



Document 3

Suspension and Termination of WOSM membership

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SCOUTS
Creating a Better World

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SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF WOSM MEMBERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Article VIII, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement states that

"1. The World Scout Committee may provisionally suspend the membership of any Member Organization which, in its opinion, no longer fulfils the requirements for membership. If the World Scout Committee maintains its suspension, the World Scout Conference at its next meeting shall hear the report of the World Scout Committee and invite the suspended Organization to make its written or oral comments. The World Scout Conference has the broadest power to then decide on an appropriate course of action; if its decision is to expel the Organization, such decision shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast."

The requirements for WOSM membership are stated in Article V, paragraph 5 of the Constitution of WOSM (see *Annex*).

The World Scout Committee wishes to draw the attention of the World Scout Conference to the situation of a Member Organization which no longer complies with several requirements for membership.

1. NATIONAL SCOUT ORGANIZATION WHICH NO LONGER COMPLIES WITH SEVERAL REQUIREMENTS OF WOSM MEMBERSHIP

This is the case of **Beselidhja Skaut Albania**, the National Scout Organization of Albania, which, following so far unsuccessful attempts to solve the problems, has led the World Scout Committee to apply the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of WOSM quoted above.

At this time, Beselidhja Skaut Albania remains suspended from membership of WOSM. No substantive changes have yet been achieved in bringing the Organization into line with the requirements of the WOSM Constitution.

At its meeting on Sunday, 10 August 2014, the World Scout Committee will receive a full report on the latest developments, and will propose to the World Scout Conference an appropriate course of action in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 1 of the WOSM Constitution.

2. WHAT IS THE SITUATION TODAY?

Latest report from the European Regional Office

Background

Besa Skaut Albania was the first Albanian National Scout Organization to be recognized by WOSM in the 1990s. Unfortunately the development was curtailed by the actions of the Dhima family who used the Organization for their own monetary and political ends. An initial suspension of Besa Skaut Albania was extended on several occasions before the Organization was expelled from WOSM in April 2005.

The new National Scout Organization, Beselidhja Skaut Albania, was "readmitted" to WOSM at the World Scout Conference in September 2005. A change of name was required due to the Dhima family owning the name Besa Skaut. This new Organization was formed from disaffected members of the previous National Committee. This is the Organization with whom the European Region has tried to work.

Since 2005 the following support measures have been put in place:

- growth workshops: funding provided, with no obvious growth in the number of groups and members
- RAP workshop: with no follow-up work by the Organization
- strategic planning workshop: with no implementation of the draft strategy by the Organization
- recruitment of an Information Assistant for WOSM: principle rejected shortly after appointment – by the Organization
- providing 40+ information workshops – with no involvement of the Organization – to more than 500 new potential youth members and 25 young leaders

- provision of Programme implementation workshop: development of the new groups
- small grants for local growth: 10 new groups supported and reported, 9 Organization groups supported with no reporting
- drafting of a programme resource developed by the Regional Office, translated and awaiting publication this year – refusal of involvement by the Organization, active participation by the new potential Scouts. Process nearing completion.

During this period, there has been no action by the National Committee, which is required to manage the affairs of the Organization. Meetings have not been held and fictitious records of 2 meetings in 9 years contain no substantive agenda or decisions.

The Constitution approved by WOSM requires a General Assembly to be held every year. It is now 9 years since a General Assembly has taken place. This means that the maximum term of office for officials is now completed, and matters such as the establishment of an operating budget and membership fee have not been put in place.

A formal request by the Region was issued to require that a General Assembly be held before the end of July 2012. This was not carried out, including to the present date.

New members have not been accepted and harassment of potential new leaders has taken place. The Information Assistant has been personally attacked and spurious and unsubstantiated allegations made, including attacks on his religious preference.

No census reports have been made in the past 9 years.

No operational or activity reports have been made in the past 9 years.

The Organization failed to comply with the new law for registration of non-governmental organizations that was adopted in Albania several years ago, so it does not have a legal status of a national organization in the country.

Participation in regional events has been sporadic and participation in Jamborees and World Conferences seems to be chiefly a family affair. Additional opportunities for participation in events are often not responded to or require, at the last minute, 100% support. Since the current suspension, no activity has taken place.

The Region called an open meeting towards the end of May 2014 inviting all who were interested in the growth and development of Scouting to attend. No members of Beselidhja Skaut Albania participated despite receiving a direct communication. Five members of the "board" of a new association in Albania – Shokata Skaut Shqipetare (SHSSH) – participated with representatives of SGDF (France), PPOE (Austria), AGESCI (Italy) and the Region. A growing number of NSOs from the European Region are engaging with this group but are restrained by the current (suspended) membership of WOSM by Beselidhja Skaut Albania, which does not engage in community involvement and other initiatives as SHSSH does.

Conclusion

In the absence of any substantiation of a real presence on the ground by Beselidhja Skaut Albania, and in light of unreasonable expectations of large financial support, and the undue presence of the members of just one family, it is clear that this is a hollow organization.

The reputation of WOSM is at risk because of the perception of an organization which has no reputation for service and involvement widely in the community.

Alternative individuals wish to become Scouts but are not facilitated to do so, nor do they wish to join Beselidhja Skaut Albania, restricting the possibility for future growth.

3. WHAT IS THE NEXT COURSE OF ACTION?

At this stage it is important to note that, according to Article VIII, paragraph 1 of the WOSM Constitution, the situation of a National Scout Organization provisionally suspended must be reported upon by the World Scout Committee at the first meeting of the World Scout Conference following that suspension, at which meeting the suspended Member Organization shall be invited to make its written or oral comments.

Consequently, and in order to make sure Beselidhja Skaut Albania can apply its constitutional right to make written or oral comments to the World Scout Conference, the World Scout Committee has decided that it shall invite Beselidhja Skaut Albania to the Slovenia Conference for the sole purpose of presenting its case to the Conference, it being understood that, unless otherwise decided by the Conference, Beselidhja Skaut Albania shall not be authorized to attend the rest of the World Scout Conference. An invitation to this effect will be sent to the suspended Albanian Member Organization.

The World Scout Committee will present its formal report on Beselidhja Skaut Albania to the World Scout Conference at its very first session on Monday afternoon, 11 August 2014. This report may be followed by comments presented orally or in written form by Beselidhja Skaut Albania.

After the World Scout Committee has presented its report, and Beselidhja Skaut Albania has (or, if it chooses, has not) presented its comments, orally or in written form, the World Scout Conference has the broadest power to then decide on an appropriate course of action.

Annex

Extract from the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement

"ARTICLE V

Requirements

1. *Membership of the World Organization is open to all National Scout Organizations which fulfil the requirements for membership.*
2. *Authority to confer membership of the World Organization is vested in the World Scout Conference, on the recommendation of the World Scout Committee.*
3. *A National Scout Organization in a sovereign state may apply for membership as a Member Organization. There can be only one member National Scout Organization from any one sovereign state.*
4. *National Scout Organizations in membership of the World Organization are collectively referred to as Member Organizations.*
5. *Admission to membership in the World Organization requires of the applicant National Scout Organization:*
 - (a) *Adoption of and evidence of sustained adherence to the purpose, principles and method as laid down by Chapter I of this Constitution.*
 - (b) *Establishment of the National Scout Organization as an independent, non-political, voluntary movement of probity and effectiveness.*
 - (c) *Enrolment to be open to all who agree to conform to the purpose, principles and method of the Movement.*
 - (d) *Establishment of its legal entity and evidence of its widespread operation in the territory it represents.*
 - (e) *Demonstration that, by the quality of its leadership, the organization of its leader training, the size of its membership and its resources, it is self-sufficient and capable of providing adequate services to its members and assuming all obligations of a Member Organization.*
6. *A Member Organization may consist of more than one Scout Association operating in the same sovereign state and participating in a Federation based on the common Scout purpose. It is the responsibility of each Federation to ensure that all its constituent Associations meet the requirements of this Constitution."*