



Press Update

Welcome to the weekly press briefing of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, where we aim to provide journalists with an update on the latest developments at the court, and the opportunity to ask questions.

In the Pjetër Shala case, the Appeals Panel has scheduled the pronouncement of the Appeals judgment in the case for Tuesday, 15 July 2025 at 10:00 am.

The Trial Panel found Mr. Shala guilty of the war crimes of arbitrary detention, torture and murder on 16 July 2024 and sentenced him to a prison sentence of 18 years, with credit for time served. The judges also issued a reparations order in respect of the victims in this case, ordering Mr. Shala to pay a sum of €208,000 as compensation for the physical, mental and material harm inflicted on the victims of the crimes for which he was convicted.

Mr. Shala appealed the judgment and an appeals hearing was held in May of this year.

The Court of Appeals Panel may affirm, reverse, or revise the judgment of the Trial Panel.

The Shala Defence has also filed a separate appeal against the reparations order.

In the trial of Hashim Thaci, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the Trial Panel decided last week on two requests from the Prosecution for admission of evidence.

In one decision, the Trial Panel granted a motion by the Prosecution to admit into evidence a number of documents concerning alleged murder victims in the case, but rejected a request from the Prosecution to add an additional item to the exhibition list.

In the other decision, the Trial Panel granted in part a request to admit a number of international reports into evidence, admitting some requested by the Prosecution and rejecting others.

In terms of next steps in the case, the Defence teams have indicated their intention to file a motion seeking the dismissal of some or all of the charges. According to Rule 130, the Panel may dismiss some or all charges if there is no evidence capable of supporting a conviction beyond a reasonable doubt. This written submission from the Defence is expected in June, after which the Prosecution will have 30 days to respond.

After this, the Trial Panel will decide on any requests for dismissal of charges. Pending the outcome of this decision, the Defence would indicate whether it plans to present a case and how many witnesses, if any, it plans to call.

