

Kuzmanovic Obtains Acquittal in International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia's Appeals Chamber

Press Release | 2 min read

Nov 20, 2012

On November 16, 2012, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia's (ICTY's) Appeals Chamber reversed General Ante Gotovina and General Mladen Markač's convictions for crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war and entered verdicts of acquittal. Gen. Markač was the Assistant Minister of the Interior and Operation Commander of the Special Police in Croatia in 1995. [Tomislav Z. Kuzmanovic](#), a Milwaukee-based Partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, was one of the lawyers defending Gen. Markač at trial and on appeal.

The actions for which Gen. Markač was charged occurred during the 1995 "Operation Storm" military offensive in Croatia. The Trial Chamber found Gen. Gotovina and Gen. Markač guilty of committing crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war from July to September 1995 by participating in a joint criminal enterprise to permanently and forcibly remove the Serb civilian population from Croatia's Krajina region. Gen. Gotovina was sentenced to 24 years of imprisonment, and Gen. Markač was sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment.

The Appeals Chamber found that ICTY's Trial Chamber I erred in concluding that: (1) all artillery impact sites located more than 200 meters from a target deemed legitimate served as evidence of unlawful attacks against towns in the Krajina region; and (2) artillery attacks ordered by Gen. Markač and his co-defendant, Gen. Gotovina, were unlawful. The Appeals Chamber also declined to enter convictions against Gen. Gotovina and Gen. Markač on the basis of alternate modes of liability.

Mr. Kuzmanovic, who was awarded the Order of the Croatian "Pleter" by former Croatian President Franjo Tudjman for his contributions toward Croatia's independence, has already successfully defended two defendants before the ICTY. Mr. Kuzmanovic is a member of the Association of Defence Counsel at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ADC-ICTY), and has served on its Executive Board as one of two vice-presidents. The Executive Board is responsible for the administration, finance, policy and representation of the ADC-ICTY before the ICTY and also before the United Nations Security Council. Mr. Kuzmanovic focuses his

practice in the area of complex litigation, with an emphasis on international and human rights law, as well as commercial, construction, premises liability, product liability, transportation, and toxic tort matters.

Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP is a U.S.-based law firm with offices nationwide. The firm's national reputation spans the insurance industry, the financial services sector, professional services, and other highly regulated industries. Hinshaw provides holistic legal solutions—from litigation and dispute resolution, and business advisory and transactional services, to regulatory compliance—for clients of all sizes. Visit www.hinshawlaw.com for more information and follow @Hinshaw on LinkedIn and X.

Related People



Tomislav Z. Kuzmanovic

Partner in Charge of Milwaukee Office

📞 414-225-4816