



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 Pjetër Shala, the Trial Panel set the agenda last week for closing statements, which are now scheduled to take place from 15 to 18 April 2024.

According to the current agenda, which is subject to change, the Prosecution is to deliver its closing statement on 15 and 16 April, followed by the statement of Victims' Counsel on 16 April, and the closing statement of Mr. Shala's Defence Counsel on 16 and 17 April.

The subsequent responses of the parties to one another, comments, and questions from the judges should take place on 17 and 18 April. The judges have also scheduled statements, responses and comments on the issue of reparations for 17 and 18 April.

Mr Shala has expressed the wish to speak during the closing statements, and the Trial Panel has instructed that he should make his statement after the parties and Victims' Counsel have completed their submissions.

According to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, after the closing statements, the Presiding Judge shall declare that the case is closed. At this stage, no further submissions may be made to the Panel and the Panel may not receive further submissions or hear evidence unless in exceptional circumstances.

After the closing of the case, the judges of the Trial Panel will deliberate confidentially, in order to reach a judgment on the charges in the indictment. The Trial Judgment shall be pronounced within ninety days of the closing of the case, unless the circumstances require additional time.

Please note that there is currently no hearing scheduled on 19 April, unless ordered otherwise.

In the trial of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the 54th witness called by the Prosecution began their testimony on Tuesday. This was a protected witness whose testimony was held entirely in closed session, as ordered by the Trial Panel for the protection of the witness.

On Wednesday, Shaun Byrnes continued his testimony from last week. Mr Byrnes was the Head of the US Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission from August 1998 until July 1999. Later in the day on Wednesday, the 54th witness returned to the courtroom and has continued their testimony yesterday and today.

In the same case, on 28 March the Trial Panel granted the Selimi Defence Request and extended the time limit for responses to the Prosecution submissions of lists of witnesses and motion for admission of witnesses' evidence.





The next hearing in the Thaci et al trial is scheduled to take place on 22 April at 09:00 am.

Journalist Questions

There were no questions asked.

