



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 Trial Panel on 16 October granted in part a request by the Krasniqi Defence to admit into evidence 39 additional exhibits and add two items to their exhibits list. The Panel granted the admission into evidence of 30 exhibits and one additional exhibit in part finding them relevant to the case, authentic at first impression and, given that the parties can make submissions on their weight and probative value, considered them not to be outweighed by any prejudice. The Panel also granted the addition of two items to the exhibits list.

The Panel denied the admission into evidence of 8 items and one in part finding them not to be relevant to the case as they are either not connected to any of the charges in the indictment or they relate to an activity by the KLA in a location not relevant to the charges, or they provide evidence of crimes committed by Serbian forces, which are also not part of the indictment and as such not relevant to the charges.

On 16 October, the Trial Panel granted in part a request by the Prosecution to take judicial notice of 68 facts which have been adjudicated in the case of Pjeter Shala. The Panel took judicial notice of 66 of these facts finding they fulfil the relevant conditions for adjudicated facts as determined in the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. The Panel rejected two facts.

The Defence objected to most of the facts arguing that at this stage of the proceedings its ability to challenge the accuracy of the proposed facts is limited and as such it would compromise the Panel's truth-finding duties. The Panel however noted that it had not been alerted that any of the Defence teams wished to tender any evidence in rebuttal of any of the facts in question adding that if the defence teams wished to do so, the Panel would consider such an application. Given that the facts in question are mostly corroborating in nature, the Panel found that all Defence teams have had, and still have, the opportunity to challenge their accuracy and seek to rebut any of the proposed facts.

The hearings initially scheduled for next week in this case have been cancelled for logistical reasons. The next hearing is scheduled for Monday, 3 November starting at 9 in the morning.

In the case of Hashim Thaci, Isni Kilaj, Bashkim Smakaj Fadil Fazliu, and Hajredin Kuçi, related to allegations of the illegal influencing of witnesses, the Pre-Trial Judge on 17 October granted a request by the Prosecution to disclose to the Defence additional evidence that was obtained past the deadline for disclosure of such material. According to the Prosecution, the said material included extracted data from previously disclosed electronic device and supplements providing additional clarity to previously disclosed items.

The Pre-Trial Judge found that the additional materials provide notable supplementary and contextual information, which will improve the overall understanding and assessment of the evidence introduced by the

1





Prosecution. She also took note that they were identified as subject to disclosure under Rule 102 only in the course of the Prosecution's preparation of its Pre-Trial Brief and recalled that the proceedings were at Pre-Trial stage, where a certain level of flexibility must be maintained.

Mindful of the rights of the accused and for the defence to have sufficient time to prepare for their case, the Pre-Trial Judge noted that the Defence is already familiar with the majority of the additional materials and that they do not present any novel aspects in the case of the prosecution. She also found the materials to be limited in scope, volume and complexity and concluded that permitting their disclosure will not cause any prejudice to the accused.

Also on 17 October, the Pre-Trial Judge rejected a request of the Kilaj defence to extend the deadline to submit their Pre-Trial Briefs based on an announcement by the Prosecution that they will soon disclose material they may find on the seized phone of Mr. Kilaj once it is forensically analysed. The Thaci and Kuci defence joined the request.

The Pre-Trial Judge found Mr. Kilaj's argument that the Prosecution's evidence in support of their case may change once the material on the phone is reviewed misguided and pointed out that at this stage of the proceedings any additional evidence can only be considered supplementary without changing the content and nature of the charges. Mr Kilaj's argument that the Prosecution may file an addendum to their current Pre-Trial Brief, she considered found speculative and premature at this stage assuring the parties that, should that happen, she will take the necessary measures to ensure the fairness of the proceedings and the rights of the accused.

The Pre-Trial Judge recalled that the Defence is under no obligation to file a Pre-Trial Brief at all and did not find that the Defence presented good cause for an extension of the deadline. As such, she invited the Defence again to file their Pre-Trial Briefs, if they wish to do so, by 20 October 2025.

On 16 October the Supreme Court issued a decision on the timelines concerning Mr Pjeter Shala's request for Protection of Legality and ordered the Prosecution and Victims' Counsel to file their respective responses to the request by 3 December 2025 and Mr Shala to file his reply to their responses, if any, by no later than Friday, 16 January 2026.

In other news, the Outreach team of the Specialist Chambers has been in Kosovo this week to explain the mandate and proceedings of the court to interested groups and answer people's questions. They met with law students in Gjilan and Peja and with a local community in Janjevo.

