



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 case of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the trial adjourned last Thursday. The 36th witness called by the Prosecution, Mr Sadik Halitjaha, is expected to continue his testimony at the next scheduled hearing in this case on 4 December.

In the same case, On 17 November, the Specialist Prosecutor's Office submitted an urgent request for modification of detention conditions for Mr Thaci, Mr Veseli and Mr Selimi. A public redacted version of the request was issued yesterday and can be accessed on the KSC website.

In this filing, the Prosecution claims that the accused have violated the Trial Panel's orders by revealing the identities of protected witnesses and/or disseminating the content of confidential testimony to persons visiting them at the Detention Centre. The Prosecution also claims that investigations have revealed further attempts to obstruct the proceedings, including the issuing of instructions on how witnesses should testify and planned approaches to witnesses.

Also in the Thaçi et al case, a public redacted version of the Decision on Duty Counsel's Request for Adjournment of W04577's Testimony was issued yesterday and is available on the website. It relates to the 29th witness called by the Prosecution in this case. In the decision, the Panel granted the Duty Counsel's request to adjourn the witness's testimony, considered the finding of the psychologist of the Witness Protection and Support Office that the witness was not presently fit to testify and that the Parties did not oppose the Duty Counsel's Request. The Trial Panel granted the adjournment of the witness's testimony until further notice and until such time when the Panel is satisfied that the witness is fit to testify.

Hearings are being held this week and next in the Pjetër Shala trial. On 20, 21 and 22 of November, the fifth witness, Mr. Zijadin Hoxha testified. On 22 November, the sixth witness called by the Defence, Ms. Safete Hadergjonaj started her testimony, and finished it today. The seventh witness called by the Defence, Time Kadrijaj, began her testimony today.

On 20 November, the Trial Panel decided on the continued detention of Pjetër Shala. The judges found that there continues to be a risk that the accused will obstruct proceedings and/or commit further crimes including against witnesses who have provided or are yet to provide evidence in the case. On the question of conditional release, the Panel considered that these risks can only be sufficiently mitigated through the communication monitoring framework applicable at the KSC Detention Facilities.

Journalist Questions

There were no questions asked.

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