



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 a look ahead at next week. This is also an opportunity for reporters to ask a spokesperson of the court any questions they may have.

Following the winter judicial recess period, these weekly briefings will now resume on Thursdays at 14:30.

This week, one of the accused who is detained in the detention facilities of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, Mr. Kadri Veseli, travelled to Kosovo for a custodial visit. The Pre-Trial Judge instructed the Registry to manage this custodial visit to Kosovo for Mr. Veseli to mourn with family, and this was granted on the basis of compelling humanitarian grounds.

During the visit, the accused remained in pre-trial detention and in the custody of the Specialist Chambers. EULEX and Kosovo Police supported the Kosovo Specialist Chambers during the visit.

On 11 January, Mr. Veseli was transferred back to the Detention Facility of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers in The Hague.

Also on 11 January, the hearings restarted in the Gucati and Haradinaj case.

One of the Judges appeared via video link because of the COVID-19 restrictions. According to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, Judges of a Panel should be present at all stages of the proceedings and hearings cannot be held in the absence of a Judge. A reserve Judge can replace a full-time Judge only if the latter is permanently unable to sit in the case, dies or resigns.

The hearings started with the presentation of evidence by the Haradinaj Defence.





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Chambers and Registry**

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The first witness is Mr Haradinaj himself. At the beginning of his testimony, the Panel admitted his statement into evidence. This statement refers to his background, his opinion about the KSC and the SPO, his interpretation of “public interest” and his acts and conduct related to the charged offences. Mr Haradinaj was then questioned by his own Counsel. The Counsel for Mr. Gucati had no questions for Mr Haradinaj. The cross-examination by the Prosecution started on Wednesday and is expected to finish today or tomorrow.

The next witness in the Gucati and Haradinaj case is expected to start their testimony either tomorrow or Monday.

In the case of Pjetër Shala, a preparatory status conference is scheduled to take place tomorrow afternoon, during which the parties will discuss matters that include the disclosure of evidence by the Prosecution to the Defence and the status of investigations by the parties.

The trial of Salih Mustafa will resume on Tuesday, 18 January, with the testimony of witness W04485, called by the Specialist Prosecutor’s Office. This witness is expected to testify with protective measures, including voice and face distortion.

Journalist Questions

There were no questions asked

