KSC-OFFICIAL Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Procedural Matters (Private Session)

Page 14983

PUBLIC

1	Monday, 29 April 2024
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: [Microphone not activated].
7	THE COURT OFFICER: Good morning, Your Honours. This is the
8	file number KSC-BC-2020-06, The Specialist Prosecutor versus
9	Hashim Thaci, Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi, and Jakup Krasniqi. Thank
10	you, Your Honours.
11	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you. I note that all the accused,
12	except Mr. Krasniqi, are present in court. Mr. Krasniqi is appearing
13	via videolink.
14	We are scheduled to start the hearing of the evidence of
15	Prosecution Witness W03877 today.
16	Madam Court Officer, please bring us into private session.
17	[Private session]
18	[Private session text removed]
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29 April 2024 KSC-BC-2020-06

Procedural Matters (Private Session)

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Procedural Matters (Private Session)

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Procedural Matters (Private Session) Page 14986

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14	[Open session]
15	THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we're in public session.
16	Thank you.
17	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. Madam Court Officer, please
18	bring the witness in. I'm sorry, Madam Usher.
19	[The witness entered court]
20	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, remain Witness, remain
21	standing. Thank you.
22	Witness, I will read out the text of the solemn declaration
23	which you are asked to take pursuant to Rule 141(2) of our rules. I
24	will ask you to repeat the text aloud and to indicate your consent.
25	Repeat after me: Conscious of the significance.

KSC-OFFICIAL PUBLIC Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Page 14987 Witness: W03877 (Open Session)

Procedural Matters

1 THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Co.	nscious of the significance
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- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Of my testimony. 2
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Of my testimony.
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: And my legal responsibility.
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] And my legal responsibility. 5
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: I solemnly declare that I will tell the
- 7 truth.
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] I solemnly declare that I will 8
- tell the truth. 9
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: The whole truth. 10
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] The whole truth. 11
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: And nothing but the truth. 12
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Nothing but the truth. 13
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: And that I shall not withhold anything. 14
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] And that I shall not withhold 15
- anything. 16
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Which has come to my knowledge. 17
- 18 THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Which has come to my knowledge.
- WITNESS: W03877 19
- [The witness answered through interpreter] 20
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you, Witness. You can be seated 21
- 22 now.
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] You're welcome. 23
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, do you understand the solemn 24
- declaration that you just gave? 25

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Open Session)

Procedural Matters

1 THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Yes, I understood it.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: And you agree to it?

3 THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Yes.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, today we will start your

testimony, which is expected to last approximately two days. As you

6 may know, the Prosecution will ask you questions first. Thereafter,

7 the Defence has the right to ask questions, members of the Panel

8 might also ask questions of you, but Victims' Counsel will not be

9 asking you questions.

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The Prosecution estimate for your examination is three hours.

The Defence estimates that it will need five and a half hours. As

regards each estimate, we hope that counsel will be judicious in

their use of the time. The Panel may allow redirect examination if

conditions for it are met.

Witness, please try to answer the questions clearly with short

sentences. If you don't understand a question, feel free to ask

counsel to repeat the question or tell them that you don't understand

and they will clarify.

Also, please try to indicate the basis of your knowledge of

facts and circumstances that you will be asked about.

In the event you are asked by the SPO to attest to some

questions and some corrections made regarding your statements, you

are reminded to confirm on the record that the written statement, as

corrected by the list of corrections, accurately reflects your

declaration.

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Open Session)

Procedural Matters

Please also speak into the microphone and wait five seconds 1

before answering a question, and then speak at a slow pace so the 2

interpreters can catch up. 3

During the next days while you are giving evidence in this

court --5

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THE WITNESS: [No interpretation] 6

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: During the next days while you are 7

giving evidence in this court, you are not allowed to discuss with

anyone the content of your testimony outside of the courtroom.

any person asks you questions outside this Court about your

testimony, please let us know. 11

Please stop talking if I ask to do so, and also stop talking if 12

you see me raise my hand. These indications mean that I need to give

you an instruction.

If you feel the need to take breaks, please make an indication 15

and an accommodation will be made.

The Panel understands that the SPO has hard copies of your prior 17

witness statements for you to reference during your testimony in case

of need. If you cannot recall something and therefore wish to

consult these documents to refresh your memory, please notify the 20

Panel before doing so. I repeat that this should be done only in the 21

event that you need to make that reference because you can cannot

recall. You should not read directly from these documents. 23

We begin now with the direct examination by the Prosecution. 24

They're on your left. Please give them your attention. 25

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

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Witness: W03877 (Open Session) Page 14990

Procedural Matters

- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] May I explain something before the
- testimony? May I speak? Interpreter, ask the Panel to let me speak.
- 3 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Yes.
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] May I, Your Honour?
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Yes.
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Your Honours, I was questioned and
- sentenced in [REDACTED] Pursuant to In-Court Redaction Order F02271RED., and the process ended. Some died, some was
- imprisoned, and to have me again here, this is a violation of the
- 9 law. I already told the Prosecutor this is a closed story.
- You asked me once. I don't know why you have to ask me again.
- If you have arguments against me, I don't know these persons who are
- here. I have nothing to do with them. If there is something against
- me personally, yes. Otherwise, I won't answer the questions.
- 14 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: I'm sorry, I'm not getting a
- translation. I'm not getting a translation. Now, I'm getting ...
- 16 THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Did you hear what I said,
- 17 Your Honour?
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: I'm not getting the English translation.
- 19 [Trial Panel and Court Officer confers]
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].
- THE INTERPRETER: Microphone, please.
- 22 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Have you finished your statement,
- 23 Witness?
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] I don't have anything to say. If
- these are related to the questions of [REDACTED] Pursuant to In-Court Redaction Order F02271RED., I refuse to answer. If

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

1 you --

- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, just answer the questions that
- are -- just answer the questions. You are here as a witness. You
- are required to testify. Please answer the questions that are given
- to you by the Prosecution and by the Defence. They are interested in
- the information that you have. Do you understand?
- 7 THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Yes.
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. Go ahead, Mr. Prosecutor.
- 9 MR. CAPIN: [Microphone not activated].
- Examination by Mr. Capin:
- 11 Q. Good morning, Witness.
- 12 A. Good morning.
- Q. You and I have met, but I'll tell you my name again. My name is
- John Capin. I'm an attorney with the Specialist Prosecutor's Office,
- and I'm going to be asking you some questions this morning as
- indicated by the Judge.
- 17 MR. CAPIN: Your Honour, may I ask that we move into private
- session to permit the SPO to elicit information that would be
- 19 identifying?
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: For the protection of the witness,
- 21 please go into private session, Mr. Court Officer.
- [Private session]
- [Private session text removed]

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 14995

Examination by Mr. Capin

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 14999

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15000

Examination by Mr. Capin

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15004

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15005

Examination by Mr. Capin

Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15006

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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KSC-BC-2020-06

29 April 2024

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15013 Examination by Mr. Capin [Private session text removed] 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 [Open session] THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we're in public session. 15 Thank you. 16 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We're adjourned for ten minutes. 17 --- Recess taken at 10.05 a.m. 18 --- On resuming at 10.15 a.m. 19 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Please bring the witness in. 20

21 Oh, I'm sorry. Let's go into private session first.

[Private session]

[Private session text removed]

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Examination by Mr. Capin

Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15018

Examination by Mr. Capin

Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15019

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Examination by Mr. Capin

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Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15023

Examination by Mr. Capin

Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15024

Examination by Mr. Capin

Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15025

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15027

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15028

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15029

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Examination by Mr. Capin

29 April 2024

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Procedural Matters (Private Session)

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18	[Open session]
19	THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we're in public session.
20	Thank you.
21	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. Now we're adjourned until
22	11.30.
23	Recess taken at 11.02 a.m.
24	On resuming at 11.31 a.m.
25	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Back into private session, please.

Procedural Matters (Private Session)

Page 15035

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15036

Examination by Mr. Capin

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15039

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15040

Examination by Mr. Capin

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Examination by Mr. Capin

Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15047

Examination by Mr. Capin

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15049

Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

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Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic Page 15051

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Page 15052

Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15053

Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic Page 15054

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15055

Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

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Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15057

Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15058

Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

[Private session text removed]

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Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

[Private session text removed]

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Cross-examination by Mr. Emmerson

Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15062

Cross-examination by ${\tt Mr.}$ Emmerson

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

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Cross-examination by ${\rm Mr.}\ {\rm Emmerson}$

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

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 ${\tt Cross-examination} \ {\tt by} \ {\tt Mr.} \ {\tt Emmerson}$

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15065

Cross-examination by Mr. Emmerson

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

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Cross-examination by Mr. Emmerson $\,$

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KSC-BC-2020-06

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)
Cross-examination by Mr. Emmerson

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Cross-examination by ${\tt Mr.}$ Emmerson

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Questioned by the Trial Panel Page 15069

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Questioned by the Trial Panel Page 15070

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Witness: W03877 (Private Session) Page 15071

Procedural Matters

KSC-BC-2020-06 29 April 2024

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W03877 (Private Session)

Procedural Matters

[Private session text removed] [Open session] THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we're in public session. Thank you.

Procedural Matters (Open Session)

- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. Defence had a request for 1
- some extended pages; is that correct? 2
- MS. O'REILLY: Yes, Your Honour, that is correct. This is in 3
- relation to our response to F2204 and F2195, which is due today, and
- I apologise for bringing it to Your Honours at such late notice. 5
- thought the extension had been requested and granted previously. 6
- any case, we'll undertake not to do this at such late notice again. 7
- The SPO has indicated that they do not oppose the request. It's a 8
- request simply for an extension of 2.000 words. 9
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]. 10
- MR. CAPIN: None, Your Honour. 11
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]. 12
- The extension request is granted --13
- MS. O'REILLY: Thank you, Your Honour. 14
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: The extension request is granted for 15
- 2.000 words. 16
- MS. O'REILLY: Thank you. 17
- 18 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We will break now for lunch rather than
- trying to start with another witness. We will take that up at 2.30. 19
- We are adjourned until 2.30. 20
- --- Luncheon recess taken at 12.52 p.m. 21
- --- On resuming at 2.33 p.m. 22
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Today we will start hearing the evidence 23
- of Prosecution Witness W03865. 24
- Before we do, I recall that the Thaci Defence asked the SPO to 25

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- review proposed corrections and, if accepted, to prepare the 1
- necessary changes to the transcripts of the witness's testimony. I 2
- note that the SPO indicated that it was looking into the matter and
- will revert before commencement of the witness's testimony.
- Is that all sorted out, Mr. Pace? 5
- MR. PACE: I'm hoping that they'll be disclosed any minute now, 6
- 7 Your Honour. They were prepared over the weekend and they're being
- processed, but I'm hoping they'll be disclosed now so that -- and 8
- just to let you know, since we're on the subject, when we do a 9
- tender, or if we get to the place where we tender the prior statement 10
- under 154, we will also seek to tender these additional pages so that 11
- the record is complete. 12
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Satisfactory from the standpoint of the 13
- Thaci Defence? 14
- 15 MR. MISETIC: Subject to seeing what corrections have been made,
- 16 yes.
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: 17 Yeah.
- 18 [Microphone not activated].
- I ask the Prosecutor to please provide the parties, 19
- participants, and the Panel with a firm designation of the witnesses 20
- to be heard this week and next week in order by the time of opening 21
- court tomorrow. This would include a final decision on [REDACTED] 22 Pursuant to In-Court Redaction Order F02271RED.
- if it has not been made. 23
- 24 I think the Veseli Defence has something they want to bring to
- the Court's attention? 25

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1	MR. EMMERSON: Having reviewed the matter, it's not necessary to
2	trouble the Court.
3	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Okay. Thank you very much.
4	Mr. Laws.
5	MR. LAWS: Your Honour, may I raise a short matter that we'll
6	need to do in private session, please.
7	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Please, into private session.
8	[Private session]
9	[Private session text removed]
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1	[Private session text removed]
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9	[Open session]
10	THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we are back in public session.
11	Thank you.
12	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right.
13	Madam Usher, please bring the witness in.
14	[The witness entered court]
15	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Good afternoon, Witness. Can you hear
16	all right?
17	THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Good afternoon to everybody.
18	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Can you hear okay?
19	THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Yes, I can.
20	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, the Court Usher will now
21	provide you with the text of the solemn declaration which you are
22	asked to take pursuant to our Rule 141(2). Please read it aloud.
23	THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Conscious of the significance of
24	my testimony and my legal responsibility, I solemnly declare that I
25	will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and

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that I shall not withhold anything which has come to my knowledge.

2 WITNESS: NUREDIN ABAZI

3 [The witness answered through interpreter]

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you. You can be seated.

5 THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Thank you.

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, today we will start your

testimony, which is expected to last approximately two days. As you

may know, the Prosecution will ask you questions first, and then the

counsel for victims. Once they are finished, the Defence has the

right to ask questions of you, and members of the Panel might also

11 ask questions of you.

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I mistakenly said that the Victims' Counsel would ask you questions. He will not.

The Prosecution estimate for your examination is two hours. The Defence estimates that it will need 8.5 hours. And as regards each estimate, we hope that the counsel will be judicious in the use of their time. The Panel may allow redirect examination if conditions for it are met.

Witness, please try to answer the questions clearly with short sentences. If you don't understand a question, feel free to ask counsel to repeat the question or tell them you don't understand and they will clarify. Also, please try to indicate the basis of your knowledge of facts and circumstances that you will be asked about.

In the event you are asked by the SPO to attest to some corrections made regarding your statements, you are reminded to

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- confirm on the record that the written statement, as corrected by the $\$
- list of corrections, accurately reflects your declaration.
- Please also speak into the microphone and wait five seconds
- before answering a question, and then speak at a slow pace so that
- 5 the interpreters can catch up.
- During the next days while you are giving evidence in this
- 7 Court, you are not allowed to discuss with anyone the content of your
- 8 testimony outside of the courtroom. If any person asks you questions
- outside the Court about your testimony, please let us know.
- Also, please stop talking if I ask you to do so or also stop
- talking if you see me raise my hand. These indications mean that I
- need to give you an instruction. If you feel the need to take a
- break, please make an indication and an accommodation will be made.
- 14 We will now begin with the Prosecution's questions. They are
- seated on your left.
- Mr. Pace, you may begin.
- 17 MR. PACE: Thank you, Your Honour.
- And just before I do, by way of update to those in the
- courtroom, the disclosure package with the translations provided in
- light of the Thaci e-mail from last Thursday was just disclosed, and
- that's in Disclosure Package 1216. And we've also sent around an
- e-mail with the ERNs of these items because, as I said, we'll be
- seeking to admit them under 154 as well.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.
- Examination by Mr. Pace:

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session)

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- Q. Good afternoon, Witness.
- 2 A. Good afternoon.
- Q. We've met before, but I'll introduce myself again. I am
- James Pace, a Prosecutor with the SPO, and I'll be asking you some
- 5 questions for the next two hours or so.
- Before I ask you for some personal details, I note that, as I
- explained to you during your preparation session last week, rather
- 8 than asking you questions concerning every relevant issue you may
- have information about, it may be possible to admit some of your
- prior statements containing such information into evidence. And in
- order to do so, there are a number of procedural steps to follow, and
- 12 I'll turn to those after I establish your identity.
- 13 Could you tell us your name, please.
- 14 A. Yes, I am Nuredin Abazi.
- 15 Q. What is your date of birth?
- 16 A. 4 January 1957.
- 17 Q. And what is your nationality?
- 18 A. Albanian.
- MR. PACE: Court Officer, I'd like to show the witness
- SITF00032808-SITF00032820 RED, the first page. And side by side with
- that, I'd like from the same item page SITF00032816, please. Thank
- 22 you, Court Officer.
- Q. Witness, do you see two documents on your screen, on the left in
- English and on the right handwritten in Albanian?
- 25 A. Yes.

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- Q. And as you see the documents refer to an interview with UNMIK in
- October 2002. Do you recall attending that interview?
- 3 A. I barely remember it. And I see that the handwriting is poor.
- Q. And do you remember attending that interview or not?
- 5 A. I do remember. However, I indicated that this was a long time
- ago, and the handwriting is poor and barely legible.
- 7 Q. Do you recognise your signature on the handwritten page in
- 8 Albanian, please?
- 9 Witness, there was a question. Do you recognise your signature
- on the handwritten page in Albanian?
- 11 A. Yes.
- MR. PACE: And, Court Officer, we can scroll to the bottom of
- that page, please.
- 14 Q. Do you recognise a second signature of yours on that same page
- in Albanian, Witness?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 MR. PACE: And, Court Officer, if we could please go on the
- right-hand side to the last page in this range, the page ending 20.
- 19 Yes. And if we could zoom out, please. If we could zoom out, that
- would be -- yeah. And scroll down, kindly. Thank you.
- Q. Witness, on this page do you recognise your signature on the
- 22 bottom left?
- 23 A. Yes.
- MR. PACE: And, Court Officer, I'd now like to show the witness
- 078562-TR-ET Part 1 RED side by side with 078562-TR-AT Part 1 RED.

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- And the first pages of both, please. Thank you, Court Officer. 1
- Witness, we now have two different documents on your screen, on 2
- the left in Albanian and on the right in English. And as you can 3
- see, they refer to your interview with the SPO on 15 September 2020.
- Do you recall attending that interview, Witness? 5
- I think this was an interview with you conducted here. Right? 6
- It was not conducted here. But as you can see, it was 7 Q.
- 15 September 2020. Do you recall meeting the SPO in 2020? 8
- Α. Yes. 9
- MR. PACE: Court Officer, we can take those documents down. 10
- And, Witness, do you recall that you made certain clarifications 11 Ο.
- to these statements following your review of them last week? 12
- Α. Yes. 13
- Do you recall these clarifications and corrections being 14
- included in a note which was read back to you? 15
- Α. Yes. 16
- Subject to the corrections set out in the note, is the 17
- 18 information provided in these statements accurate and truthful to the
- best of your knowledge and belief? 19
- Yes, to my knowledge that's accurate as we discussed it. Α. 20
- And subject to the corrections set out in that note, do these Q. 21
- statements accurately reflect what you would say if you're examined 22
- about the events recorded therein? 23
- With respect to what I know, certainly, yes. Α. 24
- MR. PACE: Your Honour, I'd like to seek admission of the prior 25

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- statements and associated exhibits. The relevant ERNs are set out in 1
- our 23 April e-mail at 8.16 in the evening as well as in Annex 1 to 2
- Preparation Note 1. And I'd like to point out that, as referred to
- in that e-mail, our tender includes one additional page because there
- was a missing Albanian page from the translation. And we also tender 5
- Preparation Note 1, which is 120772 to 120778, and as I've mentioned, 6
- the items just disclosed in disclosure 1216, which are additional 7
- translations following the Defence request. 8
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]. 9
- MR. MISETIC: So subject to the one objection on the associated 10
- exhibit which the Panel has already ruled on, we have no objection to 11
- the admission of the statements. We don't have an objection to the 12
- admission of the corrected translations, but I do note that we're 13
- still going through them, so we may ask for further clarification 14
- later depending on completion of our review. 15
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. 16
- 17 Mr. Emmerson.
- 18 MR. EMMERSON: Our position is the same.
- MR. ROBERTS: The same, Your Honour. 19
- MS. ALAGENDRA: The same for us as well. 20
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. 21
- SITF00032808 to SITF00032820, in English and Albanian, is 22
- admitted. 23
- THE COURT OFFICER: And will be assigned Exhibit P01135. 24
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you. 25

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kosovo specialist chambers - Basic Court

Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session)

Examination by Mr. Pace

THE COURT OFFICER: Classified as confidential. Thank you,

- 2 Your Honours.
- 3 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: 078562-TR-ET Part 1 RED, 078562-TR-AT
- 4 Part 1 RED is admitted.
- 5 THE COURT OFFICER: And will be assigned Exhibit P00136.1.
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Say that again, please?
- 8 THE COURT OFFICER: The exhibit number will be assigned for the
- 9 ERN that you just read, Your Honours, it will be P01136.1.
- 10 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right.
- 11 And the note, 120772 to 120778, is admitted.
- THE COURT OFFICER: And it will be assigned Exhibit P01137,
- 13 classified as confidential.
- 14 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: And then the associated exhibits are
- 15 admitted.
- THE COURT OFFICER: The associated exhibit SITF00032811 to
- 17 SITF00032815, English version, and the corresponding Albanian
- version, will be assigned Exhibit P01138.
- And the second associated exhibit, which is U000-6628 to
- U000-6639, will be assigned Exhibit P01139. Thank you, Your Honours.
- 21 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.
- MR. MISETIC: Mr. --
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Mr. Pace, you may continue.
- MR. MISETIC: Mr. President, may I raise one issue?
- 25 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Page 15084

- MR. MISETIC: As I understand it right now, only Part 1 of the
- SPO interview has been admitted, and I understood that all four parts
- 3 were being admitted.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].
- MR. PACE: Yes, Your Honour. In fact, I was going to request
- the ERNs for Parts 2 to 4 as well.
- 7 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].
- We didn't have those listed, so go ahead and do that.
- 9 THE COURT OFFICER: Part 2 of the ERN 078562 will be assigned
- 10 Exhibit P01136.2.
- Part 3 of the same ERN will be assigned Exhibit P01136.3.
- And Part 4 of the same ERN, for both English and Albanian, will
- be assigned Exhibit P01136.4.
- 14 All four parts of this statement are classified as confidential.
- 15 Thank you, Your Honours.
- MR. PACE: And, Your Honour, to clarify, they are mentioned in
- 17 Annex 1 to Prep Note 1. The only item other than the ones just
- released in the disclosure which we also seek to admit as noted in
- that annex and in our e-mail is page SPOE00200418. And that is, as
- we mentioned in the e-mail, a page from SPOE00200415 to 00200420, and
- that is a missing page in Albanian from what is now P1135.
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].
- MR. PACE: As to whether we want it separately admitted, we're
- in the hands of CMU. If we could add it to P1135, we would have no
- objection.

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session)

Examination by Mr. Pace

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: If there's no objection, that would be 1

the logical way to do this so that it's together with the rest of the 2

- document. 3
- Anybody have an objection to that? It doesn't look like it. So
- be it. 5
- THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, the SPOE00200418 will be then 6
- added to the P01135-AT. Thank you, Your Honours. 7
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Court Officer. 8
- All right, Mr. Pace. You may continue. 9
- MR. PACE: Thank you. And we understand that the Court Officer 10
- will inform us of the ERNs for the items just disclosed in due 11
- course. There are many, so we know that might take a while. 12
- And, Your Honour, in the 23 April e-mail I referred to, the SPO 13
- submitted a proposed summary of this witness's now admitted Rule 154 14
- statements to the Panel, Defence, and victims. We haven't received 15
- any objections to the summary, so with your leave I'll read that now. 16
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Go ahead. 17
- 18 MR. PACE: This is a summary of the Rule 154 statement admitted
- for W03865. 19
- W03865 was a member of a KLA battalion in Budakove, later 20
- serving as a Legal Adviser in the Pashtrik operational zone. In his 21
- prior statements, W03865 provides information on the structure and 22
- activities of the KLA, in particular in Budakove, the Pashtrik 23
- operational zone, and Prizren. 24
- W03865 also provides information concerning the role and 25

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authority of the KLA General Staff and members thereof. 1

- W03865 spoke to Latife Kololli, Rushe Kololli, and another 2
- person when they were held in Budakove in August 1998. 3
- W03865 proposed to release Latife and Rushe Kololli or send them
- to the brigade. 5
- Agim Zyba and Naim Kadolli told W03865 that they transferred 6
- Latife and Rushe Kololli to the brigade. Another detainee was also 7
- sent there. 8
- W03865 also provides information relevant to the detention of 9
- two Serbian men in Budakove and to the detention of another person 10
- whom W03865 questioned after having been asked to do so by Sadik 11
- Halitjaha in another location. 12
- Court Officer, I'd like to show on the screen P00712-ET side by 13
- side with P00712, please. If you'd like me to read the full ERN, I'm 14
- 15 happy to do so.
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Your Honour. 16
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Yes? 17
- 18 THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] I have something to say regarding
- the reading of my statement. He often referred to "prisoner." I 19
- never mentioned the word "prisoner." I don't know where he got that 20
- from. 21
- MR. PACE: Your Honour, I note that in English I did not use the 22
- term "prisoner." I used the term "detainee," and the context is 23
- clear on the record. 24
- 25 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Go ahead.

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Tiberra Novalia Plani (Onca Carrian)

Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Page 15087

- 1 MR. PACE:
- Q. Witness, there are two documents on your screen, on the left in
- 3 Albanian and on the right in English. Had you seen this document
- 4 before I showed it to you last week?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 MR. PACE: And, Court Officer, in both I'd like to turn to the
- third page of each, and that is SPOE00209330, please. That's the
- third page of each one. So the ERN is SPOE00209330. Yes, that's
- 9 correct in the English. And in Albanian as well. Thank you.
- We could zoom out on both of them so we can see the entire
- 11 structure. That's good. And the Albanian can stay as it is.
- 12 Perfect. Thank you. And if we could zoom out in the English, or
- 13 scroll down. Thank you, Court Officer.
- Q. Witness, is it correct that, as depicted in this organigramme,
- you were the legal adviser of the Pashtrik operational zone?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And, Witness, could you remind the Judges, that was from March
- or April 1999 until the end of the war; is that right?
- 19 A. Yes, this is what I think. I don't know how true that is.
- Q. Witness, the question related to you, did you serve as legal
- adviser in the Pashtrik operational zone from March or April 1999
- until the end of the war? Did you or did you not?
- 23 A. Yes. I said yes.
- Q. And we see on this organigramme that Tahir Sinani is indicated
- as the commander of the zone; is that correct to your recollection?

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- Yes, that's correct. 1 Α.
- Do you know when he started to serve in that role? 2
- After the new year. Maybe February or March, to my knowledge. Α.
- And we see on this organigramme Sadik Halitjaha listed as the Q.
- deputy commander of the zone. Is that correct to your knowledge? 5
- Α. Yes. 6
- And was Mr. Halitjaha already occupying that position at the 7 Q.
- time you took up your role as legal adviser in that zone? 8
- Α. Yes. 9
- 10 To your recollection, was Nexhmi Krasnigi the military police
- commander of the Pashtrik operational zone? 11
- To my knowledge, yes. 12 Α.
- And to your knowledge, was Nezir Kryeziu in the Eye of the Eagle 13 Ο.
- Unit? 14
- To my recollection, yes. 15
- Focusing now on the middle half of the page. To your knowledge, Ο. 16
- was Halil Qadraku the G2 within the Pashtrik operational zone? 17
- 18 Α. Yes.
- And, similarly, was Sabaudin Cena the G5 within the Pashtrik 19
- operational zone? 20
- Α. Yes. 21
- Did you meet him while you were both members of the Pashtrik 22
- operational zone in 1999? 23
- Sabaudin you mean? 24 Α.
- 25 Q. Yes.

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- 1 A. Yes, yes.
- Q. And now I'm focusing on the lower level there. To your
- 3 recollection, is it correct, as indicated here, that Haxhi Shala was
- 4 the commander of Brigade 121?
- 5 A. I never knew Haxhi Shala. I saw him on television after the
- 6 war. I don't know if he was or not. He should know that.
- 7 Q. Did you yourself at any time ever hear that Haxhi Shala was the
- 8 commander of Brigade 121?
- 9 A. Soldiers spoke about that, but I never knew it.
- 10 Q. So could you clarify to the Judges, are you saying that KLA
- soldiers told you at some point that Haxhi Shala was the commander of
- Brigade 121 or are you saying something else?
- 13 A. I think he was, but that is my belief. But I never stayed with
- 14 him and never saw him during the war, so I cannot say for sure.
- Q. And to your knowledge, Witness, was Vllaznim Kryeziu the
- 16 commander of Brigade 122?
- 17 A. I don't know.
- 18 Q. Similarly, did you ever hear that Vllaznim Kryeziu was the
- 19 commander of Brigade 122, Witness?
- 20 A. There were rumours to that effect, but how true they are, I
- can't say.
- 22 Q. And Brigade 123, here we have Gezim Azroli listed there.
- Witness, can you remind me, was the battalion in Budakove you were in
- part of Brigade 123?
- 25 A. Yes.

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- 1 Q. And do you recall whether when you joined the Pashtrik staff in
- 1999, the commander of that brigade that you were formally in was
- 3 then Gezim Azroli as indicated here?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And we see Skender Hoxha listed as Brigade 124 commander. Did
- 6 you have information as to whether that was correct?
- 7 A. I believe so, but I don't know him. Skender Hoxha, that is. I
- 8 never knew him.
- 9 Q. And Nehat Basha, to your recollection, was he the commander of
- Brigade 125 as indicated here?
- 11 A. I didn't know him. Even now I don't know him. I am saying I
- wasn't involved in those structures to know or appoint such people.
- So they would know better. I didn't have any contacts with them.
- Q. And to be clear, Witness, at the moment I'm not asking about
- contacts. I'm asking if you knew. If you knew could be either you
- knew directly or you heard from someone else. You're always free to
- 17 clarify in your answer or I will ask you to do so myself.
- Similarly, in relation to Brigade 128, we see Ruzhdi Saramati
- here listed as the commander. To your knowledge, did he ever occupy
- that position?
- 21 A. I don't know.
- MR. PACE: We can take those two documents down, Court Officer.
- Q. Witness, do you recall that at the end of your 2020 SPO
- interview, you stated that you would not change anything in your
- UNMIK statements?

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Page 15091

Examination by Mr. Pace

- 1 A. Yes, I recall that, but that day I wasn't -- we didn't read the
- statement. You only asked me whether the signature was mine. We
- 3 couldn't read the statements, as we already said a week ago.
- 4 Q. Do you recall being asked questions about certain parts of those
- 5 UNMIK statements during your 2020 SPO interview?
- 6 A. What exactly do you mean? I don't know what you mean.
- 7 Q. I mean what I asked, which is, during your SPO interview, do you
- 8 remember that you were asked questions certain things you said in
- 9 your UNMIK interviews? Do you remember that or not?
- 10 A. Yes, there were questions.
- 11 Q. And do you recall that at the end of your 2020 SPO interview,
- you confirmed that what you said during that SPO interview was true
- and accurate to the best of your knowledge and belief?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. Now, Witness, we know that you are practicing as a lawyer and
- that you were a judge for many years. So it's correct that you
- understand the importance of providing truthful statements; right?
- 18 A. Yes, I do. Certainly.
- 19 Q. Now, during your witness preparation session last week, you
- stated that after you had a conversation with Latife and Rushe
- 21 Kololli in Budakove in your capacity as legal adviser, you determined
- they had nothing to do with espionage or collaboration, and your
- opinion was that they should be released. You stated that you made
- the proposal to Agim Zyba and Naim Kadolli to release Latife and
- Rushe Kololli or to take them to the brigade, and that Zyba and

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Examination by Mr. Pace

- 1 Kadolli then transferred them away from Budakove.
- You also said that you never spoke to Sadik Halitjaha about
- 3 Latife and Rushe Kololli.
- Is what I just summarised now correct, Witness?
- 5 A. Yes, I said that they should be released, but it was not in my
- 6 power to issue any orders where they should go. I merely said they
- should be released because they have nothing to do with espionage.
- 8 From what I understood from my conversation with them, they were, you
- 9 know, low motives.
- Q. And, Witness, to be clear, when you are saying that you said
- they should be released, you are telling the Judges that the people
- you said that to were Agim Zyba and Naim Kadolli; right?
- 13 A. To Kadolli, yes.
- 14 Q. And Agim Zyba or only to Naim Kadolli?
- 15 A. I don't remember, but I think to both.
- Q. Now, Witness, that is a summary of what you said on this subject
- during witness preparation, which you have said is the correct -- was
- 18 correctly stated.
- Now, Witness, you previously stated four separate times,
- initially to UNMIK in 2002, and then again to the SPO in 2020, that
- you made the proposal to release Latife and Rushe Kololli or to send
- them to the brigade to Sadik Halitjaha. And my question, Witness, is
- whether you have an explanation as to why you're now changing that
- evidence?
- 25 A. I am not changing my evidence. We already said a week ago that

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session)

Examination by Mr. Pace

I meant the staff of the battalion. I said that I proposed that

- these -- the two names you mentioned be released. Then as to who
- they did discuss this, I don't know and there was no way I could find
- 4 out.
- 5 Q. Am I understanding correctly that you are saying you yourself
- 6 proposed the release or transfer to the brigade of these two women to
- 7 members of the staff of the battalion?
- 8 A. No, I proposed that to Agim Zyba and Naim Kadolli, because I
- 9 dealt with them, not with anyone else.
- 10 Q. Now, Witness, as I just said a moment ago, you have stated four
- separate times to UNMIK and the SPO that you made the proposal to
- release Latife and Rushe Kololli or send them to the brigade to Sadik
- Halitjaha. Could you tell the Judges now whether you are denying
- ever have said that on all four occasions?
- 15 A. I said that I alluded to the staff of the battalion, not to the
- 16 concrete persons. I discussed this with Agim Zyba and Agim Kadolli
- 17 [as interpreted]. Those two were the ones that discussed it or not.
- I don't know. My opinion was firm. Those two should be released
- because there was nothing dangerous. These two persons didn't pose
- any danger.
- Q. Witness, to be clear, because it's important to be clear, are
- you denying that you previously stated multiple times that you made
- that proposal to Sadik Halitjaha?
- MR. MISETIC: Objection. Mr. President, it appears we're going
- through impeachment of a Rule 154 statement, which puts us in a very

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1 precarious procedure now.

By tendering the 154 statement with corrections, the Prosecution 2

- has certified that they do not know the 154 testimony to be false. 3
- So you can't impeach a statement that you tender for the truth of its
- contents into evidence. That's Article 14(3) of the Code of 5
- Professional Conduct. So if the Prosecution believed that portions
- 7 of his statement were not true and so important to the case that they
- would impeach him on it, then I submit they were under an obligation 8
- to withdraw the Rule 154 and to proceed viva voce. But you can't put 9
- forward a 154 for the truth of its contents and then proceed to 10
- 11 impeach it.
- MR. EMMERSON: Since we've landed on the issue that, in fact, I 12
- was going -- can Your Honours hear me? 13
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]. 14
- MR. EMMERSON: Pardon me? 15
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]. 16
- MR. EMMERSON: Sorry, yes, I can hardly hear myself. 17
- Since we've now landed on the issue that I was reconsidering 18
- raising at the outset, can I draw your attention to paragraph 5 of 19
- the witness's first preparation note, which is now P1137. And about 20
- or just around the -- if you have it, it's about two-thirds of the 21
- way down, there is a sentence beginning: 22
- "Pace noted W03865 seemed to be providing information 23
- inconsistent with his prior statements, in particular in relation to 24
- Sadik Halitjaha. During readback, [the witness] stated that every 25

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time he and others referred to Sadik Halitjaha, they meant to refer

to the battalion's staff, that Halitjaha symbolised the staff, and

there was no doubt that he was the battalion commander ..."

Well, now, there's been pre-court correspondence inviting

Mr. Pace to withdraw the paragraph of what is a tendered statement in

which he expresses his own opinion in a document put forward as

7 evidence. And the witness gave there the very answer that he's given

8 to Mr. Pace today three times. The question is being repeated over

and over again, where Mr. Pace knows full well the answer, has

tendered the witness statement with his own inadmissible comments on

it, and is harassing the witness to try and humiliate him in front of

the Court. It ought to be, in our respect, handled, whether it's

through the objection raised just a moment ago or whether it's

through a guidance to the Prosecutor to stop asking a question that's

been asked and answered in his own proofing note and yet being

16 repeated for some entirely theatrical reasons as far as one can tell

in front of the Court.

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].

MR. PACE: Yes. First of all, Your Honour, I note that both

submissions should have been made in the absence of the witness, but

that ship has sailed now. I take issue with Mr. Emmerson's

characterisation of my conduct. I am doing this very fairly and

23 squarely and transparently before you.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].

THE INTERPRETER: Microphone, please.

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MR. PACE: Yes, Your Honour, I will certainly address the issue, 1

but when you're accused of harassment and humiliation, the SPO does 2

not take those lightly.

Nevertheless, Your Honours have heard nothing from either

counsel as to anything untoward being done. The witness has 5

confirmed his Rule 154 statement. It has been tendered with the 6

clarifications the witness made therein, and that is why Your Honours 7

have in front of you all the relevant information. What I am doing

now - and, again, I've heard and neither have you heard anything as 9

to why I should not be allowed to do so - is clarifying the correct

position and seeking an explanation as to why at one point the

witness said one thing and is now saying another.

It's our role, and even more so the Judges' role as finders of truth and fact, to establish which is correct and why if there is a reason for this change. There's nothing untoward going on here.

And I can also, in support of that, cite your own -- this 16 Panel's decision, F02117, paragraph 15, in terms of what we are not 17

allowed to do and the ethical obligations of tendering statements

even when the SPO believes that perhaps a witness is changing or

altering part of the evidence.

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: That question has been asked and 21 answered several times. You just don't like the answer. So I would 22

suggest you just move on. You've made your point.

MR. PACE: Certainly, Your Honour. 24

Actually, Your Honour, can I make a submission in the absence of 25

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- the witness, please? 1
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: You what? 2
- MR. PACE: Can I make a submission in the absence of the 3
- witness, please?
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]. 5
- THE INTERPRETER: Microphone.
- 7 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: You'll have to take the witness out,
- 8 please.
- [The witness stands down] 9
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Go ahead, Mr. Pace. 10
- MR. PACE: Thank you, Your Honour. Only to say that what I was 11
- planning on doing next, I wanted to check with you because you feel 12
- this way, but to my knowledge, the witness hasn't denied that he has 13
- said on multiple previous occasions that he made his proposal to 14
- 15 Sadik Halitjaha.
- Now I said in my paraphrasing that he did this on four previous 16
- occasions. My intention was now to take him to each of those 17
- 18 occasions to see whether that refreshes his recollection or whether
- he wants to explain to Your Honours what he did mean rather than what 19
- is there. 20
- I'm entirely in your hands, Your Honour. If you don't think 21
- that that is necessary or conducive to the finding of truth, I am 22
- totally in your hands as to whether that's appropriate or necessary. 23
- [Trial Panel confers] 24
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated] Without going 25

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- through another question of the same manner. You've already 1
- established that he is disagreeing with his prior statement. You may 2
- ask him if he wants to explain the difference, but we're not going to 3
- go through item by item, as you suggested, on this particular issue.
- Okav? 5
- MR. PACE: Certainly, Your Honour. 6
- 7 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: That will be the ruling of the Court.
- You may bring the witness back in. 8
- [The witness takes the stand] 9
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. Witness, Mr. Pace has more 10
- questions for you and has one specific question right now considering 11
- what you just were testifying to. 12
- MR. PACE: 13
- Witness, yes. My question is whether you want to explain why, 14
- in your UNMIK and SPO statement, you talked about making a proposal 15
- about the release or transfer of Latife and Rushe Kololli to the 16
- brigade to Sadik Halitjaha, but you are now, in your prep note and 17
- before the Judges today, saying that you instead made that proposal 18
- to Naim Kadolli and Agim Zyba. 19
- So the question is do you want to explain that difference to the 20
- Judges? 21
- I already said everything that is linked to Budakove battalion 22
- relates to the staff. That's why I said that. Otherwise, Sadik 23
- Halitjaha was a person that I didn't see for weeks because he had his 24
- military and political duties, and I was not at the level that I 25

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Examination by Mr. Pace

- could talk to them and could discuss with them such issues. 1
- talked with Agim and Naim. Those, then I don't know to whom they --2
- with whom they discussed. To these two persons I said there are
- nothing -- there is nothing dangerous in these two females. That's
- the answer. And they should be released. 5
- And, Witness, during your SPO interview, you stated it wasn't 6
- within your authority to take a decision as to whether to release 7
- Latife and Rushe Kololli or not. Do you recall stating that? 8
- Yes, I only made a proposal. I proposed. I didn't decide. Ιt 9
- wasn't up to me to decide, neither then or now. 10
- And, Witness, do you recall in your SPO interview also stating 11
- that Sadik Halitjaha was the only one who could make such a decision 12
- to release or to transfer the two women to the brigade? 13
- I think that the brigade staff was the one. 14
- And, Witness, with respect, you haven't answered my question. 15
- My question was specifically do you recall stating in your SPO 16
- interview that Sadik Halitjaha was the only one who could make such a 17
- 18 decision? Do you remember saying that or you don't remember?
- I don't remember that. But it was the staff that could take the 19
- decision, and head of the staff was Halitjaha. Sadik Halitjaha. 20
- Witness, in your prior statements, you said that while you were 21
- a KLA member in Budakove, you had conversations with or asked 22
- questions to Latife Kololli, Rushe Kololli, and an Albanian man. And 23
- on a prior occasion, you spoke to a Serbian man who was in Budakove 24
- with someone who looked like a child. And you also stated that you 25

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Examination by Mr. Pace

had an interview with or a discussion with a man in Volljake, during

- which conversation Ilaz Kadolli may also have been present.
- Now my question in relation to this, Witness, is whether any KLA
- 4 member ever spoke to or asked you questions about what happened to
- 5 these people that you had conversation with or that you had
- 6 questioned?
- 7 A. I don't know who is Nazmi Kadolli. It's not clear to me. It is
- 8 true, though, that with the Serb, as I stated a week earlier with
- 9 you, I was not there when they were brought in. When they entered in
- the area of war, the Serb was with a minor child who, in my opinion,
- was 12 or 13 years old. He was carrying a hunting rifle, and he had
- a handgun. We called it kobure, an old handgun that is loaded
- through the barrel.
- 14 Q. Witness, I'm going to stop you because you're just repeating
- what is already in your statement, and you're not responding to my
- question, so I will ask it again. It was a long question and I'll
- 17 take it incident by incident.
- In relation to these two Serbian persons you're talking about,
- my question is specifically whether any member of the KLA ever spoke
- to you or questioned you about what happened to those two Serbian
- 21 persons?
- 22 A. There was no one to ask me about this because this was a public
- event in the centre of Budakove. Everybody had discussed with them.
- Ise Morina had talked to them, and then they called on the OSCE who
- took them over. They had been identified and the case was over.

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- 1 They were taken over by the OSCE and that was it.
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Mr. Pace, we need to give the witness a
- 3 break for ten minutes.
- Witness, we'll take a ten-minute break for you. Please go with
- the Court Usher to leave the room. We'll be back in ten minutes.
- [The witness stands down]
- 7 MR. MISETIC: Mr. President, I did want to put something on the
- 8 record before cross-examination starts, which is the Prosecution
- 9 cited your filing F02117 at paragraph 15 related to the ethical issue
- 10 I raised.
- 11 We agree with the Court's finding there, which is that the
- Prosecution cannot do this -- or can do this if it makes clear that
- it will not seek to rely on one or more of these accounts for the
- truth of its content but for credibility. Meaning, we need to know
- from the Prosecution now whether the Prosecution is intending to rely
- on the uncorrected 154 statements for the truth of its contents and
- 17 what was put to him or just for credibility. Because if it's for the
- truth of its content, then there is an ethical issue that arises.
- MR. PACE: Your Honour, I don't quite follow those submissions.
- I certainly heard nothing about what obliges us to say now what we're
- going to rely on. We're here to explore the evidence the witness is
- giving, and then based on that and on all other evidence we will make
- our final submissions. We're not, to my knowledge, submitting our
- final trial brief today or tomorrow.
- MR. MISETIC: Mr. President, the Defence is entitled to know

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session)

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what is the Prosecution case with this witness. They've submitted a 1

154 statement with corrections which, under Article 14 of the Code of 2

Professional Conduct, means that they're saying that that submission,

they do not know it to be false, and then we have to respond.

Now, in cross-examination we have to determine which version are 5

we responding to. And if it's their intention at the end of the case 6

to say, "Wait a minute, we weren't relying on the 154 for the truth 7

of its contents as corrected but, rather, the uncorrected version," 8

then we're entitled to know that before cross-examination starts.

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We'll take that under advisement and 10

come back to you on that. 11

We're adjourned for ten minutes. Let's make it till quarter of 12

4.00. 13

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--- Recess taken at 3.35 p.m. 14

--- On resuming at 3.46 p.m. 15

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Please bring the witness in. 16

[The witness takes the stand] 17

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Mr. Pace, in connection with the

previous objection, we believe you should state your case clearly as

to this particular information. Is it being offered to attack 20

credibility or is it being offered for the truth of the statement 21

made? It has to be one way or the other. 22

MR. PACE: If you would allow me a second -- a moment to confer. 23

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Yes. 24

25 [Specialist Prosecutors confer]

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session)

Procedural Matters

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MR. PACE: Thank you, Your Honour. I believe the way we've 1 conducted ourselves today, we've made it clear that we believe that the original version of what the witness said in the UNMIK statement and SPO is the true version, and we were trying to seek information

from the witness as to why that has changed. 5

So to answer your question, our version is that we are relying on what the witness said in his Rule 154 statement as the correct version or what we will be arguing. And, of course, we met our obligations by tendering the subsequent version or the different version as contained in Preparation Note 1, and it's now the version that the witness insists on.

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Yes, Mr. Misetic.

MR. MISETIC: I disagree with the submission there. The 154 statement is the as corrected version, right? That's what the 154 process is supposed to be about, including under the Order on Conduct of Proceedings. So it's actually impeaching with -- or at least an attempt to impeach with a prior inconsistent statement even though the statement has been admitted into evidence as corrected. And we do submit that its an issue under Article 14(3) of the Code of Professional Conduct because you've tendered the as corrected statement for the truth of its contents.

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: What are you asking?

MR. MISETIC: Well, I'm asking that they be either precluded 23 from relying on the uncorrected version of the 154 for the truth of 24 its contents because it would be unethical to do so, or they would 25

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session)

Procedural Matters

have to withdraw the 154 statement and proceed viva voce.

MR. PACE: Your Honour, can we have a basis for these proposals

which, to us, seem to have no basis in anything that we're dealing

with. This is not the first time that a witness says something in a

154 statement and then clarifies it or changes it in a preparation

6 note.

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7 The important thing here is that Your Honours have all of that

8 information as does the Defence. We as also finders of fact are

9 entitled to seek to establish the truth of that. Your Honour asked

me and I told you which one we're relying on and why, for the truth

of its contents, the 154 statement, but I don't see what prejudice

this is causing to the Defence or what problems with the examination,

noting they are fully aware of our charges in this case and that here

we are discussing changes to a witness's evidence, which, again, are

all available to the Panel and to the parties.

MR. MISETIC: Mr. President, if I may? Briefly. Our basis is,

as I said, Article 14(3) of the Code of Professional Conduct but also

the submission that the Prosecution itself cited, F02117, paragraph

15. The Panel made clear that you cannot do this for the truth of

its content. So there's even prior notice which the SPO was aware

21 of.

MR. EMMERSON: And may I add, as a matter of fact, that we have

had correspondence directly with Mr. Pace over a period of days,

proposing that that passage of the Preparation Note 2 in which he

contains and expresses his own opinion about what he believes to be

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n Session) Page 15105

- the position and the response be struck from the 154 which is being
- tendered as evidence of truth at a time when the very issue we're
- 3 concerned about is counsel's statements of opinion being treated and
- 4 smuggled into a statement that's supposed to be being put forward as
- 5 evidence of truth.
- So we asked for it to be redacted in advance, but we were
- 7 refused.
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: I can't hear the last part.
- MR. EMMERSON: We have been in correspondence for several days
- 10 with the SPO --
- 11 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].
- MR. EMMERSON: Oh, I'm just saying we'd asked for those passages
- to be redacted, but that has not -- has been refused.
- MR. PACE: Your Honour, if I may briefly.
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].
- 16 [Trial Panel confers]
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We will take under advisement
- Mr. Emmerson's suggestion of redaction, and we will rule on that as
- soon as we've had a chance to think about it. We will proceed onward
- 20 at this point.
- Mr. Pace, the last witness that we had was a good example of
- when you have some contrary information, it would have been better
- probably to call this witness as a live witness. I appreciate the
- efforts to try to shorten things up, but it's very difficult to go
- through this type of a situation with a 154 witness. It's difficult

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session)

Examination by Mr. Pace

- 1 to even explain.
- So bear that in mind for the future, and we will try to
- 3 straighten this out having considered the requests.
- 4 Let's move on from this particular bit of testimony. I think
- it's fairly clear up to this point what the situation is.
- You may proceed.
- 7 MR. PACE: Thank you, Your Honour.
- Q. Witness, in your prior statements, you said that while you were
- 9 a KLA member in Budakove, you had conversations with or asked
- questions to Latife Kololli, Rushe Kololli, and an Albanian man
- around the same time. My question is whether any KLA member ever
- spoke to you or questioned you about what happened to these people I
- just mentioned.
- 14 A. Yes, people asked what happened to them. I said that they're
- innocent, they have done nothing wrong, and that I had proposed for
- them to be released.
- 17 Q. In your answer you said "people asked what happened to them."
- 18 Were these people who asked you what happened to Latife Kololli,
- Rushe Kololli, and the Albanian man KLA members or not?
- 20 A. Yes, KLA soldiers. Soldiers.
- Q. Do you recall the names of any soldiers who asked you about what
- happened to these three persons I was just referring to?
- 23 A. I was not interested to remember them. They were just ordinary
- soldiers just like I was and we were.
- 25 Q. Do I understand that then to mean that nobody, for example, from

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session)

Examination by Mr. Pace

the battalion staff asked you what happened to these three 1

- individuals? 2
- I said yes, but I don't remember who exactly asked many 3
- questions, and I don't think it's worth commenting on them.
- No, Witness, I'm seeking clarity, because you referred to "they 5
- were just ordinary soldiers," the ones who asked you what happened to 6
- these three individuals. When you say "ordinary soldiers," do I take 7
- that to mean they were not members of the staff of the battalion you 8
- were a part of? 9
- Everybody, 750 members were members of the battalion. 10
- Sadik Halitjaha was the commander of the battalion; right? 11 Ο.
- Yes. Α. 12
- How many other members of the battalion staff? Who was in 13
- charge of the battalion? How many others were there? Were all 750 14
- members in charge of the battalion staff or another number? 15
- I don't understand your question. Are you referring to members 16
- of the battalion or soldiers? 17
- 18 Witness, you were a soldier within the battalion in Budakove,
- right? A soldier. You were not a member of the staff of the 19
- battalion; is that correct? 20
- Α. Yes. 21
- Now, did any people who were members of the staff of the 22
- battalion ask you what happened to Latife Kololli, Rushe Kololli, or 23
- the Albanian man who was detained around the same time? 24
- Α. No, I was not in contact with them. 25

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Examination by Mr. Pace

Did anyone in the staff ask you what happened to the person whom 1 Ο.

- you say you discussed with or had a conversation with in Volljake in 2
- the presence of Ilaz Kadolli? 3
- What persons? I again don't understand the question.
- Do you recall in your statement you refer to yourself having an 5
- interview or a discussion with a person which you say took place in 6
- Volljake and at which Ilaz Kadolli may also have been present. Do 7
- you remember that? 8
- Yes, yes. Α. 9
- Now, in relation to that incident, did any member of the staff 10
- of your battalion ask you what happened to that person or any member 11
- of the Pashtrik zone ask you what happened to that person? 12
- They asked what happened because there was a problem here, as I 13
- mentioned earlier, about food supplies that were brought from the 14
- Mother Teresa Foundation, and there was -- it was suspected that they 15
- were being misused, and they were not distributed equally to the 16
- civilians who were displaced and who were in need to receive food 17
- 18 from the army. And it was thought that the person in question whom
- you mentioned was not conducting a fair distribution of the food, and 19
- this is the occasion when we had the conversation with Ilaz Kadolli. 20
- Now, Witness, after you had the conversation that you just 21
- described, did any KLA member ask you, "Witness, Mr. Abazi, what 22
- happened to that person that you questioned?" Did anyone in the KLA 23
- ask you that or not? 24
- They asked but they didn't know, because this was outside 25

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic Page 15109

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- Budakove. It was far away. Not all of them could have known. Very
- few people knew. Volljake is 50 kilometres from Budakove or even
- 3 more.
- Q. Do you recall who from the KLA asked you what happened with this
- 5 person that we're talking about?
- 6 A. I don't see the importance of this.
- 7 Q. Could you tell the Judges, if you know, the name of the person
- or persons who asked you what happened with this person that we're
- 9 talking about?
- 10 A. I don't remember. Only -- unless you want me to give just
- 11 random names, I don't recall them.
- MR. PACE: No further questions, Your Honour.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.
- Mr. Misetic.
- MR. MISETIC: Thank you, Mr. President.
- 16 Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic:
- 17 Q. Witness, good afternoon. My name is Luka Misetic. I am counsel
- 18 for Hashim --
- 19 A. Good afternoon.
- 20 Q. -- Thaci. I want to ask you can some questions, first of all,
- about your knowledge of the KLA's organisation and structure. Is it
- correct that you joined the KLA in June 1998?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And around the time you decided to join, Albanians had started
- 25 getting together in reaction to recent developments such as the

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

- killing of the Jashari family and the teacher in Llaushe; is that
- 2 correct?
- 3 A. Yes, correct.
- Q. And is it correct, as you say in your statement, that it was the
- impact of these events that led you to decide to join the KLA?
- 6 A. These events and prior events. Not only these two.
- 7 Q. What prior events?
- 8 A. There had been demonstrations, killings, killings of soldiers.
- 9 There had been massacres committed even before the war started.
- Maltreatments, imprisonment. We suffered an ordeal inflicted to us
- by the invader, unscrupulous, and oppressor.
- Q. And as a result, you decided to go check if there was some sort
- of organisation of the KLA in your village; is that correct?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. And it turned out that a fellow villager named Sadik Halitjaha
- had started gathering people in your village; is that correct?
- 17 A. Sadik Halitjaha came from Switzerland. He had started
- organising earlier on, but obviously he also organised the war.
- 19 Q. Yes, but he had -- he was organising your village to make a KLA
- formation; is that correct?
- 21 A. Correct.
- Q. So in June 1998, is it correct that the KLA, as far as you knew,
- was a local organisation of fellow villagers trying to join?
- 24 A. Yes, it was a mass organisation. Not only within my village but
- it was Kosovo-wide.

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic Page 15111

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- 1 Q. And there was no official conscription process; is that correct?
- 2 A. No, this was entirely voluntary. This was the only army in the
- world that was organised on a voluntary basis. No one could be
- forced to join the army. Only those who felt they wanted and they
- were willing to defend their country, they would join. Those who
- 6 didn't feel that way or didn't want to join did not join and could
- 7 not be forced to join. So this was all done on a voluntary basis.
- Q. And when people joined, they had to buy their own uniforms and
- 9 weapons; is that correct?
- 10 A. The majority, yes.
- 11 Q. Now, you told the SPO that the uniforms that people were wearing
- were German military uniforms and American ones; is that correct?
- 13 A. Correct. Correct.
- 14 Q. And you said there were also civilians without uniform; correct?
- 15 A. Correct.
- Q. When you said that, did you mean that there were KLA members
- 17 without uniforms or were you referring to civilians who were not part
- 18 of the KLA?
- 19 A. KLA members who did not have uniforms, who did not even have
- weapons. We would wait for a soldier to be killed to take his
- 21 weapon. Two or three people would only have one weapon.
- Q. And when you joined, did you sign or receive any decision
- 23 appointing you to a specific post?
- 24 A. Yes, we registered initially. There was a notebook where
- entries were about people who were joining the KLA.

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

- Okay. But you've testified in your statements that you were the 1 Ο.
- legal adviser. Was that a written appointment or were you just told 2
- that you were the legal adviser verbally? 3
- There was something in writing, but I -- there was a written
- decision appointing me legal adviser, but all documents were burned, 5
- our houses and our people were burned, so ... 6
- 7 And who appointed you? Who signed the appointment?
- Sadik Halitjaha. Α. 8
- And do you recall when he signed it? 9
- When we organised. When we joined the war effort. Slightly 10 Α.
- later on, two or three months later. 11
- So if you joined in June, two or three months later would be 12
- August or September when you received this appointment? 13
- Correct. Slightly before that, because September was the main 14
- offensive when we were completely dispersed and defeated. 15
- What were your tasks as the legal adviser? 0. 16
- My tasks were to advise soldiers, how to behave amongst them, 17
- 18 how to behave with -- to conduct themselves with civilians, to avoid
- making mistakes. These kind of things. 19
- And do you recall what specific advice you gave soldiers in 20
- terms of how to deal with civilians? 21
- Human decent relationships for a soldier, decency of a soldier, 22
- to avoid drinking alcohol and doing anything that was not advisable 23
- to do. 24
- You yourself had done military service in the Yugoslav Army; is 25

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

- that correct? 1
- Α. Yes. 2
- And that was the mandatory service in the Yugoslav Army? 3
- Α. Mandatory, yes.
- And with respect to the other soldiers, had they received 5
- military training beyond their mandatory service in the Yugoslav 6
- 7 Army?
- A. No, sir. Merely they were young people. Our army was composed 8
- of young people. Not many had military training. There were a few 9
- of us who had already done military training. The others were from 10
- 18 years upwards. Recently, we boycotted the Yugoslav military 11
- service, so we opposed that and boycotted the conscription. So most 12
- of the soldiers were inexperienced, young. They had never laid hands 13
- on a weapon before. 14
- Okay. And most of these young people did not receive training 15
- when they joined the KLA; is that correct? 16
- That's correct. 17 Α.
- 18 When you joined in June 1998, is it correct that the battalion
- in Budakove was still in the making? 19
- Α. Yes. 20
- And to best of your knowledge, that was the first battalion in 21
- the area; is that correct? 22
- Yes, sir. 23 Α.
- And given the size of this battalion and that you were still 24
- gearing up, is it correct, as you said in your statement, that there 25

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

- could be no talk of a brigade or a larger structure at that time? 1
- In the meantime, brigades had started to form, but the brigades 2
- were -- ours was in Suhareke. It was formed almost parallel. 3
- So was there a brigade at the time you joined in June 1998 or
- was it just a battalion? 5
- First we went there, at least this is what I know, and then the 6
- 7 brigade was formed, to my knowledge.
- Do you recall how soon after you joined the KLA the brigade was 8
- formed? 9
- Maybe a month or so, in my opinion. 10
- So sometime in July or maybe August; is that correct? 11 Ο.
- Yeah, something like that. Α. 12
- Turning to your role as legal adviser. You started off first as 13 0.
- an ordinary soldier; is that correct? 14
- 15 Correct.
- Your role as legal adviser, was that only for your battalion in 16
- Budakove or was it beyond the battalion? 17
- 18 Α. Only for the battalion.
- And at the time you joined the KLA, you had already graduated 19
- from the law faculty at the University of Prishtine; is that correct? 20
- I finished in 1980. Α. 21
- And you had not been practicing law before you joined the KLA; 22
- is that correct? 23
- Α. No. 24
- No, you weren't practicing law; or, no, that's not correct? 25 Q.

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

- No, I wasn't practicing my profession because it was impossible 1
- for us. The state didn't allow us to do that. It persecuted us, 2
- imprisoned us. We were undesirable there. 3
- What kind of training did you have in the laws of war or
- humanitarian law? 5
- We didn't have any training per se but what we learned in the 6
- school, in the faculty. We had a special subject, international law 7
- as such. 8
- So it was in the law school that you learned some of the basics 9
- of the laws of war? 10
- 11 Α. Yes, we were taught that. The basic knowledge.
- Did you have written materials to hand out to soldiers in the 12 Q.
- battalion concerning the laws of war? 13
- No, we didn't. 14 Α.
- Was there ever a point in 1998 or 1999 that you did prepare 15
- written materials, including regulations? 16
- Yes, we prepared a regulation together with Sadik. It served as 17
- 18 a kind of instruction, so to say.
- And when was that? Q. 19
- In 1999. Α. 20
- Do you recall the month? Q. 21
- No, I don't. 22 Α.
- When you say it was done with Sadik, does that mean it was done 23 0.
- at the brigade level or the zone level in 1999? 24
- 25 Α. At the zone level.

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

- Now, from January to April 1999, where were you? 1
- During that time, we were engaged in organisation because we 2
- were routed because of the numerous offensives, so we had to get 3
- ourselves together and organised, in neighbourhoods, in homes, until 4
- we united and started a regular activity. 5
- When were you routed by the Serbs? When did the Serb offensive 6
- 7 take place?
- There were ongoing offensives, but the September one was the 8 Α.
- most destructive for Kosovo in 1998. 9
- And it was in September where your brigade and battalion were 10 0.
- routed; is that correct? 11
- Α. Yes. 12
- And what did you do from September to the end of December? 13
- We returned to our places because we returned illegally, let's 14
- say, to burn down places which were torched by the Serb police and 15
- army. We were trying to reorganise ourselves. 16
- And who reorganised the brigade? 17
- 18 Everyone did their bit. There wasn't a specific person
- entrusted to do that. All of us contributed in our own ways. 19
- When did you learn that the brigade had been reconstituted? Q. 20
- After January, it was February, March when the reorganisation 21
- started, because people were keeping a low profile after the 22
- destructions. They couldn't -- didn't dare come out publicly. 23
- Okay. Well, where were you physically in January, February, and 24
- 25 March?

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

- During that period, I was at the KLA cells contributing to the 1 Α.
- reorganisation for future battles. 2
- And where exactly was the KLA cell that you were in? 3 0.
- There were groups everywhere. We didn't dare concentrate our
- forces in one place because that was dangerous. 5
- I'm just interested in your physical location in January, 6
- 7 February, and March. Just you. Where were you physically?
- I was in Greikoc, Gjinoc villages, Sallagrazhde, sometimes in 8
- Budakove, sometimes in Meciteve, in all these villages. We had to 9
- organise ourselves to reach the soldiers who had spread out all over, 10
- some of whom never returned. 11
- Okay. At some point you joined -- you rejoined the Pashtrik 12 Q.
- zone in Kosterc; is that correct? 13
- Α. Yes. 14
- 15 Ο. And when was that?
- Α. That was in March, April. 16
- And at this time you again served as legal adviser? 17
- 18 Α. Yes.
- To whom were you reporting? 19
- Usually to Tahir Sinani, who was the commander of the zone Α. 20
- staff. 21
- When you rejoined, did you get a letter of appointment from 22
- Tahir Sinani? 23
- Yes, I did. Α. 24
- Did your tasks as legal adviser beginning in April differ from 25 Q.

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Witness: Nuredin Abazi (Open Session) Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

- your tasks as legal adviser prior to the end of September? 1
- No, I had the same tasks. 2
- Now, you were not aware of what was happening in terms of the 3
- setting up of the Pashtrik zone before April 1999; is that correct?
- Α. No, I wasn't. 5
- Were you part of the structures of the headquarters of the 6 Ο.
- 7 Pashtrik zone?
- No, no, sir. I wasn't part of any military or political 8
- structures. I was only adviser. I didn't have any decision-making 9
- powers. I only gave advice, and I was a soldier. First of all, I 10
- was a soldier, then a legal adviser. 11
- Well, you say you weren't part of military structures. Do you Q. 12
- recall the Prosecutor at the beginning showed you a chart? 13
- Α. Yes. 14
- And it has your name in a box there; is that correct? 15
- Yes, in the organigramme it existed, but the problem is that it 16
- didn't function. It was difficult for it to function. Because on 17
- 18 paper it looks very nice, perfect, the organigramme, but in real
- terms, contacts among different persons were very difficult to 19
- maintain. We were concentrated on certain places. It's like the 20
- leopard skin with spots. Somewhere were we, somewhere were the Serb 21
- forces stationed. So communication was very difficult between the 22
- zones and let alone the battalions. On paper, they look very nice, 23
- but in real terms, they didn't function, sometimes not at all. 24
- Because to get a news or to receive a news, you have to send a 25

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- courier. The courier had to pass through several dangerous 1
- checkpoints to be able to deliver the message. So sometimes it was 2
- impossible, quite impossible to do that. 3
- Well, in terms of the structure, were you -- who were you
- advising? 5
- In the locality in the place where we operated. We couldn't go 6
- somewhere else like to the brigade. Only when we had some minor 7
- issue. We tried to reprimand the soldiers if he had made a mistake, 8
- to assign an extra guard, because we had the organisation of guards. 9
- If, you know, for a minor infraction, we sent him twice to do quard 10
- duty instead of once, for example, as a kind of punishment, in order 11
- to ensure a certain rule. 12
- We couldn't do much because it was a voluntary army. We 13
- couldn't exert pressure on them. We didn't have mechanisms to deter 14
- or to force them to do something. Everything was of a voluntary 15
- nature. Nobody could dictate their will on someone. Someone who 16
- didn't like to stay could leave. It was a very specific kind of 17
- 18 army.
- But in terms of these now discipline that you're talking about, 19
- at what level were you advising on discipline? At the zone level? 20
- Across the zone? Across the brigade? Across the battalion? At what 21
- level were you giving advice on discipline? 22
- At the level of zone was my task, but we never managed to 23
- operate on a zone level because the Pashtrik zone was one of the 24
- largest in Kosovo, and we could never reach the last soldier or the 25

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- last battalion. So we were focused on the locality where we were 1
- stationed. 2
- So if you're at the zone level and you have to give advice on a 3
- potential disciplinary measure, who would you tell? Who would you
- give your advice to at the zone level to give discipline? 5
- There were soldiers at the level of the zones. The army who had 6
- 7 taken up positions there. I was one of them, too.
- I'm asking did you advise Tahir Sinani directly to say: My 8
- advice is you should do this? 9
- No, no, I didn't have that power. That applied to soldiers, not 10
- to the superiors. 11
- I'm not asking if you disciplined Tahir Sinani. I'm saying 12
- somebody had to discipline soldiers; right? 13
- Α. Yes. 14
- So some commander is disciplining a soldier; right? 15
- Yes, the commanders disciplined the soldiers. I advised them 16
- not to make mistakes. That would be very bad. That shouldn't 17
- 18 happen. That was my role.
- And so my question is which commanders did you advise this? Can 19
- you remember the names of the commanders? 20
- I didn't advise commanders. I'm repeating. I meant the 21
- soldiers, rank and file soldiers, the soldiers that participated in 22
- 23 war.
- MR. MISETIC: Mr. President, I see the time. 24
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, that's the end of our time in 25

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Page 15121 Procedural Matters (Open Session)

the courtroom today. We will begin again tomorrow with you at 9.00. 1

Please remember not to speak to anybody about your testimony outside 2

- of the courtroom. If anyone tries to contact you about your 3
- testimony, please let us know. And we'll see you tomorrow.
- THE WITNESS: [Interpretation] Okay. 5
- [The witness stands down] 6
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: This is going a little faster than I 7
- thought. Do you have a reserve witness this week available to you? 8
- MR. PACE: So after this witness, we have one more who would be 9
- ready to start testimony tomorrow. After that, no, and it's 10
- precisely because of what you just said, Your Honour, that this is 11
- going a lot faster than anybody thought. 12
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Can we move one up from next week? 13
- MR. PACE: No. The witness who will be the first witness next 14
- week starts prep tomorrow. On the estimates received, that seemed 15
- like a logical thing to do in order not to have witnesses held over. 16
- That witness will not be able to start this week. So one witness 17
- 18 available after this one for this week.
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We're adjourned until 9.00 a.m. 19
- 20 tomorrow.
- --- Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.30 p.m. 21

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