25

Procedural Matters (Open Session) Page 24832

1	Thursday, 30 January 2025
2	[Open session]
3	[The accused appeared via videolink]
4	Upon commencing at 11.32 a.m.
5	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Madam Court Officer, please call the
6	case.
7	THE COURT OFFICER: Good morning, Your Honours. This is case
8	KSC-BC-2020-06, The Specialist Prosecutor versus Hashim Thaci,
9	Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi, and Jakup Krasniqi.
10	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.
11	I note for the record that the accused are all appearing via
12	video-conference as is the witness today.
13	First of all, I will issue an oral order in relation to 2D00043
14	MFI.
15	The Panel will not admit 2D00043 MFI into evidence. Consistent
16	with its earlier decisions, the Panel will exercise its discretion
17	not to admit the document given the following considerations: First,
18	the relevant parts of the Klecke retrial judgment have been read into
19	the record and the witness asked to comment upon it.
20	Furthermore, the Panel reiterates that it is not bound by the
21	evidentiary findings made by other courts. The responsibility to
22	assess the reliability of a witness's evidence and the credibility of
23	witnesses is exclusively that of this Panel. The Panel also notes
24	that findings made by another court were made based on a different

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record than the one on which the Panel will make its findings.

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1	Finally, the Panel notes that the Veseli Defence's submissions
2	refer to the Panel's decision F01733, which allowed a portion of a
3	judgment for contextual matters. Here the offered evidence is
4	clearly not contextual, but pertains to the Panel's sole
5	responsibility to evaluate the credibility of witnesses and the
6	reliability of their evidence, a responsibility to which the Panel
7	will not delegate its responsibility to any other court.
8	The Panel therefore denies the admission of 2D00043 into
9	evidence and concludes the first oral order.
10	Second oral order.
11	The Panel notes that, by e-mail of 2 October 2024, the SPO
12	requested to replace the English and Albanian versions of
13	Exhibit P00230 with new versions with revised redactions disclosed
14	pursuant to the Panel's second oral order of 2 October 2024. The ERN
15	of the versions with revised redactions is 114301 to 114316 and
16	F016642 in English, and 114301 to 114316-AT, F016642 in Albanian.
17	Any comments on that addition from the Defence?
18	MR. MISETIC: Mr. President, if it was 2 October, I need a few
19	minutes to check on what exactly we're talking about.
20	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].
21	MR. MISETIC: Thank you.
22	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We will now start hearing the evidence
23	of Prosecution Witness W02714.
24	Madam Court Usher, please bring the witness in.

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[Trial Panel and Court Officer confers]

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1	[The witness entered court via videolink]
2	THE COURT OFFICER: [via videolink] Your Honours, for the record,
3	present in the remote VTC room are Witness W02714 and myself, the
4	Court Officer.
5	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. Could you help the witness
6	to get there, that's better.
7	Good morning, Witness.
8	THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Good morning,
9	Your Honours.
10	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: The Court Usher will now provide you
11	with the text of the solemn declaration which you are asked to take
12	pursuant to Rule 141(2) of our rules. Take a look at the document
13	and then read it aloud.
14	THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] All right. Yes.
15	Conscious of the significance of my testimony and my legal
16	responsibility, I solemnly declare that I will tell the truth, the
17	whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and that I shall not withhold
18	anything which has come to my knowledge.
19	WITNESS: W02714
20	[The witness answered through interpreter]
21	[The witness appeared via videolink]
22	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you, Witness. You can sit down,
23	now.

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THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Thank you.

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, can you hear me all right?

Witness: W02714 (Open Session) Page 24835

Procedural Matters

THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] I can hear you.

PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Today we will start your testimony,

- which is expected to last just this one day.
- As you may know, the Prosecution will ask you questions first.
- Once they are finished, the Defence has the right to ask questions of
- 6 you, and members of the Panel might also have questions of you.
- 7 The Prosecution estimate for your examination is 30 minutes.
- 8 The Defence estimates that it will need one hour and 35 minutes. As
- 9 regards each estimate, we hope that counsel will be judicious in the
- use of their time. The Panel may allow redirect examination if
- 11 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
- 14 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
- 16 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
- 19 corrections made regarding your statements, you are reminded to
- 20 confirm on the record that the written statement, as corrected by the
- list of corrections, accurately reflects your declaration.
- 22 Please also speak into the microphone and wait five seconds
- before answering a question, and then speak at a slow pace for the
- interpreters to catch up.
- During the next days while you're giving evidence in this Court,

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W02714 (Private Session)

Examination by Mr. Michalczuk

- you are not allowed to discuss with anyone the content of your 1
- testimony outside of the courtroom. If any person asks you questions 2
- outside this Court about your testimony, please let us know. 3
- Please stop talking if I ask you to do so and also stop talking
- if you see me raise my hand. These indications mean that I need to 5
- give you an instruction. 6
- If you feel the need to take breaks, please make an indication 7
- and an accommodation will be made. 8
- We begin, first of all, with questions from the Prosecution. 9
- 10 Please give them your attention.
- Mr. Prosecutor, you have the floor. 11
- MR. MICHALCZUK: Thank you. 12
- Examination by Mr. Michalczuk: 13
- Good morning, Witness. 14
- Good morning. 15
- We've met before but let me introduce myself again. My name is 16
- Cezary Michalczuk, and I will be asking you questions on behalf of 17
- 18 the Prosecution.
- Before we start, we will need to first establish your identity. 19
- MR. MICHALCZUK: And for this, I would ask to go into private 20
- session. 21
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Into private session, please, 22
- Madam Court Officer. 23
- [Private session] 24
- 25 [Private session text removed]

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Examination by Mr. Michalczuk [Private session text removed] 1 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 [Open session] THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we are now in public session. 15 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you. 16 Go ahead. 17 MR. MICHALCZUK: 18

Witness: W02714 (Private Session)

Witness, as explained during the preparatory session that you 19 had together with me, rather than asking you questions about every 20

relevant issue you might have information about, it might be possible 21

to admit your prior statement containing such information into 22

evidence. And there are a number of procedural steps to follow and 23

now we will turn to those steps. 24

Witness, were you ever interviewed by the Serbian police? 25

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W02714 (Open Session) Examination by Mr. Michalczuk

1 A. I'm not sure when do you mean was I interviewed. The only time

- 1 M. I m not sale when do you mean was I interviewed. The only time
- was when I gave the statement as recorded.
- 3 Q. Yes.
- 4 MR. MICHALCZUK: Could we just maybe pull up the following two
- documents, one next to the other. So English, it would be 025447 to
- 025449-ET RED2. And next to it, its Serbian version, 025443 to
- 7 025449 RED2, starting from page 5.
- Q. Witness, do you see the documents in front of you on the screen?
- 9 A. Yes, right. I see it.
- MR. MICHALCZUK: Could we scroll down to page 7 of the Serbian
- 11 version.
- Q. Witness, there are signatures at the end of this statement.
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recognise your statement there -- your signature there?
- 15 Sorry.
- 16 A. I do.
- 17 Q. So did you give such statement to the police, the one that you
- 18 can see in front of you on the screen?
- 19 A. As far as I can remember, I did give this statement to the
- police.
- 21 Q. Yes.
- MR. MICHALCZUK: We can remove these documents and put on the
- screen the second set of documents. English version would be
- 025450-TR-ET Part 1 RED2, and the Serbian version would be 025450-TR
- 25 Part 1 RED.

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W02714 (Open Session) Examination by Mr. Michalczuk

- 1 Q. Witness, do you have the statement in front of you on the
- 2 screen?
- 3 A. Yes, I can see it.
- 4 Q. Did you give this statement?
- 5 A. I think so, but now I can't -- would I need to read all of it?
- 6 Q. No, not necessarily. Take a look at the date. It's at the
- 7 upper part of the statement. Take a look at the date. Don't say
- what the date is, but tell me whether you were interviewed by the
- 9 SITF on that date stated there.
- 10 A. Yes, right. [REDACTED] Pursuant to In-Court Redaction Order F02880RED.
- 11 Q. Okay. Thank you. Do you confirm that you gave this statement?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. As part of your preparation for your testimony today that you
- had with me, did you have the opportunity to review the content of
- these statements?
- 16 A. Well, previously I had read it and then I just looked at it. I
- 17 think I did. Yes, I read it.
- 18 Q. During your preparation session that you had with me, did you
- 19 have the opportunity to make corrections and clarifications to these
- 20 statements?
- 21 A. The clarifications, yes, yes, this was explained to me, and I
- realised that everything was fine.
- Q. Were these changes and the clarifications reflected in a note
- that was then read back to you?
- 25 A. Yes.

Witness: W02714 (Open Session) Examination by Mr. Michalczuk

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- Ο. Do you confirm that what was read back in that note reflects 1
- your changes fully and accurately? 2
- Α. I think so, yes. To the best of my recollection. 3
- Subject to the changes provided in that note, does your Ο.
- statement accurately reflect what you said and what you would say if 5
- asked again in court today? 6
- I think so. Yes, that's how it is, as far as I have understood 7
- it and to the best of my recollection. 8
- Q. Okay. 9
- 10 MR. MICHALCZUK: Your Honours, having fulfilled the Rule 154
- criteria, and in accordance with your decision F02245 of 16 April 11
- 2024, paragraphs 50 and 96(a) and (b), the SPO would like to tender 12
- in English, Albanian, and Serbian the following statements. 13
- The first one would be English, 025447 to 025449-ET RED2; 14
- Serbian version, 025443 to 025449 RED2 at pages 5 to 7; Albanian, 15
- 025447 to 025449-AT RED2. This is one statement. 16
- The second statement, also English, Serbian, and Albanian, 17
- 025450-TR-ET Part 1 RED2 and Part 2. The same for Serbian and the 18
- same for Albanian, both parts. 19
- And also the Preparation Note 1, ERN 124913-124915. 20
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]. 21
- MR. MISETIC: We have no additional objections beyond our --22
- what we identified in our response to the Rule 154 application. 23
- MS. ROWAN: The position is the same for our Defence. Thank 24
- 25 you.

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W02714 (Open Session) Examination by Mr. Michalczuk

1 MR. TULLY: And the same for us, Your Honour.

- MR. ELLIS: Yes, that's our position also.
- 3 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: 125447 to 125449-ET RED2, and 025443 to
- 4 025449 RED2 Serbian, plus the Albanian, is admitted.
- 5 THE COURT OFFICER: Thank you, Your Honour. If I can just
- 6 correct the ERN for the record. The first statement is with ERN
- 025447, and corresponding English and Albanian translations, original
- being in Serbian. And that statement will receive Exhibit P02020.
- 9 Classification is confidential. Thank you.
- 10 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Now, 025450-TR-ET Part 1 RED2 and
- Part 2, plus 025450-TR Part 1 RED, which is the Serbian, plus the
- 12 Albanian translation, is admitted.
- THE COURT OFFICER: Thank you, Your Honour. The first part of
- that statement, English, Serbian, and Albanian, will receive
- Exhibit P02021.1, and the Part 2 will receive Exhibit P02021.2.
- 16 Classification is confidential. Thank you.
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: And the prep note, 124913 to 124915, is
- 18 admitted.
- THE COURT OFFICER: Prep note will receive Exhibit P02022.
- 20 Classification is confidential. Thank you.
- 21 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.
- You may go ahead.
- MR. MICHALCZUK: Yes, thank you.
- Your Honour, now I would like to read a short summary of the
- 25 statement of this witness.

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W02714 (Open Session)

Examination by Mr. Michalczuk

- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Yes. Without objection, go ahead. 1
- MR. MICHALCZUK: In June 1999, W02714 was abducted by armed men 2
- wearing uniforms with KLA insignia and taken to various locations 3
- where he was interrogated and mistreated. While in detention, he 4
- interacted with a KLA commander who ultimately released the witness 5
- after the negotiations with KFOR. 6
- And this concludes the summary of this witness's evidence. 7
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you. 8
- You may proceed with your questions. 9
- 10 MR. MICHALCZUK: I have very few questions, Your Honours. I'm
- not going to take too much time. 11
- Witness, we are still in the open session, so upon my questions 12
- don't give any answers that could identify you or reveal your 13
- 14 identity.
- Witness, during your time in the KLA detention, were you ever 15
- informed of any criminal charges against you? 16
- Α. No. 17
- 18 Was there any explanation given as to why you were detained?
- They told me that it was because I was a traffic policeman, that Α. 19
- that was the reason why they brought me into custody and detained me. 20
- Nothing else. 21
- Were you given the opportunity to challenge your detention to 22
- any judge or other official there? 23
- Could you please repeat the question because I did not hear you 24
- 25 very well.

Witness: W02714 (Open Session)
Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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- 1 Q. Of course. Were you given the opportunity to challenge your
- detention to any judge or other official while there in the KLA
- 3 detention?
- 4 A. No.
- MR. MICHALCZUK: Your Honours, no further questions for this
- 6 witness from the Prosecution.
- 7 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Mr. Thaci's Defence.
- 8 MR. MISETIC: Thank you, Your Honour.
- 9 Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic:
- Q. Good morning, Witness. My name is Luka Misetic and I am counsel
- for Mr. Thaci, and I have a few questions for you.
- MR. MISETIC: Mr. President, if we could move into private
- 13 session, please.
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We're getting the translation.
- THE INTERPRETER: Apologies, Your Honour. The Albanian booth
- had the wrong button switched on.
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.
- 18 You can go ahead. It should be fixed.
- MR. MISETIC: Thank you. The volume was down completely on
- 20 my -- that's why I wasn't hearing anything.
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].
- MR. MISETIC: Yeah, exactly.
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].
- MR. MISETIC: Yes.
- 25 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Start from the beginning --

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Witness: W02714 (Private Session)
                                                                       Page 24844
Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic
          MR. MISETIC: Yes.
          PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: -- if you would.
          MR. MISETIC: Yes.
 3
          Witness, let me repeat. My name is Luka Misetic. I am counsel
      for Mr. Thaci, and I have just a few questions for you this morning.
 5
           MR. MISETIC: Mr. President, if we could move into private
 6
      session, please.
7
           PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Private session, please,
8
     Madam Court Officer.
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10
                          [Private session]
                          [Private session text removed]
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Witness: W02714 (Private Session)

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Witness: W02714 (Private Session)

Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

[Private session text removed]

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Witness: W02714 (Private Session)

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Witness: W02714 (Private Session) Page 24850 Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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Witness: W02714 (Private Session)

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Witness: W02714 (Private Session) Page 24855 Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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Witness: W02714 (Private Session) Page 24856 Cross-examination by Mr. Misetic

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6	[Open session]
7	THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we are now in public session.
8	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Now we're adjourned.
9	Break taken at 12.33 p.m.
10	On resuming at 12.40 p.m.
11	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Court Officer, you may bring the witness
12	into the hearing room.
13	[Microphone not activated]. He's not right handy.
14	MR. MISETIC: There is a proffer I want to make, though, outside
15	the presence of the witness as well.
16	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].
17	MR. MISETIC: I'm sorry?
18	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: I'm sorry. You probably have enough
19	time if you want to do it now, because they have to go to a different
20	floor to get him.
21	MR. MISETIC: That's fine. Then we need to go into private
22	session.
23	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Private session, please.
24	[Private session]
25	[Private session text removed]

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Witness: W02714 (Private Session)
Procedural Matters

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## KSC-OFFICIAL

PUBLIC

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Page 24860 Witness: W02714 (Private Session) Questioned by the Trial Panel Redactions pursuant to In Court Redaction Order F2880RED as modified by Oral Order of 10 February 2025 [Private session text removed] 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 11 [Open session] 12 THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we are now in public session. 13 14 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you. Judge Barthe. 15 JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you, Judge Smith. 16 Questioned by the Trial Panel: 17 18 JUDGE BARTHE: And good afternoon, Witness. I hope you can hear me well. 19 I can hear you but with some interruptions. 20 JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. 21 Witness, the Panel has a few more questions for you to clarify 22 some issues that are still not entirely clear to us. My first 23 question is the following. You said in your earlier statements that 24

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you were told by [REDACTED] before you were released that you

25

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W02714 (Open Session)

Questioned by the Trial Panel

Redactions pursuant to In Court Redaction Order F2880RED as modified by Oral Order of 10 February 2025

- should report daily to him, on a daily basis; is that correct? Did
- [REDACTED] tell you that?
- Α. Correct. 3
- Did he tell you why you should report to him? 4 JUDGE BARTHE:
- Did he give you any reasons? 5
- No, he did not give me any reason. He just told me that I 6
- needed to report every day. Nothing else. 7
- JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. Did [REDACTED] mention on what 8
- basis or by what authority he asked you to report to him? 9
- 10 Α. No, he didn't refer to any authority.
- JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. Did he mention what would happen if 11
- you did not report to him? 12
- No, he didn't say that. He didn't tell me anything. 13
- JUDGE BARTHE: And did you actually report to him later? 14
- I reported twice, I think. Twice. And then after that, I gave 15
- up and I no longer went there to report. 16
- JUDGE BARTHE: Where did you go to report? 17
- 18 Α. I went to report in [REDACTED] where the KFOR was accommodated,
- [REDACTED] KFOR, from what I understood. And I was in the basement, 19 and
- 20 it was [REDACTED] was there,
- and that's where the KFOR was accommodated. 21
- JUDGE BARTHE: Did you personally report to [REDACTED] and 2.2
- see [REDACTED] on these two occasions? 23
- 24 I think that I did see him when I went to report on those two
- occasions. I think that I saw him. He was on the upper floor. I 25

Witness: W02714 (Open Session)

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Questioned by the Trial Panel

Redactions pursuant to In Court Redaction Order F2880RED as modified by Oral Order of 10 February 2025

- think that that's where he was. And that was all.
- JUDGE BARTHE: Was that the same person that you met or the same 2
- person who introduced himself to you during your detention? 3
- What could I answer to that? I think that it was one and the 4 Α.
- same man, but I cannot really remember precisely because it's been 25 5
- or 6 years, but I think that it was the same person. 6
- JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you very much, Witness. I have no further 7
- questions. 8
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Judge Gaynor. 9
- 10 JUDGE GAYNOR: Thank you, Judge Smith.
- Good morning, Witness. 11
- Mr. Witness, first of all, I understand from your statement that 12
- you are of [REDACTED] religion; is that correct? 13
- Yes, correct. 14
- JUDGE GAYNOR: How would you describe your ethnic background? 15
- Well, I don't quite understand your specific question. How 16
- would you like me to describe it? What exactly do you have in mind? 17
- 18 JUDGE GAYNOR: My question is how do you personally identify
- yourself in terms of your own ethnic background in your own words? 19
- In our words, I would say that I am a [REDACTED] That's my 20
- religion. I am a [REDACTED] 21
- JUDGE GAYNOR: And would you identify as [REDACTED] 22
- Neither [REDACTED] I'm not [REDACTED] I'm a 23
- [REDACTED] When we had census, people needed to declare whether they 2.4
- 25 were Serbian, Albanian, whether they were Roma, Turks, et cetera, and

Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W02714 (Open Session)

Questioned by the Trial Panel

Redactions pursuant to In Court Redaction Order F2880RED as modified by Oral Order of 10 February 2025

- we would identify as [REDACTED] That's how it was. My mother tongue
- 2 is [REDACTED]
- JUDGE GAYNOR: Very well. In your statement to the [REDACTED]
- authorities, I see that you refer to the people who stopped you at
- the roadblock as [REDACTED] Is that an accurate reflection
- of your words?
- 7 A. As far as I remember, I never use those kind of words, [REDACTED]
- I say [REDACTED] Some people say [REDACTED] some people say
- 9 [REDACTED] And as for [REDACTED] and so on, I never stated that.
- 10 My upbringing wouldn't allow me to do that.
- JUDGE GAYNOR: How would you describe the persons who stopped
- your car and who ordered you to drive in the direction of [REDACTED]?
- 13 Could you describe who those persons were?
- 14 A. I would describe them as UCK, [REDACTED] UCK.
- JUDGE GAYNOR: How did you know --
- 16 A. How else would I describe them?
- JUDGE GAYNOR: Well, how did you know that they were UCK?
- 18 A. Based on their clothing. They had camouflage clothing. Now,
- whether -- what colour it was, whether it was black or grey. But at
- any rate, they had insignia on their sleeves which said "UCK."
- JUDGE GAYNOR: I want to move now to a different subject, and
- that is the moment that you met the person who identified himself as
- 23 [REDACTED] You've already been asked several questions about
- 24 this.
- I understand that he first identified himself by name in his

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Questioned by the Trial Panel

Redactions pursuant to In Court Redaction Order F2880RED as modified by Oral Order of 10 February 2025

- office; is that right?
- Α. 2 Yes.
- JUDGE GAYNOR: Did he say where he came from when he identified 3
- himself to you? 4
- Not at that time, but later on I heard that he had said for 5
- himself that he was from a particular village. I can't remember the 6
- name exactly now, but it's somewhere in my statement. 7
- PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Yes. 8
- THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] And then later he 9
- 10 said that he resided in [REDACTED]
- MR. MICHALCZUK: Yes. I think we're in public, Your Honours. 11
- Maybe it's better to go into private session. 12
- JUDGE GAYNOR: You're right. Thank you, Mr. Prosecutor. 13
- 14 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Into private session, please.
- JUDGE GAYNOR: And perhaps there can be a redaction to the 15
- relevant sentences. 16
- [Private session] 17
- 18 [Private session text removed]

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Kosovo Specialist Chambers - Basic Court

Witness: W02714 (Private Session) Page 24865 Questioned by the Trial Panel [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 now in public session.
11	PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].
12	Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 1.00 p.m.
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