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Albania: Treatment of Socialist Party members and supporters by state authorities and by Democratic Party members and supporters since the Parliamentary election of July 2005 (July 2005 - 2006)

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Information on the treatment of Socialist Party members and supporters by state authorities and by Democratic Party members and supporters since the Parliamentary election of July 2005 was scarce among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

The Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC), relating complaints received by the Civil Service Commission, whose function is "specifically to address complaints by civil service employees," reported claims of dismissals owing to participation in political activities (9 Jan. 2006). According to the AHC, the Civil Service Commission issued 34 decisions in December 2005 regarding unjust dismissals and of these 34, 19 cases were based on political participation (AHC 9 Jan. 2006). The AHC further reported that the Civil Service Commission deemed the above-mentioned cases of dismissal to be "unfounded" and authorized the claimant's return to their positions (*ibid.*). However, the public administration has not respected the Commission's decisions and the employees were not allowed to resume their posts, which the AHC views as constituting a "legal violation" (*ibid.*).

Another source alleged that the building authorities in Albania, perhaps acting as a political arm against the opposition, discriminated against Socialists insofar as they mainly destroyed property or buildings that were occupied by Socialists (*Korrieri* 6 Jan. 2006).

The Albanian Telegraphic Agency (ATA) reported that the head of the Socialist Party in Peshkopia was stabbed in the arm in August 2005, however, the news article does not specify if the attack was politically motivated (24 Aug. 2005).

In its Operational Guidance Note on Albania, the United Kingdom Home Office indicated that

[t]hough the Democratic Party is currently in power in Albania, rogue elements of its local/regional membership in the context of this category of claim [membership to political party] do not constitute the state authorities.