



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 Salih Mustafa case, the Court of Appeals Panel has scheduled the pronouncement of the Appeal Judgment for Thursday, 14 December 2023 at 9:30.

The pronouncement of the Appeal Judgment will be a public hearing and can be followed through the streaming function on the KSC website in Albanian, English or Serbian. Pre-registration will be required for persons wishing to follow the hearing from the public gallery at the court.

According to the KSC Law, the Appeals Panel may affirm, reverse or revise the Judgment of the Trial Panel.

In the Pjetër Shala trial, on 23 and 24 November, the seventh witness called by Defence, Ms. Time Kadrijaj, testified. Her testimony was related to the relevant period when she was a doctor within the Kosovo Liberation Army. On 27 November, the eighth witness called by the Defence, Mr. Andre De Villiers Horne testified. This witness testified as a forensic expert. The ninth witness called by the Defence, testified on 28 and 29 November via video-conference link with protective measures.

At the end of yesterday's hearing the Trial Panel set 15 January 2024 as the target date for the closing of the Defence case. The next hearing in the trial is scheduled for 9 January 2024, when a new witness called by the Defence is expected to start their testimony.

On 22 November 2023, President Trendafilova assigned a Constitutional Court Panel to rule on the referral filed by the Defence of Nasim Haradinaj. The Panel invited the Prosecution to respond to the referral by 22 January 2024, and the Haradinaj Defence to reply, if they wish, within 21 days. The referral was filed as confidential, and the Panel ordered the Defence to file a public redacted version of the referral.

In the Thaci et al case, as many media have already reported, on 17 November the Trial Panel ordered temporary restrictions on the communications and visits that Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, and Rexhep Selimi may receive. The interim decision was taken following the Prosecution request for modification of the conditions of detention. It does not affect visits and communications for the other seven detainees in the Detention Facilities.

The decision temporarily prohibits visits to these three accused by non-privileged individuals, and requires that any request for communication with a non-privileged person during that period shall be subject to prior authorisation by the Registrar.

The Panel determined the restrictions are appropriate given the risk of unlawful disclosure of confidential information from the detention facilities.

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The restrictions are temporary until the Panel issues a full decision on the merits of the Prosecution's request.

In the same case, the Trial Panel granted on 27 November the Specialist Prosecutor's Request Concerning Post-Testimony Witness Contact, which relates to contacts between one party and witnesses called by the other party after a witness has already testified or after their prior statements have been admitted.

The next trial hearing in this case is scheduled for Monday, 4 December at 10:00.

Kosovo Specialist Chambers President Ekaterina Trendafilova addressed civil society and journalists yesterday at an outreach event in Pristina. During the event, she answered questions, listened to people's concerns and explained the mandate and the work of the Court. She also spoke with law students and met with NGO representatives. Outreach has been an integral component of the KSC's communication strategy since the Court began its work.

Journalist Questions

There were no questions asked.

