



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.

This week, the Specialist Prosecutor's Office, Victims' Counsel and Defence have been delivering their closing statements in the Salih Mustafa trial.

On Tuesday, the Specialist Prosecutor asked the Trial Panel to find Mr Mustafa guilty of each of the crimes charged and to impose a single sentence of 35 years' imprisonment.

On Wednesday, the Victims' Counsel delivered her statement to the Trial Panel on the impact of the alleged crimes on the victims participating in the proceedings.

Following the statement by Victims' Counsel, the Defence delivered its closing statement. The Defence asked that the Trial Panel find Mr Mustafa not guilty of all of the crimes charged in the indictment.

Public hearings in the trial continued today with the continuation of the Defence's closing statement. Also on the hearing agenda are responses, questions from the Trial Panel and statements on reparations by Victims' Counsel and the Defence.

In terms of upcoming steps in the proceedings, the Rules of Procedure and Evidence provide that after the Panel has closed the case, the Judges shall begin deliberations in order to reach a judgment.

On 8 September, the Selimi, Veseli and Thaçi Defence Counsel filed their written appeals against the Pre-Trial Judge's decision on the handling of confidential information during investigations and contacts with witnesses of the opposing party.





The Pre-Trial Judge today notified the President that the case against Pjetër Shala will be ready for transmission to a trial panel on Wednesday, 21 September. The President will now assign a trial panel to this case.

Ahead of KSC President Trendafilova's outreach event for civil society and journalists in Gjilan next week on 21 September, we would remind any journalists wishing to participate in the event to register their participation by tomorrow, Friday, at the latest.

Journalist Questions

Following the statement, a journalist asked about the latest developments in the *Thaçi et al.* proceedings and whether the case, currently in the Pre-Trial phase, would soon move to Trial. She also asked about Salih Mustafa's participation in the proceedings through video link.

The KSC spokesperson responded that the *Thaçi et al.* case is still in the pre-trial phase and that the Pre-trial judge has not yet set a date for the case to be transmitted to a Trial Panel. He agreed to follow up with the journalist on the second question.

