

06/11/2020

Notorious Kosovo Albanian rebel leader-turned-politician indicted by special court in The Hague for war crimes



Hashim Thaçi, a top guerilla leader during an insurgency by ethnic Albanians in the Kosovo province during the late 1990s, on Friday resigned as the breakaway region's president, after being indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity by a special court based in The Hague.

Thaçi announced his resignation at a news conference in Pristina, claiming he was taking the step to "... protect the integrity of the presidency of Kosovo".

He was indicted by a special Kosovo court based in The Hague, which was set up to

try the alleged crimes of former ethnic Albanian rebel leaders.

Thaçi is one of several Kosovo Albanian politicians who have been indicted for alleged crimes, which include murder, enforced disappearances, persecution and torture.

Thaci has cultivated close relations with extremist Albanian groups throughout the southern Balkans, as well as with the Islamist Erdogan regime of Turkey. The official Turkish state, in fact, has funded the construction of several so-called “mega-mosques” in Kosovo and Metohija.

Since assuming power in the province, roughly two-thirds of the indigenous Christian Serbian population has been driven from their ancestral homes.

Numerous churches, monasteries and Serbian cultural sites have also been vandalized and destroyed over the past 20 years, continuing a policy of ethnic cleansing by Kosovo Albanian extremists.

In a related Kosovo and Metohija news item, a scientific conference on the issue of protecting and preserving the Serbian cultural legacy in the province, will take place at the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Belgrade next week, under the auspices of the Republic of Serbia’s Council and UNESCO.