



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.

On 6 March, the Trial Panel in the *Pjetër Shala* case published its latest decision on victims' participation outlining the manner in which victims can participate in the proceedings. The Trial Panel also decided that persons who suffered harm as a direct result of a crime listed in the confirmed indictment can continue to apply to participate in the proceedings as participating victims until after the Prosecution has completed the presentation of its case. Currently there are eight victims participating in this case.

In the *Thaçi et al.* case, the Trial Panel on 6 March decided to transmit to the Defence relevant parts of the application forms of dual status witnesses who are among the first twelve witnesses the Prosecution intends to call. A dual status witness is a witness who is also a participating victim in the case. The Panel considered it necessary to provide this information to ensure the fair and expeditious conduct of proceedings.

In the same case, the Registrar notified the Trial Panel that she had assigned four lawyers to represent individuals whose applications to participate in the proceedings as victims had been denied as reflected in the Trial Panel's Fifth Decision on Victims' Participation. Individuals who applied to participate in the proceedings as participating victims and whose applications have been denied by the Trial Panel, have the right to be assigned a lawyer and appeal the decision.

On 2 March, the Trial Panel denied a motion by the Thaçi Defence to reduce the charges in the indictment, noting among other things that it had already recently invited the Prosecution to narrow the charges in the indictment.

Journalist Questions

