



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.

On 27 March the Specialist Prosecutor's Office called its first witness to testify in the trial of Pjeter Shala.

The witness testified that his father, who supported the Democratic League of Kosovo, was allegedly detained and mistreated in a metal factory in Kukës, Albania. The witness was questioned by the Prosecution, Victims' Counsel and Defence. The Judges of the Trial Panel also asked the witness questions.

The first witness concluded his testimony on Tuesday, 28 March and the second witness called by the Prosecution began her testimony on the same day. She testified about the alleged detention and mistreatment of her husband at the metal factory in Kukës.

During the hearing on 28 March, the Panel issued an oral order authorizing Mr Shala's request to participate in the trial via video-link from the Detention Unit.

The second witness concluded her testimony yesterday, 29 March and the third witness began his testimony on the same day. The third witness testified about his father's alleged detention and mistreatment at the metal factory in Kukës.

At today's hearing in the Shala trial, the third witness concluded his testimony and the fourth witness called by the prosecution also testified.

All four witnesses in the Shala case this week testified with protective measures, including voice and face distortion.

The Prosecution has indicated that it intends to rely on a total of 19 witnesses in presenting its case, 14 of whom are envisaged to testify live.

On 23 March, Trial Panel I announced that it will pronounce the reparation order in the case against Salih Mustafa on 6 April. The Law provides that if a Trial Panel finds an accused guilty of a crime, it may make an order specifying appropriate reparation to, or in respect of, victims collectively or individually. The Panel will deliver the Reparation Order in public session and in the presence of Mr Mustafa.

In the trial of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Jakup Krasniqi and Rexhep Selimi, opening statements by the Prosecution, Victims' Counsel and Defence are scheduled to take place next week on 3, 4 and 5 April 2023. The presentation of evidence by the Prosecution is scheduled to begin on 11 April 2023.





Please note that pre-registration was required for media or members of the public who would like to follow the opening statements from the public gallery in The Hague. Due to a high interest and limited space, restrictions may apply. All those who pre-registered will be provided with more detailed information by today. People also have the option to follow the hearing in the three languages of the court via the streaming function on the KSC website.

On 24 March, the Judges of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers convened for their eighth plenary. During the plenary, the Judges adopted an amendment to the Code of Judicial Ethics, providing that the KSC Anti-Harassment Policy also applies to the Judges. The Code of Judicial Ethics was adopted in by the Judges during their first plenary in March 2017. The Code of Judicial Ethics prohibits any form of discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority. At the plenary, the Judges were also further updated by the President on ongoing institutional matters and heard presentations from the Registrar.

In other news, the KSC outreach team met with law school students and civil society in Pristina last week to provide accurate information about the KSC and respond to questions about the proceedings. They also hosted a second roundtable with practical information for journalists reporting on trials before the court.

Journalist Questions

