The purpose with these monitoring rounds was not only to point out violations of the rights of persons in these institutions, problems with which the pre-detention and imprisonment institutions and their respective personnel are faced etc., but also to build programs of assistance and concrete co-operation. Of particular concern during these rounds were the respect of the rights of the detained and arrested-in-the-act persons.

Monitoring was carried out in police commissariats in Tirana and other cities such as Librazhd, Gramsh, Vlorë, Berat, Shkodër, Kukës, Lushnjë, Kurbin, Fier, Korçë, Pogradec, Krujë, Skrapar, etc. During year 2001, monitoring has taken place in prisons in Tirana too. Monitoring was done by a group of monitors of the AHC, trained by our Committee as well as with a long experience in monitoring.

At the conclusion of these missions, AHC noticed the serious efforts done aiming at improvement of the situation in prisons and pre-detention sites. However, AHC observed serious human rights violations such as: infringements of the penal procedural law during different actions carried out by the judicial police officers as well as violations of the citizens' right to have legal defense. There are violations of the rights of minors and women and cases of use of force at the detaining or accompaniment moment.

A summary of observations, conclusions and recommendations AHC has sent to the Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Order, General Directory of Prisons and the Directory of State Police. Something worth to be mentioned is that these state institutions reacted positively towards our criticism and recommendations.

### ***Seminars***

On 11-12 April, AHC in close co-operation with NHC organized in Tirana a seminar on **"Alternatives to imprisonment as one of the ways aiming at improving human rights situation in Albania"**. The seminar's objective was to exhaust possibilities of applying contemporary forms of treatment extended to the detainees. There were 70 participants who attended this activity representatives of Ministry of Justice, General Directory of Prisons, Ministry of Public Order, Prison Governors, representatives of Tirana District Court, NGOs, AHC's activists, representatives of the NHC and Dutch Prison Governors.

Exchanging experiences between the Albanian and Dutch experts, raising challenges that the penitentiary institutions face in practicing alternatives to imprisonment, emphasizing cooperation between state institutions and NGOs working in human rights area as one of the effective ways for further improvements in this direction were some of the achievements of this seminar.

On 8-9 November 2001, AHC in close co-operation with NHC's representatives organized in Lushnje and Tirana a **two-days training seminar "Making Standards Work"**- an international manual of a good practice in prisons. Dutch and Albanian experts brought best practice in prison management and a fair treatment of the detainees by prison's personnel. A special emphasis was given to establishing educational and rehabilitation programs for the detainees, special treatment given to vulnerable groups in prisons. These seminars were attended by the low-level staff of the prisons.

Apart from working directly with prison's personnel, AHC during May 2001, on the eve of the general elections, organized **four educational seminars with detainees** in prisons 325, 327 in Tirana and 318 in Lushnje<sup>1</sup>. The purpose of these seminars was to provide the detainees with legal information on the right and procedures of voting.

### ***Call Line***<sup>2</sup>

Call Line available for the complaints of detainees, arrested persons, persons in contact with police and their families was functioning at the AHC's premises during year 2001. AHC continues to receive letters and complaints from citizens.

### ***Establishing a database on human rights situation in Albania***<sup>3</sup>

AHC for the first time established a database program with data on findings from AHC' monitoring rounds in different human rights areas and especially the rights of detainees and the arrested persons.

### ***Informative publications***

In the framework of this project, a series of leaflets, calendars, pocket books have been published by AHC with practical legal information to citizens, detainees, arrested

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, please see under project "Legal Education of the Voters for General Elections" in this report.

<sup>2</sup> For more information see under Letters and Complaints in this report.

<sup>3</sup> For more information see under "For a complete system, analysis and reporting of human rights violations"

persons, persons in contact with police and their families. In addition, a new publication was prepared on alternatives to imprisonment.

### ***Increasing capacities of the AHC and its staff***

AHC has paid special attention to the increase of its internal capacities. In this context SNV has trained AHC's staff during **two training seminars**. These training aimed at increasing the management capacities of the staff in dealing with projects as well as media and public communication capacities. AHC considers these trainings as necessary in the effort to improve the performance of the staff and its communication with the public.

Project Director: Vasilika Hysi  
Project Deputy Director: Roza Dedja

### **Legal education of the youth community**

One of the goals of the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) in 2001 was the legal education and the sensibilisation of the public opinion for the protection of their rights. Teenagers of the age-group 14-18 years old were at the center of the AHC attention. Starting from January 2001 the AHC began the application of a project financially supported by the Law Program of the Soros Foundation and the European Union Delegation.

The project goals were three:

1. Knowing the situation of the respect of the youth rights and their need for information;

2. Informing them about the law and the possibilities offered by the government and the society to realize and protect their rights;
3. Their orienting in the case of the solving of the different conflicting situations for which the legal information may be needed.

In May 18-19, 2001 there was *held a two-day training seminar* with teachers of the civil education from 15 high professional schools from the towns of Fier, Vlore, Elbasan, Peshkopi, Shkoder, Durres, Gramsh, Korce and Tirana, and inspectors of the education departments of the above-mentioned districts included in this MASH reform.

The seminar affected the qualification of the civil and legal education teachers fulfilling their basic knowledge of the juridical background, something that is lacked in their previous university graduation. It also secured for the teachers a basic literature with the necessary materials of legal character needed in the education on the human rights issues.

There was held a polling about the violation of the human rights of the youngsters of the age group 14-16 years old, the re-establishment of the violated rights and their need for information.

Twenty-seven high schools, be they professional, public or private ones, in the city of Tirana and the areas around Tirana were included in this research. There were held 1,509 polls interviewing students of the first and second grade. The purpose of the research study was getting known with the cases of the violation of the human rights for the youth, the forms of violation, the level of youngsters' information with the law and the fields where they need more information. The report will come out soon.

*Radio shows on the legal education at Radio Tirana.* A series of six shows of 90 minutes each was prepared during June-August and it started to be broadcast during September-November 2001. Children's rights and obligations in the family and in the society, civil relations in which youth may be its subject, the cause of damage and the responsibilities of the youth and the parents for the damages caused by the children, the role of the school and the society in the general and the legal education of the youngsters, the penal code, infantile and the system of the penal justice, the rights of the infantile at the police stations, at the pre-detention centers and in prisons, all these were some of the issues treated during this radio shows. Practical advice to avoid the possible situations where youngsters and teenagers may be victimized covered a special part of the shows because in many cases they are victim of the crime.

The theme of the shows was dealt with from experienced lawyers and teachers of the Tirana high schools. Youth and teenagers were present during the interviews, debate and direct questioning at the radio studio. The themes were treated not only with talks at the studio but also with interviews carried out with teenagers, parents, teachers and other citizens of different age-groups.

Youth, parents and teachers highly evaluated the radio shows. The AHC considers as very important teaching the youth with theoretical and practical knowledge from the legal sphere.

*There were held seminars in the Tirana suburbs schools and at schools with social problems.*

This project held 6 seminars with students' representatives and other invited persons at the following high schools: Ahmet Gashi (Laprake), Myslym Keta (Kombinat), Arben Broci and Abdulla Keta (Shkoze), the electricity school and Petro Nini Luarasi (Tirana e Re) and 4 more seminars are planned to be held in other high schools in Katund i Ri, Yzberisht, Kamëz and Vore. The identification of the schools, their needs, and the specific issues for each of them was carried out in collaboration with the Tirana Education Department, with the students' governments and the teachers of these schools.

Trainers in these seminars were experts of law, police at the community where the schools are located, municipality representatives, etc. Demonstrative class hours promoted pilot structures of self-action for the students and especially their governments. These pilot structures under the leadership of the trained teachers will make up the community cell for the legal education of the community where they live and learn.

Project Coordinator: Majlinda Keta  
Project Assistant: Luljeta Ikonomi

### **For a completed system of monitoring, analyzing and reporting human rights violations**

AHC during the period of October-December 2001 implemented the pilot project "For a completed system of monitoring, analyzing and reporting human rights violations". The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook this project in the framework of a three-year program of the AHC "long-term Monitoring of Prisons and Pre- Detentions Conditions in Albania" funded.

The aim of this project was gathering and registering data based on the monitoring and the work done by AHC in the area of human rights, especially the monitoring missions regarding the rights of persons suffering their sentence in prisons and pre-detention sites in Albania. In order to achieve this aim, AHC established a **database** which serves as a source of information not only for our organization but also for other organizations and all interested persons working in this field.

This database contains information regarding the following:

- Albanian penitentiary system and the related legislation;
- Organizations working in human rights area;
- Complaints addressed to the AHC;
- Public statements of the AHC, as a reaction towards human rights violations;
- AHC's library and its publications;
- Articles published in the periodical press on human rights with special emphasis on prisons' system in Albania;

The implementation of this project gave one more opportunity to systemize the data, information and the AHC's work and its long experience during these years. Apart from this, all individuals interested in this field are welcomed to make use of the data and information which can be retrieved from this database.

Project Assistant:

Ama Kraja

## **B. MONITORING MISSIONS**

During year 2001, AHC in the framework of its projects undertook some monitoring missions in the field of human rights. Following its mission as "watch-dog" several monitoring missions were carried out regarding the respect of human rights in areas like health, employment, detainees and pre-detainees rights the citizens rights on the local level.

## **Respecting human rights in some psychiatric, pediatric and obstetric-gynecologic hospitals**

During the period of January-March 2001, the Albanian Helsinki Committee implemented a project "Human Rights Situation in Health Institutions of Public Services" which consisted of **monitoring missions in some psychiatric, pediatric and obstetric-gynecologic hospitals in cities like Tirana, Shkodër, Vlorë, Elbasan, Lushnjë, Durrës, Korçë and Fier.** Missions were made possible thanks to the financial support of the Canadian Embassy. AHC undertook these missions not only to expand the monitoring framework in the field of human rights including here the respect and protection of the rights of the patients in health services but also it was based on the complaints and concerns of the citizens, on issues raised by the electronic and written media, and the monitoring of the international organisms in this field etc. Experts in this field, doctors trained for monitoring were engaged in these monitoring missions. In the focus of these missions were the living conditions of the patients, hygienic-sanitarian treatment and health care in the health institutions, problems of corruption in the health field, issues related to the application of the law on mental health etc.

At the conclusion of these monitoring missions, AHC observed that there have been some positive developments in this area. In addition, AHC monitors observed a series of problems which led to human rights violations. In the hospitals where monitoring took place problems were observed related to the inappropriate living conditions of the patients, lacks and severe problems in hygienic-sanitarian conditions, heating, illumination, appropriate space, hygiene and the normal functioning of the hygienic-sanitarian environment according to the normal standards, in maintenance of the interior and exterior environments of the hospitals, the necessary equipment of the patients' rooms etc. Many additional problems observed were in connection with the food, its quality and quantity, providing patients with clothes, lacks in apparatuses and medicine. In some cases ethic problems were observed from the part of the doctors as well as the issue of bribing the doctors was also highlighted. In some hospitals our monitoring group observed lacks in keeping a discipline in the hospitals, the family members covered the responsibilities of the personnel, in investigating the complaints of the patients and their family members as well as problems of psychosocial rehabilitation of the patients and the implementation of the law (such as for ex. The law on mental health)etc.

Regarding the flagrant cases of the patients' rights violations, AHC based on the reports of the monitoring groups reacted with public statements in the press. In these statements AHC appealed for an immediate action aiming at the improvement of the situation in the respective institutions. Our Committee prepared a **special report with conclusions and recommendations** which was sent to the competent state institutions.

On 12 March 2001, AHC organized a **round table on the law on mental health** with representatives of the Ministry of Health, health institutions of psychiatric service, WHO and the Center of Mental Health, representatives of the Canadian Embassy, representatives of court organs and the Ministry of Labor etc.

Protection of an individual's health, as one of the fundamental human rights, constitutes a priority responsibility of the state structures, public and private institutions in the medical sector. This is at the same time one of the areas where AHC has been very active with rendering several monitoring missions. Apart from the positive developments observed in this field, AHC pointed out several problems and human rights violations and therefore appealed to the competent organs for redressing these violations and improving the hospitals' services provided.

Missions director:

Zana Sota

### **Observation on securing the protection of the employees at the shoe factory**

During July 23-26, 2001 the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) undertook a series of monitoring missions in some shoe factories in Tirana. The reason for that mission was a concerning problem rose by the electronic media about the aggravation of the health situation of the employees at some shoe factories. That started with a concrete case of the "Filanto" shoe factory in Tirana when in July 17-18, 2001 when a number of employees had fainting episodes during the working hours and consequently they had to undergo medical tests and examination.

The AHC created an observation group made up of experts of the legal and health fields that monitored the patients at the hospital, contacted doctors of the Professional Illnesses at the University Research Center (QSU), interviewed members of the management staff of the shoe factories “Filanto”, “Tomaficio Bama” and “Albaco Shoes”, employees at these factories and the persons who had presented their complaints. Special attention was paid to the direct observance of the working environment and conditions. Monitors further on contacted the responsible and top managers at the factories and those in charge of the hygienic-sanitary check at the Department of Primary Health of the Health Ministry, Tirana Hygiene Department, the Institute of the Public Health.

The AHC considers the extension of the small and medium-sized business and the employment affecting the country’s economy as positive. At the end of the observation, the AHC noticed that there is little care for the employees’ protection at work. Though the working conditions at the factories were in general in conformity with the Labour Code of the Republic of Albania and the legislation in power, there was noticed the lack of the periodical checks from the Inspectorate of the Hygiene Department and expert physicians of professional illnesses, something that had brought about the lack of information on the current hygienic-sanitary situation.

At the end of the observation the AHC made some suggestions for the improvement of the legislation for the protection at work and the exercising of the more regular checking on the law application, the respect of the age group at work, holidays during the working time and periodical health checks. It is also necessary that in order to prevent professional illnesses the proper institutions make the proper depistation.

Missions Director:

Vera Ostreni  
Luljeta Ikonomi

### **Local government and its respect of the human rights Elbasan municipality**

The Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) considers very important the application and the respect of the human rights at all the levels and especially by the local power being nearer the individuals. During October-November 2001 the AHC undertook some monitoring missions at the Elbasan municipality based on the theme "Local government and its respect of the human rights".

The missions’ work was based on the fact that the local power has the high constitutional obligation of securing the application of the human rights not only by knowing such rights but also by creating within its institutions the structures making possible their practical realization. That is foreseen in the law on the organization of the local power

passed in July 2001. The observation was held by the AHC activists under the leadership of an expert of the administrative right.

Goals of the observation were:

- a) raising the awareness of the administration on the functioning of the local power and its responsibilities;
- b) urging the local power administration to carry out its constitutional duty for its decentralization and the legal duties for its functioning;
- c) recognition of the violations of the citizens' rights and their trust to the local government institutions;
- d) public access at the decision-taking process.

Local government institutions have been observed by the AHC before as well (1998). But the observation at the Elbasan municipality was held after it has ratified the Convention of the Local Autonomy of the Council of Europe.

Some 30 interviewing of different people from different strata threw light on the relations of the people with the local government institutions and the respect of the human rights at the local power level. It resulted from the observation that despite the efforts being done it is still much left towards the decentralization of the local government and the increase of the public trust to this institution.

The results of the observation were sent to the Ministry of Local Government, Elbasan Mayor, leaders of the checking structures of the local power.

The AHC is aware of the fact that some observations will not bring the desired results on the human rights. But it also believes that they will be a small contribution on the road of changes.

Missions Director: Eralda Methasani

### **C. CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE AHC**

The Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) activities, its press releases, continuous contacts with the people have made possible for the citizens to direct themselves to the AHC with very diverse information and complaints, though some of them did not correspond to the functions of the Committee.

During 2001 it results that different persons from different districts in the country have sent to the AHC **85** letters and information in which they complain, express their concern and ask for its intervention. They may be grouped as the following:

- **2** for property;
- **6** for judiciary;
- **2** for police legal violation;

- 4 for police violence;
- 2 for detention and arrest from Greek and Italian authorities;
- 4 requests for legal assistance;
- 4 from families asking for financial assistance and damaged by natural calamities;
- 1 from an immigrant in the country;
- 1 for violence from the Greek police at the border;
- 2 for job cuts from the public administration;
- 2 from an Albanian immigrant in Greece;
- 2 for issuing visas from foreign embassies;
- 54 complaints from persons suffering prison term or being in pre-detention.

The AHC has officially responded also to those persons making such requests which solution is under the authority of other institutions. For example, there have been complaints for unfair court decisions for the problems of being or not guilty, for the testimony administered during the judicial process, something that is under the competency of higher judicial institutions, etc.

For some complaints dealing with the police violence or the violation of the rights and the release of the detained persons, the AHC has verified on the spot, has publicly reacted and has intervened at the proper institutions. Besides the official response, a good part of the complaints have been also assisted for the legal way they should have followed to solve the problems being of their concern.

During 2001, besides the letters sent to the AHC, many citizens with problems have called the AHC and have asked for legal assistance, or they have informed it for the violation from the local authorities. That is another indicator showing that the AHC reputation is increasing. That has come as a result of the public reactions from this Committee and also from its fast intervention to repair the violated law.

In conclusion it is worth mentioning that the complaints and the information sent to the AHC contain such data that assist the AHC not only to make generalization in the respect of the citizens' human rights and freedom, but also in planning monitoring in those areas or sectors where the violations are more evident and with condemnable consequences.

### **Complaints from persons held in prisons and pre-detention sites**

During year 2001 AHC has received **54 letters and complaints** in the framework of the three-years program "Long-Term Monitoring of Prisons and Pre-detention sites Conditions in Albania". **7** of these letters have been written by the family members of the convicts, **1** is from the International Helsinki Federation, **5** complaints are addressed through call line, **13** complaints through direct contact with the detainees and **28** through

letters written by the detainees themselves. Letters and complaints contain concerns and disapproval from their part related to issues such as the way their cases have been treated by the judicial organs, procrastinations of the investigation and court procedures, wrong classification of the criminal offence etc.

Based on the claims presented in these letters it was concluded that the detainees do not have information on procedures of case reviewing, procedures of sentence converting when sentence has been given by a foreign court and the detainee has been transferred to an Albanian institution to suffer their sentence, procedures of sentence forgiveness, complaining procedures when the case is treated in the absence of the suspected, organizations which deal with conflict resolution and mediation, legal clinics which offer legal defense free of charge in court procedures, on their rights in prisons and pre-detention sites etc.

In addition, as a follow-up of a monitoring mission undertaken by AHC and IHF, AHC evaluated as necessary the monitoring of the court procedure of some foreign girls victims of trafficking of human beings.

All the letters and complaints have been handled and through them legal counseling have been offered according to the case presented. AHC has 7 times reacted publicly and informed the respective state organs on certain violations confirmed, and 10 times this Committee has addressed the cases to the legal clinic in order to realize the legal defense of the complainer.

## **D. PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

### **AHC press releases**

Since its creation and on the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) has had and still have as its mission the protection of the human rights and freedom. It has used different ways to apply this duty. Its efficiency has been tested in practice. One of those results is the public reaction through press releases.

Monitoring while applying different projects, data from the daily press, information from the people, citizens' complaints that in many cases have been verified on the spot, etc., have been the starting point for these press releases.

There have been 36 press releases during 2001. As it is well known the sphere of the human rights is very wide. In order to have a clearer idea about them, they may be classified as the following:

- One press release for non-respect of the time period as set in the article 181 of the Constitution when speaking about the obligation of making laws for the fair arrangement of different issues concerning the expropriation and confiscations committed before the Constitution was approved.
- Six press releases having to do with the complaints to the judicial activity (without covering issues dealing with the base and the legitimacy of the courts' decisions).
- Five press releases on non-understanding and lack of the fair law application.
- Seven press releases for police violence. These violations were held during accompanying, detention or arrest.
- One press release for the violation of the right of the mother and the child, also sanctioned in the constitutional dispositions.
- Two press releases for violations in the sphere of health, including lack of the proper environment, care for the patients, etc.
- Six press releases on the general election for the Assembly testifying some irregularities and concrete violations of the disposition of the Electoral Code.
- Three press releases for violation of the rights in the sphere of the religious faith, of the minority and of the social-moral relations.
- Five press releases deal with the violations of the law in other spheres.

A careful study of the above-mentioned press releases shows that despite the improvement of the respect of the citizens' freedom and human rights this continues to be a concerning issue. It is positive, however, that the government institutions have not been indifferent to these public reactions. Thus, for example, the Public Order Ministry has considered some of our statements and has undertaken the proper steps.

Besides these during 2001 the AHC has extended its activity in another field, that of health, while the commitment to the monitoring of the Assembly elections proved not only violations of the Electoral Code but also their generalization and the proper suggestions to improve the Electoral Code came out.

Though the public reaction through the press releases are not the only form of the AHC activity they have shown they play an important role in preventing the violations and in sensibilising the public opinion.

## **E. COMMENTS, OPPOSITION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOME DRAFT LAWS**

During 2002 the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) has made some comments, opposition and recommendation for some important draft laws and further improvements of the legislation.

Following is a list of the above-mentioned draft laws:

1. Draft law “On the internal control service of the Ministry of Public Order”
2. Draft law “On the Police Ethical Code”
3. Draft law “On amnesty”

The AHC has also expressed its opinion on some important draft decisions like that for the opening of the centres of foreigners' temporary collection and support, internal rules of the commission of refugees, etc.

Based on its experience on the monitoring of the last local government elections and the general ones for the parliament the AHC has made some remarks and recommendations to further complete and make clear the Election Code. They are also reflected in the report on the monitoring of the elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Albania (published in 2001).

## **F. ORGANISED ACTIVITIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROJECTS IN IMPLEMENTATION**

## **G. PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Conflict Resolution Training Course** Subotica, Serbia

On **January 16-21, 2001** in Subotica, Serbia the "Conflict Resolution Training Course" was held with the participation of young activists from Eastern and Central Europe. This activity was organised by the International Helsinki Federation (IHF) in cooperation with the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia and was the second phase of a

project on youth training on conflicts resolutions strategies initiated in September in Groznanj, Croatia. The course objective was to enhance the knowledge and skills of the students on the methods of conflicts resolutions and to train the young participants to facilitate not only the everyday life conflicts in families or society, but also the more serious cases. The training achieved another important objective: it helped the participants to exchange their experiences, tradition, culture, language and established a strong friendship among them regardless of the countries they came from.

### **Conference “Priorities for Central Europe and the Balkans”**

Bucharest, Romania

On **16-17 February, 2001**, in Bucharest, Romania an international conference was held on “Priorities for Central Europe and the Balkans”, organized by the International Helsinki Federation (IHF) and Romanian Helsinki Committee. This was a concluding activity in the framework of the 2 years regional project “Raymont” in the field of human rights. The conference was focused on the women’s rights, on tolerance, freedom of expression and the right of information and on the rights of the detainees and the ill-treatment from the police as well. Participants discussed keen issues of the present society, especially those in the Balkan region as domestic violence, discrimination of women in the trade market, trafficking in human beings (females), minorities, religious tolerance, refugees, freedom of media and its influence in the field of human rights. Hate speech, legislation on media and use of violence in the police stations and the respectability of the rights of persons in contact with justice were some of the topics, which were discussed most by the participants.

### **Conference on “Freedom of Expression, Old and Future Challenges”**

Vienna, Austria

On **12 and 13 of March 2001** a conference on “Freedom of Expression, Old and Future Challenges” was organized by OSCE in Vienna. 40 different non-governmental organizations, which took place in this conference discussed about Legal Framework in relation to Infamy in the Press, Access to the new information technology and the role of the free press in the context of the objectives of the OSCE. During the developments of the conference participants of different countries brought concrete cases of infamy in the press and the consequences of such a phenomenon. A more completed legal framework and a supervision provided by professional press associations were recommended as some of the solutions to the above-mentioned phenomenon. An interesting debate took place regarding the possibilities that Internet provides us with and it was stressed the engagement in drafting a legislation which would on one hand allow to use internet but on the other hand prevent hate speech on line.

### **National day of Roma people**

Tirana

The **8<sup>th</sup> of April** is the national day of Roma people. On this occasion, Roma Association "Amaro-Drom" organized a symposium where representatives of the Roma community, of different NGOs, scholars and professors of the University of Tirana were invited. During this activity it was stressed that respecting rights of the communities such as Roma community should exist not only in the laws, but in practice as well.

### **Training Program - NGO Anti-Corruption Monitoring** Sofia, Bullgari

In the framework of the anti-corruption NGO coalition where AHC is one of the partners, Word Learning and MSI project of the USAID organized a weekly training program (**6-13 April 2001**) of 14 Albanian experts, representatives of NGOs and others. The Transparency International – Bulgaria, carried out this training with the main objective to train the monitoring skills of the NGOs in combating corruption. The main conclusion of this training was that the state and the NGOs are responsible if the element of anti-corruption is resistant and that the responsibility of the state starts with education and qualifying programs offered to the judges, prosecutors, in their recruitment, promotion and removal, in filling the gaps in the legislation, gaps which can stimulate abuses. This requires a serious commitment from the media, increasing public access in the judicial issues, an increase of information etc. towards which the civil society cannot be indifferent.

### **International Conference on Alternative Methods in Working with Offenders** Sinai, Romania

During **19-21 April 2001**, in Sinai, Romania, an international conference on alternative methods in working with offenders took place. This conference was organised by the Romanian Ministry of Justice in co-operation with the British Government, Know How Fund, International Penal Reform and the Group for the Protection of Human Rights in Romania. The conference included a number of intensive workshops with topics like risk assesment, programs in one prison and programs in community. This activity was a very good opportunity to exchange different international experiences as well as to get knowledge on different legislations where alternatives to imprisonment are already implemented.

### **The Conference "A new strategy for the Albanian children"** Tirana

On **30 April 2001** in the International Cultural Center the Conference "A new Strategy for the Albanian children" was held. It was organised by CRCA in cooperation with the

Committee “Woman and Family”. In the conference participated many NGO that work in the field of children's rights, representatives of states institutions, and young people involved in students governments. The purpose of the conference was to present the Strategy of the Albanian Government for the children and starting a multilateral cooperation of all the actors of the Albanian society to carry out this strategy. Strengthening the cooperation among NGO-s and State Institutions in the implementation of the strategy, and a broader involvement of the children were some of the conclusions achieved in the conference.

### **Training Course on the Documentation System of Human Rights Violations**

Tirana

On **14-18 May 2001** the Albanian Center for Human Rights in co-operation with the International Human Rights Documentation Center – HURIDOCS organized a training course on human rights documentation system. The main purpose of this course was the basis for human rights monitoring, getting knowledge on terminology and indexing human rights, learning techniques of keeping, registering, searching and information exchange on human rights violations and special usage of HURIDOCS instruments which were in service to organizations working in the field of human rights aiming at capacity building of these organizations as well as at collecting and exchanging accurate information within a short period of time. In closing, participants were given possibilities to put into practice the knowledge they got during the course working with the program of data registration called WINEVSYS, which was adopted by HURIDOCS for registering cases of human rights violations.

### **Conference with Native Monitoring Organisations**

Warsaw, Poland

On **28-29 May 2001** the conference organized by OSCE/ODIHR with the native monitoring organizations took place in Warsaw, Poland. There were 23 participants from different countries which are on the eve of elections or have had elections before. The conference was focused on the role of the native monitoring organizations and the OSCE efforts aiming at empowering this very role in the respective societies. Among important issues which were discussed were the methodology of evaluating the electoral legislation and all the guidelines issued by the Central Electoral Commission, monitoring the electoral campaign, media, electoral process and vote's numeration. A special attention was paid to the co-operation between the native organizations and international community. At the end of the conference a statement was signed by each participant after being read at the seminar the OSCE organized on 29-31 May 2001 in Warsaw, Poland. In this statement an appeal was addressed to all the delegations representing the participating states to better respect the international standards aiming at the realization of the political rights, ensuring the right of the native monitoring organizations in order to

monitor and inform on all the aspects of the monitoring process in their respective countries.

### **Internal Displacement in Albania**

Tirana

On **June 4, 2001** the Center for Refugee and Migration Studies in Tirana organized a seminar with the theme: “Internal Displacement in Albania”. Representatives of NGOs and IGOs as well as different institutions were invited in the seminar. In this seminar native and foreign experts addressed issues like identifying the nature and routes of the main internal migrant flows in Albania, guiding principles regarding the internal displacement and protection extended to this category of people, internal displaced persons (IDP) in Albania and the role and contribution of the academic networks in this area. This activity was of interest and at the same time raised the awareness of the organizations which participated. It identified the issues regarding IDPs in Albania.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> International Human Rights Training Program**

Montreal, Canada

The Canadian Human Rights Foundation held the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Human Rights Training Program from **10-29 June 2001**, in Montreal, Canada. Participants came from different NGOs working in the field of human rights from around 110 countries all over the world. This program had as objectives to enable participants to analyze the issues and situations encountered in the work of their organizations using a framework based on internationally accepted human rights values and principles, to explore ways in which human rights education can increase the effectiveness of their human rights work, to facilitate networking and partnership activities and increase their capacity to apply their learning within the organizations and their society. The program was very contemporary and introduced a non-formal human rights education. It was based on a manual which set a framework for human rights education and which is given for use to NGOs working with human rights issues and especially human rights education. The purpose or goal of human rights education is “empowerment” in order to bring social change. The participatory learning process serves not only as a means of achieving this goal but is, in itself, an expression of this empowerment. That is why participants were asked to conclude this program with an individual plan of action where they can put the learning into practice in their place of work.

### **Conference – Equal opportunities for the Roma and the Sinti: translating words into actions**

Bucharest, Rumania

The conference “Equal opportunities for the Roma and the Sinti: translating words into actions” was held in **September 10-13, 2001** in Bucharest, Romania. Government and independent experts from the OSCE member countries, international organizations, NGOs, representatives of the political structures of the Roma, experts of the legal and administrative fields took part. The conference was held with plenary sessions, working groups and a roundtable. Its goals were the reconsideration of the ways through which the OSCE member countries have complied their responsibilities in respecting the human rights of the persons belonging to the national minorities, the fight against discrimination, racism and xenophobia and offering the chances in finding the most efficient ways and the political steps for the Roma and Sinte populations.

### **Defending human rights and human rights defenders**

Vienna, Austria

The OSCE meeting for the Human Dimension on “Defending human rights and human rights defenders” was held in **October 22-23, 2001** in Vienna, Austria with the participation of the NGOs working in the field of the human rights, international organizations, and representatives of the OSCE member countries. The meeting was focused at the challenges confronted by the NGOs in their work with the government institutions and their experience in the protection of the human rights in conflicting situations and internal tension – a situation in which the role of the protector of the human rights is very important and in which there is high risk. The last session of the meeting was focused on training in the field of the human rights for the officials and the protectors of the human rights themselves, suggesting that these training should go deeper and be based on training the roots and the reasons of the violation of the human rights. The meeting concluded with the proper suggestions in order to improve the practices in the OSCE region.

### **General Assembly of the International Helsinki Federation (IHF)**

Zagreb, Croatia

The annual meeting of the General Assembly of the IHF was held in November **15-18, 2001** in Zagreb, Croatia with the participation of the Helsinki Committee representatives, organizations of the human rights, the IHF secretariat, and also invited ones from the international organizations like the Council of Europe, ODIHR, international penal Court. Reports on the situation of the human rights in different regions in America and Western Europe, central Asia and Caucasus, Russia and Eastern Europe were presented to the meeting. The central and southern Europe were two other regions mentioned in the meeting. In the report on Albania it was said that the country is still in a difficult transition period but what is noticed is the will from the Albanian government to improve the respect of the human rights. After positive evaluations on the elections and Albania’s

positive role on the crisis in Macedonia, there were mentioned such problems like the conditions at the police stations and the pre-detention centers, and the respect of the persons' human rights at these places, the weakness of the specialized organs in fighting the traffic, cases of violence use by police and problems of the Albanian press and electronic media.

The meeting spoke on the observing mission of the human rights in such sectors as judicial system, police, local governing authorities and decentralization, minorities and communities in Albania, groups at risk like the youth, women as victims of the crime, and also the fight for the elimination of the discrimination forms and maltreatment.

### **Conference of the Balkan Network on Human Rights**

Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina

The second conference of the Balkan Network on Human Rights was held in **November 15-16, 2001** in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. Representatives from the whole regional countries, but Kosovo, took part at the conference. It was concentrated at presenting the work until then and the current reality of the Balkan Human Rights Network (BHRN) where the Albanian Helsinki Committee is a member. It dealt with the new legal status of the network, re-organisation of the funding allocation, formulation of the way of creating and the mandate of the Leading Committee, reference terms of the Secretariat, and also the presentation of the fields in which the network will be active in the future. For all these the conference achieved an agreement in principle and the debate was held for other issues as well. As a conclusion it may be said that the network offers possibilities of fruitful collaboration in the context of a regional strategy for the human rights monitoring.

### **Training "On Communication-Public Relations"**

Tirana

The training "On Communication-Public Relations" was held at the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) offices in **November 22, 2001**. The Netherlands Organisation for Development (SNV) Albania made that training possible. The AHC has cooperation agreement with the SNV in the context of its project "Long-term Observation of the Prisons and Pre-Detention Centers in Albania". The goal of this training was on the importance of the public relations in the work and activity of the organizations, and also the use of the media, print and electronic one, in the most efficient way to make the awareness on the work of the organizations. This training was a possibility for each staff member to deepen the knowledge for a direct communication not only within the organization in the daily work but also out of that.

## **H. STRUCTURE AND PARTNERS**

### **H.1 Raising the organisational and functional capacities of the Albanian Helsinki Committee**

Raising organisational and functional capacities of the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) has been one of its goals for its work in 2001. Alongside its observing, sensibilising, educational, publishing activities, legal opposition, dealing with the letters and complaints from the citizens, the AHC drafted its strategic plan for the period 2002-

2003, it also has trained its staff and activists, increased its collaboration with the domestic and foreign operating in the human right sphere.

Increasing the AHC organisational and functional capacities brought about more AHC participation in the observing and sensibilising activities, a greater AHC presence all around the country, increase of contacts with age-groups of different citizens, with the print and electronic media. Consequently there was achieved a better knowledge of the human rights situation in Albania and an active protection of the citizens' rights.

The AHC annual activity noticed a wider presence of its activities in other districts than previously initiating and carrying out the launch of a network of AHC correspondents in some districts like Shkoder, Kukes, Fier, Vlore, Korce, Elbasan and Gjirokaster.

In 2002 the AHC will pay attention to the continuous strengthening of its capacities by consolidating the network of correspondents, a wider involvement of its activists and collaborators in different activities, increase of its presence in identifying the violations, their re-instalment and raising the public awareness and education in the human rights field.

Alongside the support in different projects held during 2001 the AHC capacity-raising was also made possible due to the institutional support from the CORDAID, Norwegian Helsinki Committee and the Dutch Helsinki Committee. The creation and the launch of operation of the network of correspondents was financially supported by Soros Foundation, Tirana.

## **H. 2 Structure**

From January 2001 the AHC' structure is as follows:

### **Board**

*Chair of Board:*

Prof Jorgo Buló

*Members:*

Aurela Anastasi  
Dhimitër Xhuvani  
Jorgo Buló  
Xhevair Spahiu  
Ylli Popa  
Artur Metani

Ilir Babaramo

## **AHC Members**

Arben Puto, Professor of International Law  
Ariana Fullani, Jurist, Director of Magistrate School  
Artur Metani, *Jurist, Director of the Law Program, SOROS Foundation*  
As. Prof. Dr. Aurela Anastasi, *Professor of Constitutional Law*  
Dhimitër Xhuvani, *Writer*  
Elvis Koçi, *Student of Economics Faculty*  
Fatmir Braka, *Jurist*  
Flamur Çato, *Attorney*  
Florian Ballhysa, *Jurist*  
Ilir Babaramo, *Journalist*  
Prof. Jorgo Bulo, *Professor of Linguistic*  
Korab Hoxha, *Journalist*  
Kristo Frashëri, *Historian*  
Kujtim Çashku, *Producer*  
Minella Dalani, *Journalist*  
Niazi Jaho, *Jurist, Legal Adviser*  
Remzi Lani, *Journalist*  
Shaban Sinani, *Historian*  
Xhevair Spahiu, *Poet*  
Prof. Dr. Ylli Popa, *Chair of Academy of Sciences*  
As. Prof. Dr. Vasilika Hysi, *Jurist*  
Dr. Zana Sota, *Professor of Philosophy*

## **Staff**

<i>Executive Director:</i>	Vasilika Hysi
<i>Legal Adviser:</i>	Niazi Jaho
<i>Resp. for publications:</i>	Arben Puto
<i>Program Assistant:</i>	Edlira Papavangjeli
<i>Financier:</i>	Albana Vrapı
<i>Administrative Assistant:</i>	Ama Kraja

## **Activists \***

Alma Tafani  
Andi Muratej  
Arben Runa  
Arben Shqyti  
Blendi Kodra  
Edis Ibrahim  
Edlira Liçi  
Elvis Koçi  
Florian Ballhysa  
Gentian Kaloshi  
Gentian Sala  
Julian Çaraoshi  
Milaim Demnushaj

## **H. 3 Partners**

International Helsinki Federation (IHF)  
The Netherlands Helsinki Committee  
Norwegian Helsinki Committee  
Helsinki Committee of the region  
SOROS Foundation  
Council of Europe  
European Union  
Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development - CORDAID  
Netherlands Development Organisation - SNV  
Albanian Center for Human Rights  
Albanian Group for Human Rights  
MSI- Anticorruption Coalition  
CAFOD - Legal Service  
Law Faculty, Tirana University  
Legal Clinic

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\* A big number of activists has worked in AHC projects and monitoring missions during 2001. Unable to name all the activists, we are listing some of them.

### **F. 3 Donors**

Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development - CORDAID  
Democracy Commission Small Grants, U. S. Embassy  
Canadian Embassy  
The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
SOROS Foundation  
Council of Europe  
European Union, Delegation of the European Commission in Albania

## **G. PUBLICATIONS**

### **1. Periodic Publications**

One of most important aspects of the activities of this Committee during the year has been the publication of the monthly newsletter and quarterly reports. Both newsletters and quarterly reports have been issued regularly with the purpose to give account of these activities. They have served for the sensibility of public opinion about the respect of human rights and as a source of information for the various organisations and foundations abroad about the situation of human rights in Albania.

During year 2001 the publication of monthly newsletter and quarterly reports were supported by the Democracy Commission Small Grants, U. S. Embassy in Tirana and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## **Monthly bulletin**

The monthly informative bulletin in Albanian and in English contains periodical information for the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) activities in its different projects. During 2001 that publication was financially supported from the Committee for Democracy, Small Grants – U.S. Embassy and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

## **Quarterly report**

The quarterly AHC reports speak about the situation of the human rights in Albania and the problems of the violations of the citizens' rights noticed by the AHC. The publication of the quarterly report in 2001 was made possible with the financial support from the Committee for Democracy, Small Grants – U.S. Embassy and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. The report is published only in English.

## **2. Other publications**

### **Guide-book for the monitor at the polling station**

### **Questionnaire for the monitor at the polling station**

To assist the monitors at the general elections held in Albania in June 2001 a guidebook and a questionnaire for them were published, first approved at a roundtable of the AHC, the Albanian Institute for the Development of the Election System, the Association for Democratic Culture and the Albanian Human Rights Group.

### **Knowledge on the Constitution, the Assembly and the Election System in the Republic of Albania, May 2001**

This publication helps to better understand the rules of the election holding and also the rights of the voter to freely exercise the right of election. It has been conceived as a question-answer guidebook and it is destined for the wide public. The realization of this guidebook was made possible in the context of the project "Voters' Legal Education, General Election for the Assembly of the Republic of Albania."

### **Monitoring Report on the Election for the Assembly of the Republic of Albania, July 2001**

This report reflects the goals and the results of the monitoring held by the AHC for the Elections of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania. The process involved 72 monitors who observed the election in 52 electoral zones around the country. They monitored the

opening of the polling stations and received the results in 75 of them while during the day they monitored 130 other polling stations. They presented the AHC conclusions and recommendation asking for the amendment and improvement of the Electoral Code. This publication was realized in the context of the project “Monitoring Report on the Election for the Assembly of the Republic of Albania” made possible with the support from the Committee for Democracy, Small Grants – U.S. Embassy. It is in Albanian and in English languages.

#### **Leaflet – Pardoning the sentencing**

To assist persons suffering prison terms and who want to know more on their pardoning possibilities there was published this leaflet, made possible in the context of the project “Long-term Monitoring of the Prison Conditions and the Pre-detention Centers in Albania” supported by the Dutch Foreign Ministry.

#### **AHC profile leaflet and brochure**

A leaflet and brochure on the AHC will soon be in your hands giving a short briefing of the AHC mission and work, and also the activities held until the end of 2001. These publications will be in Albanian and English language.

## **H. FINANCIAL REPORT**

