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 Christoph Barthe Judge Guénaël Mettraux

Judge Fergal Gaynor, Reserve Judge

**Registrar:** Dr. Fidelma Donlon

Filing Participant: Counsel for Hashim Thaçi

Counsel for Kadri Veseli Counsel for Rexhep Selimi Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi

**Date:** 17 October 2023

**Language**: English

**Classification**: Public

## Public Redacted Version of 'Joint Defence Response to Prosecution Third Motion for Admission of Evidence Pursuant to Rule 155 (F01804)'

Acting Deputy Specialist Prosecutor Counsel for Hashim Thaçi

Ward Ferdinandusse Gregory Kehoe

Counsel for Victims Counsel for Kadri Veseli

Simon Laws KC Ben Emmerson KC

Counsel for Rexhep Selimi

Geoffrey Roberts

Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi

Venkateswari Alagendra

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Defence for Messrs. Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi, and Jakup

Krasniqi ("Defence") hereby responds to the 'Prosecution Third Motion for Admission

of Evidence Pursuant to Rule 155' ("Prosecution Motion"). Once again, the Specialist

Prosecutor's Office ("Prosecution") seeks to admit large volumes of unverified

evidence. As stated in previous responses, the amount of untested evidence admitted

onto the case record is becoming untenable. To permit the admission of evidence that

has been found to lack credibility and probative value in other trials, without

safeguards in the form of cross-examination from opposing parties, severely

undermines the fair trial rights of the Accused.

2. Particularly acute, is the attempt to admit the evidence of a witness whose

evidence was assessed in detail and found unreliable. It is clear that W04839 has lied

repeatedly, suffered serious psychiatric issues or lied about the same, evinced a

pronounced animosity to an alleged JCE member against whom he gave evidence,

and provided various accounts that were internally irreconcilable, as well as with

evidence from more reliable sources. His evidence fundamentally lacks probative

value. Such evidence should not be admitted where it cannot be challenged by the

Defence.

3. Pursuant to Rule 82(4) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence on the Kosovo

Specialist Chambers ("Rules"), this filing is submitted confidentially because it

responds to a filing with the same classification.

<sup>1</sup> KSC-BC-2020-06, F01804, Specialist Prosecutor, *Prosecution Third Motion for Admission of Evidence Pursuant to Rule 155* ("Prosecution Motion"), 20 September 2023, confidential, with Annexes 1-4, confidential.

KSC-BC-2020-06 1 17 October 2023

.

Date public redacted version: 04/01/2024 21:13:00

## II. APPLICABLE LAW

4. The Defence relies upon its previous submissions regarding the applicable law.<sup>2</sup>

## III. SUBMISSIONS

5. The Defence re-emphasises that the amount of untested evidence admitted through Rule 155³ and Bar Table Motions⁴ creates an unmanageable trial record and jeopardises the Accused's right to a fair trial. The Trial Panel has indicated that the large-scale admission of evidence would "clog the record with a great deal of evidential debris and make final submissions for the Parties and participants and the writing of the Judgment for the Panel very complicated." Such complications are heightened when the evidence under consideration is rife with credibility issues and is of a low probative value.

6. The Defence further urges the Trial Panel to recall the principle espoused under Rule 155(5) that if the evidence provided by an unavailable witness goes to proof of the acts and conduct of the Accused, this may be a factor against the admission of such evidence, in whole or in part. Whilst this Rule does not wholly prevent the introduction of such evidence, it must be read in conjunction with Rule 140(4)(a), which dictates that such evidence cannot be used to a decisive extent in determining

KSC-BC-2020-06 2 17 October 2023

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> KSC-BC-2020-06, F01391, Specialist Counsel, *Joint Defence Response to "Prosecution First Motion for Admission of Evidence pursuant to Rule 155"*, 22 March 2023, confidential, paras 6-29.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> First Decision; KSC-BC-2020-06, F01864, Trial Panel II, *Decision on Prosecution Second Motion for Admission of Evidence Pursuant to Rule 155* ("Second Decision"), 17 October 2023, confidential.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> KSC-BC-2020-06, F01409, Trial Panel II, Decision on Specialist Prosecutor's Bar Table Motion, 31 March 2023, confidential; F01596, Trial Panel II, Second Decision on Specialist Prosecutor's Bar Table Motion, 9 June 2023, confidential; F01705, Trial Panel II, Third Decision on Specialist Prosecutor's Bar Table Motion, 27 July 2023, confidential; F01716, Trial Panel II, Fourth Decision on Specialist Prosecutor's Bar Table Motion, 8 August 2023, confidential; F01832, Trial Panel II, Fifth Decision on Specialist Prosecutor's Bar Table Motion, 3 October 2023, public.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> KSC-BC-2020-06, F01380, Trial Panel II, *Decision on Admission of Evidence of First Twelve SPO Witnesses Pursuant to Rule 154*, 16 March 2023, confidential, para. 30.

Date public redacted version: 04/01/2024 21:13:00

culpability.6 Absent the ability to cross-examine and to challenge the veracity of

information provided, admitting such evidence onto the record fundamentally

conflicts with the Accused's fair trial rights.7

7. The Defence understands that, even if such material is admitted, the Trial Panel

will approach it with great caution8 and will carefully assess the weight of the

evidence at the close of the case.9 However, W04839's evidence – which is central to

the Indictment<sup>10</sup> - does not meet the threshold, even for admissibility. As set out below,

W04839's credibility issues are insurmountable.

8. The Prosecution inaccurately suggests that the factual context of this case is so

different from Arben Krasniqi et al. ("Kleçkë/Klečka case"), in which his evidence was

not relied upon, that the outcome here should be different.<sup>11</sup> This is fundamentally

misleading, for the reasons provided below.

W03875

9. With respect to W03875, the Defence notes that neither of the tendered

statements were taken while the witness was under oath. There is no record that

W03875 was subjected to cross-examination on the information provided in those

statements.

<sup>6</sup> First Decision, para. 90. See also, Rule 140(4)(a), (c).

<sup>7</sup> Law No. 05/L-053 on Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office ("Law"), Articles 21(4)(e)-

(t).

8 See, inter alia, First Decision, paras 91, 207, 217.

<sup>9</sup> First Decision, para. 18.

<sup>10</sup> KSC-BC-2020-06, F00999/A01, Specialist Prosecutor, *Annex 1 to Submission of Confirmed Amended Indictment* ("Indictment"), 30 September 2022, confidential, paras 64, 77-79.

<sup>11</sup> Prosecution Motion, para. 36.

KSC-BC-2020-06 3 17 October 2023

Date public redacted version: 04/01/2024 21:13:00

Regarding the interview dated 18 January 2011, 12 the Defence notes the absence

of an acknowledgement that the statement is true to the best of W03875's recollection.

While the English version of the statement contains the witness' signature, there is no

indication that the witness was offered a read-back of his statement in Serbian prior

to signing. Nor has a Serbian version of either statement been disclosed, suggesting

that the witness had no opportunity to revise their contents. The Defence also

identifies inconsistencies in the witness' account, in which W03875 denied knowing

Shaban Shala, then later recalled that Shala took the witness back to his house

following his release and that "[REDACTED]"13 These factors militate against the

admission of W03875's proposed evidence.

W04828

The Prosecution seeks to admit the record of W04828's interview before a

Belgrade District Court investigative judge, and documents related to that interview.<sup>14</sup>

The Prosecution case is that W04828 was a cameraman for the Tanjug news agency,

who was flown into Kosovo during the conflict in 1998 to act as a cameraman

alongside W03880.15

Evidence obtained by the Defence demonstrates that W04828's modus operandi in

the wars in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was to act as a combatant under the

guise of being a photographer for the Tanjug news agency. According to the ICTY

Prosecution, W04828 was a suspected war criminal who participated in the massacre

<sup>12</sup> SITF00010859-00010877 RED2, pp. SITF00010875-00010877.

<sup>13</sup> SPOE00078774-00078791, p. SPOE00078779.

<sup>14</sup> Prosecution Motion, Annex 2.

<sup>15</sup> Idem, para. 16. See also Indictment, para. 113; KSC-BC-2020-06, F01594/A03, Specialist Prosecutor, Lesser Redacted Version of 'Confidential Redacted Version of Corrected Version of Prosecution Pre-Trial Brief' ("Prosecution Pre-Trial Brief"), 9 June 2023, confidential, paras 470-471.

KSC-BC-2020-06 4 17 October 2023

Date public redacted version: 04/01/2024 21:13:00

of civilians during the war in Croatia. The Prosecution does not appear to dispute this

evidence.

13. None of this information is in W04828's witness statement, which the

Prosecution seeks to admit. It is relevant to many issues, including whether W04828

was a civilian/non-combatant when he again was present in a conflict zone using

Tanjug credentials, this time in Kosovo, and whether he was questioned through

interpretation, which was denied by W03880,16 refuting the evidence of W04839 that

Hashim Thaçi (who does not speak Serbian) questioned W04828 or W03880. Notably,

evidence regarding Hashim Thaçi's alleged role in the questioning was not elicited by

the Prosecution during the testimony of W03880, despite him being the only live

witness that can allegedly testify about it. This may be because W03880 expressly

denied this occurred.<sup>17</sup> Where the Prosecution chose not to lead this evidence live, it

cannot now be admitted through Rule 155, such that the Defence does not have the

opportunity to cross-examine.

14. The prejudice of admitting W04828's evidence outweighs any probative value,

and it is inadmissible pursuant to Rule 138(1), which applies to Rule 155

applications. 18 Allowing the disputed evidence of a witness known to be a suspected

war criminal – without cross-examination – is highly prejudicial. Furthermore,

because the evidence of W04828 goes to proof of the acts and conduct of Mr. Thaçi as

charged in the Indictment,19 the Trial Panel should invoke Rule 155(5) and reject its

admission.

<sup>16</sup> KSC-BC-2020-06, Transcript of Hearing (W03880 Testimony) ("Transcript of 10 October 2023"), 10 October 2023, confidential, p. 8629, lines 6-13.

<sup>17</sup> 1D00054, p. 112749.

<sup>18</sup> First Decision.

<sup>19</sup> See Prosecution Pre-Trial Brief, para. 474; Prosecution Third Prosecution Motion, para. 7.

KSC-BC-2020-06 5 17 October 2023

15. The Prosecution is correct that "the Defence is aware of the witness' identity, and

may investigate his motives and credibility".20 In fact, it was the Defence who

informed the Prosecution about W04828's identity, having investigated his motives

and credibility.<sup>21</sup> However, the Prosecution is aware that the Defence does not have

access to Serbia's intelligence and police files on W04828, and must rely on the

Prosecution to obtain additional information from Serbia. The Prosecution, despite

being aware of W04828's true identity since opening statements, has not demonstrated

any willingness to conduct further investigation into W04828's activities in Croatia,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, or Kosovo, despite not disputing W04828's criminal

activities. In this circumstance, the inability of the Defence to question W04828 about

the true purpose of his activities in Kosovo – and the true purpose of the activities of

W03880—is prejudicial and militates against admission of W04828's statement.

16. The material presented by the Defence during opening statements, now shown

to W03880,<sup>22</sup> demonstrated that while W04828 posed as a photojournalist using media

credentials, he was a radical nationalist and a combatant in both the Croatian and

Bosnian wars. An ICTY Prosecution analyst, described W04828 as a "hard-core

Chetnik".23 The Prosecution has produced no records of any reports filed by W04828

and W03880, or articles published by the Tanjug news agency based on their reporting

in Kosovo. When questioned, W03880 was unable to name or describe any such

articles.24

<sup>20</sup> Prosecution Motion, para. 20.

<sup>21</sup> KSC-BC-2020-06, Transcript of Hearing (Opening Statements) ("Thaçi Opening Statement"), 4 April 2023, public, pp. 2334-2338.

<sup>22</sup> See cross-examination of W03880 on 9 and 10 October 2023: KSC-BC-2020-06, Transcript of Hearing (W03880 Testimony) ("Transcript of 9 October 2023"), 9 October 2023, confidential, pp. 8439-8530; Transcript of 10 October 2023, pp. 8548-8601.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> DHT02025-DHT02029, pp. DHT02028-DHT02029.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Transcript of 10 October 2023, pp. 8556-8558.

17. There is an explanation for this. During opening statements, the Defence presented a document of the State Security Services of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Srpska Krajina, which identified W04828 as having come to Croatia in October 1991 "with a group of volunteers from Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina". <sup>25</sup> The report says he "claimed to be a newspaper journalist from a media organization and had a certified newspaper identification card. However, he expressed his wish to join the units of the Benkovac Territorial Defence as a volunteer". The report provides that this group of volunteers gathered around W04828 "gained the reputation of criminals [...] who were abusing their participation in battles to carry out robberies and often, even murders", and that "[d]ue to criminal activities and murders committed, especially in actions near Škabrnja, where they killed tens of civilians, it was decided that this unit be closed down". <sup>26</sup> As such, W04828 was identified as having participated in one of the most brutal war crimes committed in Croatia in 1991. <sup>27</sup>

18. The ICTY Prosecution analyst confirmed these reports, and identified W04828 as having reappeared in the region "in March 1992 trying to arrange arms supplies to the Serbs in Bosnia". <sup>28</sup> This evidence finds contemporaneous corroboration General Ratko Mladić's diaries, the commander of the VRS. General Mladić wrote about W04828 on 24 March 1992, on the eve of the war in Bosnia, that "Vladimir DOBRICIC - Kica, 46 years old from Benkovac 81-803 from Benkovac, ringleader in smuggling of weapons". <sup>29</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Thaçi Opening Statement, p. 2335, lines 15-21, referring to 1D00059\_ET, p. DHT02031.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> 1D00059\_ET, p. DHT02031.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> See Thaçi Opening Statement, p. 2336, lines 10-16. See also DHT02200-DHT02269, p. DHT02241, discussing a witness statement taken from Vojvoda Vasilije VIDOVIĆ aka "Vaske", who identified Vladimir Dobričić, reporter of the Danube News Agency, as a member of his unit called "Vaske's Platoon"; DHT02048-DHT02198, paras 111, 259-260: "JCE members, including MARTIĆ and MLADIĆ took steps to eliminate Croat institutions in Serb-claimed territories, such as Croatian police departments. Operations they carried out involved Šešeljevci, including Vojvoda Vasilije VIDOVIĆ aka "Vaske". Paragraphs 259-260 explain the operations that VIDOVIĆ and his "Šešelj volunteers" carried out near Sarajevo.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> DHT02025-DHT02029, p. DHT02029.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> DHT02270-DHT02666, p. 121.

19. The Prosecution is now in possession of this information about W04828's real identity, motives and credibility. The fact that it continues to assert, without nuance, that W04828 was a captured photographer, reinforces the prejudice to the Defence from not being able to question W04828 on the basis of contemporaneous,

corroborated information about what he was actually doing in Kosovo in 1998.

20. The Prosecution asserts that the probative value of W04828's evidence is not

outweighed by "any prejudice", because it is "consistent with and corroborated by,

inter alia, documentary evidence and the statements of other witnesses in the case".30

Putting aside W03880, the other witnesses cited – W04408, [REDACTED],

[REDACTED]<sup>31</sup> – are being called to give evidence about W04828's release from

detention, but have no independent knowledge about why he was detained or who

he really was. W04408 was questioned on the basis of information about W04828's

true identity, and had never heard these allegations, and took no steps to find out

more.32 Instead, W04408 submitted that his sole focus, and that of Human Rights

Watch, was on their detention, noting "[t]here's a distinction in my work between the

charges and the evidence to substantiate those charges and due process. And our

concern was with the latter."33

21. The documents cited by the Prosecution as corroborative have the same problem;

a video of their release;34 a media report about a KLA statement about their

conviction;<sup>35</sup> a collection of media reports,<sup>36</sup> and Human Rights Watch reports which

reference the detention;<sup>37</sup> fail to address the questions the Defence is entitled to ask

KSC-BC-2020-06 8 17 October 2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Third Prosecution Motion, para. 20.

<sup>31</sup> *Idem*, fn. 60.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> KSC-BC-2020-06, Transcript of Hearing (W04408 Testimony), 6 September 2023, confidential, pp. 7400-7402.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> *Idem*, p. 7403, lines 7-9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> 061427-12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> U003-8552-U003-8690, p. U003-8645.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> SPOE00213932-00213936.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> IT-05-87.1 P00741, p.93; IT-03-66 P212.4, pp. 24-25.

W04828 about what he was doing in Kosovo, and why. [REDACTED].<sup>38</sup> The KLA obviously had suspicions about the true identities of these "journalists", and

subsequent evidence demonstrates that these suspicions were justified. Moreover, if

the "journalists" were actually participating in hostilities, they did not enjoy the

protection afforded to civilians under international law, regardless of the KLA's

reasons for detaining them. It is the Prosecution's burden to prove beyond reasonable

doubt that they were civilians. Reading these documents and examining these

witnesses is not a substitute for testing the evidence of W04828.

Nor can the prejudice be mitigated by the admission of material which 22.

establishes W04828's true identity for assessment in deliberations.<sup>39</sup> The purpose of

this material is to impeach W04828 during cross-examination, and gauge and assess

his reaction on the stand, under oath. While testifying, W04828 may have accepted the

overwhelming weight of the Defence material, and admitted that he was not a

photojournalist who happened to be flown to Kosovo in the height of a conflict, but

rather that he was (and remained) a rabid nationalist who had committed war crimes,

thereby affecting the credibility of the Prosecution case. Conversely, he might have

vigorously defended against all suggestions put to him without exception, in a

manner that rendered him an unreliable witness. He might have confirmed his

statement to Voice of America that he had been "treated fairly and correctly and not

mistreated" while in detention, 40 and privately to William Walker that he had "not

been mistreated"41 or may have said the opposite. The Defence, and the Trial Panel

will never know. Where W04828's testimony would have landed, however, is crucial

for an assessment of his Rule 155 statement, which cannot simply now enter into the

record untested.

<sup>38</sup> SPOE00225208-SPOE00225208-ET, p. 1.

<sup>39</sup> Third Prosecution Motion, para. 20.

40 083812-083824-ET.

<sup>41</sup> 093402-093417 RED, para. 19.

KSC-BC-2020-06 9 17 October 2023

23. The prejudice arising from the Defence's inability to ask W04828 about his real

intentions in Kosovo, and his motivation for saying he was mistreated, is heightened

by the purported ignorance of his co-detainee, W03880, who has now testified in this

case. In the proposed Rule 155 statement, W04828 told the Belgrade investigative

judge that he and W03880 spent 45 days together in Kosovo, and that they arrived

together to Kosovo from Belgrade. 42 During his testimony on 9 October 2023, W03880

said this was untrue. 43 W03880 conceded that they did spend time together, albeit not

45 days,44 and that they vacationed together for a couple of weeks.45 However, he

denied any knowledge about W04828's past, identity, motivation or reason for being

in Kosovo apart from being a Tanjug cameraman:46

Q. The truth is that you and Mr. Dobricic went out on the day in question and were taking pictures for Serb intelligence and gathering information for Serb

intelligence. Just as Mr. Dobricic had done in Croatia, just as Mr. Dobricic had

done in Bosnia, he was using his Tanjug credentials as a photographer to hide his true identity as a combatant as were you. Isn't that a fact?

A. It's not a fact. It's not true. At least not in my case. **As for him, whatever**.

As such, questioning W03880 is not a substitute for testing the evidence of

W04828. W03880 rejected the evidence raised by the Defence as to W04828's reasons

for being in Kosovo, and did not address W04828's motivation and character – stating

only that "he looked kind suspicious to me, and I did not like him." 47 W03880 did

confirm, however, that Tanjug was a "state run news agency" and said it was probably

right that "the director was appointed by the Slobodan Milošević government at the

time".48 This information affects the credibility of any suggestion that W04828 and

<sup>42</sup> 083812-083824-ET, p. 083813.

<sup>43</sup> Transcript of 9 October 2023, pp. 8509-8510.

<sup>44</sup> *Idem*, pp. 8511-8513.

45 Idem, p. 8506.

<sup>46</sup> *Idem*, p. 8525 (emphasis added).

<sup>47</sup> *Idem*, p. 8521.

<sup>48</sup> Transcript of 9 October 2023, p. 8482.

W03880 were independent journalists, and corroborates the documentary evidence,

referenced above, that establishes reasonable doubt about W04828 and W03880's

allegedly civilian status. W03880's self-serving insistence that he knew nothing about

the real status of W04828, adds to the prejudice arising from the inability of the

Defence to question W04828.

25. This prejudice is reinforced by the contradictions between W04828's Rule 155

statement and other evidence. [REDACTED].<sup>49</sup> In the Rule 155 statement, W04828 says

he was beaten and kept in a cellar.<sup>50</sup> This is again contradicted by a contemporaneous

account from Ambassador William Walker, that "[t]he released journalists rode with

me back to Prishtine [...] when they were out of the control of the KLA and out of the

glare of the cameras, I had asked them again what they experienced. Both confirmed

that they had not been mistreated."51 W04828's Rule 155 statement alleges he was

aware of other detainees being present at both Shalë (Sedllarë)/Sedlare and the second

detention site. 52 In the release video, W04828 is asked, "Did you see anyone else who

was a detainee?" and he responds, "No, I didn't see anyone, any detainees on any

side."53 As such, W04828's proposed evidence is also inconsistent on key questions.

26. Admission of a deceased witness's statement under Rule 155(1) must comply

with Rules 138 and 155(5). The probative value of W04828's proposed Rule 155

evidence, which is inconsistent, undermined by other evidence on the record, and

remains affected by key questions as to his motivation, credibility, and character that

can now never be answered, is outweighed by the prejudice caused to the Accused.

Moreover, because the evidence goes to the alleged acts and conduct of Mr. Thaçi, it

should be rejected pursuant to Rule 155(5).

<sup>49</sup> *Idem*, p. 8465, citing P00093.

<sup>50</sup> Prosecution Motion, para. 17, citing 083812-083822-ET RED, p. 4.

<sup>51</sup> Transcript of 10 October 2023, pp. 8621-8622; 093402-093417 RED.

<sup>52</sup> Prosecution Motion, para. 17, citing 083812-083822-ET RED, pp. 3-4.

<sup>53</sup> Transcript of 10 October 2023, p. 8580, citing P00093.

KSC-BC-2020-06 11 17 October 2023

This Court should not admit into evidence the questionable, untested and

disputed evidence of suspected war criminals who have concealed their criminal pasts

in the very statements which the Prosecution seeks to admit. The Prosecution request

should be denied. If the Panel admits the evidence of W04828 through Rule 155, the

Defence reserves its right to tender additional material regarding the witness'

credibility through the bar table, including items cited.

W04839

The Prosecution seeks to tender the testimony<sup>54</sup> and associated evidence<sup>55</sup> of 28.

W04839, to corroborate a number of incidents that allegedly occurred in

Llapushnik/Lapušnik, Kleçkë/Klečka, and Shalë (Sedllarë)/Sedlare. The Defence

accepts that W04839 is unavailable.<sup>56</sup> However, it strongly contests the admission of

any evidence associated with a witness so lacking in credibility. The Prosecution

boldly states that the centrality of W04839's evidence to the Kleçkë/Klečka case

"coloured" the analyses of the chambers in question.<sup>57</sup> This proposition suggests that

had W04839's evidence been of less importance, then the chambers concerned would

have accepted the evidence that they had identified as downright lies as truthful, a

suggestion that borders on the ridiculous. In addition, that proposition ignores the fact

that the centrality of the evidence invited a more comprehensive analysis of the

evidence by the chambers in question, as evidenced by, inter alia, the considerable

expert evidence adduced in that case, which the Prosecution has not sought to

confront with any expert evidence of its own.

<sup>54</sup> See Prosecution Motion, Annex 3, Items 1-14.

<sup>55</sup> *Idem*, Items 15-64.

<sup>56</sup> SITF00392249-00392313, p. 7, para. 21.

<sup>57</sup> Prosecution Motion, para. 38.

KSC-BC-2020-06 12 17 October 2023

29. The Prosecution erroneously states that the larger pool of evidence in this case would support the assertions made by W04839, and that this should be sufficient to

grant its admission.<sup>58</sup> However, the major issues in W04839's evidence are caused by:

i. His own admissions that he has previously lied;

ii. Other, unexplained inconsistencies within his own accounts; and

iii. The incompatibility of his evidence with other, more reliable evidence in

the case.

30. The SPO's argument is further defeated by the reconstituted Trial Panel's finding

that even in that case, W04839's evidence was "substantially contradicted by other

evidence" on the record. 59 They found that "his evidence was full of lies." 60 The Panel

went on to find that, "[t]he inconsistencies and contradictions found by the court are

not discrepancies that might be the product of an honest but imperfect recollection,

observation or reconstruction of the events about which he gave evidence."61 It is

misleading for the Prosecution to assert that the primary barrier to finding his

evidence reliable in the Kleçkë/Klečka case was a sparse evidentiary record, which it

has supposedly cured in the present case. 62 In fact, the primary issue was that the

evidentiary record made it impossible for the panel to accept W04839's account.63 In

addition, the alleged corroborating evidence professed by the SPO fails to address the

most crucial aspects of W04839's evidence, namely the acts and conduct of the

Accused.

<sup>58</sup> Prosecution Motion, paras 37-38.

<sup>59</sup> EULEX, *People v. A.K. et al.*, P 766/12, Basic Court of Prishtinë/Priština, *Judgment* ("Kleçkë/Klečka Re-

Trial Judgment"), 17 September 2013, p. 129.

60 Ibid.

61 *Idem*, p. 130.

<sup>62</sup> Prosecution Motion, para. 38.

63 Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, p. 132.

KSC-BC-2020-06 13 17 October 2023

KSC-BC-2020-06/F01865/RED/15 of 29

PUBLIC
Date original: 17/10/2023 19:43:00
Date public redacted version: 04/01/2024 21:13:00

a. W04839's Statements

31. The Prosecution seeks to admit statements provided by W04839 to the EULEX

police in November 2009<sup>64</sup> and testimony during the Kleçkë/Klečka case.<sup>65</sup> The

Defence strongly objects to the tendering of W04839's statements and requests that the

Panel decline their admission because they are unreliable and have low probative

value.

32. The Prosecution asserts that W04839's evidence was found by the Supreme

Court of Kosovo to be admissible in the Kleçkë/Klečka case.66 Nonetheless, the

Prosecution ignores the fact that once this evidence was admitted and thoroughly

assessed, the Re-Trial Judgment concluded that W04839 was "not a credible witness

and that in consequence it would be unsafe to rely upon his evidence."67 This is not

simply a case of evidence being weighed and found to be possibly flawed; the

evidence was held to be fundamentally unsafe, to the extent that it was not relied upon

at all. The reconstituted Panel found that, it would be "simply absurd" to conclude

that, because portions of W04839's evidence were borne out (e.g. mortal remains are

found in a location where the witness has stated they would be) that this would then

lend credence to other, completely different aspects of his evidence (identifying

information of the deceased).<sup>68</sup>

33. The Prosecution argues that the corroboration of W04839's mere presence in

particular places by other witnesses, 69 somehow strengthens the veracity of W04839's

64 Prosecution Motion, Annex 3, Items 1-2.

<sup>65</sup> *Idem*, Items 3-9.

66 *Idem*, para. 32.

<sup>67</sup> Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, p. 259.

68 Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, p. 136.

<sup>69</sup> Prosecution Third Motion, para. 39.

other claims as to what occurred at those sites, or actions undertaken by alleged

subordinates of the Accused in those areas. This is, quite simply, a straw man

argument. The Defence acknowledges that the witness was local to the area about

which he provides evidence. In relation to his role, other witnesses who have testified

viva voce in this trial have already attested that [REDACTED].70 The acknowledgment

that he was present does not change material inconsistencies, now on the record, about

the most fundamental facts of his role. It cannot be automatically assumed that other

witnesses who will testify later in this trial, will corroborate the information W04839

provides.

W04839's evidence is unreliable and lacking in probative value. First, W04839

admitted to lying to ICTY investigators,71 despite being told by the ICTY Prosecutor

"the most important thing today is for you to tell the truth". 72 He has a history of lying

on record, which undermines the reliance that can be placed on his evidence.

Second, W04839's psychiatric condition was explored in the Kleçkë/Klečka case 35.

and there were strong indications that the witness's state of mind was adversely

affected by difficulties with recall at best, and mental illness at worst. 73 For example,

the witness claimed to have read the ICTY statements of Fatmir Limaj, and Isak Musliu

when preparing his own statement. However, none had actually given statements to

the court and during cross-examination, W04839's assertions were exposed as

untrue.74 Whether this was the result of altered recall or conscious fabrication on

W04839's part, the result is the same: the witness cannot be taken at his word, and his

credibility is fundamentally eroded. In addition, he repeatedly claimed that he had

<sup>70</sup> KSC-BC-2020-06, Transcript of Hearing, 15 August 2023, confidential, p. 6404, line 20 to p. 6405, line

<sup>71</sup> SITF00009996-00010122 RED, p. SITF00010019. <sup>72</sup> V000-4626-1-A-TR-ET, pp. 4-5.

<sup>73</sup> Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, p. 88.

<sup>74</sup> SITF00009996-00010122 RED, p. SITF00010023.

KSC-BC-2020-06 15 17 October 2023

Date public redacted version: 04/01/2024 21:13:00

provided a statement to KFOR, which intensified the animosity between him and

Fatmir Limaj, when no record of such a statement was found to exist.<sup>75</sup> Furthermore,

in a letter he purportedly wrote prior to his suicide, he admits to having signed

testimonies without them being translated and reported that "I am stating that all my

statements that are in front of you are worthless", addressing the EULEX personnel

involved in taking his statements.76

36. Third, as exposed in detail in the Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, W04839 had

personal animosity towards Fatmir Limaj, which affected his evidence. This animosity

is readily apparent from W04839's diary entries,<sup>77</sup> which reveal that he was willing to

leverage his testimony to secure an apology from Mr. Limaj.78 The Kleçkë/Klečka Re-

Trial Judgment suggested that this animosity may have resulted from flawed

information that Mr. Limaj had been involved in the death of W04839's uncle, Zenel

Kastrari.79 In this instance, W04839's personal vendetta led him to level untrue

accusations such as accusing Fatmir Limaj of personally engaging in torture, 80 of

ordering murders, 81 and of committing them himself.82 These allegations were

rejected, and Mr. Limaj acquitted. The clear personal animosity of W04839 against Mr.

Limaj infects all of his evidence related to Mr. Limaj and renders it unreliable. It also

demonstrates the extent to which W04839 sought to manipulate court proceedings to

his advantage in light of this animosity, thereby substantially undermining the

reliability of his evidence.

<sup>75</sup> Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, p. 118.

<sup>76</sup> DJK00159-DJK00161-ET, p. DJK00160.

<sup>77</sup> Although this page is not tendered into evidence, note the entry at SPOE00248974-00249180, p. SPOE00249061, in which the witness states "[REDACTED]." [sic]

<sup>78</sup> *Idem,* p. SPOE00249060: "I told them that if Fatmir Limaj apologizes me I can change the previous statement."

<sup>79</sup> Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, p. 130.

80 050951-050965, para. 12.

81 *Idem*, para. 18.

82 *Idem*, para. 13.

KSC-BC-2020-06 16 17 October 2023

37. W04839 gives limited relevant evidence about the Accused. Importantly,

however, on one of the rare occasions on which W04839 references the Accused, it was

to clarify that he had lied about [Hashim Thaçi and Jakup Krasniqi] wanting to kill

him, as a ploy to be admitted to a psychiatric facility.83 This example of W04839's

willingness to lie to achieve his personal goals, highlights the unreliability and low

probative value of this evidence.

38. The information that W04839 provides about the Accused is also largely

tangential, indicating that he was unaware of the roles and responsibilities of the

General Staff. He was unable to identify the exact nature of Hashim Thaçi's role.84 He

stated regarding Kadri Veseli, "[REDACTED]."85 W04839 further alleged that Mr.

Veseli told him to treat well a detainee, who had been brought to Kleçkë/Klečka as a

deserter.86 W04839 claimed that Rexhep Selimi was [REDACTED].87 W04839 claimed

that Jakup Krasniqi stayed at Rame Zogaj's house in Novo Selo<sup>88</sup> and alleged that he

saw Jakup Krasniqi in Kleçkë/Klečka.89 This evidence has no probative value since

W04839 was not asked to confirm when he saw Jakup Krasniqi, where precisely he

was or what he was doing there. Presence in a location does not establish knowledge

of events taking place in that location at different times. 90 As an allegation of acts and

conduct of the Accused, it should not be admitted because it cannot be fairly

confronted by the Defence. Indeed, all of these claims are vague and unsupported;

they have minimal probative value, particularly in relation to the allegations in this

case.

83 SITF00009578-00009648 RED, p. SITF00009585.

84 SITF00009996-00010122 RED, p. SITF00010010.

85 050966-051004 RED, p. 050978, para. 75.

86 051032-051055 RED, p. 0510404.

87 SITF00009996-00010122 RED, p. SITF00010010.

88 050966-051004 RED, p. 050973.

89 SITF00009996-00010122 RED, p. SITF00010000.

<sup>90</sup> See, for example, KSC-BC-2020-06, F01051/CONF/RED, Krasniqi Defence, Public Redacted Version of Pre-Trial Brief of Jakup Krasniqi KSC-BC-2020-06-F01051, dated 21 October 2022, 8 May 2023, public, para. 137.

KSC-BC-2020-06 17 17 October 2023

39. More specifically related to Rexhep Selimi, the SPO Pre-Trial Brief that

"[REDACTED]."91 The only supporting evidence the SPO cites in support of this

allegation is W04839's SPRK hearing dated 11 February 2010.92 This allegation is

therefore completely uncorroborated.

0. In that hearing, W04839 confirmed that Nexhmedin Krasniqi informed him of an

order to kill an individual named "Islam" who lived in Shtime/Štimlje, and that he

subsequently met Mr. Selimi, who confirmed that he had issued the order yet

requested that the individual in question be released. However, in another interview,

W04839 is shown an entry from a duty report he allegedly authored<sup>93</sup> where an

individual by the name of "Sami Duga" is listed as having been detained between the

22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1999, with the word "Tenth" written as a remark. W04839

confirmed that it was this individual that he previously referred to by the name

"Islam".94 It is unclear whether W04839 identified the surname of the individual as

"Duga", or whether it reflects that he is from the village with the same name. The

contradictions inherent in this evidence renders it devoid of probative value.

41. There is no evidence disclosed by the SPO corroborating, or contextualising, the

allegation in question. Nor are Nexhmedin Krasniqi or Sabit Shala SPO witnesses,

thus the Defence would not be in a position to test the evidence in question. While the

latter was interviewed by the SPO and agreed to answer questions, he stated that he

had never heard of anyone being detained in Klečka.95 The Defence notes that the

Panel previously denied admission of very similar evidence related to acts and

conduct of the Accused "in light in particular of the inability of the Defence to cross-

examine this witness, of the absence of corroboration of the matter in question, and

<sup>91</sup> Prosecution Pre-Trial Brief, para. 513.

92 051032-051055 RED.

<sup>93</sup> SITF00009578-SITF00009648, p. SITF00009590.

94 SITF00009578-SITF00009648, p. SITF00009579.

95 065286-TR-ET Part 2, p. 18.

KSC-BC-2020-06 18 17 October 2023

the potentially incriminating nature of the evidence on that point,"96 determining that

the probative value of such evidence would be outweighed by its prejudicial effect.<sup>97</sup>

The same arises with respect to the allegations made by W04839 against Mr. Selimi, as

the admission of this evidence requires the Defence to challenge an allegation

concerning Mr. Selimi's acts and conduct that is unverifiable, uncorroborated and

undefined.98

42. This vagueness is heightened with respect to the allegation that Mr. Selimi hired

the son of one of the detainees referred to as "Adem" as a bodyguard after the conflict

so that "Adem would not testify against anybody."99 The witness subsequently stated

that he doesn't know "Adem's" surname. 100 Not only is this allegation non-specific, it

is uncharged and falls outside the Indictment period. There is no evidence

corroborating this allegation, and even W04839 admitted that the allegation in

question was a guess.<sup>101</sup> It constitutes yet another attempt on the part of the SPO to

introduce evidence blackening the character of the Accused, whose probative value is

severely outweighed by its prejudicial effect, and which the Defence is in no position

to refute.

W04839's statements are also contradicted by other evidence in a manner that 43.

inherently reduce their reliability. As one example, W04839 alleged that KLA soldiers

were conducting unofficial interviews of detainees and beating them with their fists

and batons filled with sand. 102 This was contradicted by other witnesses, who stated

that they were, in fact, treated well as detainees<sup>103</sup> and did not see others being

96 Second Decision, para. 47.

98 See also KSC-BC-2020-06, In Court - Oral Order, Order on Selimi Defence Motion for Exclusion of

Evidence (F01438), 17 April 2023, public.

99 050951-050965, p. 050956.

<sup>100</sup> SITF00009503-00009529, p. SITF00009508.

<sup>101</sup> *Idem*, p. SITF00009524.

<sup>102</sup> SITF00009653-00009681 RED, p. SITF00009674.

<sup>103</sup> SITF00010665-00010706 RED, pp. SITF00010667-SITF00010668.

KSC-BC-2020-06 19 17 October 2023

Date public redacted version: 04/01/2024 21:13:00

mistreated.<sup>104</sup> W04839 gave evidence that he allowed detainees to go out of their cells for fresh air,<sup>105</sup> or even that he freed detainees of his own accord to return to their families for the night and return to the detention site in the morning.<sup>106</sup> This is inconsistent with the evidence of those detained, who stated that their cells were kept locked at night<sup>107</sup> or that they were never let out of their cells at all.<sup>108</sup> Crucially, W04839 lied about the killing of two Serb detainees, claiming that he released these two detainees and put responsibility on [REDACTED] and three other individuals, while subsequently stating that he actually killed them.<sup>109</sup> As the Appeals Panel in the Kleçkë/Klečka case recognized, W04839 "failed to explain the obvious contradiction in his evidence. Those contradictions, and also the constant involvement of Limaj in every offence which was reported by him, makes his statements not credible and unreliable."<sup>110</sup>

44. W04839 further claimed that he had witnessed [REDACTED], which W04839 had procured for him.<sup>111</sup> W04839 alleged that, following the murder, he and Arben Krasniqi were ordered to bury the body.<sup>112</sup> There were at least four problems with this account: first, expert evidence showed that it would have been almost impossible for one single person to inflict the [REDACTED] injuries;<sup>113</sup> second on W04839's account, this victim should have been at the top of the grave, yet his body was found at the bottom; third, Arben Krasniqi could not have buried the body with him as he was seriously injured on the day in question<sup>114</sup>; lastly, W04839's evidence regarding the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> SPOE00078043-00078050, p. SPOE00078047.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> SITF00009653-00009681 RED, p. SITF00009671.

<sup>106</sup> **Ihi**d

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> SITF00010327-00010381 RED, p. SITF00010329.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> SITF00010251-SITF00010260 RED, p. SITF00010254.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>109</sup> SITF00009996-00010122, p. SITF00010019.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> EULEX, *People v. A.K. et al.*, PAKR 266/14, Court of Appeals of Kosovo, *Judgment* ("Kleçkë/Klečka Appeals Judgment"), 26 January 2016, p. 69.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> 050951-050965, paras 65-74.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>112</sup> *Idem*, para. 71.

<sup>113</sup> Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, p. 110.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>114</sup> *Idem*, p. 104.

[REDACTED] was not provided until eight weeks after the relevant forensic report

was issued. As such, the Panel could not exclude the possibility that he had become

aware of this evidence as a consequence of the exhumation. 115

45. There are additional issues with the timeline and specific evidence W04839

provides concerning the killing of four Serbian soldiers. His evidence is that he

witnessed the killing of these four Serbian prisoners around the middle of March 1999.

As the Court noted in the Re-trial Judgment, "he provided a very graphic account of

the killing of the four Serbian prisoners and even took investigators to the place where

their bodies were found."116 These Serbian officers were reported missing by the MUP

on 11 April 1999.<sup>117</sup> When W04839 was asked specifically about the four Serbian

officers by name he later gave completely contradictory evidence that the Serb officers

were released on 18 April 1999.<sup>118</sup> This version of events is corroborated by W04839's

diary. However, he then gave an additional version of events stating that he had heard

that these individuals might have been civilians working for the electric company, not

military officers, and that he only heard they were killed. He indicated that there may

have been two groups of four Serbs brought to Kleckë/Klecka. 119 There is no evidence

that a second group of four Serbs was detained at Kleçkë/Klečka. W04839's account of

this event contradicts itself and cannot be relied upon.

46. Furthermore, the Supreme Court determined that any questioning by the

Defence did not amount to an adequate cross-examination.<sup>120</sup> Nor was any relevant

cross-examination informed by circumstances pertinent to the present case, as

evidenced by the fact that W04839 was largely not cross-examined in relation to his

<sup>115</sup> *Idem*, p. 106.

<sup>116</sup> *Idem*, p. 91.

117 Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, para. 91.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>120</sup> SITF00392412-00392450, p. SITF00392431.

KSC-BC-2020-06 21 17 October 2023

allegations vis-à-vis the four Accused. As the heightened reliability risks were not

adequately mitigated, this militates against the admission of this evidence.

47. In summary, W04839 has lied before, had significant psychiatric issues, evinced

clear animosity towards Mr. Limaj, an alleged JCE member in this case, which affected

his evidence, and his testimony is full of inconsistencies. After a careful assessment,

his evidence was found in the Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial to be fundamentally unreliable.

It is fanciful to contend that a different outcome should be reached here. The evidence

is unreliable, it lacks probative value and the prejudicial effect of being unable to cross-

examine the witness outweighs and limited probative value it possesses. It should be

excluded.

b. Associated Exhibits

i. KLA Military Court Documents

The Prosecution wishes to admit documents associated with the KLA Military

Court, both procedural documents signed by the witness (duty reports and

requests)<sup>121</sup> and legal ordinances.<sup>122</sup> Regarding the legal ordinances and judgments,

W04839 was not questioned about the specifics of the ordinances in his statements or

testimony, and he is unavailable to authenticate them.

It appears that W04839's knowledge of the KLA's legal department was grossly

overstated. When W04839 was asked about the Investigative Judge, [REDACTED], 123

he claimed that he had been introduced to [REDACTED] 2-3 times, describing him as

<sup>121</sup> Prosecution Motion, Annex 3, Items 35-41.

<sup>122</sup> *Idem*, Items 42-47.

<sup>123</sup> SITF00009578-00009648 RED, pp. SITF00009605, SITF00009607, SITF00009616-SITF00009617.

KSC-BC-2020-06 22 17 October 2023

Date public redacted version: 04/01/2024 21:13:00

being of 30-35 years of age.<sup>124</sup> In fact, [REDACTED],<sup>125</sup> this being an alias he used to

conceal his identity, 126 and at the time of these supposed meetings, he was

[REDACTED].<sup>127</sup> This is particularly perplexing because W04839 described W04264 as

being "like a father" to him. 128 W04264, [REDACTED]. 129 These documents should not

be admitted as associated exhibits on paper. They should be tendered through a viva

voce witness who could speak to them, there being three witnesses from the General

Staff Legal Department on the Prosecution's witness list. 130

In relation to the document purportedly signed by [REDACTED],<sup>131</sup> W04839

does not speak specifically to this document in his statements, nor does he address

any incident allegedly involving [REDACTED]. 132 For this reason, W04839 is not an

appropriate witness through whom to tender this document, as he does not appear to

have authored the document, signed it, or mentioned it in his testimony.

ii. W04839's Handwritten Diary<sup>133</sup>

The Prosecution seeks to submit extracts of W04839's diary pages, which it

alleges focus on prisoners and guards at the detention sites at which he was based. 134

Once again, fundamental issues have been found with the diary itself, meaning that

none of the information contained therein, can be said to be wholly credible. In the

<sup>124</sup> SITF00009996-00010122 RED, p. SITF00010030.

<sup>125</sup> SITF00010487-SITF00010508 RED, p. SITF00010488.

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>127</sup> According to SITF00010487-SITF00010508 RED, p. SITF00010488, [REDACTED].

<sup>128</sup> SITF00009996-00010122 RED, p. SITF00010030.

<sup>129</sup> Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgement, p. 117.

<sup>130</sup> [REDACTED], W03898, and W04264 are all on the Prosecution's list of witnesses. See KSC-BC-2020-06, F01594/A02, Specialist Prosecutor, Confidential Redacted Version of 'Amended List of Witnesses', 9 June

2023, confidential, pp. 220-221, 243-244.

<sup>131</sup> Prosecution Third Motion, Annex 3, Item 44.

<sup>132</sup> SITF00009578-00009648 RED, p. SITF00009612.

<sup>133</sup> Prosecution Motion, Annex 3, Items 17-20.

134 *Ibid*.

KSC-BC-2020-06 23 17 October 2023

absence of the witness and without the ability to cross-examine, the diary as a whole

should be considered inadmissible.

52. The Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment analysed W04839's "diary" in detail. The

Panel concluded that it was not a diary at all, but rather a "collection of records to

which other persons had contributed" and that there could be "no certainty about the

actual date diary entries were made."135 Two handwriting experts whose evidence was

considered both concluded that the diaries had been written by at least two - and

possibly more - hands. 136 The Panel observed that, even to a layman, it was "obvious"

that certain parts of the diary were not written in the same hand as the majority. It

concluded that the diary had been written by at least three different authors, 137 and

that some entries appeared to have been inserted after the fact, in order to establish a

false chronology.<sup>138</sup> This is particularly troubling since the diaries are presented by the

Prosecution as corroboration of W04839's testimony.

More pertinently, this provides a further indication that W04839's word cannot 53.

be trusted. The Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment indicates that W04839 lied when

stating "I was taking notes but they were my personal notes. No one knew I was

writing in my diaries." <sup>139</sup> He also stated that he had hidden his diaries and that nobody

else had access to them. 140 Not only were others aware of the diaries; they had in fact

contributed to them. As such, the claim that this was his secret war diary was "simply

a lie."141

<sup>135</sup> Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, p. 76.

<sup>136</sup> Kleckë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, pp. 74-76.

<sup>137</sup> *Idem*, p. 75.

<sup>138</sup> *Idem*, p. 77.

<sup>139</sup> SITF00009653-00009681 RED, p. SITF00009674.

<sup>140</sup> *Idem*, p. SITF00009675.

<sup>141</sup> Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, p. 76.

KSC-BC-2020-06 24 17 October 2023

iii. W04839's Psychiatric Assessment<sup>142</sup>

When the Kleçkë/Klečka case reached the Supreme Court of Kosovo, the Court

stated that the psychiatric records related to W04839 "have not necessarily been of any

relevance for the examination of the witness, since during the whole course of

investigations and interrogations he allegedly has not shown any signs of mental

health problems."143 This can no longer be said to be true. Absent the ability to conduct

a cross-examination, and given the totality of Mr. Zogaj's evidence and the myriad

inconsistencies therein, the psychiatric discharge papers paint a crucial picture of an

unstable individual whose mental state was disorientated and said to be altered, in

the view of three qualified medical professionals.<sup>144</sup>

55. The Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment determined that W04839's mental

condition was indicative of severe anxiety, while still recognising that it was

"impossible to be certain [...] because of the relative paucity of clear clinical

descriptions of his mental state in medical records."145 The judgment further notes that

the decline in W04839's mental state is corroborated by his diary entries - entries

which the Prosecution has sought to keep from the Panel by not including them as

associated exhibits.

56. In later testimony, W04839 claimed to have falsified his mental condition, to

protect his safety.<sup>147</sup> That W04839 had falsified his mental condition, as the witness

himself later claimed, was the case theory pursued by the Prosecution in the

Kleçkë/Klečka case. The re-trial chamber concluded that, if that theory was correct,

<sup>142</sup> Prosecution Motion, Annex 3, Item 48.

<sup>143</sup> SITF00392412-SITF00392450, p. SITF00392435.

<sup>144</sup> SITF00009578-00009648 RED, p. SITF00009621.

<sup>145</sup> Kleçkë/Klečka Re-Trial Judgment, p. 83.

146 Idem, p. 86.

<sup>147</sup> SITF00009578-00009648 RED, p. SITF00009585.

KSC-BC-2020-06 25 17 October 2023

then W04839 is a "manipulative liar" who faked a medical condition to, as the Appeals

Panel determined, either (a) to inflate a damages claim following a road traffic

accident; (b) to provide himself with a partial defence to the [intended] killing of

Fatmir Limaj; (c) to discredit a statement that he said he had given to KFOR, albeit

there is no evidence of such statement having ever been given.<sup>148</sup> All the identified

motives showcase a glaring propensity for dishonesty.

57. If that theory was wrong, then W04839 experienced serious mental illness and

lied about it. Either way, his evidence suffers from insurmountable credibility issues.

In the period leading to his suicide, W04839's paranoia was such that he believed that

his life was at risk from EULEX, accusing them of committing a "psychological

massacre" against his family. 149 That W04839 was determined by German authorities

to have committed suicide suggests that he was mentally unstable. 150

iv. Remaining Documents

The remaining documents contained in Annex 3151 either relate to facts that are

materially evident (as with W04839's participation in the KLA and with Brigade 121)<sup>152</sup>

or are discussed in W04839's statement. 153 The Defence recognises that these

documents meet the standards required for authenticity, but nevertheless argues that

if the statements of W04839 are not admitted, these documents also should not be

permitted to enter the case record.

<sup>148</sup> Kleçkë/Klečka Appeals Judgment, pp. 33-34.

<sup>149</sup> DJK00159-DJK00161-ET, p. DJK00159.

<sup>150</sup> *Idem*.

<sup>151</sup> Prosecution Motion, Annex 3, Items 50-61.

<sup>152</sup> SITF00009578-00009648 RED, pp. SITF00009625; SITF00009627; which corresponds to Items 50-51.

<sup>153</sup> *Idem*, p. SITF00009587, which corresponds to Items 52-61.

KSC-BC-2020-06 26 17 October 2023

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

- 59. In conclusion, the tendered materials should not be admitted. A complete analysis of the evidence indicates that, absent the Defence's ability to conduct thorough cross-examinations, to admit these materials would obfuscate the record with under-clarified or even wholly untrue information, which holds no probative value and has been provided by witnesses lacking in credibility.
- 60. For the reasons set out above, the Defence asks that the Trial Panel dismiss the Prosecution Motion.

Word count: 7685

Respectfully submitted on 17 October 2023,

Gregory W. Kehoe Counsel for Hashim Thaçi

Ben Emmerson, CBE KC Counsel for Kadri Veseli

Annie O'Reilly

Co-Counsel for Kadri Veseli

Geoffrey Roberts

Counsel for Rexhep Selimi

**Eric Tully** 

Co-Counsel for Rexhep Selimi



David A. Jong

Rudina Jasini

Co-Counsel for Rexhep Selimi

David Young

Co-Counsel for Rexhep Selimi

Venkateswari Alagendra Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi

Albukalenoaui

Aidan Ellis

Co-Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi

Victor Băieșu

Co-Counsel for Jakup Krasniqi