



## 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 trial of Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, the Trial Panel on 14 November granted in part a request by the Prosecution to admit the testimony and associated exhibits of seven witnesses in written form. The witnesses will be available in court for cross-examination. The Panel rejected the request in regards to specific associated exhibits linked to one witness. The Panel noted however, that this does not prevent the Prosecution from seeking to tender the documents through a witness testifying in court or to do so from the bar table, meaning not linked to any witness.

This week, three witnesses testified in court in this case. According to the summary provided by the Prosecution, witness Nezir Çoçaj joined the KLA in 1998 and later served in the Pashtrik operational zone. He testified mainly in public session. The second witness was a protected witness, whose testimony was conducted via video-link. According to the summary provided by the Prosecution, the witness was abducted by KLA members in 1999 and then detained and mistreated in a local KLA detention site. The third witness started testifying this morning, also with protective measures and via video link. According to the summary provided by the Prosecution, the witness was abducted in 1998 by persons wearing KLA insignia and then detained and mistreated in a KLA detention site.

So far, 106 witnesses testified in court in this case.

The next hearing in the Thaçi et al. trial is scheduled for Monday, 25 November, starting at 09:00 in the morning.

In the case of Pjetër Shala, the Trial Panel will pronounce the Reparation Order on Friday, 29 November at 11:00 in public session. Eight victims participated in the proceedings in this case. This will be the second Reparation Order issued in a war crimes case by a Trial Panel of the Specialist Chambers.

Mr. Shala's Defence on 15 November requested the Trial Panel to excuse Mr. Shala from attending the hearing or to postpone the date of the pronouncement as he has a confirmed visit of six persons traveling from abroad on the same day. Defence Counsel emphasized Mr. Shala's commitment to attending the pronouncement of the Reparation Order.

All detainees are provided with reasonable means of maintaining personal relationships. In addition to telephone calls and written correspondence, they may have 10 visits per month by close relatives and persons with whom they have a pre-existing personal relationship. Special care is taken to facilitate family using simplified visiting procedures.





On 14 November, President Ekaterina Trendafilova assigned a Constitutional Court Panel to rule on Haxhi Shala's referral to the Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court. Mr. Shala's referral to the Constitutional Court followed the Supreme Court Panel's "Decision on Haxhi Shala's Request for Protection of Legality", wherein it rejected Mr Shala's request for protection of legality in relation to the Pre-Trial Judge's initial order for Mr Shala's detention. The Constitutional Court Panel consist of Judges Vidar Stensland, Roumen Nenkov and Romina Incutti.

