

# REPORT

by Sali Berisha

## THE TRUTH BEHIND SALI BERISHA'S NON-GRATA

The transnational corruption of officials as weapon to destroy the opposition.

- Short version -

Tirana, July

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REPORT<sup>1</sup>  
(Short Version)

**THE TRUTH BEHIND SALI BERISHA'S NON GRATA**

*Transnational corruption of officials as a weapon to destroy the opposition.*

By Sali Berisha

Former President, Former Prime Minister and Chairman of the Democratic Party of Albania

The purpose of the report is to present evidence, facts, and irrefutable documents, from the position of a witness, on the employment of mechanisms of transnational political corruption, i.e., corruption of foreign diplomats and officials by the Albanian government – as instruments of destruction of the Albanian opposition.

On May 19th, 2019, the Secretary of State of the United States, Mr Antony Blinken, designated me non-grata, without any proof, facts, or documents. This decision came eight years after I had resigned from any function or leadership role in the Democratic Party of Albania.

That same day I addressed him with a letter<sup>2</sup>, in which I stated that:

- His decision was political and was based on the corrupt lobbying of Edi Rama and his patron George Soros and,
- the moment he or any other government in the world would present a single proof of my corruption, I would leave politics for good.

In order to protect my dignity, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2021, I filed a law suit for defamation against Secretary Blinken in Tribunal Judiciaire de Paris<sup>3</sup>.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2022, Edi Rama declared in parliament that I would no longer be able to cross *La Manche*. Three hours later, I received a confidential letter from the Embassy of the United Kingdom to

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<sup>1</sup> The correspondences and annexes referred below in this document, as part of the official exchanges with the U.K. Home Office, can be found at <https://www.sali-berisha.com/ukdocumentsarchive>

<sup>2</sup> [https://botapress.info/lajmerohet-sali-berisha-i-shkruan-leterpergjigje-sekretarit-amerikan-antony-blinken/?fbclid=IwAR0Zy7iiz4cJeBpCOdsMuw-8zboi11vZ5px\\_djX6WMN8XpSoKEBmOroMNMQ](https://botapress.info/lajmerohet-sali-berisha-i-shkruan-leterpergjigje-sekretarit-amerikan-antony-blinken/?fbclid=IwAR0Zy7iiz4cJeBpCOdsMuw-8zboi11vZ5px_djX6WMN8XpSoKEBmOroMNMQ)

<sup>3</sup> [Former Albanian President to sue US State Secretary Antony Blinken – EURACTIV.com](https://www.euractiv.com/en/former-albanian-president-to-sue-us-state-secretary-antony-blinken/)

Albania, in which His Majesty's Home Office informed me that it had ordered my exclusion from the UK, on charges of corruption and links to organised crime, for which, I posed a risk to the public safety in the UK (Attachment 1).

I immediately denounced this decision as being a political one, which, similar to the decision of Secretary Blinken, is based entirely on lies from the Soros-sponsored media, as well as fabrications by my political opponents Edi Rama, Erion Velia, and Lulzim Basha<sup>4</sup>.

A factfinding mission of the Council of the American Ambassadors, visited Albania on May 2023 and published recently a report (also quoted below), in which it notes that they were not provided with any evidence regarding his alleged corruption and that the process of Berisha's designation does not reflect the American way of justice and that it was probably unique in the US jurisprudence. To date, the State Department has not presented a single factual or documented evidence for its baseless decision. That is simply because they do not exist.

Therefore, herewith I will inform you with the documents that the Home Office has presented as evidence of the accusations against me, during the legal process that started after my lawsuit. These documents clearly prove that the decision is based on the slander and distortions of facts against me by the media sponsored by George Soros, as well as statements by my political opponents, that were served as truth to the Home Office, through the corruption of the United Kingdom Ambassador to Albania, Mr Alastair King Smith and his predecessor Mr Norman Duncan.

Let us examine them in turn.

According to the Home Office, my links to organised crime are evidenced by the following:

1-My alleged connections to Fation Dauti, a person excluded from Great Britain, whom I have never met and have never had any connection with in my life. The source of information: Lulzim Basha.

On January 20, 2022, this person was apparently present at the Democratic Party headquarters among 150 others and kicked a door open. The former chairman of the DP, my opponent, accused me of having connections with traffickers and criminals, referring to Fation Dauti, and that he would inform foreign embassies about this. I stated that same day that I did not know and had never met Fation Dauti and that I had been informed about him after the incident happened.

Until today, no one has been able to contradict my statement. In fact, indisputable facts and evidence proved that Dauti had been a supporter of the former chairman of the DP, Lulzim Basha. However, Ambassador King Smith forwarded Lulzim Basha's accusation to the Home Office as true. Basha, a friend of Ambassador King-Smith and his predecessor, entangled in a web of problems with the justice system, in relation to accusations of meddling with Russian funding, would do anything to ensure that Edi Rama would not re-open his investigation<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> See §6-§7 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>5</sup> Earlier media articles had alleged that Basha received Russian finances, which he then used for paying lobbyists in the US. This information was later reinforced through foreign intelligence and other media reporting. Albanian Public Prosecutor's (PP) attempt to investigate the source of 720.000 EUR, met with resistance by the US Ambassador Kim, who is alleged to have prevented the PP from obtaining a testimony of a key US witness. However, the PP investigation encompassed a probe into the potential use of undeclared funds from Basha, a violation which, according to Albanian legislation, is punishable by up to 6 years of imprisonment. Upon completion of the investigation and upon what is believed to be Edi Rama's direct influence, the PP used a legal technical manoeuvre not to file the indictment against Basha on time. Yet, this tactic does not prevent the PP from re-opening the case in the future, hence turning Basha into a pawn of Rama's political interest. For references see the Report (Extended Version), §36.7.

In the documents submitted by the Home Office, **the latter expressly admits**, several times, that it has not been able to prove that there is a connection between Sali Berisha and Fation Dauti<sup>6</sup>.

2- My connections with Damir Fazlic, for whom, according to the Home Office, I intervened when incriminating evidence came out about him. Sources: BIRN Network/Balkan Insight/Reporter.al, of George Soros

Damir Fazlic is a businessman, a British citizen, who has never been indicted or convicted in Albania, in the UK and, as far as I know, in any other country. Contrary to the Home Office statement, no incriminating evidence against him has ever emerged in Albania while I served as the Prime Minister, or even later. In 2009, the Albanian prosecution opened an investigation against him, due to pressure from the SP and its controlled media outlets, after Fazlic had transferred money from an offshore account for the purchase of private land in Albania. Transfers from offshore accounts were not prohibited by Albanian legislation. The PP extended its investigation into various countries and at the end, it closed the investigation for lack of evidence. During the investigation, the prosecution at one point requested that Fazlic be detained without a written legal order. This request was rejected by law enforcement bodies as it violated the Code of Criminal Procedure and the guarantees of the Constitution of Albania. When the prosecution sent a written invitation, Fazlic appeared immediately according to all the rules. I add here that Damir Fazlic, who today continues his businesses in Albania, has never benefited a penny from the DP government and has never sponsored the Democratic Party of Albania or me<sup>7</sup>.

3-My connections with the Elbasan gang. Source: Lulzim Basha<sup>8</sup>.

In this case, also, the British ambassador forwarded to the Home Office another defamation of the former chairman of the DP, Lulzim Basha, who in November 2022 declared that Berisha is collecting the signatures of the delegates of Elbasan to convene the National Assembly of the DP, with the help of Suel Çela. I immediately responded publicly to this shameful lie, stressing that facts proved the opposite: my constant denunciations, naming all the thugs and gangs of Elbasan. I have denounced publicly and by name, Suel Çela, the gangs of Elbasan and every other gang in the country, hundreds of times, over the years in opposition. One should also add that due to the success of the Democratic Party government, which I led, in the zero tolerance fight against organised crime, Albania joined NATO, signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement, liberalised visas with the EU, received the recommendation of the European Commission for the status of candidate country. In all these important decisions, Great Britain voted in favour of Albania. The fight against organised crime of the government that I led was highly and expressly praised by representatives of the UK. The General Director of the Serious and Organized Crime Agency (SOCA), Bill Hughes, in September 2009, stated in Tirana that: "You are a valuable ally of Great Britain in the fight against organised crime." and that "we will ask that the model of cooperation with you be extended to other countries"<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Annex D §42: "It is noted that it has not been possible to sufficiently prove that BERISHA has personal connections to DAUTI." See also Annex D§25. For more details see §8-8.3, §36.6 – 36.8 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>7</sup> See §9- 9.4 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>8</sup> For further references see §10-§17 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>9</sup> <http://arkiva.km.gov.al/?fq=brenda&m=news&lid=11482&gj=gj2>

The Home Office admits, in the documents it has submitted, **that it has not been able to prove my links to criminal gangs**, but states this allegation is supported by my association with Fation Dauti, for whom it has repeatedly admitted that there is no evidence to prove my association with him<sup>10</sup>.

These were the so-called evidence that the Home Office presented about my alleged links to organised crime and my danger to public safety in the UK.

In a similar fashion, the allegations of the Home Office regarding my links to corruption are based entirely on deliberate fabrications of the media sponsored by George Soros and my other political opponents<sup>11</sup>.

Let us examine them in turn.

1 – I am accused of illegally enriching the businessman Damir Fazlic since in 2009, KRRTSH decided to expand the energy park in Porto Romano by 810 hectares. Source: BIRN/Balkan Insight/Reporter.al Network, of George Soros

This is a ridiculous accusation, which does no honour to those who use it. The energy park of Porto Romano, established with 51 hectares surface in 2001 by the socialist government, was expanded in 2009 with 810 hectares, based on the strategic needs of the country, pursuant to a serious and multifaceted study, consultations with the local community and a multi – lawyer decision making process of the local and central government. Within this expansion were also 12 of the 14 hectares of land that Damir Fazlic had bought from private owners. The potential and plans for its expansion were public knowledge because they were published in the Official Journal and the national media<sup>12</sup>.

2- Another accusation is that in 2006, in the negotiation of an agreement between the joint stock company Albtelekom, controlled by a private shareholder (76%), and a private American company, according to minutes of an alleged meeting, posted on the Internet without any seal, signature or other identification, Damir Fazlic had allegedly requested 1 million dollars from his co-investors to sponsor local election candidates. Source: BIRN/Balkan Insight/Reporter.al Network, of George Soros.

To make this fiction credible, the Home Office says that at the time of the meeting, Albtelekom was a state-owned company, while on the contrary, it is publicly known and easily verifiable that the company was privatised by the socialist government in 2004, and 76% of the shares were held by the Turkish company Calik Holding, who retained and exercised preemptive rights over the remaining shares. The author of the article clearly affirms that there was no trace of this transaction, and Damir Fazlic, in that

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<sup>10</sup> Annex D §20: “The CSN Project team have assessed that the reporting indicates that BERISHA has been connected to wider criminality, albeit we assess that these indications require (and gain) support from other sources. Whilst these do not provide concrete evidence of such ties, its weight is to be assessed in combination with the video footage of BERISHA with Fation DAUTI (relied on in the original submission of July 2022), as well as the information found at Annex E. The combination of evidence allows for a reasonable degree of confidence in the conclusion that BERISHA has been connected with criminal actors and serious and organised crime. This is therefore another example of BERISHA having benefitted from criminal activity”. See also Annex D§23, §24, §25§42. Annex D§25: “Consequently, even if it cannot be proved that BERISHA had personal connections to DAUTI, this does not impact on the assessment that he has been connected more widely to criminals and/or organised crime groups”. For more details see §10 – §17 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>11</sup> See §19 – §20 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>12</sup> Please see §21 – §21.3 of the Report (Extended Version) for references to the Official Journal.

article, categorically denies having made a request. However, these facts are ignored by the Home Office<sup>13</sup>.

3- The Ansar case. Source: BIRN/Balkan Insight/Reporter.al Network, of George Soros

This businessman and Socialist Party appointed Honorary Consul of Albania in Pakistan sought my daughter's law firm assistance for his private investment on a TPP in Porto Romano. From the beginning, in the presence of third parties, my daughter explained to him that if he intended to channel his investment as a PPP, a procedure which required open bidding, she could not offer him legal assistance, due to the conflict of interest. He maintained that he was interested in following the strictly private path of investment. Later he changed his position and asked to channel the investment to PPP but also to avoid the bidding process. After my daughter's adamant refusal to assist him to invest in a PPP without bidding, he publicly lied, saying that his request was denied because he did not agree to buy a plot of land offered by my daughter's legal firm, which was completely untrue and that he found her legal fees excessive. My daughter answered publicly at that time to his fabrications, instigated by those who had appointed him as Consul. She explained that the law firm did not possess land, hence at the request of Mr. Ansar, external experts were hired to locate potential land plots that met the specific criteria defined by him. The Albanian Bar Association stated at the time that my daughter's legal fees complied with the Bar regulations on legal fees. The Constitutional Court and other courts of the country have consolidated jurisprudence that confirms these positions<sup>14</sup>.

4- In the same thread of lies, the Soros-sponsored BIRN articles, under bombastic headlines claiming to publish my daughter's assets and bank accounts, present personal and business bank accounts of other persons, and commercial activities of other entities. The Home Office has been obliged to repeatedly acknowledge the lies, unsubstantiated claims and weakness of its source<sup>15</sup>.

5 - The case of Pirro Misha, former head of the Soros Foundation in Albania, is mentioned in this article and cited as a source by the Home Office. He blatantly lied to the American Ambassador by telling him that a prolonged dispute he had with an Italian investor was immediately resolved in his favour as soon as he asked for my daughter's help. This story, which never happened, is an example of the guided strategy against me followed by Soros-sponsored media and his representatives in Albania.

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<sup>13</sup> See §22 – §22.3 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>14</sup> The Constitutional Court of Albania, decision no.37, date 01.12.2022. For further references on this matter see §23 of the Report (Extended Version).

[https://www.gjk.gov.al/web/Lista\\_e\\_Vendimeve\\_92\\_1.php](https://www.gjk.gov.al/web/Lista_e_Vendimeve_92_1.php)

[https://www.gjk.gov.al/templates/NEModules/kerkesa\\_list/konsulto.php?id\\_kerkesa\\_vendimi=3582&language=Lng2](https://www.gjk.gov.al/templates/NEModules/kerkesa_list/konsulto.php?id_kerkesa_vendimi=3582&language=Lng2)

<sup>15</sup> Annex B, §89: "...Our considered view is that though this conflation weakens the article's argument, it still carries weight...". Annex B§90: "Ms Malltezi also contests two points the article makes based on Wikileaks material reporting to be a US diplomatic cable. The original referral case did not place reliance on any of the Wikileaks material referred to in the Balkan Insight article and which purports to be a US diplomatic cable. We continue not to rely on it. The UK Government can neither confirm nor deny the veracity of the Wikileaks material. We do not therefore provide further comment on these points". Annex B§98: "...However, the article does appear to conflate the three law firms, and so wrongly attributes clients of the law firm (...) to the law firm Malltezi (...)". Annex B, §99: "This conflation weakens the strength of the article's argument because these clients cannot be traced back to a law firm directly run by Ms Malltezi"; Annex D §16/d: "...the media outlet is not infallible". See §24 of the Report (Extended Version).

Proving that it was interested not in the truth, but in serving the interests of Soros and Edi Rama in a partisan manner, at the time of publication of the articles, BIRN/Balkan Insight refused to publish my daughter's reply sent them by email, whereby she rejected with arguments all fabrications of the author's article (see attached email).

6- Left without any evidence or document to prove my corruption, the Home Office baselessly accuses me of connection, inducement and profiting from the pyramidal schemes of 27 years ago. Sources: IMF paper, Culture Trip, UnHerd<sup>16</sup>.

These accusations are slanders based on lies. The truth is that I had nothing to do with the pyramidal schemes and did not profit a penny from them. Not only did I not encourage them, but on the contrary, (i) I completely rejected the recommendation, during mid-1996, to license them as financial institutions, (ii) I instructed the filing of lawsuits against them in court<sup>17</sup>, (iii) when the schemes collapsed, I refused to inject 'good' money to bail them out or compensate them, (iv) the government passed laws on their bankruptcy and control, and (v) their bosses were brought to justice. We resolved the political crisis of the communist rebellion created by the financial crisis with political agreements and parliamentary elections. In the electoral campaign of 1997, my rival declared to Albanians that he would return every penny they lost in the pyramidal schemes. Instead, I declared to the citizens that we could not return any penny because the government could not recognise a debt that it had not contracted. Despite being aware that this decision would cost me the loss of the election, I chose to follow the law. If the DP government or I, had anything to do with the pyramid schemes, we would have agreed to compensate and return their money and quell the ensuing rebellion. But instead, we chose to do what a responsible government should do. The above is also proven by the assessment of the IMF expert that the Home Office has quoted as evidence<sup>18</sup>. In his report entitled "The Rise and Fall of the Pyramid Schemes in Albania", he writes that initially "Both the authorities and foreign observers, including the IMF, regarded the informal lending

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<sup>16</sup> The Home Office refers to Culture Trip and Unheard (Annex B, §13, 14, 20, 28, 131), which it states are not formal media providing news coverage. Actually, Culture Trip is a platform that offers articles about tourist trips. Its writings provide travel suggestions and not political coverage or analysis. Nor does the platform claim to have such profile of journalism (<https://comms.theculturetrip.com/about/>). In addition, chairmen of the portal accept the generation of articles through artificial intelligence (<https://medium.com/global-editors-network/culture-trip-a-business-model-combining-media-and-travel-9015dd2fb54>). They also acknowledge that the platform publishes sponsored articles and that it faces difficulties to control the content of all posts (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/samshead/2019/07/04/culture-trip-ceo-opens-up-about-bad-reviews-i-cant-say-i-find-it-easy-to-read-that-stuff/#342a7e0e5dbc>).

The above could explain the fact that its article quoted by the Home Office does not provide any facts or details, but only general assessments, hence it lacks any evidentiary value ( [The Pyramid Crisis in Albania Examined \(theculturetrip.com\)](#)). The article of UnHerd ([How Albania became a pyramid scheme - UnHerd](#)) is based on interviews with representatives of the Soros Foundation, socialist ministers and Erion Veliaj and reflects their biases. The quotations of the article contain general assessments, without names or events, which cannot be considered as evidence, since no answer can be given to them. Both articles contain unfounded statements, totally contrary to reality and contradicted by legal or public facts, published in the media and the official journal. The only reference that can be debated on logical grounds and verifiable facts is a report by an IMF expert who served in the IMF mission in Albania during the period of pyramid schemes. This article actually contradicts the position of the Home Office: [Finance & Development, March 2000 - The Rise and Fall of Albania's Pyramid Schemes \(imf.org\)](#). The quotations are from a more detailed version of the same author: [IMF Staff Papers - Vol. 47, No. 1, March 2000](#). For further reference see §27-30 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>17</sup> Decision of the District Court of Tirana, no. 3450, date 30.04.1996. Decision of Tirana Court of Appeal, no. 467, date 5.2.1997.

<sup>18</sup> The Rise and Fall of the Pyramid Schemes in Albania, [IMF Staff Papers - Vol. 47, No. 1, March 2000](#) pg 25, 27.

companies as benign, and indeed as making an important contribution to growth: given the manifest deficiencies of the formal banks, these companies were probably the best intermediaries for savings in Albania, and the investments they funded were among the most profitable.”<sup>19</sup> and that for this reason, “...an IMF mission to advise on financial sector problems at the end of 1995 focused mostly on the possibilities for improving the formal financial system by integrating the most positive elements of the informal market.”<sup>20</sup> He explicitly states that “The Albanian authorities did a reasonably good job in dealing with the pyramid schemes once they were identified. Undoubtedly the two best things that they did were to refuse a costly bailout from the budget and to freeze the assets in the banking system of the two companies with the most depositors. The latter move, in particular, saved the latest depositors, who usually suffer most, about half of their money.”<sup>21</sup>.

But also, even more important is the appraisal of the parliament of the United Kingdom, which considers my position and that of the DP government as the correct legal standing. The Honorable Parliament, in its report entitled ‘The Largest Heist in History. Building the Great Pyramid: The Global Financial Crisis Explained’<sup>22</sup> published in 2009, dedicated to the collapse of the investment schemes that plagued the City and other banks in London (2008), among other things, writes that the bankers and financiers of these schemes acted just like the Albanian gangsters of the 96-97 schemes and that the British government acceded to their demands and injected unprecedented amounts of money and guarantees into these schemes, which back in 1997, the Albanian government did not. The report states that, in a normal free market economy, a business that fails should be allowed to collapse, and that the construction of pyramid schemes is illegal, and their leaders should be prosecuted<sup>23</sup>.

7-The absurdity peaks with the Home Office citing as evidence against me some international reports that touch on corruption issues in Albania, which refer exclusively to the period of Rama's government and have nothing to do with Berisha and his government<sup>24</sup>, or other reports, which, regardless of their title, illustrate the capture of the state only with examples belonging to Rama's government, whilst in relation to the period of DP government, they mention the court proceedings against three government ministers. In fact, in deep contrast with the SP government, during the period of the DP government, the immunity of ministers and deputies has been removed immediately, as many times as the prosecution requested, and ministers have been subjected to the judicial process. In addition, we removed by law the immunity of officials for corruption issues<sup>25</sup>. The Home Office also mentions the Department of State Human Rights Reports (2007 – 2010). These reports, whilst relaying the inherited and persistent problems typical for any emerging democracy, highlight the distinct efforts of Berisha and the DP government, as well as their achievements, in the fight against corruption and organised crime. Ironically, during a visit, as the Prime

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<sup>19</sup> Idem, pg. 6.

<sup>20</sup> Idem, pg. 6-7.

<sup>21</sup> Idem, pg. 27.

<sup>22</sup> The Largest Heist In History. Building the Great Pyramid: The Global Financial Crisis Explained. Memorandum from Greg Pytel. February 2009. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmtreasy/144/144w254.htm>

<sup>23</sup> For further references see §27 – 30 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>24</sup> References cited by the Home Office.

[https://www.scribd.com/document/427073869/HOUSE-OF-LORDS-The-UK-and-the-future-of-the-Western-B\\*alkans-pdf#](https://www.scribd.com/document/427073869/HOUSE-OF-LORDS-The-UK-and-the-future-of-the-Western-B*alkans-pdf#)  
<https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/albania/>

<sup>25</sup> [2021 Report Deconstructing State Capture Albania English.pdf \(transparencycdn.org\)](https://www.transparency.org/2021-report-deconstructing-state-capture-albania-english.pdf)



Minister of Albania to the White House, among those who have highly appraised these achievements was Antony Blinken himself, at the time he served as the National Security Adviser to Vice President Joe Biden<sup>26</sup>.

These were the evidence for the allegations of corruption that the Home Office brought against me. In the meantime, during the years of the DP government, although there was corruption, there was also a determined fight against it. Albania abolished the constitutional immunity of politicians for corruption charges, established a one-stop shop for permits and licenses, fulfilled the conditions for the threshold of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, became the first country in the world with a complete digital public procurement system certified by the UN and was honoured by this organisation with the second prize in the world for transparency<sup>27</sup>. Thanks to this fight, Albania had an increase of the GDP *per capita*, and in a real *quantum leap*, jumped from the group of low-income countries to the group of middle-high-income countries, built and reconstructed over eleven thousand kilometres of roads, doubled salaries and pensions, and tripled foreign investments and exports<sup>28</sup>.

8- In my statement of 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2022, I pointed out that the Home Office decision may have been taken under the framework of the Five Eyes Treaty, as an obligation to the USA. The British Ambassador, King-Smith, through a media statement, rejected this claim and stated that the UK had its own motives for my exclusion<sup>29</sup>.

In contrast to this position of the Ambassador, the Home Office affirms that the decision to exclude Berisha should be taken in support of the decision of the US Department of State<sup>30</sup>.

I note that, on May 19, 2021, 8 years after I resigned from any leadership role in the DP, and four weeks after the DP party lost in the general elections, as well as pursuant to my strong opposition to a possible coalition between the DP and the Socialist Party in power, as this would leave the country without opposition, Secretary Blinken without any evidence, document, or any official accusation, in a genuine political decision, declared me, my wife and children *non grata* for significant corruption. It is worth noting that during these two years, the State Department has not been able to present a single piece of evidence to the US Members of Congress and media, who, not only have requested to learn the evidence but have also denounced the influence of the designation decision by the lobbying and intervention of George Soros on behalf of Edi Rama. Congressman Lee Zeldin stated to Secretary Blinken during a hearing that, the decision to designate Berisha came out of nowhere, that they had investigated and found nothing about corruption in relation to Sali Berisha, and that there is concern regarding the fact that this

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<sup>26</sup> <http://arkiva.km.gov.al/index.php?fq=brenda&m=news&lid=10337&gj=gj1>  
<https://a2news.com/2021/05/19/ne-vitin-2009-blinken-vlresonte-kryeministrin-berisha-ne-luften-kunder-korrupsionit-dhe-krimite-organizuar/amp/>  
<https://opinion.al/ne-vitin-2009-blinken-vlresonte-berishen-per-luften-kunder-korrupsionit/>  
<https://dosja.al/dje-e-shpalli-non-grata-si-e-vlresonte-blinken-berishen-per-luften-kunder-korrupsionit-dhe-krimite-organizuar-deklarata-e-vitit-2009-ge-ruhet-edhe-sot>

<sup>27</sup> 2010 United Nations Service Award for improving transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in public service.  
<http://arkiva.km.gov.al/skedaret/Shqiperia-UNAward.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> See §31 – 35 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>29</sup> For more information on this matter see paragraphs §36 – §36.14 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>30</sup> OPEN Summary of Exclusion decision – Sali Berisha, id., pg.1 (iii), pg. 2 (vi), pg. 8§25, OPEN Summary of Exclusion decision – Sali Berisha, Annex 1, §24. Annex B §135

decision is influenced by George Soros. Congressman Lee Zeldin sent three letters, at different times, requesting evidence from Secretary Blinken and received no concrete documents or facts from the State Department<sup>31</sup>. The former Acting Director of National Intelligence and Presidential Special Envoy for the Balkans, Richard Grenell, has described Secretary Blinken's decision as a clearly political and partisan decision, against a conservative party, and has also affirmed that during his time in office, he never saw any files accusing Sali Berisha of corruption<sup>32</sup>.

Official documents of the American justice and foreign media have reported that Edi Rama bribed the former FBI counterintelligence chief for New York, Charles McGonigal<sup>33</sup>, while he was in office, and that he used him and his team to prepare my file<sup>34</sup>. I would like to add that, similar to McGonigal, but vested with political means, the United States Ambassador to Albania, Juri Kim, engaged in fierce fights towards the destruction of the Albanian opposition and the support of Edi Rama's government. Due to her anti-opposition stances, she was often branded as the Secretary of the Socialist Party of Albania<sup>35</sup>.

Regarding the decision of Secretary Blinken, the Council of US Ambassadors<sup>36</sup> in its report following a fact-finding mission in the Western Balkans, of 12-13 May 2023, stressed the following (underlining added)<sup>37</sup>:

*“In May 2021, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken took the advice of the U.S. Embassy and designated former Albanian President (1992-1997) and Prime Minister (2005-2013) Sali Berisha — who led Albania's first post-Communist government and set the country on a democratic path — as permanently excluded from eligibility to enter the United States. Section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 2021 gave Secretary Blinken and future Secretaries of State the power to designate an individual and his/her family on the basis of evidence of criminality or corruption presented and considered in camera, without any opportunity for*

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<sup>31</sup> <https://lapsi.al/2021/06/08/non-grata-e-berishes-kongresmeni-leter-dash-kerkoj-nje-shpjegim-te-detajuar-mbi-procesin-e-ndjekur/>

<https://politiko.al/english/e-tjera/berisha-non-grata-kongresmeni-amerikan-i-shkruan-letren-e-trete-dash-it--i448425>

For further references see §36 – §36.14 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>32</sup> Interview of Richard Grenell, the former Acting Director of the United States National Intelligence (DNI), <https://politiko.al/e-tjera/grenell-per-sanksionimin-e-berishes-skame-pare-dosje-ne-dash-blinken-i-p-i483586>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/03/nyregion/fbi-intelligence-charged-albania.html>

<sup>34</sup> [Hunter Biden's link to disgraced ex-FBI official Charles McGonigal \(nypost.com\)](https://nypost.com/2023/02/03/hunter-biden-link-to-disgraced-ex-fbi-official-charles-mcgonigal/)

German journalist, Herbert Bauernebel, a NY correspondent of Bild newspaper, declared in an interview for Syri TV ([here](#)), that Sali Berisha's case is interesting because according to documents of the U.S. Department of Justice and to investigations of American journalists, it appears that McGonigal is involved in the operation of the non-grata designation of former President and Prime Minister Sali Berisha.

Regarding the role of Rossini see, [Ekskluzive në Top Story/ Mark Rossini kritika të forta: Berisha po bëhet kukull e Putinit - Top Channel \(top-channel.tv\)](#)

[Q&A Rama/McGonigal: the plot behind the effort to eradicate the DP \(campaign-archive.com\)](#)

[Lucas: Follow the \\$\\$ through case of spies & State Dept. \(bostonherald.com\)](#)

For further references see §36.14 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.syri.net/op-ed/603344/yuri-kim-po-iken-si-nje-hije-e-zeze-nga-shqipëria/>

<https://www.syri.net/op-ed/603895/yuri-shqiptareve-u-ke-ngrene-buken-dhe-u-ke-permbysur-kupen/>

<https://lapsi.al/2023/07/01/ambasadorja-e-be-hohmann-ajo-qe-shkateroi-modelin-yuri-kim/>

<sup>36</sup> According to its website, the Council of American Ambassadors is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organisation which “convenes roundtable discussions with Ambassadors to the United States, organizes overseas fact-finding missions, publishes a bi-annual journal, American Ambassadors Review, administers American Ambassadors Live!, the Council's digital platform for foreign affairs commentary, and educates the public about foreign policy issues affecting the national interest.”.

<sup>37</sup> As extracted from the full report, downloaded on 13 March 2024, from [Council of American Ambassadors](#)

challenge. The United Kingdom followed suit, and Berisha acknowledged in mid-2022 that he was no longer eligible to visit the UK. Based on this, Lulzim Basha, Chairman of the Democratic Party in Albania, expelled Berisha from the party, leading to a split in the main opposition party in advance of the municipal elections.

Several members of our delegation questioned Ambassador Kim and her country team members closely about the decision to ban Berisha from the United States and the timing of the decision seeking:

- hints of what evidence might justify such sweeping and final action against a politician formerly close to the United States;
- information about whether such accused persons ever had access to mechanisms for contesting accusations or evidence;
- whether the appearance of electoral interference and favoritism had been thoroughly weighed in advising Secretary Blinken;
- precedents for the application of this policy in similar cases.

Ambassador Kim and her staff assured us the evidence supporting the determination was substantial, but firmly communicated that they could not share any of it. They also acknowledged that the process was an entirely in camera determination exempt from adversarial contest and without appeal. This is highly unusual, if not unique, in U.S. jurisprudence. Berisha sympathizers complained to us that his designation was akin to a Star Chamber proceeding, the antithesis of the American due process tradition. Ambassador Kim did, however, intimate that the fight against corruption was of such fundamental importance to U.S. policy and of such high priority that Biden administration officials considered it important to make an example of someone — to underscore that no one is above the law or immune when it comes to crimes of corruption. We are mindful that Berisha is 79 years old and might be considered to be approaching the end of his political life, a dispensable political figure to some, but it is not the American way of justice to target someone else as an object lesson for an actual culprit. This would be more akin to the Chinese adage about “killing the chickens to scare the monkeys” .”

9- The Home Office claims that its decision was not coordinated and does not intend to support Edi Rama. However, the facts speak differently<sup>38</sup>.

First, the news of my exclusion from the UK was first announced by Edi Rama in the parliament<sup>39</sup>.

Second, Ambassador King-Smith, since the fall of 2021, has actively campaigned against me, trying to persuade my associates not to support my initiative of re-establishment of the Democratic Party and freeing the opposition from government control.

Thirdly, after having deceived his government with the fabrications he has served, he is now knocking on the doors of the Albanian institutions and asking for facts that would corroborate his slander against me, saying that "...we need facts because we risk losing the case in court".

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<sup>38</sup> For further arguments and references see §37 – §49 of the Report (Extended Version).

<sup>39</sup> <https://gazetasi.al/non-grata-edhe-nga-britania-rama-paralajmeron-serish-berishen/>

Fourthly, in a letter addressed to his government, Ambassador King-Smith<sup>40</sup> blatantly lies when stating that after the exclusion order, Berisha launched public attacks against the British government. In fact, as the man who restored diplomatic relations with the UK and resolved the problems inherited from Enver Hoxha's dictatorship, I have never attacked the British government, and this is a pathetic falsehood. Even after the absurd decision against me, during the Albanian refugee crisis, I publicly opposed Edi Rama's baseless attacks on HMG. My statements were reflected in the Albanian media<sup>41</sup> and GB media<sup>42</sup>.

Fifth, in this letter, Ambassador King-Smith, aware of the falsity of the evidence he has sent to the Home Office, writes that the abrogation of the exclusion order against Berisha, either by the court or by the Home Office, would damage the international reputation of Great Britain. Hence, he ignores justice, law and honesty as essential elements of his country's reputation and seeks to preserve that reputation by holding a decision which is not based on evidence but on his own fraud and corruption. He even uses political arguments for this purpose, claiming that the risk of reputational damage for HMG is higher should the exclusion order be annulled, because of the local elections in Albania, as well as due to the fact that Edi Rama has attacked HMG lately on the issue of refugees. One would assume that these statements need no comment.

Sixth, public opinion and the media in Albania have pointed out that Ambassador King-Smith, following the line of action of the government of Edi Rama, works against the Albanian opposition and, by doing so, damages the check and balance mechanisms the real opposition provides in every democratic society<sup>43</sup>. In deep contrast with this approach towards the opposition, Mr. King Smith's attitude with respect to the government, has been continuously regarded by the media as an unusual behavior<sup>44</sup>.

In conclusion, all the documents and evidence that the Home Office has presented to corroborate the grounds for my exclusion are complete falsities based on libel, false interpretations of media articles controlled by George Soros and baseless accusations of my political opponents. At no time do they prove any connection with corruption, organised crime, or any kind of legal violation or illegal benefit from me, my family members, DP or other persons mentioned therein.

Therefore, my exclusion is a classic case of the successful use of transnational corruption by Edi Rama's government, as a weapon to sanction political opponents and destroy the opposition, therefore protecting his own corruption and links to organised crime.

My sanctioning's goal, is primarily, to devalue and question the trustworthiness of a voice that continues to denounce, more than anyone else, the hundreds of corrupt affairs of Rama's government, probably the

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<sup>40</sup> Annex G

<sup>41</sup> <https://politiko.al/ditari-i-opozites/pd-denon-gjuhen-e-rames-berisha-britanise-analizoni-pse-shqipt-i470104>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11421577/Albanians-streets-demonstrate-against-government-rising-cost-fuel-food.html>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.syri.net/politike/577614/mediat-britanike-groposin-ramen-ambasadori-do-te-gropose-opoziten/>  
<https://boldnews.al/2022/10/14/diplomacia-e-erret-si-punoi-ambasadori-britanik-kunder-opozites-faktet/>

<sup>44</sup> <https://dosja.al/politike/king-smith-alastair-king-smith-si-deperto-i-mes-socialisteve-ambasadori-i249565>  
<https://www.podiumi.com/2021/10/11/vetem-ne-shqiperi-behen-ambasadoret-e-huaj-guvernator-e-vip-a-se-ne-britani-dhe-kudo-ne-perendim-nuk-i-njeh-as-komshiu/>

most corrupt government in Europe, including the mega affairs of the incinerators, and of the Port of Durrës, which were recently denounced by the European Parliament and the State Department.

Secondly, the sanction is a tool that seeks to invalidate the voice that has denounced more than anyone else the connections of Edi Rama and his ministers with crime and with the drug cartels in Albania, the Sinaloa cartel of Mexico<sup>45</sup> and in other countries in the world. According to the latest UN report, Albania is considered seventh in the world for the production and trafficking of cannabis<sup>46</sup>. In December 2023, journalist Elton Qyno, who had investigated extensively the use of SKY ECC phone devices by the Albanian criminal groups<sup>47</sup>, was detained for interrogation by the Special Prosecutor on Corruption and Organized Crime (SPAK). His home premises were searched and his telephones and computer devices were seized. Mr. Qyno's attorney declared that these measures were triggered because Mr. Qyno had obtained information that these encrypted phones were used by high government officials, including Prime Minister Rama, the former head of the Albanian Police Ardi Veliu, officials of the vetting institutions of the judiciary, and other government officials<sup>48</sup>. Therefore, the baseless decision of the Home Office represents a typical case of using sanctions not to discourage organised crime and corruption, but for proper political revenge.

Third, Ambassador King-Smith and his predecessor, like McGonigal, were used by the Albanian government as a weapon to obliterate the opposition and consolidate in Albania the mono-party regime of Edi Rama. The obliteration of the opposition annihilates the hope and ruins a free society. Today, the policies of Edi Rama's regime, have transformed Albanians into boat people. According to Eurostat, during the years 2014-2021, 937,000 citizens left Albania towards the Schengen area.

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<sup>45</sup> <https://dosja.al/politike/fotot-ekskluzive-rama-prit-ne-zyre-ortaket-e-kartelit-sinaloa-i242770>  
<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/bidens-strange-tolerance-for-albanias-narcostate> <https://politiko.al/e-tjera/gazetari-amerikan-rama-i-lidhur-me-kartelin-sinaloa-i474934> <https://ndiqparate.al/?p=18310>

<sup>46</sup> <https://lapsi.al/2023/07/03/ne-2021-ne-shqiperi-u-prodhua-3600-ton-kanabis-rekord-nga-2016/>

<sup>47</sup> <https://24-ore.com/elton-qyno-komunikimet-ne-sky-ecc-jane-te-egra-te-etura-per-gjak/>  
<https://boldnews.al/2023/10/03/nuk-lokalizoheshin-dot-gazetari-sky-nuk-ka-lidhje-me-valet-e-antenes-por/>

as downloaded on 16 March 2024.

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.mcntv.al/2023/12/15/hetimi-p-r-gazetarin-llangozi-do-t-plaste-bomba-e-madhe-p-rmendet-rama-tar-t-vetingut-dhe>  
<https://www-mcntv-al.translate.goog/2023/12/15/hetimi-p-r-gazetarin-llangozi-do-t-plaste-bomba-e-madhe-p-rmendet-rama-tar-t-vetingut-dhe? x tr sl=sq& x tr tl=en& x tr hl=en& x tr pto=wapp>  
<https://boldnews.al/2023/12/27/avokati-llangozi-spak-po-fsheh-pergjimet-ku-del-dhe-edi-rama/>

as downloaded on 16 March 2024.