



## 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 against Sabit Januzi and Ismet Bahtijari the Pre-Trial Judge on Friday, 27 October, issued an order to convene a status conference with the parties on 3 November at 9:30 in the morning.

The Pre-Trial Judge will ask the parties to provide updates on outstanding issues detailed in the agenda such as difficulties in relation to the disclosure or translation of evidentiary material, the status of SPO investigations and when the Prosecution will be able to file its pre-trial brief.

In the case of *Thaçi and others*, the 31<sup>st</sup> witness called by the Prosecution testified on Monday, 30 October. The witness testified with protective measures and mostly in private session. The 32<sup>nd</sup> witness has started their testimony this morning via video link and mostly in public session.

On 31 October, the public redacted version of the Trial Panel's decision on a request by the *Thaçi* Defence became available. The *Thaçi* Defense had requested to be allowed to interview a Prosecution witness prior to the testimony of the witness and without the presence of the Prosecution.

The Trial Panel denied the Defence request and directed the Defence to follow the procedure set out in the relevant Contact Decision.

On 24 June 2022, the Pre-Trial Judge had issued a decision setting out a framework for the handling of confidential information during investigations and contact between a party and witnesses of the opposing party. According to that Decision, prior to testimony, Parties shall not contact or interview a witness of another Party if the intention to call the witness has been notified to the opposing Party. However,





where a Party considers that circumstances have changed, they may request a variation of the decision.

The Panel found that in this case there was no such change in circumstances and therefore the Contact Decision is still applicable.

On 1 November, the Trial Panel's decision of 8 September granting a witness called by the Prosecution to testify via video link due to serious health concerns became public.

The next hearing in this case is scheduled on Monday, 6 November 2023, starting at 9:00 in the morning.

The next hearing in the Pjetër Shala case is scheduled for Monday, 20 November, starting at 9:30 in the morning.

In other news, the KSC outreach team last week met with different communities in Pristina, Graçanicë/Gračanica and Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality to provide information about the KSC mandate and proceedings and respond to questions. The outreach team travels to Kosovo almost every month to establish and maintain a dialogue with various communities in Kosovo.

## **Journalist Questions**

There were no questions asked.

