RESOLUTION

Tirana, December 18, 2024

**CALL FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACY IN ALBANIA**

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**We,**

citizens and Albanian organizations engaged in promoting democracy, fundamental freedoms, and a rule of law state,

considering the current situation in Albania, the deterioration of democratic standards, the concentration of all powers in one hand, Prime Minister Edi Rama, the replacement of free elections with electoral farces, and the subordination of justice to the executive, the political arrests and imprisonments of opposition leaders and deputies and local officials, and the serious human rights violations reported at national and international levels; the establishment in Albania of the first and only narco-state in Europe;

referencing the recent resolutions adopted by the International Democrat Union (IDU) which emphasize the necessity of protecting the fundamental rights of Albanian citizens and increasing transparency and integrity in governance;

also bringing attention to the decline in the exercise and guarantee of human rights in Albania from various reports such as Amnesty International Journalists without Borders, World Justice Project and from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

as participants of the "Violated Rights" forum held in Tirana today:

1. Condemn the continuous reported violations of human rights and democratic standards in Albania, including threats to freedom of expression, electoral manipulations, and the dire situation in the country's prisons, where 62% of detainees are in pre-trial detention, as well as the lack of transparency in governance.
2. Reaffirm that the respect and guarantee of fundamental rights are a prerequisite for a functional democracy and for fulfilling the aspirations of the Albanian people for European integration, transatlantic partnership, and socio-economic prosperity.
3. Recall that ensuring rights for every citizen, including during investigative, criminal, or judicial processes, is a prerequisite to avoid sliding into a police state where the violent restriction of freedoms prevails over the application of a fair judicial process;
4. Emphasize the need for addressing these challenges through national and international engagement, involving political actors, civil society, and international partners.

We, consider emergent and call upon:

**The Albanian Government:**

* To rigorously respect the rights of citizens, especially those related to private property and freedom of movement, ensuring that none can be altered or restricted through various forms of police detention or pre-trial detention without an effective, fair, and transparent judicial process.
* To guarantee freedom of expression, banning any form of censorship and pressure on journalists, citizens, and political representatives.
* To organize a free and fair election, ensuring an electoral process free from the misuse of state resources or political threats.
* To ensure voting for the Diaspora and to guarantee the integrity of their vote.
* To respect the separation of powers and the independence of state institutions, including democratically elected local institutions like municipalities and municipal councils.
* To stop any interference, manipulation, or politicization of the justice system, both in administrative-criminal and constitutional terms.
* To foster a Western culture of dialogue by cooperating with every significant actor, political, economic, or from civil society, to stop the depopulation agenda, the destruction of education, health, to solve property issues, pensions, and minimum living standards.
* To facilitate the creation of a technocratic government based on the North Macedonia model to manage the electoral process and restore citizens' trust in the integrity of elections.

**The International Community:**

* To monitor developments in Albania closely, using the resolutions adopted by the IDU, the CDI and the EPP as a guide to assist in the return of democratic standards and the protection of human rights.
* To acknowledge the numerous violations of the rights of Albanian citizens that have gone on for years, or those who are physically detained in police custody or pre-trial detention due to an ineffective and unjust justice system.
* To exert pressure on the Albanian government to end human rights violations and ensure the implementation of reforms that strengthen democracy and the rule of law, especially concerning transnational corruption and international organized crime.
* To mediate negotiations for the creation of a technocratic government in the example of North Macedonia, which would enable a free and fair election.
* To provide technical and financial assistance for improving electoral infrastructure and strengthening democratic institutions in Albania.

**The Albanian Civil Society and Opposition Political Actors,** to unite under a common mission to protect fundamental rights, universal values, and the following principles:

* **Individual Freedoms and Rights:** Individuals are born free with inalienable rights. The government's duty is to ensure and not restrict these rights and freedoms, which are independent of political and economic liberties.
* **Rule of Law:** Albania must establish a legal state that ensures the separation and balance of powers, the protection of institutions, and decentralization of power, fighting fiercely against the capture of institutions by corruption and crime. Today, the state does not recognize the decisions of its own institutions; for example, Parliament does not recognize the decisions of the Constitutional Court, or the non-recognition of the court's decision on the 13 salaries of the Ballsh Oil Refinery workers.
* **Empowerment of the Citizen:** Citizens must have an active role in policymaking and governance, with a focus on direct representation, respecting their interests, transparent dialogue, and not imposing decisions through violence.
* **Free Market:** The Albanian economy should be based on capitalism, entrepreneurship, and ensuring a truly free market as mechanisms for the creation and equitable distribution of national wealth, thus fostering a competitive economy that offers high profits and wages but also low taxes and public debt.
* **Strengthening of Local Production:** Changing the economic model from being merely an importer and consumer to a producer and exporter, promoting local production, agricultural and livestock, strengthening the processing industry, and supporting Albanian farmers.
* **Scientific, and Patriotic Education with a High Quality:** Education is the foundation of opportunities for every individual and ensures the sustainable development of society. A nation has no future without investing in the education of the new generation. Therefore, we support educational reforms at all levels to improve its quality, freeing it from ideological influences, aiming for a complete depoliticization and decommunization of content and curricula, especially in social sciences.
* **Dignified Healthcare:** A reform of the Albanian healthcare sector driven by the noble goal of increasing life expectancy for every Albanian, ensuring this longevity translates into quality life years, at low cost to citizens with quality service.
* **Protection of the Most Vulnerable in Society, Pensioners:** Ensuring dignity and a comfortable life for retirees, aiming for a pension close to the minimum wage and the Miners Status for those working on this field.
* **Protection of Cultural and Historical Heritage:** Protecting cultural and historical heritage is a duty to past generations and an investment for the future, preserving national identity and connection to our roots. We emphasize the importance of preserving monuments, traditions, and historical values as a source of inspiration and cohesion for society, and an essential element of our identity. We call for the reconstruction of the National theater where it was and as it was.
* **Private Property:** Respect for private property is seen as essential for security and social development, closely linked with human freedoms and dignity beyond any strategic or corrupt status that might alter private property.
* **Decommunization and Democracy:** Opening communist files and stopping the glorification of the dictatorship, including more education and awareness to protect freedoms and restore the dignity of the victims, or to avoid repeating an anti-democratic, anti-rights, and anti-Western model. We ask for the inclusion of the discriminated classes from communism into constitutional institutions. We demand for the official denunciation of the crimes of communism, as Europe did, as well as a serious effort for the finding of the bodies of 6,000 individuals disappeared by the communist regime.
* **Decentralization:** Decentralization of power and balanced territorial development, strengthen local self-governance, increase accountability, and ensure that every area has equal development opportunities.
* **Environment:** Preserving the environment and natural resources is crucial to securing a sustainable legacy for future generations. We seek the harmonization of economic development with ecological protection. We also encourage the use of alternative energy sources, the reduction of losses in the network, and the punishment of poor management of the Drin Cascade according to the legal recommendations of KLSH. We ask for the implementation of the Dibër Municipality Council resolution against HEC Skavica, to protect the interests of the community directly affected. We ask for the implementation of legislation on public consultation rights, the Bern Convention, and the Aarhus Convention, without affecting protected areas through the machinations of opening up projects like the Vlorë airport and the intervention in Butrint.
* **European Integration:** EU membership is a primary objective, ensuring human rights, the development of the country, increasing competition, and protecting the rights of Albanian consumers among others.
* **Protection of Albanians and National Values:** The need to protect Albanians wherever they are, and to guarantee uncompromisingly traditional and family values, and freedom of belief as the foundation of our society. We support the creation of a Ministry for Family and Repopulation, as well as an investigation into the causes of the depopulation agenda, and the recent census conducted.
* **Dignity and Human Life:** Protecting life and human dignity is a sacred duty, ensuring the rights of individuals from the beginning to the end of life.
* **Rebuilding Society:** Promoting freedoms and protecting human dignity are seen as the key to reviving Albanian society, together with the proper functioning of social dialogue between various interest groups in a society.

We,

the signatories of this resolution:

Commit to defend human rights, promote democratic values, and stand in solidarity with all Albanian citizens seeking a fairer and more equitable future.

We call on all local and international actors to join this effort to ensure a democratic and prosperous Albania.

Signed on December 18, in Tirana, Albania.

Resolution of the Centrist Democrat International:

[**https://twitter.com/idc\_cdi/status/1868693155744510033**](https://twitter.com/idc_cdi/status/1868693155744510033)

Resolution of the European People’Party (EPP)

[**https://www.epp.eu/papers/resolution-on-albania-tabled-by-democratic-party-of-albania-dpa-for-the-epp-political-assembly**](https://www.epp.eu/papers/resolution-on-albania-tabled-by-democratic-party-of-albania-dpa-for-the-epp-political-assembly)

Resolution of the International Democracy Union

[**https://www.idu.org/idu-resolution-on-albania/**](https://www.idu.org/idu-resolution-on-albania/)

Latest Amnesty International report on Albania

[**https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/western-central-and-south-eastern-europe/albania/report-albania/**](https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/western-central-and-south-eastern-europe/albania/report-albania/)

Latest report from Journalists without Borders on press freedom in Albania

[**https://euronews.al/en/press-freedomin-albania-in-a-critical-situation-the-recommendations-of-reporters-without-borders/**](https://euronews.al/en/press-freedomin-albania-in-a-critical-situation-the-recommendations-of-reporters-without-borders/) [**https://rsf.org/en/rsf-and-albanian-media-council-publish-policy-blueprint-ensure-right-information**](https://rsf.org/en/rsf-and-albanian-media-council-publish-policy-blueprint-ensure-right-information)

World Justice Project report on rule of law in Albania, comparing the periods 2015-2024

[**https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/2023/Albania/**](https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/2023/Albania/)

Reports produces by the Albanian Opposition on electoral farces, corruption, crime etc.:

[**https://www.sali-berisha.com/**](https://www.sali-berisha.com/)

[**https://pd.al/international-newsletter/**](https://pd.al/international-newsletter/)

The electoral farce of May 14th 2023

[**https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=7f8f476313**](https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=7f8f476313)

Paper published by the Foundation for Freedom and Democracy on narco-communism

[**https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=cf17e008cb**](https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=cf17e008cb)

Paper published by the Albanian Democratic Party on the overall situation in Albania

[**https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=dfe5921bf4**](https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=dfe5921bf4)

Reportage by Der Spiegel: Prime Minister Rama and Corruption in Albania [**https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/albanien-premier-edi-rama-hofieren-europas-regierungschefs-den-falschen-a-5df015c1-97d4-4d1a-a161-d0c6479db77d**](https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/albanien-premier-edi-rama-hofieren-europas-regierungschefs-den-falschen-a-5df015c1-97d4-4d1a-a161-d0c6479db77d)

English version:

[**https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=bcfe5db6b4**](https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=bcfe5db6b4)

Reportage on crime and corruption in Albania by Italian public broadcaster Rai3

[**https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=8cc88d2748**](https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=8cc88d2748)

Reportage by French Media on the government authoritarianism:

[**https://www.mediapart.fr/journal/international/280224/albanie-comment-l-autocrate-edi-rama-est-devenu-le-meilleur-allie-des-occidentaux**](https://www.mediapart.fr/journal/international/280224/albanie-comment-l-autocrate-edi-rama-est-devenu-le-meilleur-allie-des-occidentaux)

Report of the mission of the Council of American Ambassadors:

[**https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=b0b7ce5e10**](https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=703c8065ef608c88abb2edbba&id=b0b7ce5e10)

**Signatory Organizations:**

* **Foundation for Freedom and Democracy (FLD)**: FLD is the official foundation of the Democratic Party of Albania, aiming to promote individual freedoms, liberal democracy, and a market economy. It also seeks to contribute to strengthening and supporting political life in Albania, enhancing civil society, and promoting democratic values.
* **Albanian Conservative Institute**: The primary conservative institute in Albania and the region, focusing on promoting conservative values, free market economic policies, good governance, national security, and international relations, while supporting the values of family, tradition, and freedom.
* **Albanian Policy Center**: A conservative think tank that promotes democratic governance, national security, and economic development in Albania by supporting free markets and the rule of law.
* **Albanian Atlantic Council**: An organization that promotes Albania's Euro-Atlantic integration and partnership with NATO, addressing regional security and stability challenges.
* **Albanian Coalition for Family and Life**: An important conservative organization in Albania focused on defending traditional family and life values. It unites various religious and civil society organizations aimed at protecting life and the family.
* **Albania Against Depopulation**: An organization created by well-known civil society activists to raise awareness about the greatest tragedy affecting our homeland, the abandonment of the country, through a depopulation agenda.
* **Alliance for the Defense of the Theater**: An organization established by a group of artists to protect the National Theater, and subsequently to rebuild it where it was and as it was.
* **Association of Retired Police Officers**: An organization that supports former police officers, helping them and being a strong voice in the Albanian public arena in support of their rights.
* **Association of Elected Local Officials**: The association aims to contribute to the protection of the interests of local self-government units, with the objective of strengthening democratic structures and mechanisms in the organization of municipalities and the implementation of the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government.
* **Association of Small and Medium Enterprises of Albania**: An organization representing the interests of small and medium-sized businesses, being an important voice in the Albanian public space for economic reforms and support for entrepreneurs.
* **Student Alternative**: An important youth organization in the city of Shkodra that supports student rights and encourages their involvement in public and social issues.
* **Union of Independent Trade Unions of Albania (BSPSH)**: The largest confederation in Albania, established in February 1991, which together with the Independent Union of Albanian Miners (SPMSH), fought for the overthrow of communism in Albania, the harshest regime in the Balkans.
* **Independent Union of Albanian Education**: A union established in 1991 to protect the socio-economic interests of teachers.
* **Independent Union of Albanian Artists (SPASH)**: An organization representing the interests of artists and cultural workers in Albania. It is engaged in protecting artists' rights, improving working conditions, and promoting the status of artists in the country.
* **Independent Union of Albanian Miners**: The first independent union established in 1991 in Albania, which contributed to the fall of the communist regime and to freedom and democracy in Albania!
* **National Union for the Integration of Political Prisoners and Persecuted in Albania**: An organization focused on the rights, recognition, and integration of former political prisoners and persecuted individuals from the communist regime in Albania.
* **December 90 Group**: The December 90 Group, formed just days after the assassination of the Historical Leader of the December 90 Student Movement, Azem Hajdari, represents the values and ideals for which the students rose up, for a free and democratic Albania like the rest of Europe.
* **Center for Transparency and Free Information**: A civil society organization based in Tirana, specialized in issues of monitoring, transparency, good governance, and media.
* **Our Roots Academy**: An organization aiming to influence the strategic policies of the Albanian state to ensure the protection and promotion of national values. Through periodic awareness campaigns and other organized activities, the Academy seeks to mobilize the Albanian community to intervene in national-level decision-making processes.
* **United Oil Workers Union**: An organization representing workers in Albania's oil sector, playing a significant role in protecting oil workers' rights, including negotiating collective contracts, securing better working conditions, and addressing issues related to wages, workplace safety, and social benefits.
* **Opposition to the Skavica Dam**: A civil society organization protesting against the construction of the Skavica Hydropower Plant, arguing that it would flood 35 villages, displace 20,000 residents, submerge thousands of hectares of arable land, erase culture and history, trample on dignity, and destroy biodiversity, flora, and fauna.