
KOSOVO, SERBIA REACT SHARPLY TO WAR CRIMES VERDICT AGAINST EX-KOSOVAN PRESIDENT THACI

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Reactions to the conviction of former Kosovo president Hashim Thaci and three other former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) leaders for war crimes have highlighted deep divisions between Kosovo and Serbia more than two decades after their 1998-99 war.

Thaci, 58, was sentenced to 25 years in prison by the Kosovo Specialist Chambers in The Hague on September 16 after being found responsible for murder, torture, cruel treatment and arbitrary detention. The court said he and the three other defendants were responsible for the deaths of 96 people, the arbitrary detention of 385 and the torture of 303.

Former KLA political leader Jakup Krasniqi was also sentenced to 25 years, former parliament speaker Kadri Veseli to 18 years and former KLA commander Rexhep Selimi to 13 years.

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