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Report of the Secretary-General

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Summary

While the overall security situation remained stable, institutional deadlock persisted in Kosovo. For the third time in 16 months, Kosovo held legislative elections on 7 June. On 13 September, the Assembly was constituted, with four of its five required Deputy Presidents elected and a new government confirmed. The procedures were subsequently challenged before the Constitutional Court.

European Union efforts to advance the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina continued, while substantive progress on implementing existing European Union-facilitated agreements remained limited.

Tensions increased between central authorities and local municipalities, particularly in northern Kosovo, over competencies, municipal decision-making, demolitions and evictions, and Kosovo police actions. Challenges around reintegrating Kosovo Serb judges and prosecutors also persisted, alongside concerns over language rights, media freedom and religious freedoms. The issue of missing persons continued to be politicized.

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I. Political developments and dialogue

1. The European Union Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue, Peter Sørensen, maintained regular engagement with both parties. However, no high-level meeting took place, which Mr. Sørensen indicated would be convened only when both leaders were ready to deliver concrete results.

2. On 17 March, the European Commission confirmed the full lifting of the remaining measures imposed by the European Union on Kosovo in June 2023 and the release of previously suspended financial assistance.

3. On 25 March, the Constitutional Court ruled that the decree issued by the President of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani, on 6 March dissolving the Assembly had no legal effect. It gave the Assembly 34 days to complete the procedure for electing a new President, failing which early elections would follow. Upon the expiry of Ms. Osmani's mandate on 4 April, the President of the Assembly, Albulena Haxhiu, assumed the functions of Acting President. As the Assembly failed to elect a new President by the 28 April deadline, Ms. Haxhiu called early elections for 7 June.

4. On 7 June, the elections proceeded peacefully and without incident. Voter turnout was estimated at 36.88 per cent, compared with 45.36 per cent in the elections on 28 December 2025. The Vetëvendosje party secured the largest share of seats in the Assembly but fell short of a majority, with the remaining seats divided among opposition parties and representatives of non-majority communities.

5. Following the election of Ms. Haxhiu as President of the Assembly, the Assembly was constituted on 13 September with the election of four of the five required Deputy Presidents. The Democratic Party of Kosovo boycotted the proceedings, leaving the Deputy President position allocated to it vacant. The new government led by Albin Kurti was subsequently confirmed with 62 votes in favour. The Democratic Party of Kosovo challenged before the Constitutional Court the procedures followed in constituting the Assembly and confirming the government.

6. On 11 July, the Minister for Public Administration and Local Self-Government of Serbia, Snežana Paunović, stated in an interview that, had she been in a position to do so, she "would have ethnically cleansed Kosovo". The President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, distanced the Government from the remarks. On 14 July, Kosovo authorities announced that Ms. Paunović would be barred from entering Kosovo, describing her as "persona non grata".

7. Ahead of the pronouncement of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers trial judgment on 16 September, gatherings were held in Pristina and elsewhere in support of the accused.

II. Northern Kosovo

8. The situation in northern Kosovo remained calm but fragile amid continuing friction between central and local authorities.

9. On 23 April, the Minister of Local Government Administration issued an administrative instruction regulating the organization, functioning and competencies of the Joint Board of the municipalities of South Mitrovica and North Mitrovica, established in June 2025 to facilitate inter-municipal cooperation. The Mayor of North Mitrovica, Milan Radojević, informed the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) that he had been neither notified nor consulted before its issuance and questioned its legal basis.

10. On 22 April, the Trepça/Trepča joint stock company, assisted by the Kosovo Police Special Operations Unit, demolished more than 20 garages in North Mitrovica. The company stated that the structures lacked permits and stood on company-owned land. The affected users disputed those claims and raised due process concerns, including regarding the legality of the demolitions and competing property claims. On 24 April, the municipality filed a criminal complaint against the company. In August, the company continued efforts to reclaim properties in North Mitrovica and issued notices to vacate premises in Zvečan/Zveçan, amid reports that it owns over 70 per cent of municipality land.

11. From May to July, the public enterprise Ibër-Lepenc/Ibar-Lepenac issued 15-day notices to vacate to occupants of properties around Gazivodë/Gazivode lake, claiming ownership of the land and citing the need to protect water resources. Between June and July, the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, assisted by Kosovo police, demolished a number of structures owned by Kosovo Serbs. The demolitions continued despite calls for their suspension, including from the European Union, which noted that such actions could undermine the rule of law.

12. In August, Mr. Vučić announced that Belgrade was exploring the possible diversion of the Ibar/Ibër river before it entered Kosovo. Pristina officials warned that a diversion could disrupt water supplies, energy production and agriculture and that water resources should not be used for political pressure.

13. On 15 August, the Mayor of Zubin Potok, Miloš Perović, stated that Ibër-Lepenc/Ibar-Lepenac had issued vacate orders for over 100 additional structures around the Gazivodë/Gazivode lake. In September, demolitions resumed in Rezallë/Rezala and in Megjipotok/Međeđi Potok with Kosovo police assistance, including of a structure used for religious purposes. Belgrade and the Serbian List party condemned the action and called for an end to further demolitions.

14. On 19 August, the Kosovo government announced the demolition of five structures on public land around Radoniq/Radonjić lake, citing legality and water resource protection. Non-governmental organizations from northern Kosovo alleged unequal treatment, noting that owners at Radoniq/Radonjić had benefited from judicial proceedings and legal remedies, while Kosovo Serb property owners at Gazivodë/Gazivode had not.

15. On 10 August, the Kosovo Force announced that an optimization of its force structure was forthcoming. This would include the gradual transition of its permanent presence at the main Ibër/Ibar bridge in Mitrovica and integrating Kosovo police personnel into its security arrangements at Visoki Dečani Monastery, while remaining the monastery's first security responder. The Serbian List party and the Diocese of Raška and Prizren expressed security concerns, while Mr. Vučić urged the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to prevent the opening of the main Ibër/Ibar bridge to vehicular traffic.

III. Human rights and rule of law

16. Following European Union efforts to facilitate their reintegration, Kosovo Serb judges, prosecutors and support staff withdrew their pending 2022 resignations. On 19 June, Ms. Haxhiu, supported by Mr. Kurti, called on the Kosovo Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils to treat the resignations as final. On 20 July, the Prosecutorial Council rejected the requests for reinstatement from five Kosovo Serb prosecutors and 15 support staff. In subsequent discussions with Mr. Sørensen, Mr. Kurti maintained that any return must comply with Kosovo's constitutional and legal

framework while safeguarding the independence and quality of the judiciary. On 27 August, the Judicial Council rejected similar requests for reinstatement made by Kosovo Serb judges.

17. On 14 July, Ms. Haxhiu appointed the former Chief Prosecutor of the Basic Prosecution Office in Pristina, Zejnullah Gashi, as Kosovo Chief Prosecutor for a seven-year mandate, filling a position that had been vacant since 2022.

18. Between June and August, Kosovo police arrested several Kosovo Serbs suspected of war crimes. Separately, the Basic Court of Pristina convicted two Kosovo Serbs of war crimes against the civilian population, sentencing them to 15 and 7 years' imprisonment, respectively, while acquitting a Kosovo Serb for insufficient evidence. The Court of Appeals remanded the case on the events in Mejë/Meja for retrial over deficiencies in notification procedures for trials in absentia. Separately, forensic excavations commenced on 28 July in the Zubin Potok area, resulting in the exhumation of remains believed to belong to at least 23 individuals, pending DNA analysis.

19. On the occasion of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances on 30 August, Mr. Kurti accused Serbia of withholding military archives that were vital for establishing information regarding forcibly disappeared persons and urged the European Union to exert pressure for their release. Belgrade, in turn, called on Pristina to investigate eight sites, agreed within the Working Group on Missing Persons, that it believed contained the remains of Kosovo Serb and other non-majority community victims. UNMIK emphasized that the process must remain victim-centred and depoliticized.

20. As at 15 September, 1,579 persons remained missing, including 1,318 men and 261 women, connected to the 1998 and1999 events in Kosovo.

21. On 24 April, the Basic Court of Pristina convicted three defendants of terrorism and serious offences against the constitutional order and security in connection with their participation in the Banjska/Banjskë attack in September 2023, sentencing two to life and the third to 30 years' imprisonment. Serbian officials and the Serbian List party rejected the judgment as politically motivated, "draconian" and "unfair".

22. On 3 August, the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, representing mainly Kosovo Albanian-majority municipalities, criticized proposed amendments to the Law on Public Property, arguing that they would undermine municipal property rights and conflict with the Law on Local Self-Government. Several Kosovo Albanian mayors held a protest in Pristina on 1 September, raising concerns about the withholding of budgets, insufficient funding for education and disaster recovery, and alleged government interference in municipal competencies.

23. UNMIK processed 1,391 documents for certification: 502 related to pensions, 858 related to civil status, and 31 related to diplomas. The Mission also facilitated the issuance of 88 Red Notices and 52 extradition requests from the International Criminal Police Organization to Kosovo and opened 893 cases following requests for information.

24. On 23 April, the Assembly adopted laws on legal status, social and affordable housing, and compulsory health insurance, which are expected to contribute to the realization of the rights to adequate housing and healthcare. Civil society organizations warned, however, that Kosovo's Law on Citizenship empowered the executive to revoke "citizenship" without a court judgment, risking arbitrary deprivation and the expulsion of dual "citizens", on broadly defined "national security grounds".

25. Regarding the Law on Foreigners and the Law on Vehicles, Pristina launched a temporary scheme, as foreseen in the agreement reached on 14 March with the European Union, enabling residents holding Serbia-issued documents to register civil status facts. However, civil society organizations stated that administrative obstacles and technical delays had left insufficient time for some eligible individuals to submit and complete their requests.

26. Since its establishment in February 2018, the Commission on Recognition and Verification of the Status of Sexual Violence Victims has granted survivor status to 2,012 applicants (1,880 women and 132 men) and rejected 370 applications (311 women and 59 men).

27. Between April and August, Kosovo police stopped several Kosovo Serbs, including four minors, over specific T-shirt inscriptions or imagery, including content associated with a Red Star Belgrade football club supporters' group. Two minors were briefly detained and fined for displaying content deemed "shameful or offensive".

28. On 30 April, Reporters Without Borders noted an improvement in Kosovo's ranking in the World Press Freedom Index, while expressing concerns over continued political attacks against journalists and the functioning of the Independent Media Commission. On 20 July, partner organizations of the Council of Europe Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists reported a broader decline in media freedom, citing political pressure and verbal attacks against journalists and raising concerns about the independence of the Independent Media Commission and Radio Television of Kosovo.

29. On 28 June, Kosovo police arrested 37 individuals, including 1 minor and 21 individuals from the region, following the annual Vidovdan commemoration in Gazimestan, for alleged public order offences. Their identification documents were confiscated pending a court hearing, preventing them from travelling home. Several detainees interviewed by the UNMIK human rights component displayed bruises and other injuries and reported ill- and degrading treatment during transport and detention.

30. On 1 July, the Basic Court of Pristina found the 36 adult defendants guilty of a minor offence, without hearing them or considering their mistreatment claims. Each was fined the maximum €700. Those from outside Kosovo were also ordered to leave Kosovo and prohibited from entering Kosovo for three years, while their identification documents were withheld until payment. On 7 July, the Ombudsperson Institution and the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo initiated investigations.

31. Following allegations that Kosovo police assaulted and mistreated a Kosovo Serb man in Zubin Potok on 11 August, supported by widely circulated photographs showing his injuries, the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo opened a preliminary investigation and recommended the suspension of two officers. The Serbian List party called for their prosecution. UNMIK recalled the prohibition of police brutality and ill-treatment under international human rights law and welcomed the investigation.

IV. Communities and social cohesion

32. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees registered 47 voluntary returns from members of non-majority communities who had been displaced within and outside Kosovo. The returnee numbers include 34 Kosovo Egyptians and Ashkali, 7 Kosovo Roma, 2 Kosovo Bosniaks, 3 Kosovo Gorani and 1 Kosovo Albanian (22 women and 25 men). This brings the total number of displaced persons of the non-majority communities who have found durable solutions in Kosovo since 2000 to 29,568, including 14,511 women and 15,057 men (12,890

Kosovo Serbs, 7,820 Kosovo Egyptians and Ashkali, 4,125 Kosovo Roma, 1,894 Kosovo Bosniaks, 1,467 Kosovo Gorani, 1,327 Kosovo Albanians, 21 Kosovo Montenegrins, 19 Kosovo Turks and 5 Kosovo Croats). There remain 15,506 displaced persons within Kosovo (7,142 women and 8,364 men), as well as 68,541 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.

33. On 9 April, a private company, accompanied by Kosovo police, removed Serbian flags displayed in Gračanica/Graçanicë ahead of Orthodox Easter. In a joint letter sent to the authorities in June, the European Union and other international representatives recalled that the use and display of community symbols and flags are constitutionally protected. They called for consistent, non-discriminatory law enforcement and for the adoption of by-laws regulating the public display of flags.

34. On 10 April, Kosovo police and municipal inspectors closed two Serbia-run medical infirmaries in Banjë/Banja and Syriganë/Suvo Grlo over unlabelled and expired medicines. A third facility was closed on 5 June. All three reopened following European Union facilitation.

35. On 19 May, Kosovo police arrested seven Kosovo Serb directors of Serbia-run healthcare and education institutions in Gračanica/Graçanicë on suspicion of voter influence.

36. On 11 June, Kosovo police arrested two Kosovo Serb directors of Serbia-run elementary schools in Kamenicë/Kamenica on charges of illegally possessing an airgun and destroying archive materials. On 15 June, Kosovo Albanian education inspectors interrupted end-of-year examinations at a Kosovo Serb school and warned that staff employed solely by Serbia could face arrest if found on the premises. The same day, municipal inspectors closed a Serbia-run infirmary over a property dispute; it reopened two days later.

37. Incidents affecting religious sites continued to be recorded by UNMIK. Between 7 April and 28 August, six incidents affecting Serbian Orthodox sites were documented, including damage to churches, graves and a tombstone; the theft of church bells; the placing of Kosovo Liberation Army and Albanian flags on a church fence; and theft from church donation boxes. Incidents affecting Muslim religious sites were also recorded across Kosovo. The Kosovo Police opened investigations into all recorded incidents.

38. On 4 May, following a traffic dispute, a Kosovo Serb man was reportedly assaulted by a group of Kosovo Albanian men after seeking refuge in a healthcare facility in Gračanica/Graçanicë. On 2 June, a Kosovo Serb man was reportedly assaulted by a Kosovo Albanian man in Viti/Vitina while intervening in a verbal altercation involving his son.

39. Serbia-run infirmaries were damaged in Vushtrri/Vučitrn on 18 May and in Lipjan/Lipljan on 11 June. On 27 July, a memorial plaque dedicated to two missing Serbian journalists was removed from a site in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality, in the latest in a series of such incidents since its installation in 2013.

40. On 26 July, the Diocese of Raška and Prizren raised concerns over police measures during the Feast of the Holy Archangel Gabriel at the Monastery of the Holy Archangels near Prizren. The Diocese alleged that pilgrims and clergy underwent intrusive searches and that buses were prevented from entering central Prizren after the celebration.

41. In this context, UNMIK increased its focus on trust-building, reconciliation, inter-ethnic relations, engagement with municipalities, and the rights of all

communities in Kosovo. The Mission implemented 50 programmatic activities in support of these priorities and the advancement of its mandate.

42. From 16 to 18 June, the eighth United Nations Youth Assembly in Kosovo brought together delegates from across the Western Balkans to advance community-led peacebuilding.

43. UNMIK hosted the thirteenth edition of the Global Open Day on Women, Peace and Security, providing an interactive platform for discussions on gender equality, peacebuilding challenges and human rights. The Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, opened the event during his visit to Pristina and Belgrade from 22 to 24 June.

V. Trends and effects

44. Political polarization and institutional deadlock delayed the formation of fully functional institutions and action on legislative and policy priorities. The uncertainty also impacted the European Union-facilitated dialogue and responses to community concerns, including over property rights, essential services and police conduct.

45. Closures and disruptions of Serbia-run institutions heightened Kosovo Serb concerns over access to services and legal certainty. Restrictions on religious and cultural symbols; law enforcement actions; allegations of police ill-treatment; and property demolitions and evictions reinforced perceptions of insecurity and unequal treatment among Kosovo Serbs, further eroding trust in Kosovo institutions.

46. Security and administrative measures affecting access to religious sites, cultural heritage, and pilgrimages, together with Kosovo police conduct during Vidovdan, further strained relations between the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Kosovo government.

VI. Observations

47. I commend the peaceful conduct of the elections and active participation of all communities, reflecting the resilience of Kosovo's democratic processes. At the same time, the prolonged institutional stalemate risks eroding public confidence and hindering effective governance. I encourage all political actors to engage constructively to complete outstanding institutional processes and ensure the inclusive and effective functioning of institutions.

48. Renewed progress in the European Union-facilitated Belgrade-Pristina dialogue remains essential for lasting peace, stability and prosperity. I call on both sides to implement fully and in good faith their respective commitments, including under the 2023 Agreement on the Path to Normalization and its Implementation Annex agreed in Ohrid. I encourage both sides to exercise restraint, foster a climate conducive to dialogue and pursue tangible outcomes benefiting all communities.

49. I welcome the appointment of the Chief Prosecutor and encourage continued efforts to strengthen accountability, equal access to justice and the representation of non-majority communities in judicial institutions, in accordance with the agreements reached within the European Union-facilitated dialogue.

50. Decisions affecting non-majority communities, including property matters, demolitions and evictions, should be approached through meaningful consultation and in accordance with the principles of equal treatment, due process and legal certainty.

51. I note the investigations into reported police misconduct and encourage prompt, independent follow-up. Police actions should remain grounded in legality, necessity, proportionality, non-discrimination and accountability.

52. I recall the importance of safeguarding freedom of religion and of expression, including the identities, symbols and languages of non-majority communities.

53. Efforts to clarify the fate of missing persons should remain humanitarian and centred on families. I encourage Belgrade and Pristina to cooperate in good faith and uphold families' right to truth.

54. The Mission's good offices, early warning and trust-building efforts and support for inclusive intercommunity dialogue, particularly involving women and young people, remain important tools for building a cohesive, multi-ethnic society and should be leveraged by all sides.

55. Lastly, I express my appreciation to my Special Representative, Peter Due, UNMIK and the United Nations Kosovo team. I also thank the European Union, the Kosovo Force and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for their steadfast support for peace and stability in Kosovo.

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 March 2025 to 15 September 2026

1. Summary

EULEX continued its support to selected Rule of Law institutions, assessed their compliance with international human rights standards and best European practices, and addressed identified shortcomings with the authorities, in close coordination with other international actors.

In line with its mandate, EULEX continued monitoring the justice system, focusing on selected thematic areas such as high-profile, inter-ethnic, war crimes and gender-based violence cases. It monitored the continuation of court proceedings in several prominent cases, including those linked to the barricade crisis in December 2022, the violent protests in Zvečan/Zveçan in May 2023 and the violent events in Banjska/Banjskë in September 2023. The Mission also closely monitored the case of seven Kosovo Serb directors of Serbia-supported educational and healthcare institutions arrested in May, on suspicion of "violating the free decision of voters". Likewise, EULEX monitored minor offence proceedings against 37 defendants who had been apprehended at the Vidovdan celebrations at Gazimestan a few weeks later and is monitoring ongoing investigations on several allegations of police ill-treatment in connection with those apprehensions. The Mission also engaged with Kosovo justice institutions on the implementation of the recommendations contained in its fifth public Justice Monitoring Report.

The Mission closely followed the implementation, by Kosovo authorities and other actors, of administrative measures and other actions, particularly the demolitions around Gazivoda/Ujman Lake, affecting mainly the Kosovo Serb community.

In addition, the Mission continued to monitor correctional facilities to identify shortcomings and help strengthen capabilities of the Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS) in providing equal treatment, countering undue interference and preferential treatment of inmates. The EULEX Forensic Medicine Team (FMT) supported the Institute of Forensic Medicine (IFM) in searching and identifying missing persons from the 1998-2000 period. EULEX FMT experts assisted and advised in the planning and execution of the exhumation of three mass graves in Zubin Potok municipality in July and August, during which EULEX FMT contributed to ensuring relevant forensic best practices were fully applied. Human remains were recovered at all three sites.

The Mission conducted reconnaissance patrols across Kosovo through the Formed Police Unit (FPU), with its Specialised Element in particular, collecting information on the ground to ensure a comprehensive situational awareness.

2. EULEX's Mandate and Activities

During the reporting period, EULEX monitored the justice system, especially focusing on selected thematic areas such as high-profile, inter-ethnic, war crimes, gender-based violence cases and police ill-treatment. The Mission also had meetings

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with Kosovo justice institutions together with the EUO/EUSR and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo on the implementation of the recommendations contained in its fifth public Justice Monitoring Report and OSCE Trial Monitoring Reports. While acknowledging efforts and some progress achieved by the Kosovo rule of law institutions, the Mission found that challenges affecting the efficiency and consistency of criminal proceedings in high-level cases persist and require more rigorous and effective implementation of existing legal tools.

The Mission monitored the court proceedings in several prominent cases, including those linked to the violent protests in Zvečan/Zveçan in May 2023 and the violent events in Banjska/Banjskë in September 2023. In the 2022 barricades crisis case, the Special Prosecution filed an indictment for the criminal offence of "alliance for anti-constitutional action" in conjunction with "assault on constitutional order" and "obstructing official persons in performing official duties". In addition, the investigation against 11 defendants, including Milan Radoičić, was suspended as they are inaccessible to the Kosovo prosecution bodies. The Mission also closely monitored the case related to the arrest on suspicion of "violating the free decision of voters" and one-month detention on remand of seven Kosovo Serb directors of Serbia-supported educational and healthcare institutions in Gračanica/Graçanicë and Lipjan/Lipljan in May.

On war crime cases, as the number of proceedings conducted in absentia increased, on several occasions the Court of Appeals (CoA) ruled that a more rigorous approach must be applied in assessing the reasonable efforts to notify the defendant and secure their presence before conducting the main trial.

Likewise, EULEX monitored minor offence proceedings against 37 defendants, including one juvenile, who had been apprehended on 28 June at the Vidovdan celebrations at Gazimestan, were escorted to the police station, and released on the same day. On 1 July, the 36 adult defendants were found guilty of the minor offence of "aggressive behaviour committed toward official persons or persons protecting peace and public order" and fined EUR 700 for having chanted nationalist slogans and performed offensive gestures. In addition, the judge imposed the accessory measure of deportation from Kosovo and an entry-ban for three years to the foreign citizens among the 36 adults. The proceedings against the juvenile were severed and referred to the Minor's Department at the Basic Court of Pristina. Following several allegations of police ill-treatment raised by some of the defendants, both the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK) and the Ombudsperson Institution opened ex officio investigations.

The Mission also monitored the legal aspects related to the demolition of garages in Mitrovica North in April carried out by the "Trepça" mining company, and the operations carried out by the "Ibër-Lepenc/Ibar-Lepenac" water management company in Zubin Potok municipality, including the demolitions of six houses in Čečevo/Çeçevë village, the takeover of camp "Rezala" in June, the demolitions of 10 houses at Gazivoda/Ujman Lake and restaurant "Jezero" in July, all conducted with a significant on-site presence of the KP.

The Kosovo Police continued to conduct search operations in northern Kosovo and confiscated weapons in properties in northern Kosovo. In some instances, allegations of ill-treatment by the KP were raised, including a particularly serious one involving a Kosovo Serb man.

The Mission conducted monitoring visits to all correctional facilities in Kosovo, focusing on the detention conditions of both juvenile and adult, female and male, prisoners, especially in the context of high-profile and sensitive cases, including those with an inter-ethnic component. Within its advisory role, EULEX continued its

advising and training efforts for KCS and KPS management and staff, through facilitating working group meetings on drafting and reviewing internal regulations and strategies. It also concluded a Management Training for KCS Directors and Managers, and the training module was registered with the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety. In line with its Women, Peace and Security Agenda commitment, EULEX delivered several training courses on career development, designed in line with the Kosovo Law on Gender Equality, which provided female KCS staff members with the capacities to better prepare for application processes and enhance their competitiveness when applying for senior management positions.

The Mission also monitored selection and recruitment processes within the judicial and correctional services, including the one for the position of Chief State Prosecutor.

EULEX FMT continued to support the IFM in their work on searching and identifying missing persons in Kosovo through advice and technical assistance. During the reporting period, the Mission supported the IFM in 34 field operations, including several exhumations. Regarding identification efforts, FMT assisted in the collection of 69 samples for DNA analysis. Seven new identifications were obtained, and the remains of 11 persons were handed over to their families. EULEX FMT experts assisted and advised their counterparts, in line with relevant forensic best practices, in the planning and execution of the exhumation of three mass graves in the villages of Mala Kaludra/Kalludër e Vogël and Jabuka/Jabukë in Zubin Potok municipality in July and August. Human remains of several individuals were recovered at all three sites. The FMT's support will extend to the subsequent work on the examination and identification of the recovered remains. Moreover, with the aim of providing clarifications on the search and identification of missing persons as well as on the investigation and prosecution of war crimes, EULEX and the NGO Missing Persons Resource Centre facilitated four information sessions across Kosovo. The Head of the War Crimes Department of the Special Prosecution, the Head of the KP War Crimes Directorate, and the IFM participated in the sessions.

The Mission conducted reconnaissance patrols across Kosovo through its FPU to enhance situational awareness and assess the security situation in real time, particularly in northern Kosovo. Moreover, the FPU Specialised Element engaged in contacts with the local population in northern Kosovo and south of the Ibër/Ibar River. The Mission likewise closely followed actions carried out by Kosovo authorities and other actors, affecting mainly the Kosovo Serb community. These operations included the temporary closure of Serbia-supported healthcare services in Skenderaj/Srbica (April), Obiliq/Obilić (May) and Kamenicë/Kamenica (June), where the FPU patrols collected information on the ground to ensure the situational awareness. In addition, on the day of the parliamentary election on 7 June, EULEX activated its internal capabilities to monitor the developments to ensure a swift flow of information and close coordination between all units, maintaining the full operational strength of its FPU, while coordinating with KFOR.

EULEX advised the Regional Police Directorate in Mitrovica North and the four police stations under its command on community policing and contributed to building their capacities. Inter alia, this was done through the organisation of a Reflective Community Policing Round Table Discussion with KP Community Policing Officers from all four northern municipalities. The discussion facilitated an exchange of experiences, identified challenges and discussed opportunities for strengthening trust and cooperation between the police and local communities, including the provision of language courses. Furthermore, the subject of cooperation with the Kosovo Serb-led administrations in northern Kosovo was regularly discussed with the KP.

The Mission engaged with the Kosovo Government following its announcement related to a planned establishment of a Kosovo Gendarmerie. EULEX will closely follow further steps related to this project, considering its potential impact on Kosovo's security infrastructure.

EULEX maintained excellent cooperation with KFOR. In May, EULEX organised a CRC training with KFOR which was also attended by the KP. In July, the joint exercise "Golden Sabre 2026" again involved EULEX, KFOR and the KP, in line with Kosovo's three-tiered security responder mechanism. This regular tactical level exercise aimed at enhancing cooperation and understanding between the KP, EULEX and KFOR by training their staff and units on procedures and limitations with their respective organisations when managing civil disturbances. As part of the three-tiered Kosovo security responder mechanism, EULEX was duly informed by KFOR on the gradual transition of their permanent presence, and the Mission will continue its close cooperation with the Kosovo Police and KFOR to assure adequate security to all communities across Kosovo's territory, in line with its mandate.

In the reporting period, EULEX also increased its engagement with Kosovo authorities on their work to prevent, investigate, and prosecute environmental crime. It organised, in partnership with the local NGO EcoZ, a roundtable discussion on environmental crime and waste management, centred around the presentation of the EcoZ's report "Mapping and Preliminary Assessment of the Scale and Location of Illegal Waste Dumpsites in Kosovo".

In June, EULEX attended the first meeting of the Coordination Group for Protection from Domestic Violence, Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) chaired by the caretaker Minister of Justice. The Mission reaffirmed its support for coordinated institutional efforts to prevent and address domestic violence, violence against women, and gender-based violence. At the same time, the drafting of the Kosovo Gender Equality Programme 2026-2035, to which the Mission actively contributed, was finalised, with its official endorsement awaiting the formation of a new government. EULEX also continued to work within the framework of the EULEX-UNICEF-EUO/EUSR-led Task Force on "Empowering Futures: Countering Sexual Abuse of Children in Kosovo". The last meeting was held on 26 June to discuss ways to ensure a strong institutional leadership and a coordinated response across Kosovo's institutions, supported by the international community, in order to address this grave crime.

Within the scope of its mandate, the Mission tracked and addressed security related challenges linked to the preservation and protection of cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo, monitoring cases where this heritage appeared under threat of unlawful appropriation, infringements, or damage.

EULEX continued its support to Kosovo institutions in relation to international police cooperation. The EULEX International Police Cooperation Unit facilitated the exchange of information between the KP and INTERPOL and EUROPOL, and between the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the KP.

Finally, the Mission also provided logistical and operational support to the Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office in all their activities in Kosovo.

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 with the progress in the last two cases – the war crimes and crimes against humanity case and the administration of justice case before the SC. Furthermore, the downsizing of SC and SPO staff continued given the progress in proceedings.

The war crimes and crimes against humanity case of the Specialist Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi et al. was formally closed by Trial Panel II on 18 February 2026 following the parties' closing statements and the statements of the accused. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the Trial Panel has 90 days following closing of the case to deliberate and deliver a judgment, with the possibility for an extension of 60 days, except where a further extension is absolutely necessary. The pronouncement of the trial judgment is scheduled for 16 September 2026.

In regards to the amended detention conditions imposed by the Trial Panel, on 19 March 2026 the Trial Panel rejected a request to rescind the remaining contact restrictions imposed on Mr Rexhep Selimi. The Panel found that these measures continue to be necessary and proportionate, while allowing for limited adjustments in their implementation, including an increase in the number of authorised non-privileged in-person visits and additional opportunities for video and private visits.

In the latest bi-monthly detention review of the accused in this case, the Trial Panel ordered the continued detention of all four accused finding that the risk that the accused may obstruct the progress of the proceedings or commit further offences, continue to exist.

On 17 April 2026, the Trial Panel granted a request by the Victims' Counsel to allow two close relatives of a deceased victim to resume the victim's participation in the proceedings. With this decision, the number of participating victims in this case increased to 156. On 29 July 2026, the Panel granted another request by the Victims' Counsel allowing a close relative of a deceased victim to continue the victims' participation in this case.

By 22 May 2026, the public version of all final trial briefs in this case were made available in the Public Court Records database on the SC website. Mr Rexhep Selimi had appealed the 25th decision ordering his continued detention. On 28 May 2026, the Court of Appeals Panel denied Mr Selimi's appeal.

On 1 July 2026, the Trial Panel in this war crimes and crimes against humanity case reminded Mr Thaçi to comply with the modified detention conditions imposed on 1 December 2023. The Panel also directed Thaçi's Counsel to remind him of those obligations. The order follows the Registrar's latest report concerning a number of incidents, which were found to constitute breaches of the modified detention conditions and related detention rules. The Panel found that Mr Thaçi had displayed a repeated pattern of non-compliance and indicated that it would consider stricter measures should any further violations occur.

The four accused in this case – Mr Hashim Thaçi, Mr Kadri Veseli, Mr Rexhep Selimi and Mr Jakup Krasniqi – 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

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arbitrary arrest and detention, cruel treatment, torture and murder. Since the start of the trial proceedings in this case on 3 April 2023, a total of 134 witnesses testified in person and 164 witnesses provided their testimony in writing.

The five accused in the Specialist Prosecutor v. Thaçi et al. administration of justice case – Mr Hashim Thaçi, Mr Bashkim Smakaj, Mr Isni Kilaj, Mr Fadil Fazliu and Mr Hajredin Kuçi – are charged with six counts of criminal offences against public order and 13 counts of criminal offences against the administration of justice and public administration. Closing statements were heard on 10, 11 and 14 September 2026 after which the Single Trial Judge declared the case closed. A total of 18 hearings were held, over 2,100 filings submitted and over 2,200 items disclosed by the parties in this case. The Judge has an initial 90 days for deliberation of the judgement in this case.

Trial hearings in this case commenced on 27 February 2026 with the confirmation of the not guilty pleas, the opening statements by the parties and the start of the SPO's case. The SPO case continued with the presentation of evidence until 5 March 2026, when the last SPO witness completed his testimony. The SPO consequently filed a notice of the closure of its case on 13 March 2026. In March 2026, the Defence teams of Mr Thaçi and Mr Kilaj indicated that they intended to present evidence while the other three accused indicated that they did not intend to do so. None of the Defence teams filed a notification regarding the dismissal of charges.

The Defence preparation conference was held on 1 April 2026 and on 10 April 2026, the Single Trial Judge granted Mr Kilaj's motion to admit the statements of four character witnesses in lieu of oral testimonies. The Judge found that these witnesses need not appear in court for cross-examination, noting that the SPO did not request to cross-examine them and that the fairness of the proceedings would not be negatively impacted, while the expeditiousness thereof would be enhanced.

On 11 and 12 May 2026, a witness called by the Thaçi Defence was heard in court. The Judge has further admitted one witness statement submitted by the Thaçi Defence. The total number of witnesses heard in court is therefore four, in addition to five written statements that have been admitted into evidence.

The Defence teams filed their notifications of the closure of their cases by 18 May 2026 in line with the Single Trial judge's order.

On 11 May 2026, the SPO appealed the Single Trial Judge's decision not to admit the testimony of their expert witness. On 30 June 2026, the Court of Appeals Panel granted the SPO's appeal, in part, and remanded the matter back to the Single Trial Judge for a new determination. The Single Trial Judge thereafter invited the parties to make additional submissions by 6 July 2026. The previously established deadlines for the filing of final trial briefs were vacated and the Judge set new timelines following his decision regarding the admissibility of the expert witness. Following the admission of the expert evidence of Witness 8, pursuant to the decision of the Court of Appeals Panel, on 8 July 2026 the Judge instructed the Defence to notify the court by 15 July 2026 whether it intends to present any additional evidence in response to Witness 8's testimony. On 5 August 2026, the Single Trial Judge issued an order declaring the evidentiary proceedings closed.

Three of the five accused in this case have been released in Kosovo on certain conditions, while Mr Kuçi has not been detained in this case. Following the most recent bi-monthly review of Mr Thaçi's detention, the Single Trial Judge ordered his continued detention, finding that a real risk remains that Mr Thaçi, if released, may obstruct the progress of the proceedings and commit further offences. Mr Thaçi therefore continues to be detained at the SC Detention Facilities in The Hague.

In the Specialist Prosecutor v. Sabit Januzi et al. witness intimidation case, two of the three convicted persons in this case, Mr Sabit Januzi and Mr Ismet Bahtijari, have completed serving their two-year sentence of imprisonment on 4 October 2025. The third convicted person, Mr Haxhi Shala, who was sentenced to three years of imprisonment, was released pursuant to the decision of the President on 10 February 2026 to continue serving the remainder of his sentence in Kosovo subject to certain conditions. Mr Shala will have completed his sentence on 11 December 2026.

On 23 June 2026, the SC President denied a request by Mr Haxhi Shala to travel to Albania for a short holiday while serving the remainder of his sentence under conditions imposed following his release to Kosovo. The President found, inter alia, that such travel was fundamentally incompatible with the sentence imposed and that the conditional release is not meant to be interrupted absent compelling legal or humanitarian grounds. The President did grant his request to renew his identification and travel documents. Mr Shala filed a request for reconsideration on 22 July 2026, which the President denied on 29 July 2026 finding that Mr Shala had not demonstrated exceptional circumstances warranting reconsideration or a clear error of law or reasoning.

The three convicted persons in this case admitted guilt to the charge of obstructing official persons in performing official duties, and the charge of intimidation in criminal proceedings. In addition to their prison sentences of two and three years, the convicted persons agreed to pay a total sum of 500 Euros in reparations to the participating victim. These were the first plea agreements entered into before the SC.

In the war crimes case of the Specialist Prosecutor v. Pjetër Shala, the Court of Appeals Panel on 29 January 2026 issued the first decision of the SC on an appeal against a reparation order. The Appeals Panel affirmed the reparation order issued by the Trial Panel against Mr Shala following his conviction for the war crimes of arbitrary detention, torture and murder. Following the Appeals Panel decision, Mr Shala filed a request for protection of legality on 29 April 2026, for which the President assigned a Supreme Court Panel on 1 May 2026. On 25 June 2026, the Supreme Court Panel rejected Mr Shala's request in its entirety. Following this decision, Mr Shala requested an extension of time to file a referral before the Constitutional Court, which the Constitutional Court Panel granted, in part, extending the timeline for such a referral until 15 September 2026.

During the reporting period, the Constitutional Court Panel was also assigned to decide on a referral regarding the Supreme Court decision of 9 March 2026 denying Mr Shala's request for protection of legality, submitted on 1 June 2026, concerning the Appeal Judgment issued on 14 July 2025. The Constitutional Court Panel granted in part Mr Shala's request for an extension of time to file a referral setting the new time limit to 15 September 2026.

A total of eight victims participated in the proceedings and claimed reparations. On 29 November 2024, the Trial Panel ordered Mr Shala to pay a sum of 208,000 Euros as compensation for the physical, mental and material harm suffered by the participating victims. During the six-month reporting period, 614 filings and 141 written orders and decisions were processed, 404 documents totalling 4,773 pages translated, and 230 items disclosed between the parties in the cases before the SC. A total of three hearings were held and 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, testimonies of one witnesses were heard in court and five included in written form during the reporting period.

The number of participating victims across the cases before the SC increased with one and now totals 173: eight in the Mustafa case, eight in the Pjetër Shala case, 156 in the Thaçi et al. war crimes case, and one in the Januzi et al. case.

The publicly available List of Counsel eligible to practice before the SC contains 248 persons. Of these, 120 are qualified to represent victims. The Defence teams consist of 116 persons of whom 74 are practising in the Thaçi et al. war crimes case. The orderly downsizing of the SC and the SPO advanced during the reporting period with the completion of the related recruitment processes and consequent communications to staff.

The SC provides legal aid to suspects and accused who demonstrate that they cannot afford to pay for their legal representation. At the end of the reporting period, four of the ten Defence teams before the SC received legal aid.

In light of the considerable progress made in the proceedings, including the conclusion of the closing statements in the Thaçi et al. war crimes case on 18 February 2026, the Registrar reconvened the Functional Assessment Boards (FABs) on 2 April 2026. The FABs will objectively assess the remaining posts based on the operational and resource impact of any triggering events, which include the judicial milestones and a decrease in the forecasted volume of work, budgetary requirements, and/or ensuring the most efficient utilisation of staff and financial resources. The judicial milestones, should they occur, are the filing of notice of appeals, appeal briefs, appeal hearings and the delivery of the appeal judgement in the Thaçi et al. war crimes case and the Thaçi et al. administration of justice case.

Furthermore, the two milestones set for this first downsizing exercise were the closing statements and the issuance of a trial judgement in either of the two ongoing cases before the Basic Court, projected to be by mid-June 2026. However, in May 2026, it became apparent that the milestone would not take place as projected by mid-June 2026 but rather by the end of October 2026. Therefore, the affected postholders who had received the Registrar’s decisions on downsizing in September 2025 and had been informed that they would not receive a contract renewal beyond the contracts ending by 14 June 2026, were offered new contracts until the end of October 2026.

The SPO litigated the presentation of evidence by Defence Counsel in the Thaçi et al. administration-of-justice trial, involving former President Hashim Thaçi and four others, over two days of court proceedings in May 2026. It also drafted its final trial brief. Throughout the reporting period, the SPO continued to investigate matters related to obstruction of justice to maintain the integrity of the SC proceedings, with a view to prosecuting all who intimidate or interfere with witnesses, victims 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 15 March 2026)

Country	*Women*	*Men*	*Total*
Austria	1	–	1
Jordan	1	1	2
Nepal	–	2	2
Pakistan	–	1	1
Türkiye	–	1	1
Total	**2**	**5**	**7**

Composition and strength of the military liaison component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (as at 15 March 2026)

Country	*Women*	*Men*	*Total*
Austria	–	1	1
Hungary	–	1	1
Moldova	–	1	1
Poland	1	-	1
Slovenia	–	1	1
Türkiye	–	1	1
Total	**1**	**5**	**6**

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