

In: KSC-CA-2024-03
The Specialist Prosecutor v. Pjetër Shala

Before: Court of Appeals Panel
Judge Michèle Picard
Judge Kai Ambos
Judge Nina Jørgensen

Registrar: Dr Fidelma Donlon

Filing Participant: Victims' Counsel

Date: 26 March 2025

Language: English

Classification: Confidential

**Victims' Counsel's Request for an extension of time to respond to the Defence
Appeal Brief against the Reparation Order**

Specialist Prosecutor's Office
Kimberly P. West

Counsel for the Accused
Jean-Louis Gilissen

Counsel for Victims
Simon Laws

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Rule 9(5)(a), 76, third sentence, and 179(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (“Rules”), and, in light of the Appeal Panel’s instruction of 29 November 2024,¹ Victims’ Counsel requests a three-day extension of the deadline to respond to the Defence Appeal Brief against the Reparation Order, that is to 4 April 2025. The Response is currently due to be filed by 1 April 2025.

II. CLASSIFICATION

2. This Request is filed as public as it does not contain confidential information.

III. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

3. On 29 November 2024, the Trial Panel issued its Reparation Order against Pjetër Shala.²
4. On the same day, the Appeals Panel informed the Parties via CMU that any brief in response, not exceeding 12,000 words, shall be filed within 15 days of notification of the appeal brief.³
5. On 28 January 2025, after having been granted an extension of time,⁴ the Defence filed its Notice of Appeal of the Reparation Order.⁵

¹ Email from CMU forwarding a message from the Appeals Panel to the Parties and Participants, Potential appeal(s) of the Reparation Order against Pjetër Shala, 29 November 2024 at 12:12.

² KSC-BC-2020-04/F00866, Reparation Order against Pjetër Shala, 29 November 2024.

³ Email from CMU forwarding a message from the Appeals Panel to the Parties and Participants, Potential appeal(s) of the Reparation Order against Pjetër Shala, 29 November 2024 at 12:12.

⁴ KSC-CA-2024-03/F00038, Decision on Defence Request for Extension of Time to File its Notice of Appeal Against the Reparation Order, 14 January 2025.

⁵ F00042, Defence Notice of Appeal of the Reparation Order, 28 January 2025.

6. The Defence filed its Appeal Brief on the Reparation Order on 14 March 2025, after having been granted an extension of time.⁶ The Appeal Brief on the Reparation Order was notified on 17 March 2025.

IV. SUBMISSIONS

7. Victims' Counsel requests a three-day extension of the deadline to respond to the Defence Appeal Brief against the Reparation Order.
8. Pursuant to the instruction of the Appeals Panel from 29 November 2024, Victims' Counsel was given 15 days to respond to the Defence Appeal Brief against the Reparation Order. The Defence Appeal Brief against the Reparation Order was notified on 17 of March 2025, which means that Victims' Counsel's response to it is due on 1 of April 2025.
9. Within these 15 days, between 18 March and 1 April 2025, there are nine working days. In the first week of this period, a key member of the Victims' Counsel's Team was unavailable for two days due to illness. In addition, the Defence submissions descend into significant evidential detail, requiring a similarly detailed response.
10. As noted by the Appeals Panel, these appellate proceedings are the first before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers against a reparation order and concern significant issues that may set important precedents.⁷
11. Given the novelty of these proceedings and the importance of the outcome of these proceedings for the Victims' Participating in the Proceedings, it is respectfully submitted that a three-day extension would be justified and not excessive. This is especially so in light of the fact that the Defence has been granted a total of 44 days to draft its Appeal Brief following the filing of the Notice of Appeal.

⁶ F00049COR, Corrected Version of Defence Appeal Brief against the Reparation Order with public Annex 1, 14 March 2025; F00046, Decision on Defence Request for Extension of Time to File its Appeal Brief Against the Reparation Order, 12 February 2025.

⁷ F00046, Decision on Defence Request for Extension of Time to File its Appeal Brief Against the Reparation Order, 12 February 2025, para. 5; F00038, Decision on Extension of Time to File Notices of Appeal Against Reparation Order, 14 January 2025, para. 6.

12. Finally, Victims' Counsel submits that the extension, if granted, will not delay the proceedings because the appellate proceedings against the Reparation Order will necessarily follow the proceedings on appeal against the Trial Judgment.
13. Given the above circumstances, Victims' Counsel submits that good cause exists to justify the requested three-day extension.

V. RELIEF REQUESTED

14. For the foregoing reasons, Victims' Counsel requests a three-day extension of the deadline to respond to the Defence Appeal Brief against the Reparation Order.

Word count: 704



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26 March 2025

At The Hague, the Netherlands.