



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: 5 May 2026

Language: English

Classification: **Public**

Order Extending the Deadline for the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment

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(4)(d), 40(2) and 43(2) of Law No. 05/L-053 on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office ("Law") and Rules 116(1) and 159(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers ("Rules"), hereby renders this order.

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

1. On 18 February 2026, after hearing the Parties' and Victims' Counsel's closing statements, and the Accused's statements,¹ the Presiding Judge declared the case closed pursuant to Rule 136(1).²

II. APPLICABLE LAW

2. Pursuant to Article 43(2), the judgment of the Panel shall be rendered by a majority of the judges of the Panel and shall be announced in public. The judgement shall be accompanied by a reasoned opinion in writing.

3. Pursuant to Rule 159(1), the Trial Judgment shall be pronounced within ninety (90) days of the closing of the case pursuant to Rule 136. In addition, where the circumstances of the case require additional time, it shall not exceed sixty (60) days, except where a further extension is absolutely necessary. The decision for the extension shall be made public and notified to the Parties and Victims' Counsel and shall provide reasons for the extension.

¹ Transcript of Hearing, 9 February 2026, pp. 28357-28491; Transcript of Hearing, 10 February 2026, pp. 28492-28560; Transcript of Hearing, 11 February 2026, pp. 28561-28720; Transcript of Hearing, 12 February 2026, pp. 28721-28856; Transcript of Hearing, 13 February 2026, pp. 28857-29007; Transcript of Hearing, 16 February 2026, pp. 29008-29147; Transcript of Hearing, 18 February 2026, pp. 29148-29237.

² Transcript of Hearing, 18 February 2026, p. 29238, lines 23-24.

III. DISCUSSION

4. As the Presiding Judge declared the case closed, pursuant to Rule 136(1), on 18 February 2026, and since the Trial Judgment shall normally be pronounced within 90 days, pursuant to Rule 159(1), the deadline for pronouncement of the Trial Judgment would be **Tuesday, 19 May 2026**.

5. The Panel notes that, pursuant to Rule 159(1), it may, where the circumstances of the case require additional time, decide on an extension for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment, which shall not exceed 60 days, except where a further extension is absolutely necessary.

6. The Panel notes that, during the course of the proceedings, it received the evidence of approximately 270 witnesses (orally and in writing) and admitted 5,497 exhibits into evidence.³ The transcript of these proceedings is 29,238 pages in length.⁴ The Panel further notes the complexity of the proceedings in this case. In particular, the facts of the case cover more than a year and a half and involve numerous alleged crime sites.⁵ Accordingly, to ensure that it can undertake a full and fair assessment of the evidentiary record and provide a duly reasoned opinion that accounts for the substantial volume of evidence and the complexity of the proceedings, the Panel finds that the circumstances of the case require additional time, namely 60 days, for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment.

7. The Panel acknowledges that, pursuant to Article 21(4)(d), the Accused have the right to be tried within a reasonable time. The Panel is mindful of the time the Accused have already spent in detention and of the need to ensure that the proceedings proceed as expeditiously as possible. However, in light of the circumstances of the case, the Panel is satisfied that a 60-day extension will not

³ During the proceedings, the Panel admitted 4,523 exhibits submitted by the SPO, 914 exhibits submitted by the Defence, and 60 exhibits submitted by Victims' Council.

⁴ Transcript of Hearing, 18 February 2026, p. 29238.

⁵ See e.g., F00999/A01, Specialist Prosecutor, *Annex 1 to Submission of Confirmed Amended Indictment*, 30 September 2022, confidential, para. 16; Schedules A-C.

prejudice the Accused. The extension is justified by the need to ensure a fair, comprehensive, and reasoned assessment of the evidentiary record and by the requirement of a reasoned opinion in writing that accurately reflects that record.

8. In light of the above, the Panel finds that the circumstances of the case require a 60-day extension and extends the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment until **Monday, 20 July 2026**.

9. Should a further extension be absolutely necessary, the Panel will issue an order to that effect in due course.

IV. DISPOSITION

10. In light of the foregoing, the Panel hereby **EXTENDS** the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment until **Monday, 20 July 2026**.



Judge Charles L. Smith, III
Presiding Judge

Dated this Tuesday, 5 May 2026

At The Hague, the Netherlands.