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ALB43379.E

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Albania: Update of ALB31220.E of 24 February 1999 on the treatment by the authorities of members or families of the Association of Former Victims of Political Persecution (Association of Politically Persecuted) (February 1999-February 2005).

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Information on the treatment by the authorities of members or families of the Association of Former Victims of Political Persecution (Association of Politically Persecuted) was scarce among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, information about the adoption of a law addressing compensation for the former victims of political persecution.

Treatment of Former Victims of Political Persecution

Amnesty International (AI) reported that a complaint lodged by a former police officer, Gazmend Noga, after he was allegedly attacked by a colonel in October 1998 was dismissed in April 1999 (18 May 2001). According to the Ministry of Public Order, Gazmend Noga was fired for having violated the law on the depoliticisation of state organs, while according to him, "he [only] had been a member of Association of Former Victims of Political Persecution, many of whose members are Democratic Party supporters" and "not a member of any political party" (AI 18 May 2001).

A "cultural psychological study" of former victims of political persecution in Albania was carried out in 2000-2001 (IREX n.d.). According to the study's author, political persecution in the country "took away education, religion, property, the right to bury and honor the dead, a choice for marriage, pensions, security for old age, health and other things" (ibid.).

The report claims that the "ex-persecuted" live in "extreme poverty" and feel "isolated and separated" (ibid.). The report further claimed that some "ex-persecuted" were given money and apartments "during the democratic period," but "many more were not compensated" (ibid.). The people interviewed also claimed that they were worried about their own future in terms of employment and the return of their property and about their children's chances of getting into university (ibid.). They also claimed that the government has not told them where to find the "remains of loved ones...executed during the regime" and has not paid them the "amount promised to them on their 'value cards'" (ibid.). No further information could be found on the "value