



Case Information Sheet

Specialist Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi (Case No. KSC-BC-2020-06)

HASHIM THAÇI



Head of the Political and Information Directorates of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA); Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Kosovo (PGoK) and KLA Commander-in-Chief.

KADRI VESELI



Member of the KLA Political Directorate and Head of the KLA intelligence services; Chief of the Kosovo Intelligence Service and PGoK Minister of the Intelligence Service.

REXHEP SELIMI



Head of the KLA Operational Directorate; KLA Inspector General and by the end of March 1999, upon the formation of the PGoK, PGoK Minister of Public Order/Minister of Internal Affairs.

JAKUP KRASNIQI



Member of the KLA Political Directorate and the official KLA spokesperson; KLA Deputy Commander; PGoK spokesperson.

Indictment	Revised indictment confirmed on 26 October 2020, made public on 5 November 2020. The corrected and amended indictment was filed on 3 September 2021 and another amended indictment was filed on 29 April 2022. On 30 September 2022, the SPO submitted the further amended indictment. A lesser redacted version of the indictment was filed on 27 February 2023. Please find the latest indictment here .
Judges	Pre-Trial Judge: Nicolas Guillou Trial Panel II: Judges Charles Smith III (presiding), Christoph Barthe, Guénaël Mettraux and Judge Fergal Gaynor (reserve judge)
Arrest/Transfer/ Initial appearance	Thaçi: arrested on 5 November 2020 in Kosovo; transferred to The Hague on the same day; initial appearance on 9 November 2020: he pleaded not guilty to all counts; further appearance on 10 May 2022: he pleaded not guilty to the new charges in the amended indictment, filed on 29 April 2022. Veseli: arrested on 5 November 2020 in Kosovo; transferred to The Hague on the same day; initial appearance on 10 November 2020: he pleaded not guilty to all counts; further appearance on 10 May 2022: he pleaded not guilty to the new charges in the amended indictment, filed on 29 April 2022. Selimi: arrested on 5 November 2020 in Kosovo; transferred to The Hague on the same day; initial appearance on 11 November 2020: he pleaded not guilty to all counts; further appearance on 10 May 2022: he pleaded not guilty to the new charges in the amended indictment, filed on 29 April 2022.

	Krasniqi: arrested on 4 November 2020 in Kosovo; transferred to The Hague on the same day; initial appearance on 9 November 2020: he pleaded not guilty to all counts; further appearance on 10 May 2022: he pleaded not guilty to the new charges in the amended indictment, filed on 29 April 2022.
Background information	<p>The charged crimes took place between at least March 1998 through September 1999 in the context of and are associated with an armed conflict between the KLA and forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and the Republic of Serbia, including units of the Yugoslav army, police and other units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other groups fighting on behalf of the FRY and Serbia.</p> <p>According to the indictment, Hashim Thaçi, Veseli, Selimi, Krasniqi, and other members of a joint criminal enterprise shared the common purpose to gain and exercise control over all of Kosovo by means including unlawfully intimidating, mistreating, committing violence against, and removing those deemed to be opponents. Such opponents allegedly included persons who were or were perceived to have been: (a) collaborating or associating with FRY forces or officials or state institutions; or (b) otherwise not supporting the aims or means of the KLA and later the PGoK, including persons associated with the Democratic League of Kosovo and persons of Serb, Roma, and other ethnicities.</p>
Charges	<p>Thaçi, Veseli, Selimi and Krasniqi are charged on the basis of individual criminal responsibility (Article 16(1)(a) of the Law) and on the basis of superior criminal responsibility (Article 16(1)(c) of the Law) with:</p> <p>Crimes against humanity (persecution, imprisonment, other inhumane acts, torture, murder and enforces disappearance of persons as found in Article 13 of the Law); and</p> <p>War crimes (illegal or arbitrary arrest and detention, cruel treatment, torture and murder as found in Article 14 of the Law).</p>
Number of participating victims	140
Status	Trial

Proceedings before the Kosovo Specialists Chambers

PRETRIAL PROCEEDINGS

On 23 April 2020, the President assigned Judge Nicolas Guillou as the Pre-Trial Judge, after receipt of a notification by the Specialist Prosecutor of his intent to initiate proceedings.

On 24 July 2020, the Specialist Prosecutor submitted a revised indictment for confirmation upon order from the Pre-Trial Judge.

On 26 October 2020, the Pre-Trial Judge confirmed the revised indictment against the four accused and issued the arrest warrants and orders for transfer.

On 9, 10 and 11 November 2020, Thaçi, Veseli, Selimi and Krasniqi made their initial appearance before the Pre-Trial Judge, during which they pleaded not guilty to all the charges against them.

On 21 April 2021, the Pre-Trial Judge granted the applications of nine victims and admitted them as victims participating in the proceedings as Group I. On 10 December 2021, 25 May 2022 and 14 December 2022, respectively, the Pre-Trial Judge admitted 11, 12 and 21 new applicants as part of the same Group. On 20 February 2023, the Trial Panel admitted 84 new applicants as part of the same Group. The last Panel's decision on victims' participation was on 10 March 2023, when 3 new applicants were admitted.

On 22 July 2021, the Pre-Trial Judge, in two decisions, granted in part the Defence motions and ordered the SPO to correct and amend the indictment by, inter alia, excluding the joint criminal enterprise III liability for the special intent crimes. The SPO filed the amended indictment on 3 September 2021.

On 17 December 2021, the SPO filed, as strictly confidential and ex-parte, its pre-trial brief. The corrected version of the SPO's pre-trial brief was filed on 24 February 2022 (also as confidential). On 3 April 2023, the SPO filed a public redacted version of its corrected pre-trial brief. Hashim Thaçi filed a public redacted version of his pre-trial brief on 8 November 2022, Kadri Veseli on 13 March 2023 and Selimi and Krasniqi on 8 May 2023.

On 23 December 2021, the Pre-Trial Judge granted the SPO's leave to amend the indictment in order to include a number of new allegations. Following the dismissal of the appeals by Thaci and Veseli against this decision by the Court of Appeals Panel on 22 March 2022, the SPO filed the public redacted version of the amended indictment on 29 April 2022. On 22 July 2022, the Pre-Trial Judge granted, in part, the request by the Thaci Defence alleging defects in the latest indictment and ordered the SPO to file a further amended confirmed indictment, with additional information to the current charges, by 30 September 2022. The additional information relates to names of relevant direct perpetrators, victims and locations in the specific paragraphs of the current indictment.

On 29 September 2022, the Pre-Trial Judge granted the SPO request to withdraw the allegations of crimes in Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality from the indictment and ordered the SPO to reflect this withdrawal of charges in the further amended indictment, which was filed on 30 September 2022. This is currently the operative indictment in this case.

On 30 November 2022, the Pre-Trial Judge notified the President that the case file will be ready for transmission to the Trial Panel on 15 December 2022. On 15 December 2022, the Pre-Trial Judge transmitted the case file to Trial Panel II.

The trial preparation conference took place on 18 January 2023, followed by the Specialist Prosecutor's Preparation Conference on 15 February.

TRIAL PROCEEDINGS

The trial commenced on 3 April 2023.

Specialist Prosecutor's Office	Defence Counsel	Victims' Counsel
Ward Ferdinandusse, Alan Tieger, Clare Lawson	<p>Thaci: Gregory Kehoe (counsel), Dastid Pallaska, Pierre-Richard Prosper, Luka Mišetić, Sophie Menegon, Peter McCloskey, Albert Moskowitz and Joe Reeder (co-counsels)</p> <p>Veseli: Ben Emmerson (Counsel), Andrew Strong and Annie O'Reilly (co-counsels)</p> <p>Selimi: Geoffrey Roberts (counsel), David Young, Geoffrey Roberts, Eric Tully and Rudina Jasini (co-counsels)</p> <p>Krasniqi: Venkateswari Alagendra (counsel), Aidan Ellis and Victor Băieșu (co-counsels)</p>	Group I Simon Laws (counsel), Maria Radziejowska (co-counsel)