



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 19 October, the public redacted version of a decision from October 2025 in the *Thaçi et al.* war crimes case became available. In the decision the Trial Panel denied a request by the *Thaçi* Defence to admit into evidence a witness statement in written form only. The Trial Panel found that the testimony of the witness included testimony on the direct conduct of some of the accused and on the credibility of previous witnesses and that, to ensure the fairness of proceedings and avoid prejudice towards any of the parties, it would be important for the witness to be available for cross-examination. The Panel therefore invited the *Thaçi* Defence to provide the necessary information for the witness to appear in court rather than for the testimony to be admitted in written form only.

Concerning the pronouncement of the verdict in the *Thaçi et al.* case related to the alleged influencing of witnesses that is scheduled on 17 November, I would like to remind the media and the public, that the deadline to apply to attend the pronouncement of the verdict from the public gallery in The Hague is next week Tuesday, on 27 October at 16:00 in the afternoon. You can apply by sending an email with your name, birth date and ID number to PUBLIC @scp-ks.org.

I would also like to emphasize that only those who receive a confirmation email will be permitted to attend the hearing from the public gallery. Confirmation emails will be sent two weeks prior to the hearing. the hearing can also be followed through the streaming function on the Specialist Chambers website in the three languages of the court, Albanian, Serbian and English.

According to the indictment, during separate, unprivileged visits to the Detention Facilities, Hashim *Thaçi* provided Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, and Fadil Fazliu with confidential information about witnesses to be called by the Prosecution in the *Thaçi et al.* war crimes case, and attempted together with them to influence the testimony of these witnesses.

The initial indictment was filed on 29 November 2024 and the amended confirmed indictment on 16 April 2025. The trial started on 27 February 2026. Closing statements were held from 10-14 September 2026.

On 5 and 6 December 2024, Isni Kilaj, Bashkim Smakaj and Fadil Fazliu were arrested and transferred to the Detention Unit of the Specialist Chambers. Hashim *Thaçi* was served with an arrest warrant at the Detention Facilities, while Hajredin Kuçi was summoned to appear for an initial appearance. On 3 December 2025, the Single Trial Judge ordered Isni Kilaj's conditional release, followed by an order for Bashkim Smakaj and Fadil Fazliu's conditional release on 3 February 2026.

During the trial, four witnesses testified in court.

