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Albanian Robber-killer who Immigrated under a False Identity Extradited

- Repatriated fugitive had escaped from Albanian prison while serving term for robbery and murder.

- Today (April 5, 2024), the Ministry of Justice extradited “A” (**Albanian male, born 1974**), a criminal who had committed **robbery and murder** in Albania and acquired Korean citizenship under a false identity, to **Albania**.
- After boarding a taxi in Albania in or about August 1995, A murdered the taxi driver by stabbing him with a knife in the chest and other areas multiple times; he then robbed the taxi and fled from the scene. A was **sentenced to life imprisonment for robbery and murder and three cases of attempted robbery and murder**. In March 1997, he **escaped from prison** in the midst of the 1997 Albanian Civil Unrest, obtained a passport **in the name of B**, an Albanian citizen with mental disabilities, and **fled overseas**.
- After travelling to the United States and Canada, A entered the Republic of Korea around November 2011. He then married a Korean woman around February 2012 and **acquired his Korean citizenship** around December 2015, living with his **criminal record and identity hidden**. However, through **close cooperation and joint investigation** between the Albanian authorities, the Korean Ministry of Justice, and foreign counterparts, A’s **locations were finally identified** and his true identity was revealed around July 2023.

- ☐ In order to arrest and repatriate A, who posed a threat to the society, in an expedited manner, the Ministry of Justice thoroughly reviewed the relevant statutes for the extradition process and worked closely with the Albanian authorities to supplement the evidence needed to secure the court decision. Following up promptly with the arrest of the criminal, the trial proceedings (Seoul High Court), and the revocation of the naturalization permit, the Ministry was able to deprive A of his nationality and complete the extradition process within a short period of time.
- ☐ This case exemplifies the Government of the Republic of Korea's strong commitment to ensure criminals who disregard human life and bodies and threaten our society receive punishments commensurate with their crimes and to safeguard the Korean people from any additional crimes.
- ☐ The Ministry of Justice will continue to strengthen the international cooperation network to protect the safety of our citizens anywhere around the world and to ensure criminals receive punishment commensurate with their crimes.

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