

Weekly Press Briefing Chambers and Registry N°31/2022 The Hague, 01/09/2022

## **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.

The Pre-trial Judge has scheduled the next status conference in the case of Hashim Thaci, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi for next Thursday, 8 September at 13:30, and asked the parties and Victims' Counsel to make any written submissions ahead of the hearing by next Monday.

Among the issues on the agenda for next Thursday's hearing, the judge has asked for updates on the status of disclosure of evidence by the Specialist Prosecutor's Office to the Defence, the status of Defence investigations, and whether Victims' Counsel intends to present evidence.

On 26 August, the Pre-trial Judge issued a decision on requests by the Defence teams to appeal several issues related to the handling of confidential information and contact with witnesses. In his latest decision on this matter, the judge granted that some of the issues could be appealed, while also rejecting the request to appeal several other issues.

The President of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers has assigned a Court of Appeals Panel to consider these appeals.

In the trial of Salih Mustafa, the Trial Panel has set the agenda for closing statements.

The agenda, which may be subject to changes, specifies that the prosecution's closing statement will take place on 13 September, followed by the statements of the Victims' Counsel and the Defence on 14 September. Responses, questions from the Trial Panel and statements on reparations by both parties are scheduled to take place on 15 September.



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Yesterday, Judge Michael Bohlander submitted his resignation from the Roster of International Judges of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers to President Ekaterina Trendafilova.

Judge Bohlander, who resigned for personal reasons, stated that he was honoured to have served as a Judge of the KSC.

President Trendafilova expressed her sincere gratitude for Judge Bohlander's contribution to the mandate of the KSC, including, most recently, as a member of the first Supreme Court Panel.

We would like to remind all interested law students in Kosovo that the KSC Essay Competition remains open for submissions until 30 November. Students may select a topic of their choosing as long as it is legal in nature and relates to the Kosovo Specialist Chambers. Essays may be submitted in any of the three languages of the court: Albanian, English or Serbian. More information can be found on our website.

**Journalist Questions**No questions asked.



