



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.

Following the verdict in the Thaci et al war crimes case, the Trial Panel on 16 September issued a decision concerning reparations proceedings in this case.

Based on the submission by Victims' Counsel and the findings in the Salih Mustafa case, the Panel decided not to refer victims in this case to civil litigation in Kosovo noting that participating victims were granted the protective measure of anonymity that continues to apply and could not be upheld if victims were referred to civil litigation in Kosovo.

The Panel also considered the context of witness intimidation in which these proceedings were held and noted that many of the victims do not live in Kosovo anymore and would not have access to civil litigation there. Consequently, the Panel found that the Specialist Chambers constitutes the most appropriate forum for the determination of reparation arising from those crimes.

The Panel ordered the Defence to raise objections against this decision by 22 September, should they wish to do so and the Prosecution to respond to these objections, if any, by no later than Friday 25 September.

The Panel further ordered the Defence to inform the Panel whether they intend to submit any evidence by 22 September and Victims' Counsel to submit any evidence concerning reparations by 7 October.

Finally, Victims' Counsel was ordered to file any request for reparations by Wednesday, 14 October, to which the Defence and SPO can reply by 4 November.

On 22 September, the President of the Specialist Chambers, Judge Ekaterina Trendafilova assigned a Court of Appeals Panel to decide on the defence requests for an extension of time to file their notices of appeals and on all filings from any of the parties related to a notice of appeal concerning the Trial Judgment in this case.

The Panel consists of Judges Michèle Picard, Kai Ambos and Nina Jørgensen.

In her decision, the President took into consideration the criteria set forth in the Rules on Assignment, including relevant experience and expertise as well as availability of Judges.

On 29 September, the Court of Appeals Panel decided that the working language during the appeals proceedings will be English considering that the working language during pre-trial and trial proceedings was English as well.





Also on 29 September, the Appeals Panel decided that the rules that govern trial proceedings concerning victims' participation shall also be applicable to the appellate proceedings. That means victims can participate in the proceedings through their counsel who will have access to all documents and evidentiary material and who will keep victims informed about the case without revealing non-public information. Victims Counsel shall continue to be present at all appellate hearings and may make oral and written submissions on any point of law or fact as long as they are related to the participating victims' personal interest.

Should the need arise to further specify the modalities of victims' participation in the appellate proceedings, the Appeals Panel will give further direction.

Considering the complexity of the proceedings in this case, the Appeals Panel on 29 September granted in part a request by the Defence to extend the deadline for handing in their notices of appeal from 16 October to 27 November 2026.

The Appeals Panel further instructed the Registrar to report on the progress made in the translation of the Judgment into Albanian and directed the parties and participants to comply with the formal requirements and guidelines governing the submission of filings in appeal proceedings. The Panel further ordered the parties to file public redacted versions of their request and responses or to re-classify them as public.

On 30 September the Single Trial Judge ordered the continued detention of Hashim Thaci finding that there continued to be a risk that Mr. Thaci may obstruct the progress of proceedings or commit further crimes. The Judge considered that there was a grounded suspicion that Mr Thaci made an effort to obstruct the proceedings in the war crimes case against him. The Judge found that despite the present case being closed, there remains a risk of retaliation against or efforts to influence highly sensitive witnesses and that at least four individuals whose role is crucial to the proceedings in this case are still at risk of being influenced, even at this stage of the proceedings. In view of the Single Trial judge, there are no measures that could adequately mitigate these risks apart from the communications monitoring framework at the Specialist Chambers detention facilities.

All decisions are available on the Specialist Chamber's website.

