

Factsheet 8:

HPP Vinjoll: Conflict over water use escalates in casualties

Description	On 2 August 2009, the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Energy signed a concessionary contract with Komp Energy Shpk for the construction of hydro-power plants (HPPs) Vinjoll, Hurdhas 1, Hurdhas 2, Hurdhas 3. The HPPs are located in Vinjoll, Kurbin region. The construction works started in 2012 and the local habitants have complaint for the construction of the HPP in Vinjoll due to lack of water for agriculture and irrigation used by the same water spring. Several protests were organized in June 2014 by the villagers contesting the construction works arguing that water diversion would impact their family economies based on agriculture. Earlier, on 24 March 2014 an explosion took place in HPP in Gallate village (close to Vinjoll) linked with a conflict on property rights between the concessionary company and a local habitant. On 2 April 2016, the father of the HPP owner murdered a local villager from Vinjoll village due to the protracted conflict related to HPP property land. Indeed, the conflicts registered in Kurbin District Court related to the above mentioned HPP are regular, such as the one on 2.01.2015 where a local habitant has diverted the water from the HPP and punished for doing justice himself. The company is using the springs of Gurra e Vinjollit, and then diverting it through steel pipes into the several HPPs. Local habitants are frustrated with the situation and in constant tension due to the HPP construction and water management.
Basic data	Komp Energy Shpk Installed capacity 4.6 MW and expected production 13.3 GWh. Komp Energy shpk is owned by FitimLala (51%), a local habitant who lives in New York. 49% are shared with Michal Morciniec (Swiss citizen).
Source of conflict	Water diversion -1 st level of conflict Water management - 2 nd level conflict Property rights- 3 rd level of conflict
Project details and actors	The project of HPP Vinjoll, Hurdhas 1,2,3 is 1.459.854 EUR.
Project area	Vinjoll habitants
Level of investment	
The conflict and mobilization	Street protest, lawsuit, Vengeance
Conflict impact	Documented Environmental impact: water diversion, water sharing rights. Potential Social –economic impact: Agriculture impact.
Conflict outcome	Constructed No institutional changes Not successful as the project was constructed.
Sources and materials/References	Historical extract from National Registration Centre. http://www.panorama.com.al/konflikti-per-rrugen-e-hec-it-te-vinjollit-plumba-50-vjecarit-ne-kurbin https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oufp-1egjau https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ufmgzq3mxu https://www.asp.gov.al/index.php/17-shqip/lajmet-e-fundit/8962-mbi-vrasjen-e-ndodhur-ne-kurbin .