
ALBANIA

Republika Popullore Socialiste e Shqipërisë

Area: 28,748 sq. km
Population: 2,750,000
Capital: Tirana

Head of State: Ramiz Alia (Chairman of the Presidium)
First Secretary of Central Committee: Ramiz Alia
Minister of the Interior: Hekuran Isai

Albania is divided into 26 districts (*rrethët*), listed below with their chief cities in brackets:

Berat (Berat)	Lushnjë (Lushnjë)
Dibrë (Dibrë)	Mat (Burrel)
Durrës (Durrës)	Mirditë (Rreshen)
Elbasan (Elbasan)	Përmet (Përmet)
Fier (Fier)	Pogradec (Pogradec)
Gramsh (Gramsh)	Pukë (Pukë)
Gjirokastrë (Gjirokastrë)	Sarandë (Sarandë)
Kolonjë (Kolonjë)	Skrapar (Corovodë)
Korcë (Korcë)	Shkodër (Shkodër)
Krujë (Krujë)	Tepelenë (Tepelenë)
Kukës (Kukës)	Tirana (Tirana)
Lezhë (Lezhë)	Tropojë (Bajram Curri)
Librazhd (Librazhd)	Vlorë (Vlorë)

ORGANIZATION

The last of the communist countries to retain the Stalinist orthodoxy, Albania is also unique in having accepted Mao

Zedong (Tse-tung) as a leading Marxist ideologist, on a par with Marx, Engels and Lenin. Political relations with China have worsened since the death of Chairman Mao and the liberalization that followed it.

As is the rule in communist countries, the duties of a police force are entrusted to a paramilitary militia, the People's Gendarmerie (Gjendarmeri), organized on a regional basis and controlled from Tirane. It is mainly concerned with public order and the detection of criminal activities, but may support the army in an emergency. In a country where there are no private vehicles, there is no need for traffic control, although a few traffic gendarmes (*gjandar*) do operate in Tirana.

Official crime statistics have not been available for many years. The authorities insist that there is very little crime in Albania, and this is probably true. Its collectivist society is extremely conservative (pop music and 'singing in the streets' are banned, as are prostitution and pornography), and citizens are required by law to inform the authorities of any criminal or political offences; failing to do so would make them accomplices.

The People's Courts, according to a 1968 law, dispense justice in accordance with the guidelines of the Albanian Labour Party (Partija Laburistë Shqiperise, PPSH), which may differ from codified law if the interests of the state so require. The People's Courts are empowered to sentence offenders to up to 25 years in labour camps or to death in case of murder, treason or terrorism. Legal representation for the defendants is theoretically assured but in practice dispensed with.

The Ministry of the Interior also controls the Frontier Guards, with 8000 men, and the State Security police (Siguri Shtetet, SSSh), with 5000 men in 4 battalions.