High Inspector of Justice

NEWSLETTER

March 2021



EU WILL CONTINUE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR HIJ

High Inspector of Justice Artur Metani held a working meeting with the European Ambassador to Albania, Mr. Luigi Soreca.

Mr. Metani presented HIJ office 13-month work, with all its challenges, achievements and needs to fulfill the mission of punishing illegalities in the system and encouraging the best standards of judges and prosecutors work.

"Meeting the public's expectations for the new justice must be a joint effort of all institutions." – Mr. Metani said.



On the meeting with High Inspector of Justice Artur Metani, Ambassador Soreca posted on his Twitter account:

"Glad to meet again High Inspector of Justice Artur Metani in his new premises.

I congratulated him on the first year of work, including the good communication with the public. EU will continue to provide technical assistance for HIJ to further increase its efficiency."



Complaint Process at HIJ

Your complaint can be submitted electronically by email, by mail or directly to the High Inspector of Justice Office (HIJ).

When you fill out a complaint form at the HIJ premises in person, you can be assisted by the employees of the Complaint Sector.



You can submit your complaints at HIJ Office from Monday to Friday, 09:00 a.m. -14:00 p.m.

"The main commitment of the High Inspector of Justice Office is that judicial functions in the Republic of Albania must be performed independently, impartially and with integrity through a system of responsibility and accountability."

COMPLAINT SECTOR

The HIJ Complaint Sector is responsible for guaranteeing the right of citizens to information and transparency to the public.

This Sector monitors the complaints traceability in the system and provides answers to complainants on their complaint stage. As part of the transparency program, in order to increase the communication with the interested citizens, the High Inspector of Justice Office in addition to the official address and the official Web, has made available the telephone number +355 4 2217217.

STATISTICS

During **March**, the High Inspector of Justice Office received 115 complaints made by citizens, organizations and institutions.

This total figure resulted in:

- 83 compaints filed by citizens;
- 2 complaints filed by organizations;
- **30 complaints** filed by public and non-public institutions.
- **21 phone calls** with citizens, who asked information about their complaint stage.
- **9 meeting** with complainants who were assisted during the process of completing the complaint form in HIJ premises.

The High Inspector of Justice Office has performed the standard confirmation process of

Ankesat Mars 2021

26%

2 Ankesa nga qytetarët

Ankesa nga organizata

Ankesa nga Institucione

receiving complaints for all the new complaints submitted during March, 2021.

Complaints against judges and prosecutors are referred to the inspectors and they are at different stages of the process such as the initial consideration, verification and the archiving together with relevant decisions.

HPC ACCEPTS HIJ REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL OF A MAGISTRATE

The High Prosecutorial Council accepted the High Inspector of Justice's request for the dismissal of magistrate B.M.

Having commenced the verification, the High Inspector of Justice ordered last July, the initiation of a disciplinary investigation for magistrate B.M. who was a prosecutor at the Kruja Judicial District Prosecutor's Office, for serious professional, violations which

discredit the position and image of the prosecutor during his duty performance.

High Inspector of Justice Artur Metani had argued in his request for disciplinary proceedings before the High Prosecutorial Council that on account of the facts ascertained during the disciplinary investigation it was found the unjustified nonfulfillment of the functions of the magistrate, during and



"Since my first appearance in the media as the High Inspector of Justice on February 8, 2020, I have stated that my work priority would be the thematic inspections in the courts and prosecutors' offices about releases on parole. We did this despite the HIJ limited human resources. The complaints or information received from citizens or institutions joined this thematic inspection. This is legal procedure. During its performances HIJ shall not be prejudiced against incoming complaints and information published in the media. It is HIJ duty to verify these facts."

after the trial, which led to the premature release from prison of a convict, as well as serious and persistent non-compliance with material and criminal procedural legislation.

Legal framework:

- ♦ The constitution of Republic of Albania
- ♦ Law no. 96/2016 "On the status of judges and prosecutors in Republic of Albania" as amended.
- ♦ Law no. 115/2016 "On the Governance Bodies of the Justice System", as amended.
- ♦ Council of Ministers Decree "On the Establishment of Conditions for the High Inspector of Justice, the Verification and the Fulfillment of the Conditions and Legal Criteria, the Figure and Assets Verification of the Non-Magistrate Candidates for the Inspector Position.

During the session at HJC

E.H. is the second magistrate for whom the HJC has accepted the request of the High Inspector of Justice for dismissal due serious disciplinary violations related to inmates released on parole and the third magistrate dismissed by the HJC after a HIJ disciplinary investigation. The High Inspector of Justice has shared the public concern for the decisionmaking process and the activity of other institutions, regarding releases on parole by setting this phenomenon as a priority of HIJ inspection since taking office. The High Inspector of Justice Office continues the verification for similar decisionmaking processes based on the thematic inspections process in the courts and prosecutors' offices of the country.

HJC ACCEPTS THE HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL OF THE MAGISTRATE E.H



Today the High Judicial Council accepted the High Inspector of Justice's request for the dismissal of magistrate E.H., a judge at Kruja Judicial District Court, as a disciplinary measure. Chairperson Naureda Llagami announced the decision

according to which HJC, unanimously decided to dismiss the judge.

High Inspector of Justice Artur Metani, while presenting the conclusions on the investigation conduct-

ed, argued the disciplinary violations of the magistrate as unjustified nonfulfillment of functions during the trial, which had brought on unfair benefits to the parties, serious and continuous non-compliance with the material and criminal procedural legislation and issuance of unreasonable acts (decisions).



ANNUAL REPORT OF HIJ

High Inspector of Justice Artur Metani reported to Parliamentary Commission for Legal Affairs, Public Administration and Human Rights on HIJ Office work for 2020.



In his speech before the Members of Parliament the High Inspector of Justice presented the journey of the Institution which, being a new one, was raised from scratch, both in terms of human resources and infrastructure.

Mr. Metani said that with only one magistrate-inspector, commanded by the former HJC, the High Inspector of Justice Office has managed to produce tangible results. He also highlighted the need of the HIJ Office for magistrate-inspectors, for the disciplinary investigation.

ASSISTANT INSPECTORS EURALIUS-TRAINING ON DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM



The assistant inspectors of HIJ Office had one-day training with Euralius V mission experts on disciplinary system under a general perspective. During the training, which was organized in cooperation with the High Inspector of Justice Office, there were discussed issues related to



the new legislation on disciplinary responsibility of judges and prosecutors and the compatibility of the new disciplinary system with international standards.

This training is part of a series of trainings organized by the HIJ Office in cooperation with Euralius V mission in terms of capacity building. It started with the magistrate and non-magistrate inspectors' training and will continue with the Cabinet of the High Inspector of Justice.

During the annual report 2020

"HIJ Office- said the High Inspector of Justice, has now drafted and approved a twoyear Strategic Plan organized under four main objectives: strengthening and exercising the duty of the HIJ Office independently, efficiently and professionally; the development of the process of verification, disciplinary investigation and inspection in accordance with the principles of disciplinary proceedings and international standards; active participation in the processes of coordination and inter-institutional cooperation; as well as increasing transparency and public access to the High Inspector of Justice Institution."

"The first report to the Assembly, before the Commission for Legal Affairs on the HIJ works for 2020. I assured the MPs that the High Inspector of Justice, despite all the difficulties, will continue to work with great dedication to address any concerns of the citizens." – writes the High Inspector of Justice on the official Twitter account.

<u>Click</u> to watch the whole annual report on YouTube.

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You Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë



Spot prezantues ILD Prezantimi i Inspektorit të Lartë të Drejtësië \mathscr{S} youtube.com

<u>Click</u> to watch the introduction video of HIJ on YouTube