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Albania: The current structure and function of the State Information Service (Sherbimi Informative Kombetare, ShIK); its mandate; to whom it reports; whether it has local offices which report to local authorities

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

According to Brassey’s International Intelligence Yearbook (2003, 3), the State Information Service (Sherbimi Informative Kombetare, ShIK) was formed in July 1991 and replaced communist Albania's Sigurimi security police. ALB33124.E of 27 October 1999 provides background information on both the ShIK and Sigurimi and their functioning to that date.

Brassey’s states that in 1998, the ShIK was "renamed the Department of National Security (DSK) but the Constitutional Court changed the name to the State Information Service, with the local media continuing to refer to it as the ShIK" (2003, 3). Country Reports 2003 refers to the State Intelligence Service as the SHISH and notes that the organization is responsible for both internal and external intelligence gathering and counterintelligence (25 Feb. 2004, Intro.). Brassey’s expands the scope of these activities, adding "anti-terrorism, anti-corruption, and anti-drugs trafficking activities" and notes that ShIK personnel have the powers of arrest and detention (2003, 3).

A 2000 report by the Tirana-based Institute for Policy and Legal Studies (IPLS) provides an overview of the structure of the State Intelligence Service and its legislative basis. According to this report, the State Intelligence Service "bases its activity on the law no. 8391, date 28/10/1998 'On the State Intelligence Service'" (IPLS 2000). Further, the IPLS report outlines its mission and function and its position relative to other state bodies:

Mission and Function:

According to Article 1 of this law, the State Intelligence Service is an intelligence organ of the state with national security functions.

[The] State Intelligence Service has the following duties:

- [to] collect information from abroad for the purposes of national security;
- [to] undertake intelligence activity for purposes of the protection of integrity, independence and constitutional order;