



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 *Thaçi et al* case, the Pre-Trial Judge on 29 September ordered Mr Thaci's continued detention. He found that there continues to be a risk that the accused may abscond, obstruct the progress of proceedings or commit further crimes.

In his decision, the Pre-Trial Judge recalled the deadlines given to the Prosecution and the Defence to advance trial preparation and observed that substantial procedural steps have been completed with a view of transmitting the case file to a trial panel towards the end of the year. Keeping that in mind, the Pre-Trial Judge found that Mr Thaci's continued detention was not disproportionate.

The public redacted version of this decision was issued last week and can be read, along with all other public filings, on the KSC website.

In the same case, the Pre-Trial Judge at the 8 September 2022 status conference, had invited the Registry to inquire with the relevant Kosovo authorities about the possibility of them appointing a focal point to receive Defence requests for information, cooperation or assistance. In response to this request, the Registry informed on Friday, 7 October that the Kosovo Ministry of Justice indicated their agreement with the proposal and conveyed the details of the appointed focal points.

In the case of *Hysni Gucati and Nasim Haradinaj*, on 6 October the Appeals Panel rendered a decision on applications by the Defence claiming that the SPO did not file a response brief to their appeal that complied with the Rules. The Appeals Panel disagreed and rejected this conclusion. Yesterday, the Appeals Panel rejected the Defence requests for an extension of the word limit of their reply briefs and struck both their reply briefs, as they exceeded the word limit. The Appeals Panel ordered Mr Gucati and Mr Haradinaj to refile their reply briefs within five days of the order and to ensure that the briefs comply with the relevant rules.

In the same case, on 7 October, the Registry informed the Appeal's Panel that Mr Gucati had paid the 100 Euro fine imposed as part of his sentence.

In the *Pjetër Shala* case, the Trial Panel has scheduled trial preparation conferences from 18-20 October, with 21 October as a reserve day. Topics to be covered include investigations, disclosure of evidence and the conduct of proceedings. Ahead of the trial preparation conferences, the parties, Victims' Counsel and Registry have made written submissions to the Trial Panel.





Public hearings are streamed with a 45-minute delay on the KSC website in Albanian, Serbian and English. Interested members of the public in The Hague can also follow hearings from the court's public gallery.

Journalist Questions

No questions were asked

