



## 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 case of Hashim Thaçi and co-accused, the Trial Panel on 19 June granted a request by the Selimi Defence to exclude certain evidence related to a witness from the proceedings. The Panel found that the relevant evidence was of limited probative value, and has a substantial prejudicial effect on the accused. The Panel also directed the Prosecution not to ask about that evidence during the witness's testimony and to caution the witness not to speak about it during their testimony.

On 20 June, the Trial Panel granted a request by the Prosecution to allow for the testimony of two witnesses via video conference. One witness is not able to travel due to health issues while the Prosecution raised security concerns for the other witness. The Panel noted that the parties can cross-examine the witnesses as if they were in the court room, and the Defence teams did not raise any objections in regards to this request. The Panel further noted that testimony via video link may be conducive to the expeditiousness of proceedings.

Hearings in this case resumed this week with the testimony of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Prosecution witness. As per the summary provided by the Prosecution, the witness, Kurtesh Fondaj, is a former soldier of the KLA in the Pashtrik Operational Zone. Mr Fondaj testified mainly in public session and without protective measures.

At the start of the hearing on Wednesday morning, witness Kurtesh Fondaj requested legal assistance following an examination by the Panel the day before. The Panel denied the witness's request clarifying that a witness is provided with a lawyer only if there are concerns about self-incrimination, which was not the case here. The Panel also informed the witness that, according to the KSC Rules, the judges can ask a witness any question at any time during the proceedings.

On Wednesday afternoon, the 74<sup>th</sup> witness called by the Prosecution started their testimony, which took place in private session, after which the trial was adjourned for week.

The next hearing in this case is scheduled for Monday, 1 July, starting at 10 in the morning.

In the case of Sabit Januzi, Ismet Bahtijari and Haxhi Shala, the Pre-Trial Judge on 20 June granted a request by Mr Januzi to further extend the deadline for the Defence to file their pre-trial briefs. The Judge determined that the pre-trial briefs should only be filed once she has issued her decision on the Prosecution's request to amend the indictment in this case. The Pre-Trial Judge ordered that the Defence's pre-trial briefs be filed within seven days from the issuance of her decision on the Prosecution's request to amend the indictment. The Pre-Trial Judge also decided that the tentative date for transmitting the case file to a trial panel will now be set at 14 days following her decision on the Prosecution's request.





The 2023 annual report of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers is now available on the KSC website in the three official languages of the court: [Albanian](#), [Serbian](#) and [English](#). The report provides detailed information about the activities of the KSC over the course of 2023.

### **Journalist Questions**

There were no questions asked.

