



Press 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 Trial Panel issued a decision on 15 July 2026 on Kadri Veseli's renewed request for provisional release and as part of the judges' bi-monthly review of whether detention is necessary and reasonable. The Trial Panel decided to continue Mr. Veseli's detention and deny his request for provisional release.

In its decision, the Trial Panel assessed, based on the relevant standard, that a risk remains that Mr Veseli will obstruct the progress of Specialist Chambers proceedings and commit further crimes against those perceived as being opposed to the Kosovo Liberation Army, including witnesses who have provided evidence in the case.

The judges separately assessed whether these risks could be adequately addressed by any conditions for his release. They found that it is only through the communication monitoring framework applicable at the Specialist Chambers Detention Facilities that the risks of obstruction and commission of further crimes can be sufficiently mitigated. The Trial Panel considered that the recording mechanisms in place at the detention facilities, and the staff of the Registrar, seen as a whole, provide robust assurances against the risk linked with illicit communications. The judges also found that the measures in place offer a controlled environment where a potential breach of confidentiality could be more easily identified and/or prevented.

The Trial Panel additionally considered whether the extension of the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment, scheduled to take place on 16 September, was a relevant factor affecting the reasonableness of detention. In light of several factors, including continuing risks of obstructing the proceedings and of committing further crimes, the Trial Panel found that Mr Veseli's detention for a further two months is necessary and reasonable in the specific circumstances of the case. The Trial Panel acknowledged that Mr Veseli has already been in detention for a significant period of time, and the trial in this case is lengthy.

The judges also highlighted that they have been acting as expeditiously as possible to render the Trial Judgment without delay, noting that the average deliberation time taken across international and internationalised criminal tribunals dealing with this sort of case has been 395.2 days.

In the Thaçi et al case, the case was closed on 18 February 2026, and the judgment is scheduled for 16 September 2026, approximately seven months later. In their decision, the Trial Panel emphasized that it will continue to monitor at every stage of the proceedings whether continued detention is necessary and reasonable.

In the same case, also on 15 July, the Trial Panel decided to extend detention for Jakup Krasniqi and deny his request for provisional release. The judges concluded that there continues to be a risk that Mr Krasniqi will

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obstruct the progress of proceedings and a risk that he will commit further crimes against those perceived as being opposed to the Kosovo Liberation Army, including witnesses.

The Trial Panel also recalled its previous finding, confirmed by the Court of Appeals Panel, that the risk of interference also includes: (i) any attempt to retaliate against witnesses who have testified in these proceedings; and (ii) attempts to incentivise a witness to recant. The judges noted that regardless of the current stage of this case, the release of an accused with sensitive information in his possession would not be conducive to the effective protection of witnesses.

The Kosovo Specialist Chambers continues this week with the publication of a series of videos, “Reflecting on the Specialist Chambers Mandate and Work”, which directly address frequently asked questions about the court. These videos can be accessed in Albanian, Serbian, or English on the KSC homepage, and they can be viewed on the Specialist Chambers’ YouTube, X, and Instagram channels.

