



## Republic of Albania

### Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation

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**Tirana 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2013**

## **Conclusions of the National Expedition of the reconciliation missionaries on the causes of the increasing violence in the Albanian society.**

Since 6<sup>th</sup> of January the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation has organized the work with the reconciliation expedition including the period of campaign before and after election. Without any support and even attacked for the opponent attitude toward the bad governance, the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation has never interrupted his work for the prevention of killings and the support of the families in need. Although the killing phenomena had the same intensity as in 2012, during the electoral campaign there occurred less killings than before and after this campaign. This was due to the fact that during the campaign there was a mobilization of all the factors in order to avoid the clashing of citizens for political reasons. Even the expedition, in addition to the work to keep in control the families in enmity, incited the citizens for a wider and more cultured participation in political debates and voting process. From 1221 isolated families and 3800 others hidden from the enmity, it became possible for 260 hidden families and 46 isolated families to be accompanied by the missionaries to the polling station. Since the request of the committee for the application of the moving voting boxes was refused by Central Election Commission, most of the citizens involved in enmity were deprived from the right of voting. About 30 000 other families that have land disputes in rural areas and have moved to metropolis without changing the civil state, had found it difficult to go to the areas where they have their residence and voter registration. The isolation and hidden citizens lacked the confidence for the guarantee of life. The distrust to move toward the polling station accompanied by the missionaries was based to the bitter experiences such as the killing of Gentian Beqiri while he was in house arrest and guided by two police officers, the killing of Rolanda Doku who had a protection warrant of police by court decision and the killing of Frederik Marku and his son, Jurgen Marku who had just emerged from the Police Station where they asked for protection. The working groups of the Committee are activated in 2800 villages, 300 communes and 60 municipalities. In 2013 we have a higher intensity of killings than in 2012. Until now

there are 78 persons killed, 65 man and 13 women, 18 of these killings are committed within the family.

According to the Police:

For revenge and blood feud there are 18 victims, 17 males and 1 female.

For property motives 6 victims, 5 males and one female.

For weak motives 19 victims, 14 males and 5 females.

For honour motives 2 male victims.

For jealousy motives 4 victims, 1 male and 3 females.

For political motives 1 male victim.

For other motives 26 victims , 23 males and 3 females.

By accidental armed killings there are 2 male victims.

But the definitions of these killings by the police have been constantly unbiased, tending to cover the truth.

The Albanian government, has not only been incapable to find the alternatives that increase the level of public safety and the protection of citizen's life, but with its irresponsibility has aggravated the tendency of crime in society together with poverty. The government has constantly been against the strategy of the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation for the cultivation of the law culture and the prevention of crime through the cooperation of the government with the community, of the citizens with the police and institutions, as well as the application of the models that bring the control over the territory and increase the level of national safety. Facing the situation that has been out of control, the government recently was satisfied only by the amendments that increase the amount of punishment for the killings for revenge and blood feud, family killings and those because of the duty. The review of laws should be another step and the Ministry of Justice should not have done any proposals for the legislation on crime against life and property without consulting with the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation because, as it has done until now, it was wrong.

The killings in Albania are killings by self justice, in the absence of justice and state of rule and law and not according to the rules of blood feud. The Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation has a clear strategy and has asked that the notion of the killing for blood feud not to be mentioned in code because the blood feud as a Kanun term has not a real base in today's terms of Albanian society. The killings by self justice are not blood feud. This unclear policy of legislators has blurred the society and its institutions. On one side the government declares that we do not have killings for blood feud or they are very few and at the other hand it roots the notion in penal code and judicial practice. Even when a person declares that has committed a killing for blood feud it should not be accepted because this claim is under a distorted Kanun mentality and psychological degeneration of the conflicted person. The proposal of the Ministry of Justice for over 30 years sentence or life imprisonment for the person that has killed for blood feud when the first killer is free or was less than 15 years in prison, does not prevent but encourages the killing for blood feud. It would be appropriate that every killing to be punished by life imprisonment and not less than 30 years in prison, to prevent the killing for blood feud and to justify the grave punishment if it happened. There should be specified cases when the killing is done accidentally or in extreme circumstances of self defence. On the other hand, since the moment when the killing is specified in the penal code, the killers and their defence will declare other circumstances. This thoughtless method of government encourages the charge killings. The same has happened with the law for the punishment of those who threat for isolation. After the approval of law against the isolation none of the threatening persons declared that he wants to take blood feud, but that does not forgive the family of the killer thus avoiding the law. The Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation has prepared and will introduce to the new government the full report for the law reform to eliminate these contradictions in penal code and justice system.

The violence in Albanian society, as it is shown these days and the one kept hidden during the transition years, continues to have a high intensity that has never existed before in Albanian history. The number of killings had a recession during 2005, but now it is doubled while the number of killings of women is ten times higher. The stress and depression has gripped most of the Albanian families not only because of the economic collapse but also of domestic violence , massacre killings, robberies assaults and masks.

Picture from Expedition:



Gjin Marku in reconciliation expedition





Gjin Marku in reconciliation expedition



Gjin Marku in reconciliation expedition



Gjin Marku in reconciliation expedition



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Not only foreign medias but also many unformed intellectuals and politicians leave the burden of the responsibility to the patriarchal mentality of Albanian society not wanting to affirm that this violence culminates even to the women and children who have no connection to the mentality or the customs of Albanians, as they often declare. This violence, in its all dimension, is a typical violence of barbaric transition, led and oriented by a bad policy without any vision and often barbaric. Albanians from an educated society for centuries with the culture of law and rule in community, are transformed into a society with destructive trend, corrupted, included in crimes and self justice because of this bad policy that is orienting people toward self justice and crimes of all kinds.

The situation becomes more aggravated when we face the intensive development of the unreported crime in Albania which is in the most alarming levels that a society can have. Our society during these 23 years of transition has degenerated toward hidden crime not only by the citizens who are victims but also by the government which with its demagoguery propaganda covers the crimes and corruption. The killings organized by state in the period in middle of 1992-1996, those of 1997, of 2008 in Gerdec and of 2011 in front of prime ministry are still unpunished. While in the other countries of Balkan and Europe the reported crimes are from 15 to 40%, in Albania this level is only 2.6 %. Even in this percentage the part that has made denouncement repented due to the lacking of justice. The cases of unreported violence for years to the women in Narte or to the women massacred the last week , are only the top of the iceberg of crime that happens in Albanian society. This happens because the culture of non denouncement and impunity appears firstly to the representatives of state. Only 1.4 % of the cases of corruption in government have been denounced, 98.6% of this corruption that is developed in front of public eye remains unreported and unpunished. Even on those few

cases when there is a report, this action has resulted into rivalry for benefits within government.

The Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation has decided on 4<sup>th</sup> of September to call the fourth congress of the reconciliation missionaries where there will be a full panorama of the situation and the strategy ,hoping that the new government will cooperate to change the situation in Albania. The media and the international community are invited to make the maximal efforts to bring in the attention of public this strategy of the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation which is the only institution with sincere constructed opposing to bad governance and works in full independence from the policy, for the country's interest and the integration of Albanians in European Union.

**Tirana 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2013**