

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
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# **Public Redacted Version of**

"Report of the Registrar pursuant to Third Decision on Veseli Defence Request for Temporary Release on Compassionate Grounds", filing F00648

**Specialist Prosecutor's Office** Jack Smith **Counsel for Kadri Veseli** Ben Emmerson

**Counsel for Hashim Thaçi** Gregory Kehoe

Victims' Counsel Simon Laws **Counsel for Rexhep Slimi** David Young

**Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi** Venkateswari Alagendra 1. On 7 January 2022, Mr Kadri Veseli ('Mr Veseli') requested a custodial visit to Kosovo on compassionate grounds.<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the decision of the Pre-Trial Judge on Mr Veseli's request ('Decision'),<sup>2</sup> the Registrar hereby reports to the Pre-Trial Judge on the implementation of the Decision.

#### I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

2. On 7 January 2021, Mr Veseli requested an immediate three-day custodial visit to Kosovo on compassionate grounds to mourn the passing of his mother ('Request').<sup>3</sup> The Specialist Prosecutor<sup>4</sup> and the Registrar<sup>5</sup> filed submissions on the Request the same day.

3. On 8 January 2021, the Pre-Trial Judge issued the Decision, authorising Mr Veseli's temporary transfer to a secure facility in Kosovo, where he would remain in the custody of the Specialist Chambers ('SC') and under escort at all times, for a period of two days [REDACTED] and under certain conditions.<sup>6</sup> The Pre-Trial Judge ordered, *inter alia*, that Mr Veseli only be transported from the secure facility to visit his mother's grave and to visit pre-identified immediate family members and certain second degree relatives [REDACTED], subject to the prior approval of the chief custody officer and provision of proof of identity.<sup>7</sup> The Pre-Trial Judge further

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> KSC-BC-2020-06, F00636, Urgent Third Veseli Defence Request for a Custodial Visit on Compassionate Grounds, 7 January 2022, confidential and *ex parte*. A public redacted version was filed on 13 January 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> F00640, Third Decision on Veseli Defence Request for Temporary Release on Compassionate Grounds, 8 January 2022, confidential and *ex parte*, paras 30, 31(h). A public redacted version was filed on 17 January 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Request, para. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> F00637, Urgent Prosecution Response to Urgent Veseli Request for Custodial Visit, 7 January 2022, confidential and *ex parte*. This filing was reclassified as public on 14 January 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> F00638, Registrar's Submissions on Urgent Third Veseli Defence Request for a Custodial Visit on Compassionate Grounds, 7 January 2022, confidential and *ex parte*. A public redacted version was filed on 14 January 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Decision, para. 24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Decision, para. 24(c)-(e).

authorised Mr Veseli to be visited by pre-identified immediate family members and second degree relatives at the secure transfer facility.<sup>8</sup>

4. The Pre-Trial Judge ordered the Registry to provide regular updates throughout the custodial visit and to file a report on the implementation of the Decision within a week of the custodial visit's completion.<sup>9</sup>

#### II. REPORT

5. The secure and temporary transfer of Mr Veseli to Kosovo for the purpose of a custodial visit following the death of his mother took place [REDACTED]. The Registry provided the Pre-Trial Judge with regular updates throughout the custodial visit, as specified in the Decision.<sup>10</sup>

6. [REDACTED] Mr Veseli was transferred to a secure facility in Kosovo, where he remained in the custody of the SC and under escort at all times.

7. [REDACTED] Mr Veseli visited his mother's grave in the company of escorting officers.

8. Immediately thereafter, Mr Veseli was transported to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED].

9. [REDACTED] Mr Veseli visited with two small groups of authorised visitors, after verification of identity, each consisting of four immediate family members. Mr Veseli visited with the first group twice, before and after his visit with the second group. During his visit with the second group, one immediate family member left [REDACTED] and an authorised second-degree relative was permitted to enter [REDACTED] and join the second group.

10. Mr Veseli was not alone with any of the above family members and relatives at any time. Visits [REDACTED] were conducted within the sight and hearing of the chief custody officer and/or escorting officer(s), with the assistance of a SC interpreter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Decision, para. 24(f).

<sup>9</sup> Decision, para. 30.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Ibid.

## 11. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED].

12. After the visits were completed, Mr Veseli was transported to the SC's secure transfer facility, [REDACTED] where he remained overnight. The next morning, Mr Veseli had in-person visits with three small groups of authorised visitors at the secure transfer facility, upon verification of identity.

13. The first group of visitors consisted of two immediate family members, the second group of visitors consisted of three second-degree relatives, and the third group of visitors consisted of four immediate family members. No unauthorised persons met or otherwise had contact with Mr Veseli at the secure transfer facility.

14. [REDACTED] Mr Veseli was not alone with his visitors at any time. Visits at the secure facility were conducted within the sight and hearing of the chief custody officer and/or escorting officer(s), with the assistance of a SC interpreter.

15. As ordered by the Pre-Trial Judge, Mr Veseli did not have access to communication devices or other means of communication, including pen and paper, other than as facilitated by the SC. In addition, Mr Veseli was not permitted to pass or receive any items from any person without the prior inspection of escorting officer(s) and, where necessary, a SC interpreter.

16. [REDACTED] Mr Veseli was transferred back to the SC Detention Facilities in The Hague, the Netherlands.

17. Mr Veseli abided by the instructions of the chief custody officer and the escorting officers during the custodial visit.

18. Cooperation with external partners was highly effective and ensured a successful operation.

### III. CLASSIFICATION

19. This report is filed as confidential and *ex parte* pursuant to Rule 82(4) of the Rules.

The Registrar will file a public redacted version of this report.

## Word count: 878

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Dr Fidelma Donlon Registrar

Thursday, 27 January 2022 At The Hague, the Netherlands