



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
Detained minors (2017)	6
International migrants (2019)	49,160
New asylum applications (2019)	66

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/albania>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Total number of detained minors	6	2017
				16	2016
				8	2015
Criminal prison population	5,564	2017	Percentage of foreign prisoners	1.4	2017
	5,201	2013		1.5	2012
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	193	2017			
	181	2013			

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	2,900,000	2020	International migrants	49,160	2019
	2,873,460	2017		52,000	2017
	2,897,000	2015		57,600	2015
International migrants as a percentage of the population	1.8	2017	Refugees	120	2019
	2	2015		131	2018
				119	2017
				111	2016
				104	2015
				104	2014
Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	0.05	2016	Total number of new asylum applications	66	2019
	0.04	2014		2,161	2016
				427	2014
Stateless persons	4,160	2018			
	4,460	2017			
	4,921	2016			
	7,443	2015			

DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION

Legal tradition	Name	Observation Date
	Civil law	2017

LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Core pieces of national legislation	Name	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended	
	Law on Asylum in the Republic of Albania. Law No. 8432. 1998.	1998		
VULNERABLE PERSONS				
Is the detention of vulnerable persons provided in law? Are they detained in practice?	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Asylum seekers	Provided	Yes	2015
	Unaccompanied minors	Provided		2015
COVID-19 UPDATES				
Latest Update	Update Status			Observation Date
	<p>The numbers of migrants and refugees in Albania have risen in recent years. According to the Department of Border and Migration, 11,344 people were detained at the border between January 2019 and February 2020. The Euro-Med Monitor called on the government of Albania “to immediately undertake necessary measures to provide adequate housing and sufficient food supplies to refugees and migrants in its custody, in addition to ensuring their safety from gang violence.” The imposition of a curfew on 16 March has impacted undocumented migrants across the country. Refugee centres have been closed, and migrants and asylum seekers left outside, looking for food. There were 876 confirmed cases of Covid-19 as of 13 May in the country. On 4 March, the Albanian government announced the temporary release of around 600 prisoners for 3 months. This measure concerns inmates held for minor offences, as well as the elderly and individuals suffering from chronic diseases. There is an estimate of 5,500 prisoners in Albania, whose penitentiaries are overcrowded. On 10 April, a group of more than 30 human rights organisations issued an open letter to the government protesting a plan to imprison individuals who disobey quarantine orders. The penal code was indeed amended on 16 April to impose two to eight years of jail time for rule-breakers. 19 inmates tested positive to Covid-19 on 20 April, and were isolated immediately. The Tirana penitentiary hospital had been dedicated exclusively to inmates who tested positive to the coronavirus.</p>			2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
International treaties	Name	Ratification Year
	OP CRC Communications Procedure	2013
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2013
	ICRMW, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	2007
	ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	2007
	OPCAT, Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2003
	CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons	2003
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2002
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	2002
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1994
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	1994
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	1994
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1992
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1992
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1992
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1991
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1991
VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	1991	
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	17/19	
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
Individual complaints procedure	Name	Acceptance Year
	ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	2007
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999	2003
	ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, declaration under article 31	2007
CRC, [Third] Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child establishing a communications procedure, 2011	2013	
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date
	4/9	2017

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies	Human Rights Committee	13. The Committee is concerned that the automatic detention until deportation of all persons entering the country irregularly, including minors, and the lack of adequate information and referral of asylum seekers among such persons to the asylum procedure, exposes persons in need of international protection to a high risk of refoulement. The Committee is also concerned at the poor living conditions in transit reception facilities for asylum seekers and refugees (arts. 6, 7, 9 and 10). The State party should ensure proper implementation of pre-screening procedures at the border and inside the country in order to ensure that persons in need of international protection are identified and referred to the asylum procedure, regardless of whether or not they entered the country in an irregular manner. It should refrain from detaining asylum seekers on the basis of the manner of entry into the country. It should improve living conditions in transit reception facilities.	2013

Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
Regional legal instruments	CATHB, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	2007
	CPCSE, Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse	2009
	ECHRP7, Protocol 7 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)	1996
	ECHRP12, Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights	2004
	ECPT, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment	1996
	ECHR, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (commonly known as the European Convention on Human Rights)	1996
	ECHR1, Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)	1996

Bilateral/Multilateral agreements linked to readmissions

Bilateral/multilateral agreements linked to readmission	Name	Year in Force	Observation Date
	Austria	2007	2017
	Germany	2003	2017
	Belgium	2008	2017
	Bulgaria	2003	2017
	Denmark	2008	2017
	Greece	1995	2017
	Italy	2008	2017
	Hungary	2010	2017
	Luxembourg	2008	2017
	Malta	2011	2017
	Romania	2005	2017
	Spain	2011	2017
	Norway	2009	2017
	Slovakia	2010	2017
	Slovenia	2011	2017
	Netherlands	2008	2017
	United Kingdom	2005	2017
	Iceland	2010	2017
	Switzerland	2003	2017
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2010	2017
	Croatia	2005	2017
	Macedonia	2005	2017
	Kosovo	2010	2017
Moldova	2013	2017	
Montenegro	2011	2017	
Serbia	2011	2017	
Albania (EU agreement)	2006	2006	

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Visits by special procedures of the Human Rights Council	Name	Year of Visit	Observation Date
	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	2011	2011

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2010	2017
	Yes	2014	2017

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Apprehending authorities	Name		Agency		Ministry		Observation Date								
	Border Patrol						2015								
	Police						2014								
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Types of detention facilities used in practice	Immigration detention centre (Administrative)	Immigration field office (Administrative)	Transit centre (Administrative)	Reception centre (Administrative)	Offshore detention centre (Administrative)	Hospital (Administrative)	Border guard (Administrative)	Police station (Criminal)	National penitentiary (Criminal)	Local prison (Criminal)	Juvenile detention centre (Criminal)	Informal camp (Ad hoc)	Immigration detention centre (Ad hoc)	Surge facility (Ad hoc)	Observation Date
	Yes						Yes								2015
															2015
Detention monitoring institutions															
Authorized monitoring institutions	Institution				Institution Type				Observation Date						
	Office of the People's Advocate (Avokati i Popullit)				National Human Rights Institution (or Ombudsperson) (NHRI)				2016						
	Office of the People's Advocate (Avokati i Popullit)				OPCAT National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)				2016						
Detention monitoring institutions															
Is the national human rights institution (NHRI) recognized as independent?	Is the NHRI recognized as independent by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions?										Observation Date				
	Yes										2016				
Detention monitoring institutions															
Does NHRI carry out visits?	Does NHRI carry out visits in practice?						Observation Date								
	Yes						2016								
Detention monitoring institutions															
Does NHRI have capacity to receive complaints?	Does NHRI have capacity to receive complaints?						Observation Date								
	Yes						2016								
Detention monitoring institutions															
Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention?	Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention?						Observation Date								
	Yes						2015								
Detention monitoring institutions															
Does national preventive mechanism (NPM) carry out visits?	Does NPM carry out visits in practice?						Observation Date								
	Yes						2015								
Detention monitoring institutions															
Does NPM publicly release reports on immigration detention?	Does NPM publicly release reports on immigration detention?						Observation Date								
	Yes						2015								
Foreign sources of funding for detention operations															
Does the country receive external sources of funding?	Benefitted from non-state funding sources?						Observation Date								
	Yes						2010								

Foreign sources of funding for detention operations

	Description of non-state assistance	Observation Date
<p>Description of foreign assistance</p>	<p>According to a EU Parliament question to the EU Commission (March 2013): During his visit to Albania in December 2011, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants expressed his concern about the closed detention centre in Kareç. The Kareç closed detention centre, which opened in 2010, was constructed primarily with funding from the European Union. The issues of accessibility, detention conditions, legal safeguards in law and practice and the treatment of detainees, which are explicitly mentioned in the UN Special Rapporteur’s report, are therefore particularly worrying. The report mentions, in particular: the ‘bad road conditions, which seriously obstruct the enjoyment of detainees’ right to legal defence and independent monitoring by national and international bodies’; the centre’s infrastructure and organisation; the poor living and hygienic conditions, such as cold and humidity and the lack of outdoor facilities or activities, which recall those of ‘a mid- to high-security prison’; the internal regulations, which contain provisions allowing the presence of ‘minors’ in the centre; and the lack of adequate information in a language commonly spoken by detainees about their rights and the reasons for their detention. Taking into account the readmission agreement between Albania and the EU, which entered into force on 1 May 2006 and presupposes full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, on what basis was this detention centre funded by the EU? Did the Commission have any say in the architectural planning and internal regulation of the centre? Is the Commission aware of the situation described above? If so, what steps has it taken to remedy the situation? If not, what concrete steps will it take now?</p>	<p>2013</p>

More information about immigration detention in Albania is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)