



## 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, a look ahead at next week and the opportunity to ask questions.

Based on three expert reports it commissioned, the Trial Panel in the Salih Mustafa case concluded that the national courts in Kosovo do not provide a realistic avenue for the victims of the crimes charged in this case to claim reparations. Therefore, the Panel decided that, in case of a conviction in this case, it will not refer victims to civil courts in Kosovo, but issue a reparation order. The Panel also ordered the Ministry of Justice in Kosovo to respond to questions by 16 March 2022, concerning how a reparation order issued by the Trial Panel could be implemented. The relevant decision of the Trial Panel was filed on 4 February and can be found on the KSC website.

Also on 4 February, the Specialist Prosecutor's Office closed its case in the proceedings against Salih Mustafa. On the same day, the Defence informed that it intends to file a motion to dismiss any or all charges in the Indictment (Rule 130). This motion will be filed on 15 February 2022, with responses by the SPO and Victims' Counsel due on 21 February 2022. The Panel intends to issue a decision on such a motion between 23 and 25 February 2022. Until such motion is decided, the trial cannot proceed to the next phase, which would concern the presentation of the evidence by Victims' Counsel and by the Defence.

Turning to the Gucati and Haradinaj case, Trial Panel II closed the evidentiary phase of the proceedings on 3 February, following the closure of the Defence cases on 2 February. The Trial Panel further ordered the Defence and the Prosecution to submit their final trial briefs by 3 March and scheduled the closing statements to be held between 14 and 18 March 2022.





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In the afternoon of 4 February, a pre-trial hearing in the Thaçi et al. case took place during which matters concerning the continued detention of the accused, the disclosure process and the status of investigations were discussed.

Today, President Ekaterina Trendafilova assigned a Court of Appeals Panel following the Pre-Trial Judge's decision of 8 February, wherein he partially granted Mr. Thaci's and Mr. Veseli's requests to appeal his 23 December decision. In that decision, the Pre-Trial Judge, among other matters, granted the SPO leave to make certain amendments to the confirmed indictment in this case.

The President assigned Judge Michèle Picard, Judge Emilio Gatti and Judge Nina Jørgensen to the Court of Appeals Panel.

The next pre-trial hearing in this case is scheduled for 24 March at 14:30.

The next status conference in the Shala case has been scheduled for 4 March at 14:30.

In other news, the Kosovo Specialist Chambers Outreach team on Tuesday held a lecture and moderated discussion with high school students from Ferizaj/ Uroševac, and today a similar event with citizens in Northern Kosovo providing basic information on the court and its proceedings to the participants and answering their questions.

Since 2018, the Specialist Chambers has conducted 102 similar Outreach events, online and in person, across Kosovo with citizens, young people, civil society and others to provide information about the court, listen to people's comments and concerns and answer questions.

### **Journalist Questions**

A journalist asked for a comment on recent statements of the Thaci Defence. KSC Spokesperson Ms Griep responded that she will not comment.

