KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEĆA KOSOVA

Weekly Press Briefing
Chambers and Registry
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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.

On 28 October 2026, the Appeals Panel in the case of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi granted in part a request from the Defence to vary the word limit for the Defence teams' notices of appeal against the Trial Judgment. As a reminder, the deadline for Defence teams to submit their notices of appeal is 27 November 2026. Under the Law and the Rules, the judgment and the sentence can be appealed on the basis of an alleged error of fact or law. After filing a notice of appeal, parties have 60 days to file a more detailed appeal brief.

In the same case, on 27 October 2026, the Trial Panel granted a request by the Defence to extend the word limit for the joint response to the Reparation Request. The Trial Judgment was pronounced on 16 September 2026, at which time the Trial Panel indicated that it would issue a separate scheduling order in due course on the issue of reparations.

On 26 October, in three separate decisions, the Trial Panel ordered that lesser redacted versions of transcripts be made public, covering the testimony of 14 witnesses in the trial. This followed earlier decisions making public previously confidential testimony in relation to 20 witnesses.

These decisions reflect the public nature of the proceedings and the commitment of the judges to transparency. During the Thaçi et al trial, a majority of the witnesses testified entirely or mostly in public session, and 61 witnesses testified without any protective measures. Witness testimony that was initially confidential is reviewed continuously so that more testimonies can be made public later while ensuring the ongoing protection of victims and witnesses.

On 23 October 2026, the Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court delivered its judgment on the referral made by Pjetër Shala, declaring part of his complaints inadmissible, and finding that there had been no violation of the Kosovo Constitution or the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms or the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Among other findings, the Panel held that Mr Shala had benefitted from fair adversarial proceedings. A more extensive summary of the judgment can be found in the Press Release on the KSC website.

In the case of the Specialist Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi, Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu and Hajredin Kuçi, the period of pre-registration to attend 17 November Trial Judgment at the premises of the KSC is now closed. For those who pre-registered before the 27 October deadline, an email will be sent two weeks before the date of pronouncement of the judgment confirming whether or not a place is reserved for you in the public gallery. The judgment can also be followed through the streaming page of the KSC in Albanian, English or Serbian. Pre-registration is not required to follow the hearing online.

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