



KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEÇA KOSOVA

In: KSC-BC-2020-06/IA036
KSC-BC-2020-06/IA037
KSC-BC-2020-06/IA038
KSC-BC-2020-06/IA040

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

Registrar: Fidelma Donlon

Date: 7 August 2025

Original language: English

Classification: Public

Decision on Joint Defence Request for Extension of Time

Specialist Prosecutor's Office:

Kimberly P. West

Counsel for Hashim Thaçi:

Luka Mišetić

Counsel for Victims:

Simon Laws

Counsel for Kadri Veseli:

Rodney Dixon

Counsel for Rexhep Selimi:

Geoffrey Roberts

Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi:

Venkateswari Alagendra

THE PANEL OF THE COURT OF APPEALS CHAMBER of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (“Court of Appeals Panel”, “Appeals Panel” or “Panel” and “Specialist Chambers”, respectively),¹ acting pursuant to Article 33(1)(c) of the Law on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor’s Office (“Law”) and Rule 169 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence (“Rules”), is seised of a joint request filed simultaneously in IA036, IA037, IA038 and IA040 on 6 August 2025 (“Request”)² by the Defence teams for Mr Hashim Thaçi, Mr Kadri Veseli, Mr Rexhep Selimi and Mr Jakup Krasniqi (“Defence”), seeking an extension of the time limit for their upcoming reply (“Reply”) to the response of the Specialist Prosecutor’s Office (“SPO”)³ to the joint Defence consolidated appeal⁴ filed against the “Decision on the Admission of Expert Evidence of W04826”, the “Decision on the Admission of Expert Evidence of Witness W04875”, the “Decision on the Admission of Expert Evidence of W04874”, the “Decision on Prosecution Motion for Admission of Documents concerning Murder Victims and Related Request”, and the “Decision on Prosecution Motion for Admission of International Reports”.⁵ The SPO responded on 7 August 2025 that it does not oppose the Request.⁶

¹ IA036/F00001, IA037/F00001, IA038/F00001, Decision Assigning a Court of Appeals Panel, 4 July 2025; IA036/F00001, Decision Assigning a Court of Appeals Panel, 9 July 2025.

² IA036/F00007, IA037/F00007, IA038/F00007, IA040/F00007, Joint Defence Request to Court of Appeals Panel, 6 August 2025 (“Request”), paras 1-2. The Request was distributed on 7 August 2025.

³ IA036/F00006, IA037/F00006, IA038/F00006, IA040/F00006, Prosecution response to ‘Joint Defence Consolidated Appeal Against Decisions F03201, F03202, F03203, F03211, F03213’, 4 August 2025.

⁴ IA036/F00005, IA037/F00005, IA038/F00005, IA040/F00005, Joint Defence Consolidated Appeal Against Decisions F03201, F03202, F03203, F03211, F03213, 17 July 2025 (“Appeal”).

⁵ See F03201/COR, Corrected Version of Decision on the Admission of Expert Evidence of W04826, 16 June 2025 (uncorrected version filed on 27 May 2025); F03202, Decision on the Admission of Expert Evidence of Witness W04875, 27 May 2025; F03203, Decision on the Admission of Expert Evidence of W04874, 27 May 2025; F03211/RED, Public Redacted Version of Decision on Prosecution Motion for Admission of Documents concerning Murder Victims and Related Request, 29 May 2025 (confidential version filed on 29 May 2025); F03213, Decision on Prosecution Motion for Admission of International Reports, 29 May 2025.

⁶ IA036/F00008, IA037/F00008, IA038/F00008, IA040/F00008, Prosecution response to ‘Joint Defence Request to Court of Appeals Panel’, 7 August 2025, para. 1.

1. The Defence requests an extension until 15 August 2025 to file the Reply.⁷ It submits that good cause exists for such an extension in light of the current court recess and the “severely limited availability of team members during this period”.⁸ The Defence further submits that a “short extension of four days during the court recess” will cause no prejudice to the Parties and is in the interests of justice.⁹

2. The Appeals Panel notes that, pursuant to Rule 170(2) of the Rules, the Defence should normally file its Reply by 11 August 2025. The Panel recalls, however, that Rule 9(5)(a) of the Rules allows for the variation of any time limit prescribed by the Rules, upon a showing of good cause or *proprio motu*.

3. Regarding the timeliness of the Request, the Panel considers that it has been filed sufficiently in advance of the deadline under Rule 170(2) of the Rules.

4. As to good cause, the Appeals Panel notes that the Request is very succinct and would have benefited from more detailed submissions in that respect.¹⁰ That being said, the Panel recalls that while a judicial recess does not itself constitute good cause for extending time limits, limited staff availability during recess has been considered as a relevant factor in granting extensions of time.¹¹ The Panel further notes that the existence of multiple competing deadlines may also be a factor in granting extensions of time.¹² While the Defence does not directly refer to this, the Panel is mindful of the upcoming opening of the Defence case in the present case, as well as the amount of work required to prepare for the Defence case in parallel and the upcoming tasks still

⁷ Request, para. 2.

⁸ Request, para. 2.

⁹ Request, para. 2.

¹⁰ See Request, para. 2.

¹¹ See e.g. IA030/ F00003, Decision on Selimi’s and Krasniqi’s Request for Variation of Time Limit, 22 December 2023, para. 3; KSC-CA-2024-03, F00006, Decision on Defence Motion for Variation of Time Limit to File Notice of Appeal, 24 July 2024, para. 9.

¹² See e.g. KSC-BC-2020-04, IA002/F00002, Decision on Shala’s Request for Variation of Time Limit, 28 October 2021, para. 3; KSC-BC-2020-04, IA002/F00007, Decision on the Parties’ Requests for Variation of Time Limits, 17 November 2021, para. 4.

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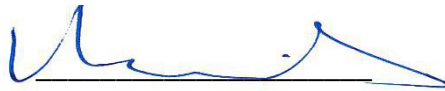
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to be completed by the Defence by that time.¹³ Therefore, in the particular circumstances of the present case, and also in light of the fact that the SPO does not oppose the Request, the Panel considers that there is good cause for granting an extension of time to file the Reply until 15 August 2025.

5. For these reasons, the Court of Appeals Panel:

GRANTS the Request; and

AUTHORISES the Defence to file its Reply no later than 15 August 2025.



**Judge Michèle Picard,
Presiding Judge**

Dated this Thursday, 7 August 2025

At The Hague, the Netherlands

¹³ See F03371, Further Order on the Scheduling of the Defence Case and Related Matters, 25 July 2025, paras 34-38, 42(a)-(f). The Panel notes that the Court of Appeals Chamber has considered that this situation, inter alia, constituted good cause for granting an extension of time. See KSC-BC-2023-12, IA006 & IA007/F00003, Decision on Thaçi Defence Requests for Variation of Time Limit for the Filing of Appeals, 28 July 2025, para. 4.

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