

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)