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Pristina names former KLA leader as head of "Kosovo Security Force"

KosovoCompromise Staff

Kosovo authorities have named Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi, a former leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), as the commander of the future NATO-trained Kosovo Security Force, which is to be formed with the help of NATO.

Selimi, whose "nom de guerre" is "Sultan", is widely suspected of having committed numerous war crimes against Serb civilians.

He previsously served in the Kosovo Protection Corps.

"Based on competences deriving from the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo and the law on Kosovo's Security Forces, and based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister (Hashim Thaci)... I hereby appoint Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi, commander in chief of Kosovo's Security Force", reads a statement from the office of Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu.

When the Kosovo Security Force becomes operational in mid-June next year, Selimi will head some 2,500 members.