KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEĆA KOSOVA

Weekly Press Briefing
Chambers and Registry
N°40/2026
The Hague, 05/11/2026

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 case of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the Trial Panel ordered last month that lesser redacted versions of transcripts be made public related to the testimony of 29 witnesses. This followed earlier decisions making public previously confidential testimony of 20 witnesses.

These decisions reflect the public nature of the proceedings and the commitment of the judges to transparency. During the Thaçi et al war crimes trial, a majority of the witnesses testified entirely or mostly in public session, and 61 witnesses testified without any protective measures. Witness testimony that was initially confidential is reviewed continuously so that more testimonies can be made public later while ensuring the ongoing protection of victims and witnesses. Public transcripts and video recordings of trial hearings can be accessed on the KSC website, where they are organized by hearing date, or on the court's YouTube channel.

In the same case, the full confidential version of the judgment was delivered to the parties, including Mr. Thaçi, Mr,. Veseli, Mr. Selimi, Mr. Krasniqi and their respective legal teams, on 16 September.

The public redacted version of the full judgment is being prepared expeditiously, making sure as much information as possible is made public, while ensuring the protection of witnesses and victims.

The length of the judgment and relevant procedural steps can affect the timing of publication. After the judgment was issued, the Trial Panel ordered the Prosecution, Defence teams, and Victims' Counsel to provide any comments they have about potential redactions within a deadline set by the Panel. On this basis, a public redacted version is prepared and issued by the Trial Panel. The full public redacted version of the judgment will be issued as expeditiously as possible.

As a reminder, the Appeals Panel in this case extended the time for Defence teams and the SPO to file notices of appeal against the Trial Judgment until 27 November. Under the law and the rules, a convicted person can appeal the trial judgment and the sentence on the basis of an alleged error of fact or law. The Appeals Panel consists of a new panel of judges who independently review any grounds of appeal raised by the parties. The Appeals panel may affirm, reverse or revise the Trial Panel's judgment.

In the case of The Specialist Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi, Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu and Hajredin Kuçi, the period of pre-registration to attend the 17 November Trial Judgment at the premises of the KSC is now closed, and the process of sending emails to all those who applied to attend the hearing in-person has been completed. To those who cannot be accommodated at the premises on that day, we ask for your understanding, as interest in following this hearing was high, space was limited, and there was a need to

P.O. Box 47 | 2501 CA, The Hague | The Netherlands | www.scp-ks.org | T +31 (0)6 249 21 036

Follow KSC page "Live Update", our X and Instagram accounts and the YouTube channel

To attend the weekly press briefings of the KSC, please contact MediaKSC@scp-ks.org. For further information about personal data protection at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, see https://www.scp-ks.org/en/privacy-notice.

prioritise close family members of the accused. The pronouncement of the judgment will be broadcast through the streaming page of the website, where it can be viewed anywhere in the world in Albanian, English or Serbian with a short, 10-minute delay. The recording of the hearing will also be made available on YouTube.

According to the indictment, between at least 12 April 2023 and 2 November 2023, during separate, unprivileged visits to the Detention Facilities, Hashim Thaçi provided Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, and Fadil Fazliu with confidential information about Prosecution witnesses, and attempted together with them, as well as other uncharged individuals, to influence the testimony of certain witnesses. The indictment also alleges that Mr Thaçi agreed with Mr Kuçi that the latter should contact Prosecution witnesses in the Thaçi et al. war crimes trial, contrary to an order prohibiting them to do so except in accordance with certain procedures.

All accused in this case have pleaded not guilty to all of the charges. Isni Kilaj was conditionally released in December of last year, while Bashkim Smakaj and Fadil Fazliu were conditionally released in February 2026.

P.O. Box 47 | 2501 CA, The Hague | The Netherlands | www.scp-ks.org | T +31 (0)6 249 21 036

Follow KSC page "**Live Update**", our **X** and **Instagram** accounts and the **YouTube channel**

To attend the weekly press briefings of the KSC, please contact MediaKSC@scp-ks.org. For further information about personal data protection at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, see https://www.scp-ks.org/en/privacy-notice.