



KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS
DHOMAT E SPECIALIZUARA TË KOSOVËS
SPECIJALIZOVANA VEĆA KOSOVA

In: KSC-BC-2020-06
The Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi

Before: Pre-Trial Judge
Judge Nicolas Guillou

Registrar: Dr Fidelma Donlon

Filed by: Dr Fidelma Donlon

Date: 7 May 2021

Language: English

Classification: Public

**Notification of Assignment of Victims' Counsel to Group 1 of Victims
Participating in the Proceedings**

With one confidential and *ex parte* Annex

Specialist Prosecutor's Office

Jack Smith

Counsel for Hashim Thaçi

David Hooper

Head of Victims' Participation Office

Silke Studzinsky

Counsel for Kadri Veseli

Ben Emmerson

Counsel for Victims

Simon Laws

Counsel for Rexhep Slimi

David Young

Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi

Venkateswari Alagendra

1. Pursuant to Article 22(5) of the Law,¹ Rules 26(2) and 113(7) of the Rules,² and the First Decision on Victims' Participation ('First Decision'),³ the Registrar hereby notifies the Pre-Trial Judge of the assignment of Victims' Counsel for the purposes of the common representation of Group 1 of victims participating in the proceedings ('VPPs').

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

2. On 4 January 2021, the Pre-Trial Judge issued a Framework Decision on Victims' Applications.⁴ As per the Pre-Trial Judge's instructions, the Victims' Participation Office ('VPO') submitted its First Report on received applications on 15 February 2021,⁵ which was supplemented on 1 April 2021.⁶

3. On 21 April 2021, the Pre-Trial Judge issued the First Decision granting the applications of Victims 01/06, 02/06, 03/06, 04/06, 07/06, 16/06, 17/06, 18/06 and 19/06 and admitting them to the proceedings as VPPs.⁷ The Pre-Trial Judge further decided that those nine VPPs shall be represented as Group 1 and directed the Registrar to assign, by Friday, 7 May 2021, a Victims' Counsel for the purpose of their common representation.⁸

II. APPLICABLE LAW

4. Article 22(5) of the Law provides that victim groups shall be assisted and represented by a Victims' Counsel. Pursuant to Rules 26(2) and 113(7) of the Rules,

¹ Law No. 05/L-053 on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office ('Law'), 3 August 2015.

² Rules of Procedure and Evidence Before the Specialist Chambers ('Rules'), KSC-BD-03/Rev3/2020, 2 June 2020.

³ KSC-BC-2020-06, F000257/RED, First Decision on Victims' Participation, 21 April 2021, public.

⁴ F00159, Framework Decision on Victims' Applications, 4 January 2021, public.

⁵ F00203, First Registry Report to the Pre-Trial Judge on Victims' Applications for Participation in the Proceedings, 15 February 2021, public, with confidential and *ex parte* annexes 1–19.

⁶ F00241, Supplement to First Registry Report to the Pre-Trial Judge on Victims' Applications for Participation in the Proceedings with Recommendation on Grouping, 1 April 2021, public, with Annex 1, confidential and *ex parte*.

⁷ First Decision, para. 85(a).

⁸ First Decision, para. 85(b)-(c).

after the VPPs have been consulted and their interests and views taken into account, the Registrar shall assign a Victims' Counsel from the List of Victims' Counsel to a group of VPPs in accordance with the Directive on Counsel and the Legal Aid Regulations.⁹

5. In assigning Victims' Counsel, the Registrar shall, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Legal Aid Regulations, take into account: (i) the proposal of the Head of the VPO; (ii) consultations with the VPPs who expressed their views and interests; and (iii) considerations of a potential conflict of interest and other relevant circumstances.¹⁰ Before making a proposal to the Registrar, the Head of VPO shall consult with the Independent Representative Body of Specialist Counsel.¹¹

III. SUBMISSIONS

6. On 7 May 2021, the Registrar assigned Mr Simon Laws ('Mr Laws') as Victims' Counsel to Group 1 of VPPs in accordance with Sections 12(2) and 15 of the Directive on Counsel and Regulation 31 of the Legal Aid Regulations.¹²

7. Mr Laws was admitted to the List of Victims' Counsel on 30 October 2020 in accordance with Rules 25(1) of the Rules and Section 7(3) of the Directive on Counsel.

⁹ Directive on Counsel, KSC-BD-04-Rev1, 28 April 2021, public, sects 12(2), 15; *see also* Legal Aid Regulations, KSC-BD-25, 03 September 2020, public, sect. 31.

¹⁰ Directive on Counsel, sect. 15(1); *see also* Legal Aid Regulations, sect. 31.

¹¹ Legal Aid Regulations, sect. 31(2).

¹² *See* Annex 1, Letter of Assignment, KSC/REG/IOR/4048, 7 May 2021.

IV. CLASSIFICATION

8. Annex 1 is submitted as confidential *ex parte* for distribution to Victims' Counsel only, as it contains personal information concerning Victims' Counsel.

Word count: 591

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fidelma Donlon".

Dr Fidelma Donlon
Registrar

Friday, 7 May 2021

At The Hague, the Netherlands