



KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEÇA KOSOVA

In: KSC-SC-2025-05/CS003

Before: **The President of the Specialist Chambers**
Judge Ekaterina Trendafilova

Registrar: Fidelma Donlon

Date: 23 June 2026

Language: English

Classification: **Public**

Decision on the Request of Mr Haxhi Shala

Convicted Person
Haxhi Shala

THE PRESIDENT of the Specialist Chambers (“President”) noting Rule 196 (3) and (4) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Article 11 of the Practice Direction on Commutation of Sentences, is seised of the “Transmission of Request Regarding Mr Haxhi Shala’s Release Conditions” (“Request”) filed by the Registrar.¹

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 2 February 2026, the President issued the “Decision on Commutation, Modification or Alteration of the Sentence of Mr Haxhi Shala with Confidential and *Ex Parte* Annexes” (“Decision”), wherein she modified Mr Shala’s sentence by releasing him to Kosovo under certain conditions following his service of two thirds of his three-year sentence.²

2. On 18 June 2026, the Registrar filed the Request, informing that she received an email on 15 June 2026 from a family member on behalf of Mr Shala, requesting that Mr Shala be allowed to renew his identification and travel documents, which have expired, and that he be granted permission to travel to Albania “for a short holiday”.³ According to the Request, the “purpose of the visit is purely personal and recreational. However, as [Mr H. Shala’s] travel documents have expired, the travel request is contingent upon first obtaining authorization to renew and receive new valid documents”.⁴

II. ANALYSIS

3. The President recalls her previous finding that a modification of Mr Shala’s

¹ F00009, Transmission of Request Regarding Mr Haxhi Shala’s Release Conditions, 18 June 2026 (confidential and *ex parte*).

² F00004, Decision on Commutation, Modification or Alteration of the Sentence of Mr Haxhi Shala with Confidential and *Ex Parte* Annexes, 2 February 2026.

³ Request, para. 4.

⁴ Request, para. 4.

sentence was appropriate under certain conditions, which include the surrender of his identification documents and his presence in Kosovo for the remainder of his sentence.⁵ The Decision further specifies that Mr Shala must notify the Registrar of any wish to travel outside of Kosovo and request permission therefor from the President.⁶

4. The President recalls that Mr Shala's conditional release to Kosovo does not constitute a release from serving the remainder of his sentence, which will be completed only on 11 December 2026.⁷ The President further recalls that the imposition of conditions limiting Mr Shala's freedom of movements are a consequence of the grave offences for which he was convicted.⁸

5. To that end, the President considers the request to travel to Albania for recreational purposes fundamentally incompatible with the sentence imposed on Mr Shala. Indeed, the conditional release to Kosovo is not meant to be interrupted, absent compelling legal or humanitarian grounds. The President finds that permitting travel for the purpose of "a short holiday" would undermine the integrity of the sentence, diminish the public confidence in the administration of justice and would call into question the seriousness of the offences for which the sentence was imposed.

6. The President therefore rejects Mr Shala's request to travel to Albania and reminds him that he shall continue to abide by the conditions of his release pursuant to paragraph 13 of the Decision.

7. The President notes that the request related to the expiry of Mr Shala's identification and travel documents is separate to his request to be allowed to leave Kosovo for a short holiday. The President considers that individuals should have valid and up to date identification documents. To that end, the President grants Mr Shala's request to have his identification and travel documents renewed. Mr Shala shall

⁵ Decision, para. 13(d).

⁶ Decision, para. 13(e).

⁷ See Decision, para. 13.

⁸ See Decision, para. 12.

immediately return these documents to the Registry upon receipt of the renewed documents.

III. CLASSIFICATION

8. The President notes that the Request was filed confidentially and *ex parte*. To ensure the public nature of the proceedings, the President orders that the Request be reclassified as public or that the Registrar files a public redacted version thereof by Friday, 4 July 2026.

IV. DISPOSITION

9. In view of the above, the President hereby

GRANTS the request that Mr Shala receive his identification and travel documents so that he can have them renewed;

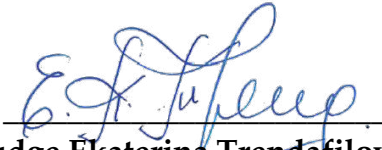
REQUESTS the Registrar to ensure that Mr Shala receive his identification and travel documents for this purpose;

ORDERS Mr Shala to immediately return his identification and travel documents to the Registrar upon receipt of the renewed documents;

DENIES Mr Shala's request to travel to Albania for a short holiday;

REMINDS Mr Shala to continue to abide by the conditions set out in paragraph 13 of the Decision; and

ORDERS the Registrar to reclassify the Request as public or to file a public redacted version thereof by Friday, 4 July 2026.



**Judge Ekaterina Trendafilova,
President of the Specialist Chambers**

Dated Tuesday, 23 June 2026
At The Hague,
The Netherlands