

CASE INFORMATION SHEET

Case No. KSC-BC-2023-10

Specialist Prosecutor versus:



Sabit Januzi



Ismet Bahtijari



Haxhi Shala

Current stage: PRE-TRIAL

ACCUSED/CHARGES

SABIT JANUZI

Date of birth: 29/04/1966

• A Kosovar national born in Bërvenik/Brvenik, Kosovo.

ISMET BAHTIJARI

Date of birth: 27/02/1963

• A Kosovar national born in Fushticë e Poshtme/ Donja Fuštica, Kosovo.

HAXHI SHALA

Date of birth: 17/03/1970

• A Kosovar national born in Banje, Malisheve, Kosovo.

Description of charges

According to the confirmed indictment, "Witness 1" is a person who has or is likely to provide information to the Special Investigative Task Force, SPO, and/or to any KSC Panel about any crimes or offences falling under KSC jurisdiction. The indictment states that between at least 5 April 2023 and 12 April 2023, Shala, Januzi and Bahtijari, in co-perpetration with other individuals, coordinated as a group before and after in-person approaches made to Witness 1 by Januzi and Bahtijari.

The indictment further states that, at Shala's direction, Januzi and Bahtijari individually met with Witness 1 on two separate occasions in order to induce him to withdraw evidence or refrain from providing evidence in official proceedings before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, including by use of serious threat and the promise of a gift or any other form of benefit.

Modes of responsibility

Direct commission/Attempt to commit crimes Co-perpetration/Agreement to commit crimes Assistance in the crimes

Counts

1. Obstructing official persons in performing official duties, by serious threat (criminal offence against public order)

Obstructing official persons in performing official duties, by participating in the common action of a group (criminal offence against public order)
Intimidation during criminal proceedings (criminal offense against the administration of justice and public administration)

TIMELINE

Following their arrest by the Specialist Prosecutor, Sabit Januzi and Ismet Bahtijari were transferred to the KSC Detention Unit in The Hague on 6 October 2023 while Haxhi Shala was transferred on 12 December 2023.

Initially, these were two separate cases: one against Januzi and Bahtijari (case number KSC-BC-2023-10) and the other against Haxhi Shala (KSC-BC-2023-11).

In December 2023, the SPO requested to join these two cases, and the Pre-Trial Judge granted the request in February 2024. Afterwards, the joined case was assigned the number KSC-BC-2023-10.

On 4 September 2024, the Pre-Trial Judge transmitted the case file to Trial Panel I. The trial preparation conferences took place on 7 and 8 October 2024.

On 24 October 2024, the Panel decided that the trial shall open on 14 November of the same year. On 11 November, the SPO and the Defence informed the Panel that they were nearing the conclusion of plea agreements for each accused. Subsequently, on 12 November 2024, at the request of the parties, the Panel postponed the trial's commencement to allow for the finalization of these plea agreements.

During the plea hearings on 18 and 19 December 2024, all three accused pleaded guilty to counts 2 and 3 of the confirmed indictment.

WHO IS WHO IN THIS CASE?

PRE-TRIAL JUDGE



Judge Marjorie Masselot

TRIAL PANEL I



Judge Mappie Veldt-Fogla (Presiding Judge)



Judge Roland Dekkers



Judge Gilbert Bitti



Judge Vladimir Mikula (Reserve Judge)

SPECIALIST PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE (LEAD COUNSEL)



Tazneen Shahabuddin



John Devaney

DEFENCE TEAMS (LEAD COUNSEL)



Jonathan Rees (for S. Januzi)



Felicity Gerry (for I. Bahtijari)



Toby Cadman (for H. Shala)

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