



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 Guénaël Mettraux

Judge Fergal Gaynor, Reserve Judge

**Registrar:** Fidelma Donlon

**Date:** 1 July 2026

**Language:** English

**Classification:** Public

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**Order Extending the Deadline for the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment and Scheduling the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment**

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**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), 158(1) and 159(1) and (2) 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,<sup>1</sup> the Presiding Judge declared the case closed pursuant to Rule 136(1).<sup>2</sup>
2. On 5 May 2026, the Panel issued an order extending the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment (“Order Extending the Deadline for the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment”).<sup>3</sup>

## II. APPLICABLE LAW

3. Pursuant to Article 43(2), the Judgment of the Trial Panel shall be rendered by a majority of the judges of the Panel and shall be announced in public. The Judgment of the Trial Panel shall be accompanied by a reasoned opinion in writing.
4. Pursuant to Rule 158(1), after the closing of the case, the Panel shall retire to deliberate *in camera* in order to pronounce a Trial Judgment on the charges of the

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Transcript of Hearing, 18 February 2026, p. 29238, lines 23-24.

<sup>3</sup> F03730, Panel, *Order Extending the Deadline for the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment*, 5 May 2026.

indictment.

5. 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.

6. Pursuant to Rule 159(2), the Trial Judgment, or a summary thereof, shall be pronounced in public in the name of the people of Kosovo, and in the presence of the Accused, unless exceptional circumstances justify his or her absence.

### III. DISCUSSION

#### A. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR PRONOUNCEMENT OF TRIAL JUDGMENT

7. The Panel recalls that it extended the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment by 60 days, in accordance with Rule 159(1), until **Monday, 20 July 2026**.<sup>4</sup>

8. The Panel recalls 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.

9. The Panel considers that a further extension is absolutely necessary within the meaning of Rule 159(1). The Panel recalls that, as set out in the Order Extending the Deadline for the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment: (i) it received the evidence of approximately 270 witnesses (orally and in writing);<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Order Extending the Deadline for the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment, paras 8, 10.

<sup>5</sup> Order Extending the Deadline for the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment, para. 6.

(ii) it admitted 5,467 exhibits into evidence;<sup>6</sup> (iii) the transcript of these proceedings is 29,238 pages in length;<sup>7</sup> and (iv) the complexity of the proceedings in this case, namely that the facts of the case cover more than a year and a half and involve numerous alleged crime sites and a significant number of individual incidents.<sup>8</sup> In addition, the proceedings concern allegations against four individual Accused the responsibility of whom must be individually and carefully examined. In view of the above, to ensure that it can undertake a full and fair assessment of the body of evidence and provide a duly reasoned opinion that accounts for the substantial volume of evidence and the complexity of the proceedings, the Panel is satisfied that a further extension is absolutely necessary.

10. 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 an additional extension of a period just short of 60-days will not cause undue 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. The Panel is satisfied that no shorter extension would enable the Panel to fulfil its responsibilities adequately.

11. In light of the above, the Panel finds that, in view of the circumstances of the case, an additional extension of a period just short of 60-days is absolutely

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<sup>6</sup> Order Extending the Deadline for the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment, para. 6.

<sup>7</sup> Order Extending the Deadline for the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment, para. 6. *See also* Transcript of Hearing, 18 February 2026, p. 29238.

<sup>8</sup> Order Extending the Deadline for the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment, para. 6; *See e.g.*, F00999/A01, Specialist Prosecutor, *Annex 1 to Submission of Confirmed Amended Indictment*, 30 September 2022, confidential, para. 16; Schedules A-C.

necessary and extends the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment until **Wednesday, 16 September 2026**.

B. SCHEDULING OF HEARING FOR PRONOUNCEMENT OF TRIAL JUDGMENT

12. The Panel notes that, pursuant to Rule 159(2), the Trial Judgment, or a summary thereof, shall be pronounced in public in the name of the people of Kosovo, and in the presence of the Accused, unless exceptional circumstances justify their absence.

13. The Panel considers that setting a date, at this point in time, for the rendering of the Trial Judgment provides fair and timely notice to all those concerned.

14. In light of the above, the Panel sets the hearing for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment on **Wednesday, 16 September 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**

IV. DISPOSITION

15. In light of the foregoing, the Panel hereby:

- a) **EXTENDS** the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment until **Wednesday, 16 September 2026**; and
- b) **SCHEDULES** the hearing for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment on **Wednesday, 16 September 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**, in public session.



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**Judge Charles L. Smith, III**  
**Presiding Judge**

Dated this Wednesday, 1 July 2026

At The Hague, the Netherlands.