



SPECIALIST PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
ZYRA E PROKURORIT TË SPECIALIZUAR
SPECIJALIZOVANO TUŽILAŠTVO

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

Before: Court of Appeals Panel
Judge Michèle Picard
Judge Emilio Gatti
Judge Nina Jørgensen

Registrar: Dr Fidelma Donlon

Filing Participant: Specialist Prosecutor

Date: 22 September 2021

Language: English

Classification: Public

Prosecution request for extension of word limits

Specialist Prosecutor
Jack Smith

Counsel for Victims
Simon Laws

Counsel for Hashim Thaçi
Gregory Kehoe

Counsel for Kadri Veseli
Ben Emmerson

Counsel for Rexhep Selimi
David Young

Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi
Venkateswari Alagendra

1. The Defence have filed four appeals¹ against the Decision,² for which the Specialist Prosecutor's Office ('SPO')'s responses are due on 30 September 2021.³ In respect of each of the responses to the Defence Appeals, the SPO requests an extension of the word limit to 13,000 words pursuant to Article 36(1) of the Practice Direction.⁴

2. Good cause exists for the requested extension. The Defence Appeals raise 29 separate grounds of appeal, arising from the 98-page Decision. The Decision addresses significant and complex issues, which will be considered for the first time by the Appeals Panel.⁵ Moreover, each of the Defence teams were granted an equivalent extension to 13,000 words for the Defence Appeals,⁶ to which the SPO must now respond. In granting those extensions, the Appeal Panel found, *inter alia*, that the significance of the jurisdictional appeals at issue warrant the Panel receiving more detailed submissions than would normally be permitted, and that it is in the interests of justice for the parties to be able to file meaningful appellate submissions on the

¹ Veseli Defence Appeal against Decision on Motions Challenging the Jurisdiction of the Specialist Chambers, KSC-BC-2020-06/IA009/F00010; Selimi Defence Appeal against the "Decision on Motions Challenging the Jurisdiction of the Specialist Chambers", KSC-BC-2020-06/IA009/F00011; Thaçi Defence Appeal Against Decision on Motions Challenging the Jurisdiction of the Specialist Chambers, KSC-BC-2020-06/IA009/F00012; Krasniqi Defence Appeal Against Decision on Motions Challenging the Jurisdiction of the Specialist Chambers, KSC-BC-2020-06/IA009/F00013 (together the 'Defence Appeals').

² Decision on Motions Challenging the Jurisdiction of the Specialist Chambers, KSC-BC-2020-06/F00412 ('Decision').

³ Decision on Requests for Variation of Time Limits, KSC-BC-2020-06/IA009/F00005.

⁴ Registry Practice Direction, Files and Filings before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, KSC-BD-15, 17 May 2019 ('Practice Direction'). The standard word limit for each response would be 9,000 words (see Practice Direction, Article 42).

⁵ See *similarly* Decision on Requests for Variation of Time Limits, KSC-BC-2020-06/IA009/F00005, para.5.

⁶ Decision on Request for Variation of Word Limits, KSC-BC-2020-06/IA009/F00009.

matters raised in the Decision.⁷ Those same considerations apply to the present request.

3. This request is being made a week in advance of the applicable deadline. No prejudice would arise to other parties in ruling upon the request without receiving further submissions,⁸ noting (i) the reasonable and proportionate nature of the request, which is equivalent to the word extension which each of the Defence teams already benefited from, and (ii) that both the Veseli and Krasniqi defence teams have previously confirmed *inter partes* to the SPO that they would not oppose such a request.

Word count: 422



Jack Smith

Specialist Prosecutor

Wednesday, 22 September 2021
At The Hague, the Netherlands.

⁷ Decision on Request for Variation of Word Limits, KSC-BC-2020-06/IA009/F00009, para.5.

⁸ Practice Direction, Art.36(2).