



## **PUBLIC REACTION**

**from**

### **Observatory for Children's Right**

Observatory for children's right recently learned by the media for the shocking events related to the phenomenon of pedophilia, a number of cases where children have been abused or when they were risked. Our representative offices in 12 regions of the country made possible the verification and tracking of such cases made public, in order to coordinate and mobilize the child protection system at the local level. Sexual crimes are among the most serious violations of physical integrity, moral and emotional development of children.

Through this public reaction, the Observatory expresses its concern on the protection of children abused and asking local institutions to be the protector and guarantor of fundamental rights for development of children in our place. We demand that the entire defense system of children's rights and all segments responsible, work to provide solutions not only when we are faced with these cases, as was the case these days, but to ensure preventive measures for the safety of every child, everywhere he / she lives.

**Albanian** parents want to protect their children but:

- Are they informed enough to prevent a trauma? -Do They know that in most cases the victim and the abuser are not total strangers to each other? It could be a family member, a teacher, neighbor, etc. - As in the case of minors from Erseke, as in the case of the girl from Fier, or in the case of boys from Tirana and Hazer Duraku, etc.

-Do They know that in some cases pedophiles are very aggressive and they use physical violence and psychological causing the death of the victim or lead to suicide? The public case of the 17 years girl from Diber it is an example of this violence. She chose the wrong way to "find" freedom in the absence of hope, information and support. She choose another world where she would live in peace away from the psychological violence of a 50-year-old who abused with her. The current facts shed light on the horror experienced who made the girl to make some choices required.

Do they know that pedophiles sometimes use children's trust, authority over them, by using the argument that they are doing an interesting game?

-Do they know that when the pedophiles do not use violence they ask the children to maintain it secret? As in the case of 11-year-old girl in Himare which is sexually harassed by an older person. Although in terms of the testimony of the girl, the cameras of supermarket where bullying has occurred and a previous similar precedent, the oldest is under house arrest in the absence of evidence.

-Are aware, the representatives of the justice system that it takes courage to report abuse?

Children involved by feelings of shame, guilt, distrust or fear of the abuser often get scared to denounce this phenomenon. And if they found the strength to grasp confessed to family members, but latter they may be reluctant because they don't have the confidence in the justice system or the multiple consequences among them and social stigmatization. - This strength and support was found from the 15 years old minor from Tirana, but unfortunately today she denounced another abuse against her occurred shortly after the first denunciation.

Aiming to children who find the courage to report the abuse, to feel safe, supported and stronger from facing the justice system, the Observatory requires compliance with rigorous national and international instruments including the Lanzarote Convention / Council of Europe protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Hopefully the 17 years old from Diber, will quickly find the desired freedom by throwing light on the truth, whatever it is, we hope that the 11year old from Himara it will return to school and without fear that she can meet "incidental" the elderly, while for the 15year old from Tirana we hope that the truths spoken and unspoken will help become a strong woman a mother and a wife proud of her decisions.

**25 January 2016, Observatory for Children's Right**