



## 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 17 May, the Panel ordered the continued detention of Pjetër Shala finding that there continues to be a risk that Mr Shala may obstruct the progress of proceedings and commit further crimes. The Panel further decided that only the Specialist Chambers' detention facilities are able to effectively monitor the accused's communication. The Panel reminded that all witnesses called by the Prosecution have testified and additional evidence that may be incriminating has been introduced. Therefore the Panel determined that there was a risk that Mr Shala may act on threats previously made, especially considering a general climate of witness intimidation in Kosovo. Given that the trial is progressing without undue delay, the Panel found that the time the accused spent in detention is still reasonable.

In the *Thaçi et al.* case, the Trial Panel on 16 May approved the suggested redactions by the Prosecution, Victims Counsel and the Witness Protection and Support Office for a lesser public redacted version of transcripts of four witnesses who testified at the end of last year. The Panel also ordered additional parts of the transcripts to be reclassified as public. This process is part of the regular review of transcripts and filings to ensure the publicity of proceedings to the greatest extent possible.

Following an order by the Trial Panel on 21 February, the Prosecution on 21 May filed a "notice of witness changes" to streamline its witness list. According to the filing, the Prosecution no longer intends to rely upon the evidence of 10 witnesses and will seek permission to submit the evidence of 13 witnesses in writing, rather than calling them to testify in person. The Prosecution confirmed that they will continue reviewing the witness list on a regular basis and indicated they may be able to inform about additional changes in October this year.

On 22 May, the Trial Panel admitted into evidence five witness statements and two witness statements, in part. Specifically, the Panel found that certain exhibits associated with the two statements were not appropriate to be admitted into evidence.

In the same case, on Tuesday, 21 May, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Prosecution witness, Mr Dietrich Klaus-Jensch, testified publicly in court. As per the summary presented by the Prosecution, Mr Klaus-Jensch served as a German KFOR officer in the Prizren area during the relevant period. On the same day, the 64<sup>th</sup> witness, Johan Rudolph Fritsch started his testimony, also in public session. The witness was a press officer for the German KFOR in Prizren area during the relevant time.

After the 64<sup>th</sup> witness concluded with his testimony yesterday, the Prosecution called a protected witness. According to the summary read out by the Prosecution, the witness is the relative of an alleged victim of enforced disappearance and murder in Drenoc/Drenovac.





The next hearing in this case is scheduled to take place tomorrow, Friday, 24 May starting at 9:00 in the morning.

### **Journalist Questions**

There were no questions asked.

