



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 1 June 2023, The Judges of the Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court have unanimously elected Judge Stensland as the Presiding Judge of the Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court for a one year term starting on 1 June 2023.

On 2nd June, the SPO announced in a press releases that Ms Kimberly West, a former US federal prosecutor with extensive experience in both domestic and international criminal investigations, has been selected Specialist Prosecutor after a process organised by the European Union.

KSC President Ekaterina Trendafilova in a press release congratulated Ms West on her appointment and expressed her confidence that she will “significantly contribute to the efficient fulfilment of the Office’s mandate.” Judge Trendafilova also observed that with the appointment of Ms West, the KSC and the SPO have three female Principals, which demonstrates the progress that has been made in the field of international criminal law.

On 6 June 2023, Trial Panel I has ordered the continued detention of Mr Shala. The Panel found that there continues to be a risk that the accused may obstruct the progress of proceedings or commit further crimes. The Panel further found that these risks can only be sufficiently mitigated through the communication monitoring framework applicable at the KSC detention facility.

In the same case, and following the completion of the testimony of the seventh witness on Tuesday, the trial was adjourned for the week. The next hearing in this case is scheduled for Friday, 16 June, starting at 9:30 in the morning.





In the Thaci et al. case, Trial Panel II on 6 June rejected the SPO request to caution Co-counsel for Mr Thaçi, Mr Dastid Pallaska, for public statements made during a TV show. The Panel found that Mr Pallaska's statements to the Kosovo TV channel RTK, "while often uninformed and inaccurate" did not amount to an attempt to knowingly mislead the public or influence the Panel's decision nor did it disclose confidential information.

As regards Mr. Pallaska's false statement that the KLA was on trial, the Panel indicated that it will consider any future public statements by Counsel suggesting that the KLA is on trial as having knowingly been made in contradiction with judicial statements.

The Panel also directs Mr Thaci's lead counsel to bring this decision to the attention of Mr Pallaska and remind co-counsel and other team members of their obligations under the Code of Conduct and Order on the Conduct of Proceedings and issue warnings where appropriate.

The next hearing in this case is scheduled for Monday, 12th June starting at 9:00 in the morning.

Journalist Questions

