

August 1, 2003

THE HAGUE: LIFE SENTENCE FOR BOSNIAN SERB

The United Nations war crimes tribunal for Yugoslavia imposed a life sentence on Milomir Stakic, a Bosnian Serb who was the mayor of Prijedor and who is a medical doctor, for killing or deporting thousands of Muslims and Croats in 1992. It is the first time the tribunal has handed down a life sentence, the maximum penalty it can impose. Though acquitted of genocide, he was convicted of being a leading figure in a racist campaign of persecution "to achieve the vision of a pure Serbian state," according to a summary of the verdict read in court. The court said he was instrumental in establishing the concentration camps in Bosnia. (AP)

Copyright 2003

The New York Times Company