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In: KSC-BC-2020-06

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: Dr Fidelma Donlon

Filing Participant: Specialist Prosecutor's Office

Date: 10 March 2025

Language: English

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Public Redacted Version of 'Prosecution reply relating to Rule 153 motion F02949'

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Specialist Prosecutor's Office ('SPO') hereby replies to the Defence Response,¹ which fails to show any convincing reasons why the Motion² should not be granted in its entirety. The evidence submitted in the Motion is admissible as it satisfies the Rule 153 conditions, is relevant and *prima facie* reliable, and has probative value which is not outweighed by any prejudice.

II. SUBMISSIONS

A. W02018

- 2. As set out in the Motion, W02018 is a crime-base witness and his evidence is largely cumulative with and corroborated by the evidence of other witnesses,³ including two from the same [REDACTED] whom the Accused have had an opportunity to confront through cross-examination.⁴ Admission of W02018's evidence in writing would therefore expedite the proceedings⁵ and would not cause unfairness.
- 3. Contrary to the Defence's submissions, no cross-examination is required for the Panel to adequately assess, or for the Accused to adequately challenge, W02018's evidence. The Defence seeks to cross-examine W02018 in relation to his [REDACTED].⁶ These matters, however, are addressed in the tendered Rule 153 Statement, wherein the witness clarified them in detail.⁷

¹ Joint Defence Response to 'Prosecution motion for the admission of the evidence of witnesses W02018, W02085, W04067, and W04575 pursuant to Rule 153', KSC-BC-2020-06/F02975, 3 March 2025, Confidential ('Response').

² Prosecution motion for the admission of the evidence of witnesses W02018, W02085, W04067, and W04575 pursuant to Rule 153, KSC-BC-2020-06/F02949, 20 February 2025, Confidential ('Motion').

³ [REDACTED].

⁴ [REDACTED].

⁵ See also Prosecution notice of further changes to witness list, KSC-BC-2020-06/F02693, 1 November 2024, Confidential, para.2.

⁶ Response, KSC-BC-2020-06/F02975, paras 6, 8.

⁷ [REDACTED].

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4. The Defence wants to cross-examine W02018 in particular in relation to the [REDACTED] in the village of [REDACTED] in [REDACTED].⁸ As W02018 clarified, however, [REDACTED].⁹ Further, he provided other evidence concerning the reasons he was [REDACTED]; for example, [REDACTED].¹⁰

5. The article that the Defence wishes to put to the witness has already been admitted into evidence,¹¹ and has been used to cross-examine other witnesses.¹² As these witnesses also mentioned W02018 in their respective statements as one of their [REDACTED], the Defence had the opportunity to cross-examine them regarding the [REDACTED] indicated in the [REDACTED], but did not do so. In any event, the Panel will be able to consider the [REDACTED] – which is of, at best, questionable probative value¹³ – when assessing W02018's evidence, and assign it the appropriate weight at the conclusion of the trial. No cross-examination of W02018 is needed for this purpose.

B. W04067

6. The SPO did not mischaracterise or 'retreat' from the *inter partes* agreement in relation to W04067,¹⁴ and confirms its agreement to redact references to Jakup KRASNIQI in W04067's notebook and typed notes,¹⁵ in addition to those found in his statement.¹⁶

^{8 [}REDACTED]. See Response, KSC-BC-2020-06/F02975, paras 9-11.

⁹ 012437-012449-ET RED2, pp.012440-012442.

¹⁰ 076246-TR-ET Part 1 RED2, pp.8-9.

¹¹ [REDACTED]. See Response, KSC-BC-2020-06/F02975, para.9.

¹² [REDACTED].

¹³ This [REDACTED], apart from a vague indication that it was based on [REDACTED], does not specify the source of the information provided. Instead, it refers to, *inter alia*, unidentified [REDACTED] and unspecified [REDACTED]. While mentioning [REDACTED], fails to acknowledge this fact. *See* [REDACTED]. *See also* [REDACTED].

¹⁴ *Contra* Response, KSC-BC-2020-06/F02975, paras 12-16.

¹⁵ SPOE00109493-00109506, p.SPO00109505.

¹⁶ 075959-075992 RED, paras 60, 63.

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III. CLASSIFICATION

This filing is confidential pursuant to Rule 82(4) and because it contains 7. information concerning protected witnesses.

IV. RELIEF REQUESTED

For the reasons given above and previously, the Motion should be granted in its entirety.

Word count: 707

Kimberly P. West

Specialist Prosecutor

Monday, 10 March 2025

At The Hague, the Netherlands.