MONITORING OF HATE SPEECH IN ALBANIA

JANUARY - MAY 2023

within the project: Anti-Hate Speech in the Western Balkans



INTRODUCTION

To successfully counteract usage of hate speech, it is necessary to improve the culture of discussion and self-expression and create models for politically correct discourses in the public space and media sphere of our country. This briefing paper aims to inform the public on the registered cases of hate speech in the public space in Albania, prepared by the monitoring that was conducted of the different media platforms in Albania, such as tv shows, social media accounts, newspapers and online platforms. The monitoring took place over the months of January - May of 2022. The monitoring was focused on the use of hate speech related to ethnicity, religious and political affiliation as well as sexual orientation and gender identity. Throughout this time period, the AHC team has been able to identify cases of hate speech that have been used during public discourse in the media. The monitoring was extended in 2 different televisions, and some different online platforms/newspapers, as well as the social media accounts of these media platforms. The media outlets were selected for analysis based on their popularity rating among the audience, availability and distribution in all the regions of the country.

Often times the discriminatory and hateful language that is used by media outlets is attributed to the freedom of expression, but actually the language that is used to advertise a news is xhenophoic, homophobic and often times contains political incorretness emphazing a poor journalist standart in the writing/production of this articles/tv shows.

CASES OF HATE SPEECH RELATED TO ETHNICITY

Singer Mentor Haziri has called for Serbian products to be boycotted in Kosovo

In an interview for the show "Good Morning Albanians" on Euronews Albania, he said that: "...the money he buys the products goes to finance the Serbian army." (09.01.2023, information from euronews_albania)

He further said that first Serbia should apologize for the genocide it has committed in Kosovo and then they should buy products.

"I think this initiative is to love more. We are talking about an age-old enemy of the Albanians, who in his Constitution has the war with Kosovo and its occupation. The money of the products we buy in the finances of the Serbian army. Serbian products are bought when Serbia reflects like Germany after the first war. "Serbia should apologize for the genocide in Kosovo, which it has not done," he said/telegrafi.com

Invited to the program "Good Morning Albanians" with the theme: "The flag anthem is sung in schools", Sazan Guri outraged: "Albanians' worthless patriotism, enough with eagle symbols and flag on their backs." (15.02.2023, information from euronews_albania)

Engineer Sazan Guri calls it "useless patriotism", the way some extremist groups use the symbols of the eagle and the national flag. In the show "Good Morning Albanians" on Euronews Albania, Guri said that partisanship is shown by deeds and not by words.

"Tomorrow I will take books to the monastery, not a few, but 400-500 books, I appeal to everyone and tell them with those signs like that, with the flag on my back. Tell me, O Albanian, good morning, where are you?

It's not, it's a shame, he even raises his voice. I'm barely collecting 500 books, I'm 70 years old, I'll take books tomorrow with my own car, I barely found a volunteer driver. Where are these; "O Albanians", where are these? These are extreme group, nonsense group. What you do, not what you express", he emphasized/euronews.al

Gynecologist Shkëlqim Balili said that: "If he were President, he would give all women who have Albanian husbands from a different salary". He said in "Good Morning Albania" that this statement was made because according to him the Albanian people have not reached civilization and that to see this it is enough to scratch someone's car. (19.01.2023, information from euronews_albania)

"Here the boys are gentler, they have started to become civilized. But I said a few days ago that if I were President, the first thing I would say to the people is thank you for choosing me, but I have a wish; we should give all women in Albania who have Albanian husbands another salary. Because the man, if we look at where civilization has reached in Albania, rub someone's car a little and you will die on the spot, he had a pistol, he means take the keys and the car, I don't want it for a week. We came from a society that has not passed civilization", said gynecologist Shkëlqim Balili to Euronews Albania./gazetashqiptare.al





CASES OF HATE SPEECH IN THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

Argentinian artist Sasha Primo painted a character on a Student City wall and his work has sparked many reactions online. In an interview for "Good morning Albanians" on Euronews Albania he said he likes his work connects with the LGBTI+ community because he supports them. (04.01.2023, information from euronews_albania)

Pastor Akil Pano has shared photos from the mural on social networks and writes that who is responsible for this and that this figure should be placed somewhere where it can be seen by young people.

Full post

What do you think of the mural? A woman? A man? A transgender who 'flies' like a bird experiencing the freedom of 'coming out'? In the background; as far as I can tell, I see the muscular body of a man who wants to be a woman, as he thinks he reveals to the world the 'graces' of a woman in a man's body!?

May I be wrong

Tell me a little please; Whose responsibility is it to place this 'creation' in one of the buildings? Why among students/young people? Were the students asked, or were they faced with the fact? I was told that it 'decorates' the facade of one of the buildings in the Student City?

From movies in the capital's cinemas, to kisses between two girls on national television reality shows, to the facades of dormitories, indoctrination speaks its own language. The political climate is right! Depression and social indifference are prerequisites for advancing the agenda!!!/newsbomb.al

In the show "Good morning Albanians" with the theme: "Patriarchal dresses in "miss universe" Petri Bozo surprises: "The model doesn't have enough brain to decide on the Miss Universe dress." (18.01.2023, information from euronews_albania)

Continuing further that: "... even if the model gives opinions to the stylist about the dress that a Miss Universe should wear, then the stylist if she listens to the model would make a big mistake because the model does not have enough brains to know how the dress should be and what to wear in this category