

**Mr. Sandër Lleshaj** was born on 25 January 1963. He is married to Mrs. Violeta Lleshaj, a teacher by profession. They are parents of two children Dorotea and Anton.

### **Education and qualification**

Mr. Lleshaj graduated from the Officers Academy in Tirana, in 1985. In 1999, he completed the General Staff Officer studies and the Course of European Security Studies at the Leadership Academy in Hamburg, Germany. In 2012 he completed his PhD studies in Tirana.

Mr. Lleshaj has gone through a complete cycle of qualifications, in and out of the country. In 1996, he completed the Commander Course in Air Defense in Germany. In 2008, he completed a senior level qualification with the George C. Marshall European Center of Security Studies, in Germany. In 2011, he completed the Senior International Course on Defense Management at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, USA.

### **Professional Career**

Upon completion, in 1985, of the Military Academy in Tirana, Mr. Lleshaj has served in the Air Defense. In 1992, he was appointed Commander of the Air Defense Regiment. His career continued with the Defense Academy as Commander of Courses.

In 2000, as a Colonel, he was appointed Commander of the “Skënderbej” Military Academy. He served in this duty until 2003, when he was appointed Defense Attaché of the Republic of Albania to the Federal Republic of Germany. During this period, he also served as non-resident Defense Attaché to the Czech Republic and Hungary.

In 2006, he was appointed Commander of the Training and Doctrine Command. In 2009, he was promoted to the senior rank of Brigadier General and in 2010 he was appointed Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces.

In May 2013, he retired from the Armed Forces. From September 2013 to November 2018, Mr. Lleshaj served as Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Albania.

He was appointed Minister of Interior on 23 November 2018.

Minister Lleshaj speaks three foreign languages and is the author of a number of publications.