



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 28 June issued a decision on a request by the Prosecution to admit the statement of one witness and associated exhibits into evidence in written form. The Defence had raised concerns about part of the evidence, in particular where it relates to allegations against Jakup Krasniqi and Hashim Thaçi.

The Panel noted that the witness statement does not include any of the allegations the Defence was concerned about and admitted it into evidence. Furthermore, the Panel found that the evidence is relevant to the charges and will not cause unfair prejudice to the Defence as they will have the opportunity to cross-examine the witness in court before the evidence is admitted. The Panel will decide what weight to give the evidence in light of all relevant evidence admitted in the course of the trial.

In the same decision, the Trial Panel was satisfied that the Prosecution's intent to file a witness's testimony in written form would contribute to the expeditiousness of proceedings. Lastly, the Panel ordered the Prosecution to provide to the Panel, the Defence and the Victims' Counsel a list of general topics and areas of questioning that will be covered during the examination three days before the start of the testimony of any witness whose statement is admitted in writing in lieu of direct examination.

In the same case, on Monday, the 75th witness called by the Prosecution started his testimony. The witness, Bislim Zyrapi, is assisted by a duty Counsel during his testimony to avoid the risk of self-incrimination. Mr. Zyrapi's testimony continued on Tuesday, Wednesday, and this morning. Following that, another witness, with protective measures, began their testimony today. According to the Prosecution's summary in court, in 1998, members of the KLA abducted the witness's relative, whose body was discovered later that year. During the same year, the witness was also detained and mistreated by KLA members. Witness Zyrapi is scheduled to continue his testimony on 8 July at 09:00.

On 2 July, the Trial Panel admitted the written statements of another nine witnesses into evidence. The Panel denied the request for a tenth witness statement to be admitted in written form, finding that it would have a prejudicial effect on the accused if the Defence do not have the possibility to cross-examine this witness.

The next hearing in this case is scheduled for Monday, 8 July, at 09:00.

Journalist Questions

There were no questions asked.

