



BULLETIN OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE PROSECUTOR

MAY 2024

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**In the edition of this Bulletin, the activities of
the OCSP for AUGUST 2024 are reflected**

Prioritizing the Handling of Domestic Violence Cases: A Key Topic in the Meeting between the Acting Chief State Prosecutor and Domestic Violence Coordinators

Prishtina, May 2, 2024 The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, participated in a meeting organized by Ms. Sevdije Morina, a prosecutor at the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor and the national coordinator for domestic violence cases. The meeting also included prosecutors serving as coordinators for domestic violence cases from all Basic Prosecutions across the country.

During the meeting, discussions focused on the challenges prosecutors face in their daily work when addressing domestic violence cases and the need to overcome these obstacles.

Following the joint discussions, several conclusions were drawn to prevent and combat the occurrence of such criminal offenses. It was agreed that prosecutors should, in every case where there is a legal basis, request detention on remand for domestic violence cases and illegal possession of weapons. Furthermore, they are expected to strictly adhere to the guidelines on sentencing policies.

Another conclusion of the meeting was to address requests to other institutions aimed at creating conditions for the State Prosecutor to fulfill its mandate in investigating these offenses. These requests include: increasing budgetary resources to allow for more victim advocates, expanding the number of shelters for victims, enhancing the capacity of the Kosovo Forensic Agency, and increasing the capacity of the Institute of Forensic Psychiatry.

Within the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor and in all Basic Prosecutions, coordinators have been appointed from the ranks of prosecutors to handle domestic violence cases exclusively. These coordinators remain committed to urgently addressing all

cases related to criminal offenses against domestic violence.

The Acting Chief State Prosecutor Participates in the Regional Conference Held in Dubrovnik on the Topic: “Addressing Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation in Southeastern Europe – A Path Forward Towards a Whole-of-Society Response”

Prishtina, May 9, 2024 The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, accompanied by the Chief of Cabinet, Mr. Ardian Nikolla, attended the Regional Conference held in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The conference, titled “Addressing Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation in Southeastern Europe – A Path Forward towards a Whole-of-Society Response,” was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

During the conference, Acting Chief Prosecutor Kelmendi delivered presentations on the victim-centered approach in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases for sexual exploitation. He also discussed perspectives from the criminal justice systems in Southeastern Europe and outlined effective legal responses and remedies for trafficked victims of sexual exploitation. His presentations focused on the experiences and institutional actions taken in the Republic of Kosovo concerning the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases, as well as the legal and institutional mechanisms in place to protect and care for victims of these crimes.

The regional conference saw participation from representatives of law enforcement agencies from across the Western Balkans and beyond.



Asset Recovery Office Operationalized within the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor

Prishtina, May 13, 2024

The Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, participated in a meeting called by the Head of the Asset Recovery Office, Mr. Bahri Hyseni, with representatives from law enforcement institutions, specifically the Kosovo Police, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Agency for the Management of Confiscated and Seized Assets, the Tax Administration of Kosovo, and Kosovo Customs.

During this meeting, the Asset Recovery Office, which operates under the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor, was officially functionalized. The Office provides assistance and advice in asset tracing, cooperation with financial institutions, forensic accounting, and international collaboration to help prosecutors in recovering assets obtained through criminal activities.

On this occasion, Acting Chief State Prosecutor Kelmendi welcomed the operationalization of this Office, expressing gratitude to the Basel Institute on Governance and the UNDP for their support in establishing the Asset Recovery Office. He also emphasized his commitment to cooperate with other law enforcement institutions to ensure the Office operates efficiently.

Furthermore, Prosecutor Bahri Hyseni, Head of the Asset Recovery Office, briefed law enforcement representatives on the role and competencies of the Office, while the delegated officials presented their current expertise.

The meeting also included discussions on the standard operating procedures, the next steps for the Office, and the planning of field activities.

Representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Pristina, the British Embassy in Pristina, the UNDP Office in Kosovo, and the EU Office in Kosovo also attended the meeting.

Acting Chief State Prosecutor Mr. Besim Kelmendi and Chair of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council Mr. Ardian Hajdaraj participate in an international seminar organized by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice in cooperation with the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors

Vlora, May 16, 2024 Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, and Chair of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Mr. Ardian Hajdaraj, are participating in a two-day international seminar organized by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice in cooperation with the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors, being held in Vlora.

During this seminar, the best practices implemented in the Republic of Kosovo, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina are being discussed, along with the common challenges related to efficiency and the quality of work in the prosecutorial systems of these three countries. Additionally, the relationship between prosecutorial systems and the media is a key topic.



Also attending the seminar are Mr. Jetish Maloku, Ms. Mimoza Shala, and Mr. Bedri Gashi from the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, as well as representatives from Albania's High Prosecutorial Council, the General Prosecutor's Office of Albania, and the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Acting Chief State Prosecutor Calls on Chief Prosecutors to Enhance Efficiency in Handling Criminal Cases

Pristina, May 24, 2024 Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, held a regular collegium with all chief prosecutors and representatives of the country's prosecution offices, which was also attended by prosecutors from the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor and Mr. Etrur Maloku, Senior Legal Officer at OPDAT from the U.S. Embassy in Kosovo.

During this meeting, Acting Chief Prosecutor Kelmendi discussed the State Prosecutor's Office's performance, as outlined in the 2023 Work Report. The report reviewed the performance of all prosecution departments in handling criminal cases, analyzed the challenges faced by the prosecution offices, particularly the shortage of prosecutors, and addressed other issues related to the overall efficiency of the prosecution system in the country.

In this regard, Acting Chief Prosecutor Kelmendi urged the chief prosecutors to

commit fully to improving the efficiency in handling criminal cases.

Another key topic discussed was the need to implement alternative procedures as an effective and productive way for state prosecutors to resolve criminal cases. Additionally, other professional matters were addressed as part of the agenda for this collegium.

Acting Chief State Prosecutor Participates in the Third Forensics Congress

Pristina, May 25, 2024 At the invitation of UBT College, Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, participated in the Third Forensics Congress, which also includes a scientific conference on forensics. The event is organized by UBT College in collaboration with universities from Turkey.



In a brief address, Acting Chief State Prosecutor Kelmendi greeted the participants of this event, emphasizing the importance of this congress and the scientific conference on forensics. He highlighted forensics as a crucial field for the work of the State Prosecutor, particularly in securing essential evidence for the accurate and complete determination of

the factual situation in a criminal process.



Additionally, during this event, the Acting Chief State Prosecutor participated in the inauguration of the Forensic Laboratory at UBT College. As stated by those present, this laboratory will enable the development of scientific research capacities in Kosovo, incorporating the latest techniques in forensic analysis.



Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, hosted a fact-finding mission of experts on environmental crime capacities.

Pristina, May 27, 2024

Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, hosted today a fact-finding mission of experts from the European Union Internal Affairs Program in Kosovo (HAPE), composed of Mr. Mario Pellegrino, Mr. Eric Stephan, and

Mr. Massimiliani Moro.



The subject of joint discussions during this meeting was Chapter XXVII of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo, which deals with criminal offenses against the environment, including the results, challenges and needs of the State Prosecutor for the most professional handling of these cases, as well as opportunities for cooperation with international partners to address issues related to environmental protection.

During the meeting, the possibility of organizing joint meetings and workshops with prosecutors - coordinators for criminal offenses against the environment was also discussed.

At the end of the meeting, the Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi thanked the HAPE experts for providing support to the state prosecutors and expressed the institutional commitment to fighting criminal offenses against the environment.



The Head of the Office for Recovery of Assets visited the Special Prosecution Office of the Republic of Kosovo

Prishtina, May 30, 2024

Head of the Asset Recovery Office - Prosecutor of the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor Mr. Bahri Hyseni, together with the officials delegated by the law enforcement institutions in this office, met today with the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Blerim Isufaj and some of the prosecutors of this prosecution. International partners who support the work of this office also participated in this meeting.

During this meeting, prosecutor Hyseni informed chief prosecutor Isufaj and the prosecutors present about the operationalization of the Office for Recovery of Assets, as well as requested the cooperation of this prosecutor's office with this office, in order to advise and help all prosecutors who have cases where the procedures must be applied for asset recovery.



On the other hand, the chief prosecutor of the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Blerim Isufaj thanked the leader of this office - prosecutor Hyseni, the delegated officials of law enforcement institutions in this office and the international partners for their visit to the Special Prosecution Office and expressed his readiness and the prosecutors

of this prosecutor's office for cooperation and coordination of work in order to the most effective implementation of the Regulation of the Prosecution Council of Kosovo for Asset Recovery.

Even the delegated officials of the law enforcement institutions, as well as the international partners present, expressed their readiness for cooperation and coordination to achieve the common successes of the Office for Recovery of Assets.

The Acting Chief State Prosecutor meets the coordinating prosecutors for environmental protection cases and request the seizure and confiscation of the means used to commit criminal offenses against the environment

Prishtina, May 30, 2024

Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi, hosted today in a joint working meeting the prosecutors-coordinators for environmental protection cases at the level of the Basic Prosecution Offices of the Republic of Kosovo, where experts from the Program for Internal Affairs of the European Union in Kosovo (HAPE) were also present, in the composition of Mr. Mario Pellegrino, Mr. Eric Stephan and Mr. Massimiliano Moro.

During this meeting, the experiences, results and challenges faced by the basic prosecutor's offices in handling cases from Chapter XXVII of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo, related to criminal offenses against the environment, are presented. If this is the case, the Chief Prosecutor of the State requests the seizure and confiscation of the means used to commit

criminal offenses against the environment.



Also, in this meeting, the needs of the State Prosecutor for the most professional handling of these cases were discussed, as well as the possibilities of cooperation with international partners in addressing issues related to environmental protection, as well as for the seizure and confiscation of means used for committing criminal offenses against the environment.

From this meeting came the recommendation that the Chief State Prosecutor's Office propose to the Prosecution Council of Kosovo, specifically the Office for Statistics in the Performance Evaluation Unit, the creation of a special database only for cases related to the protection of the environment.

Even in this meeting, the Acting Chief State Prosecutor, Mr. Besim Kelmendi thanked the HAPE experts for providing support to the state prosecutors and expressed the institutional commitment to fighting criminal offenses against the environment.