KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEĆA KOSOVA

Weekly Press Briefing
Chambers and Registry
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Press 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, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, Jakup Krasniqi returned to The Hague on Saturday 21 November 2026, after his request to visit Kosovo was granted by the Trial Panel based on compelling humanitarian reasons.

Humanitarian visits may be granted under Rule 56 of the KSC's Rules of Procedure and Evidence, which were adopted by the judges and are based on international human rights law, including Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

There is not an absolute right to such visits under international human rights law, but the Judges decide on such requests in line with international standards and with the urgency and compassion that such situations require.

This was the 15th such visit by a detainee to Kosovo ordered by the judges of the Specialist Chambers for humanitarian reasons and managed by the court.

In the same case, on 24 November 2026, the Trial Panel ordered that lesser-redacted versions of transcripts related to the testimony of 9 witnesses called by the prosecution during the trial be made public. This follows earlier decisions by the Trial Panel to make public the previously confidential testimony of 67 witnesses.

These decisions reflect the public nature of the proceedings and the commitment of the judges to transparency. During the Thaçi et al. war crimes trial, a majority of the witnesses testified entirely or mostly in public session, and 61 witnesses testified without any protective measures.

Witness testimony that was initially confidential is reviewed so that more testimonies can be made public later while ensuring the ongoing protection of victims and witnesses. Public transcripts and video recordings of trial hearings can be accessed on the KSC website, where they are organized by hearing date, or on the court's YouTube channel.

Last Friday, the KSC opened its doors to interested members of the public as part of the Hague Justice Week, offering a tour of the public areas and a presentation on the mandate and work of the Specialist Chambers.

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