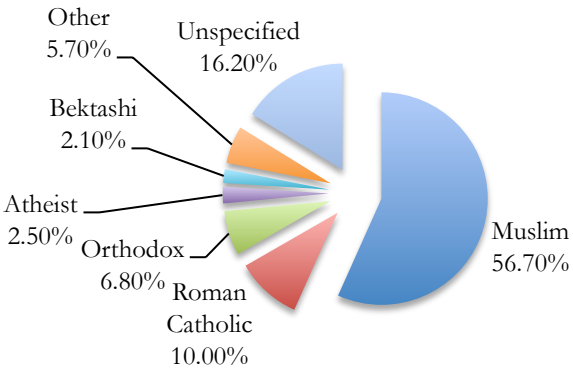




## Republic of Albania

### 1. Background Information:

| Government                |   |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
|---------------------------|---|--------------|------------|----------|--------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Capital                   | Tirana  |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
| Government Type           | Parliamentary Republic  |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
| Administrative Division   | 12 counties: Berat, Diber, Durres, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokaster, Korce, Kukes, Lezhe, Shkoder, Tirane, Vlore  |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
| Population                |   |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
| Total Population          | 3,038,594 (July 2016 est.)  |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
| Ethnic Groups (2011 est.) | Albanian 82.6%<br>Greek 0.9%<br>Other 1% (including Vlach, Roma, Macedonian, Montenegrin, and Egyptian)<br>Unspecified 15.5%  |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
|                           | <p><b>Ethnic Groups (2011 est.)</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>Ethnic Groups (2011 est.) Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnic Group</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Albanian</td> <td>82.60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unspecified</td> <td>15.50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>1.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greek</td> <td>0.90%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Ethnic Group | Percentage | Albanian | 82.60% | Unspecified | 15.50% | Other | 1.00% | Greek |
| Ethnic Group              | Percentage  |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
| Albanian                  | 82.60%  |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
| Unspecified               | 15.50%  |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
| Other                     | 1.00%   |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
| Greek                     | 0.90%   |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
| Languages (2011 est.)     | Albanian 98.8% (official)<br>Greek 0.5%<br>Other 0.6% (including Macedonian, Roma, Vlach, Turkish, Italian, and Serbo-Croatian)<br>Unspecified 0.1%   |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |
| Religions (2011 est.)     | Muslim 56.7%<br>Roman Catholic 10%<br>Orthodox 6.8%<br>Atheist 2.5%<br>Bektashi (a Sufi order) 2.1%<br>Other 5.7%<br>Unspecified 16.2%  |              |            |          |        |             |        |       |       |       |

| <b>Religions (2011 est.)</b>                      | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Religions (2011 est.)</b></p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Religions (2011 est.) Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Religion</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Muslim</td> <td>56.70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unspecified</td> <td>16.20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roman Catholic</td> <td>10.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Orthodox</td> <td>6.80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>5.70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Atheist</td> <td>2.50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bektashi</td> <td>2.10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Religion | Percentage | Muslim | 56.70% | Unspecified | 16.20% | Roman Catholic | 10.00% | Orthodox | 6.80% | Other | 5.70% | Atheist | 2.50% | Bektashi | 2.10% |
|---|---|----------|------------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| Religion  | Percentage  |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |
| Muslim  | 56.70%  |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |
| Unspecified                                       | 16.20%  |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |
| Roman Catholic                                    | 10.00%  |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |
| Orthodox  | 6.80%   |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |
| Other   | 5.70%   |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |
| Atheist   | 2.50%   |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |
| Bektashi  | 2.10%   |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |
| <b>Literacy Rate</b>                              | Total population: 97.6%<br>Male: 98.4%<br>Female: 96.9% (2015 est.)   |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |
| <b>Unemployment (youth ages 15-24)</b>            | Total: 30.2%<br>Male: 32.5%<br>Female: 26.1% (2013 est.)  |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |
| <b>Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons:</b> | Stateless Persons: 7,442 (2015)   |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |
| <b>Bibliography:</b>                              | CIA. The World Factbook. Albania. Web page:<br><a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/al.html">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/al.html</a>  |          |            |        |        |             |        |                |        |          |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |

## 2. International Treaties and Situation on Human Rights:

| International Relations                                    |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Principal International Organization Participation:</b> | United Nations (UN)<br>Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)<br>Council of Europe (CE)<br>North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)<br>International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)<br>International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)<br>Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)<br>International Organization of Francophonie (IOF)<br>United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)<br>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)<br>Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)<br>World Trade Organization (WTO)<br>Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) |
| <b>European Union Membership:</b>                          | Official candidate for membership in the European Union.<br>On 28 April 2008, Albania submitted its membership application to the EU Council.   |

| Human Rights                         |   |          |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------|
| International Human Rights Treaties: | Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)   | 11/05/94 |
|                                      | Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture (CAT-OP)  | 1/10/03  |
|                                      | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)   | 4/10/91  |
|                                      | Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming to the abolition of the death penalty (CCPR-OP2-DP)   | 17/10/07 |
|                                      | Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)  | 8/11/07  |
|                                      | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)  | 11/05/94 |
|                                      | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)  | 11/05/94 |
|                                      | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)  | 4/10/91  |
|                                      | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)   | 5/06/07  |
|                                      | Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)   | 27/02/92 |
|                                      | Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC-OP-AC)   | 9/12/08  |
|                                      | Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography (CRC-OP-SC)   | 5/02/08  |
|                                      | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)  | 11/02/13 |
| General Human Rights Situation:      | <p>According to Albania's Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2014 of the United States Department of State the most significant human rights problems are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corruption of government, particularly within the judicial and health-care systems.</li> <li>- Domestic violence and discrimination against women.</li> <li>- Police beating and otherwise mistreating suspects during detention and interrogation, elicit confessions; prolonged police detention without charge; substandard prison conditions.</li> <li>- Little progress in addressing claims for the return or restitution of property seized during the former communist era.</li> <li>- A disproportionately high ratio of male-to-female births indicated that gender-biased sex selection might be occurring.</li> <li>- There were many displaced children and street children, particularly within the Romani community.</li> <li>- Source and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour.</li> <li>- Marginalization and abuse of the Romani and Balkan-Egyptian communities.</li> </ul> |          |

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|--|---|
| <b>General Human Rights Situation:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.</li> <li>- Government enforcement of labour laws remained weak and rarely protected domestic and migrant workers.</li> <li>- Large numbers of children were engaged in forced labour.</li> <li>- Discrimination in employment or occupation against individuals based on their gender, presence of a disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, nationality, and ethnicity.</li> <li>- Impunity</li> </ul> |
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| <b>Bibliography:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Republic of Albania. International Organizations. Web page:<br/><a href="http://www.punetegashtme.gov.al/en/mission/international-organizations/other-organizations">http://www.punetegashtme.gov.al/en/mission/international-organizations/other-organizations</a></li> <li>- Republic of Albania. EU Integration. Web page:<br/><a href="http://www.punetegashtme.gov.al/en/mission/eu-integration">http://www.punetegashtme.gov.al/en/mission/eu-integration</a></li> <li>- United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. Ratification Status for Albania. Web page:<br/><a href="http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=2&amp;Lang=EN">http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=2&amp;Lang=EN</a></li> <li>- United States Department of State. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. 2014. Web Page:<br/><a href="http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/236704.pdf">http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/236704.pdf</a></li> </ul> |
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