



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 Pjetër Shala, on 24 February the Trial Panel issued a decision on the conduct of trial proceedings. In this decision, the Judges determined that the Prosecution will have a total of 53.5 hours to present its case. The Prosecution intends to rely on 19 witnesses, 14 of whom are expected to testify in court.

The Defence will be given the same amount of time to cross-examine each witness as the Prosecution uses for questioning that witness. Victims' Counsel shall be allocated 25 per cent of the time effectively used by the Prosecution to question the witness.

In its decision the Trial Panel also made some changes to scheduled hearing dates in May and June. The latest scheduled public hearing dates in all of the cases before the KSC can be found on the court calendar on the KSC website.

In the same case, the Trial Panel issued a decision on the rules for familiarizing witnesses with the courtroom setting prior to their testimony.

In the *Thaçi et al.* case, on 27 February, the Specialist Prosecutor filed a public lesser redacted version of the amended indictment, which is available on our website.

Under the KSC Law and Rules, accused persons have the right to a fair and public hearing. Based on this principle, confirmed indictments are public, but may include redactions where necessary, for example for the protection of witnesses.

In light of the principle of publicity, confidential filings, including redacted indictments, are regularly reviewed and redactions may be removed, after careful review and on a case-by-case basis, whenever the original reason justifying the redaction no longer applies.

Journalist Questions

