



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

ALB103193.E

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Albania: Attestation letters for blood feuds; issuing organizations; how letters are issued, processed and stored; whether issuing organizations are recognized by the government; whether the Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation (CNR) has the full authority, approved by the government and recognized by international organizations and institutions, to verify the authenticity of blood feuds

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The Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation (CNR) is an Albanian non-governmental organization (NGO) that focuses on reconciliation and the prevention of blood feud murders (CNR Jan. 2009; Albania 13 July 2009e; *ibid.* 10 July 2009a). A Tel Aviv-based Albanian academic with expertise in blood feuds stated that the CNR "is composed of representatives of different local reconciliation missions and NGOs" that deal with blood feud issues (15 July 2009). An official with the Embassy of Canada in Rome stated in correspondence with the Research Directorate that the CNR "is an NGO that functions largely with volunteers across Albania" (21 Oct. 2009).

In 11 July 2009 correspondence with the Research Directorate, a representative of the CNR provided the following information on attestation letters for blood feuds produced by the CNR:

The attestation letter of [the] Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation (CNR) is a document that verifies the authenticity of a blood feud between individuals, families and extended families (tribes). The attestation letter contains a short summary of the data ... in the file of a particular blood feud that is not closed yet and where no reconciliation has been reached....

The attestation letter has the logo of [the] CNR as a header and contains the full information of address and phone numbers, emails and website of [the] CNR. It also has the [issuing] date ... and the protocol [number] as well as the code number corresponding to the number of the file in [the] CNR's office. It is signed by the chairman of [the] CNR, Mr. Gjin Marku, and has the stamp of [the] CNR at the bottom of the page near the signature of the chairman. The attestation letters are printed in the office of CNR, in black and white or in color.... The authenticity of the attestation can be easily