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.

In the trial of Hashim Thaçi, Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu, and Hajredin Kuçi on the alleged influencing of witnesses, the Single Trial Judge rejected a request by the Thaçi Defence to order the Prosecution to disclose five categories of information. The Thaçi Defence and the Prosecution disagreed on whether the information requested was subject to disclosure obligations.

The Single Trial Judge pointed out that the correct procedure concerning disclosure first requires that the Prosecution provide a detailed notice of any material and evidence in their possession. Based on this notice, the Defence can request the disclosure of specific material and if the Prosecution does not agree, they can bring the issue before the Panel.

The Single Trial Judge therefore ordered the Prosecution to provide an updated notice that lists documents, if any, within the five categories sought by the Thaçi Defence.

The Single Trial Judge pointed out that based on the Rules, there are certain limitations to the disclosure obligations of the Prosecution. These include for example transcripts of internal discussions or internal memoranda.

In this case hearings have been scheduled during the week 11-15 May between 9:30 and 16:30.

On 30 April, the Single Trial Judge granted a request by Isni Kilaj, Bashkim Smakaj and Hajredin Kuci to attend the remaining hearings of the defence case remotely, via video link.

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In the trial of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the Defence of Rexhep Selimi on 23 April 2026 filed a public redacted version of its final trial brief, which had initially been submitted confidentially in January 2026. This is the last Defence final trial brief that had not been public yet.

The Trial Panel in this case is currently deliberating. The timeline for reaching a judgment is specific to each case. The Rules specify that the Trial Panel has 90 days to come to a verdict but may extend their deliberations beyond the 90 days when the circumstances require more time. The exact date for the pronouncement of the verdict in this case is not known yet, but the public will be notified when the Judges set a date.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Evidence (Rule 159), the Trial Panel does not need to “request” any extension. However, it has to provide a decision with reasons for the extension. The Rules do not provide a specific deadline when such a decision has to be issued.

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