

# BALKAN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

NEWS 19 Jul

## Albanian Writer Raises Storm in Kosovo

Kosovo officials have rounded on Albanian writer Fatos Lubonja for saying that the political elites in both countries turned a blind eye to the crimes of the Kosovo Liberation Army, KLA.

Besar Likmeta | BIRN | Tirana



Albanian writer Fatos Lubonja

Former Yugoslavia.

In the article published in the May edition of the magazine *Sudosteuroopa*, Lubonja focused on the reaction of Albania's political class to the acquittal of the former KLA commander and Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj by the Hague Tribunal.

Lubonja wrote that following Haradinaj's release, the elite in Pristina and Tirana celebrated him as a hero, despite having enough information that the charges brought by prosecutors in the Hague were correct.

According to Kosovo public broadcaster RTK, Haradinaj has called Lubonja's comment slanderous and has hinted that he may sue the Albanian writer for defamation.

Haradinaj was acquitted in November 2012, of all charges of war crimes during the Kosovo conflict of the late 1990s, following a retrial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the

Prosecutors had alleged that, together with two co-defendants, Haradinaj tortured and killed ethnic Serbs, and Albanians who were deemed to have collaborated with the Serbs in a KLA-run camp at Jablanica in 1998.

The Trial Chamber ruled that the prosecution did not prove any of the counts of the indictment, including that the defendants had been part of a joint criminal enterprise aimed at establishing KLA control in western Kosovo through detention camps.

According to Lubonja, the reaction to Haradinaj's acquittal in Albania and Kosovo encapsulates the hypocrisy of its political and cultural elites who use nationalist ideology to brainwash people.

"As in Communist times, Albanians are fed with the idea that they are nothing as individuals in front of the interests of the nation, and should sacrifice everything for the fatherland, turning a blind eye to every crime committed in its name," Lubonja wrote.

According to Lubonja, this brainwashing create a form of schizophrenia, as Albanians glorify the heroes that sacrifice themselves for the nation while deploring the scoundrels that steal from and even kill them – both being the same.

The writer's claims have angered members of Haradinaj's Alliance for the Future of Kosovo, AAK, party.

The party spokesperson, Ernest Luma, lashed out Lubonja on social networks calling him "a son of bitch".

"Lubonja's last name sounds like a Serbian name," Luma wrote, calling him "a Serb who speaks Albanian".

Kosovo's Minister of Integration, Vlora Citaku, said she was "shocked and speechless" about Lubonja's writings.

Kosovo's Minister of Culture, Memli Kraniqi, accused him of making shameful and "sick comments about the liberators of Kosovo".

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**A Nonny Moose** • 2 days ago

Amazing for a society that wants the world to think they're better than Serbs to suddenly sound like pack of raging North Korean officials the minute they're confronted with a conflicting opinion of their collective memory and national identity.

14 ^ | 4 ▾ Reply Share ›



Thomas → A Nonny Moose • 2 days ago

The fact that there are conflicting opinions openly expressed in the free press, even in such a sensitive topic, it's a sign of a maturing democracy. Check back with us when you Serbs stop assassinating the Prime Ministers with whom you disagree(i.e. Djindic).

18 ^ | 1 ▾ Reply Share ›



Ante → Thomas • a day ago

Serbia has apologized for the war crimes that it has committed and convicted several of its citizens that committed crimes.

Should Serbia have apologized? Yes. Should other former YU countries apologize? Yes!

Now warlords like Haradinaj and Gotovina are walking the streets as free men although they have as much blood on their hands as Mladic. It's a travesty that such injustice is possible in this world.

And Kosovo a maturing democracy?! lol

3 ^ | 2 ▾ Reply Share ›

**ANTE** → Ante • 21 hours ago

Ahahahahahahahahahahaahahaha

"Ante", why do you pretend to be a Croat by using our name?

What do you think you will get by this?

1 ^ | ▾ Reply Share ›



dc → Thomas • a day ago

Let's wait and see the fate that awaits Mr. Lubonja. That would reveal the true maturity of your so-called democracy. Let's see if he were to survive the storm. Judging by the severity of the invectives directed against him, I think he has a rough road ahead of him.

1 ^ | 2 ▾ Reply Share ›



Teuta → A Nonny Moose • a day ago

we are better than Serbs because we did not start the wars in former Yugoslavia and we never killed women and children 8,000 (thousand) civilians were killed in SREBRENICA

4 ^ | ▾ Reply Share ›



XYZ → Teuta • 19 hours ago

Is that so? Even during titos time when all was good Albanians in Kosovo protested and killed Serbs. You tell me who started the war in Kosovo!!!

6 ^ | 3 v Reply Share ›



Lena • a day ago

Such a bullcrap, what about the 10.000 civilian and innocent albanians that died during the Kosova war? Who the f...killed them ? the Albanians? Doubt it, Where are the accusations for those Serb crimes plus the hundreds of missing bodies. Mothers and fathers waiting for their childrens remains to be returned. Is anyone writing a book about that?!!!

Serbiens killing 10.000 civilian Albanians and they get invited to join the EU, whereas an Albanian freedom fighter kills 3 serbs, he gets to go to Haag and defend his actions... Such hypocrites.

4 ^ | v Reply Share ›



aaante → Lena • 19 hours ago

Albanian freedom fighter?? lol

2 ^ | 2 v Reply Share ›



XYZ → Lena • 19 hours ago

10,000 civilians?!?! Lol, where do you get your facts sir? If I remember correctly, the total was somewhere around 2,500, and that was both Serbs and Albanians. Stop spreading lies. Do research, don't believe everything your grandpa tells you ;)

2 ^ | 2 v Reply Share ›



Teuta • a day ago

Haradinaj was accused with two accomplices of persecuting ethnic Serbs in an effort to drive them out of Kosovo, during a 1998-99 war between guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and security forces under late Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

Judges ruled there was no evidence to support the charges of crimes against humanity.

"On the contrary, the evidence establishes that, when he heard about the mistreatment of individuals, Haradinaj said no such thing should happen because this is damaging of our cause," the presiding judge, Bakone Justice Moloto, said.

3 ^ | v Reply Share ›



Alba → Teuta • 19 hours ago

Yeah yeah, Albanians are very peace loving people. I guess all those Serbs and their organs just vanished from from the face of the earth by themselves.

1 ^ | 2 v Reply Share ›

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