



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 Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the Prosecution preparation conference was held yesterday, during which the Trial Panel put questions to the parties regarding the number of witnesses the Prosecution intends call, the time the Prosecution estimates it will need for the presentation of its evidence, the status of disclosure, and a number of other issues related to the case.

The Trial Panel also issued an oral order postponing the start of opening statements in this case, as requested by the Defence. The Judges ordered that the trial will commence on 3 April with the opening statements and not on 1 March, as previously announced. Opening statements will continue on 4 and 5 April, followed by the hearing of evidence on 11 April. The target date for the closing of the Prosecution's case is set for 1 April 2025.

The Trial Panel also scheduled a status conference in the *Thaçi et al.* case for 20 March at 9:00 am.

In the same case, the Trial Panel last week ordered the Specialist Prosecutor's Office and the Defence teams to review certain confidential filings with a view to making these public if possible, along with any necessary redactions. In its decision, the Trial Panel emphasised the principle that the proceedings are public, except where redactions are necessary, for example for the protection of witnesses.

Opening statements in the Pjetër Shala case are scheduled to take place next Tuesday and Wednesday, 21 and 22 February, beginning at 9:30 on both days. To follow the hearing from the public gallery, pre-registration is required. The deadline for pre-registration is today. More information can be found on the KSC website. The hearing will also be streamed on the KSC website and can be followed in Albanian, Serbian or English, with a 45-minute delay.

In the same case, on 9 February, the Trial Panel decided that reparation and criminal proceedings will be conducted concurrently and that, in case of a conviction, the Trial Panel will not refer victims to civil litigation in Kosovo. Instead, the Panel will issue an order on reparations. This is the same approach on reparations taken by the Trial Panel in the *Salih Mustafa* case.

In the case of Salih Mustafa, a pre-appeal conference took place today. The Rules provide for such a hearing to be convened in order to allow a person in custody pending appeal the opportunity to raise any issues, including the person's mental and physical condition. A public redacted version of the Defence notice of appeal can now be found on the KSC website.





KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEĆA KOSOVA

**Weekly Press Briefing
Chambers and Registry**
N°6/2023
The Hague, 16/02/2023

Journalist Questions
No questions asked.

