

Name: The Specialist Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep

Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi

Before: Trial Panel II

Judge Charles Smith III, Presiding Judge

Judge Christoph Barthe Judge Guénaël Mettraux

Judge Fergal Gaynor, Reserve Judge

Registrar: Dr. Fidelma Donlon

Date: 17 April 2023

Classification: PUBLIC REDACTED

[IN COURT REDACTION ORDER]

The Trial Panel II FINDS that the following blacked out text contains confidential information and ORDERS this information shall be removed/ edited from the PUBLIC broadcast/streaming, audio visual recording and transcripts in all three languages *Albanian/English/Serbian*. Hearing of 17 April 2023, transcript reference Page 56 Line 2 (time code 11:25:35) and Page 56 Line 18, (time code 11:26:42).

55:23 24 25	[Open session] THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we are now in public session. PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: You can proceed.	11:25:25 11:25:26 11:25:31
56:1	MR. PACE: Thank you, Your Honour.	11:25:32
2	Q. Witness, before I go any further into my questioning, I	11:25:35
3	would like to ask you to make sure that when you answer my questions	11:25:39
4	you specify the source of your knowledge. I'd like you to make it	11:25:52
5	clear if you have direct knowledge of something or if you have	11:25:54
6	knowledge because you learned it from someone else. And it's also,	11:25:56
7	of course, perfectly okay that you can answer that don't know when	11:26:19
8	you don't have any relevant information to provide. Do you	11:26:20
9	understand?	11:26:20
10	A. Yes.	11:26:20
11	Q. My first questions will be in open session. We are in open	11:26:20
12	session now. If to answer any of those questions you feel the need	11:26:20
13		11:26:21
14		11:26:26
15	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: When you are not asking a question,	11:26:32
16	F	11:26:35
17	MR. PACE: I will, Your Honour. Thank you.	11:26:39
18		11:26:42
19	in Kosovo?	11:26:45
20	A. Yes.	11:26:50
21	Q. And which group is that?	11:26:52
22	A. The Democratic League of Kosovo.	11:26:55
23	Q. Could you explain, in brief, what the Democratic League of	11:27:02
	Kosovo is? LDK, I believe, for short.	11:27:14
25	A. The LDK, or the Democratic League of Kosovo, is a political	11:27:16

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Judge Charles Smith III Presiding Judge

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58:6	given that we're just starting out?	11:31:04
7	MR. PACE: Yes, Your Honour. I had referred to the early days,	11:31:07
8	but I'm happy to clarify with the witness.	11:31:10
9	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Go ahead and give us a timeframe.	11:31:11
10	MR. PACE:	11:31:16
11	Q. Witness, these parallel institutions that you were just	11:31:16
12	referring to. Could you let us know when they began, when they	11:31:18
13	started to function in Kosovo?	11:31:21
14	A. The parallel institutions started their work after the abolition	11:31:25
15	of the Kosovo Assembly on the part of Serbia. The year is 1989. The	11:31:34
16	independence of Kosovo was proclaimed on 2 July 1990. And from that	11:31:45
17	moment onwards, the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo came into	11:31:50
18	being.	11:31:52
19	Q. And from that moment onwards, could you tell us, in brief, how	11:31:53
20	the LDK was structured?	11:32:00

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77:5	month and year, please?	12:17:58
6	A. Well, obviously, after July, after the battles of ^ nonetheles	12:18:07
7	in Malisheve and its villages, the Kosovo Liberation Army was acting	12:18:13
8	there and it was under its supervision.	12:18:23
9	Q. Are you familiar with the term Malisheve freezone in the Kosovo	12:18:53
10	armed ^ context?	12:19:03
11	A. Well, of course, I've heard about it.	12:19:03
12	Q. And could you explain to the Judges briefly what that meant,	12:19:03
13	this term?	12:19:03
14	A. Well, for several months it was the Malisheve free zone	12:19:26
15	controlled by the Kosovo Liberation Army as a free zone, as a free	12:19:36
16	area where people just acted as in it was a little bit things wer	12:19:37
17	a bit freer there than in other areas.	12:19:37
18	Q. And in what way was it free, or can I ask who was it free of?	12:19:37
19	A. Free because there were no Serb forces in Malisheve. It was	12:19:40
20	completely under the control of the Kosovo Liberation Army.	12:19:44
21	Q. I remind you we're in open session. I just have two questions,	12:19:47
22	and then I'll ask to move to private session.	12:19:54
23	My first question is when, what month did you join the KLA and	12:19:56
24	what year?	12:20:00
25	A. Yes. As I said earlier, it was as of 1991 that we had the	12:20:00
	Ministry of Defence. It was a structure inside Kosovo that worked	12:20:24
2	as but as a member of the KLA, I joined immediately in 1998. I	12:20:34
3	worked in the sector. But in the meantime, I was already	12:20:42
4	member. I joined. But on 7 April, however, we established this uni	12:20:48
5	in the village,	12:21:02
6	MR. PACE: Your Honour, I'll move to private session with your	12:21:13
7	leave.	12:21:15
8	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Into private session, please.	12:21:25
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130:23	finish.	16:07:19
24	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.	16:07:20
25	Mr. McCloskey.	16:07:21
131:1	MR. McCLOSKEY: Yes. Just, it may help that the	16:07:23
2		16:07:27
3		16:07:30
4	Just so that can be made clear.	16:07:33
5	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.	16:07:38
6	All right. We'll see you tomorrow morning at 9.00 a.m. Thank	16:07:39
7	you for your attendance and cooperation today.	16:07:43

Judge Charles Smith III

Presiding Judge

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