



ALBANIAN LGBT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS 2011

JANUARY 2011

⇒ LEO CASE

Klea, a member of the transgender community in Tirana (MTF), reported to PINK Embassy on January 12th that after she suffered food poisoning and went to the hospital she faced discrimination because of her gender identity. First she was not given any help and was left waiting for more than 45 minutes and after the doctors and a hospital guard met her they offended and discriminated her because of her sexual identity. PE reacted by sending a letter of complaint to the Commissioner against Discrimination where we asked full investigation of the case and taking of proper measures, because this makes an open violation of human rights and is a clear case of discrimination. However, the case was not followed up because *Klea* refused to make this case public.

FEBRUARY 2011

⇒ ANGELA CASE

Angela, a member of the transgender community (MTF), reported to PINK Embassy on February 22nd, the continuing violence and threats that the transgender community suffers from groups of young people or customers (since most of them are sex workers) and the indifference and delays they suffer from the police when they denounce such cases. PE has reacted by sending a letter of complaint to the General Directorate of the State Police and informed its Director as well as the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination on the matter.

MARCH 2011

⇒ TRANSGENDER VIOLATION

During March PINK Embassy has received a series of complaints from the transgender community on continuous violations of their rights. More specifically, on March 1st, 10th, 15th and 24th PE met and interviewed four members of the transgender community; Anxhela, Brikena, Nikoleta and Lili (MTF). They all reported and denounced the violence suffered from youngsters, the police and customers (they are sex workers). They reported that the police was neglecting their calls for being protected on violation acts. PE reacted by meeting with a representative of the Police Directory of Tirana and asked them to improve their behaviour towards the transgender community.

APRIL 2011

⇒ ANGELA & BRIKENA CASE

On April 6th, Anxhela, a member of the transgender community in Tirana (MTF), was attacked by an unknown person by the National Opera House in Tirana, an area where most transgender persons offer sex on payment. The person hit and punched her and also stabbed her with a little knife. The case was referred to the Police Station 1 in Tirana. A paper was referred to the Chief Officer in order for PINK Embassy to be informed about the investigation process.

On April 8th, Brikena, a member of the transgender community in Tirana (MTF), reported a discrimination case by the Greece border police in Kakavijë (South Albania). On April 5th, after crossing the Albanian border, (verified by the official stamp on her passport), the Greek officer asked if she was gay. The answer was “yes”. After this she was not allowed to cross the border.

⇒ THE TRANSGENDERS’ HOUSE WAS SET ON FIRE

On April 27th, the house, where 5 members of the transgender community lived was set on fire by a homo/trans phobic person, whom they knew and had identified. PE reacted directly with a press release which was sent to all the media and through a request for the Police to identify and find the perpetrator. After this reaction the Police interrogated the Trans persons involved and identified the aggressor who is now wanted by the police.

MAY 2011

⇒ ANGELA’S THREAT

On May 5th, Anxhela, a member of the transgender community (MTF), reported at PINK Embassy the person who had set fire to the house. She declared that she had received threats by this person. She also filed a complaint at the Police Department 3 in Tirana. The person who threatened Anxhela, is being investigated meanwhile he is free.

JULY 2011

⇒ ANGELA VIOLATION

On July 20th, Anxhela, a member of the transgender community (MTF), reported that a day earlier she had been beaten up and offended by a client. She had called the police, who had accompanied the aggressor at the Police Department 1, meanwhile Anxhela was sent at hospital where she took the necessary medication.

AUGUST 2011

⇒ PALOMA VIOLATION

On July 14th, Paloma, a member of the transgender community (MTF), reported to PE the severe violence she had suffered from 6 Police Officers of the State Police. During an investigation, they had stopped Palomas' partner for questioning, a request to which she showed resistance. At a certain point she hit the female police officer who was at the scene. This was followed by a strong and unjustified reaction of the six police officers present at the scene who attacked Paloma and continued beating her up even after taking her to the Police Department 1. After hours of violence, Paloma, covered in blood had fainted. PINK Embassy sent official, immediate complaints to the Ministry of Interior and the Ombudsman, in order to start investigations on the case meanwhile shared an immediate press release.

SEPTEMBER 2011

⇒ ANGELA VIOLATION

On September 30th, Anxhela, a member of the transgender community (MTF), reported the violence suffered from a Police Officer who had stopped her while she was working as sex worker. The violence continued at the Police Department where she was being investigated as author of a theft. The only reason why she was being investigated was because she was a transgender person with the Policeman arguing that these people are thieves, who at night dress up like women. After Anxhela clarified that she had nothing to do with the case, she was left to go. Because of the continuing violence from the Police Force, Anxhela sent an official complaint to the Ombudsman, through our assistance.

OCTOBER 2011

⇒ THE DISCRIMINATION OF GAY COUPLE

A gay couple from Tirana, reported to PINK Embassy the continuous violence and discrimination they had endured from relatives and the police. After a family incident, related to the fact that they were gay and living together, in which case the brothers of one of the guys attacked and threatened to kill them, the couple went to the police to file a complaint. As soon as they explained the situation they were faced with ridicule and offenses from the police officers. Instead of taking their complaints, taking necessary measures and letting them go, the Police detained the couple for more than 10 hours without any explanation and treating them as perpetrators of the incident. During the whole time of their stay at the police offices they were offended and ridiculed because of their sexual orientation. After receiving their complaint PE sent a letter of complaint to the Commissioner against Discrimination and assisted the couple to go at the offices and prepare the documentation. Meanwhile, PE referred the case at the Family Violence Section at the Tirana Police and asked them to start investigations on the Police Officers who were responsible for this event. PE also mediated the free legal service that the gay couple has received by a legal office in Tirana.

⇒ BURNING OF ANXHELA'S CLOTHES

On October 24th, Anxhela, a member of the transgender community (MTF), reported the burning of all her clothes and goods near the place where she lives by unidentified people. She had doubts that the burning of her clothes came because of her gender identity by Trans phobic persons. On the same day she went to the Police Department 1, where she asked to file a complaint, however she was not accepted by the Police Officer arguing that the boss was not there.

NOVEMBER 2011

⇒ SHEHU CASE

On November 4th, PINK Embassy filed an official complaint and sent it to the Commissioner against Discrimination, regarding the discriminatory remarks made in the media, on October 28th and 29th, by Tritan Shehu, an MP at the Albanian Parliament. He had officially called homosexuality a deviation from the norm. The case is still being followed by the Commissioner.

⇒ PERLA CASE

On November 8th, Perla, a member of the LGBT community, came at PINK Embassy to complain about a violation of his right to privacy by a local NGO. More specifically, Perla had given an interview at this NGO regarding his sexual orientation and his sexual life. This information, two years after was given from Perla, had unexpectedly ended up at his brother's hands. From then on, his life had become very difficult because his family is very conservative. He asked our support, in case the relationship with the family would get worse. PE assisted him and organized a meeting between him and the NGO. Perla has still not decided to take this case to court.