



27° Regular Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 6 - UPR Albania

“Right to life, liberty and security of the person: combating the phenomenon of blood feuds”

APG23 is particularly pleased with the declarations made by the Albanian government in the report for the 2nd UPR cycle and the measures planned to combat the phenomenon of blood feuds.

Such a phenomenon, based on the medieval code of Kanun, violates the fundamental human rights, first of all the right to life, liberty and security of the person. It damages the union, the stability and the future of the whole Albania and destroys one of the most important pillars of Albanian society: the family.

In June 2014 Operation Dove, the nonviolent civil corps of APG23, organised a March for Peace, Forgiveness and Reconciliation against blood feuds from the North to the Capital City of Albania with a large participation of Albanian citizens. Recently, a delegation of APG23 met H. E. Mr. Bujar Nishani, the President of the Republic of Albania who rightly underlined how the phenomenon of blood feuds needs to be dealt with educational, social, cultural, collective and legal actions and involves the joint efforts of different actors in society¹.

We share the President' view, but the Albanian Government remains with the duty to take the leadership in the fight against blood feuds.

For this reason, on top of the measures already planned by the Albanian Government, we would like to recommend the following:

1. Support the reconciliation paths between families that are victims of blood feuds and the creation of a national reconciliation process through Restorative and Transitional Justice.
2. Provide with an Institutional/Legal Instrument aimed at overcoming the blood feud phenomenon, like implementing the law no. 9389, dated 5.4.2005, with the aim to create the Coordination Council against the phenomenon of blood feud.
3. Promote sensitisation campaigns for the general public by introducing an education and a culture based on nonviolence, reconciliation and on the respect of Human Rights (first of all the right to Life) in schools, working places and most important social gathering centres.

Finally, the fact that the Albanian Government moved from the initial denial of the presence of blood feuds in the first UPR cycle to promising actions against it in the 2nd cycle, clearly shows how effective the UPR mechanism can be and how it is important to have a constructive dialogue between national institutions and civil society.

¹ Families involved in blood feuds, national civil society, National Institutions etc.