

1 Sunday, 8 December 2024

2 [Open session]

3 [Initial Appearance]

4 [The Accused Thaci entered the courtroom]

5 --- Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.

6 JUDGE MASSELOT: Good morning and welcome, everyone, to this  
7 Initial Appearance hearing.

8 Madam Court Officer, could you please call the case.

9 THE COURT OFFICER: Good morning, Your Honour. This is file  
10 KSC-BC-2023-12, The Specialist Prosecutor versus Hashim Thaci,  
11 Bashkim Smakaj, Isni Kilaj, Fadil Fazliu and Hajredin Kuci.

12 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you, Madam Court Officer.

13 Before we start, I would like to give the photographer the  
14 opportunity to take some pictures. Please proceed. You have one  
15 minute and a half to take pictures. And it is my understanding that  
16 Mr. Thaci doesn't wish to be on a close picture.

17 MS. TAVAKOLI: That's correct, Your Honour.

18 JUDGE MASSELOT: So please proceed that way.

19 Thank you, Madam Photographer.

20 Before asking those present in the courtroom to introduce  
21 themselves, I would like to remind everyone of the rules that must be  
22 observed at all times in order to facilitate the smooth conduct of  
23 the proceedings.

24 Please ensure that you activate your microphone before speaking  
25 and that you switch it off as soon as you are finished. Talk slowly

1 and clearly as we have interpretation from and to Albanian and  
2 Serbian. Wait five seconds before responding to me or a party in  
3 order to allow the interpreters to finish their interpretation.

4 I would like to remind you that certain information in this case  
5 is subject to confidentiality. Confidential information shall not be  
6 disclosed in open session. If any party wishes to refer to or  
7 discuss any confidential information, please request to go into  
8 private session.

9 Now I would kindly ask the parties to introduce themselves,  
10 starting with the Specialist Prosecutor's Office.

11 MR. HAFETZ: Good morning, Your Honour. Josh Hafetz on behalf  
12 of the Specialist Prosecutor's Office, and I'm joined this morning by  
13 the Specialist Prosecutor, Kim West, who is seated behind me, and to  
14 my left, Gaia Pergolo, and Line Pedersen.

15 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you, Mr. Prosecutor.

16 Now the Defence, please.

17 MS. TAVAKOLI: Good morning, Your Honour. My name is  
18 Nina Tavakoli, and I am Specialist Counsel for Mr. Hashim Thaci. And  
19 I am assisted today by Lirim Greicevci, a senior analyst in our team.

20 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you, counsellor.

21 For the record, I note that your client, Mr. Thaci, is also  
22 present in the courtroom.

23 And I will now turn to the Registry, please.

24 MR. NILSSON: Good morning, Your Honour. And good morning,  
25 colleagues. Jonas Nilsson, Deputy Registrar. I am here together

1 with Whitney Price, legal counsel. Thank you.

2 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you.

3 And last for the record, I am Marjorie Masselot, Pre-Trial Judge  
4 for this case.

5 The accused is appearing today for the first time before the  
6 Specialist Chambers following confirmation of the indictment against  
7 him on 29 November 2024.

8 Mr. Thaci, could you please stand up. Could you please state  
9 your full name.

10 THE ACCUSED THACI: [Microphone not activated].

11 THE INTERPRETER: Microphone is not turned on.

12 JUDGE MASSELOT: Please turn on your microphone. Thank you.

13 THE ACCUSED THACI: [Interpretation] Hashim Thaci.

14 JUDGE MASSELOT: What is your date and place of birth?

15 THE ACCUSED THACI: [Interpretation] 24 April 1968.

16 JUDGE MASSELOT: What is, please, your citizenship or what are  
17 your citizenships?

18 THE ACCUSED THACI: [Interpretation] I am a citizen of Kosovo.

19 JUDGE MASSELOT: What was your profession?

20 THE ACCUSED THACI: Politician. [Interpretation] Politician.

21 JUDGE MASSELOT: Mr. Thaci, before we proceed any further, I  
22 have to make sure that you can follow the proceedings in a language  
23 that you understand and speak.

24 Can you confirm that you understand and speak Albanian?

25 THE ACCUSED THACI: [Interpretation] Yes.

1 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you, Mr. Thaci. By this, I am satisfied  
2 that you can follow the proceedings in Albanian, a language that you  
3 understand and speak, in accordance with Rule 92 of the Rules of  
4 Procedure and Evidence.

5 If at any moment in the course of the proceedings you are not  
6 receiving interpretation, please draw my attention to it immediately.

7 Your microphone, I assume. Thank you.

8 I will now give a short procedural history to introduce today's  
9 initial hearing.

10 On 29 November 2024, in my capacity as Pre-Trial Judge, I  
11 partially confirmed the indictment submitted by the  
12 Specialist Prosecutor against Messrs Hashim Thaci, Bashkim Smakaj,  
13 Isni Kilaj, and Hajredin Kuci, charging Mr. Thaci with three counts  
14 with attempt to obstruct official persons in performing official  
15 duties by participating in the common action of a group; four counts  
16 of violation of the secrecy of proceedings; and four counts of  
17 contempt of court.

18 I also issued an arrest warrant for Mr. Thaci on the same day.

19 On 5 December 2024, the Registrar served Mr. Thaci at the  
20 detention facilities of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers in The Hague  
21 with the arrest warrant, the Confirmed Indictment, and the decision  
22 on his arrest warrant translated into Albanian.

23 On 6 December 2024, I issued the decision setting today's date  
24 for the Initial Appearance.

25 Now allow me to recall the specific purpose of this Initial

1 Appearance for the benefit of Mr. Thaci.

2 Today's hearing, Mr. Thaci, is not a trial. No evidence will be  
3 presented or debated nor will the guilt or innocence of the accused  
4 be discussed or decided.

5 The very purpose of this Initial Appearance hearing is regulated  
6 by Article 39(5) of the Law and Rule 92 of the rules. According to  
7 these provisions, as the Pre-Trial Judge, I shall:

8 Have the charges in the Confirmed Indictment read to the  
9 accused;

10 Confirm that the accused understands the indictment;

11 Satisfy myself that the rights of the accused, in particular his  
12 right to counsel, are respected; and

13 Inform the accused that, within 30 days of today's hearing, he  
14 will be called upon to admit guilt or plead not guilty on each charge  
15 set out in the indictment. If the accused wishes to do so, he may  
16 also immediately admit guilt or plead not guilty.

17 And, finally, I shall set other dates, as appropriate, in  
18 performing my functions as Pre-Trial Judge.

19 These are the matters which will be addressed in turn during  
20 today's Initial Appearance. Should either party wish to discuss any  
21 other matter not expressly foreseen in the context of the Initial  
22 Appearance, I invite you to do so through a filing in written form.

23 First, Mr. Thaci, may I invite you to please stand up.

24 May I ask you to confirm that you have received the Confirmed  
25 Indictment in a language that you understand and speak?

1 THE ACCUSED THACI: [Interpretation] Yes.

2 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you, Mr. Thaci.

3 Mr. Thaci, before Madam Court Officer reads the confirmed  
4 charges against you, I wish to remind you that this is not the time  
5 to contest them but simply to acknowledge your understanding thereof.  
6 You will have the opportunity to challenge the charges with the  
7 assistance of your counsel.

8 I will now ask Madam Court Officer to read out the charges in  
9 the Confirmed Indictment as foreseen in Article 39(5) of the Law and  
10 Rule 92(2)(b) of the rules.

11 THE COURT OFFICER: Thank you, Your Honour.

12 In the Confirmed Indictment, the Specialist Prosecutor charges  
13 Mr. Hashim Thaci with:

14 Counts 1 to 3: Attempting to obstruct official persons, in  
15 particular SPO Prosecutors and investigators, in performing official  
16 duties by participating in the common action of three separate groups  
17 and as the leader or organiser of these groups, punishable under  
18 Article 401(2), (3), and (5) of the 2019 of the Kosovo Criminal Code  
19 and Article 15(2) of the Law;

20 Counts 4 to 6: Violating secrecy of proceedings through  
21 unauthorised revelation of secret information, punishable under  
22 Article 392(1) of the 2019 Kosovo Criminal Code and Article 15(2) of  
23 the Law;

24 Count 7: Violating secrecy of proceedings through unauthorised  
25 revelation of the identity of a protected witness, punishable under

1 Article 392(2) of the 2019 Kosovo Criminal Code and Article 15(2) of  
2 the Law; and

3 Counts 8 to 11: Contempt of court, punishable under Article 393  
4 of the 2019 Kosovo Criminal Code and Article 15(2) of the Law.

5 2. These offences were committed between at least 26 June and  
6 2 November 2023.

7 3. In relation to these offences, there is a well-grounded  
8 suspicion that Mr. Hashim Thaci is criminally responsible pursuant to  
9 Article 16(3) of the Law for:

10 a. Committing the offences of attempted obstruction of official  
11 persons in performing official duties, violating secrecy of  
12 proceedings, and contempt of court under Counts 1 to 8 and Counts 10  
13 to 11, pursuant to Article 17 of the 2019 Kosovo Criminal Code;

14 b. Inciting Mr. Bashkim Smakaj, Mr. Isni Kilaj, and  
15 Mr. Fadil Fazliu to commit the offences of attempted obstruction of  
16 official persons in performing official duties in the context of  
17 their respective groups under Counts 1 to 3, pursuant to Article  
18 32(1) of the 2019 Kosovo Criminal Code;

19 c. Agreeing to commit with Mr. Bashkim Smakaj, Mr. Isni Kilaj,  
20 Mr. Fadil Fazliu, in the context of their respective groups, the  
21 offences of attempted obstruction of official persons in performing  
22 official duties under Counts 1 to 3, pursuant to Article 35 of the  
23 2019 Kosovo Criminal Code; and

24 d. Agreeing to commit with Mr. Hajredin Kuci the offence of  
25 contempt of court under Count 9, pursuant to Article 35 of the 2019

1 Kosovo Criminal Code.

2 Thank you, Your Honour.

3 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you, Madam Court Officer.

4 Mr. Thaci, did you understand the charges contained in the  
5 Confirmed Indictment as read out to you by Madam Court Officer?

6 THE ACCUSED THACI: [Microphone not activated].

7 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you.

8 The Law on the Specialist Chambers and the Rules of Procedure  
9 and Evidence guarantee you, Mr. Thaci, a number of rights, and I will  
10 read out the most important ones, especially those relevant at this  
11 specific stage of the proceedings.

12 You shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a  
13 reasonable doubt.

14 In the determination of the charges against you, you are  
15 entitled to a fair and public hearing, subject to any measure ordered  
16 for the protection of victims and witnesses.

17 You have the right to be informed promptly and in detail, in a  
18 language which you understand, of the nature and cause of the charges  
19 against you.

20 You have the right to have adequate time and facilities for the  
21 preparation of your defence, and to communicate with a counsel of  
22 your own choosing.

23 You have the right to be tried within a reasonable time.

24 You have the right to be tried in your presence and to defend  
25 yourself through your counsel.



1           You have the right to have counsel assigned to you, and without  
2 payment, if you do not have sufficient means to pay for it.

3           You have the right to receive the free assistance of an  
4 interpreter if you cannot understand or speak the language used in  
5 the Court.

6           You have the right not to be compelled to testify against  
7 yourself or to admit guilt.

8           You have the right to remain silent, and no adverse inference  
9 shall be drawn from your silence.

10          And you have the right not to be detained for an unreasonable  
11 period of time prior to the opening of the case, to request review of  
12 decisions on your detention, and to appeal such decisions directly  
13 before the Court of Appeals.

14          Mr. Thaci, I have read to you the most important rights that you  
15 enjoy in accordance with the applicable legal framework of the  
16 Specialist Chambers. Do you understand these rights?

17          THE ACCUSED THACI: [Interpretation] Yes.

18          JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you, Mr. Thaci.

19          I wish also to inform you that, according to Article 21(5) of  
20 the Law, you may not represent yourself because you are currently in  
21 detention. Representation by Specialist Counsel is therefore  
22 mandatory.

23          I take note that you are represented by Counsel Tavakoli, and  
24 I'm therefore satisfied that the accused is presently represented by  
25 counsel.

1 I will now turn to the right of the accused to enter an  
2 immediate plea, if any, in accordance with Rule 92 of the rules.

3 Mr. Thaci, as already mentioned, within 30 days from today, you  
4 will be called upon to admit guilt or plead not guilty on the charges  
5 in the indictment. If you wish to do so, you may choose to  
6 immediately admit guilt or plead not guilty. I would, therefore,  
7 like to ask you if you have had the opportunity to discuss the  
8 charges in the Confirmed Indictment with your counsel and if you are  
9 prepared to enter a plea at this time.

10 THE ACCUSED THACI: [Interpretation] Your Honour, distinguished  
11 participants, you know that it's four years now that I am being faced  
12 with another court proceeding, and that we have heard  
13 misinterpretation of the history of our nation in the fight for its  
14 independence from 1980 to today. It's a voluminous process. I know  
15 that Kosovo society, my family, and myself are eagerly looking  
16 forward to the conclusion of this process to put in itself justice --  
17 because we believe in justice.

18 Two, three days ago, I was suddenly accused of the new charges  
19 pressed against me by the Office of the Specialist Prosecutor. I  
20 know that Kosovo is on the eve of the general election, but I am not  
21 part of this electoral race. I pose no political risk to anyone.  
22 Therefore, today also I say that I believe in and respect the  
23 Constitution and the laws of Kosovo. So, therefore, I appeal to  
24 everyone, wherever you are, in this whole -- to respect the  
25 constitution and the laws of Kosovo because the Specialist Chambers

1 are an outcome of the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo.

2 Because of other commitments, I had no possibility to discuss in  
3 essence the Confirmed Indictment. Therefore, I will plead in due  
4 time as set out in the constitution and legal framework. Thank you.

5 JUDGE MASSELOT: So no plea today. Thank you, Mr. Thaci.

6 I'm just informed that your answer to the question whether you  
7 understand the charges has not been recorded on the transcript  
8 because your microphone was not on.

9 Could you please repeat your response to that question.

10 THE ACCUSED THACI: [Interpretation] I have not read all of them,  
11 so I have to read them before I can say I understand them.

12 JUDGE MASSELOT: Well, do you want a break to read them?

13 THE ACCUSED THACI: [Interpretation] No. No, it's not necessary.

14 JUDGE MASSELOT: Counsel?

15 MS. TAVAKOLI: Perhaps I could just seek some instructions.

16 [Specialist Counsel confer]

17 [Pre-Trial Judge and Court Officer confers]

18 MS. TAVAKOLI: Your Honour, if we could please take a short  
19 break, that would be -- it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

20 JUDGE MASSELOT: Well, we'll just -- we will now break for ten  
21 minutes. Is that sufficient, counsellor?

22 MS. TAVAKOLI: Thank you, Your Honour.

23 JUDGE MASSELOT: All right. And we will reconvene then at  
24 10.00.

25 The Court is now adjourned.

1 --- Break taken at 9.51 a.m.

2 --- On resuming at 9.58 a.m.

3 JUDGE MASSELOT: We are back in session.

4 THE COURT OFFICER: And, Your Honour, if I can confirm, we are  
5 in open session. Thank you.

6 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you, Madam Court Officer.

7 Mr. Thaci, we took a break to allow you to discuss with your  
8 counsel on this question which is whether you understood the charges  
9 that had been read out by Madam Court Officer a few minutes ago to  
10 you. And if I'm not mistaken, your response to that was that you did  
11 understand at the time. And when I repeated the question to you  
12 because your microphone was not on, you gave us another response.

13 Could you please clarify what your position is and your response  
14 to that question now is?

15 THE ACCUSED THACI: [Interpretation] I understood them.

16 JUDGE MASSELOT: [Microphone not activated].

17 So considering that Mr. Thaci has not entered a plea at this  
18 time, I would like to ask the parties to provide their preliminary  
19 views, if any, on the scheduling of a further hearing for the entry  
20 of a plea.

21 I just want to make it clear that this hearing should take place  
22 within 30 days from today, meaning by 7 January 2025, and I note that  
23 this falls within the Court Recess.

24 Do you have any submissions to make in this regard, starting  
25 with the Defence for Mr. Thaci? Counsel, you have the floor.

1 MS. TAVAKOLI: Thank you, Your Honour. The Defence is content  
2 to return on 7 January to enter a plea, for Mr. Thaci to enter a  
3 plea.

4 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you, counsel.

5 For the Prosecutor's Office?

6 MR. HAFETZ: Your Honour, we're available at any time to return  
7 for the entry of a plea.

8 JUDGE MASSELOT: All right. Thank you. A further hearing for  
9 the entering of a plea will be scheduled in due course.

10 Let us now move to the working language for the proceedings. In  
11 the decision setting the date for today's Initial Appearance, I  
12 invited the parties to make oral submissions at today's hearing on  
13 the working language to be used in the present case according to  
14 Rule 8 of the rules.

15 Could the parties indicate their preference for the record,  
16 starting with the Specialist Prosecutor's Office.

17 MR. HAFETZ: Our preference would be English, Your Honour.  
18 Thank you.

19 JUDGE MASSELOT: This is well noted. Thank you.

20 For the Defence?

21 MS. TAVAKOLI: English as well. Thank you.

22 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you. I will issue a decision on this  
23 matter in due course as well.

24 In the decision setting the date for today's Initial Appearance,  
25 I also indicated that I intend to schedule the first Status

1 Conference in this case, pursuant to Rule 96 of the rules, on  
2 Tuesday, 17 December 2024, at 2.00. I have also invited you to  
3 provide oral submissions at today's Initial Appearance on whether  
4 counsels and/or the accused intend to participate in the  
5 Status Conference in person or via video-conference.

6 Defence counsel, you have the floor.

7 MS. TAVAKOLI: Thank you, Your Honour. As you're aware, I am  
8 co-counsel in Case 06, and the evidence for that case closed on  
9 Friday. Due to the late notice of the scheduling of this hearing, I  
10 am unavailable next week to attend a Status Conference. The first  
11 available date that I would have, bearing in mind the judicial  
12 recess, would be 17 January.

13 However, if the Court is minded to proceed to a Status  
14 Conference next week, Mr. Thaci will need to appoint a second  
15 counsel, Luka Misetic, who will then be able to attend via videolink.

16 JUDGE MASSELOT: All right. This is noted.

17 For the Specialist Prosecutor?

18 MR. HAFETZ: We're available to be in person here next week,  
19 Judge.

20 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you.

21 You will receive a Scheduling Order in due course that will also  
22 include the agenda. And in that Scheduling Order, I will also  
23 provide guidelines on the requirements for attending the  
24 Status Conference via video-conference.

25 Now in relation to your detention, Mr. Thaci.

1 I recall that, based on the finding of a well-grounded suspicion  
2 that you committed the offences that were just read to you, an arrest  
3 warrant was issued against you on 29 November 2024. Pursuant to  
4 Article 41(6)(b) of the Law, your arrest was found necessary based on  
5 the existence of articulable grounds to believe that you are a flight  
6 risk, you may obstruct the progress of the criminal proceedings, and  
7 you may repeat said offences.

8 I also recall that you were served, upon your arrest, with the  
9 reasoned Decision on Request for Arrest Warrant and Related Matters,  
10 translated into Albanian, together with a Confirmed Indictment.

11 Now I would like to know whether the Defence wishes to make  
12 submissions on the issue on detention.

13 MS. TAVAKOLI: Your Honour, because of the fact that my client  
14 is remanded in custody in respect of 06 Case, to some extent this is  
15 a moot process. However, I would like to point out, for the record,  
16 a couple of points.

17 I understand that Your Honour has made an independent assessment  
18 of whether there are arguable grounds that, for example, Mr. Thaci is  
19 a flight risk, and I wish to put on record that the Trial Panel in  
20 Case 06 has never considered Mr. Thaci a flight risk. He voluntarily  
21 surrendered to the jurisdiction of this Court, he stepped down as  
22 president to do so, and he is now remanded in custody on Case 06.

23 Defence also notes its concern that the Pre-Trial Judge makes  
24 findings of fact in the context of her decision, for example, at  
25 paragraph 48 in F0037, about issues that go to the heart of the

1 issues in dispute in Case 06, such as my client's role in the KLA,  
2 for example, that he was a founding member.

3 Defence underscores its concern that the SPO is attempting to  
4 litigate this case at the same time as it is also litigating Case 06  
5 against my client. And it raises concern at this stage and it puts  
6 the Chamber on notice that there should not be bleeding over from one  
7 case to another. For example, Your Honour's finding in relation to a  
8 direct matter at issue in these proceedings is problematic.

9 That said, the Defence recognises that because Mr. Thaci is  
10 remanded in custody on this case, any application for provisional  
11 release is moot at this stage, but it wishes to preserve its position  
12 and rejects the findings of Your Honour in this regard.

13 JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you, Counsel Tavakoli.

14 Does the SPO wish to take the floor?

15 MR. HAFETZ: Just briefly, Your Honour. I'm going to rely in  
16 the main on our prior submissions on the issue of detention in this  
17 case, understanding that Your Honour has made the point in your  
18 decision F00037, that you must make independent detention findings in  
19 this case as opposed to the other case, which I'll refer to going  
20 forward as Case 06.

21 I'll just point out that all of the required findings for  
22 detention are met here under 41(6). One, there's been a  
23 well-grounded suspicion, as confirmed in the indictment, as read out  
24 in the 11 charges you've noticed to -- now to Mr. Thaci, that he has  
25 committed multiple offences while he's been detained here. So the



1 first prong of the test is met.

2 I also submit that, as Your Honour has found, all three -- and  
3 I'll get to the flight risk in a moment. All three of the factors,  
4 which are all alternatives for grounds for detention, all three of  
5 them are met here, (i), (ii), and (iii) of 41(6)(b).

6 I'll note, specifically in regard to counsel's comments about  
7 risk of flight, this is an independent inquiry in this case about  
8 whether Mr. Thaci presents a risk of flight now, here, today, on  
9 these charges, and the answer is resoundingly yes.

10 While detained since the beginning of Case 06, he has engaged in  
11 what is found in the decision as a persistent pattern of obstructive  
12 behaviour. He's noted as the -- and charged, and confirmed now in  
13 the indictment, as the leader of a pattern of obstructive behaviour,  
14 specifically targeting numerous witnesses in his ongoing trial. This  
15 is not a bleeding over. It is bringing charges against Mr. Thaci for  
16 the direct interference in that case independent of that case.

17 The other two factors are also met for the reasons Your Honour  
18 outlined. He poses a significant risk of engaging in further crimes  
19 directed at these proceedings, which is (ii) of 41(6), and of  
20 committing future crimes. He's demonstrated for over a year now that  
21 he will continue to commit crimes while detained. There's every  
22 reason that he would commit those crimes while not detained. It  
23 would be a much greater risk to the proceedings in this case and the  
24 other case if Mr. Thaci were released.

25 So all three of those factors are met and require and

1       necessitate his detention in this case.

2               JUDGE MASSELOT: Thank you, Mr. Prosecutor.

3               I'm turning to Counsel Tavakoli. Do you wish to get the floor  
4 one more time on this matter?

5               MS. TAVAKOLI: No. As I've said before, I think this exercise  
6 is academic. Thank you.

7               JUDGE MASSELOT: This is on the record, counsel.

8               I will thus ask you a few minutes, I will stay in the courtroom,  
9 and I will issue an oral ruling on detention in a few minutes.

10              All right. I will now issue my oral ruling on detention.

11              I have taken note of the Specialist Prosecutor's position that  
12 Mr. Thaci remain in detention.

13              Defence counsel, I have taken note of your position and  
14 submission that you refrain from making any substantial submissions  
15 today, considering that this is an academic exercise.

16              Therefore, having considered the parties' submissions, I  
17 determine that Mr. Thaci shall remain in detention. The reasons for  
18 Mr. Thaci's detention are the same as set out in the decision on  
19 arrest warrants and related matters; more specifically, paragraphs 43  
20 and 45 to 55, which shall be read together with the present ruling.

21              Mr. Thaci, I will review the reasons for your detention within  
22 two months or at an earlier time upon request or a change in  
23 circumstances as provided in Article 41(10) of the Law and Rule 57(2)  
24 of the rules.

25              Defence counsel, should you wish to file submissions on the next

1 regular review of detention, please do so by no later than Wednesday,  
2 15 January 2025. Responses and replies will follow. The timelines  
3 set out in Rule 76 of the rules.

4 Should the Defence not to file any submissions by the  
5 aforementioned time limit, I order the SPO to file submissions on the  
6 next regular review of Mr. Thaci's detention by no later than  
7 Tuesday, 21 January 2025.

8 Defence shall respond, if it so wishes, by no later than  
9 Tuesday, 28 January 2025.

10 I will not entertain a reply.

11 Lastly, Mr. Thaci, you have the right to appeal today's ruling  
12 on your detention directly before the Court of Appeals within ten  
13 days as provided in Article 45(2) of the Law and Rule 58 and 117 of  
14 the rules.

15 This concludes my oral ruling.

16 At this point, I would like to ask the parties if there is any  
17 other issues strictly related to today's hearing that they would like  
18 to raise?

19 MR. HAFETZ: No, Your Honour.

20 MS. TAVAKOLI: No, Your Honour.

21 JUDGE MASSELOT: All right.

22 This concludes Mr. Thaci's Initial Appearance hearing. I wish  
23 to thank the parties and the Registry for their attendance, and, of  
24 course, the interpreters, stenographers, audio-visual technicians,  
25 and security personnel for their assistance.

1           The hearing is adjourned.

2                               --- Whereupon the Initial Appearance adjourned  
3                               at 10.14 a.m.

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