



BACKGROUND
(Dokumente Politikash – Seria II, 2009)

Siguria Njerëzore në Shqipëri

Përgatitur nga Rrjeti i Menaxhimit të Sektori të Sigurisë

Rrjeti i Menaxhimit të Sektori të Sigurisë është një sipërmarrje e Institutit për Demokraci dhe Ndërmjetësim (IDN) me qëllim forcimin e kapaciteteve të shoqërisë civile, sudiuesve nga institucionet publike e akademike por edhe medias, për të përmirësuar qeverisjen në sektorin e sigurisë

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9. **Summary in English**

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English Summary

Analyzing the main strategic documents and reflecting on the current situation regarding security issues in Albania, we can come into the conclusion that overwhelmingly the aspects of human security are poorly handled either in the strategic documents or in the public discourse. This risk to create a gap between citizens and state's institutions themselves, considering that threat perceptions in the large public are tightly connected with human security given that these aspects affect them directly. This backgrounder is conceptualized in the frame of a summary where will be presented the seven components of human security in relation to Albania, aiming to identify the salient elements that feature the framework of human security in Albania.

- Economic Security

A simple definition of economic security would cite *continued solvency, reliability of income and employment security* as its main components.

Over the 10 last ten years the unemployment rate in Albania has decreased from 18.4 % in 1999 to 12.7 % in 2008 and this can be attributed to economic growth which has been stable at around 6%-7 %.

Remittances represent the most important component of rural families' monthly income, accounting for about 40%. About 70% of workers' remittances for the first quarter of 2008 was used for non-productive purposes; everyday consumption, construction and reconstruction and education and medical purposes. Albania has recorded high growth rates and in order to sustain high rates in the future the Government must adopt policies that encourage domestic production through development of industries etc that will benefit the unemployed through new jobs created.

- Food Security

The definition of food security is related with the situation in which the people in every stage of their life should have the opportunity and physical, social, economic space to receive sufficient and safe food, endeavoring to fulfill their basic diet needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. One of the main changes that have happened in the concept of food security in Albania is done on the efforts to protect the environment as well as farmers' support producing organic products.

In Albania, the period following the fall of communism regime resulted in a total dependence of imported food products. This raised the concern on food security and guarantee which have a direct impact on human security. In addition the issue of malnutrition in the young children is a constant concern especially in the low-income families. This phenomenon is mostly accompanied with high infant mortality in some particular areas of the country.

The food security in Albania has been often threatened not because of the lack of natural resources to fulfill the country's needs, but because of mismanagement and political crisis that have lead sometimes to food emergencies.

- Environmental Security

Considered as a central issue in the national security, environmental security comprises the dynamic and interconnections among the natural resource base, the social fabric of the state, and the economic engine for local and regional stability. Albania's National Security Strategy, approved by the National Assembly in 2004, does not allocate a lot of importance to environmental security, despite many aspects of the filed, are intertwined to various security fields, like health and economic security. Emissions from the aging vehicle fleet that circulates on Albania's streets and from heavy industries are one of the main causes of environmental pollution in Albania. The government currently does not have in place a clear long-term policy on how to abate the air pollution and reduce emissions from these two sources. Municipal waste management also continues to be major threat to the countries environment. Uncontrolled dumping and burning of urban waste is rampant presenting an immediate health hazard. The report notes that Albania lacks a modern system of waste collection, disposal and recycling, and has not set up a clear strategy for the safe disposal of hazardous waste

- Personal security

In nowadays personal security more than individual security, is seen in the perspective of the conditions and factors (let them be either physical or emotional) that exist in order that a person feel safe.

Firstly the personal security is an issue of qualitative factors; feelings and perceptions; making Albania a country with serious problems in the framework of human security regardless the fact that such approach doesn't find much space in the strategic documents prepared to set the milestones of security sector reform and development. As such a UNDP study conducted in Albania in 2004, revealed that personal security is a sensitive and very relevant issue for Albania, although little studied or analyzed. Therefore, referring to the data of the same source, at least 14% of the Albanian population feels unsafe in their homes while not less than 20% of the Albanians feel personally unsafe in the streets. Indeed such figures are reflected in the statistics of various crimes and road accidents which are presented in alarming rates. This might show the gap that exists between realistic personal security threats and lack of measures to face the situation such as establishing a long-term strategy to tackle such crisis.

- Health Security

Health Security aims to guarantee a minimal necessary protection from diseases, especially those infective and epidemic, or those caused by poor living conditions.

The health service in Albania is widespread all over the country nevertheless the quality remains a serious problem. Problematic continue to be the corruption which has been the main obstacle for health services in the last 15 years. The quality and access to health service is rather low and this sector suffers poor infrastructure and lack of essential equipments and instruments, while there is a lack of motivation of qualified staff. According to the statistics, the annual cost of health service per person in Albania is 50

usd/year, while in Europe it is 1900 usd/year. This clearly indicates the misbalance and low standards of Albanian health system.

- Community security

Community security is directly related to the freedoms and human rights to protect and develop their own identity in which they believe.

The homosexual community in Albania is considered to be the category of people who severely suffer the implications that come from the weakness of community security in our country. The most serious problem is related to the overwhelming mentality that exists in the public and in the public institutions. Almost all the Albanian society has negative prejudices against gay community and in the same time lack of adequate information. According to various national human rights organizations, the most serious violations happen from the police, where physical and psychological violence prevail.

In relation to the ethnic minorities, although the Greek minority is better positioned, there is an immediate need to for accurate and recent statistics, greater political decision-making representation, better administrative division of the areas where these minorities live and better education opportunities in their native language.

The Macedonian Minority concentrated in Prespa area, near Korça, raise various concerns and claims related to: lack of education opportunities, lack of population registration, difficulties in preserving their own culture and national identity, lack of political representation and furthermore lack of investments and developing policies in this region.

Roma community is defined as a vulnerable group with very low education and economic conditions. Roma community is faced with numerous difficulties, that constitute the exclusion and social self exclusion from the rest of the society.

- Political security

The concept of political security is based in the democratic governance and protection and respect of human rights in Albania. The analysis of political security in Albania comprises 5 basic elements which are analyzed as follows.

- Level of democratization

The Albanian Parliament has further consolidated its role as a focus for the political debate while the main political forces have started to cooperate in major issues. This consensus between the ruling party and the opposition party have resulted in a progress achieved in regards to court's and elections reforms. Nevertheless few weeks before June 28th which coincides with the start of parliamentary elections, the process of delivering identity documents has not yet been finished jeopardizing the whole election process and the right to vote for each citizen.

- *Protection against state repression (freedom of speech/press)*

The Constitution of the Republic of Albania, literally guarantees the freedom of speech and freedom of press (media). What is needed is the adequate implementation of the legislation and resolving sensitive issues such as decriminalization of defamation in the penal code and the adoption of a new legislation regarding the transparency of media ownership.

- *Respect for human rights*

Regardless the fact that the legislative framework seems complete enriched with additional national strategies, the biggest challenge is the efficient implementation of the existing legislation.

- *Democratic Expectations.*

Referring to the prestigious newspaper "The Economist", Albania is ranked 81-st out of 167 countries, regarding the level of democracy development, leading the list of "hybrid democracy" countries. In this context various reforms and changes in Electoral Code and justice have taken place. Nevertheless the legal procedures have remained slow and substantially lack transparency.

- *Prevention of torture, abolishment of political sentences*

The Republic of Albania has signed the conventions that prevent the imprisonment for political motives, torture, or people extinction. In the past there has been cases related to maltreatment of inductees during the arrest and interrogation process.