



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[Search](#) | [About RIRs](#) | [Help](#)

ALB100875.E

Albania: The Christian Democratic Party and the treatment of its supporters by the police and g

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

The Christian Democratic Party of Albania (PDK)

The Democratic Christian Party of Albania (PDK) is a "right-wing center" party (ATA 22 Jun 2005; *Country Reports 2004* 28 Feb. 2005, Sec. 2.a). Established in 1991 (ibid.; *Europa World Year Book 2005* 2005, 470), the PDK draws most of its support from Catholic towns in the North of the country (*Politi the World 2005-2006* Dec. 2005, 17; *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 9).

On 2 June 2005, the PDK joined the New Democrat Party (PDr), the Republican Party (PR) Party (PBLD), the National Front Party (PBKD), the Movement for Human Rights Party (PLDLN), Party of Democratic Union (PBD) to form a coalition named the Alliance for Freedom, Justice and (SeeNews 28 June 2005). The PDK holds two of Albania's 140 parliamentary seats since the coup July 2005 (Angus Reid Consultants 3 July 2005).

In 2004, the Christian Democratic Party (PDK) supported the Democratic Party's activities the Socialist Party (PS), led by Fatos Nano (SeeNews 28 June 2005), from power (*Rilindja Demc* 2004). The "centre-right" Democratic Party (PD) replaced the Nano government after winning the 2005 elections (BBC 22 Jan. 2006).

Treatment of Supporters of the Christian Democratic Party (PDK)

In January 2004, Albania's Prime Minister Fatos Nano sued the PDK's leader, Nikolle Lesi, (2005; *Country Reports 2004* 28 Feb. 2005, Sec. 2.a). Lesi was sued for allegedly printing "false information about the Prime Minister in his newspaper, *Koha Jone* (IHF 2005), which claimed that Nano had received himself six months' salary for work associated with the privatization of the National Savings Bank "amounted to corruption" (Article 19 27 May 2004; IPI 2004).

Nikolle Lesi was fined approximately "US\$20,000" by the Tirana District Court (IPI 2004; *Country Reports 2004* 28 Feb. 2005, Sec. 2.a), one hundred times the average monthly salary in Albania (ibid; Article 19 27 May 2004; IPI 2004). Lesi's appeal decision (IHF 2005; *Country Reports 2004* 28 Feb. 2005, Sec. 2.a); however, no further information was found on the outcome of the appeal among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

In May 2004, the prime minister's wife, Xhoana Nano, also sued Nikolle Lesi for libel (IHF 2004; IPI 2004; *Country Reports 2004* 28 Feb. 2005, Sec. 2.a) and requested that the Supreme Court strip Lesi of parliamentary immunity (ATA 4 Oct. 2004; IHF 2005; *Country Reports 2004* 28 Feb. 2005, Sec. 2.a).