



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 case of Hashim Thaci, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the fourth witness called by the Thaci Defence, James Covey, finished his testimony last Thursday. The next hearing in the trial is scheduled for Monday 27 October at 09:00 am.

In the case of Hashim Thaci, Isni Kilaj, Bashkim Smakaj Fadil Fazliu, and Hajredin Kuçi, related to allegations of the illegal influencing of witnesses, a public redacted version of the Specialist Prosecutor's 19 September Pre-trial brief was issued this week and can be found on the website. The Pre-trial Brief includes a summary by the prosecution of the evidence which it intends to present at trial for each charge, including transcripts of judicially authorised recordings made in the Detention Unit during visits.

On the basis of these recordings and other evidence, the Prosecution claims in the Pre-trial Brief that during his personal visits to the Detention Unit, Mr. Thaci, "repeatedly, deliberately, and unlawfully disclosed confidential information about SPO witnesses, knowingly revealed their identities and evidence in violation of court orders, and provided specific instructions on how witnesses should testify..." The brief also outlines allegations and evidence to be presented about the role played by the other four accused in this case.

All five accused have pleaded not guilty to all charges. The Pre-trial Judge has also invited the Defence teams to file their own Pre-trial Briefs, should they choose to do so, by 20 October 2025.

As a reminder, the Judge has informed the parties that she intends to transmit the case to a Trial Panel in the first half of November, subject to pending Court of Appeals Panel decisions.

In the same case, a decision by the Single Judge from 2023 was made public last week in which the Judge addressed a Defence request for measures to ensure confidential communications between Mr. Thaci and his lawyers, in light of the special investigative measures that the judge had authorised for certain visits as part of the investigation. The Judge granted the Defence request for assurances that no privileged communications between the accused and his lawyers were recorded. He confirmed that no privileged visits with lawyers were ordered to be recorded and that, having taken note of the relevant reports, the Judge was unaware of any deliberate or inadvertent recording of privileged visits during the relevant time.

On 3 October, and in separate decisions, the Pre-Trial Judge extended detention for Mr. Thaci, Mr. Smakaj, Mr. Fazliu and Mr. Kilaj. As a reminder, the fifth accused in this case, Mr. Kuçi, has not been detained.

For each of the four accused whose detention was extended, the Pre-Trial judge followed the law in assessing whether there is a risk that the accused will flee, obstruct proceedings and/or commit further offences. For each of the accused she concluded that all these risks still exist. She also assessed whether these risks could

1





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be mitigated through measures other than detention, and whether the detention is proportionate. According to the law, fresh reviews of detention for these accused will be conducted within the next two months.

