



KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEĆA KOSOVA

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 Guénaél Mettraux

Judge Fergal Gaynor, Reserve Judge

Registrar: Fidelma Donlon

Date: 18 December 2025

Language: English

Classification: Public

Notice Regarding the Close of Evidentiary Proceedings

Specialist Prosecutor
Kimberly P. West

Counsel for Victims
Simon Laws

Counsel for Hashim Thaçi
Luka Mišetić

Counsel for Kadri Veseli
Rodney Dixon

Counsel for Rexhep Selimi
Geoffrey Roberts

Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi
Venkateswari Alagendra

TRIAL PANEL II (“Panel”), pursuant to Articles 21 and 40(2) of Law No. 05/L-053 on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor’s Office (“Law”) and Rules 116 and 134-135 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (“Rules”), hereby renders this order.

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

1. On 15 April 2025, the Specialist Prosecutor’s Office (“SPO”) filed a notice announcing the closing of its case.¹
2. On 16 July 2025, after having heard the submissions of the Parties and participants,² the Panel rendered its decision on Defence request under Rule 130.³
3. On 15 September 2025, the Defence for Hashim Thaçi (“Thaçi Defence” and “Mr Thaçi”) commenced the presentation of its case.⁴
4. On 18 November 2025, the last witness on the Thaçi Defence’s witness list testified in the proceedings.⁵
5. On 19 November 2025, the Panel held a status conference in relation to certain trial management matters (“Status Conference”).⁶ During the Status Conference, the Panel informed the Parties and participants that it would issue an order setting deadlines and providing directions to the Parties and participants in relation to certain matters discussed during the hearing and gave them an opportunity to

¹ F03121, Specialist Prosecutor, *Prosecution Notice Pursuant to Rule 129*, 15 April 2025, para. 1.

² F03256, Specialist Counsel, *Joint Defence Motion Pursuant to Rule 130*, 12 June 2025, confidential, with Annexes 1 and 2, confidential (a public redacted version of the filing was filed on 22 August 2025, F03256/RED); F03314, Specialist Prosecutor, *Prosecution Response to Rule 130 Request*, 7 July 2025, with Annex 1, confidential.

³ Transcript of Hearing, 16 July 2025, p. 26190, line 12 to p. 26195, line 15.

⁴ Transcript of Hearing, 15 September 2025, p. 26478.

⁵ Transcript of Hearing, 18 November 2025, pp. 28198-28305; Transcript of Hearing, 19 November 2025, p. 28323, lines 16-20.

⁶ Transcript of Hearing, 19 November 2025, p. 28307 to p. 28356.

raise any new or outstanding issues.⁷

6. On 21 November 2025, the Panel issued an order: (i) setting deadlines for any final requests for the admission of evidence, notifications concerning the closing of the Defence cases, and any motions for rebuttal; and (ii) providing directions to the Parties and participants in relation to Final Trial Briefs, the statement on the impact of the alleged crimes on victims participating in the proceedings (“Impact Statement”), and closing statements (“Order”).⁸

7. On 2 December 2025, the Thaçi Defence and Defence for Jakup Krasniqi (“Krasniqi Defence” and “Mr Krasniqi”) filed notices announcing the closing of their cases.⁹ The Defence for Rexhep Selimi (“Selimi Defence” and “Mr Selimi”) and Defence for Kadri Veseli (“Veseli Defence” and “Mr Veseli”) did not call a case.

8. On 18 December 2025, following an expedited briefing schedule and after having heard the submissions of the Parties and participants,¹⁰ the Panel issued a decision denying the SPO’s motion for rebuttal pursuant to Rule 127.¹¹

⁷ Transcript of Hearing, 19 November 2025, p. 28352, lines 2 to 9.

⁸ F03597, Panel, *Order Pursuant to Rules 134(b), (d) and 159(6) and Related Matters*, 21 November 2025, para. 39(b)-(g).

⁹ F03609, Specialist Counsel, *Thaçi Defence Notice pursuant to Rule 131*, 2 December 2025, para. 1; F03611, Specialist Counsel, *Krasniqi Defence Notice of the Closure of Its Case Pursuant to Rule 131*, 2 December 2025, para. 1.

¹⁰ CRSPD953, *Email from the Panel to the Parties and Participants Regarding Expedited Briefing Schedule for F03616*, 8 December 2025, confidential; F03616, Specialist Prosecutor, *Prosecution Request to Present and for Admission of Rebuttal Evidence*, 5 December 2025, with Annex 1, confidential; F03620, Specialist Counsel, *Krasniqi and Veseli Defence Response to ‘Prosecution Request to Present and for Admission of Rebuttal Evidence (F03616)’*, 11 December 2025, confidential; F03624, Specialist Prosecutor, *Prosecution Reply to ‘Krasniqi and Veseli Defence Response to Prosecution Request to Present and for Admission of Rebuttal Evidence’ (F03620)*, 12 December 2025

¹¹ F03636, Panel, *Decision on Prosecution Request to Present Rebuttal Evidence* (“Decision on Prosecution Request to Present Rebuttal Evidence”), 18 December 2025.

II. APPLICABLE LAW

9. Pursuant to Rule 134, after ruling on motions pursuant to Rule 133 and hearing such evidence, if any, the Panel shall: (a) announce that the evidentiary proceedings are closed; (b) invite the Specialist Prosecutor and the Defence to file Final Trial Briefs within thirty (30) days; (c) invite Victims' Counsel to file a statement on the impact of the alleged crimes on victims participating in the proceedings within thirty (30) days; and (d) schedule a hearing for closing statements which shall take place within twenty-one (21) days of the filing of the briefs and statement(s) referred to in (b) and (c).

10. Pursuant to Rule 135(1), during closing statements, the Specialist Prosecutor shall speak first, followed by Victims' Counsel and Specialist Counsel. In addition, the Panel may limit the duration of closing statements. Pursuant to Rule 135(3), the Panel may seek clarification on any matters raised in the Final Trial Briefs. Pursuant to Rule 135(4), the Specialist Prosecutor shall have a right to respond, Specialist Counsel shall have the right to comment on those responses and the Accused shall have the right to speak last.

III. DISCUSSION

A. CLOSE OF THE EVIDENTIARY PROCEEDINGS

11. The Panel notes that the Parties and Victims' Counsel have presented their cases and that there are no more witnesses to be called or additional evidence to be introduced.¹² The Panel further notes that, when asked, the Defence confirmed that there were no other matters of which the Panel was seized that it was required to decide before the closing of the evidentiary proceedings.¹³ In addition, the Panel notes that it has issued a decision rejecting the SPO's motion for rebuttal and that

¹² Decision on Prosecution Request to Present Rebuttal Evidence, paras 12-20, 23(a).

¹³ Transcript of Hearing, 19 November 2-25, p. 28355.

therefore no motions for rejoinder from the Defence will follow. Lastly, the Panel notes that, while there is a pending application for leave to appeal by the Veseli Defence, it does not raise any issues which prevents the closing of the evidentiary proceedings, nor has the Veseli Defence sought any such relief.¹⁴

12. Accordingly, the Panel announces, pursuant to Rule 134(a), that the evidentiary proceedings are closed.

B. FINAL TRIAL BRIEFS AND IMPACT STATEMENT

13. The Panel recalls that it ordered the Parties and participants to file any Final Trial Briefs, and the Impact Statement by Monday, 19 January 2026.¹⁵

14. Since the Panel has closed the evidentiary proceedings, pursuant to Rule 134(a), the Panel reiterates its order to the Parties and Victims' Counsel, in accordance with Rule 134(b) and (c), to file their Final Trial Briefs or the Impact Statement, as the case may be, by **Monday, 19 January 2026**.

C. CLOSING STATEMENTS

1. Agenda

15. The Panel recalls that it informed the Parties and participants that it intended to hold hearings for closing statements on **9-13 February 2026** and that it would issue a further scheduling order setting out the modalities for the presentation of the Parties' and participants' closing statements.¹⁶ The Panel further recalls that it added **16 and 18 February 2026** as additional hearing days in case additional time

¹⁴ F03628, Specialist Counsel, *Veseli Defence Request for Leave to Appeal the Order of 5 December 2025*, 15 December 2025, confidential.

¹⁵ Order, paras 31, 39(j).

¹⁶ Order, paras 34, 39(g).

be needed.¹⁷

16. Since the Panel has closed the evidentiary proceedings, pursuant to Rule 134(a), the Panel sets out the schedule, in accordance with Rule 134(d), for closing statements on **9-13, 16 and 18 February 2026**.

17. The Panel notes that, pursuant to Rule 135(1), it may limit the duration of closing statements. Having considered the submissions of the Parties and participants regarding time estimates for closing statements,¹⁸ the Panel sets the following times for the presentation of the Parties' and participants' closing statements:

- SPO: 8 hours;
- Victims' Counsel: 3 hours; and
- Defence: 4.5 hours *per* Defence team.

18. The Panel notes that, pursuant to Rule 135(3), it may seek clarification on any matters raised in the Final Trial Briefs. Accordingly, in advance of closing statements, the Panel will issue an order in writing in which it will set out any questions for the Parties and participants. The Panel expects the Parties and participants to account for these and to incorporate any responses to the Panel's questions into its closing statements. The Panel will have a further two hours set aside for any follow-up questions not addressed in the closing statements of the Parties and participants or resulting from arguments and submissions made during those statements.

19. The Panel notes that, pursuant to Rule 135(4), the SPO shall have a right to respond and Specialist Counsel shall have a right to comment on those responses. In addition, the Accused shall have the right to speak last. The Panel, therefore,

¹⁷ CRSPD946, Panel, *Email from Trial Panel II to the Parties and Participants Regarding the Addition of 16 and 18 February 2026 as Hearing Days*, 26 November 2025, confidential.

¹⁸ Transcript of Hearing, 19 November 2025, pp. 28348, 28350.

allocates the time for these submissions as follows:

- SPO: 2.5 hours;
- Defence: 30 minutes *per* Defence team; and
- Accused: 20 minutes *per* Accused.

20. Should Victims' Counsel wish to respond, he may seek the leave of the Panel during the hearing if and when he considers it necessary.

21. In light of the above, the Panel sets the following schedule for the closing statements:

- a) **Monday, 9 February 2026:**¹⁹ SPO closing statement (5 hours, 30 minutes)
- b) **Tuesday, 10 February 2026:**²⁰
 - i. Continuation of SPO closing statement (2 hours, 30 minutes);
 - ii. Victims' Counsel's closing statement (3 hours);
- c) **Wednesday, 11 February 2026:**
 - i. Taçi Defence closing statement (4 hours, 30 minutes);
 - ii. Veseli Defence closing statement (1 hour);
- d) **Thursday, 12 February 2026:**
 - i. Continuation of Veseli Defence closing statement (3 hours, 30 minutes);
 - ii. Selimi Defence closing statement (2 hours);
- e) **Friday, 13 February 2026:**²¹

¹⁹ All hearing days, except 10, 13, 16 and 18 February 2026, will start at 09:00 and finish at 16:45 with breaks at 10:30, 13:00 and 15:30.

²⁰ 10 February 2026 will start at 09:00 and finish at 16:45 with breaks at 10:30, 12:00 and 15:00.

²¹ 13 February 2026 will start at 09:00 and finish at 16:45 with breaks at 10:30, 12:00 and 15:00.

- i. Continuation of Selimi Defence closing statement (2 hours, 30 minutes);
 - ii. Krasniqi Defence closing statement (3 hours);
- f) **Monday, 16 February 2026:**²²
 - i. Continuation of Krasniqi Defence closing statement (1 hour, 30 minutes);
 - ii. Questions from the Panel, if any (2 hours);
- g) **Wednesday, 18 February 2026:**²³
 - i. Responses of the SPO (2.5 hours);
 - ii. Comments of the Thaçi Defence to the responses of the SPO (30 minutes);
 - iii. Comments of the Veseli Defence to the responses of the SPO (30 minutes);
 - iv. Comments of the Selimi Defence to the responses of the SPO (30 minutes);
 - v. Comments of the Krasniqi Defence to the responses of the SPO (30 minutes);
 - vi. Statement of Mr Thaçi, if any (20 minutes);
 - vii. Statement of Mr Veseli, if any (20 minutes);
 - viii. Statement of Mr Selimi, if any (20 minutes);
 - ix. Statement of Mr Krasniqi, if any (20 minutes); and
 - x. Closing of the case, pursuant to Rule 136.

²² Monday, 16 February 2026, will only be a partial hearing day.

²³ Wednesday, 18 February 2026, will be an extended hearing day.

22. The above schedule is without prejudice to any changes to be made by the Panel during the hearing, either *proprio motu* or at the request of the Parties or Victims' Counsel.

2. Instructions

23. The Panel reminds the Parties and participants that closing statements should not repeat arguments that have already been made in the Final Trial Briefs or the Impact Statement. Rather, the closing statements are an opportunity for the Parties and participants to: (i) respond to the submissions of the other Parties and participants; (ii) answer the questions of the Panel; or (iii) add to or emphasise the most important aspects and elements of the relevant Party's case.

24. Noting that at least some of the Accused wish to speak during the closing statements,²⁴ and mindful of the Panel's duty to manage the proceedings efficiently and expeditiously, the Panel instructs the Accused to be prepared to speak as soon as the Parties and Victims' Counsel have completed their submissions. The Panel also orders the Accused, should they wish to speak, to be physically present in the courtroom, at the seat of the Specialist Chambers, on **Wednesday, 18 February 2026**. The Panel directs the Defence to inform the Panel **by Friday, 6 February 2026**, whether the Accused wish to speak and, if they do, to confirm that they will be present in the courtroom as ordered.

25. Lastly, the Panel recalls that political statements or offensive remarks about the Parties, participants, witnesses or victims will not be permitted or tolerated.

²⁴ Transcript of Hearing, 19 November 2025, pp. 28355-28356.

IV. DISPOSITION

26. In light of the foregoing, the Panel:

- a) **ANNOUNCES** that the evidentiary proceedings are closed;
- b) **REITERATES ITS ORDER** to the Parties to file their Final Trial Briefs and Victims' Counsel to file the Impact Statement by **Monday, 19 January 2026**;
- c) **SCHEDULES** hearings for the closing statements from **9-13, 16 and 18 February 2026**;
- d) **SETS** the agenda for closing statements as specified in the present decision; and
- e) **ORDERS** the Parties, Victims' Counsel and the Accused to comply with the Panel's directions as set out in the present decision.



Judge Charles L. Smith, III
Presiding Judge

Dated this Thursday, 18 December 2025

At The Hague, the Netherlands.