



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 trial of Hashim Thaçi, Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu and Hajredin Kuçi, the Single Trial Judge on 9 June took note of a series of facts agreed upon amongst the parties, which was submitted by the Prosecution. In light of the public nature of the proceedings, the Single Trial Judge ordered the Prosecution to file public redacted versions of certain related submissions and directed the Registry to reclassify other filings as public. The reclassification has already been completed.

In the trial of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the Trial Panel on 8 June granted a request by a participating victim for partial variation of protective measures, finding that the personal circumstances of the victim constitute compelling reasons to do so.

On 10 June, the Trial Panel ordered the continued detention of Hashim Thaçi, finding that the risks that Mr Thaçi, if released, would obstruct the progress of proceedings and commit further crimes, including against witnesses who have provided evidence in the case, continue to exist.

The Panel reminded that Mr Thaçi has the interest and ability to interfere with the proceedings and has allegedly provided non-privileged visitors with information elicited during the testimony of protected witnesses and discussed instructions to be passed on to witnesses about the content of their testimony. In the Panel's view, the release of Mr Thaçi with sensitive information in his possession would not be conducive to the effective protection of witnesses.

The Panel highlighted that such risks exist within a persistent climate of witness intimidation in Kosovo which protective measures alone cannot overcome concluding that it is only at the Specialist Chambers Detention Facility that Mr Thaçi's communication can be restricted in a manner that would sufficiently mitigate the identified risks.

In the Pjetër Shala case, the Constitutional Court Panel decided on 5 June that the working language for the proceedings concerning Mr Shala's referral related to the Reparations Order will be English, considering that the referral was submitted in English. The Registry shall provide official translations and interpretation in Albanian and Serbian.

The Constitutional Court directed the Prosecution to respond to the referral by 15 June and Mr Shala to reply to the Prosecution's response by 10 July. The Panel further instructed the parties to file public redacted versions of their previous submissions or request their reclassification as public, which they did. The Panel also asked the parties to either file future filings publicly or to submit a public redacted version thereof.





The Specialist Chambers has launched a series of explanatory videos on its website and social media channels providing accurate, first-hand information about its mandate, proceedings, and activities. Aimed particularly at audiences in Kosovo, the videos address common misconceptions and are meant to provide a better understanding of the court's work.

