

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: 14 October 2024

Language: English

Classification: Public

Decision on Victims' Counsel Request for an Extension of Time to File the Nineteenth Notification of Wish to Cross-Examine Witnesses

Specialist Prosecutor Counsel for Hashim Thaçi

Kimberly P. West Luka Mišetić

Counsel for Victims Counsel for Kadri Veseli

Simon Laws Rodney Dixon

Counsel for Rexhep Selimi

Geoffrey Roberts

Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi

Venkateswari Alagendra

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 7 October 2024 the Specialist Prosecutor's Office ("SPO") filed the list of witnesses for 18 November 2024 to 30 January 2025 ("SPO Submission").¹
- 2. On 11 October 2024, Victims' Counsel filed a request for extension of time to respond the SPO Submission ("Request").²

II. SUBMISSIONS

3. Victims' Counsel requests an extension of ten (10) days until Friday, 25 October 2024 to file (if required) his nineteenth notification of wish to cross-examine witnesses ("Nineteenth Notification"). Victims' Counsel submits that he was notified of the SPO Submission on 8 October 2024 and that, pursuant to the Order on the Conduct of Proceedings, the Nineteenth Notification should be submitted within seven days of the SPO Submission, i.e. by 15 October 2024. Victims' Counsel argues that considering the volume of material associated with the witnesses notified in the SPO Submission, the number of victims whose interests may be engaged, the possible need to consult them, and other previous commitments, the relief sought is necessary and justified in the circumstances. 5

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¹ F02620, Specialist Prosecutor, *Prosecution Submission of List of Witnesses for 18 November* 2024 *to* 30 *January* 2025, 7 October 2024, confidential, with Annex 1, confidential (a public redacted version was filed on the same day, F02620/RED).

² F02637, Victims' Counsel, Victims' Counsel Request for an Extension of Time to File the Nineteenth Notification of Wish to Cross-Examine Witnesses, 11 October 2024.

³ Request, para. 3.

⁴ Request, para. 2.

⁵ Request, para. 3.

III. APPLICABLE LAW

4. 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

- 5. The Panel finds that the Request is timely as it was filed sufficiently in advance of the relevant deadline.
- 6. The Panel also finds that Victims' Counsel has demonstrated good cause for a limited extension of time, considering, in particular: (i) the volume of material associated with the witnesses notified in the SPO Submission; (ii) the number of victims whose interests may be engaged; and (iii) the possible need for Victims' Counsel to consult with the victims whose interests may be engaged. The Panel also notes that the Parties did not oppose the Request. The Panel considers that the extension of time requested by Victims' Counsel is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances.
- 7. In light of the above, the Panel grants the Request and extends the time for Victims' Counsel to file (if required) his Nineteenth Notification until **Friday**, **25 October 2024**, **5pm**.

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⁶ See Request, para 3.

- V. DISPOSITION
- 8. For the abovementioned reasons, the Panel hereby:
 - a) **GRANTS** the Victims' Counsel Request; and
 - b) **EXTENDS** the time limit for the Victims' Counsel to file the Nineteenth Notification to **Friday**, **25 October 2024**.

Judge Charles L. Smith, III

Presiding Judge

Dated this Monday, 14 October 2024

At The Hague, the Netherlands.