#### Procedural Matters (Open Session)

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1	Thursday, 20 April 2023
2	[Open session]
3	[The accused entered the courtroom]
4	[The Accused Krasniqi appeared via videolink]
5	Upon commencing at 9.00 a.m.
6	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Good morning, everyone.
7	Madam Court Officer, please call the case.
8	THE COURT OFFICER: Good morning, Your Honours. This is case
9	KSC-BC-2020-06, The Specialist Prosecutor versus Hashim Thaci,
10	Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi, and Jakup Krasniqi.
11	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Today we will start hearing the evidence
12	of Prosecution Witness 4421.
13	And for the record, I note that Mr. Krasniqi is attending today
14	via videolink.
15	Before we begin, I have an oral order in response to the
16	questions and comments on Judges' questions that came up at the end
17	of yesterday's hearing.
18	MR. KEHOE: Excuse me, Judge. Before Your Honour has an oral
19	order on that score, we had asked we would ask for permission to
20	brief this completely and then ask for oral argument with the Court
21	before any decision is rendered. This is an issue that involves
22	virtually all of the witnesses but certainly the viva voce witnesses
23	that are coming up.
24	I do believe we have an extensive <i>viva voce</i> witness coming up at
25	the beginning of the next session. It's an extremely important issue

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for all of the Defence teams, and we would like the opportunity to
file a joint application to the Chamber and then ask for oral
argument with the Chamber.

[Trial Panel confers]
PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]
MR. KEHOE: I have one other issue. Very minor, Judge.
I just want to introduce one of my colleagues, Jordan Behlman.
It is his first time before the Chamber. Obviously, we gave the
notification but we just wanted to introduce him to the Trial
Chamber.

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. Thank you very much. We will proceed with the oral order. We will not wait for briefing. We've fully understood the circumstances yesterday, and we are ready to issue our oral order.

The Panel heard submissions by the Thaci Defence and the Selimi Defence yesterday concerning the extent of the Panel's discretion to put questions to a witness on the basis of prior statements of the witness or documents which have not been admitted in evidence during the direct, cross or re-examination of the witness.

The Defence argued that it is incumbent on the Prosecutor to lead the evidence of a witness *viva voce* if the Prosecutor thinks it is relevant, and that the Defence's cross-examination will generally be limited to the evidence elicited by the Prosecutor. The Defence submitted that if the Bench can ask questions on any item that the SPO puts in its presentation queue, the Defence would have to

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1 cross-examine on everything in the SPO presentation queue. It argued 2 that cross-examining in this way, and recommencing cross-examination 3 after judicial questioning, would lead to excessive delay, and might 4 force cross-examination estimates to triple or quadruple. The 5 Defence argued that it is not appropriate for Judges to look into 6 unadmitted statements of a witness to "fish out new lines of 7 inquiry."

8 The Defence submitted that the Court of Appeals of Kosovo had 9 found that one document which was discussed with the witness by the 10 Panel was unauthentic. It also argued that the Defence should have 11 the right to reopen their examination on the basis of questions put 12 to witnesses.

The SPO argued that the prior statement of the witness and the document which formed the basis of questions by the Panel were listed on the presentation queues for the witness. The SPO also pointed to paragraph 112 of the Order on the Conduct of Proceedings, permitting parties and participants to seek leave to put questions to a witness after the Panel has finished its questions, and the rule that the Panel can ask any question it wishes.

The Panel first recalls that the Specialist Chambers operates within the Kosovo justice system. The Panel is required to adjudicate and function in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, the Law on the Specialist Chambers, and other sources of law set out in Article 3 of that Law. The Panel does not conduct trials before a jury. The Panel is the finder of both fact

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and law. It is composed of professional judges who, in order to make accurate factual findings, are required to take the steps they consider necessary for the determination of the truth.

To do so, the Panel may, under Article 40(6)(e) of the Law, order the production of evidence in addition to that already collected prior to the trial or presented during the trial of the parties.

This reflects Article 329(4) of the Criminal Procedure Code of 8 Kosovo, which states that "in addition to the evidence proposed by 9 10 the parties or the injured party, the trial panel shall have the authority to collect evidence that it considers necessary for the 11 fair and complete determination of the case." As the commentary to 12 that provision states: "Adversarial proceedings and equality of arms 13 14 does not mean that the judge is only a passive adjudicator, but may seek additional information after the prosecution and defence present 15 their cases." 16

17 The Court of Appeals of Kosovo noted in the Ivanovic et al 18 judgment of 19 December 2016 that:

"The obligation of the Court under Article 7(1) of the [Criminal Procedure Code] to truthfully and completely establish the facts which are important for rendering a lawful decision under Article 329(4) ... entrust the Court to search for the truth but only within the limits of the procedure for gathering evidence. These provisions do not entrust the Court with the power to search for the truth breaching the rules for the gathering of evidence. In this

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particular case, the provisions of the CPC are more than clear during the main trial the pre-trial interview can be used as a tool for cross-examination."

Rules 132 and 137(1) of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers Rules of 4 Procedure and Evidence recognise that "a Panel may order the 5 submission of or call evidence that it considers necessary for the 6 determination of the truth." Under Rule 132, the Panel may, after 7 hearing the parties and, where applicable, Victims' Counsel, "invite 8 the submission of or proprio motu call additional evidence not 9 10 produced by the Parties, including expert evidence, where it considers it necessary for the determination of the truth." 11

12 The Panel questioned the witness yesterday on portions of a transcript of an interview of the witness with the SPO which the SPO 13 14 had listed on its presentation queue and/or which had been used on a number of occasions by the Defence in its cross-examination of the 15 witness. Furthermore, the Panel put questions to the witness on a 16 document which was also listed in the SPO's presentation queue. The 17 Defence was therefore, on clear notice of the relevance of these 18 documents to the evidence of the witness concerned and knew that such 19 documents might be discussed with the witness. No prejudice was 20 21 caused, and the defendants were in a position well before the witness even started testifying to prepare for questions on the basis of 22 those documents if they had any questions for this witness. 23

The Panel is not limited to questioning witnesses on the basis of material listed in the presentation queue of the calling party.

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The scope of judicial questioning is broad and is not constrained by 1 any consideration of subject or substance. Under Rule 127(3): "A 2 Judge may at any stage put any question to the witness." This 3 provision reflects provisions and practices in force at jurisdictions 4 which had adopted a generally similar evidential regime. It is 5 identical, for instance, to Rule 85(B) of the ICTY Rules of Procedure 6 and Evidence. The ICTY Hadzihasanovic Trial Chamber, in a December 7 14, 2005, decision, cited as authority by the ICTY Appeals Chamber in 8 the Popovic judgment, upheld the broad scope of judicial questioning, 9 10 noting that "the procedure followed before the Tribunal is a sui generis procedure combining elements from the adversarial and 11 inquisitorial systems" and that "the Chamber is fully entitled to put 12 questions to witnesses in order to fulfil its duty in truth-finding 13 14 process."

At the ICC, the Judges of the Trial Chamber in Lubanga held in a 15 decision of 18 March 2010 that "there is no foundation in the Rome 16 Statute framework or in any relevant jurisprudence of the Court, or 17 otherwise, for the suggestion that the Bench is unable to ask 18 questions about facts and issues that have been ignored, or 19 inadequately dealt with, by counsel." The judges in that trial 20 decided to "ask questions whenever [they] consider it appropriate, 21 ensuring that the defence rights under Rule 140(2)(d) of the ICC 22 Rules of Procedure and Evidence are respected, and that the parties 23 generally have the opportunity to explore any new issues to the 24 extent that is necessary." 25

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1 The Panel notes that the Defence has the right to reopen their 2 examination on the basis of questions put to witnesses by the Panel. 3 Paragraph 112 of the Order on Conduct of Proceedings provided:

"Where questions put to a witness by a Trial Panel after
cross-examination and redirect examination raise entirely new
matters, any party may orally apply for leave to further examine the
witness on those matters."

This provision was circulated in substantively identical form, 8 in advance of its adoption, to all the parties and participants for 9 10 comments. The Panel did not receive any request for modification or amendment of this paragraph. The Panel included the safeguards set 11 12 out in paragraph 112 to guard against unfair prejudice against any party or participant arising out of Judges' questions. It applied 13 14 paragraph 112 in permitting, on request by the Defence, further questioning of the witnesses following yesterday's judicial 15 questioning. Defence counsel have, therefore, already made use of 16 that possibility where they considered it relevant to their case to 17 ask follow-up questions to those asked by the Judges. 18

The Panel is required, in accordance with Rule 137(2), to assess freely all evidence submitted in order to determine its admissibility and weight at the conclusion of trial. The parties are cautioned not to assume that the Panel has made any prejudgment or determination on any issue on the basis of what questions the Panel asks, nor how the Panel frames questions to a witness, in fulfilling its responsibility to establish the truth.

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In respect of authenticity, the Panel is required under Rule 138 to ensure that any evidence admitted is authentic. Paragraph 47 of the Order on the Conduct provides:

"A Party which objects to an exhibit shall make its objection
clear prior to or at the time that the exhibit is tendered for
admission in evidence."

7 The Panel will consider and rule upon any challenge by the 8 Defence to any document which is submitted on the basis of 9 authenticity. It will in due course rule on the challenge by Defence 10 to the authenticity of the document put to the witness by the Panel.

Finally, the Panel recalls its duty to ensure that the trial is fair and expeditious. The Panel has ensured and will continue to ensure that there is no unfair prejudice to any party caused by the method of questioning of witnesses by any party, participant, or the Panel itself.

16 This ends the oral order.

So, Madam Court Usher, you may bring the witness in.

MS. D'ASCOLI: Your Honours, excuse me. Before the witness is brought in, I have two matters.

First of all, I would like to do two introductions. It's my first time appearing before the Panel, Silvia D'Ascoli for the Office of the Prosecutor, and my colleague, Viki Andrys, Associate Legal Officer.

And then I also wish to ask for a ruling on the requests that we forwarded via e-mail yesterday. The witness wishes to have

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1	available, in case of need, a binder with the hard copies of [REDACTED] Pursuant to In-Court Redaction Order F1472.
2	[REDACTED] Pursuant to In-Court Redaction Order F1472. We would give this to the Court Usher and, of course,
3	the colleagues from Defence can review it, and it will be used only
4	in case the witness requests it. Thank you.
5	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Any objection to that request?
6	MR. EMMERSON: We'd like to see the file if and when the witness
7	requests it.
8	MR. MISETIC: As long as we follow the same procedure with the
9	first witness, meaning she doesn't get to review it on her own. She
10	has to asked permission, et cetera.
11	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Understood.
12	MS. D'ASCOLI: Yes. The request was indicated in the witness
13	log and e-mail that was sent yesterday morning before 9, 19 April.
14	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.
15	Today's session is to be in closed session by prior order. So
16	from this point on, this will be a closed session.
17	Now, Madam Usher, you may bring the witness in.
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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W04421 (Closed Session) Procedural Matters

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W04421 (Closed Session) Procedural Matters

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Witness: W04421 (Closed Session) Procedural Matters

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Witness: W04421 (Closed Session) Questioned by Mr. Laws

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W04421 (Closed Session) Questioned by Mr. Laws

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	ss: W04421 (Closed Session) Page 3321 -examination by Mr. Tully
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8	[Open session]
9	THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we are now in public session.
10	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.
11	So we will take our morning break. We will reconvene at 11.30.
12	Recess taken at 11.00 a.m.
13	On resuming at 11.30 a.m.
14	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We will go back into closed session, and
15	the Court Usher can bring the witness in.
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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

### Witness: W04421 (Closed Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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19	[Open session]
20	THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we're in public session.
21	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Mr. Kehoe.
22	MR. KEHOE: Yes, Your Honour. Just one request before we break
23	for lunch of my colleagues across the well.
24	Previously, we were advised that W02161 had been moved to [REDACTED] Pursuant to In-Court Redaction Order F1472.,
25	and I just want to ask counsel to verify that over the lunch hour,

KSC-BC-2020-06

20 April 2023

#### Procedural Matters (Closed Session)

1	that that witness has, in fact, been moved to [REDACTED] Pursuant to In-Court Redaction Order F1472. Apparently
2	W02161 has the witness has its own [REDACTED] Pursuant to In-Court Redaction Order F1472., and we
3	were advised of that. I just want to make sure that we are
4	continuing in that vein.
5	MS. D'ASCOLI: Yes, we'll do that.
6	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]
7	Luncheon recess taken at 1.06 p.m.
8	On resuming at 2.30 p.m.
9	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right, Mr. Misetic. Oh, are you
10	finished? Oh, I'm sorry.
11	Once again, please bring in the witness.
12	And we can go into closed session again.
13	MR. KEHOE: Sorry, just to confirm, if we have any additional
14	information on W021
15	MS. D'ASCOLI: Yes, I'll wait until we're in closed session.
16	MR. KEHOE: I'm sorry?
17	MS. D'ASCOLI: I'll wait until we are in closed session and then
18	I'll answer.
19	MR. KEHOE: Oh, okay.
20	[Closed session]
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KSC-E	3C-2020-06 20 April 2023

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W04421 (Closed Session) Procedural Matters

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Procedural Matters (Closed Session)

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Procedural Matters (Closed Session)

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Procedural Matters (Closed Session)

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Procedural Matters (Closed Session)

Page 3394

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13	[Open session]
14	THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we are in public session.
15	[Trial Panel and Court Officer confers]
16	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We will be adjourned until 10 May at
17	9.00 a.m., and we will see you all then. Thank you for your time and
18	attendance, and we'll see you in a couple of weeks.
19	Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 3.13 p.m.
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20 April 2023