



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 July 2026

Language: English

Classification: Public

**Consolidated Decision on Kadri Veseli Renewed Request for Provisional Release
and on Periodic Review of Detention of Kadri Veseli**

Specialist Prosecutor's Office

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

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

1. On 15 May 2026, the Panel issued a decision on periodic review of detention of Kadri Veseli ("Mr Veseli" and "Accused") and ordered his continued detention ("Twenty-Sixth Detention Review").¹ Relevant events since the Twenty-Sixth Detention Decision are set out below.

2. On 23 June 2026, the Specialist Prosecutor's Office ("SPO") filed its submissions on the twenty-seventh review of Mr Veseli's detention ("SPO Submissions").²

3. The Defence for Mr Veseli ("Veseli Defence") did not respond to the SPO Submissions.

4. On 1 July 2026, the Panel extended for a second time the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment by a period of just short of 60 days and scheduled the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment on 16 September 2026.³

5. On 8 July 2026, the Veseli Defence filed a renewed request for provisional release ("Request").⁴

¹ F03737, Panel, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Kadri Veseli*, 15 May 2026.

² F03751, Specialist Prosecutor, *Prosecution Submission Pertaining to Periodic Detention Review of Kadri Veseli*, 23 June 2026, confidential (a public redacted version was filed on the same day, F03751/RED).

³ F03757, Panel, *Order Extending the Deadline for the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment and Scheduling the Pronouncement of the Trial Judgment*, 1 July 2026, paras 11, 14, 15(a)-(b).

⁴ F03762, Specialist Counsel, *Veseli Defence Renewed Request for Provisional Release*, 8 July 2026, confidential (a public redacted version was filed on the same day, F03762/RED).

6. On 13 July 2026, following an order by the Panel for an expedited briefing schedule,⁵ the SPO filed a response to the Request (“Response”).⁶

7. On 14 July 2026, the Veseli Defence replied to the Response (“Reply”).⁷

II. SUBMISSIONS

A. DETENTION REVIEW

8. The SPO submits that the Pre-Trial Judge, the Court of Appeals Panel and this Panel have each determined that Mr Veseli’s detention is justified.⁸ The SPO argues that since the last review of Mr Veseli’s detention there has been no material change in circumstances that would warrant a different conclusion.⁹ The SPO submits that the progression of the trial and related developments decisively confirm the necessity of detention.¹⁰ Lastly, the SPO avers that no conditions short of detention in the Specialist Chambers’ (“SC”) detention facilities (“SC Detention Facilities”) would be sufficient to minimise risks associated with the Accused’s release,¹¹ and that detention remains proportional in the circumstances.¹²

⁵ CRSPD988, Panel, *Email from the Panel to the Parties and Participants Expediting the Briefing Schedule for F03762*, 9 July 2026, confidential.

⁶ F03763, Panel, *Prosecution Response to Veseli Defence Renewed Request for Provisional Release* 13 July 2026, confidential, with Annex 1, confidential (a public redacted version was filed on the same day, F03763/RED).

⁷ F03764, Specialist Counsel, *Veseli Defence Reply to Prosecution Response F03763*, 14 July 2026, confidential.

⁸ SPO Submissions, para. 1.

⁹ SPO Submissions, paras 1, 9.

¹⁰ SPO Submissions, para. 1.

¹¹ SPO Submissions, paras 1, 24-28.

¹² SPO Submissions, paras 1, 29-31.

B. PROVISIONAL RELEASE REQUEST

9. The Veseli Defence requests that Mr Veseli be granted provisional release for a limited period of time, pending the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment, on such conditions as the Panel consider necessary and sufficient.¹³ The Veseli Defence contends that: (i) the second extension of the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment constitutes a material change in circumstances requiring a new assessment of Mr Veseli's continued detention;¹⁴ (ii) following the closing of the case and the completion of the evidentiary proceedings, any alleged risk of obstruction of proceedings has invariably significantly diminished;¹⁵ (iii) Mr Veseli has consistently been found not to be a flight risk;¹⁶ (iv) the Registry's most recent reports confirm his continued compliance with the modified detention conditions and identify no suspicious communications;¹⁷ (v) any remaining alleged risks under Article 41(6)(b) can effectively be mitigated through strict conditions of release;¹⁸ and (vi) the period of almost six years in detention, together with the limited period of release being sought, weighs strongly in favour of granting Mr Veseli provisional release.¹⁹

10. The SPO responds that the Request should be rejected as it fails to present any argument which displaces the Panel's consistent and well-founded conclusion that Mr Veseli continues to present an unacceptably high risk of obstructing proceedings and further offending,²⁰ which cannot be adequately mitigated by

¹³ Request, paras 3, 43.

¹⁴ Request, paras 1-2, 14-21.

¹⁵ Request, paras 14, 26-30.

¹⁶ Request, paras 14, 24-25.

¹⁷ Request, paras 14, 33.

¹⁸ Request, paras 14, 35-38.

¹⁹ Request, paras 14, 20, 39-41.

²⁰ Response, paras 1, 3-7.

conditions of provisional release.²¹ The SPO adds that, in all circumstances, Mr Veseli's continued detention remains necessary and proportionate.²²

11. The Veseli Defence replies that: (i) the Response largely repeats previous findings of the Panel and the Court of Appeals Panel and where it introduces new submissions it relies upon vague allegations concerning alleged "hostile actors", unsupported by the material relied upon in Annex 1 to the Response, and does not establish any relevant link to Mr Veseli or the risks under Article 41(6)(b);²³ (ii) the SPO fails to address that the second extension alters the proportionality assessment, and that the cumulative effect of successive extensions following almost six years of detention fundamentally changes the balance between the legitimate aim pursued by continued detention and Mr Veseli's right to liberty on remand, under Article 5(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms ("ECHR");²⁴ (iii) the SPO mischaracterises its reliance on, and fails to explain why the Panel should disregard, jurisprudence from the Single Trial Judge in KSC-BC-2023-12 and the Court of Appeals Panel;²⁵ and (iv) the SPO seeks to substantiate its arguments concerning an alleged ongoing climate of witness intimidation by relying on material that is not accessible to the Veseli Defence.²⁶

III. APPLICABLE LAW

12. The law applicable to deciding the present matter is set out primarily in Article 41 and Rules 56 and 57 and has been laid out extensively in earlier

²¹ Response, paras 1, 4. 10.

²² Response, paras 1, 8-9, 11.

²³ Reply, paras 2, 4-8.

²⁴ Reply, para. 3.

²⁵ Reply, paras 9-11.

²⁶ Reply, para. 12.

decisions. The Panel will apply these standards to the present decision.²⁷

13. Particularly, Article 41(6) provide that the accused shall be detained only when the requirements under subsections (a)-(b)(i)-(iii) are met. In determining whether detention is necessary, pursuant to Article 41 (12), and Rule 56(5), the Panel may consider alternative measures to be imposed on the accused's release.

14. If detention is necessary, Article 41(10) and Rule 57(2) provide that the accused's detention must be reviewed every two (2) months from the last ruling thereof, and/or at any time upon request by any of the Parties, or *proprio motu*. The scope of the review is to assess whether, since the Panel's last review, the grounds justifying detention still exist or there has been a change in circumstances warranting the accused's release. Any such determination must consider alternative measures to the accused's detention, and whether his ongoing detention is proportional.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

15. The Panel has before it Mr Veseli's request for provisional release as well as the SPO's submissions on the Panel's bi-monthly review of detention, which is due 15 July 2026. In these circumstances, the Panel will address both matters in one consolidated decision, taking into account all the submissions made by the Parties. The Panel emphasises that this does not alter the regular schedule for detention review, or the right of the Parties to request at any time a review of detention under Rule 57(2). Nor does it affect the fact that the SPO bears the onus of establishing the necessity and reasonableness of continued detention.

²⁷ See for example, F00576, Pre-Trial Judge, *Decision on Remanded Detention Review Decision and Periodic Review of Detention of Kadri Veseli*, 23 November 2021, confidential, para. 41, with further references (a public redacted version was issued on 8 December 2021, F00576/RED).

B. ARTICLE 41 CRITERIA

1. Grounded Suspicion

16. As regards 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 SC. This is a condition *sine qua non* for the validity of the detained person's continued detention.²⁸

17. The SPO submits that the Article 41(6)(a) criterion is still met.²⁹ In its view, nothing has occurred since the confirmation decisions that would detract from the determination that there is a grounded suspicion that Mr Veseli is criminally liable for crimes contained in the amended indictment.³⁰ The SPO further submits that it has been repeatedly confirmed that there remains a well-grounded suspicion that Mr Veseli has committed crimes within the SC's jurisdiction.³¹

18. The Panel notes that, pursuant to Article 39(2), the Pre-Trial Judge determined that there is a well-grounded suspicion that Mr Veseli 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, 14(1)(c) and 16(1)(a).³² Moreover, the Pre-Trial Judge found that a well-grounded

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

²⁹ SPO Submissions, para. 10.

³⁰ SPO Submissions, para. 10.

³¹ SPO Submissions, para. 10.

³² 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 was filed on 19 November 2020, F00026/CONF/RED. A public redacted version was filed on 30 November 2020, F00026/RED. The Specialist Prosecutor 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.

suspicion is also established with regard to the new charges brought by the SPO against Mr Veseli with the requested amendments to the indictment.³³ The Panel further recalls that these findings were made on the basis of a standard exceeding the grounded suspicion threshold required for the purposes of Article 41(6)(a).³⁴

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

2. Necessity of Detention

20. 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 the further commission of crimes.³⁵ Detention shall be maintained if there are articulable

On 17 January 2022, the Specialist Prosecutor submitted a confidential, corrected, and lesser redacted version of the confirmed indictment, F00647/A01.

³³ 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 filed, 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 ("Confirmed Indictment"), strictly confidential and *ex parte* (F00789/A01), with confidential redacted (F00789/A02) and public redacted (F00789/A05) versions. A further confidential amended Confirmed Indictment was filed on 30 September 2022, (F00999/A01) and public redacted version (F00999/A03). A public lesser redacted version of the Confirmed Indictment was filed on 15 February 2023 (F01296/A03) and on 27 February 2023 (F01323/A01).

³⁴ 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 filed on the same day, IA008/F00004/RED).

³⁵ 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, 9 February 2021, [Judgment](#), para. 50; ECtHR, *Grubnyk v. Ukraine*, no. 58444/15, 17 September 2020, [Judgment](#), para. 115; ECtHR, *Korban v. Ukraine*, no. 26744/16, 4 July 2019, [Judgment](#), para. 155.

grounds to believe that one or more of these risks will materialise.³⁶ The Panel notes that “articulable” in this context means specified in detail by reference to the relevant information or evidence.³⁷ In determining whether any of the grounds under Article 41(6)(b) allowing for a person’s detention exist, the standard to be applied is less than certainty, but more than a mere possibility of a risk materialising.³⁸

21. The Panel recalls that a change in circumstances can be determinative and therefore shall be taken into consideration.³⁹ The Panel will therefore assess whether the new circumstances described by the Veseli Defence, namely that the case has been under deliberations for several months and the Panel has extended the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgement for the second time,⁴⁰ warrant a reconsideration of its previous findings regarding the three alternative bases on which it found Mr Veseli’s detention to be necessary.

(a) Risk of Flight

22. The SPO submits that Mr Veseli continues to present a risk of flight as he is aware of the serious confirmed charges against him, the potential of a long sentence, and of the evidence presented in relation to those crimes.⁴¹ The SPO argues that the possible imposition of a lengthy sentence becomes more concrete

³⁶ IA004/F00005, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Hashim Thaçi’s Appeal Against Decision on Interim Release* (“Thaçi Interim Release Appeal Decision”), 30 April 2021, confidential, para. 19 (a public redacted version was issued on the same date, IA004/F00005/RED).

³⁷ 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”.

³⁸ Thaçi Interim Release Appeal Decision, para. 22.

³⁹ See e.g., IA007/F00005, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Rexhep Selimi’s Appeal Against Decision on Review of Detention*, 1 October 2021, confidential, para. 14 (a public redacted version was issued on the same day, IA007/F00005/RED).

⁴⁰ Request, paras 1-2, 14-20; Reply, paras 2-3, 10.

⁴¹ SPO Submissions, para. 12.

with the closure of the case and ongoing deliberations.⁴² The SPO also argues that Mr Veseli is aware of evidence of conduct that has necessitated modification of his conditions of detention.⁴³ The SPO submits that all of these circumstances must be taken into consideration in relation to prior findings concerning Mr Veseli's means to travel.⁴⁴ Lastly, the SPO submits that the combination of all these factors elevates Mr Veseli's risk of flight to a "sufficiently real possibility".⁴⁵

23. The Veseli Defence notes that the Panel had consistently found that Mr Veseli's detention is not justified on the ground of risk of flight.⁴⁶

24. The Panel notes that the SPO is putting forward substantially the same arguments that the Panel has already considered and rejected in relation to the following issues: (i) Mr Veseli'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) the closure of the case and ongoing deliberations; and (v) Mr Veseli's awareness of the modification of his conditions of detention.⁴⁷ In this regard, the Panel recalls that it should not be expected to entertain submissions that merely repeat arguments that have already been addressed in previous review decisions.⁴⁸

25. The Panel has not identified any additional factor sufficiently compelling to affect the previous finding regarding the risk of flight.⁴⁹

⁴² SPO Submissions, para. 12.

⁴³ SPO Submissions, para. 12.

⁴⁴ SPO Submissions, para. 12.

⁴⁵ SPO Submissions, para. 12.

⁴⁶ Request, para. 24.

⁴⁷ See Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 15.

⁴⁸ KSC-BC-2020-04, IA003/F00005/RED, Court of Appeals Panel, *Public Redacted Version of Decision on Pjetër Shala's Appeal Against Decision on Review of Detention*, 11 February 2022, para. 18.

⁴⁹ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 16.

26. The Panel therefore finds that, while the risk of flight can never be completely ruled out, Mr Veseli's continued detention is not 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

27. With reference to previous findings by the Panel and the Court of Appeals Panel, the SPO submits that Mr Veseli continues to present a risk of obstructing the proceedings.⁵⁰ The SPO argues that the closure of the case does not obviate this risk, as Mr Veseli now has knowledge of the full scope of the case against him and witnesses remain at risk of obstruction even after their testimony.⁵¹

28. The SPO further argues that there is a persistent climate of intimidation of witnesses and interference with criminal proceedings against former Kosovo Liberation Army ("KLA") members in Kosovo, which the Court of Appeals Panel has agreed is a relevant "contextual consideration".⁵² The SPO contends that the closure of the case and impending trial judgment has heightened public scrutiny of the case and increased pressure on witnesses.⁵³ In this respect, the SPO adds that suspects indicted for obstructing SC proceedings continue to publicly justify their conduct, which further illustrates this climate.⁵⁴

29. Furthermore, the SPO notes the Panel's previous finding that the disclosure of highly sensitive information to Mr Veseli necessarily results in it becoming known to a broader range of persons,⁵⁵ and, therefore, the release of an Accused with this information would not be conducive to the effective protection of

⁵⁰ SPO Submissions, paras 13-18, with further references.

⁵¹ SPO Submissions, para. 13, with further references.

⁵² SPO Submissions, para. 16.

⁵³ SPO Submissions, para. 17.

⁵⁴ SPO Submissions, para. 17 *referring to* 131934-01.

⁵⁵ SPO Submissions, para. 14.

witnesses.⁵⁶ In this regard, the SPO submits that the risk of confidential information being revealed by Mr Veseli has already been realised, resulting in the Panel modifying the conditions of detention.⁵⁷ According to the SPO, all of these reasons, demonstrate that the risk of obstruction is not only well-founded but that Mr Veseli presents a heightened risk of obstructing the proceedings.⁵⁸

30. The Veseli Defence submits that the SPO argues without evidential basis that, if released, Mr Veseli might seek to retaliate against persons who testified against him or otherwise attempt to procure recantations following the completion of the trial.⁵⁹ The Veseli Defence further submits that the risk of obstruction is liable to diminish with the passing of time and that reliance on abstract or unchanged risk is insufficient.⁶⁰ In the Veseli Defence's view, in light of the current stage of proceedings, and because of the passage of time, the alleged risk of obstruction contemplated in Article 41(6)(b)(ii) has decreased far below the requisite standard of "less than certainty but more than a mere possibility of the risk materialising".⁶¹

31. The SPO responds that: (i) the Panel has rejected the notion that any opportunity to interfere with the proceedings is now significantly lower and confirmed that the risks of obstructing proceedings and further offending remain extant notwithstanding the closure of the case;⁶² (ii) the Panel has repeatedly stated that its conclusion as to Mr Veseli's risk profile derives from several pertinent and individualised factors, including his position of influence, access to confidential information, his record of witness interference as head of the Kosovo Intelligence

⁵⁶ SPO Submissions, para. 14.

⁵⁷ SPO Submissions, para. 18.

⁵⁸ SPO Submissions, para. 19.

⁵⁹ Request, para. 26.

⁶⁰ Request, para. 27 referring to IA034/F00005, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Kadri Veseli's Appeal Against Decision on Request for Provisional Release* ("Appeals Decision on the Provisional Release Decision"), 13 August 2025, confidential, para. 35 (a public redacted version was issued on the same day, IA034/F00005/RED); ECtHR, *Gëllçi v. Albania*, no. 15468/23, [Judgment](#), 25 February 2025, paras 19, 23.

⁶¹ Request, paras 27, 29.

⁶² Response, para. 3.

Service (“SHIK”), and the fact that he previously intervened in a matter specifically involving the SC;⁶³ (iii) while in detention, and with the trial ongoing, Mr Veseli violated the secrecy of proceedings, further demonstrating the substantial risk he presents, and leading to the Panel imposing significant modifications to detention conditions;⁶⁴ (iv) the fact that Veseli has since complied with those modified detention conditions does not mean his risk profile has reduced;⁶⁵ (v) there is an ongoing and pervasive climate of witness intimidation, which the Court of Appeals Panel has recently confirmed remains a relevant contextual consideration;⁶⁶ and (vi) the Veseli Defence, when citing the Court of Appeals Panel’s statement that the risk of obstruction will likely diminish with the passage of time, omitted the qualification that “such risk may not always be reduced significantly, depending on the circumstances of the case.”⁶⁷

32. The Veseli Defence responds that the SPO, faced with the difficulty of sustaining Mr Veseli’s continued detention, refers to new allegations about hostile actors”, which are strikingly vague and unsupported.⁶⁸ The Veseli Defence adds that the timing of the SPO’s reliance on the material in Annex 1 to the Response, which has existed since February 2026, is difficult to reconcile with its submissions, does not supports its assertions and does not explain how it translates into an increased risk that Mr Veseli would obstruct proceedings, if released.⁶⁹ Lastly, the SPO contends that the SPO seeks to substantiate its arguments by relying on material unavailable to the Defence.⁷⁰

⁶³ Response, para. 4.

⁶⁴ Response, para. 4.

⁶⁵ Response, para. 4.

⁶⁶ Response, para. 5.

⁶⁷ Response, para. 6.

⁶⁸ Reply, para. 5.

⁶⁹ Reply, paras 6-8.

⁷⁰ Reply, para. 12, *referring to* Response, para. 5, fn. 13.

33. The Panel calls attention to the standard applied in assessing the risks under Article 41(6)(b), which does not require a “concrete example” of a situation in which Mr Veseli has personally intimidated or harassed a witness.⁷¹

34. The Panel has already determined and reiterates that there is a risk that Mr Veseli will obstruct the SC proceedings based on, *inter alia*: (i) Mr Veseli’s ability to give instructions to an individual interacting with the SC and that, in doing so, he directly intervened in a matter involving the SC; (ii) Mr Veseli continues to play a significant role in Kosovo on the basis of the previous positions he occupied, which would continue to allow him to, for instance, access information or elicit the support of others; (iii) while Mr Veseli was at the head of SHIK, members of the SHIK were involved in witness interference; and (iv) through the advancement of the proceedings Mr Veseli has gained insight into the evidence underpinning the serious charges against him.⁷²

35. The Panel maintains its view that, the names and personal details of certain highly sensitive witnesses have been disclosed to the Defence and have therefore become known to a broader range of people, including the Accused.⁷³ This, in turn, increases the risk of sensitive information pertaining to witnesses becoming known to members of the public. In this context, regardless of the current stage of this case, the Panel considers that the release of an Accused with sensitive information in his possession would not be conducive to the effective protection of witnesses.⁷⁴ In this regard, the Panel recalls its finding, which was upheld by

⁷¹ See for example, IA003/F00005, Court of Appeals Panel, *Decision on Rexhep Selimi’s Appeal Against Decision on Interim Release* (“Selimi Court of Appeals Decision on Interim Release”), 30 April 2021, confidential, para. 59 (a public redacted version was issued on the same day, IA003/F00005/RED).

⁷² See F01303, Panel, *Decision on Periodic Review of Detention of Kadri Veseli*, 17 February 2023, para. 24 (with further references); Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 22; F03177, Panel, *Decision on Veseli Defence Request for Provisional Release* (“Provisional Release Decision”), 13 May 2025, confidential, para. 30 (a corrected and a public corrected version were filed on 11 June 2025, F03177/COR and F03177/COR/RED).

⁷³ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 23.

⁷⁴ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 23; Provisional Release Decision, para. 32; Appeals Decision on the Provisional Release Decision, para. 43.

the Courts of Appeals Panel, that the risk of interference which detention seeks to prevent also includes any attempt to retaliate against or incentivise to recant witnesses who have already testified.⁷⁵

36. Additionally, there is a persistent climate of intimidation of witnesses and interference with criminal proceedings against former KLA members in Kosovo which protective measures alone cannot overcome.⁷⁶ A climate which the Witness Protection and Support Office (“WPSO”) confirmed, at a minimum, still persists in Kosovo.⁷⁷ In this respect, the Panel notes recent public statements made about witnesses before the SC,⁷⁸ but has placed no reliance on the information in Annex 1 to the Response. 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).⁷⁹ In this regard, the Panel is also mindful of its duty to protect both the integrity of the proceedings and protected witnesses. Lastly, with respect to the WPSO report, the Panel observes, contrary to the Veseli Defence’s submissions,⁸⁰ that it is available to the Veseli Defence.⁸¹

37. The Panel recalls that it ordered that additional restrictions be placed upon the ability of Mr Veseli to have contacts and visits in the SC Detention Facilities.⁸² The Panel reiterates that the measures ordered in that context were preventative

⁷⁵ Provisional Release Decision, para. 32; Appeals Decision on the Provisional Release Decision, paras 48-50. *See also* Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 23.

⁷⁶ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 25. *See also* KSC-BC-2020-05, F00494/RED, Trial Panel I, *Trial Judgment*, 19 January 2023, para. 57 (a corrected version was filed on 8 June 2023, F00494/RED3/COR).

⁷⁷ 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 17 April 2026, F03702/A01, p. 3).

⁷⁸ *See* 131934-01.

⁷⁹ *See e.g.*, Appeals Decision on the Provisional Release Decision para. 44.

⁸⁰ Reply, para. 12.

⁸¹ F03702/A01, Registrar, *Annex 1 to the Submission of Redacted Version of F03697/A01 and Request for Reclassification of F03697 and F03697/A02*, 17 March 2026, strictly confidential.

⁸² F01977, Panel, *Further Decision on the Prosecution’s Urgent Request for Modification of Detention Conditions for Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, and Rexhep Selimi* (“Decision on Detention Conditions”), 1 December 2023, paras 51-53, 55-59, 62-64, 66-74, 77-78, 84(c).

in character rather than punitive.⁸³ While the Panel has since amended the additional restrictions twice,⁸⁴ the records on which it based the initial decision further support the suggestion of a risk that Mr Veseli could divulge confidential information to unprivileged third parties.⁸⁵

38. Insofar as the Veseli Defence relies on the cases before the SC and other international tribunals where respective chambers granted provisional release,⁸⁶ the Panel considers that these cases, while illustrative, are not instructive for the Panel, provisional release needs to be determined on a case-by-case in light of all the relevant circumstances, especially in light of the specific circumstances concerning the individual concerned and the climate of witness intimidation in Kosovo.

39. The Panel notes the Veseli Defence's argument that the Panel's second extension of the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment constitutes a material change in circumstances warranting reconsideration of previous findings regarding the existence of a risk of obstruction of the proceedings.⁸⁷ The Panel is of the view, however, that the extension of the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment does not constitute a change of circumstances that lowers this risk. While passage of time is generally relevant to the risk assessment and to the question of proportionality, it is not determinative here. Rather, the Panel assesses the specific circumstances in each case. In the present circumstances, the Panel considers that the formal extension of the

⁸³ Decision on Detention Conditions, paras 30, 34.

⁸⁴ F03308, Panel, *Decision Reviewing the Conditions of Detention Modified in F01977* ("Decision Reviewing the Modified Detention Conditions"), 4 July 2025, confidential, paras 71-72, 91-92, 113(b) (a public redacted version was filed on 17 April 2026, F03308/RED; F03708, Panel, *Decision on Selimi Defence Request for Rescission of Contact Restrictions* ("Decision on Recission of Contract Restrictions"), 19 March 2026, confidential, paras 64-68, 86(b) (a public redacted version was issued on 17 April 2026, F03708/RED).

⁸⁵ Decision on Detention Conditions, para. 35.

⁸⁶ Request, para. 30.

⁸⁷ Request, paras 14-19.

deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgement alone does not impact the relevance of the above-mentioned factors and circumstances.

40. Accordingly, taking all factors together, the Panel concludes that there continues to be a risk that Mr Veseli will obstruct the progress of SC proceedings as set out in Article 41(6)(b)(ii).

(c) Risk of Committing Further Crimes

41. The SPO recalls the Panel's findings in the Twenty-Sixth Detention Review and submits that Mr Veseli continues to present a risk of committing further crimes.⁸⁸

42. The Veseli Defence contends that Mr Veseli's accumulated record of good conduct in complying with the modified detention conditions is a significant circumstance which undermines any suggestion that there is a risk he would commit further crimes.⁸⁹

43. The Panel recalls its finding in the Twenty-Sixth Detention Review that the risk of Mr Veseli committing further crimes continues to exist.⁹⁰ The Panel finds that the same factors that were taken into account in relation to obstruction are relevant to the analysis of the risk of Mr Veseli committing further crimes.⁹¹

44. The Panel acknowledges that Mr Veseli has complied with the modified detention conditions,⁹² but considers that the fact that there has been no incidents in the controlled environment of the SC Detention Facilities, during a period which additional detention conditions have been imposed, is not sufficient to lead to the conclusion that there is no longer any risk under Article 41(6)(b)(iii) since

⁸⁸ SPO Submissions, paras 20-23.

⁸⁹ Request, paras 32-34.

⁹⁰ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 28.

⁹¹ *See above*, paras 33-40.

⁹² Request, paras 32-34.

refraining from prohibited conduct should be the norm and, if anything, highlights the effectiveness of the modified detention conditions.⁹³

45. The Panel highlights the fact that the identities of sensitive witnesses have been disclosed to the Accused, and that any risk of the further commission of crimes must be avoided.

46. Lastly, for the same reasons as set out above,⁹⁴ the Panel finds that that the Panel's second extension of the deadline for the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment does not materially affect the Panel's assessment.

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

3. Conclusion

48. The Panel concludes that at this time there continues to be insufficient information before it justifying a finding that Mr Veseli may abscond from justice if released. However, the Panel is satisfied, based on the relevant standard, that there is a risk that Mr Veseli will obstruct the progress of SC proceedings and that he will commit further crimes against those perceived as being opposed to the KLA, including witnesses who have provided evidence in the case. The Panel will assess below whether these risks can be adequately addressed by any conditions for his release.

⁹³ See e.g., 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*, 13 August 2025, confidential, para. 27 (a public redacted version was issued on 14 August 2025, IA035/F00005).

⁹⁴ See above, para. 39.

C. MEASURES ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTION

49. With reference to the Panel's previous findings, the SPO submits that the relevant risks can only be effectively managed at the SC Detention Facilities and nothing has occurred since the previous determination warranting a different assessment, either generally or for a short period of time.⁹⁵ The SPO further submits that Mr Veseli's conduct represents such an extraordinarily heightened risk that even the standard communications restrictions and monitoring of the SC Detention Facilities are insufficient to mitigate it.⁹⁶ The SPO's position is that, at such a critical phase of the trial, there is no alternative to detention capable of adequately mitigating the salient risks.⁹⁷

50. The Veseli Defence contends that, even if the Panel finds that risks remain under Article 41(6)(b), such risks are lower and can be addressed through strict conditions imposed on Mr Veseli who has already demonstrated his ability to comply with strict release conditions when released on compassionate grounds and who remains willing to comply with any conditions imposed by the Panel.⁹⁸ The Veseli Defence further submits that Mr Veseli's conduct throughout these proceedings strongly supports the conclusion that any remaining concerns can now be effectively managed through appropriately tailored measures.⁹⁹ Lastly, the Veseli Defence adds that recent jurisprudence of the SC concerning other accused demonstrates reliance on the Kosovo Police to effectively implement and supervise conditions of release.¹⁰⁰

51. The SPO responds that, in assessing the ability of Kosovo Police to effectively implement and supervise conditions of release, the Court of Appeals Panel

⁹⁵ SPO Submissions, paras 1, 24-28.

⁹⁶ SPO Submissions, para. 28.

⁹⁷ SPO Submissions, para. 28.

⁹⁸ Request, paras 19, 21, 35-36, 38.

⁹⁹ Request, para. 34.

¹⁰⁰ Request, para. 37.

approved the Panel's earlier conclusion that the measures provided by the Kosovo Police were insufficient.¹⁰¹

52. The Veseli Defence replies that the SPO has failed to explain why the Panel should disregard more recent jurisprudence of the SC that relies on the Kosovo Police to effectively implement and supervise conditions of release.¹⁰²

53. 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).¹⁰³ Article 41(12) sets out a number of options 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 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).¹⁰⁴ The Panel must therefore consider all reasonable alternative measures that could be imposed and not only those raised by the Parties.¹⁰⁵

54. Regarding the risk of obstructing the progress of SC proceedings and commission of further crimes, the Panel maintains its view that none of the previously proposed conditions,¹⁰⁶ nor any additional measures foreseen in

¹⁰¹ Response, para. 10.

¹⁰² Reply, para. 11.

¹⁰³ 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*.

¹⁰⁴ 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, *Buzadji v. the Republic of Moldova* [GC], para. 87 *in fine*; ECtHR, *Idalov v. Russia* [GC], para. 140 *in fine*.

¹⁰⁵ Selimi Court of Appeals Decision on Interim Release, para. 86; KSC-BC-2020-05, F00127, Trial Panel I, *Fourth Decision on Review of Detention*, 25 May 2021, para. 24.

¹⁰⁶ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 34; Provisional Release Decision, paras 48-52.

Article 41(12) could at this stage of the proceedings sufficiently mitigate the existing risks.¹⁰⁷

55. With respect to the guarantees previously provided by the Kosovo Police,¹⁰⁸ the Panel maintains its view that the information provided by the Kosovo Police does not adequately address the risk associated with the possible leak of information about protected witnesses.¹⁰⁹ The Panel notes, as previously held, that the Kosovo Police do not and cannot have access to all relevant information pertaining to protected witnesses and others at risk and as such, they are not in a position to clearly and effectively evaluate the risks involved and to ensure a degree of protection comparable to that provided at the SC Detention Facilities.¹¹⁰

56. The Panel acknowledges, as argued by the Veseli Defence, that accused in KSC-BC-2023-12 have been conditionally released under certain conditions, including with the assistance of Kosovo Police,¹¹¹ but is of the view that the factual matrix in the present case is different. In particular, the Panel notes that: (i) many of the witnesses in the present case are protected witnesses and, as already stated, these details cannot be provided to the Kosovo Police; and (ii) Mr Veseli continues to play a significant role in Kosovo on the basis of the previous positions he occupied.

57. With regard to the Veseli Defence's argument that Mr Veseli has demonstrated his ability to comply with strict release conditions when released on compassionate grounds, the Panel recalls that the conditions imposed were tailored to address relevant risks for a limited period of time in light of the urgent

¹⁰⁷Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 34; Provisional Release Decision, para. 53.

¹⁰⁸ F03076/A01, Specialist Counsel, *Annex 1 to Veseli Defence Request for Provisional Release*, 3 April 2025, confidential.

¹⁰⁹ Provisional Release Decision, para. 50.

¹¹⁰ Provisional Release Decision, para. 52.

¹¹¹ KSC-BC-2023-12, F00599/RED, Single Trial Judge, *Public Redacted Version of Sixth Decision on Review of Detention of Isni Kilaj*, 3 December 2025; F00719/RED, Single Trial Judge, *Public Redacted Version of Seventh Decision on Review of Detention of Bashkim Smakaj*, 3 February 2026, para. 58(j); F00720/RED, Single Trial Judge, *Public Redacted Version of Seventh Decision on Review of Detention of Fadil Fazliu*, 3 February 2026, para. 63(k).

circumstances of Mr Veseli's requests for compassionate release.¹¹² These circumstances were different from those currently before the Panel, and the Panel does not consider they provide sufficient basis to conclude that those measures, or similar measures, would be effective or reasonable over a longer period of time. In this respect, the Panel recalls, in particular, that Mr Veseli's compassionate releases were managed by security and detention officers of the SC Detention Facilities.¹¹³

58. Accordingly, the Panel maintains its view that it is only through the communication monitoring framework applicable at the SC Detention Facilities, including those measures ordered by the Panel,¹¹⁴ that Mr Veseli's communications can be restricted in a manner that would sufficiently mitigate the risks of obstruction and commission of further crimes.¹¹⁵ The Panel considers that the recording mechanisms in place at the SC Detention Facilities, and the staff of the Registrar, seen as a whole, provide robust assurances against the risk linked with illicit communications.¹¹⁶ Moreover, the measures in place at the SC Detention Facilities offer a controlled environment where a potential breach of confidentiality could be more easily identified and/or prevented,¹¹⁷ considering,

¹¹² F00271, Pre-Trial Judge, *Decision on Veseli Defence Request for Temporary Release on Compassionate Grounds* ("First Compassionate Release Decision"), 30 April 2021, confidential and *ex parte* (a public redacted version was filed on 11 May 2021, F00271/RED); F00276, Pre-Trial Judge, *Decision on Veseli Defence Request for Modification of Decision KSC-BC-2020-06/F00271*, 4 May 2021, confidential and *ex parte* (a public redacted version was filed on 11 May 2021, F00276/RED); F00386, Pre-Trial Judge, *Second Decision on Veseli Defence Request for Temporary Release on Compassionate Grounds* ("Second Compassionate Release Decision"), 8 July 2021, confidential and *ex parte* (a public redacted version was filed on 16 July 2021, F00386/RED); F00640, Pre-Trial Judge, *Third Decision on Veseli Defence Request for Temporary Release on Compassionate Grounds* ("Third Compassionate Release Decision"), 8 January 2022, confidential and *ex parte* (a public redacted version was filed on 17 January 2022, F00640/RED).

¹¹³ First Compassionate Release Decision, para. 18(a)-(c), (g); Second Compassionate Release Decision, para. 15 (a)-(c), (f), (h); Third Compassionate Release Decision, para. 24 (a)-(c), (f), (h).

¹¹⁴ See *Decision on Detention Conditions*, para. 84(c); *Decision Reviewing the Modified Detention Conditions*, para. 113(c); *Decision on Recission of Contract Restrictions*, para. 86(c).

¹¹⁵ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 35.

¹¹⁶ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 34; Provisional Release Decision, para. 52, with further references.

¹¹⁷ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 34; Provisional Release Decision, para. 52.

for example, the Registrar's powers to refuse visits and impose proportionate and necessary measures to address any credible risks of confidential information being disclosed.¹¹⁸

59. In light of the foregoing, the Panel finds that the risks of obstructing the proceedings and committing further crimes can only be effectively managed at the SC Detention Facilities. In these circumstances, the Panel finds that Mr Veseli's continued detention is necessary in order to avert the risks in Article 41(6)(b)(ii) and (iii).

D. REASONABLENESS OF DETENTION

60. With reference to the Panel's previous finding, the SPO argues that Mr Veseli's detention remains proportional and reasonable, especially in light of the progression of proceedings.¹¹⁹

61. The Veseli Defence submits that Mr Veseli has been in detention for approximately five years and eight months and that this prolonged period of detention, for reasons inherent to the judicial process, is a factor that must necessarily carry increasing weight in the proportionality assessment.¹²⁰ The Veseli Defence further submits that the proportionality assessment should take into account that since January 2024, Mr Veseli's contact with his family has been subject to a modified and restrictive visitation regime, which has imposed a considerable practical and emotional burden on Mr Veseli's family,¹²¹ and that family visits to the Netherlands have required considerable logistical planning

¹¹⁸ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 34; Provisional Release Decision, para. 51; F02115, Panel, *Decision on Registry Notification in Relation to Court-Ordered Protective Measures and Request for Guidance Pursuant to Decision F01977*, 9 February 2024, confidential, para. 32 (a public redacted version was filed on the same day, F02115/RED).

¹¹⁹ SPO Submissions, paras 1, 29-31.

¹²⁰ Request, para. 39.

¹²¹ Request, para. 40.

and financial resources.¹²² The Veseli Defence argues that the extension of the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment, directly prejudices Mr Veseli's right to liberty under Article 5(1), his right to be tried within a reasonable time under Article 5(3) and his right to respect for family life under Article 8 of the ECHR.¹²³

62. The SPO responds that the Veseli Defence, in claiming that the Court of Appeals Panel has recognised that jurisprudence from KSC-BC-2023-12 provide guidance with respect to the proportionality of detention, fails to acknowledge that the Court of Appeals Panel added that the circumstances were entirely distinguishable from Mr Veseli's situation.¹²⁴ The SPO further argues that the scheduling of pronouncement of the Trial Judgment for 16 September 2026 does not make Mr Veseli's continued detention disproportionate, but rather confirms that it shall continue for a finite period only.¹²⁵

63. The Veseli Defence replies that the SPO mischaracterises its reliance on SC jurisprudence.¹²⁶ In particular, the Veseli Defence argues that it relied on jurisprudence from KSC-BC-2023-12, insofar as it provides guidance regarding the assessment of proportionality at an advance stage of the proceedings.¹²⁷

64. The Panel recalls that the reasonableness of an accused's continued detention must be assessed on the facts of each case and according to its special features.¹²⁸ In the Panel's estimation, the special features in this case include: (i) Mr Veseli is charged with ten counts of serious international crimes in which he is alleged to have played a significant role; (ii) if convicted, Mr Veseli could face a lengthy

¹²² Request, para. 40.

¹²³ Request, paras 20, 40.

¹²⁴ Response, para. 8,

¹²⁵ Response, para. 11.

¹²⁶ Reply, paras 9-10.

¹²⁷ Reply, para. 9.

¹²⁸ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 38.

sentence; (iii) the risks under Article 41(6)(b)(ii) and (iii) cannot be mitigated by any conditions; and (iv) the case against Mr Veseli is complex.¹²⁹

65. With respect to the Veseli Defence's argument that the impact of the modified detention conditions should be taken into account in the proportionality assessment, the Panel recalls that the modified detention conditions are tailored to mitigate the identified risks to the proceedings and the security of witnesses,¹³⁰ and were imposed as a result of Mr Veseli's alleged conduct.¹³¹ In addition, the Panel recalls that it has twice amended the modified detention conditions, and, through these amendments, lessened the restrictions and the impact on Mr Veseli.¹³² In fact, the Panel has taken substantial steps to safeguard Mr Veseli's right to respect for family life.¹³³

66. In addition, with respect to the Veseli Defence's argument that the facilitation of family visits to the Netherlands has required considerable logistical planning and financial resources, the Panel notes that Mr Veseli's right to family life is inherently limited to a certain extent by detention, but all reasonable steps, consistent with international human rights law and internationally accepted standards for the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, are being taken to reduce the impact of detention upon Mr Veseli's right to family life.¹³⁴

67. Lastly, while the extension of the pronouncement of the Trial Judgment is a relevant factor as it necessarily extends the Accused's detention, the Panel is of the

¹²⁹ Twenty-Sixth Detention Review, para. 38.

¹³⁰ Decision on Detention Conditions, paras 30-31.

¹³¹ Decision on Detention Conditions, para 35.

¹³² Decision Reviewing the Modified Detention Conditions, paras 71-72, 91-92, 113(b); Decision on Recission of Contract Restrictions, paras 64-68, 86(b).

¹³³ Decision on Recission of Contract Restrictions, para. 45.

¹³⁴ See F03176, Panel, *Consolidated Decision on Krasniqi Defence Request for Provisional Release and on Periodic Review of Detention of Jakup Krasniqi*, 13 May 2025, confidential, para. 69 (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).

view that, taking all the above factors into account, it is not a factor that causes Mr Veseli's continued detention to cease to be reasonable.

68. In light of the above developments, as well as the fact that there are continuing risks of obstructing the proceedings and of committing further crimes, neither of which can be sufficiently mitigated by the application of reasonable alternative measures, the Panel finds that Mr Veseli's detention for a further two months is necessary and reasonable in the specific circumstances of the case.

69. The Panel acknowledges that Mr Veseli has already been in detention for a significant period of time, and the trial in this case is lengthy. As the Panel previously indicated, it is acting as expeditiously as possible to render the Trial Judgment without delay. The Panel notes that the average deliberation time taken across international and internationalised criminal tribunals dealing with this sort of case has been 395.2 days¹³⁵ and that the International Criminal Court has set a target for rendering trial judgments within 10 months from the date of closing statements.¹³⁶ The Panel will continue to monitor at every stage in these proceedings whether continued detention is necessary and reasonable.

VI. CLASSIFICATION

70. The Panel notes that the Reply was filed confidentially. The Panel therefore orders the Veseli Defence to request reclassification as public or file a public redacted version of the Reply by no later than **Wednesday, 22 July 2026**.

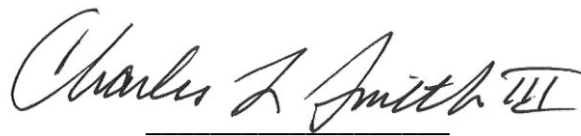
¹³⁵ International Nuremberg Principles Academy, [Length of the Proceedings at the International Criminal Court](#) (2022), p. 40.

¹³⁶ International Criminal Court, [Chambers Practice Manual](#) (eighth edition, 21 October 2024), para. 88.

VII. DISPOSITION

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

- a) **ORDERS** Mr Veseli's continued detention;
- b) **DENIES** Mr Veseli's request for release pending the Trial Judgment;
- c) **ORDERS** the Veseli Defence to request the reclassification or file a public redacted version of the Reply by no later than **Wednesday, 22 July 2026**; and
- d) **ORDERS** the SPO to file submissions on the next review of Mr Veseli's detention by no later than **Friday, 21 August 2026 at 16:00**, with the response and reply following the timeline set out in Rule 76.



Judge Charles L. Smith, III
Presiding Judge

Dated this Wednesday, 15 July 2026

At The Hague, The Netherlands.