

In: KSC-BC-2020-06

The Specialist Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli,

Rexhep Selimi, and Jakup Krasniqi

Before: Trial Panel II

Judge Charles L. Smith III, Presiding Judge

Judge Christoph Barthe

Judge Guénaël Mettraux

Judge Fergal Gaynor, Reserve Judge

Registrar: Fidelma Donlon

Date: 5 August 2024

Language: English

Classification: Public

Decision on Prosecution Request for Extension of Time to Respond to Filing F02478

Specialist Prosecutor Counsel for Hashim Thaçi

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Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi

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TRIAL PANEL II ("Panel"), pursuant to Articles 21(4)(c) and 40(2) of Law No. 05/L-053 on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office ("Law") and Rule 9(5)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers ("Rules"), hereby renders this decision.

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

- 1. On 30 July 2024, the Defence teams for Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi, and Jakup Krasniqi (collectively, "Defence") filed a motion seeking to exclude the evidence of W01234, W04859, W04860 and W04570 ("Defence Motion").¹
- 2. On 31 July 2024, the Specialist Prosecutor's Office ("SPO") filed a request for extension of time to respond the Defence Motion ("Request").²
- 3. The Defence indicated that it will not respond to the Request.³

II. SUBMISSIONS

4. The SPO requests an extension of time to respond the Defence Motion of seventeen (17) days until Monday, 26 August 2024.⁴ The SPO submits that the Request is timely, reasonable and proportionate.⁵ It argues that good cause exists to grant the requested extension, noting the scope and consequence of the Motion and more limited staffing during the judicial recess.⁶ Lastly, the SPO submits that the extension of time requested will not prejudice the Defence.⁷

¹ F02478, Specialist Counsel, *Joint Defence Motion to Exclude the Evidence of W01234, W04859, W04860 and W04570, 30 July 2024, confidential.*

² F02481, Specialist Prosecutor, Prosecution Request for Extension of Time to Respond to Filing F02478, 31 July 2024.

³ Correspondence CRSPD547.

⁴ Request, para. 1.

⁵ Request, para. 1.

⁶ Request, para. 2.

⁷ Request, para. 2.

III. APPLICABLE LAW

5. Pursuant to Rule 9(5)(a) the Panel may *proprio motu* or upon showing of good cause extend any time limit prescribed by the Rules or set by the Panel.

IV. DISCUSSION

- 6. The Panel finds that the Request is timely as it was filed sufficiently in advance of the relevant deadline.
- 7. The Panel also finds that the SPO has demonstrated good cause for a limited extension of time, considering, in particular: (i) the scope and consequence of the Defence Motion; (ii) the significance of the relevant witnesses; and (iii) the reduced staffing levels during the judicial recess. The Panel also notes that the Defence did not oppose the Request.⁸ The Panel also considers that the extension of time requested by the SPO is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances.
- 8. In light of the above, the Panel extends the time for the SPO to respond to the Defence Motion until **Monday**, **26 August 2024**.

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⁸ See Defence Motion, para. 35; Correspondence CRSPD547.

- V. DISPOSITION
- 9. For the abovementioned reasons, the Panel hereby:
 - a) **GRANTS** the SPO Request; and
 - b) **EXTENDS** the time limit for the SPO to respond to the Defence Motion to **Monday**, **26 August 2024**.

Charles & Smith IL

Judge Charles L. Smith, III
Presiding Judge

Dated this Monday, 5 August 2024

At The Hague, the Netherlands.