

Case No.: KSC-CC-2026-32
Specialist Prosecutor v. Pjetër Shala

Before: The President of the Specialist Chambers
Judge Ekaterina Trendafilova

Registrar: Dr Fidelma Donlon

Date: 24 March 2026

Filing Party: Specialist Defence Counsel

Original Language: English

Classification: Public

THE SPECIALIST PROSECUTOR

v.

PJETËR SHALA

Defence Request for an Extension of Time to File a Referral to the Constitutional Court

Specialist Prosecutor's Office

Kimberly P. West

Specialist Counsel for the Accused

Jean-Louis Gilissen

Hédi Aouini

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Rules 6(4) and of the Rules of Procedure for the Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court (“SCCC Rules”), the Defence for Mr Pjetër Shala (“Defence”) respectfully requests a thirty-five-day extension of the time limit to file its referral to the Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court (“Constitutional Court”) following the Supreme Court Decision.¹

II. SUBMISSIONS

2. Rule 6(4) of the SCCC Rules provides that a Panel may use its discretion to vary from any of the time limits that are established by the Rules, provided there is good cause. The Defence seeks an alteration of the applicable time limit and requests permission to file the referral by 15 June 2026. The Defence considers that the extension requested is required to enable the presentation of effective submissions as part of Mr Shala’s case.
3. Good cause exists to grant the requested extension of time. The Defence is facing two legally significant and procedurally demanding competing obligations that renders it unable to meet the current deadline for the submission of its referral. Specifically, the Defence must prepare and file a Request for Protection of Legality against the Decision on Defence Appeal Against Reparation Order by 29 April 2026. Simultaneously, the Defence must continue preparing a referral to the Constitutional Court for submission by 11 May 2026. Each of these two filings involve complex issues of law and demand a thorough review of the relevant law and jurisprudence.
4. At present, the Defence is required to mobilise all its resources towards preparing the Request for Protection of Legality, leading to inadequate time

¹ KSC-SC-2025-06, PL001-F00008, Decision on the Defence Request for Protection of Legality, 9 March 2026.

and resources to prepare its referral. Considering that a constitutional referral is a significant procedural step, taken after extensive and exhaustive litigation of the issues in question at the lower levels, the Defence should be afforded adequate opportunity to prepare and present its referral.

5. The Defence is also waiting for the Albanian translation of the impugned Decision, which the Registry has announced will only be available in unofficial and unrevised format towards the end of March 2026.² To effectively present an appropriate referral, having an Albanian translation is critical so that the Defence can conduct exchanges with Mr Shala regarding the constitutional challenges in an accurate and informed manner.
6. In addition, the official holidays observed by the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, are also incorporated into the timeframe for preparing the documents. As a result, the length of time available for preparation has been shortened due to the effect of holiday periods falling on weekdays and resulting in reduced team composition and capacity.
7. The cumulative impact of the multiple deadlines for the present proceedings, the delays in receiving translation, the limitations imposed upon the Defence's resources, and the number of persons not able to work due to designated holidays establishes good cause for granting the Defence's request per Rule 6(4) of the SCCC Rules.

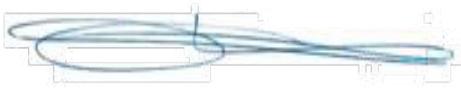
III. RELIEF REQUESTED

8. For these reasons, the Defence respectfully requests the Constitutional Court to grant its request and allow the filing of its referral by 15 June 2026.

Word count: 508

² Email from the Registry to the Defence on 10 March 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean-Louis Gilissen

Specialist Defence Counsel



Hédi Aouini

Defence Co-Counsel

Tuesday, 24 March 2026

The Hague, the Netherlands