

Artina Istrefi- CV

Professional Summary

Distinguished Expert Witness specializing in Albanian affairs, Balkan geopolitics, and international human rights law. With extensive experience submitting expert reports to UK tribunals, I bring a fact-based, culturally nuanced, and judicially sound approach to testimony. My legal training and courses includes Law at the University of Oxford, and I have contributed to NATO policy, EU electoral conferences, and cross-border legal work.

Fluent in Albanian, with deep regional expertise across the Balkans, I provide crucial insight on asylum cases, political persecution, blood feuds, ethnic dynamics, and systemic corruption. I am dedicated to presenting clear, impartial, and court-admissible evidence for complex international legal cases.

Areas of Expertise

- Albania & Western Balkans Country Conditions
- Expert Witness Reporting for Tribunals (UK)
- International Law & Human Rights (ECHR, UN, NATO frameworks)
- Political Risk, Ethnic & Religious Persecution
- Legal Strategy, Corporate Law & Governance
- EU Integration & Balkan Geopolitics
- Conflict Resolution & Transitional Justice
- Asylum, Blood Feud, Gender-Based & Minority Rights Cases

Professional Experience Case Consultant – Witness Experts | UK – Tribunal Testimony Support |

- Authored and reviewed expert witness reports on Albanian country conditions for immigration and asylum cases.
- Provided legally sound, evidence-based testimony addressing persecution, political violence, gender-based violence, and systemic issues.
- Liaised with attorneys to ensure expert opinions aligned with legal strategy and court standards.
- Specialized in blood feuds, LGBTQ+ persecution, ethnic minorities, and political retaliation in Albania.

Education

- University of Oxford – Certification Program in Law (Specialization: International Law, Human Rights, Legal Theory)
- The American College of Thessaloniki– International Relations and Political Science,

Minor: Communication and New Media (Focus: Southeastern Europe, Conflict Resolution, Human Rights)

Languages

- Albanian – Native
- English – Professional Proficiency
- Turkish – Professional Proficiency
- German – Intermediate

Regional & Social Group Expertise

- Countries: Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Ethnic Groups: All Albanian ethnic communities and minorities
- Religious Groups: Muslim (Sunni & Bektashi), Orthodox Christian, Catholic
- Political Groups: Democratic Party, Socialist Party, Vetëvendosje, etc.
- Social Groups: Roma, Ashkali, LGBTQ+, displaced persons, women & youth

Publications & Conferences

- Forthcoming Book: “Albania in Transition: Political Reform and EU Integration”
- Contributor in international conferences on Balkan governance, rule of law, and EU enlargement
- Author of legal briefs on Albania's justice reforms, human rights trends, and media freedom

Community Engagement

- Volunteer for education and youth empowerment programs in Albania and Kosovo
- Organized regional charity and fundraising events for Roma and displaced communities
- Advocate for peacebuilding and transitional justice in post-conflict regions