



KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS  
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS  
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEÇA KOSOVA

**In:** KSC-BC-2023-12  
**The Specialist Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi, Bashkim Smakaj,  
Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu and Hajredin Kuçi**

**Before:** Single Trial Judge  
Judge Christopher Gosnell

**Registrar:** Fidelma Donlon

**Date:** 5 May 2026

**Language:** English

**Classification:** Public

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**Decision on Thaçi Defence Request for Remote Attendance**

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**Specialist Prosecutor**  
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Joe Holmes

**Specialist Counsel for Fadil Fazliu**  
David Young

**Specialist Counsel for Hajredin Kuçi**  
Alexander Admiraal

**THE SINGLE TRIAL JUDGE**, pursuant to Articles 21(4), 40(2) and (6) of Law No. 05/L-053 on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office and Rules 9(5)(a) and 68 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence Before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers,<sup>1</sup> hereby issues this decision.

1. On 4 May 2026, the Defence for Mr Hashim Thaçi ("Mr Thaçi") requested authorization for Mr Thaçi to attend the hearings for the presentation of the Defence case by video-conference.<sup>2</sup>
2. Pursuant to Rule 68(1), "[t]he Accused shall be tried in his or her presence, except as otherwise provided in the Law and the Rules." Pursuant to Rule 68(2), an accused at liberty may be permitted to attend proceedings via video-conference, provided that he or she voluntarily and unequivocally waives the right to be present. An accused in detention may waive their right to attend proceedings entirely pursuant to Rule 68(4)(c).
3. The Single Trial Judge recalls that Mr Thaçi has previously been granted leave to attend proceedings by video-conference based on a voluntary waiver,<sup>3</sup> and that his co-Accused have recently been authorised to attend proceedings during the Defence case via video-conference.<sup>4</sup>
4. In light of the waiver received,<sup>5</sup> which appears to be voluntary and unequivocal, the Single Trial Judge sees no reason not to grant the request.
5. Accordingly, the Single Trial Judge hereby:

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<sup>1</sup> All references to "Article" and "Rule" shall be understood, unless otherwise indicated, as referring to the Law and Rules.

<sup>2</sup> KSC-BC-2023-12, F00895, Thaçi Defence, *Thaçi Defence Request for Remote Attendance* ("Request"), 4 May 2026, public with Annex 1, public.

<sup>3</sup> KSC-BC-2023-12, Transcript of Hearing, 3 March 2026, public, p. 490, lines 10-14; Transcript of Hearing, 5 March 2026, public, p. 723, lines 11-17.

<sup>4</sup> KSC-BC-2023-12, F00892, Single Trial Judge, *Decision on Defence Requests F00841, F00842, F00843*, 30 April 2026, public.

<sup>5</sup> Annex 1 to Request.

- a. **GRANTS** the Request and authorises Mr Taçi to attend the hearings for the presentation of the Defence case via video-conference.



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**Judge Christopher Gosnell**  
**Single Trial Judge**

Dated this Tuesday, 5 May 2026

At The Hague, the Netherlands.