

**CASE STUDY:****BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE ITALIAN EMBASSY TO ALBANIA**

Six Popa brothers and sisters entered the Italian Embassy in Tirana seeking asylum  
( 12 December 1985 – 16 maggio 1990)

**Two parallel negotiating groups** ,both divided between Albanian and Italian diplomats, advocating respectively the illegitimacy and the legitimacy of the asylum on the basis of the international law and **trying to reach an agreement to settle the issue**

Albanian value: defense of communist ideology versus capitalism; core interest: to avoid a dangerous precedent

Italian value: defense of human rights versus dictatorship; core interest: to make asylum seekers leave the country for humanitarian reasons

**Difficult context of the negotiations**, in spite of the principle of inviolability of the diplomatic mission and the duty of protection by the host State:

- embassy permanently besieged by the local police and security forces
- attempts to tap the internal conversations
- checks of the diplomatic bag
- check of the official ( with flag) car of the embassy
- check of the personnel private cars with CD-plate
- harassment of the embassy staff ( insults, car damages, close shadowing 24/7, refusal to take part in events organized by the Italian side)
- retaliation measures by the embassy ( official verbal notes to complaint about harassment, denial of visa to Albanian citizens)