



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 Pjetër Shala trial, hearings took place on Monday and Tuesday of this week. The ninth witness called by the Prosecution in this case, a forensic medical expert, testified.

On Tuesday, 27 June, the Trial Panel issued two oral orders in this case: the first regarding the cross-examination by the Defence of the expert witness and the second regarding a request by the Defence to postpone the closing of the Prosecution's case.

In relation to the current expert witness, the Defence had requested that the Trial Panel postpone the start of cross-examination so that the Defence would have adequate time to consult with their expert and prepare for the questioning of the witness. The Trial Panel therefore decided to postpone the cross-examination of the witness until Monday, 3 July.

However, with a view to ensuring the efficient and expeditious conduct of the proceedings, the Panel urged the Defence to make sure that it will be in a position to consult its own experts, if necessary, throughout the hearings next week, in view of the upcoming testimony of two expert witnesses.

In a separate oral order, the Trial Panel ruled on the Defence's request to postpone the closing of the Prosecution's case. The Defence would like to challenge a decision to admit into evidence the written testimony of two witnesses rather than hearing them live, and they had asked the Trial Panel to postpone the closing of the Prosecution's case until this matter is decided. The Trial Panel rejected the Defence's request to postpone the closing of the Prosecution's case, finding that this would not be in the interests of the efficient conduct of the proceedings.

The trial of Pjetër Shala adjourned for this week and will resume next Monday, with hearings scheduled through all of next week.

Hearings in the *Thaçi et al.* trial resume the week after next, starting on 10 July.

Journalist Questions

