



## 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 yesterday, on 30 November, formally notified the President of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, that the case will be ready for transmission to a Trial Panel on Thursday, 15 December 2022.

Following the notification by the Pre-Trial Judge, the President that same day assigned Trial Panel II to the case consisting of the Judges Charles Smith, Christoph Barthe, Guénaël Mettraux, and Fergal Gaynor as reserve judge.

On 28 November, the Pre-Trial Judge rejected Mr *Thaçi's* request to hear the evidence of 9 witnesses prior to the start of the trial. The Pre-Trial Judge found that the Defence failed to demonstrate that the health condition of these witnesses present a serious concern noting that age alone was insufficient to believe that the evidence will become unavailable during the Defence case. Furthermore, the Pre-Trial Judge pointed out that the case will be transmitted to a Trial Panel well before February, when the *Thaçi* Defence asked for the witnesses to be heard.

In the same case, the President assigned a Court of Appeals Panel to decide on Mr *Thaçi's* and Mr *Selimi's* appeals against the Pre-Trial Judge's decision authorizing the Prosecution to amend its witness and exhibit lists. The Appeals Panel that was assigned to decide on these appeals is composed of the Judges Michèle Picard, Emilio Gatti and Nina Jørgensen.

In the case of *Hysni Gucati* and *Nasim Haradinaj*, the Court of Appeals Panel in its decision dated 16 November, denied Mr *Haradinaj's* Request for temporary release on compassionate grounds to a third state. The Panel denied the request on the basis that Mr *Haradinaj* failed to provide the required medical documentation to substantiate the Request nor has he filed any documents relating to the willingness of the third state to permit and facilitate such release.

Today and tomorrow, on 1 and 2 December, an appeal hearing will take place in this case. According to the agenda set by the Appeals Panel, the Defence teams will each be given the opportunity to orally present their arguments. The Prosecution will be given the opportunity to respond, and the Defence teams may reply to the Prosecution's responses. Both Mr *Gucati* and Mr *Haradinaj* will also have the opportunity to personally address the Appeals Panel, if they wish to do so.





Members of the public can follow the hearing in Albanian, Serbian or English either from the public gallery of the Specialist Chambers, or online through the website of the Specialist Chambers.

### **Journalist Questions**

No questions were asked

