What is the Kosovo Specialist Chambers?

The Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC) is a court in The Hague, the Netherlands, with international judges, prosecutors and staff.

The court may try persons accused of crimes against humanity, war crimes and other crimes under Kosovo law which allegedly occurred between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2000 and are related to the allegations in the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Report of 7 January 2011.
Who can be a participating victim before the KSC?

After an indictment is confirmed, a KSC Judge may decide that a person who has suffered physical, mental or material harm as a direct result of a crime listed in the indictment can become a participating victim. The person needs to have suffered harm due to crimes committed between 1998 and 2000 and related to the allegations in the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Report of 7 January 2011.

How can people apply to become a participating victim?

A person claiming to be a victim can send an application form to the Victims’ Participation Office of the KSC. The application form with the guidelines on how to complete is on https://www.scp-ks.org/en/specialist-chambers/victims. All applications will be treated in a secure and confidential way.

When will it be possible to apply?

Persons who wish to apply to become participating victims can do so after the court makes an indictment public.

Do participating victims have a lawyer?

Experienced Counsel will be assigned by the KSC to represent a group of participating victims.

What will the Victims’ Counsel do?

When representing a group of victims, a Victims’ Counsel may make statements at the start and end of a trial and have access to case material. Judges may also allow Victims’ Counsel to be present in hearings, make oral and written submissions, question witnesses and under certain conditions tender evidence related to the impact of alleged crimes on the victims.

Victims’ Counsel will keep the victims informed of what is happening in the trial and will ask them about their opinions and concerns in relation to it. Victims’ Counsel may bring to the attention of the Judges the victims’ concerns.

Do victims before the KSC have a right to reparations?

At the end of the trial, Judges may issue a decision on the damage, loss and injury to victims that may form the basis for a finding on reparations. Reparations may be collective or individual.

How to contact the Victims’ Participation Office of the KSC?

Head of Victims’ Participation Office
Ms Silke Studzinsky

E-mail: victims@scp-ks.org
Phone: +31 6 398 341 08 or +383 49 78 42 90 including on Viber/Whatsapp/Signal
Address: Kosovo Specialist Chambers
P.O. Box 47
2501 CA, The Hague, The Netherlands