



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 20 April the third witness started testifying in the *Thaçi et al* trial. Due to protective measures, the hearing was held in closed session.

In this respect it should be noted that all trials before the KSC are public, however sometimes judges will decide to conduct part of a hearing in a so-called private or closed session or to redact certain information to protect the identity and security of witnesses or victims as provided for in the Rules. Even when a witness testimony is not being heard by the public, the accused and their lawyers can hear what the witness says and have the right to cross-examine the witness.

The presentation of evidence by the Specialist Prosecutor's Office in this case will resume on Wednesday, 10th May at 9:00 am.

On 21th April Pjetër Shala filed a public redacted version of its pre-trial brief.

The next hearing in this case is scheduled for Monday 1st May starting at 9:30. Hearings in this case will continue throughout the week between 1st and 5th May.

On 24 April, a previously confidential decision from 10 March, granting a custodial visit to Kosovo to Mr. Gucati on compelling humanitarian grounds, was made public. The decision concerns Mr. Gucati's last visit to Kosovo on 15th March 2023. A similar filing has just been published in relation to a request for conditional release by Mr. Haradinaj as well as a decision that indicates that the request was withdrawn later on.

In other news, throughout the week, some filings, previously classified as confidential became public through a decision of a single Judge. One document provided that on





20 January 2020, a Single Judge granted a request by the Specialist Prosecutor's Office (SPO) for proceedings before a Kosovo court to be transferred to the KSC. However and following investigations by the SPO, on 15 September 2022, the SPO notified the Single Judge of its decision to terminate these proceedings and to not submit an indictment for confirmation.

In this respect it should be noted that before an indictment has been confirmed and made public, proceedings before the KSC are confidential. Now that proceedings are closed, the court records have been made public by the Single Judge. However, the Single Judge may redact certain information for reasons of privacy of the concerned person or in order to protect victims or witnesses or their families.

The Law provides that the Specialist Chambers shall have primacy over all other courts in Kosovo in regards to cases within its jurisdiction. An order for deferral may include a request that any case be transmitted to the KSC or the SPO, as appropriate.

Journalist Questions

