



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 *Thaçi et al.* trial, the 12th witness called by the Prosecution delivered their testimony on Monday and Tuesday of this week, answering questions from the Prosecution and from Defence teams. The witness testified under protective measures about their alleged detention and mistreatment by members of the KLA in 1998. Given that the testimony was held mostly in private session, and to ensure greater publicity of the hearing, the Trial Panel authorised the Prosecution to read a summary of the witness's testimony in open session.

The testimony of the 13th witness called by the Prosecution began on Tuesday and is ongoing. The witness, whose testimony has been public, is Mr Rustem Mustafa, former KLA Commander of the Llap Operational Zone.

Hearings in this trial continue tomorrow and next week until Thursday, 20 July.

In the trial of Pjetër Shala, the Prosecution closed its case on Thursday, 6 July 2023. On the same day, the Defence gave notice of its intention to file a motion to dismiss certain charges against the accused as well as its intention to present its case. The Trial Panel set the deadline for the motion to dismiss certain charges to Thursday, 24 August at 16:00 and ordered the Prosecution and Victims' Counsel to respond to the motion, if they so wish, by Monday, 4th September.

According to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence before the KSC, immediately after the closing of the Specialist Prosecutor's case, the Defence shall notify the Trial Panel if it intends to file a motion to dismiss any or all of the charges in the indictment. The Judges may decide to dismiss some or all of the charges if they determine that there is no evidence capable of supporting a conviction beyond a reasonable doubt.

Pending the outcome of the motion to dismiss certain charges, the Panel has determined that Victims' Counsel's presentation of evidence and the Defence preparation conference will take place between 21 and 25 August. Finally, the Trial Panel has set 18 September as the target date for the Defence to commence with the presentation of its case, including the calling of witnesses.

In the same case, on 11 July, the Trial Panel authorised, among others, the reclassification as public parts of the transcripts of trial hearings held in private session on 2 and 3 May 2023. In the interest of the publicity of proceedings, the Judges regularly order the review of redactions and confidential proceedings so that information may be made public later when the reasons for its confidentiality no longer apply.

Journalist Questions

1

