



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.

On 21 September 2026, the Single Trial Judge in the trial of Hashim Thaçi, Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu and Hajredin Kuçi related to the alleged illegal influencing of witnesses lifted an earlier prohibition on Mr. Thaçi receiving non-privileged visits from six named individuals.

By way of background, in July 2025, the Pre-Trial Judge prohibited eleven named persons from visiting Mr. Thaçi in the detention facility, citing the fact that they appeared on audio recordings made by the Prosecution in 2023 in which Mr. Thaçi appeared to repeatedly reveal confidential information to visitors. The prohibition against one of these individuals was lifted in January of this year. Following the Single Trial Judge's latest decision, the prohibition remains in place on visits from four named individuals. The Single Trial Judge explained that for these four individuals the risk of potential influence on proceedings remains high.

For the six individuals whose visit ban has been lifted, the Single Trial Judge ordered the active monitoring of such visits, and that the Registrar report to him any instances of attempted communication of confidential information, instructions related to witnesses, or any other non-compliance with the detention rules.

In the Pjetër Shala case, Mr. Shala filed his referral to the Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court on 15 September 2026, alleging a violation of his constitutional rights in relation to the reparation proceedings and the reparations order against him. Observing that the applicant made the referral in English, the Constitutional Court decided that the working language in the proceedings will be English with official translations into Albanian and Serbian.

Considering the subject matter of the referral and in response to a request by Victims' Counsel, the Chambers found it appropriate to receive a response from Victims' Counsel on the complaint raised and permitted Victims' Counsel to file a response by 21 October 2026.

This is the second referral by Pjetër Shala that is currently pending before the Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court.

The Specialist Chambers has received several questions about the trial judgment pronounced by Trial Panel II in the case of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi last week, in which the defendants were convicted of four counts of war crimes and acquitted of six counts of crimes against humanity.

For those who would like to have more details about the judgment, there is a 40-page summary of the Trial Judgment and the reasoning of the judges available on the website in Albanian, English, and Serbian. There





also is a short video synopsis of the judgment available on YouTube and on the court's social media channels. A public redacted version of the full Trial Judgment will be issued in due course.

