

# Kosovo picks female president to replace indicted war veteran

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and Jasmina Kuzmanovic  
Bloomberg

Kosovo lawmakers approved U.S.-educated jurist Vjosa Osmani as president, filling the post previously held by an ex-guerrilla who stepped down last year to face charges on war crimes.

Osmani, 38, was elected Sunday with the backing of Premier Albin Kurti, whose anti-establishment Self-Determination Movement won the Feb. 14 elections. Both represent a new generation of leaders in the landlocked Balkan state of 1.8 million people, where politics used to be dominated by wartime leaders of the 1998-99 fight by Kosovo's ethnic Alba-

**OSMANI:** Newly elected president of Kosovo Vjosa Osmani delivers a speech during a parliament session in Pristina on Sunday. Armend Nimani/AFP/Getty Images/Tribune News Service



nian majority for independence from Serbia.

Hashim Thaci, of the now-disbanded Kosovo Liberation Army, resigned as

head of state in November to surrender to a special war crimes court in the Netherlands.

"We have now completed the estab-

lishment of our institutions and enter a new area of sustainability and prosperity," Kurti tweeted after the vote in parliament.

One of Europe's poorest countries, Kosovo declared independence unilaterally in 2008 and still seeks full international recognition, fighting Serbia's refusal to accept the secession and efforts to prevent it from joining world bodies. Both countries need to resolve their disputes to qualify for membership in the European Union.

EU-brokered talks between Serbia and Kosovo have made limited progress since starting more than a decade ago. U.S. and most western nations have recognized Kosovo as a country, while China and Russia support Serbia's stand. Kurti has ruled out normalizing ties with Serbia unless it accepts Kosovo's sovereignty.

Osmani previously served as the head of parliament, and as acting president after Thaci stepped down. She is Kosovo's second female president, after Atifete Jahjaga, who completed her five-year term in 2016.



**TRAGEDY:** Relatives and onlookers look on after several people died when a ferry collided with a cargo vessel and sank on Sunday in the Shitalakhsyaa River in Narayanganj, Bangladesh, on Monday. Mohammad Ponir Hossain/Reuters

## 5 dead, many missing after Bangladesh ferry sinks

DHAKA (Reuters) — A Bangladesh ferry carrying around 50 passengers collided with a cargo vessel and sank on Sunday in the Shitalakhsyaa River south of the capital Dhaka, leaving at least five people dead and many more missing, officials said.

The ferry, which departed from Narayanganj district about 20 km (12 miles) from Dhaka, was traveling to Munshiganj, police official Kabir Hossain said.

"The rescue operation for those missing is ongoing," he said, adding some of the passengers managed to swim ashore.

The boat was packed with people rushing to go to their hometown after the government announced a weeklong nationwide lockdown from Monday to tackle a spike in the COVID-19 cases.

Bangladesh reported a record daily jump of 7,087 coronavirus infections on Sunday, taking its total number of cases to 637,364 with 9,266 deaths.

Hundreds of people die each year in ferry accidents in Bangladesh, a low-lying country that has extensive inland waterways but lax safety standards.



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SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje  
T Muna'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan  
36th Guam Legislature



Committee on Health,  
Land, Justice and Culture

OVERSIGHT HEARING • THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 • 3:00 PM

GUAM ANCESTRAL LANDS COMMISSION, FOR UPDATES ON:

**A. Identification of ancestral landowners** of federal excess properties returned, designated for return, or requested to be returned to Guam pursuant to:

- Department of Navy's 2011 Net Negative commitment and Navy's June 2017 Report to Congress Net Negative Policy Guam ;
- 2019 NDAA Section 2847;
- JRM Net Negative Inventory of Guam Land pursuant to 2019 NDAA
- GEDA 2019 excess lands report and GEDA 2018 excess lands reports of potentially releasable federal lands; and
- SECNAV Braithwaite Letter to Gov. Leon Guerrero on Excess Lands July 2, 2020

**B. Update on additions** since 2011 to the Guam Ancestral Lands Commission Excess Lands Registry.

**C. Update on non-contacted beneficiaries** of properties listed in GALC Excess Lands Registry or Conditional Awards Registry

**D. Proposed Rules and Regulations** for Land Bank Program extinguishment of claims, award of just compensation.

**ALL DOCUMENTS FOR THIS PUBLIC HEARING CAN BE ACCESSED AT:**  
<https://senatorterlaje.com/>

The Public Hearing will be held both in the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and utilizing the Legislature's virtual hearing platform. Ancestral Landowners interested in attending the hearing to provide testimony in person must contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje at 472-3586 or [senatorterlaje@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlaje@gmail.com). **Registration deadline is 5:00PM on Wednesday, April 7, 2021.** In compliance with the Americans w/ Disabilities Act, Individuals in need of assistance or accommodations should also contact the office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4 or Channel 112-4 for Docomo customers without set top boxes. The hearing will also stream online via Liheslaturan Guåhan's live feed at [http://www.guamlegislature.com/live\\_feed.htm](http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm).