



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.

Last weekend, on 2 September, the Registry managed a custodial visit to Kosovo for Hashim Thaçi to meet family, due to compelling humanitarian grounds, as instructed by the Trial Panel. During the visit, the accused remained in detention and in the custody of the Specialist Chambers while EULEX and Kosovo Police supported the Kosovo Specialist Chambers.

In the trial of Hashim Thaçi and co-accused, three witnesses testified this week. The 20th witness called by the Prosecution testified on Monday with protective measures, including voice and face distortion, about the alleged abduction of the witnesses's relative by members of the Kosovo Liberation Army in 1998, and the relative's disappearance.

The 21st witness called by the Prosecution in this case, Agim Idrizi, testified in public session on Monday and Tuesday about his alleged abduction, detention and mistreatment by members of the Kosovo Liberation Army in 1999. The witness testified without protective measures.

On Tuesday, the 22nd witness called by the Prosecution, Frederick Abrahams from the international NGO "Human Rights Watch" commenced his testimony, related to the work of his organization in Kosovo during the indictment period. The testimony continued through Wednesday and Thursday.

In addition to the Prosecution questioning the witnesses this week, Defence teams also cross-examined the witnesses and Victims' Counsel and the Judges put questions to them.

The next hearing in the *Thaçi et al.* case is scheduled to take place next Monday, 11 September starting at 9:00 am.

In the Pjetër Shala case, last Thursday, 31 August, the Trial Panel ordered that parts of the transcripts of trial hearings held in private session on 30-31 May, 2 and 6 June and 3 July 2023 be reclassified as public, along with necessary redactions.

This decision was taken in line with the Trial Panel's decision in May ordering the Prosecution, Defence and Victims' Counsel to undertake, on a rolling basis, a revision of the transcripts following the completion of each evidentiary block, and to provide submissions. The purpose of these measures is to ensure the principle of publicity in the proceedings while also upholding necessary protective measures for witnesses and victims.

Journalist Questions

1





KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEĆA KOSOVA

**Weekly Press Briefing
Chambers and Registry**
N°32/2023
The Hague, 07/09/2023

There were no questions asked.

