

INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF JUSTICE & HUMAN RIGHTS

United States Universal Periodic Review — Fourth Cycle, 53rd Session

2 October 2026

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Attention: Mr. Ardian LUBONJA, Minister Plenipotentiary, Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Rue du Môle 32

1201 Geneva

mission.geneve@mfa.gov.al

Dear Mr. Lubonja and colleagues:

Re: United States UPR 53 — mission-specific briefing for a designated troika rapporteur

The fifty-third-session troika list published by UPR Info designates Albania, Benin and Iraq for the United States review; Albania serves as one of those three rapporteurs. The Institute respectfully asks the Mission to test the enclosed structural analysis, use the questions it finds substantiated, and ensure that the Working Group report accurately records the interactive dialogue and recommendations.

The Institute for the Advancement of Justice & Human Rights is an independent truth-finding organization. It requests critical examination, not endorsement. Its enclosed Civil-Society Advocacy Brief was not filed as a stakeholder submission and is not part of the official UPR record; it is advocacy material circulated directly to Missions.

The brief asks which institution independent of the federal and State judiciaries can investigate allegations of torture or other ill-treatment arising through judicial or court-connected conduct, determine institutional responsibility, secure accountability and facilitate effective remedy and reparation. It does not ask the Mission to adjudicate an individual complaint.

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are distinct classifications. Disability-accommodation denial, procedural unfairness, harmful judicial action, family separation, the treatment of migrants and human experimentation without consent are not automatically either classification. The applicable elements must be established through prompt, impartial and independent investigation.

Respectfully,

Cyrus Hazari

Director

Institute for the Advancement of Justice & Human Rights

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Troika briefing note — Albania

1. Current-cycle role

Fifty-third-session assignment	The troika list published by UPR Info identifies Albania as one of the three rapporteurs for the review of the United States, with Albania, Benin and Iraq.
Role boundary	OHCHR describes troikas as groups of three States serving as rapporteurs to facilitate each review. The role does not require the Mission to accept the Institute's evidence or conclusions.
Timing boundary	UPR Info's pre-session on the United States took place on 25 August 2026. This package does not attribute attendance, statements, agreement or endorsement to the Mission unless independently verified.

2. Additional third-cycle contribution

Recommendation 26.100	Establish a federal mechanism to ensure comprehensive and coordinated compliance with international human rights instruments at the federal, state and local levels (Albania).
United States position	The United States did not support recommendation 26.100 (Addendum, paragraph 22, by reference to its explanation for recommendation 26.95).
Two distinct bases	Albania's 2020 recommendation and its current troika assignment are separate grounds for this communication; neither attributes the Institute's findings to Albania.

3. Questions suitable for independent testing

1. Which institution independent of the federal and State judiciaries can receive and investigate allegations of torture or other ill-treatment arising through judicial, family-court, child-protective or court-connected conduct, and what evidence-gathering, referral and remedial powers does it possess?
2. What national, disaggregated data exist on such complaints, investigations, findings, referrals, remedies and reparations, and how does the United States assess compliance with articles 12, 13 and 14 of the Convention against Torture if no such data exist?
3. Which effective avenue remains when judicial, prosecutorial or sovereign immunity, jurisdictional doctrines, complaint-system design and procedural bars operate together to prevent investigation, adjudication, accountability or reparation?
4. How do persons with disabilities obtain timely individualized accommodation and expedited independent review in every federal and State court when compelled participation foreseeably risks severe medical or psychological harm?

4. Reporting and attribution safeguards

The Working Group report should distinguish recommendations made by States, responses by the United States, and civil-society allegations or analysis. The Institute's structural and jurisprudential conclusions are its own. No report should imply that the troika, Working Group or Human Rights Council endorses them merely because a question is asked or material is received.

The Institute does not claim that no United States law can reach any judicially connected wrong, or that accommodation denial, procedural unfairness, family separation, harmful judicial action, the treatment of migrants or human experimentation without consent automatically constitutes torture or other ill-

treatment. Classification requires proof of the applicable elements through prompt, impartial and independent investigation.

5. Requested next step

Please transmit this package to the official responsible for the United States troika assignment and consider a short pre-review discussion. The Institute will provide pinpoint sources and welcomes correction of any factual, legal or attribution error.

Primary-source record and enclosure

1. [Working Group report — United States, A/HRC/46/15 \(15 December 2020\)](#)
2. [United States addendum and responses, A/HRC/46/15/Add.1 \(4 March 2021\)](#)
3. [OHCHR United States UPR page — fourth-cycle review information](#)
4. [UN Geneva Blue Book — current Albania mission entry](#)
5. [Convention against Torture — official OHCHR text](#)
6. [UPR Info, fifty-third-session troikas \(January 2026\) — United States: Albania, Benin and Iraq](#)
7. [OHCHR basic facts — troikas serve as rapporteurs](#)

Enclosure: Institute for the Advancement of Justice & Human Rights, Universal Periodic Review—United States of America, Fourth Cycle—Fifty-third Session of the Working Group: Civil-Society Advocacy Brief (7 August 2026; enclosed PDF SHA-256: 1a1b9f1d6871ea4a8a7966e577e7b24eeeb49ecc3c1ce53f11fccd4f3d141b2).

Attribution control: the Working Group report records State recommendations, not Human Rights Council findings; the addendum records United States positions; the remaining analysis and proposals are IAJ determinations for independent testing. Receipt, silence, discussion or partial use must never be represented as endorsement.