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

Date: 30 June 2022

Language: English

Classification: Public

Decision Varying Time Limit

Specialist Prosecutor Counsel for Hashim Thaçi

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THE PRE-TRIAL JUDGE,¹ pursuant to Article 39(1) of Law No. 05/L-053 on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office ("Law") and Rules 9(5)(a) and 97(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence Before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers ("Rules"), hereby renders this decision.

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

- 1. On 30 October 2020, further to the Pre-Trial Judge's decision confirming the indictment against Hashim Thaçi ("Mr Thaçi"), Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi, and Jakup Krasniqi (collectively "Accused"),² the Specialist Prosecutor's Office ("SPO") submitted the indictment as confirmed, with redactions as authorised by the Pre-Trial Judge ("Confirmed Indictment").³
- 2. On 22 April 2022, the Pre-Trial Judge confirmed, upon request of the SPO,⁴ amendments amounting to new charges to the Confirmed Indictment against the Accused.⁵

¹ KSC-BC-2020-06, F00001, President, Decision Assigning a Pre-Trial Judge, 23 April 2020, public.

² KSC-BC-2020-06, 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*. A confidential redacted version was filed on the same day, F00026/CONF/RED. A public redacted version was filed on 30 November 2020, F00026/RED.

³ KSC-BC-2020-06, 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. A further corrected confirmed indictment, correcting certain clerical errors, was submitted on 4 November 2020, strictly confidential and *ex parte* (F00045/A01), with confidential redacted (F00045/A02) and public redacted (F00045/A03) versions. A lesser confidential redacted version was submitted on 11 December 2020, F00134. Subsequent to the Decision on Defects in the Form of the Indictment, a further corrected confirmed indictment was submitted on 3 September 2021, strictly confidential and *ex parte*, F00455/A01, with confidential redacted (F00455/CONF/RED) and public redacted (F00455/RED) versions. A confidential further lesser redacted version of the confirmed indictment was filed on 17 January 2022, F00647/A01.

⁴ KSC-BC-2020-06, F00455, Specialist Prosecutor, *Submission of Corrected Indictment and Request to Amend Pursuant to Rule* 90(1)(b), 3 September 2021, strictly confidential and *ex parte*, with Annexes 1-5, strictly confidential and *ex parte*. Confidential redacted and public redacted versions were filed on 8 September 2021, F00455/CONF/RED and F00455/RED, respectively.

⁵ KSC-BC-2020-06, F00777, Pre-Trial Judge, *Decision on the Confirmation of Amendments to the Indictment*, 22 April 2022, strictly confidential and *ex parte*. A confidential version was filed on the same day, F00777/CONF/RED. A public redacted version was filed on 6 May 2022, F00777/RED. A lesser redacted confidential version was filed on 16 May 2022, F00777/CONF/RED2.

- 3. On 29 April 2022, the SPO filed an amended indictment ("Confirmed Amended Indictment") and related documents.
- 4. On 10 May 2022, separate further appearances concerning the new charges to the Confirmed Amended Indictment were held for the Accused.⁷ At the further appearance for Mr Thaçi, the Pre-Trial Judge indicated that the twenty-one (21) day time limit for filing preliminary motions pursuant to Rules 90(4) and 97 of the Rules would run from the date of the further appearance.⁸
- 5. On 31 May 2022, the Defence for Mr Thaçi ("Thaçi Defence") filed a motion alleging defects in the Confirmed Amended Indictment ("Motion").
- 6. On 10 June 2022, the SPO responded to the Motion. ¹⁰ The Thaçi Defence did not reply.

II. APPLICABLE LAW

- 7. Pursuant to Rule 9(5)(a) of the Rules, the Panel may, *proprio motu*, extend or reduce any time limit prescribed by the Rules or set by the Panel.
- 8. Pursuant to Rule 97(2) of the Rules, preliminary motions shall be disposed of within twenty-one (21) days of the last submission.

KSC-BC-2020-06 2 30 June 2022

⁶ KSC-BC-2020-06, F00789, Specialist Prosecutor, *Submission of Amended Indictment and Related Documents*, 29 April 2022, public, with Annex 1, strictly confidential and *ex parte*, Annexes 2-4, confidential, and Annexes 5-7, public. This filing included strictly confidential and *ex parte* (F00789/A01), confidential redacted (F00789/A02) and public redacted (F00789/A05) versions of the Confirmed Amended Indictment.

⁷ KSC-BC-2020-06, F00794, Pre-Trial Judge, *Decision Setting the Date for Further Appearances and Related Matters*, 2 May 2022, public, paras 9-13(a). *See also* Transcript of Hearings, 10 May 2022, public.

⁸ KSC-BC-2020-06, Transcript of Hearing, 10 May 2022, public, p. 1175, lines 5-8.

⁹ KSC-BC-2020-06, F00824, Specialist Counsel, Motion Alleging Defects in the Indictment Against Mr Hashim Thaçi, 31 May 2022, public.

¹⁰ KSC-BC-2020-06, F00835, Specialist Prosecutor, *Prosecution Response to Thaçi Defence Preliminary Motion on the Form of the Amended Indictment*, 10 June 2022, public.

III. DISCUSSION

9. Pursuant to Rule 97(2) of the Rules, the initial deadline for the disposal of the Motion was Monday, 4 July 2022. However, pursuant to Rule 9(5)(a) of the Rules, and for organisational purposes, the Pre-Trial Judge varies this deadline to Friday, 22 July 2022.

IV. DISPOSITION

10. For the above-mentioned reasons, the Pre-Trial Judge hereby:

INFORMS the Parties that the decision on the Motion shall be issued by **Friday**, **22 July 2022**.

Judge Nicolas Guillou Pre-Trial Judge

Dated this Thursday, 30 June 2022 At The Hague, the Netherlands.