



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 trial of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the 45th witness called by the Prosecution began his testimony last Thursday afternoon. The witness, former KLA member Hajrush Kurtaj, is testifying without protective measures. The next scheduled hearing in the trial is to take place on 20 February at 09:00.

In the same case, on 7 February the Trial Panel decided that parts of the transcripts of some trial hearings held in private session in November 2023 and January 2024 can be made public. This follows the Judges' earlier order for the Prosecution, Defence and Victims' Counsel to undertake, on a rolling basis, a revision of the transcripts to see if existing redactions can be lifted and transcripts reclassified as public, with a view to respecting the principle of publicity while upholding the protective measure for witnesses and victims.

On 2 February, in the same case, the Trial Panel granted in part the Prosecutor's request to withhold certain documents because they contain confidential and sensitive information requiring protection under Article 58 of the KSC Law and Rule 107(1), which relates to third states or international institutions. This rule provides that if the Specialist Prosecutor has custody or control over information which has been provided on a confidential basis and solely for the purpose of generating new evidence, such information and its origin shall be protected. The initial material or information shall not be disclosed without the consent of the provider and shall, in any event, not be tendered into evidence without prior disclosure to the accused.

In the case of Sabit Januzi and Ismet Bahtijari, the Specialist Prosecutor's Office filed its pre-trial brief on 2 February, as ordered by the Pre-trial Judge. The brief was filed as confidential to safeguard previously authorised protective measures and the Prosecution has said that it will file a public redacted version in due course. The filing of the pre-trial brief is an important step in the process leading to the trial. It contains, for each charge, a summary of the evidence which the Specialist Prosecutor intends to present regarding the commission of the alleged crime and the alleged mode of liability of the accused.

On 5 February 2024, the Court of Appeals Panel denied Sabit Januzi's appeal against the Pre-Trial Judge's decision rejecting his application for provisional release. The Judges found that the Pre-Trial Judge did not err in concluding that on the basis of the information before him, no additional measures which could be reasonably considered, could sufficiently mitigate the identified risks of obstruction and commission of further crimes.





Journalist Questions

There were no questions asked.

