

In: KSC-BC-2020-06

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 Guénaël Mettraux

Judge Fergal Gaynor, Reserve Judge

Registrar: Dr Fidelma Donlon

Filing Participant: Acting Specialist Prosecutor

Date: 17 March 2023

Language: English

Classification: Public

Prosecution response to SELIMI Defence request for lesser redacted Confirmation Decision

with strictly confidential and ex parte Annex 1

Specialist Prosecutor's Office Counsel for Hashim Thaçi

Alex Whiting Gregory Kehoe

Counsel for Kadri Veseli

Ben Emmerson

Counsel for Victims

Simon Laws Counsel for Rexhep Selimi

David Young

Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi

Venkateswari Alagendra

- 1. In principle, the Specialist Prosecutor's Office ('SPO') does not object to the Request¹ for a lesser redacted version of the CRV Confirmation Decision.² However, certain redactions applied to the CRV Confirmation Decision remain necessary to give effect to protective measures, including anonymity and delayed disclosure.³
- 2. The SPO is conducting an ongoing review of the necessity of protective measures.⁴ Further, a request to vary protective measures for two witnesses is pending before the Panel.⁵ Accordingly, at this stage and to avoid multiple, lesser redacted versions of the CRV Confirmation Decision which could result in unnecessary use of resources⁶ the Request may be premature. As to the timing of any lesser redacted version(s) of the CRV Confirmation Decision, the SPO defers to the Panel, provided that necessary redactions are maintained to give effect to protective measures in force.

Word count: 345

Alex Whiting

Acting Specialist Prosecutor

Friday, 17 March 2023

At The Hague, the Netherlands.

KSC-BC-2020-06 1 17 March 2023

¹ Corrected Version of Selimi Defence Request for Lesser Redacted Version of Decision Confirming the Indictment, KSC-BC-2020-06/F01347/COR, 7 March 2023 ('Request').

² Confidential Redacted Version of Decision on the Confirmation of the Indictment Against Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi, KSC-BC-2020-06/F00026/CONF/RED, 26 October 2020, Confidential ('CRV Confirmation Decision').

³ See Annex 1 (identifying (i) the witnesses whose identities have not been disclosed to the Defence and (ii) the corresponding paragraphs with redactions that remain necessary to give effect to the relevant witnesses' protective measures). Annex 1 is strictly confidential and *ex parte* to give effect to existing protective measures, as linking certain witnesses to certain locations, events, or allegations could undermine authorised protective measures.

⁴ *See* Delayed disclosure notification for witness, KSC-BC-2020-06/F01341, 3 March 2023, Confidential, para.2; Delayed disclosure notification for four witnesses, KSC-BC-2020-06/F01335, 1 March 2023, Confidential, para.2; Prosecution Submission in advance of Specialist Prosecutor's preparation conference, KSC-BC-2020-06/F01291, 14 February 2023, para.14.

⁵ Prosecution request to vary protective measures, KSC-BC-2020-06/F01261, 7 February 2023, Confidential.

⁶ In this regard, any prejudice is limited, as the Defence already has access to, *inter alia*, a lesser redacted version of the SPO's Pre-Trial Brief (KSC-BC-2020-06/F01296/A01) and the complete evidence of all witnesses who no longer benefit from anonymity or delayed disclosure protective measures.