



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 Wednesday, 10 May, the fourth witness called by the Specialist Prosecutor's Office in the Hashim Thaçi et al. case began their testimony, which has so far been conducted in private session.

In the same case, on 8 May, the Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi Defence teams filed public redacted versions of their pre-trial briefs, which can be accessed on the KSC website.

Under the Rules, a Defence pre-trial brief may indicate in general terms the nature of the Accused's defence, the charges and matters which the Accused disputes and a list of potential witnesses the Defence intends to call.

In the Salih Mustafa case, a public redacted version of the Defence's appeal brief is available on the KSC website. The original version of the brief was filed on 24 April. The appeal brief is the document in which the Defence sets out all of the arguments and authorities in support of the appeal against the trial judgment.

The next step in the appeals process is for the Prosecution and Victims' Counsel to respond to the arguments of the Defence. On 5 May 2023, the Court of Appeals Panel granted in part the request by the Prosecution and the Victims' Counsel for an extension of time to file their briefs in response to the Defence's appeal brief by 5 June 2023.

In the case of Hysni Gucati and Nasim Haradinaj, as reported last week, both Gucati and Haradinaj have addressed the Supreme Court Chamber of the KSC with a request for protection of legality in relation to the judgment of the Court of Appeals Panel in that case. On 8 May, the Supreme Court Panel ordered the Haradinaj Defence to refile its request, finding that it was over the word limit. Haradinaj's Defence resubmitted its request on 10 May.

In terms of next steps, the Supreme Court Panel has ordered the Prosecution to file any response to the Defence submissions on protection of legality within 60 days and the Defence will have 30 days thereafter to reply to the Prosecution.

In the Pjetër Shala trial, a Court of Appeals Panel addressed the issue of the admissibility of prior statements given by the Accused in 2016 and in 2019 as well as other related items. The Panel granted one of the issues appealed by the Defence in part, while upholding the Trial Panel's decision to consider the relevant prior statements as admissible.

Journalist Questions

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