



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.

On 26 February, the Court of Appeals Panel denied Isni Kilaj's appeal against the Pre-Trial Judge's 5 January decision on detention. The Appeals Panel confirmed the Pre-Trial Judge's finding that the conditions proposed by the Defence, including proposed bail, would be insufficient to mitigate the risk that Mr Kilaj would abscond, obstruct the progress of proceedings or commit further offences.

In the trial of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the 47th witness called by the Prosecution testified on Monday. This was a protected witness who, according to the summary read out by the Prosecution in court, was a resident of Prizren, who was taken and detained by KLA members in June 1999.

On Wednesday, the 48th witness called by the Prosecution testified via video link with protective measures. According to the summary, this witness was also a resident of Prizren, taken and detained by KLA members in June 1999.

In the same case, on 27 February the Trial Panel issued its decision on Rexhep Selimi's request for a judicial review of decisions taken by the Registrar related to his visits and communications in the KSC Detention Facilities.

Among its findings, the Trial Panel determined that the Registrar's decision to actively monitor certain telephone calls was within her authority as well as necessary and proportionate, thus rejecting Selimi's request for its reversal. However, the Trial Panel reversed the decision to deny a phone call to the accused from a specific person and ordered the Registrar not to deny such calls unless new circumstances so demand.

As a reminder, on 1 December 2023, the Trial Panel issued a decision on the modification of detention conditions for three accused: Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli and Rexhep Selimi, after it found that they appeared to have disclosed to visitors confidential information received in the context of the proceedings or elicited during the testimony of protected witnesses.

As part of these measures, the Trial Panel ordered that telephone communications with these three accused shall require prior approval by the Registrar and the Judges directed the Registrar prior to authorising calls, to ensure that the would-be interlocutor has not engaged in conduct incompatible with the integrity of the proceedings or the protection of confidential information.

In the same Decision, the Panel also ordered the Registry to engage in active monitoring (of which the Accused is to be notified) of both video and audio visits and communications when the Registrar, in the exercise of her discretion, or under the guidance of the Trial Panel when needed, finds it necessary to ensure

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the integrity of the proceedings, the protection of confidential information and/or to ensure compliance with the measures ordered in the decision.

In other news, the Kosovo Specialist Chambers Outreach team is visiting Kosovo this week where they are meeting with law students and civil society in Pristina, Mitrovica and Velika Hoca. Since 2018, the Outreach team has met with over 3,500 people all over Kosovo, providing information about the court, listening to people's views and answering their questions.

Journalist Questions

There were no questions asked.

