

February 20, 2015

Prime Minister addresses re-criminalization of libel and defamation

Prime Minister Edi Rama mentioned during a speech in parliament plenary session of February 12 that he was examining the possibility of reverting to criminal regulation of defamation. His speech addressed the political debate in the parliament, where continuous verbal assaults and exchange of charges between political rivals has become the norm. He also specified that he was referring to defamation due to the duty that one carries out, in this case, defamation because you are part of the government, or parliament, specifying that the target of this intended re-criminalization were MPs and politicians. He explained that after the continuous wave of unproven charges of the opposition against him, this is a measure necessary to regulate the relations between political actors. His idea was also for the prosecution to directly start an investigation if there were charges mentioned by MPs in the parliament, with the aim of shedding light on what the truth was in each case. He also invited opposition MPs to prove in court the charges they mention in the parliament.

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