



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: 15 May 2026

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**Public Redacted Version of Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of
Jakup Krasniqi**

Specialist Prosecutor

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

TRIAL PANEL II (“Panel”), pursuant to Article 41(6), (10), and (12) of Law No. 05/L-053 on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor’s Office, and Rules 56(2) and 57(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence Before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, hereby renders this decision.

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

1. The procedural background concerning the periodic review of the detention of Jakup Krasniqi (“Mr Krasniqi” or “Accused”) has been set out extensively in previous decisions concerning the same issue. Relevant events since the decision on periodic review of detention of Mr Krasniqi issued on 16 March 2026 (“Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision”) include those set out below.¹

2. On 23 April 2026, the Specialist Prosecutor’s Office (“SPO”) filed its submissions on the continued detention of Mr Krasniqi (“SPO Submissions”).²

3. On 4 May 2026, the Krasniqi Defence responded to the SPO Submissions (“Response”).³

4. The SPO did not reply to the Response.

II. SUBMISSIONS

5. The SPO requests the continuation of Mr Krasniqi’s detention.⁴ The SPO argues that, since the Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, there has been no change in circumstances that merits deviating from the previous determination of the

¹ F03698, Panel, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi*, 16 March 2026, confidential.

² F03724, Specialist Prosecutor, *Prosecution Submission Pertaining to Periodic Detention Review of Jakup Krasniqi*, 23 April 2026.

³ F03729, Specialist Counsel, *Krasniqi Defence Response to Prosecution Submission Pertaining to Periodic Detention Review of Jakup Krasniqi (F03724)*, 4 May 2026, confidential (a public redacted version was filed on the same day, F03729/RED).

⁴ SPO Submissions, paras 1, 30.

Panel, and as such, Mr Krasniqi's detention remains necessary and reasonable.⁵ To the contrary, the SPO submits that the continued progression of the trial, and related developments, reinforce the necessity and reasonableness of Mr Krasniqi's detention.⁶

6. The Krasniqi Defence responds that, at this advanced stage of the proceedings, Mr Krasniqi's continued detention is no longer lawful or proportionate and that provisional release until the judgment, subject to strict conditions, is warranted.⁷ In particular, the Krasniqi Defence contends that: (i) the case's current procedural position, now only awaiting judgement, fundamentally alters the legal and factual basis underlying the review of detention;⁸ (ii) the detention review requires an assessment of present, concrete and individualised risk rather than a repetition of allegations that have never materialised;⁹ (iii) the SPO repeatedly advances the same arguments, based on material that is more than five years old, which cannot meet its burden at this stage of proceedings;¹⁰ and (iv) the time spent in detention is no longer a neutral factor but one that weighs heavily and decisively against its continuation.¹¹

III. APPLICABLE LAW

7. The law applicable to deciding the present matter is set out in Article 41(6), (10), and (12) and Rules 56 and 57 and has been laid out extensively in earlier decisions.¹² The Panel will apply these standards to the present decision.

⁵ SPO Submissions, paras 1, 9.

⁶ SPO Submissions, para. 1.

⁷ Response, paras 1, 25.

⁸ Response, para. 1.

⁹ Response, para. 3.

¹⁰ Response, paras 2-3.

¹¹ Response, para. 23.

¹² See e.g., F01110, Pre-Trial Judge, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi* ("Sixth Detention Decision"), 18 November 2022, confidential, paras 18-21 (a public redacted version was issued on the same day, F01110/RED).

IV. DISCUSSION

8. The purpose of the bi-monthly review of detention pending trial pursuant to Article 41(10) is to determine whether reasons justifying detention still exist.¹³ A change in circumstances, while not determinative, shall be taken into consideration if raised before the relevant panel or *proprio motu*.¹⁴

A. ARTICLE 41 CRITERIA

1. Grounded Suspicion

9. Regarding the threshold for continued detention, Article 41(6)(a) requires a grounded suspicion that the detained person has committed a crime within the jurisdiction of the Specialist Chambers (“SC”). This is a condition *sine qua non* for the validity of the detained person’s continued detention.¹⁵

10. The SPO argues that, absent any change in circumstances since the decision confirming the indictment and the decision confirming amendments to the indictment, there remains a grounded suspicion that Mr Krasniqi has committed a crime within the SC’s jurisdiction.¹⁶

11. The Panel recalls that the Pre-Trial Judge determined that, pursuant to Article 39(2), there was a well-grounded suspicion that Mr Krasniqi is criminally liable for a number of crimes against humanity (persecution, imprisonment, other inhumane acts, torture, murder and enforced disappearance) and war crimes (arbitrary detention, cruel treatment, torture and murder) under Articles 13,

¹³ IA022/F00005, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Hashim Thaçi’s Appeal Against Decision on Periodic Review of Detention*, 22 August 2022, confidential, para. 37 (a public redacted version was issued on the same day, IA022/F00005/RED).

¹⁴ IA010/F00008, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Hashim Thaçi’s Appeal Against Decision on Review of Detention*, 27 October 2021, confidential, para. 19 (a public redacted version was issued on the same day, IA010/F00008/RED).

¹⁵ See ECtHR, *Merabishvili v. Georgia* [GC], no. 72508/13, [Judgment](#), 28 November 2017, para. 222.

¹⁶ SPO Submissions, para. 10 (with further references).

14(1)(c) and 16(1)(a).¹⁷ Moreover, the Pre-Trial Judge found that a well-grounded suspicion has also been established with regard to new charges brought by the SPO against Mr Krasniqi.¹⁸ These findings were made on the basis of a standard exceeding the grounded suspicion threshold required for the purposes of Article 41(6)(a).¹⁹

12. Absent any new material circumstances affecting the above findings, the Panel finds that there continues to be a grounded suspicion that Mr Krasniqi has committed crimes within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the SC for the purposes of Article 41(6)(a) and (10).

¹⁷ F00026, Pre-Trial Judge, *Decision on the Confirmation of the Indictment Against Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi*, 26 October 2020, strictly confidential and *ex parte*, para. 521(a)(i)-(ii). A confidential redacted version (F00026/CONF/RED), a public redacted version (F00026/RED), and a confidential lesser redacted version (F00026/CONF/RED2) were issued, respectively, on 19 November 2020, 30 November 2020, and 21 September 2023. The SPO submitted the confirmed indictment in F00034, Specialist Prosecutor, *Submission of Confirmed Indictment and Related Requests*, 30 October 2020, confidential, with Annex 1, strictly confidential and *ex parte*, and Annexes 2-3, confidential; F00045/A03, Specialist Prosecutor, *Further Redacted Indictment*, 4 November 2020; F00134, Specialist Prosecutor, *Lesser Redacted Version of Redacted Indictment*, KSC-BC-2020-06/F00045/A02, 4 November 2020, 11 December 2020, confidential. A further corrected confirmed indictment was submitted on 3 September 2021, strictly confidential and *ex parte* (F00455/A01), with confidential redacted (F00455/CONF/RED/A01) and public redacted (F00455/RED/A01) versions. On 17 January 2022, the SPO submitted a confidential, corrected, and lesser redacted version of the confirmed indictment, F00647/A01.

¹⁸ F00777, Pre-Trial Judge, *Decision on the Confirmation of Amendments to the Indictment*, 22 April 2022, strictly confidential and *ex parte*, para. 183. A confidential redacted version (F00777/CONF/RED), a public redacted version (F00777/RED), a confidential lesser redacted version (F00777/CONF/RED2), and a confidential further lesser redacted version (F00777/CONF/RED3) were issued, respectively, on 22 April 2022, 6 May 2022, 16 May 2022, and 21 September 2023. The requested amendments are detailed at para. 11. A confirmed amended indictment was then filed by the SPO on 29 April 2022, strictly confidential and *ex parte* (F00789/A01), with confidential redacted (F00789/A02) and public redacted (F00789/A05) versions. On 30 September 2022, the SPO submitted a confirmed further amended indictment (“Confirmed Indictment”), confidential (F00999/A01), with a public redacted version (F00999/A03). A public lesser redacted version (F01296/A03) and a public further lesser redacted version (F01323/A01) were filed, respectively, on 15 February 2023 and 27 February 2023.

¹⁹ See e.g. IA008/F00004, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Kadri Veseli’s Appeal Against Decision on Review of Detention*, 1 October 2021, confidential, para. 21 (a public redacted version was issued on the same day, IA008/F00004/RED).

2. Necessity of Detention

13. With respect to the grounds for continued detention, Article 41(6)(b) sets out three alternative bases (risks) on which detention may be found to be necessary: (i) risk of flight; (ii) risk of obstruction of the proceedings; or (iii) risk of further commission of crimes.²⁰ Detention shall be maintained if there are articulable grounds to believe that one or more of these risks will materialise.²¹ “Articulable” in this context means specified in detail by reference to the relevant information or evidence.²² In determining whether any of the grounds provided in Article 41(6)(b) exist, the standard to be applied is less than certainty, but more than a mere possibility of a risk materialising.²³

a) Risk of Flight

14. The SPO submits that Mr Krasniqi is aware of the scope of the case, including the charges against him and the evidence presented in relation to these charges.²⁴ The SPO argues that this, in combination with the possible imposition of lengthy prison sentence becoming more concrete with the closure of the case and commencement of deliberations, together with Mr Krasniqi’s means to travel and network of support, leads to a sufficiently real possibility that a risk of flight exists with respect to Mr Krasniqi.²⁵

²⁰ Cf. ECtHR, *Buzadji v. the Republic of Moldova* [GC], no. 23755/07, [Judgment](#), 5 July 2016 (“*Buzadji v. the Republic of Moldova* [GC]”), para. 88; ECtHR, *Zohlandt v. the Netherlands*, no. 69491/16, [Judgment](#), 9 February 2021, para. 50; ECtHR, *Grubnyk v. Ukraine*, no. 58444/15, [Judgment](#), 17 September 2020, para. 115; ECtHR, *Korban v. Ukraine*, no. 26744/16, [Judgment](#), 4 July 2019, para. 155.

²¹ IA004/F00005, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Hashim Thaçi’s Appeal Against Decision on Interim Release* (“First Appeals Decision on Thaçi’s Detention”), 30 April 2021, confidential, para. 19 (a public redacted version was issued on the same day, IA004/F00005/RED).

²² Article 19.1.31 of the Kosovo Criminal Procedure Code 2022, Law No. 08/L-032 defines “articulable” as: “the party offering the information or evidence must specify in detail the information or evidence being relied upon”.

²³ First Appeals Decision on Thaçi’s Detention, para. 22.

²⁴ SPO Submissions, para. 12.

²⁵ SPO Submissions, para. 12.

15. The Panel notes that the SPO is putting forward substantially the same arguments that the Panel has already considered and rejected in relation to this issue, namely: (i) Mr Krasniqi's awareness of the seriousness of the confirmed charges against him; (ii) the potential of a long sentence; (iii) the evidence presented against him; (iv) Mr Krasniqi's means to travel; and (v) the closure of the case and the ongoing deliberations.²⁶ In this regard, the Panel recalls the finding of the Court of Appeals Panel that the Pre-Trial Judge should not be expected to entertain submissions that merely repeat arguments that have already been addressed in previous decisions.²⁷ The Panel considers that this principle applies equally to the current stage of the proceedings.

16. The Panel has not found any additional factor sufficiently compelling to affect the previous finding regarding the risk of flight.

17. The Panel therefore finds that, while the risk of flight can never be completely ruled out, Mr Krasniqi's continued detention may not be justified at this time on the ground of the risk of flight pursuant to Article 41(6)(b)(i).

b) Risk of Obstructing the Progress of SC Proceedings

18. With reference to previous findings by the Panel, the SPO submits that Mr Krasniqi continues to present a risk of obstructing the proceedings.²⁸ The SPO ascertains that the closure of the case does not obviate this risk, as the Accused now have knowledge of the full scope of the case against them and witnesses remain at risk of obstruction even after their testimony.²⁹ To support this, the SPO

²⁶ Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, paras 19-20. *See also* F03005, Panel, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi* ("Twentieth Detention Decision"), 13 March 2025, para. 13.

²⁷ KSC-BC-2020-04, IA003/F00005, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Pjetër Shala's Appeal Against Decision on Review of Detention*, 11 February 2022, para. 18, holding that a panel may refer to findings in prior decisions if it is satisfied that the evidence or information underpinning those decisions still supports the findings made at the time of the review.

²⁸ SPO Submissions, paras 13-16.

²⁹ SPO Submissions, para. 13.

refers to the Panel's previous finding, confirmed by the Court of Appeals Panel, that the risk of interference also includes: (i) any attempt to retaliate against witnesses who have testified in these proceedings; (ii) attempts to incentivise a witness to recant; and (iii) attempts to interfere with witnesses in parallel proceedings.³⁰

19. Furthermore, the SPO avers that there continues to be a climate of witness intimidation and interference, referring to findings made in various SC cases,³¹ which, as held by the Court of Appeals Panel, is a relevant contextual consideration.³² In this respect, the SPO submits that the Panel has recently reaffirmed that the climate of witness intimidation continues to persist and further argues that the closure of the case and impending judgment has heightened public scrutiny of the case and increased pressure on witnesses.³³

20. The Krasniqi Defence responds that Mr Krasniqi does not pose a real and concrete risk under Article 41(6)(b).³⁴ The Krasniqi Defence contends that: (i) the SPO repeatedly relies on material that is temporally remote and fails to identify any new case-specific facts capable of demonstrating that Mr Krasniqi currently poses a risk;³⁵ and (ii) the SPO's suggestion that the Accused's knowledge of the case against him creates a heightened risk is fundamentally misconceived, such knowledge is neither exceptional nor improper and the SPO cannot transform this

³⁰ SPO Submissions, para. 13, referring to Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, paras 34-35; IA035/F00005, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Jakup Krasniqi's Appeal Against Consolidated Decision on Request for Provisional Release and on Review of Detention* ("Appeals Decision of Twenty-First Detention Decision"), 13 August 2025, confidential, para. 46, footnote 129 (a public redacted version was issued on 14 August 2025, IA035/F00005).

³¹ SPO Submissions, para. 16, referring to KSC-BC-2020-05, F00494/RED3/COR, Trial Panel I, *Further Redacted Version of Corrected Version of Public Redacted Version of Trial Judgment*, 16 December 2022, para. 57; KSC-CA-2022-01, F00114, Court of Appeals Panel, *Appeal Judgment*, 2 February 2023, para. 438; KSC-BC-2020-07, F00611/RED, Trial Panel II, *Public Redacted Version of the Trial Judgment*, 18 May 2022, para. 579; KSC-BC-2020-04, F00847/RED, Trial Panel I, *Public Redacted Version of Trial Judgment and Sentence*, 16 July 2024, paras 96-97.

³² SPO Submissions, para. 16.

³³ SPO Submissions, para. 16, referring to Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, paras 32, 35.

³⁴ Response, para. 13.

³⁵ Response, paras 11-12.

ordinary consequence of due process to justify continued detention.³⁶ Rather, in the Krasniqi Defence's view, the most reliable indicator of any future risk is Mr Krasniqi's exemplary conduct throughout more than five and a half years of detention during which no instance of interference, obstruction, or misconduct has been alleged or established against Mr Krasniqi.³⁷

21. The Krasniqi Defence further argues that detention should be exceptional, necessary and grounded in demonstratable facts and that to maintain detention on the current basis would transform it into a *de facto* punitive measure imposed on the basis of speculation rather than proven necessity, contrary to the fundamental principles governing deprivation of liberty and the presumptions of innocence.³⁸ The Krasniqi Defence contends that in a multi-accused case the review of detention must be strictly individualised in respect of each Accused and that the evidence does not demonstrate that *this* Accused, Mr Krasniqi, currently poses a real and identifiable risk.³⁹

22. In addition, the Krasniqi Defence argues that the closure of the evidentiary proceedings and the completion of the closing arguments constitute a material and decisive change of circumstances since: (i) there are no remaining witnesses capable of being influenced;⁴⁰ (ii) no pending evidence susceptible to interference;⁴¹ and (iii) no investigative steps left that could be influenced or obstructed by Mr Krasniqi.⁴² In this context, the Krasniqi Defence argues that any theoretical risk is, at most, residual, abstract and capable of being fully mitigated through appropriate conditions and that, in any event, any hypothetical attempts at interference would be significantly more detectable and legally inconsequential

³⁶ Response, para. 14.

³⁷ Response, para. 13.

³⁸ Response, para. 15.

³⁹ Response, paras 16-17.

⁴⁰ Response, para. 18.

⁴¹ Response, para. 18.

⁴² Response, para. 18.

at this stage.⁴³ Lastly, with respect to the Assessment by the Witness Protection and Support Office (“WPSO Assessment”), the Krasniqi Defence argues [REDACTED].⁴⁴

23. The Panel calls attention to the standard utilised in assessing the risks under Article 41(6)(b), which does not require a “concrete example” of a situation in which Mr Krasniqi has personally intimidated or harassed a witness.⁴⁵ Therefore, as previously stated, and contrary to the Krasniqi Defence’s submissions,⁴⁶ the fact that the SPO has not produced any evidence which suggests that Mr Krasniqi has personally intimidated or harassed a witness, does not mean that a risk under Article 41(6)(b) cannot exist.⁴⁷

24. The Panel has already determined and reiterates that there is a risk of Mr Krasniqi obstructing SC proceedings based on, *inter alia*: (i) his position of influence which, combined with the willingness and ability to obtain access to confidential information inaccessible to the public, which allows for the reasonable conclusion that it is possible for Mr Krasniqi to secure access to confidential information related to matters to which he is currently connected; (ii) his public statements criticising the SC; and (iii) the content of a 24 April 2020 Facebook post targeting “collaborators”.⁴⁸ Furthermore, the Court of Appeals has

⁴³ Response, para. 19.

⁴⁴ Response, para. 21.

⁴⁵ See F01212, Panel, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi* (“Seventh Detention Decision”), para. 23, referring to IA003/F00005, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Rexhep Selimi’s Appeal Against Decision on Interim Release* (“First Appeals Decision on Selimi’s Detention”), 30 April 2021, confidential, para. 59 (a public redacted version was issued on the same day, IA003/F00005/RED).

⁴⁶ Response, paras 16-17.

⁴⁷ Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, para. 31. See also F03176, Panel, *Consolidated Decision on Krasniqi Defence Request for Provisional Release and on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi* (“Twenty-First Detention Decision”), 13 May 2025, confidential, para. 42 (a corrected version was filed on 14 May 2025, F03176/COR; a further corrected version and a public redacted version of the further corrected version were filed on 11 June 2025, F03176/COR2 and F03176/COR2/RED, respectively).

⁴⁸ See e.g., F00801, Pre-Trial Judge, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi* (“Fourth Detention Decision”), 13 May 2022, confidential and *ex parte*, para. 48 (a confidential redacted version, and a public redacted version were issued on 13 and 24 May 2022, F00801/CONF/RED and, F00801/RED, respectively). See also Twenty Fifth Detention Decision, para. 33.

confirmed that: (i) there are indications that Mr Krasniqi is, at least, predisposed to witness intimidation, for reasons earlier stated;⁴⁹ and (ii) in assessing whether there is a risk that Mr Krasniqi will obstruct the proceedings, if released, it was not unreasonable to take into account, among other factors, Mr Krasniqi's public statements criticising the SC or the Facebook post of 24 April 2020.⁵⁰

25. The Panel recalls its previous finding, confirmed by the Court of Appeals Panel,⁵¹ that the risk of interference also includes: (i) any attempt to retaliate against witnesses who have testified in these proceedings; and (ii) attempts to incentivise a witness to recant.⁵² The Panel notes the Krasniqi Defence's argument that the closure of the evidentiary proceedings and completion of closing constitute a material and decisive change in circumstances reducing any risks,⁵³ but recalls that the Panel has already accounted for these factors in its earlier detention reviews, concluding that, while reducing the risk, a significant risk still remained.⁵⁴

26. As previously noted, the names and personal details of certain highly sensitive witnesses have been disclosed to the Krasniqi Defence,⁵⁵ and have therefore become known to a broader range of people, including to Mr Krasniqi. The Panel maintains its view that this, in turn, increases the risk of sensitive

⁴⁹ IA002/F00005, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Jakup Krasniqi's Appeal Against Decision on Interim Release* ("First Appeals Decision on Krasniqi's Detention"), 30 April 2021, confidential, para. 62 (a public redacted version was issued on the same day, IA002/F00005/RED); IA006/F00005, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Jakup Krasniqi's Appeal Against Decision on Review of Detention* ("Second Appeals Decision on Krasniqi's Detention"), 1 October 2021, confidential, para. 30 (a public redacted version was issued on the same day, IA006/F00005/RED).

⁵⁰ First Appeals Decision on Krasniqi's Detention, para. 50; Appeals Decision of Twenty-First Detention Decision, para. 29.

⁵¹ Appeals Decision of Twenty-First Detention Decision, paras 31-34, 46, footnote 129.

⁵² Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, para. 27; Twenty-First Detention Decision, para. 41.

⁵³ Response, paras 18-20.

⁵⁴ Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, paras 35-36; F03660, Panel, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi*, 16 January 2026, para. 28.

⁵⁵ See Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, para. 34.

information pertaining to witnesses becoming known to members of the public.⁵⁶ In this context, regardless of the current stage of this case, the release of an accused with sensitive information in his possession would not be conducive to the effective protection of witnesses.⁵⁷

27. The Panel takes note of the Krasniqi Defence's arguments that the SPO repeatedly relies on material that is temporally remote and that the SPO has failed to produce any new, concrete or case-specific facts capable of establishing any current risk.⁵⁸ In this regard, the Panel recalls its prior finding that each time it conducts a *de novo* assessment of the risks under Article 41(6)(b).⁵⁹ The Panel further recalls that the Court of Appeals Panel held that "nothing prevents a trial panel from relying on a factor that it previously relied upon, regardless of when the evidence underpinning this factor was first presented, as long as it is persuaded that the evidence, at the time of the decision, remains sufficient to justify the finding in question".⁶⁰

28. The Panel agrees with the Krasniqi Defence that the assessment under Article 41(6)(b) requires an assessment as to whether the specific Accused, in this case Mr Krasniqi, poses a concrete and identifiable risk.⁶¹ In undertaking this assessment however factors, such as the climate of witness intimidation, may be relevant to the Panel's assessment. Importantly, the Panel has repeatedly held that it is adjudicating this matter against a background of indications that a general climate of witness interference persists in Kosovo regarding this case and others before the SC.⁶² A climate which the WPSO recently confirmed, at a minimum, still

⁵⁶ F02059, Panel, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi*, ("Thirteenth Detention Decision"), 15 January 2024, para. 25.

⁵⁷ Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, para. 34.

⁵⁸ Response, paras 2-3, 11-13.

⁵⁹ Twenty-First Detention Decision, para. 49.

⁶⁰ Appeals Decision of Twenty-First Detention Decision, para. 28.

⁶¹ Response, paras 16-17.

⁶² See Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, para. 32. See also Twenty-First Detention Decision, para. 42.

persists in Kosovo.⁶³ This climate, as the Court of Appeals Panel confirmed, is a relevant consideration for the purpose of assessing the existence of a risk under Article 41(6)(b)(ii).⁶⁴ The fact that such factors are accounted for does not entail that the assessment is “group-based” or relies on “general references”, as contended by the Krasniqi Defence.⁶⁵

29. The Panel acknowledges, as argued by the Krasniqi Defence, that the WPSO Assessment [REDACTED],⁶⁶ but, nonetheless, considers it to be a factor, amongst others, relevant to its assessment.

30. The Panel notes the Krasniqi’s Defence arguments that Mr Krasniqi has fully complied with all procedural requirements and has participated in the proceedings without incident and that Mr Krasniqi’s demonstrated record of compliance decisively undermines any assertion that he presently poses a real and concrete risk.⁶⁷ In this respect, while factors that the Panel takes into account in its assessment, the Panel recalls the findings of the Court of Appeals Panel that the fact that there has been no incidents regarding Mr Krasniqi in the controlled environment of the Detention Facilities is not sufficient to lead to the conclusion that his detention is no longer necessary.⁶⁸

31. Accordingly, the Panel concludes that, taking all factors together, the risk that Mr Krasniqi will obstruct the progress of SC proceedings if released continues to exist.

⁶³ F03697/A01, Registrar, *Annex 1 to Registrar’s and WPSO’s Submissions*, 13 March 2026, strictly confidential and *ex parte*, p. 2. A strictly confidential redacted version was filed on 17 March 2026, see F03702/A01, Registrar, *Annex 1 to Submission of Redacted Version of F03697/A01 and Request for Reclassification of F03697 and F03697/A02*, 17 March 2026, strictly confidential.

⁶⁴ Appeals Decision of Twenty-First Detention Decision, para. 30.

⁶⁵ Response, para. 17.

⁶⁶ Response, para. 21.

⁶⁷ Response, para. 13.

⁶⁸ Appeals Decision of Twenty-First Detention Decision, para. 27.

c) Risk of Committing Further Crimes

32. With reference to the Panel's findings in the Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, the SPO submits that Mr Krasniqi continues to present a risk of committing further crimes.⁶⁹ In particular, the SPO contends that the same factors that support a risk of obstruction are relevant to the analysis of the risk of committing further crimes and that no new circumstances have arisen since the last detention review.⁷⁰ Moreover, according to the SPO, the Panel's conclusion that the continuing disclosure of sensitive information presented an unacceptable risk of the commission of further crimes applies even more forcefully given the closure of the case.⁷¹

33. The Panel recalls its finding in the Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision that the risk of Mr Krasniqi committing further crimes continues to exist.⁷² The Panel finds that the same considerations and factors that were taken into account in relation to the risk of obstruction are relevant to the analysis of the risk of Mr Krasniqi committing further crimes.⁷³ In light of those, the Panel considers that no new circumstances have arisen since the last detention review that would justify a different finding in respect of this matter.

34. The Panel considers that, taking all factors together, there continues to be a risk that Mr Krasniqi will commit further crimes as set out in Article 41(6)(b)(iii).

3. Conclusion

35. The Panel concludes that, at this time, there continues to be insufficient information before it, justifying a finding that Mr Krasniqi may abscond from justice. However, the Panel is satisfied, based on the relevant standard, that there

⁶⁹ SPO Submissions, paras 18-21.

⁷⁰ SPO Submissions, para. 19.

⁷¹ SPO Submissions, para. 21.

⁷² Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, para. 43.

⁷³ See *above*, paras 23-31. See also Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, paras 31-39.

continues to be a risk that Mr Krasniqi will obstruct the progress of SC proceedings and a risk that he will commit further crimes against those perceived as being opposed to the Kosovo Liberation Army, including witnesses who provided evidence in the case.

36. The Panel will assess below whether these risks can be adequately addressed by any conditions for Mr Krasniqi's release.

B. MEASURES ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTION

37. The SPO submits, with reference to the Panel's previous findings, that: (i) the risks pursuant to Article 41(6)(b) can only be effectively managed at the SC detention facilities ("SC Detention Facilities"); (ii) nothing has occurred since the Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision warranting a different assessment on conditions, either generally or for a discrete period of time; and (iii) especially at such a critical phase of trial, the underlying risks continue.⁷⁴

38. The Krasniqi Defence responds that Mr Krasniqi can be provisionally released subject to strict conditions.⁷⁵

39. When deciding on whether a person should be released or detained, the Panel must consider alternative measures to prevent the risks in Article 41(6)(b).⁷⁶ Article 41(12) sets out a number of options, including home detention, to be considered in order to ensure the accused's presence at trial, to prevent reoffending or to ensure successful conduct of proceedings. In this respect, the

⁷⁴ SPO Submissions, paras 22-26.

⁷⁵ Response, para. 25.

⁷⁶ As regards the obligation to consider "alternative measures", see KSC-CC-PR-2017-01, F00004, Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court, *Judgment on the Referral of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence Adopted by Plenary on 17 March 2017 to the Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court Pursuant to Article 19(5) of Law No. 05/L-053 on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office* ("SCCC 26 April 2017 Judgment"), 26 April 2017, para. 114. See also ECtHR, *Buzadji v. the Republic of Moldova* [GC], para. 87 *in fine*; ECtHR, *Idalov v. Russia* [GC], no. 5826/03, *Judgment*, 22 May 2012 ("*Idalov v. Russia* [GC]"), para. 140 *in fine*.

Panel recalls that detention should only be continued if there are no alternative, more lenient measures reasonably available that could sufficiently mitigate the risks set out in Article 41(6)(b).⁷⁷ The Panel must therefore consider all reasonable alternative measures that could be imposed and not only those raised by the Krasniqi Defence or the SPO.⁷⁸

40. Regarding the risk of obstructing the progress of SC proceedings and commission of further crimes, the Panel has repeatedly found that none of the alternative measures specified in Article 41(12), nor any additional measures ordered *proprio motu*, could sufficiently mitigate the risk that Mr Krasniqi may obstruct the proceedings or commit a further crime, if released. In this respect, the Panel maintains its view that none of the previously proposed conditions, including: (i) a prohibition from making any public statements; (ii) limited access to communication devices and the internet; (iii) limited access to visitors; and (iv) monitoring of communications,⁷⁹ nor any additional measures foreseen in Article 41(12), ordered *proprio motu*, could to a degree comparable to that of detention at the SC Detention Facilities, mitigate the existing risks with respect to Mr Krasniqi.⁸⁰

41. In particular, the Panel maintains its view that it is only through the communication monitoring framework applicable at the SC Detention Facilities that Mr Krasniqi's communications can be restricted in a manner that would sufficiently mitigate the risks of obstruction and commission of further crimes.⁸¹

⁷⁷ SCCC 26 April 2017 Judgment, para. 114; KSC-CC-PR-2020-09, F00006, Specialist Chamber of the Constitutional Court, *Judgment on the Referral of Amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence Adopted by the Plenary on 29 and 30 April 2020*, 22 May 2020, para. 70. See also ECtHR, [Idalov v. Russia \[GC\]](#), para. 140 *in fine*.

⁷⁸ First Appeals Decision on Selimi's Detention, para. 86; KSC-BC-2020-05, F00127, Trial Panel I, *Fourth Decision on Review of Detention*, 25 May 2021, para. 24.

⁷⁹ Twenty-First Detention Decision, para. 60; F02445, Panel, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi*, 15 July 2024, paras 33-35.

⁸⁰ Twenty-First Detention Decision, paras 56-64.

⁸¹ Twenty-First Detention Decision, para. 63.

The measures in place at the SC Detention Facilities, and the staff of the Registrar, viewed as a whole, provide robust assurances against the risks associated with unmonitored visits and communications with family members and pre-approved visitors with a view to minimising the risks of obstruction and commission of further crimes.⁸² Moreover, they offer a controlled environment where a potential breach of confidentiality could be more easily identified and/or prevented.⁸³

42. In light of the foregoing, the Panel finds that the risks of obstructing the proceedings and committing further offences can only be effectively managed at this stage of the proceedings if Mr Krasniqi remains at the SC Detention Facilities. In these circumstances, the Panel finds that there are no alternatives to Mr Krasniqi's continued detention capable of adequately averting the risks in Article 41(6)(b)(ii) and (iii).

C. REASONABLENESS OF DETENTION

43. The SPO argues that, taking all factors into consideration, Mr Krasniqi's detention remains proportional.⁸⁴ To that end, the SPO refers to the Panel's previous findings that: (i) Mr Krasniqi is charged with ten counts of serious international crimes in which he is alleged to play a significant role; (ii) if convicted, he could face a lengthy sentence; (iii) the continuing risks under Article 41(6)(b)(ii)-(iii) cannot be sufficiently mitigated by the application of reasonable alternative measures; (iv) the case against Mr Krasniqi is complex; and (v) a climate of witness intimidation exists.⁸⁵

44. The Krasniqi Defence responds that Mr Krasniqi has been detained for over five and a half years and that his continued detention, taking into account the

⁸² Twenty-First Detention Decision, para. 61.

⁸³ Twenty-First Detention Decision, para. 61.

⁸⁴ SPO Submissions, paras 27-29.

⁸⁵ SPO Submissions, para. 28.

absence of any evidence of interference, the closure of the proceedings and the availability of strict conditions, is no longer reasonable or proportionate.⁸⁶ Specifically, the Krasniqi Defence asserts that: (i) at this stage, the length of detention is no longer a neutral factor but one that weigh heavily and decisively against its continuation;⁸⁷ and (ii) as times passes, the burden on the SPO to justify detention becomes increasingly stringent and therefore this burden cannot be discharged by recycling arguments that have remained unchanged since 2020.⁸⁸

45. The Panel is cognisant that the duration of time in detention is a factor that needs to be considered, along with the degree of the risks described in Article 41(6)(b), in order to determine whether, all factors being considered, the continued detention “stops being reasonable” and the individual needs to be released.⁸⁹ In this respect, the Panel agrees with the Krasniqi Defence that the length of detention is a factor that can weigh against continued detention. However, the Panel is not satisfied that, in the current circumstances, it renders Mr Krasniqi’s continued detention unreasonable.

46. The Panel notes that, as discussed above, that these risks remain significant and recalls and reiterates that: (i) Mr Krasniqi is charged with ten counts of serious international crimes in which he is alleged to play a significant role;⁹⁰ (ii) if convicted, Mr Krasniqi could face a lengthy sentence; (iii) the continuing risks under Article 41(6)(b)(ii) and (iii) cannot be sufficiently mitigated by the application of

⁸⁶ Response, paras 22, 24.

⁸⁷ Response, para. 23.

⁸⁸ Response, para. 23.

⁸⁹ Seventh Detention Decision, para. 43, *referring to* First Appeals Decision on Krasniqi’s Detention, para. 69.

⁹⁰ Confirmed Indictment, paras 10-12, 32, 39-40, 44, 49, 53, 55-57, 176-177.

reasonable alternative measures;⁹¹ (iv) the case against Mr Krasniqi is complex;⁹² and (v) the climate of witness intimidation outlined above.

47. In light of the above, the Panel therefore finds that Mr Krasniqi's detention for a further two months is necessary and reasonable in the specific circumstances of the case.

48. The Panel acknowledges that Mr Krasniqi has already been in detention for a significant period of time, and that the trial in this case is lengthy. As the Panel previously indicated,⁹³ this will require the Panel to be particularly mindful of the need to ensure that the proceedings proceed as expeditiously as possible. The Panel will continue to monitor at every stage in these proceedings whether continued detention is necessary and reasonable.

⁹¹ See *above*, paras 40-42.

⁹² See *e.g.*, F00978, Pre-Trial Judge, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi*, 19 September 2022, confidential, para. 58 (a public redacted version was issued on 23 September 2022, F00978/RED); Fourth Detention Decision, para. 81; Sixth Detention Decision, para. 59.

⁹³ See *e.g.*, F02313, Panel, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi*, 15 May 2024, para. 40; Twenty-Fifth Detention Decision, para. 63.

V. DISPOSITION

49. For the above-mentioned reasons, the Panel hereby:

- a) **ORDERS** Mr Krasniqi's continued detention;
- b) **DENIES** the Krasniqi Defence request for provisional release; and
- c) **ORDERS** the SPO to file submissions on the next review of Mr Krasniqi's detention by no later than **Tuesday, 23 June 2026 (at 16:00 hours)**, with subsequent written submissions following the timelines set out in Rule 76.



Judge Charles L. Smith, III

Presiding Judge

Dated this Friday, 15 May 2026

At The Hague, the Netherlands.