



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 case of Salih Mustafa, KSC President Ekaterina Trendafilova on 7 February assigned a Court of Appeals Panel to decide on Mr Mustafa's appeal against the trial judgement issued on 16 December 2022. The deadline for the Defence to file its appeal brief is 6 April. The Court of Appeals Panel is composed of Judges Michèle Picard, Kai Ambos and Nina Jørgensen.

In the *Thaçi et al.* case, the KSC President on 3 February assigned a Court of Appeals Panel to decide on an interlocutory appeal filed by Counsel for denied victims' applicants against the Pre-Trial Judge's fourth decision on victims' participation from 12 December in which he rejected a number of applications from individuals who wanted to be admitted as victims in the proceedings.

Based on the Rules, persons who applied to participate in the proceedings as participating victims and whose applications have been rejected, have the right to appeal the decision. The Court of Appeals Panel is composed of Judges Michèle Picard, Emilio Gatti and Kai Ambos. The Panel granted Counsel's request for an extension of time to file a joint appeal on behalf of the entire group of denied applicants, as it would be more expeditious. The Panel set the deadline for the appeal for 15 February or seven days after all denied applicants have been notified of the Pre-Trial Judge's decision, whichever is later.

The Prosecution preparation conference in this case is scheduled for 15 February starting at 9:30. The hearing can be attended from the KSC's public gallery or through the streaming function on the KSC website in the three languages of the court, Albanian, Serbian and English.

In the *Pjetër Shala* case, the Trial Panel on 6 February ordered Mr. Shala's continued detention. The Panel found that the risks of obstructing the progress of proceedings and of committing further crimes continue to exist. The Panel further concluded that it is only through the communication monitoring framework at the KSC Detention Facilities that these risks can sufficiently be mitigated. Weighed against the serious nature of the charges against the Accused, the impossibility to mitigate the risks outside the KSC Detention facilities and considering that the trial opens on 21 February, the Panel found that the time the Accused has been in detention is reasonable.

The opening statements in the Shala case are scheduled for 21 and 22 February 2023. To follow the hearing from the public gallery, pre-registration is required. More information about this can be found on the KSC website. The hearing can also be followed through the streaming function on the KSC website in the three languages of the court.





In other news, the KSC outreach team has this week been meeting with highschool students in Pristina and with civil society in Gorazdevac/ Gorazhdevc and Lipjan/Lipljan to provide accurate information about the KSC and respond to people's questions and concerns.

Journalist Questions

No questions asked.

