

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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Questions

- 1. Are there any news reports regarding the shooting of Pal Kosteri by Ilir Rustimi (Bajri), and any reports as to whether he was arrested/sentenced?**
- 2. Are there any reports regarding the election of Ramiz Qoba-j and who he defeated?**

RESPONSE

- 1. Are there any news reports regarding the shooting of Pal Kosteri by Ilir Rustimi (Bajri), and any reports as to whether he was arrested/sentenced?**

A press release dated 11 September 2006 on the website of the Albanian Ministry of the Interior (MOI) reports the arrest of “Ilir Rustemi (Bajri)” in relation to the murder on 4 August 2006 of Pal Kosteri. The press release states, albeit prejudicially, that “Bajri committed the murder in collaboration with his brother, Safet Rustemi” and notes that they have “criminal precedents”. According to the article:

Police stopped today Ilir Rustemi (Bajri) because he was declared wanted charged for murdering Pal Kosteri. The crime was committed on 4.8.2006 at 1.00 in Bardhaj village of Shkoder. Bajri committed the murder in collaboration with his brother, Safet Rustemi and after committing the crime they escaped. Police arrested Safeti on 18.8.2006 at 14, 30 in Livadhe, in the coast lake of Shkoder.

These two persons have previous criminal precedents. It should be mentioning that since 1997 up to the present these citizens have been suspected for having committed a number of serious criminal offences and the Police of Shkoder are working to fully and legally document the issue (‘Press release of the Ministry of the Interior: Police Apprehended Ilir Bajri, he had been declared wanted, charged with murdering Pal Kosteri’ 2006, Albanian Ministry of the Interior website, 11 September

<http://www.moi.gov.al/old/anglisht/2006/september/11bajri.htm> – Accessed 18 February 2008 – Attachment 1).

An article dated 19 December 2007 also mentions Ilir and Safet Bajri. Sourced from *Gazeta Shqiptare*, the article is in the Albanian language. A Tribunal officer whose first language is Albanian provided an oral précis of the article and advised that it includes the information that Ilir and Safet Bajri had remained in prison since 2006, their trial for the murder of Pal Kosteri having been delayed by lack of evidence ('Si u bënë tmerri i qytetit të rinjtë e familjes Bajri' 2007, *Gazeta Shqiptare*, 19 December <http://www.balkanweb.com/gazetav4/index.php?id=27096> – Accessed 15 February 2008 – Attachment 2).

2. Are there any reports regarding the election of Ramiz Qoba-j and who he defeated?

A search of the sources consulted found no mention of Ramiz Qoba-j.

A search of the Parliament of Albania website, however, found reference to a member of parliament named Ramiz Çobaj. Çobaj is the secretary representing the Democratic Party in the Secretariat for the Parliamentary Budget ('Parliamentary Secretariats' (undated), Parliament of Albania website <http://www.parlament.al/eng/dokumenti.asp?id=1091&kujam> – Accessed 18 February 2008 – Attachment 3) and is a member of the Legal Issues, Public Administration and Human Rights Committee ('Legal Issues, Public Administration and Human Rights Committee' (undated) Parliament of Albania website <http://www.parlament.al/eng/dokumenti.asp?id=246&kujam> – Accessed 19 February 2008 – Attachment 4).

The most recent parliamentary elections in Albania were held on 3 July 2005. Information on the website of the Albanian Central Elections Commission indicates that Ramiz Myftar Çobaj contested the election in Zone 3, which is in the region of Shkoder. Çobaj received 47.07% of the vote in that zone, defeating 15 other candidates. His closest opponents were Leke Gjeto Çukaj (24.79% of the vote) and Esmeralda Fehmi Uruçi (10.86% of the vote) ('Zona 003: Rezultatet e zgjedhjeve për kandidatët e drejtpërdrejt' (undated), Central Elections Commission of Albania website <http://www.cec.org.al/2004/Zgjedhjekuvendfiles/Rez-zgjedhje2005/rezultatet%20100%20zona/buletini.htm> – Accessed 18 February – Attachment 5).

An English language website also provides details of the results of the 2005 Albanian parliamentary elections. Information on the website confirms that Çobaj represented the Democratic Party of Albania in those elections, that Çukaj represented the Socialist Party of Albania and that Uruçi represented the Socialist Movement for Integration ('Republic of Albania Legislative Elections of 3 July 2005' (undated), Psephos website <http://psephos.adam-carr.net/countries/a/albania/albania20052.txt> – Accessed 19 February 2008 – Attachment 6).

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Topic Specific links

Albanian Central Elections Commission website <http://www.cec.org.al>

Albanian Ministry of the Interior website <http://www.moi.gov.al>

Parliament of Albania website <http://www.parlament.al>

Search Engines

Copernic search engine

Databases:

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

FACTIVA (news database)

ISYS (RRT Research & Information database)

List of Attachments

1. 'Press release of the Ministry of the Interior: Police Apprehended Ilir Bajri, he had been declared wanted, charged with murdering Pal Kosteri' 2006, Albanian Ministry of the Interior website, 11 September
<http://www.moi.gov.al/old/anglisht/2006/september/11bajri.htm> – Accessed 18 February 2008.
2. 'Si u bënë tmerri i qytetit të rinjtë e familjes Bajri' 2007, *Gazeta Shqiptare*, 19 December <http://www.balkanweb.com/gazetav4/index.php?id=27096> – Accessed 15 February 2008.
3. 'Parliamentary Secretariats' (undated), Parliament of Albania website
<http://www.parlament.al/eng/dokumenti.asp?id=1091&kujam> – Accessed 18 February 2008.
4. 'Legal Issues, Public Administration and Human Rights Committee' (undated) Parliament of Albania website
<http://www.parlament.al/eng/dokumenti.asp?id=246&kujam> – Accessed 19 February 2008.
5. 'Zona 003: Rezultatet e zgjedhjeve për kandidatët e drejtpërdrejt' (undated), Central Elections Commission of Albania website
<http://www.cec.org.al/2004/Zgjedhejekuvendfiles/Rez-zgjedhje2005/rezultatet%20100%20zona/buletini.htm> – Accessed 18 February.
6. 'Republic of Albania Legislative Elections of 3 July 2005' (undated), Psephos website
<http://psephos.adam-carr.net/countries/a/albania/albania20052.txt> – Accessed 19 February 2008.