



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 first witness called by the prosecution in the trial of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Jakup Krasniqi and Rexhep Selimi testified this week with protective measures, mostly in private session. The witness was questioned by the Prosecution and cross-examined by the Defence teams.

All trials before the KSC are public, however sometimes judges will decide to conduct part of the trial hearing in a so-called private session or to redact certain information to protect the identity and security of witnesses or victims.

The decision to conduct the hearing in a private session in order to protect witnesses is carefully considered by the judges on a case-by-case basis.

The judges make sure to balance the need to protect witnesses with the rights of the accused. For example, even when a witness testimony is not public, the lawyers of the accused have the right to cross-examine the witness.

Today's hearing in the *Thaçi, et al* trial is scheduled to conclude at 16:00. The presentation of evidence by the Specialist Prosecutor's Office will resume next Monday, 17 April, at 9:00 am.

In the Pjetër Shala case, the Trial Panel ordered the continued detention of the accused on 6 April. The Trial Panel found that the risk of Mr. Shala obstructing the proceedings or committing further crimes continues to exist. The Trial Panel further concluded that detention remains necessary and reasonable, because these risks cannot be sufficiently mitigated by the application of reasonable alternative measures, but only through the communication monitoring framework applicable at the KSC detention facilities.

Last week, the KSC met with NGOs from Kosovo and Serbia to discuss the court's outreach programme and how to reach as many people as possible with accurate information about the court and the opportunity to ask questions and express their views.

Journalist Questions

