



Security Council

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United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction and Mission priorities

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#), by which the Council established the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and requested the Secretary-General to report at regular intervals on the implementation of its mandate. The report covers the activities of UNMIK, and related developments, from 16 September 2024 to 15 March 2025.

2. The priorities of the Mission remain to promote security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and in the region. In pursuit of its goals, UNMIK continues its constructive engagement with Pristina and Belgrade, all communities in Kosovo, and regional and international actors. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Kosovo Force continue to perform their roles within the framework of resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#). The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo maintains its presence, in line with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 26 November 2008 ([S/PRST/2008/44](#)) and the report of the Secretary-General of 24 November 2008 ([S/2008/692](#)). The United Nations agencies, funds and programmes work closely with the Mission.

II. Key political developments, including in the European Union-facilitated dialogue

3. Over the past six months, intense public discourse has dominated the political landscape in Kosovo, particularly ahead of the legislative elections on 9 February. The European Union-facilitated dialogue achieved some progress in advancing the implementation of agreements between Belgrade and Pristina, including on the establishment of the Joint Commission on Missing Persons. Nonetheless, key areas of the 2023 Agreement on the path to normalization of relations and its Implementation Annex remain outstanding, including progress towards the establishment of the Association/Community of Serb-majority Municipalities, despite diplomatic pressure from Kosovo's international partners. The Kosovo government enabled residents to submit civil status documents issued by Serbia-run institutions to register life events with the relevant Kosovo authorities. An attack targeting essential civilian infrastructure in northern Kosovo on 29 November triggered an exchange of accusations between Belgrade and Pristina and raised tensions. Further closures of Serbia-run institutions



in Kosovo by the Kosovo authorities aggravated relations between Kosovo Serbs and the Kosovo government and threatened the livelihoods of those most vulnerable.

4. After a protracted period of stalemate in the European Union-facilitated dialogue, Belgrade and Pristina agreed to the terms of reference for the Joint Commission on Missing Persons at a meeting in Brussels on 17 December. The Joint Commission will oversee the implementation of the Declaration on Missing Persons signed by the President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, and the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, in May 2023 and is expected to support the existing Working Group on Missing Persons chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

5. The first meeting of the Joint Commission on Missing Persons was scheduled to be held on 15 January in Brussels, but did not take place. The Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija of the Government of Serbia, Petar Petković, who was in Brussels for the meeting, noted that Pristina's closures of Serbia-run institutions in Kosovo on the same day showed that Mr. Kurti did not want dialogue, but rather violence and a direct confrontation with Kosovo Serbs. The Chairman of the Governmental Commission for Missing Persons of Kosovo, Andin Hoti, subsequently accused Belgrade of lacking readiness to cooperate on the issue of missing persons.

6. In preparation for the legislative elections on 9 February, the Central Election Commission of Kosovo certified 28 political entities, including 1,280 candidates. The Vetëvendosje Party objected to the certification of the Serbian List Party, alleging that the party had individuals as members "who have committed or are committing terrorist acts against Kosovo". The Serbian List Party filed a complaint with the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel, which ordered the Central Election Commission to proceed with the registration. Vetëvendosje subsequently launched an appeal with the Supreme Court, which confirmed the Panel's order to certify the Serbian List Party.

7. The official campaign for Kosovo's legislative election commenced on 11 January and was marked by harsh rhetoric on all sides. The Election Complaints and Appeals Panel received over 450 complaints for various alleged violations of the electoral process, including 204 relating to "incitement of hatred", resulting in fines totalling €655,000 issued against 15 political entities. Opposition parties representing Kosovo Serbs reported alleged pressure on Kosovo Serbs to vote for the Serbian List Party. The Serbian Democracy Party filed a criminal complaint against the For Freedom, Justice and Survival Party for allegedly buying votes.

8. On 9 February, the legislative elections proceeded peacefully without major incidents. The Kosovo police reported six cases of voting offences and minor criminal acts, resulting in seven arrests. Members of the Kosovo diaspora were able to vote in person outside Kosovo for the first time, ensuring broader participation. However, UNMIK noted accessibility challenges for persons with disabilities.

9. The European Union Election Observation Mission Kosovo and the observers of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe assessed the elections as peaceful, inclusive and competitive. The Election Observation Mission noted that the new Law on General Elections had introduced innovations aimed at increasing stakeholders' trust, enhancing the transparency of the electoral process and promoting gender inclusivity by offering financial incentives to political entities whose deputies included more than 30 per cent women. It also stated that during the process attempts of politicization by the ruling party of key institutions, particularly the Central Election Commission and the Independent Media Commission were observed. The Election Observation Mission further highlighted concerns over freedom of expression and freedom of the media, citing numerous media violations during the campaign which the Independent Media Commission failed to sanction, following its loss of quorum three weeks before the elections.

10. The observer delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe noted that the representation of women had remained low in Kosovo and that online hate speech against women had a detrimental effect on their participation and visibility in this election. It further noted that the outdated voters' list was a result of inaccuracies in the civil register, leading to a lack of confidence and fear of possible manipulation.

11. On 15 March, the Central Election Commission announced the results, following the conclusion of the complaints and appeals process. The incumbent Vetëvendosje Party obtained 41.63 per cent of votes (48 of the 120 seats in the Assembly). The Democratic Party of Kosovo received 20.95 per cent (24 seats), the Democratic League of Kosovo 18.27 per cent (20 seats), and the coalition of the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo and Initiative for Kosovo 7.06 per cent (five plus three seats). The Serbian List Party secured 4.26 per cent of votes and won 9 out of the 10 seats guaranteed for Kosovo Serbs. The 10 seats guaranteed for other non-majority communities were distributed between the Kosovo Bosniak community (three seats), Kosovo Turkish and Kosovo Egyptian communities (two seats each), and Kosovo Ashkali, Kosovo Gorani and Kosovo Roma communities (one seat each). The election also saw women secure 45 seats in the legislature, compared with 44 in the 2021 elections (37.5 per cent compared with 36.6 per cent), exceeding the 30 per cent gender quota.

12. The voter turnout was reported to be 46.54 per cent, slightly lower than during the previous elections in February 2021 (48.78 per cent).

13. Following diplomatic pressure by Germany, the Kosovo government announced on 7 October that it would partially lift the restrictions on goods entering Kosovo from Serbia by allowing goods entering from Serbia to cross the Administrative Boundary Line at the Merdarë/Merdar crossing point as of the following day. Mr. Kurti explained that trucks would undergo "strict checks" until "advanced scanners" were installed. The European Union Office in Kosovo welcomed the decision, noting that the free trade of goods across the Western Balkans, in line with the rules of the Central European Free Trade Agreement, was key for the functioning of the common regional market. UNMIK subsequently received reports that raw materials that were previously entering Kosovo from all crossing points have been redirected solely to the Merdarë/Merdar crossing, thereby hindering the flow of raw materials and adding to the significant traffic congestion.

14. On 9 October, the parties to the Central European Free Trade Agreement adopted, by consensus, a decision to amend the rules of procedure of the Joint Committee of the Central European Free Trade Agreement, allowing Kosovo to participate independently in future Joint Committee meetings as "Kosovo*". The asterisk links to a footnote stating, "This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence".

15. On 28 October, the Government of Serbia adopted a draft law that declared Kosovo as a special social protection area. The draft law regulates the rights to special social protection by providing financial support to the unemployed and those over 65 years old who have not qualified for a pension, as well as the conditions, jurisdiction and procedures for exercising those rights. It also envisages the establishment of a special department for prosecution of criminal and unlawful acts committed in Kosovo. The European Union and the United States of America have criticized this decision for violating Serbia's obligations from the European Union-facilitated dialogue. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia stated in response that Serbia remained fully engaged in the dialogue process and was committed to the implementation of all agreements.

16. On 29 November, an attack using an explosive device seriously damaged the Ibar-Lepenac/Ibër-Lepenc water canal in Zubin Potok municipality. The canal supplies drinking water to several towns in central and northern Kosovo and cools the power plant in Obiliq/Obilić, the main electricity producer for all of Kosovo. The director of the Kosovo police classified the canal explosion as a “terrorist act”. After damage assessments were conducted, the Kosovo government commenced repair works to restore the water supply to the Obiliq/Obilić power plant. On 1 December, the Minister of Economy stated that the water flow to both the power plant and the Mitrovica region was fully restored.

17. Mr. Kurti attributed the attack to groups affiliated with Belgrade, alleging that it was professionally orchestrated to destabilize Kosovo and undermine essential civilian infrastructure. Mr. Vučić stated that Belgrade had no knowledge of the incident and expressed its readiness to support investigations and provide logistical assistance. Investigations by the Kosovo authorities are ongoing.

18. Representatives of the European Union and the Quint (France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States) condemned the attack and called for an independent and comprehensive investigation. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General also condemned the attack and called for transparent investigations to hold those responsible accountable.

19. On 15 January, the Kosovo government announced they had closed 28 Serbia-run municipal offices, five administrative districts, health insurance funds, post offices and social welfare centres in municipalities in central and southern Kosovo. It declared them to be “parallel criminal structures” and noted that Kosovo institutions could serve the affected communities. Serbian officials condemned the operations, with Mr. Vučić calling them “acts of terror”. He committed Belgrade to continue paying all affected benefits and salaries to the employees of the closed entities. Due to the closures, Kosovo Serbs and other non-majority community members have continued to face difficulties in accessing salaries, pensions, child support and disability payments by Serbia.

20. The Serbian Democracy Party in Kosovo called the operations a “violation of all human rights” and criticized the Serbian List Party for failing to mobilize protest campaigns to resist the series of closures. Meanwhile, the president of the Serbian List Party claimed that Mr. Kurti was taking these actions as part of his election campaign. On 17 January, the Serbian List Party sent a letter to the embassies of the Quint in Pristina and the heads of the European Union Office, OSCE and UNMIK, calling upon the international community to act urgently to support the survival of the Kosovo Serb community in a manner that is “visible, concrete and impactful”.

21. Representatives of the international community, including the Quint and China, expressed concerns about the closures. The European Union stated that the status of Serbia-supported structures should be resolved through the European Union-facilitated dialogue and stressed that Kosovo must demonstrate its commitment and remain consistent with its obligations in the dialogue. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General expressed concerns about the effect of these closures on the daily lives of individuals and warned that such unilateral actions risk further erosion of trust between communities and Kosovo authorities.

III. Northern Kosovo

22. The situation in northern Kosovo remained tense. Kosovo police operations resulting in the confiscation of weapons, equipment and ammunition, as well as the closure of some of the remaining Serbia-run institutions in northern Kosovo, generated additional tensions between the Kosovo Serb community and the authorities.

23. On 16 October, the Kosovo authorities closed the Serbia-run Interim Municipal Council for Skënderaj/Srbica municipality, located in North Mitrovica; on 26 and 27 December 2024, they closed three Serbian public utility companies; and on 8 January 2025, they closed the Serbian Tax Administration Office and the Serbian public-private Dunav Insurance Company. On 21 February, Kosovo authorities searched, closed and sealed the premises of the Serbia-run centres for social welfare in North Mitrovica, Zvečan/Zvecan, Leposavić/Leposaviq and Zubin Potok, confiscating documents and equipment.

24. Since the closure of the Serbia-run Interim Municipal Councils in northern Kosovo in August 2024, the Serbian authorities have provided services for Kosovo Serb residents at two locations north of the Administrative Boundary Line. The services include civil registration, child allowance payments and verification of documents, as well as tax and business registration. However, some vulnerable groups continue to encounter obstacles in access to such services due to the distance from these offices.

25. Tensions heightened after the attack on the Ibar-Lepenac/Ibër-Lepenc water canal on 29 November. In the days following the attack, Kosovo police conducted searches in 10 locations across northern Kosovo, resulting in the arrest of 11 people on suspicion of being involved in the attack. Of these 11 individuals, 8 were released after questioning and 1 was detained for 48 hours and subsequently released. The Basic Court in Pristina ordered the remaining two suspects to 30-day detention on remand on suspicion of having committed offences related to endangering the constitutional order by destroying or damaging public installations and facilities; commission of a terrorist offence; and unauthorized ownership, control, or possession of weapons. The Court twice extended their detention, most recently on 28 February, for a further two months. Residents and community leaders submitted multiple complaints to the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, alleging police misconduct during the searches, several of which resulted in the Inspectorate initiating an investigation.

26. Following the attack, Mr. Kurti chaired an extraordinary session of the Kosovo Security Council to discuss measures to mitigate the consequences and ensure security for critical infrastructure. The Kosovo police, equipped with long-barrel weapons, temporarily increased its presence in all northern municipalities to reportedly include 2,000 officers working in shifts, before reverting to its pre-attack numbers. The Kosovo Force confirmed that the Kosovo authorities had requested the deployment of the Kosovo Security Force to northern Kosovo after the attack, which the Kosovo Force Commander rejected.

27. A claim made by a Kosovo Serb that he sustained injuries during his arrest and brief detention by Kosovo police at the North Mitrovica station on 26 October was deemed credible by a Deputy Ombudsperson. The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) requested that the competent authorities investigate all allegations of mistreatment. Five civil society organizations issued statements demanding accountability and announcing that they would suspend cooperation with EULEX due to its perceived lack of response to cases of police misconduct.

28. On 27 September, residents organized a peaceful protest in front of the police station in Zubin Potok in response to the desecration of icons and the shooting at an informal religious site by unknown persons. On 24 November, a Kosovo Serb civil society representative was briefly detained at the Bistrica/Bistricë checkpoint during a routine traffic stop for allegedly filming without authorization.

29. On 28 November, on Albanian Flag Day, unidentified individuals painted over two Serbian flag-coloured murals in North Mitrovica, compelling Kosovo Serb political actors to raise concerns about Kosovo police officers failing to intervene despite reportedly being at the scene. The following day, six Kosovo police officers received a 72-hour administrative suspension.

30. On 11 January, media reported that Kosovo police special units arrested one person in Sočanica/Soqanicë in Leposavić/Leposaviq municipality, following a court order regarding a previous conviction. The Serbian Democracy Party alleged that the suspect was beaten during the arrest and demanded that the officers involved be suspended. EULEX expressed concern at the alleged mistreatment and called for an immediate follow-up. On 13 January, media reported that the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo had initiated an investigation into the arrest.

31. Representatives of the Serbian Democracy Party continued their activism, notably by blowing whistles during visits of Kosovo government officials to northern Kosovo. Kosovo police arrested the president of Serbian Democracy Party on multiple occasions, including for alleged harassment, unauthorized filming and disobeying a police order. He was released after each arrest.

32. On 13 December, civil society organizations from northern Kosovo published a report detailing concerns about members of the Kosovo police promoting Albanian ethno-nationalism on their private social media accounts. The Police Inspectorate of Kosovo confirmed that it would analyse the content of the report. On 20 December, civil society organizations acknowledged the decision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Kosovo police to address the concerns raised in the report by developing strong regulatory frameworks for the responsible usage of social media by Kosovo police. The director of the Kosovo police reiterated that any officer violating principles and procedures would be held accountable.

33. Several other security incidents took place in northern Kosovo prior to the attack on the canal, including detonations of explosive devices that caused material damage. On 13 October, the vehicle of the director of a Kosovo Serb media outlet was damaged in a suspected case of arson. On 26 November, two explosive devices were thrown into the yard of a police station in Zvečan/Zveçan. On 29 November, an explosive device was thrown at the Zvečan/Zveçan municipal building following the commemoration of Albanian Flag Day on the premises the previous day.

34. Property rights continued to be a source of contention. On 17 September, one day after the Kosovo government allocated further funds for the reconstruction of houses for Kosovo Albanian returnees to northern Kosovo, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at one such property under construction in North Mitrovica.

35. On 26 September, the Municipal Assembly in North Mitrovica reallocated four plots of land used by Serbia-run institutions to the Kosovo government, including the former premises of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija of the Government of Serbia and the Office of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of Serbia. Mr. Petković condemned the reallocation as a continuation of the “police occupation” of northern Kosovo.

36. On 24 February, in a letter to UNMIK, Mr. Petković raised concerns regarding criminal proceedings against leading members of the Kosovo Serb community despite “written guarantees” from the European Union and the United States to Belgrade, that no Kosovo Serbs would be arrested or prosecuted for their involvement in organizing roadblocks in December 2022.

37. On 6 March, an altercation took place in North Mitrovica resulting in the arrest of several minors, including one Kosovo Bosniak minor who accused the police of excessive use of force and mistreatment. On 8 March, a peaceful protest, organised by the parents of the Kosovo Bosniak minor, was held in North Mitrovica.

IV. Rule of law and human rights

Rule of law

38. Indictments and trials in absentia for war crimes, as well as related issues pertaining to pretrial detention, procedural challenges and allegations of politicization of the process have gained increased attention in Kosovo. Kosovo Serbs were predominantly affected by such prosecutions, with the Special Prosecutor's Office of Kosovo issuing 15 indictments against Kosovo Serbs for war crimes. On 24 January, the Special Prosecutor's Office indicted a Kosovo Bosniak for war crimes against civilians, having been held in pretrial detention since April 2024. A Kosovo Serb was arrested on 25 February at the Jarinje Administrative Boundary Line on suspicion of war crimes. Most defendants arrested for war crimes continued to be held in detention on remand.

39. Indictments related to trials in absentia increased. The Special Prosecutor's Office issued indictments in December and January, accompanied by requests to the court to permit trials in absentia, against a total of six Kosovo Serb defendants. The Special Prosecutor's Office asserted that the requests met the legal requirements for a trial in absentia, noting that it had taken the necessary steps to ensure the presence of the accused in court. The first trial in absentia for war crimes in Kosovo concluded on 26 December, with the Basic Court of Pristina finding the defendant guilty and sentencing him to 15 years of imprisonment. On 4 December, the Court of Appeals ordered a retrial in a war crimes case, in which the defendant, a citizen of Serbia, was initially sentenced to eight years of imprisonment. The Court highlighted procedural irregularities, raising concerns among human rights experts regarding the right to a fair trial within a reasonable time after the defendant's initial arrest in December 2021. On 21 January, the Court of Appeals also ordered a retrial in another case, in which the Basic Court of Pristina had sentenced a Kosovo Serb defendant to 13 years in prison for war crimes offences. The Court of Appeals identified essential violations of the criminal procedure in the judgment, including the lack of sufficient reasoning for decisive facts and the failure to adequately assess evidence and resolve contradictions in testimonies.

40. Issues related to the use of trials in absentia were also raised in the case of the serious security incident in Banjska/Banjskë in September 2023. The presiding judge sought a legal opinion from the Kosovo Supreme Court regarding the interpretation of the laws on trials in absentia in relation to 42 of the defendants, while proceeding separately regarding three defendants who were in custody. In its response on 17 October 2024, the Supreme Court, noting that the decision on whether to proceed in absentia was the responsibility of the Basic Court, emphasized that judges were free to interpret the law. The Basic Court did not indicate whether it would proceed in absentia with the cases against the other defendants. On 14 March, the Court of Appeals upheld the decision of the Basic Court in Pristina, confirming the indictment against the accused.

41. In parallel proceedings, the Chief Public Prosecutor of the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade indicated on 2 December that an indictment against Milan Radoičić in relation to the serious security incident in Banjska/Banjskë would be filed by the end of 2024 or in early 2025. However, this has not yet occurred. Kosovo authorities reportedly declined the request by Serbia for investigative documents, citing provisions in the Criminal Procedure Code, which grant exclusive jurisdiction to judicial bodies of Kosovo to investigate and adjudicate cases related to crimes committed in Kosovo. Similarly, Serbia has not responded to Pristina's request for such materials and declined to hand over Mr. Radoičić for prosecution by Kosovo authorities.

The European Union has called on Serbia to respect its obligation to cooperate in the investigations of the case.

42. Limited progress has been made in court cases related to corruption. However, on 16 December, the Court of Appeals confirmed the sentences of 13 former police officers in northern Kosovo who had been convicted of corruption, upholding the decision of the Basic Court. On 19 December, the Anti-Corruption Agency launched a platform to facilitate reporting of corruption.

43. Through a regional conference held in Pristina on 18 and 19 November, co-organized with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Development Programme, UNMIK supported regional cooperation to enhance institutional accountability and transparency, and the alignment of anti-corruption strategies with European Union standards. On 9 December, the Kosovo Law Institute urged the authorities to adopt a new anti-corruption strategy, having been without one since 2023.

44. The Kosovo Judicial Council and the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council left open the possibility of the return of Kosovo Serb judges, prosecutors and support staff who had resigned in November 2022. The chairman of the Kosovo Judicial Council noted that the reassignment of some judges and prosecutors to northern Kosovo, primarily Kosovo Albanians, had helped mitigate some of the adverse effects of the resignations. Previously, on 13 September, Mr. Vučić included the return of Kosovo Serbs to the police and judiciary among his list of demands to make progress in the European Union-facilitated dialogue.

45. Recruitment continued for judges, prosecutors and notaries. The Kosovo Judicial Council recommended six candidates on 26 December for judgeships within the Court of Appeals, including two Kosovo Serbs (one man and one woman) and an individual from another non-majority community. On 27 December, 24 new Kosovo Albanian prosecutors were sworn in to serve in the Basic Prosecution Offices, including 10 women. The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council reserved four of the vacancies for non-majority communities but no Kosovo Serb or candidates from other non-majority communities applied, prompting calls for the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council to do more to mobilize qualified candidates from non-majority communities.

46. On 16 October, the Basic Court of Pristina accepted an agreement reached between the defence and prosecution in the case of a Kosovo Serb involved in the protest in Zvečan/Zveçan in May 2023. The defendant was sentenced to 14 months of imprisonment. Another two Kosovo Serb defendants were indicted for their involvement in the protests, resulting in one of the individuals being sentenced to 24 months of imprisonment.

47. On 3 December, the trial of a Kosovo Security Force member commenced; he is accused of shooting at two Kosovo Serbs, wounding one, in Štrpce/Shtërptcë on 6 January 2023. On 13 December, a Kosovo Albanian police officer who shot a Kosovo Serb at the Bistrica/Bistricë checkpoint was found guilty of attempted murder and was sentenced to three years of imprisonment.

48. On 24 January, 462 new Kosovo police officers (56 women and 406 men) graduated from the Kosovo Academy of Public Services, including 113 from non-majority communities. Kosovo police announced that, as of December 2024, 339 officers were working in stations in northern Kosovo (191 Kosovo Albanians, 68 Kosovo Serbs, 46 Kosovo Bosniaks, 11 Kosovo Turks, 10 Kosovo Egyptians, 7 Kosovo Ashkali and 6 Kosovo Roma).

49. UNMIK continued to provide document certification services. The Mission processed a total of 1,660 documents of which 635 related to pensions, 981 related to marriage, birth and death certificates and 44 to diplomas. The Mission also facilitated

the issuance of 54 Red Notices and 17 extradition requests from the International Police Organization (INTERPOL) to Kosovo. UNMIK opened 693 new documentation cases based on requests for information. A total of 1,880 case files related to the territory or habitual residents of Kosovo remain open.

50. Lawyers from the UNMIK-supported Legal Aid Support Centre provided legal assistance to 374 applicants, including 160 women and 214 men. They assisted 342 Kosovo Albanians, 10 Kosovo Serbs, 7 Kosovo Egyptians, 6 Kosovo Roma, 4 Kosovo Ashkali, 3 Kosovo Turks, 1 Kosovo Bosniak and 1 Kosovo Gorani.

51. UNMIK, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, facilitated the establishment of a court archive system, resulting in the digitization of 130,000 minor offence cases and 70,000 civil cases, improving case access and management. The same project also provided infrastructure support for the Basic Court of Gjakovë/Đakovica to establish a modular court archive system. Braille display equipment was provided to the Basic Court of Gjakovë/Dakovica.

Human rights

52. On 5 December, the Assembly of Kosovo adopted two laws on social housing and universal health insurance, making it possible for all residents to benefit from health insurance for the first time in the Kosovo system. On 24 December, the Ombudsperson announced that the level of implementation of his recommendations by institutions fell from 28 per cent in 2023 to 17 per cent in 2024. On 25 January, the mandate of the Language Commissioner ended without the initiation of a process to recruit a replacement.

53. On 29 November, the Kosovo Specialist Chambers ordered a convicted former member of the Kosovo Liberation Army to pay €208,000 in compensation to victims. On 26 October, civil society members condemned offensive and derogatory graffiti targeting a witness testifying at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, raising concerns for the right to protection from attacks, threats and reprisals. In December, the Ombudsperson expressed concern about the rights of the accused before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and noted the limited cooperation between the Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo and the Office of the Ombudsperson within the structure of the Chambers.

54. Regarding property rights, in October, the four municipalities in northern Kosovo began to implement the Law on Immovable Property Tax, prompting residents to report a lack of information about the registration process.

55. There are still 1,603 missing persons (263 women and 1,340 men) connected to the 1998–1999 events in Kosovo.

56. Since its establishment in February 2018, the commission of the Kosovo government responsible for the verification and recognition of the status of conflict-related sexual violence survivors has granted survivor status to 1,748 applicants (1,650 women and 98 men). The commission has rejected 340 applications (290 women and 50 men). The Special Prosecutor's Office of Kosovo and other judicial bodies filed several indictments against Kosovo Serbs for crimes related to conflict-related sexual violence.

57. Challenges to freedom of expression and the media persisted. In 2024, the Association of Journalists of Kosovo registered 56 verbal and physical attacks against journalists. Death threats against the editor and the director of two local media outlets in December were of particular concern. On 8 December, the Association condemned Mr. Kurti for a speech that in its view had endangered the safety of journalists and other media workers and called on him to stop using hateful language towards the media.

58. Additional concerns arose during the legislative elections, as several journalists reported being unable to access election-related information and polling stations. Unidentified individuals attacked the premises of two media outlets on the weekend of the elections, in Gjakovë/Đakovica and in South Mitrovica. On the same weekend, the Association of Journalists of Kosovo issued a statement reaffirming the crucial role of the press in safeguarding democratic processes and condemning threats and intimidation against media professionals.

59. On 17 January, the Association of Journalists of Kosovo expressed concern about the independence of the Independent Media Commission after some of the members of the Commission expeditiously amended the rules of procedure and selected a new chairperson before the mandate of the incumbent had expired.

60. UNMIK continued to monitor hate speech on social media, a significant share of which was ethnically based, often intertwined with religious vilification and misogynistic undertones. On 13 December, the Diocese of Raška and Prizren filed a complaint with the Basic Prosecutor's Office in Pristina against a Kosovo Albanian politician for inciting ethnic hatred against Serbs online.

61. In January, the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel fined the Coalition for Family Party for using discriminatory language, hate speech and inciting hatred against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, with frequent instances of incitement to violence aimed at specific communities. On 25 January, the non-governmental organization coalition Democracy in Action identified that 7 per cent of social media comments regarding women candidates amounted to hate speech.

62. UNMIK, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, supported the Office of the Language Commissioner and the Ombudsperson in monitoring compliance with the Law on the Use of Languages at three government ministries and nine municipalities. Through the partnership two Romani language translators in Prizren and Graçanicë/Gračanica municipalities were re-hired.

V. Other key developments

63. On 29 November, the Ministry of Internal Affairs approved a decision to enable residents who had registered marriage, birth and death certificates with Serbia-run institutions in Kosovo from 10 June 1999 onward to register civil status documents with relevant Kosovo authorities. The registration process opened on 1 February and is expected to close on 30 April 2025.

64. On 9 October, the Kosovo government adopted a reform agenda that it presented to the European Commission as part of the European Union Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, which seeks to accelerate growth and enhance economic cooperation in the region, as well as integrate Western Balkan partners into the European Union single market. The Commission approved the reform agenda of Kosovo at the end of October.

65. On 13 October, the regulation of the Council of the European Union exempting holders of Serbian passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Centre from the visa requirement when travelling to the Schengen area, entered into force.

66. On 14 October, Mr. Kurti announced that Kosovo would allow holders of identification cards from Bosnia and Herzegovina to freely enter and exit Kosovo, starting from 1 January 2025. He stated that the move demonstrated Kosovo's commitment to regional stability. Bosnia and Herzegovina has not yet ratified the regional Agreement on Freedom of Movement with Identity Cards, still requiring

people with Kosovo identification documents to obtain visas to travel to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

67. Belgrade and Pristina placed several restrictions on freedom of movement. The Kosovo authorities rejected the request for a visit to Kosovo by the Minister of Information and Telecommunications of Serbia between 24 and 26 December. Pristina asserted that the decision was a result of the refusal of the Government of Serbia to allow a visit by the Kosovo Minister for Internal Affairs to the Preševo Valley in Serbia on 25 December. The Minister of Culture of Kosovo reported that his request to visit the Preševo Valley on 19 December was also denied.

68. On 18 December, leaders from the European Union and the Western Balkans met in Brussels and adopted a joint declaration, emphasizing the importance of accelerating the enlargement process of the European Union and urging countries in the region to resolve their disputes. In the declaration it was noted that the absence of a normalized relationship between Belgrade and Pristina was holding back both partners and stressed that the agreements reached within the European Union-facilitated dialogue must be implemented.

69. On 1 February, Danish diplomat Peter Sørensen assumed his position as the new European Union Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue.

70. On 5 March, it was reported that the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe had removed from its agenda the request by the Kosovo Assembly for special guest status. The Speaker of the Serbian Parliament, Ana Brnabić, welcomed the outcome as a significant victory for Serbia. On 7 March, the European Union stated that the actions by Serbia to remove the request by Kosovo from the Committee's agenda were a violation of its obligations under the 2023 Agreement.

VI. Returns, reconciliation, cultural heritage and community relations

71. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) registered 55 voluntary returns from members of the non-majority communities who had been displaced within and outside Kosovo. The returnee numbers include 30 women and 25 men, 29 Kosovo Serbs, 11 Kosovo Roma, 8 Kosovo Bosniaks, 6 Kosovo Ashkali and 1 Kosovo Croat. This brings the total number of displaced persons of the non-majority communities who have found durable solutions in Kosovo since 2000, to 29,473 (14,465 women and 15,008 men; 12,860 Kosovo Serbs, 7,786 Kosovo Egyptians and Ashkali, 4,106 Kosovo Roma, 1,887 Kosovo Bosniaks, 1,464 Kosovo Gorani, 1,325 Kosovo Albanians, 21 Kosovo Montenegrins, 19 Kosovo Turks and 5 Kosovo Croats). There remain 15,582 displaced persons within Kosovo (7,174 women and 8,408 men), as well as 69,627 persons with displacement-related needs across the Western Balkans, out of the approximately 200,000 displaced persons from Kosovo residing in the region, most of them in Serbia.

72. UNHCR provided support to 34 voluntary non-majority returnees and displaced persons (15 women, 19 men) by facilitating their access to education, social assistance, property and pension rights.

73. The Kosovo authorities received 46 asylum claims (13 women and 33 men), from Jordan, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. UNHCR ensured that all asylum-seekers received free legal aid and psychosocial support, as well as interpretation services.

74. The independent commission of the Kosovo government for the verification of degrees issued by the University in North Mitrovica has verified 87 out of 117 received applications. The verified certificates will enable graduates of the University of North Mitrovica to seek employment in Kosovo institutions. On 26 February, the government extended the commission's mandate for another six months.

75. On 6 November, customs authorities at the Brnjak/Bërnjak crossing point found two directors of Serbia-run schools in Dragash/Dragaš in possession of Serbia-issued school stamps. On 13 November, Kosovo police temporarily detained the director of the Serbia-run school in Gojbulja/Gojbulë for being in possession of similar stamps at the same crossing point.

76. On 17 February, on the anniversary of Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence, a convoy of vehicles with flags of Albania, Kosovo and those with inscriptions of "UÇK" and "Autochthonous" drove through North Mitrovica and residents pelted the convoy with stones.

77. UNMIK recorded incidents affecting Serbian Orthodox and Catholic sites in non-majority community areas. These include the desecration of a Serbian Orthodox church in Zubin Potok on 21 September, when icons were taken and scattered in the nearby forested area and the desecration of an improvised Serbian Orthodox shrine in a mixed-community area in Štrpce/Shtërpçë municipality on 30 September.

78. On 5 March, the Serbian Orthodox Church condemned the violation of the law on the special protective zone at the Hermitage of Saint Peter of Koriša in Prizren municipality. The Diocese of Raška and Prizren noted that the illegal construction led to the desecration of the site and damaged centuries-old frescoes.

79. Other reported incidents included damage to a Catholic church in Pristina on 15 October, a Serbian Orthodox church in Banjska/Banjskë village in the Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality on 1 December, a Serbian Orthodox graveyard in Bresje village in the Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje municipality on 21 December, and a theft from a Serbian Orthodox cemetery in Cernicë/Cernica on 21 February.

80. Further incidents occurred at various religious sites across Kosovo in areas where the affected community constitutes the majority. Kosovo police-initiated investigations, which in some cases remain challenging due to a lack of evidence or witnesses inability to identify perpetrators.

VII. Trust-building, partnership and cooperation

81. The Mission continued to prioritize trust-building across Kosovo, focusing on promoting inter-ethnic dialogue and countering divisive narratives to address the trust deficit. The UNMIK-supported Barabar Centre hosted 79 events, involving approximately 4,400 participants (2,300 women and 2,100 men) with an aim to build trust among all communities in Kosovo. On 29 January, UNMIK established a coordination mechanism to bring together civil society actors to promote inter-community initiatives to advance environmental protection and climate action. These initiatives have contributed towards advancing dialogue between members of non-majority communities, as well as women and young people.

82. In line with the recommendations from the 2023 United Nations Kosovo Trust-building Forum, on 1 November, UNMIK launched a project with the Association of Journalists of Kosovo to develop a model editorial policy to enhance fact-checking practices and professional journalism and improve inter-ethnic cooperation among 30 media outlets producing content in different languages. UNMIK trained the first

group of journalists (16 Kosovo Ashkali women and 13 Kosovo Ashkali men, 3 Kosovo Serb women, 2 Kosovo Serb men, and 1 Kosovo Roma man).

83. Contributing to changing negative stereotypes about Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptian communities, on 3 November, UNMIK began supporting the training of six young members from these communities (three Kosovo Roma women, two Kosovo Roma men, and one Kosovo Ashkali woman) in journalism and video production. The beneficiaries started internships with Kosovo media organizations.

84. Between May 2023 and December 2024, UNDP piloted environmental justice as a platform for inter-community dialogue, with activities in the four northern municipalities resulting in 11 community-driven proposals for addressing environmental issues.

VIII. Women and peace and security

85. The Kosovo government and its partners continued to make progress in designing a new action plan on women and peace and security ahead of the agenda's twenty-fifth anniversary in October 2025. The Ministry of Justice established a working group to draft and finalize sub-legal acts stemming from the Law on Domestic Violence, Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence.

86. UNMIK facilitated platforms to promote women's inclusion in decision-making, including a high-level round table in Tirana, in September, which included a discussion on integrating gender perspectives into reconciliation efforts.

87. The Mission continued to support the Ministry of Justice in facilitating public awareness activities addressing gender-based and domestic violence, enhancing collaboration with central institutions, local actors and civil society organizations.

IX. Youth and peace and security

88. Between September and March, 65 young people from diverse communities participated in a series of UNMIK-supported projects as a follow-up to the sixth annual United Nations Youth Assembly. These initiatives included a workshop on digital security and Artificial Intelligence tools for peacebuilding and a photography initiative to promote peace and cooperation.

89. UNMIK, the United Nations Children's Fund and OSCE co-facilitated multi-ethnic youth consultations on the administrative instructions for the new Law on Youth. UNMIK also supported the Kosovo Student Council in organizing the first student, peace and security conference. The Mission also organized an event to raise funds for 130 children in non-kinship foster care and 50 foster families.

X. Observations

90. I commend Kosovo institutions, political entities and voters for the peaceful conduct of the recent legislative elections, and particularly welcome the active participation of women and young people in the voting process. I welcome the new Law on General Elections, which is aimed at increasing transparency and introduced incentives for greater representation of women through the allocation of additional public funds.

91. I take note of the decision by the Kosovo government to enable residents with documents from Serbia-run institutions in Kosovo to register civil status documents with relevant Kosovo authorities and encourage enhancing outreach efforts towards the communities concerned.

92. I continue to urge the parties to reaffirm their commitment to the European Union-facilitated dialogue and reiterate my call to leaders to refrain from actions that fuel mistrust between communities and institutions. Outstanding issues should be addressed constructively and in good faith within the framework of the dialogue. The inclusion of women in the dialogue process would enhance the prospects for sustainable progress.

93. I appeal to both Belgrade and Pristina to seize the opportunity of the recently established Joint Commission on Missing Persons within the European Union-facilitated dialogue to support the important activities of the Working Group on Missing Persons in the spirit of reconciliation, building trust and respect for human rights.

94. Concerns raised by non-majority communities, in particular the Kosovo Serb community, regarding the closure of institutions providing essential services, need to be addressed. Safeguarding the economic and social rights of non-majority communities, especially those most vulnerable, remains crucial.

95. More than a year after the serious security incident in Banjska/Banjskë, there remains an urgent need to hold those responsible accountable. I call upon the relevant authorities to cooperate and take transparent, swift and effective action to advance the pursuit of justice and uphold the rule of law.

96. I condemn the attack on the Ibar-Lepenac/Ibër-Lepenc water canal and reiterate my Special Representative's call for a comprehensive and transparent investigation to identify perpetrators and hold them accountable.

97. I call upon the judicial institutions of Kosovo to ensure adequate representation of non-majority communities among judges, prosecutors, notaries, and other related public legal functions, in accordance with the legal framework of Kosovo. This is a crucial enabler of access to justice and language rights.

98. I encourage Kosovo's institutions to implement measures that protect and promote human rights while upholding the rule of law. It is essential that relevant authorities enforce the law – in particular in cases involving arrests, detentions and property rights – in full compliance with Kosovo's legal framework and international human rights standards. The integrity and impartiality of rule of law institutions must be preserved and always upheld.

99. I welcome the efforts made by government institutions to address gender-based violence and call for continued strengthening of the legal and policy frameworks to ensure their effective implementation.

100. I call upon the Kosovo authorities to take all necessary measures to appoint a Language Commissioner to ensure the protection and promotion of language rights and safeguard the rights of non-majority communities.

101. I urge the Kosovo authorities to address the prevalence of reported verbal attacks and intimidation against journalists and observe the mandates of the Independent Media Commission and the public broadcaster.

102. I reiterate my appeal for voluntary contributions to the United Nations trust fund to enhance support for the Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptian communities, who remain among the most vulnerable in Kosovo.

103. Lastly, I express my deep appreciation to my Special Representative, Caroline Ziadeh, and the entire UNMIK team for their unwavering efforts in fostering dialogue and building trust. I welcome the continued and vital cooperation between the Mission and the United Nations Kosovo team. The enduring collaboration with our partners in Kosovo, including the Kosovo Force, the European Union and OSCE, remains invaluable.

Annex I

Report of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the Secretary-General on the activities of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo from 16 September 2024 to 15 March 2024

Summary

The reporting period was defined by an overall calm albeit volatile security situation, especially in northern Kosovo. Parliamentary elections took place on 9 February 2025, without significant security incidents, although the election campaign was marked by hostile rhetoric. The Government of Kosovo continued to close Serbia-supported structures in Kosovo.

A significant security incident occurred in northern Kosovo on 29 November 2024, when the detonation of an explosive device in the Zubin Potok municipality caused significant damage to the Ibër-Lepenç/Ibar-Lepenac water canal, interrupting the supply of water to multiple municipalities and to Kosovo's major electricity plant, which is required for cooling purposes. The investigation of this incident by the Special Prosecution of Kosovo (SPRK) and KP is currently ongoing and is monitored by EULEX in accordance with its mandate.

In the period prior to, during, and following the parliamentary elections in February 2025, EULEX reinforced its patrolling and Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) capacities through the deployment of its Reserve Formed Police Unit (RFPU), which has complemented the work of the Mission's Formed Police Unit (FPU).

EULEX also continued its regular robust monitoring of selected cases throughout the entire justice chain, with a specific focus on sensitive and high-profile cases involving for instance, inter-ethnic incidents and arrests of Kosovo Serbs. Long-lasting trials, unproductive hearings, excessive pre-trial detention, and a lack of resources and/or staff continue to be systemic challenges in Kosovo, as illustrated in the latest EULEX Justice Monitoring Report, published in November 2024. At the same time, the Mission notes an increasing volume of allegations of maltreatment by KP officers and is actively following up on the matter through the Mission's monitoring and advising activities.

Monitoring

On 11 November 2024, EULEX presented its fourth public Justice Monitoring Report – covering September 2022–September 2023 and some case developments until mid-2024. The report examines the implementation of recommendations made in earlier reports, assessing the extent of progress achieved so far. Overall, the report highlights advancements in certain areas, while identifying limited or no progress in others. In December, the main findings, e.g. overuse of pre-trial detention, the excessive number of re-trials and unproductive hearings, were discussed with relevant Kosovo counterparts during a joint conference.

During the reporting period, EULEX also continued to conduct its robust monitoring of selected cases along the entire chain of justice, especially focusing on high-profile or sensitive cases.

In September 2024, the Basic Court of Pristina sentenced a man for his participation in the violent protests in Zvečan/Zveçan in May 2023 after a plea agreement was reached. Similarly, another defendant related to mentioned protests agreed on a sentence on 28 January. This case represented the last of 22 initiated cases

on the events. The Mission considers it noteworthy that every conviction in relation to these events was reached via a plea agreement.

On 25 September 2024, the Mission monitored the initial hearing to the case concerning the violent incident in Banjska/Banjskë, which occurred in September 2023 and resulted in the death of a KP officer. The Court ruled to split the trial for the present and absent defendants.

A significant security incident occurred in Zubin Potok on 29 November when an explosive device damaged a water canal, interrupting the supply of cooling water to Kosovo's major electricity plant, which caused temporary power and water cuts in and around Pristina. In the context of the investigations into this attack KP arrested several suspects and classified the incident as a criminal terrorist attack to be prosecuted by the Special Prosecution of Kosovo (SPRK). Hence, upon SPRK's order, the KP searched a several locations in northern Kosovo, seizing firearms, as well as police and military uniforms. The Mission has monitored the respective operations. The KP subsequently increased its presence in northern Kosovo, with additional deployed units in the urban areas, at landmark locations and in the vicinity of critical infrastructure. This increased presence has since progressively tapered down.

In relation to the continued efforts of the Government of Kosovo to close Serbia-run parallel structures across the territory, EULEX was notified of the KP actions and monitored the operations and the subsequent proceedings. In this regard, EULEX engaged with its counterparts on any procedural or other shortcomings observed during its monitoring activities.

On 13 January 2025, the defendants in a criminal case involving a person of the LGBTIQ+ community as injured party were sentenced to prison sentences. EULEX assesses that it was handled swiftly, with adequate sensitivity and respect to the victim. Similarly, the Mission considers the swift adjudication at first instance on 31 January 2025 conclusion of an alleged femicide case from November 2023 on 31 January 2025 as an example of effective court management.

EULEX continues to closely monitor investigations into allegations of ill-treatment by KP officers. EULEX sees the need to more strongly emphasize the aspect of police accountability in both its monitoring and advising activities during the coming reporting period.

The Mission has furthermore continued its monitoring visits to correctional facilities in Kosovo, focusing on the wellbeing of detainees, especially in the context of high-profile and sensitive cases, which for instance have an inter-ethnic component. At the same time, the Mission also continued its advising activities to the Kosovo Correctional Service and the Kosovo Probation Service.

Operations

The Mission has conducted regular patrolling activities across Kosovo in order to develop situational awareness and to assess the security situation, especially in northern Kosovo. Despite the underlying tensions, the situation has remained relatively calm, with few serious incidents recorded; the attack on the Ibër-Lepenç/Ibar-Lepenac water canal in the Zubin Potok municipality in November 2024 being the most prominent example.

Parliamentary elections were held on 9 February 2025 with no significant security incidents. In the period prior to, during, and following the parliamentary elections in February 2025, EULEX reinforced its patrolling and CRC capacities through the deployment of its RFPU under the auspices of the European Gendarmerie Force (EUROGENDFOR).

The RFPU and FPU conducted visible patrolling throughout the whole territory of Kosovo with a focus on areas predominantly inhabited by members of non-majority communities. During Election Day, in coordination with the KP and the Kosovo Force (KFOR), EULEX monitored the security situation in the vicinity of the CCPs and at selected polling and counting centers. Overall, the security situation remained calm.

In regard to the Mission's commitment related to missing persons, the EULEX Forensic Medicine Team (FMT) supported the Institute of Forensic Medicine (IFM) in searching, exhuming, examining and identifying remains of missing persons from the 1998–2000 period. The FMT supported 23 field operations, resulting in four exhumations. Moreover, EULEX continued the work on identification of missing persons, assisting in the examination and reporting of cases, including support related to the review of several hundred remains at the IFM's morgue. Overall, these efforts resulted in 25 new identifications, of which 18 were reported as missing persons, as well as in 53 reassociations to previously identified individuals. The remains of 11 individuals were handed over to the families or authorities, of which nine were reported as missing persons. EULEX furthermore organised three information sessions for family members of missing persons held in Drenas/Glogovac in September 2024, in Mitrovica North in October 2024, and in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje in December 2024.

EULEX also continued its support to Kosovo institutions in relation to international police cooperation, facilitated by the UNMIK INTERPOL LNO. The EULEX International Police Cooperation Unit facilitated the data exchange in Kosovo communication with INTERPOL, EUROPOL, and Serbia.

The Mission continued to provide operational and logistical support to the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and the Specialist Prosecutor's Office.

EULEX furthermore organized several training and workshops for its counterparts, for instance for employees of the Kosovo Ministry of Justice on drafting the 2025–2027 strategic development plan for the Ministry's Internal Inspectorate, a Basic Life Support (BLS) training to 22 KCS officers, a five-days training together with the Kosovo Justice Academy on Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure for professional associates working at the courts and prosecution offices, as well as Serbian, Albanian, and English language courses, attended by 94 KP officers. On 17 September, the Regional Center of Excellence for Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) was launched. The Mission supported the Office of the President of Kosovo in drafting its founding concept note and plans to support future activities.

Besides these activities, EULEX participated in the KFOR-led 'Golden Sabre' exercise on the integration of assets and capabilities of the three-tiered security mechanism involving KP, EULEX, and KFOR. Finally, EULEX supported the EU Election Observation Mission, the Council of Europe, and the EU Special Representative with security and transport arrangements.

Annex II

Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office

The Specialist Chambers (SC) and the Specialist Prosecutor's Office (SPO) reached a number of milestones during the reporting period, including the approval of the first plea agreements before the SC, and the arrests and transfers of three individuals charged with offences against the administration of justice.

On 5 December 2024, the SPO charged Mr Hashim Thaçi with obstruction-of-justice offences, pursuant to a confirmed indictment. On the same day, the SPO arrested Mr Bashkim Smakaj, Mr Isni Kilaj and Mr Fadil Fazliu in Kosovo pursuant to arrest warrants, transfer orders and a confirmed indictment issued by a Pre-Trial Judge of the SC. In addition, Mr Hajredin Kuçi was summoned to appear before the SC. Mr Smakaj, Mr Kilaj and Mr Fazliu were transferred to the SC Detention Facilities on 6 December 2024. Initial appearances took place on 8 and 9 December 2024 during which Mr Fazliu, Mr Kilaj and Mr Kuçi pleaded not guilty while Mr Thaçi and Mr Smakaj only entered their pleas on 6 January 2025.

It is alleged that Mr Thaçi and the four other accused interfered into the main trial of war crimes and crimes against humanity against Mr Thaçi and his co-accused. Mr Thaçi is charged with three counts of obstruction of official persons in performing official duties, four counts of violating secrecy of proceedings and four counts of contempt of court. Mr Smakaj, Mr Kilaj and Mr Fazliu are charged with one count of obstruction of official persons in performing official duties and one count of contempt of court. Mr Kuçi is charged with two counts of contempt of court.

The war crimes case of the *Specialist Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi et al.* continued to progress expeditiously. Since the commencement of the case on 3 April 2023, the SPO has introduced the evidence of 212 witnesses, of whom 122 have testified in court. At a status conference held on 19 February 2025, the SPO confirmed that it would complete its case, as scheduled by 15 April 2025.

The four accused are charged with six counts of crimes against humanity each – persecution, imprisonment, other inhumane acts, torture, murder and enforced disappearance of persons – and four counts of war crimes – illegal or arbitrary arrest and detention, cruel treatment, torture and murder.

The Pre-Trial Judge transmitted the *Januzi et al.* case to Trial Panel I on 4 September 2024. The Trial Panel held trial preparation conferences on 7 and 8 October 2024 and decided that opening statements by the SPO and the Defence were to be delivered on 14 November 2024. The opening of the trial was thereafter adjourned following the entry of plea agreements by all three accused. These were the first plea agreements entered before the SC.

On 4 February 2025, the Trial Panel approved the plea agreements reached between the SPO and the three accused in this case, in which they admitted guilt to one charge of obstructing official persons in performing official duties, and one charge of intimidation in criminal proceedings. An initial charge of obstructing official persons in performing official duties, by serious threat, was withdrawn by the SPO on 17 December 2024, as part of the plea agreements. In line with the plea agreements, the Trial Panel sentenced Mr Shala to three years, Mr Januzi and Mr Bahtijari to two years of imprisonment with credit for time served. The accused also agreed to pay 500 Euro as reparation to the victim admitted to participate in the proceedings.

On 24 December 2024, Mr Hysni Gucati and Mr Nasim Haradinaj concluded serving their sentence of four years and three months of imprisonment following their

conviction for intimidation during criminal proceedings, violating the secrecy of proceedings through the unauthorised revelation of secret information disclosed in official proceedings, and violating the secrecy of proceedings through the unauthorised revelation of the identities and personal data of protected witnesses. Mr Gucati and Mr Haradinaj served the last year of their sentence in Kosovo following the modification of their sentence by the SC President in October and December 2023 respectively.

This is the first case before the SC that is fully closed and in which the serving of sentences has been completed.

In the war crimes case of *Specialist Prosecutor v. Pjetër Shala* the Trial Panel found the accused guilty of the war crimes of arbitrary detention, torture and murder and sentenced him to a prison sentence of 18 years on 16 July 2024. Following the filing of Mr Shala's notice of appeal, the President assigned an Appeals Panel. On 20 September 2024, a Pre-Appeal Conference was held and appeal briefs were filed.

On 29 November 2024, a Reparation Order ordered Mr Shala to pay a sum of 208,000 Euro as compensation for the physical, mental and material harm inflicted on the victims of the crimes for which he was convicted. The Shala Defence has also filed a notice of appeal against the Reparation Order on 28 January 2025.

In the finalised war crimes trial of *Specialist Prosecutor v. Salih Mustafa*, Mr Salih Mustafa is currently serving his sentence. On 16 December 2022, the Trial Panel pronounced its judgment sentencing Mr Mustafa to 26 years. Since then, the Appeals Panel reduced Mr Mustafa's sentence to 22 years on 14 December 2023, and following the Supreme Court decision of 29 July 2024, to 15 years on 10 September 2024 with credit for time served. Mr Mustafa is convicted of the war crimes of arbitrary detention, torture and murder.

On 27 September 2024, Mr Mustafa filed a referral before the Constitutional Court following the Appeals Panel's latest decision on his sentence. The President assigned the Constitutional Court Panel on 3 October 2024 to rule on the referral.

On 10 and 11 December 2024, the SC President assigned Supreme Court Panels to review requests for protection of legality filed by Mr Mustafa and the SPO challenging the Court of Appeals' decision from 10 September 2024 that imposed a new 15-year prison sentence on Mustafa.

According to the Reparation Order issued by the Trial Panel in the Mustafa case in December 2023, Mr Mustafa was ordered to pay 207,000 Euro as compensation for the harm inflicted on the eight victims of the crimes for which he was convicted. The Registrar is instructed to implement the Order while a Single Judge oversees the implementation thereof. During the reporting period, the Registrar made submissions in this regard and the Single Judge issued decisions, one of which is to instruct the Registrar to assess Mr Mustafa's current and future ability to pay the ordered compensation. Such assessment would also be essential for a possible application on behalf of the victims to the Kosovo Crime Victim Compensation Programme.

During the six-month reporting period, 2,062 filings and 657 orders and decisions were processed, 420 documents totalling 4,918 pages translated, and 2,429 items disclosed between the parties in all the cases before the SC. A total of 67 hearings took place and were streamed on the SC website in the three official languages of the court – Albanian, Serbian and English. The recordings thereof are available on the SC YouTube channel. In all, 38 witnesses provided their testimonies before the SC during the reporting period.

There are 171 participating victims in three of the four cases before the SC: eight in the case against Mr Mustafa, eight in the case against Mr Shala, 154 in the case against Mr Thaçi et al, and 1 in the case against Mr Januzi et al.

There are currently 241 persons on the publicly available List of Counsel eligible to practise before the SC. Of these persons, 114 are qualified to represent victims. The Defence teams consist of 130 persons of whom 88 are practising in the Thaçi et al. case.

On 17 September and 17 October 2024, the SC Outreach team hosted roundtables with media in Pristina, attended by Albanian and Serbian speaking journalists from Kosovo media outlets, during which SC Spokesperson briefed them on the latest developments in the trials.

The SC hosted two meetings with its Court Information Network (CIN) during the reporting period. On 9 October 2024, a meeting was held in Pristina that was attended by civil society representatives from both Kosovo and Serbia. On 12 December 2024, the SC Registrar met with CIN members online in order to provide the court's NGO partners with an update on the recent developments.

President Trendafilova travelled to Kosovo between 9 and 11 October 2024, during which she met with the SC's stakeholders, including representatives of European Union Member States and the European Union Special Representative in Kosovo, in order to provide public information about the court's mandate, administration and current activities. President Trendafilova also met with Kosovo Minister of Justice Albulena Haxhiu, to discuss matters related to the ongoing public proceedings. On 12 November 2024, President Trendafilova met with several journalists and civil society representatives from Kosovo and the region through video conference and responded to any questions regarding the work and mandate of the SC.

On 10 December 2024, the SC and the SPO hosted EU Member States and Third Contributing States at the SC premises, during which the SC and SPO Principals provided updates on the most recent developments.

The SPO continued implementing its mandate expeditiously throughout the reporting period, including by progressing its case in the trial of former Kosovo President Hashim Thaçi and his three co-accused, *Specialist Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi et al.*; bringing a new case of offences against the administration of justice against former President Thaçi and four others, three of whom it arrested in Kosovo, *Specialist Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi et al.* (administration of justice); and negotiating three guilty pleas in the case of the *Specialist Prosecutor v. Sabit Januzi et al.*

The SPO negotiated plea agreements with Mr Januzi, Mr Bahtijari and Mr Shala, whereby all three accused pleaded guilty to one count of intimidation of a witness and one count of obstruction. These were the first guilty pleas at the SC and represent the first-time in history that individuals have voluntarily admitted attempting to persuade a witness not to testify in a Kosovo war-crimes case.

Specialist Prosecutor Kimberly West visited Kosovo twice during the reporting period, in October 2024 and in December 2024.

Throughout the reporting period, the SPO continued to investigate obstruction of justice throughout the reporting period in order to maintain the integrity of proceedings, with a view to prosecuting all who intimidate or interfere with witnesses or provide financial or other support to such criminal offences.

Annex III

Composition and strength of the police component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (as at 14 March 2025)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Total</i>
Austria	1	–	1
Canada	–	1	1
Finland	1	–	1
Germany	–	1	1
Montenegro	1	1	2
Nepal	–	2	2
Slovenia	–	1	1
Total	3	6	9

Composition and strength of the military liaison component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (as at 14 March 2025)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Total</i>
Austria	–	1	1
Czechia	1	–	1
Hungary	–	1	1
Moldova	–	1	1
Poland	2	–	2
Romania	–	1	1
Slovenia	–	1	1
Türkiye	1	–	1
Total	4	5	9

