

**ANNEX 1 to**  
**Prosecution response to Application for Interim Release on behalf of Mr Hashim Thaçi**

Public

SPO Translations of Public Sources

**I. Pardons of Shpresim UKA and Bekim SYLAJ****A. Decree of Pardon**

From: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/skandali-i-fundit-i-thacit-nuk-perfilli-rekomandimet-e-komisionit-per-faljen-ndaj-shpresim-ukes-dhe-bekim-syles/>

/Kosovo logo/

**REPUBLIKA E KOSOVËS – PRESIDENTI**

**REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO – PRESIDENT**

**REPUBLIKA KOSOVO – PREDSEDNIK**

**DECREE OF PARDON**

**Decree no. 161 / 2020**

The President of the Republic of Kosovo,

Pursuant to Article 84, points (4, 29) of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, Article 6 of Law no. 03/L-094 on the President of the Republic of Kosovo (Official Gazette, no. 46, 15 January 2009), Article 31 and Article 32 of Regulation (P) no. 02/2017 on the Criteria and Procedures on the Pardon of Convicted Persons (15.11.2017), and also based on the Report of the Commission for the review and evaluation of requests for Pardon of 28.09.2020 (Prot. No.: I014, dated 30 September 2020) issues:

**DECREE**

1. The following convicted persons are granted pardon for their criminal convictions:
  - 1.1 Ilir Avdyl Morina, born in Rahovec, on /redacted/, serving sentence in the Dubrava Correctional Facility, is granted pardon for two (2) years;
  - 1.2 Veton Xhavit Gjoshi, born in Gjakova, on /redacted/, serving sentence in the Dubrava Correctional Facility, is granted pardon for two (2) years;
  - 1.3 Bekim Hasan Sylaj, born in Gllogovc, on /redacted/, serving sentence in the High Security Prison, is granted pardon for three (3) years and six (6) months;
  - 1.4 Shpresim Ukshin UKA, born on /redacted/, serving sentence in the High Security Prison, is granted pardon for four (4) years;

1.5 Safet Ramë Haliti, born in, on /redacted/, serving sentence in the Smrekonica Correctional Facility, is granted pardon for six (6) months:

2. The Ministry of Justice is charged with the task of taking all necessary actions for the implementation of this Decree.
3. The Decree enters into force on the date of signature.

Hashim THAÇI

/signature/

President of the Republic of Kosovo

Prishtina, on 04.11.2020

*Sent to:*

- *Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo*
- *Person making the request*
- *Person granted pardon*
- *Ministry of Justice*
- *aa*

## B. Pardoning Commission Recommendation

From: <https://kallxo.com/lajm/skandali-i-fundit-i-thacit-nuk-perfilli-rekomandimet-e-komisionit-per-faljen-ndaj-shpresim-ukes-dhe-bekim-syles/>

/Document number box – 1184/1, 11.11.2020/

/Kosovo Logo/

REPUBLIKA E KOSOVËS – PRESIDENTI

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO – PRESIDENT

REPUBLIKA KOSOVO – PREDSEDNIK

### DECISION TO ALLOW ACCESS TO PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

**From:** Information and Public Communication Department (IPCD) – Office of the President

**To:** Mrs. Adelina Ahmeti, *Kallxo.com*

Address: BIRN, Mensa e Studentëve, Kati i Parë, 10000, Prishtina, Republic of Kosovo

No.	Name and Last name, date and place of birth	Crime convicted for and length of sentence	Sentence start and expiry date and place served	Recommendation
1.	Ilir Avdyl Morina	Aggravated murder 20 years	04.05.2007 22.08.2027	Proposal to grant pardon: <b>two (2) years.</b>  <b>Reasoning:</b> humanitarian reasons, repentance of convicted person for

	Rahovec		Dubrava Correctional Facility	crime committed, time of sentence served
2.	Veton Xhavit Gjoshi  Gjakova	Murder  11 years 6 months	27.01.2017  27.07.2028  Dubrava Correctional Facility	Proposal to grant pardon: <b>two (2) years.</b>  <b>Reasoning:</b> great progress in re-socialising, good behaviour during sentence served in the institution, repentance of convicted person for crime committed.
3.	Bekim Hasan Sylaj  Drenas	Aggravated murder  12 years	04.06.2017  13.01.2028  High Security Prison	Proposal to grant pardon: <b>one (1) year.</b>  <b>Reasoning:</b> good behaviour during sentence served in the institution, great progress in re-socialising.
4.	Shpresim Ukshin Uka	Aggravated murder  15 years	12.11.2015  22.06.2029  High Security Prison	Proposal to grant pardon: <b>one (1) year.</b>  <b>Reasoning:</b> good behaviour during sentence served in the institution, great progress in re-socialising.
5.	Safet Ramë Haliti  Klina	Murder attempt  3 years and 6 months	09.10.2019  09.02.2022  Smrekonica Correctional Facility	Proposal to grant pardon: <b>six (6) months.</b>  <b>Reasoning:</b> deep repentance of convicted person for crime committed, good behaviour during sentence served in the institution, great progress in re-socialising.

C. <https://kallxo.com/lajm/skandali-i-fundit-i-thacit-nuk-perfilli-rekomandimet-e-komisionit-per-faljen-ndaj-shpresim-ukes-dhe-bekim-syla/>

### **THAÇI's last scandal: He ignored the Commission recommendations for Shpresim UKA and BEKIM SYLA**

11/11/2020 – 16:15

In his last day before resigning from the post of President Hashim THAÇI signed off pardons for five convicted persons out of 28 requests considered by the Commission for the Review and Evaluation of Requests for Pardon.

Following a freedom of information request, Kallxo.com received a document from the Office of the President which confirms that President THAÇI ignored the Commission recommendation for the pardon of two convicted persons for grave offences out of five persons pardoned.

Hasan SHALA, chairman of the commission set up by the president, described for Kallxo.com the exact role of the Commission for the Review and Evaluation of Requests for Pardon.

“According to the law, the Commission is not established by law. We are outside the remit of the law. According to regulations, the president expressed interest to set up a commission in order to give recommendations because he is not a lawyer and does not have knowledge about these issues. It is the exclusive right of the president to issue for example 10 years of pardon even if we recommended one year. The president has the exclusive right of pardon. We could have turned somebody down. However, if he /president/ said Yes, this stands. This is provided by law,” said Hasan SHALA, chairman of the Commission for the Review and Evaluation of Requests for Pardon, describing the work of the Commission.

Two of the convicted persons in the “Bllaca” case who received sentences in excess of 10 years in prison, Shpresim UKA and Bekim SYLA, were issued pardons for more years than recommended by the Commission for the release of the convicted persons.

Although the Commission had recommended that Shpresim UKA be pardoned for one year of his prison term, the president decided to pardon him for four years. Whereas the commission had recommended that Bekim SYLA be pardoned for one year of his sentence, however, THAÇI pardoned him for three years and six months.

Shpresim UKA who was sentenced to 15 years in prison in the “Bllaca” case, received a pardon by Kosovo former president Hashim THAÇI only one day before resigning from office.

He was pardoned for four full years by presidential decree. He was serving the sentence of 15 years in prison for his participation in the murder of Ibush KLLOKOQI and attempted murder of Kosovo former deputy prime minister Adem SALIHAIJ.

The Commission for the pardon of convicted persons recommended that UKA be pardoned for one year of his prison term. However, he was pardoned for a full four-year period.

Kallxo.com has all the documents that describe in detail all actions taken by the Commission for the Review and Evaluation of Requests for Pardon, a commission set up by former president THAÇI.

The Commission recommendations were ignored by former president THAÇI as the latter decided pardon him for four years with the reason of good behaviour during sentence served as well as progress in re-socialising.

Although, according to regulations, only persons who have respected the re-socialisation and re-integration conditions while serving the sentence are eligible for pardon, some information indicate that Shpresim UKA evaded justice after conviction.

Shpresim UKA was on the run after he was convicted in 2012 and he was not in custody until November 2015. He was arrested by Kosovo police on 11 November 2015 at Bregu i Diellit neighbourhood in Prishtina after several years on the run.

Bekim SYLA is another convicted person in the "Bllaca" case who was granted pardon. Bekim SYLA was convicted for 12 years in prison. He was also pardoned for three years and six months. The Commission recommended a pardon of one year for SYLA too, whereas THAÇI pardoned him for three years and six months.

THAÇI followed the Commission recommendation for three other convicted persons who were granted pardon including Ilir Morina, sentenced with 20 years in prison for aggravated murder, Veton GJOSHI, sentenced with 11 years and six months for murder, and Safet HALITI sentenced with three years and six months for attempted murder. So, in this case, THAÇI approved a pardon of two years as per Commission recommendation for Morina, a pardon of two years for GjOSHI and a pardon of six months for HALITI, as per Commission for pardon of convicted persons recommendation.

D. <https://kallxo.com/lajm/e-kaluara-kriminale-e-shpresim-ukes-nga-arratisja-e-tij-pasi-ishte-denuar-deri-te-falja-e-4-viteve-te-denimit-nga-hashim-thaci/>

/photo/

Suspicious during the proceedings: Hashim THAÇI pardoned the person who is on trial

By Kastriot BERISHA

06/11/2020 – 19:14

Shpresim UKA who was convicted to 15 years in prison in the “Bllaca” case, was pardoned by former president of Kosovo Hashim THAÇI only one day prior to his resignation.

He was pardoned up to four years of his prison term by the president’s decree.

He was serving his 15-year prison term for participation in the murder of Ibush KLLOKOQI and the murder attempt of Kosovo former deputy prime minister Adem SALIHAI.

Although, according to regulations, only persons who have respected the re-socialisation and re-integration conditions while serving the sentence are eligible for pardon, some information indicate that Shpresim UKA evaded justice after conviction.

Shpresim UKA was on the run after he was convicted in 2012 and he was not in custody until November 2015.

He was arrested by Kosovo police on 11 November 2015 at Bregu i Diellit neighbourhood in Prishtina after several years on the run.

UKA, together with Sadik ABAZI, Bekim SYLA, Fahredin GASHI and Nazim BLLACA were convicted for the murder of Ibush KLLOKOQI.

However, this is not the only occasion that Shpresim UKA was accused.

UKA is also part of the voluminous indictment issued by the Italian prosecutor Danillo CECCARELLI in the “TOKA” /Earth/ case, in which Azem SYLA and he are charged with organised crime.



In addition, the indictment issued by EULEX said that the properties of Azem SYLA's group were used to compensate the witnesses of the persons charged in "Bllaca 2" case.

This indictment says that Kosovo Post Office employee, Sami MAQEDONCI, benefited of a property worth Euro100,000 as a compensation in return for a statement in favour of Shpresim UKA in "Bllaca 2" case.

According to the special prosecutor's indictment, Shpresim UKA, Azem SYLA and eleven others are charged with organised crime.

They are accused of committing grave crimes in the territory of Kosovo in a period between 2006 and 2016 as part of Joint Criminal Enterprise.

Former KLA commander and former PDK /Democratic Party of Kosovo/ MP Azem SYLA is described as "organiser, supervisor, manager and leader" of the criminal group who "initiated and financed the group's criminal activities".

#### **Why was Shpresim UKA convicted in the "Bllaca" case?**

Shpresim UKA, Sadik ABAZI, Bekim SYLA, Fahredin GASHI and Nazim BLLACA were charged with murder, kidnapping, and murder attempt in the "Bllaca 2" case.

According to the indictment, on 6 August 1999 the accused murdered Ibush KLLOKOQI, causing him death by fire arms. That night, Fahredin GASHI found the Scorpion-make weapon for Nazim BLLACA. He, together with Shpresim UKA, Bekim SYLA and Sadik ABAZI went afterwards to Ibush KLLOKOQI's house.

Shpresim UKA waited outside the house, whereas Nazim Bllaca, Sadik ABAZI, Fahredin GASHI and Bekim SYLA knocked on Ibush KLLOKOQI's door, said the indictment further on. "When the victim showed up at the door Nazim BLLACA killed him with at least six bullets."

UKA, together with Driton HAJDARI and SHABAN SYLA, were also convicted for the attempted murder of Adem SALIHAI in June 2000.

E. <https://www.koha.net/arberi/244843/dekereti-mund-ti-hape-probleme-thacit-ne-speciale-te-denuarit-e-rastit-bllaca-i-fali-me-shume-se-qe-iu-rekomandua/>;

Koha.net

09/11/2020, 19:13

Arbëri

**The decree may create problems for THAÇI in the Specialist Chambers – The pardon terms for convicted persons in the “Bllaca” case were more extensive than recommended**

/Photo: Reuters/

By Donika Voca GASHI

09/11/2020, 19:13

The pardons issued by former president Hashim THAÇI for part of the sentence regarding two persons convicted in the “Bllaca” case only one day prior to the confirmation of his indictment were mentioned to him in the first hearing in front of the Kosovo Chambers Pre-Trial Judge.

Following the defence council’s request for THAÇI’s release on bail the Specialist prosecutor mentioned the pardon of these two convicted persons as sufficient reason for THAÇI to remain in custody, reports KOHA.

“We are looking forward to give a detailed response to any submissions in relation to the custody measure or the factors the court should consider in order to assess the risk to legal proceedings and security of victims, witnesses and other person. We will treat all these issues in detail. These issues traditionally include things such as the nature and seriousness of the charges, interferences or /evidence/ that throw light on the possible risk of interference, including here recent events in Kosovo, such as the fact that we were informed just the last day prior to the start of the arrest procedures about the pardon issued to two persons who were convicted for the murder of an alleged collaborator and who were on the run after they were convicted in 2012. These issues will receive detailed consideration in the legal proceedings and during the process,” said Specialist Chambers prosecutor Alan Tieger.

In addition, not only did former president THAÇI pardon the two convicted persons for part of the prison term, but he also decided to issue pardons for more years of their prison term.

Although the commission had recommended that Shpresim UKA were pardoned for only one year of his prison term, THAÇI pardoned UKA for an additional 3 years of his remaining prison term.

THAÇI did the same regarding the other convicted person, Bekim SYLA.

“The Commission convened on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and unanimously recommended the president to issue pardons for these persons. We, as a committee, recommended the President to pardon 5 persons. The reasoning for Bekim SYLA was good behaviour during sentence served, great progress in re-socialising. This is also valid for Shpresim UKA. We recommended they were issued pardons for one year each,” said Hasan SHALA, head of the Commission for the Review and Evaluation of Requests for Pardon.

Although Article 4 of the Law on Pardon states that persons who have intentionally evaded the execution of sentence for the offence are not eligible for pardon, the Commission recommended THAÇI to pardon Shpresim UKA and Bekim SYLA, who were on the run for several years following their conviction for aggravated murder.

However, SHALA said that the Commission did not have such information available.

“We cannot say they are recidivists only on the basis of accusations unless there is a final judgement. Only in such a case can we say that there is a case of recidivism. The presumption of innocence is valid in this case. We did not have any information available that they were on the run at the time we discussed their requests. We assessed up to 30 requests in this case,” added SHALA.

The Centre for the Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors, which monitors the pardon process, raises suspicions about the proper application of the pardon criteria and says that the process lacks transparency.

“Not only in this case, but always during the pardon proceedings, there have been complaints of lack of transparency. Despite complaints by the convicted persons they have very often not been taken into consideration and the pardon decrees did not give adequate reasoning. The public opinion has a low level of trust in this process. The pardon should be an all-encompassing process. We have noticed that under age girls and women have benefited at a lesser degree. The pardon process should equally include

applicable criteria and exclusion criteria. In the case of assessing the risk of grave recidivism, aggravated murder and sexual abuse of underaged persons should be seriously taken into consideration,” said Alban MURIQI of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors.

One day prior to the confirmation of Hashim THAÇI’s Specialist Chambers’ indictment he issued a decree to pardon part of the prison terms for 5 convicted persons.

They include persons who were convicted for the murder of Ibush KLLOKOQI, namely Shpresim UKA and Bekim SYLA who were convicted in 2012 by EULEX judges.

The persons who were issued pardons for part of the prison term by the president also included Ilir MORINA convicted to 20 years in prison, and the president pardoned him for 2 years of the remaining prison term.

KOHA tried to contact the Minister of Justice Selim SELIMI in relation to the list of persons sent to the Commission for approval, but he did not answer the phone.

## II. Gazmend HALILAJ

- A. <https://telegrafi.com/sami-lushtaku-e-pranon-fajesine-per-kanosjen-e-avokatit-gazmend-halilaj/>

Telegrafi.com

28/10/2020 – 09:38

### **Sami LUSHTAKU enters guilty plea to intimidation charge against counsel Gazmend HALILAJ**

28/10/2020 – 09:38

**In the preliminary hearing held on Wednesday Sami LUSHTAKU entered a guilty plea to the intimidation charge against counsel Gazmend HALILAJ. In addition, his cousin Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and the accused Xhelal ZEQRIRI entered guilty pleas for possession of weapons without certificate, and they pleaded not guilty to other charges.**

According to the charge, Sami LUSHTAKU is charged with the offence of intimidation whereas Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI are charged with aggravated attempted murder. In addition, the latter are charged with possession of weapons without certificate, and Ibrahim LUSHTAKU for destruction or damage of property.

Sami LUSHTAKU is accused that after the injured party Gazmend HALILAJ posted an article on social media, Facebook, on 11 April 2020, which alleges that Sami LUSHTAKU is behind the misuse of DEM 1,4 million during the war, the latter called HALILAJ on the phone and asked him to remove the article by swearing at him with the purpose of intimidation and threatened him with the words: “Where are you, because I will not leave you alone until I’ll bury you down”, thus causing fear and anxiety to the injured party.

For this action, Sami LUSHTAKU is charged with the offence of “Threat” pursuant to article 181 paragraph 2 of the Penal Code. Punishment for the offence is a fine or imprisonment of up to one year. According to the indictment, after counsel Gazmend HALILAJ posted this article against Sami LUSHTAKU on social media, Facebook, on 11 April 2020, the latter’s cousin, Ibrahim LUSHTAKU, for revenge and in co-perpetration with the other accused person ZEQRIRI, on 14 April 2020 laid an ambush to HALILAJ.

As soon as they saw HALILAJ, according to the indictment, the accused Ibrahim LUSHTAKU slammed with force the car of the injured party HALILAJ with the intent to kill. At that moment HALILAJ came out of the car and started to run away.

According to the indictment, the accused LUSHTAKU and ZEQRIRI also got out of the car and fired towards HALILAJ but missed, reported *Betimi për Drejtësi* /Oath for Justice/ organisation.

For these actions, the prosecution charged LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI with committing the offence of aggravated attempted murder. Ibrahim LUSHTAKU is also charged with the offence of destruction or damage of property for causing damages up to a value of Euro2,700 to the car of the injured party HALILAJ.

In addition, in contravention of the weapons law, Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI are charged with possession of weapons without certificate. LUSHTAKU is charged with having an “Ekol” type handgun in possession without certificate, whereas ZEQRIRI a “Cervena Zastava” weapon. As a result of this action they are both charged with the offence of “unauthorised ownership, control and possession of weapons”.

Gazeta Express

29/10/2020 9:49

<https://www.gazetaexpress.com/sami-lushtaku-denohet-nga-gjykata-per-kanosjen-e-avokatit-gazmend-halilaj/>

### **Court sentences Sami LUSHTAKU for the intimidation of lawyer Gazmend HALILAJ**

**Former Skënderaj Municipality leader Sami LUSHTAKU was found guilty for the intimidation of counsel Gazmend HALILAJ.**

Judge Alltën MURELI issued LUSHTAKU with Euro2,000 fine for this criminal offence, reports Betimi për Drejtësi /Oath for Justice/.

Former Skënderaj Municipality leader Sami LUSHTAKU was not present in the hearing when the judgement was issued.

LUSHTAKU's sentencing follows a preliminary hearing on 22 October 2020 when he pleaded guilty to the criminal offence of intimidation.

Giving the reasons for this action LUSHTAKU said that counsel Gazmend HALILAJ's articles against him were very damaging and he reportedly said that HALILAJ did that in order to improve his public standing in the Drenica region.

According to LUSHTAKU, after he saw HALILAJ's articles on social media he could not restrain himself so, on the spur of the moment, he called HALILAJ on the phone.

In other news, Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI are also charged in relation to this case. They are both charged with the criminal offence of aggravated attempted murder because, according to the prosecution, they made an attempt to murder the injured party HALILAJ. LUSHTAKU is also charged with the criminal offence of destruction or damage of property.

However, both Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI pleaded not guilty to these offences, so the legal proceedings against them will continue. In addition, LUSHTAKU and ZEQRIRI are charged with possession of weapons without a certificate. They both pleaded guilty to this charge during a preliminary hearing.



According to the indictment, Sami LUSHTAKU is charged with the criminal offence of intimidation, whereas Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI are charged with aggravated attempted murder. In addition, the latter are both charged with possession of weapons without a certificate, whereas Ibrahim LUSHTAKU has an additional charge of destruction or damage of property.

Sami LUSHTAKU is accused that, after the injured party Gazmend HALILAJ posted an article on social media, Facebook, on 11 April 2020, which alleges that Sami LUSHTAKU is behind the misuse of DEM 1,4 million during the war, the latter called HALILAJ on the phone and asked him to remove the article by swearing at him with the purpose of intimidation and threatened him with the words: "Where are you, because I will not leave you alone until I'll bury you down", thus causing fear and anxiety to the injured party.

For this action, Sami LUSHTAKU is charged with the offence of "Threat" pursuant to article 181 paragraph 2 of the Penal Code, reports Betimi për Drejtësi. Punishment for the offence is a fine or imprisonment of up to one year.

According to the indictment, after counsel Gazmend HALILAJ posted this article against Sami LUSHTAKU on social media, Facebook, on 11 April 2020, the latter's cousin, Ibrahim LUSHTAKU, for revenge and in co-perpetration with the other accused person ZEQRIRI, on 14 April 2020 laid an ambush to HALILAJ.

As soon as they saw HALILAJ, according to the indictment, the accused Ibrahim LUSHTAKU slammed with force the car of the injured party HALILAJ with the intent to kill. At that moment HALILAJ came out of the car and started to run away. According to the indictment, the accused LUSHTAKU and ZEQRIRI also got out of the car and fired towards HALILAJ but missed.

For these actions, the prosecution charged Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI with committing the offence of aggravated attempted murder.

Ibrahim LUSHTAKU is also charged with the offence of destruction or damage of property for causing damages up to a value of Euro2,700 to the car of the injured party HALILAJ.

In addition, in contravention of the weapons law, Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI are charged with possession of weapons without certificate. LUSHTAKU is



charged with having an “Ekol” type handgun in possession without certificate, whereas ZEQUIRI a “Cervena Zastava” weapon.

As a result of this action they are both charged with the offence of “unauthorised ownership, control and possession of weapons”.

B. <https://insajderi.org/avokati-halilaj-reagon-pas-denimit-te-lushtakut-me-gjobe/>

Insajderi.org

29/10/2020 – 11:01

**Counsel HALILAJ reacts to the sentencing of LUSHTAKU with a fine**

11:01 – 29 October 2020

Counsel Gazmend HALILAJ reacted to the court judgement sentencing Sami LUSHTAKU with a fine.

HALILAJ said in a Facebook post that he will refer this case to the Specialist Chambers in the Netherlands because “/we are dealing with a criminal state where the murderers are motivated to commit other murders /”/.

“Do not worry brothers. As we are dealing with a criminal state where the murderers are motivated to commit other murders I will continue the legal battle at the Specialist Chambers in the Netherlands because the case is related to the year 1999.

“I am Gazmend HALILAJ, and when they face me in front of this Court the ground will shake under their feet! When I say something I do it, I keep the promise,” wrote HALILAJ. (Insajderi.org)

C. <https://insajderi.org/sami-lushtaku-denohet-me-2-mije-euro-gjobe-per-kanosjen-e-avokatit-gazmend-halilaj/>

/inset/

**Court sentences Sami LUSHTAKU with a EURO2,000 fine for the intimidation of lawyer Gazmend HALILAJ**

Former Skënderaj Municipality leader Sami LUSHTAKU was found guilty for the intimidation of counsel Gazmend HALILAJ.

Judge Alltën MURELI issued LUSHTAKU with Euro2,000 fine for this criminal offence, reports Betimi për Drejtësi /Oath for Justice/.

Former Skënderaj Municipality leader Sami LUSHTAKU was not present in the hearing when the judgement was issued.

LUSHTAKU can pay the EURO2,000 fine in two monthly instalments within 2 months.

If he does not pay the fine the punishment will be converted to prison sentence calculated as EURO20 per day in prison.

In addition, LUSHTAKU will pay EURO30 in court expenses and EURO50 to the victim's compensation fund.

The injured party Gazmend HALILAJ can seek a civil lawsuit whereas the unsatisfied parties have the right of appeal.

LUSHTAKU's sentencing follows a preliminary hearing on 22 October 2020 when he pleaded guilty to the criminal offence of intimidation.

Giving the reasons for this action LUSHTAKU said that counsel Gazmend HALILAJ's articles against him were very damaging and he reportedly said that HALILAJ did that in order to improve his public standing in the Drenica region.

According to LUSHTAKU, after he saw HALILAJ's articles on social media he could not restrain himself so, on the spur of the moment, he called HALILAJ on the phone.

In other news, Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI are also charged in relation to this case. They are both charged with the criminal offence of aggravated attempted murder because, according to the prosecution, they made an attempt to murder the

injured party HALILAJ. LUSHTAKU is also charged with the criminal offence of destruction or damage of property.

However, both Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI pleaded not guilty to these offences, so the legal proceedings against them will continue. In addition, LUSHTAKU and ZEQRIRI are charged with possession of weapons without a certificate. They both pleaded guilty to this charge during a preliminary hearing.

According to the indictment, Sami LUSHTAKU is charged with the criminal offence of intimidation, whereas Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI are charged with aggravated attempted murder. In addition, the latter are both charged with possession of weapons without a certificate, whereas Ibrahim LUSHTAKU has an additional charge of destruction or damage of property, reports Betimi për Drejtësi.

Sami LUSHTAKU is accused that, after the injured party Gazmend HALILAJ posted an article on social media, Facebook, on 11 April 2020, which alleges that Sami LUSHTAKU is behind the misuse of DEM 1,4 million during the war, the latter called HALILAJ on the phone and asked him to remove the article by swearing at him with the purpose of intimidation and threatened him with the words: "Where are you, because I will not leave you alone until I'll bury you down", thus causing fear and anxiety to the injured party.

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Punishment for the offence is a fine or imprisonment of up to one year.

According to the indictment, after counsel Gazmend HALILAJ posted this article against Sami LUSHTAKU on social media, Facebook, on 11 April 2020, the latter's cousin, Ibrahim LUSHTAKU, for revenge and in co-perpetration with the other accused person ZEQRIRI, on 14 April 2020 laid an ambush to HALILAJ.

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For these actions, the prosecution charged Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQRIRI with committing the offence of aggravated attempted murder.

Ibrahim LUSHTAKU is also charged with the offence of destruction or damage of property for causing damages up to a value of Euro2,700 to the car of the injured party HALILAJ.

In addition, in contravention of the weapons law, Ibrahim LUSHTAKU and Xhelal ZEQIRI are charged with possession of weapons without certificate. LUSHTAKU is charged with having an "Ekol" type handgun in possession without certificate, whereas ZEQIRI a "Cervena Zastava" weapon.

As a result of this action they are both charged with the offence of "unauthorised ownership, control and possession of weapons".