

“The Role of Media in Times of Crisis in Encountering Terrorism”

a. Context

Albania allies in the international coalition against terrorism. References for terrorist organizations are made according to the UN list. (The Albanian authorities, Ministry of Interior, also listed individuals known as terrorists.) For the fight against terrorism and extremism, Albania refers to the legislative framework of the EU and its member countries.

Important in this commitment are:

- National Strategy Against Terrorism;
- Strategy against extremism;
- Improvement of the legislative framework.

In Albania, anti-terrorism structures have been strengthened:

- The Serious Crimes Court
- Serious Crimes Prosecution
- Special Sections in Intelligent Services
- Structure against money laundering in the service of terrorism

b. The role of The Audiovisual Media Authority in Albania

Media had and has a great role in addressing this aspect, especially for curbing perceptions that are created from time to time to the public. The Audiovisual Media Authority in Albania itself, is engaged in this regard.

There are improvements in regulatory acts to prevent the use of non-legal funding in the audiovisual market. Collaboration with specialized institutions for funding sources of audio and audiovisual subjects (cases of money laundering, or for the purpose of supporting terrorism, extremism, etc.).

-By making more transparency of the owners and shareholders investing in audiovisual subjects or media groups. Publications of AMA, such as the Periodical Bulletin (every six months), with the main indicators of the audiovisual market in the Republic of Albania. A special set is for ownership (shareholding and their orientation to other sectors outside the media).

- In the last two years, televisions and radios are sensitive in addressing the topic of war on terrorism. Especially on national televisions there have been debut format shows on these issues, especially with the recruitment of fighters in Syria and in support of the Islamic State. Known experts and analysts were involved in these debates. Even in news editions, more space is covered by

these topics. And there have been reports and observations from the country's regions with the largest number of youth recruited as Syria fighters. But also the protests of those who have come back from this adventure.

c. Impact

Media and communications experts have considered the role of media in addressing the current issues of the fight against terrorism as very positive. Field problems are sometimes complicated. Often, terrorist organizations are evaluated in different ways by two or more countries. Many states consider terrorist organizations and, based on domestic legislation, prohibit their activity by exercising sanctions and restrictions under the legislation. But this attitude may be different in a country or elsewhere. Hence, such examples are case-by-case in the relations between states.