### **FOL**

## REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF THE PUBLICATION OF JUDICIAL DECISIONS









# REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF THE PUBLICATION OF JUDICIAL DECISIONS

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023

Title: Report on monitoring the publication of court decisions (January – December 2023)

Authors: **FOL Movement**Year of publication: **2024** 

Published by: FOL Movement

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### 1. Executive summary

The report on the monitoring of the publication of judicial decisions (January-December 2023) contains data derived from the systematic monitoring of the publication of judgments on the official website of the Kosovo Judicial Council during this one-year period. The main findings derived from the monitored decisions are listed in the text below:

- → During January-December 2023, a total of 40,424 decisions were published on the official website of the Kosovo Judicial Council. This number of published decisions was obtained from the systematic monitoring of the KJC website for each month during the period January-December 2023. However, after the review of the website in April 2024, it was observed that a number of judgments of domestic violence published in 2023, and the total number of judgments published for 2023 now stands at 40,392 judgments, i.e. 32 judgments less. But in addition, we have referred to the data extracted from our direct monitoring.
- → This level of publication proves a 17 % increase in publication compared to 2022, where 34,694 decisions were published on the KJC website.
- → During this period, a total of 116,629 cases were resolved (excluding cases that should not have been published)1, which means that about 35% of resolved cases were published<sup>2</sup>, respectively 1% less than in 2022, when 36% of resolved cases were published.
- → The courts with the most published decisions in proportion to the cases resolved during the relevant period are:
  - Commercial Court Chamber of First Instance has resolved 4,017 cases, while it has published 2,755 decisions (69% of cases); The Chamber of the Second Instance has resolved 2,222 cases, while it has published 1,710 cases (77% of the cases);
  - Supreme Court (not including the Special Chamber), which this year resolved 1,848 cases, while it published 1,135 decisions (61% of cases);

<sup>1</sup> In the KJC annual statistical report, only juvenile cases and misdemeanors are categorized, cases which, according to the CPCK and the KJC Regulations, should not be published. While other categories of cases that should not be published are not separated in the KJC tables and are together with other cases. Therefore, FOL was not able to deduct other cases from the total number of resolved cases, except for iuvenile cases and misdemeanors.

<sup>2</sup> These figures do not include the same decisions that were recorded during monitoring as well as the minutes published by the courts, which in total constitute 73 such decisions.

- Basic Court of Gjakova, which this year resolved 8,045 cases, while it published 4,857 decisions (60% of cases).
- → While the courts that have published the fewest court decisions for 2023 are:
  - Basic Court of Prishtina, which this year resolved 26,942 cases, while it published only 3,769 decisions (14% of cases);
  - Basic Court of Peja, which this year resolved 11,077 cases, while it published only 1,969 decisions (18% of cases); and
  - Basic Court of Mitrovica, which this year resolved 9,646 cases, while it published only 2,382 decisions (25% of cases);
- → The branches of the courts with the most published decisions in proportion to the cases resolved during the monitoring period are:
  - Novobërde branch, which this year resolved 642 cases, while it published 470 decisions (73% of cases);
  - Rahovec branch, which this year resolved 2,170 cases, while it published 1,174 decisions (54% of cases);
  - Kaçanik branch, which this year resolved 1,210 cases, while it published 648 decisions (54% of cases).
- → The judges of the Basic Court of Gjakova and of the Basic Court of Ferizaj lead with the number of decisions published during this period. First in the ranking is Judge Durim Balaj, who during this period has published 946 decisions. Judge Faton Ajvazi is listed next, who has published 865 decisions, as well as the judge from the Basic Court of Gjakova, Mirjeta Shala, with 751 published decisions.
- → During this period of one year, from the total number of published decisions, 24% are decisions of a criminal nature; 60% are decisions of a civil nature; 7% are administrative; 8% economic and 1% fiscal.
- → During this period, 99 decisions on misuse of official duties were published, a number that had increased significantly compared to 2022 (where 93 such cases were published). Meanwhile, during the monitoring, 103 decisions of domestic violence<sup>3</sup> were recorded.
- → The courts that have published the most cases regarding criminal offenses of domestic violence are: Basic Court of Prishtina (41 decisions), Basic Court of Mitrovica (22 decisions), and the Basic Court of Gjakova (22 decisions). While the courts that have published the most cases from criminal offenses of corruption are: the Basic Court of Prishtina (53 decisions), the Court of Appeal (28 decisions), and the Basic Court of Mitrovica (15 decisions).

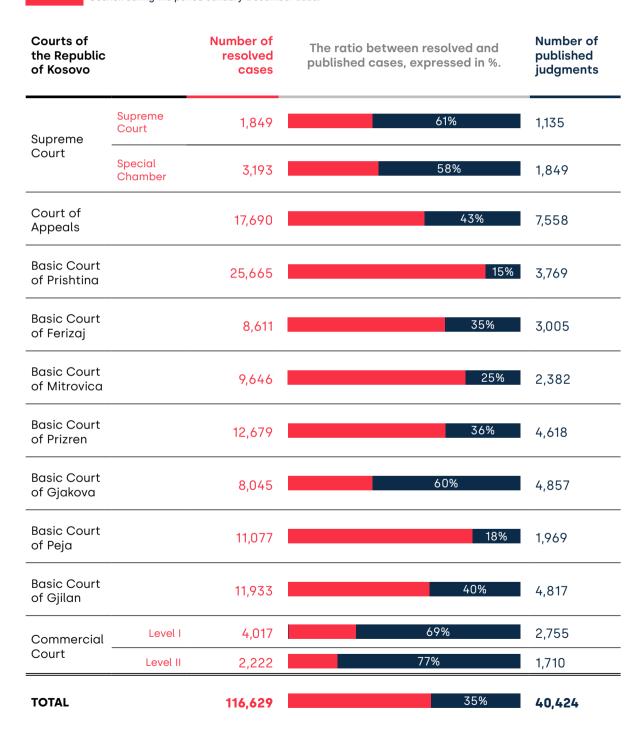
<sup>3</sup> Based on article 370, par. 2 of the CPCK, cases related to criminal offenses within family relations should not be published.

- → During this monitoring period, the exact implementation of the KJC Decision on the Standardization of Forms of Decisions was recorded in 34,276 decisions, or in 85% of all published decisions. In the rest of the 6,153 decisions, namely in 15% of them, there was a delay in the implementation of this decision.
- → During this period, 98% of the decisions were published in the Albanian language, while only 2% of the decisions were published in the Serbian language, unlike in 2022 where 5% of the decisions were published in the Serbian language.
- → It took an average of 57 days for the courts to publish the decisions on the official website of the KJC, calculated from the day they were issued, which means that the courts generally respected the publication deadline set by law. The Basic Court of Prishtina (on average 117 days), the Basic Court in Peja (on average 68 days) and the Basic Court of Mitrovica (on average 61 days) took the most time to publish decisions, calculated from the day they were issued. Meanwhile, the Basic Court of Gjilan, the Basic Court of Ferizaj and the Supreme Court have strictly respected this deadline.
- → The Kosovo Judicial Council website still has problems of a technical nature regarding the automatic counting of Judgments. This is because, if all published judgments are counted manually on a monthly basis, the number turns out to be higher than the total number of judgments automatically counted by the website system.

The following table shows the data related to the number of resolved cases as well as the decisions published on the official website of the KJC during the period January-December 2023 by all Courts of the Republic of Kosovo.

TABLE 1

Resolved cases and decisions published by all courts of the Republic of Kosovo on the website of the Kosovo Judicial Council during the period January-December 2023.



While the following table shows the data related to the number of resolved cases as well as the decisions published on the official website of the KJC during the period January-December 2023 from all branches of the Courts of the Republic of Kosovo.

TABLE 2

Resolved cases and decisions published by all branches of the Courts of the Republic of Kosovo on the website of the Kosovo Judicial Council during the period January-December 2023.

Basic Courts	Branches of basic courts	Number of cases resolved	Number of published judgments	The ratio between resolved and published cases, expressed in %.
Basic Court in Prishtina	Branch in Podujeva	2,834	424	15%
	Branch in Gracanica	632	18	3%
	Branch in Lipjan	2,470	718	29%
	Branch in Gllogoc	1,759	253	14%
	Branch in Fushë Kosovë	637	0	0 %
	Branch in Kamenica	1,345	547	41%
Basic Court in Gjilan	Branch in Viti	3,422	893	26%
Ojiidii.	Branch in Novobërdë	642	470	73%
Basic Court in Prizren	Branch in Suhareka	2,129	437	21%
	Branch in Dragash	724	188	26%
Basic Court in Mitrovica	Branch in Leposavic	107	7	7%
	Branch in Vushtrri	3,293	924	28%
	Branch in Zubin Potok	14	1	7%
	Branch in Skenderaj	1,445	563	39%
Basic Court in Gjakova	Branch in Malisheva	1,672	840	50%
	Branch in Rahovec	2,170	1,174	54%
Basic Court in Peja	Branch in Istog	1,857	653	35%
	Branch in Klina	1,077	326	30%
	Branch in Deçan	1,486	164	11%
Basic Court in Ferizaj	Branch in Kaçanik	1,210	648	54%
	Branch in Shterpce	401	99	25%
	TOTAL	87,659	9,347	11%

The total number of resolved cases by all Courts of the Republic of Kosovo during the period January-December 2023



### 2. Methodology

The purpose of this report is to present the factual situation of the publication of judgments and decisions by the courts of the Republic of Kosovo, to identify the problems and challenges in their publication, as well as to provide a list of recommendations for the actions that judicial bodies should undertake to improve the rate and quality of publication of these decisions.

For the compilation of the data of this report, FOL Movement has used the method of continuous systematic monitoring of all judgments and decisions published on the official website of the Kosovo Judicial Council.

Primarily, all courts have been informed via e-mail that they will be subject to monitoring for the dynamics of publication of court decisions, as well as whether the publication of decisions has been made in accordance with legal requirements, administrative instructions and other relevant decisions in force. The data collected from this monitoring process are designed in the form of infographics and are published every month on FOL Movement's social networks.

From the decisions published on the website of the Kosovo Judicial Council, FOL Movement has created a database with data. Consequently, the same decisions recorded during this period are not attached to this database. This database, among other things, includes:

- the total number of judgments and decisions published by each court, for each month;
- the level of compliance with the protocols and deadlines stipulated by the by-laws for the publication of decisions, as well as the compliance of published judgments/decisions with the Law on Courts and administrative instructions;
- protection of personal data of the parties and other specifics which are regulated by law and other acts;
- the judges who have published the most decisions;
- the level of implementation of the Decision on the Standardization of the Forms of Decision (placing the logo of the Republic of Kosovo, the appropriate format of the decision);
- the language in which the decisions were published, as well as
- the type and nature of published decisions.

In order to extract an accurate percentage of the level of publication of judicial decisions by the respective courts, it is also necessary to know the number of cases that received a judicial epilogue during the monitoring period. Therefore, FOL has compared the number of cases resolved during the monitoring period for each court with the number of cases published in each court during that period.

To achieve this, the number of cases resolved by all courts and their branches was extracted from the Statistical Report of the Kosovo Judicial Council for the year 20234

<sup>4</sup> Kosovo Judicial Council, Department of Statistics, Annual Statistical Report of the Courts for the year 2023.

In order to reflect the exact percentage of the publication rate of decisions, from the number of resolved cases for each court, the following have been deducted:

- decisions on minors (the publication of which is excluded by Code No. 24 / 17 of Criminal Procedure, 370 par. 2); and
- misdemeanor decisions (the publication of which is excluded by Administrative Instruction no. 04/2019 for the publication of Processed Judgments, article 2, par. 1.4).

With the CPC and the directive in force, some other categories of cases are also excluded from publication (criminal offenses committed within the framework of a family relationship, criminal offenses against sexual integrity, judgments from marital disputes, as well as judgments for financial maintenance and alimony, certification or opposition to paternity, and guardianship of a minor). However, in the statistical report of the KJC, these cases were not categorized, therefore it was not possible to subtract them from the total number of resolved cases.

In order for the data in this report to be as accurate and complete as possible, prior to the publication, this report was sent to the officials of all the courts for information for possible comments, which were included in the final report.

### 3. Legal basis of the publication of court decisions

The principle of public trial, i.e. trial with open doors, is also incorporated in the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo<sup>5</sup>, where in its article 31 it is provided that the trial is public, with the exception of cases where the court considers that in the interest of justice it is necessary exclusion of the public.

In order to fulfill this principle, the Law on Courts (No. 06/L - 054)<sup>6</sup> that was approved in December 2018 and is currently in force, has made progress in increasing the transparency of the judiciary, making it mandatory for all courts to publish all decisions within 60 days from the date of issuing the judgment on their websites. So this law has obliged the courts to publish all the decisions, regardless of the legal omnipotence, unlike the previous law, which obliged the courts to publish only the final decisions.

Code no. 08/l-032 of the Criminal Procedure, which entered into force in February 2023, in its article 370 regulates the issue of publication of judgments. In paragraph 2 of this article, an exception is provided for the publication of judgments in cases where minors are involved as parties, in cases where it is claimed that criminal offenses were committed within family relations or in cases of criminal offenses against sexual integrity.

Also, the new Criminal Procedure Code provided that, apart from the personal identification number, date of birth, parents' name and place of birth, the publication of other personal data is not considered a violation of privacy, due to the public interest in an open and public judicial procedure.<sup>7</sup>

In order to improve the quality of decisions and to ensure that they contain the essential elements, the Kosovo Judicial Council in 2018 issued the Decision on the Standardization of the Forms of Decisions and created the working group for the creation of the Template for the Standardization of Forms.

 $<sup>\,\,</sup>$  5 Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, 2008, Article 31.

<sup>6</sup> Law No. 06/L - 054 on Courts, 2018, Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo.

<sup>7</sup> Code no. 08/l-032 of Criminal Procedure, article 369, par. 13.

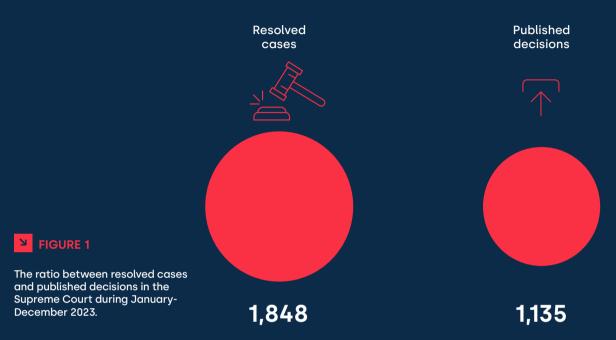
For the protection of personal data during the publication of decisions, the Kosovo Judicial Council at the end of 2019 issued the new Administrative Instruction for the Publication of Processed Decisions and the Manual for the Publication and Processing of Decisions. At the end of 2021, this instruction went through some changes. Respectively, in December 2021, the Kosovo Judicial Council issued Administrative Instruction no. 01/20218 for supplementing and amending the Administrative Instruction 04/2019 for the Publication of Processed Decisions. As one of the essential changes foreseen in this amendment/supplement, it was that in addition to the decisions, the courts are obliged to publish the merit decisions as well.

With the operationalization of the Commercial Court, KJC at the end of 2022 approved Administrative Instruction No. 01/2022 for amending and supplementing the Administrative Instruction No. 01/2021 for supplementing and amending the Administrative Instruction 04/2019 for the Publication of Processed Decisions, where it obliged the Commercial Court to publish all decisions, according to the acts in force.

<sup>8</sup> https://www.jjyqesori-rks.org/wp-content/uploads/lgsl/60388\_Administrative\_Instruction\_No\_01\_2021\_for\_completion\_ and\_amendment\_of\_Administrative\_Instruction\_04\_2019\_for\_publication\_of\_processed\_decisions.pdf

<sup>9</sup> https://www.jjyqesori-rks.org/wp-content/uploads/decisions/30130\_Vendimi\_KGJK\_se\_Nr\_510\_2022.pdf





During January-December 2023, Supreme Court, has published a total of 1,135 court decisions. This level of publication shows a significant increase in publication compared to the previous year, where the Supreme Court had published a total of 1,093 court decisions, correspondingly an increase of 4%.

Compared to the number of cases resolved by this court during 2023, during this period there were a total of 1,848 cases, this court (not including the Special Chamber) has managed to publish 61% of the decisions from the cases that had received a judicial epilogue during this year. With this rate of publication of resolved cases, this court ranks second in a row among all courts in terms of the level of publication in relation to their resolution.

Meanwhile, the Special Chamber of this court during the period January-December 2023 has solved 3,193 cases, while it has published 1,849 judgments, namely 58% of the court decisions issued during this period.

#### Special Chamber



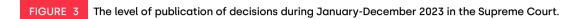
The ratio between resolved cases and published decisions in the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court during January-December 2023.

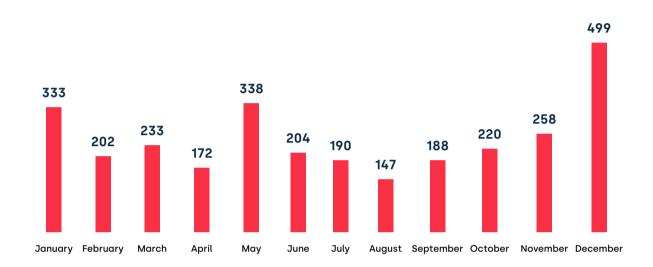




1,849

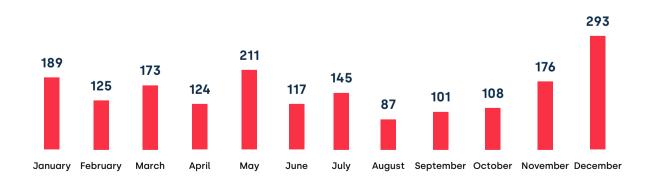
The figure below shows the degree of publication of decisions by the Supreme Court during the period January - December 2023, for each month of this year. According to the figure below, it can be seen that the largest number of judgments was published during the month of December, while the smallest number was published during the month of August.



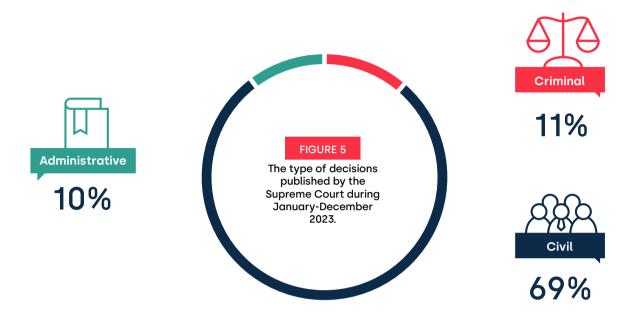


Meanwhile, the publication of decisions by the Special Chamber for each calendar month during the year 2023 is graphically presented in the following figure. From this figure it can be seen that this unit published the largest number of court decisions in the month of December.

FIGURE 4 The level of publication of decisions by the Special Chamber during January-December 2023.

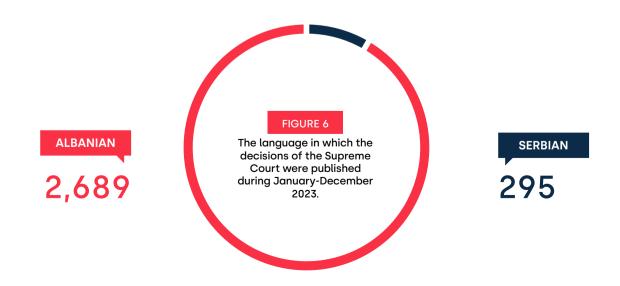


Most of the decisions published by the Supreme Court are of a civil nature, respectively 2,349 civil decisions, 319 of them are of a criminal nature, 316 decisions of an administrative nature. The following graphic shows the type of decisions published by the Supreme Court.



From the total number of published decisions, during this monitoring period, the Supreme Court has published 8 decisions related to criminal offenses of corruption.

As for the language in which the decisions were published, 2,689 decisions or 90% of them were published in the Albanian language, while 295 decisions or 10% of them were published in the Serbian language. The language in which the decisions from this court were published is presented graphically in the figure below.

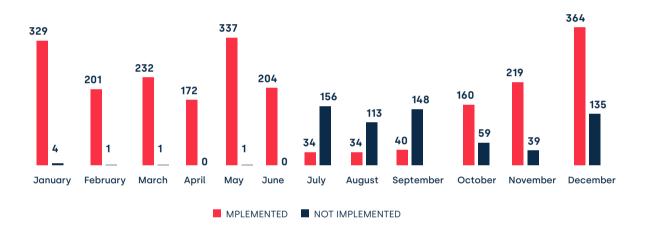


The requirements defined in the decision of the Kosovo Judicial Council on the Standardization of Forms of Judgments by this court has been implemented at a satisfactory level. From the total number of published decisions, this decision was implemented in 2,326 decisions, or 78%, while in the rest of 657 decisions, or 22%, omissions in its implementation were noted.

The following table graphically expresses the implementation of the Decision of the Kosovo Judicial Council on the Standardization of the Forms of Decisions in the decisions published by the Supreme Court.

FIGURE 7

Use of the Template for the Standardization of Forms of Decision in the decisions published by the Supreme Court during January-December 2023.



Meanwhile, the Administrative Instruction for the Publication of Processed Decisions has been implemented at a high level in most of the decisions published by this court. Of the 2,984 judgments published for the period January-December 2023, personal data were accurately hidden in 2,917 decisions, while in 67 decisions omissions in this aspect were identified.

From the monitoring of the publication of the decisions of the Supreme Court, it was observed that this court took an average of 45 days to publish the decisions, calculated from the day of the announcement, that is, in accordance with the legal requirements.

The judges who have published the most decisions in the Supreme Court, as well as the number of decisions published by them during the period January-December 2023, are presented in the table below.

So, from the table above, it can be seen that the judges of the Supreme Court with the most published decisions are: Gazmend Sylaj (243 published decisions) from the Special Chamber; Sahit Sylejmani (936 published decisions) from the Special Chamber; as well as Sabri Halili (205 published decisions) from the Special Chamber.

FIGURE 8

Judges with the most published decisions in the Supreme Court during January-December 2023.



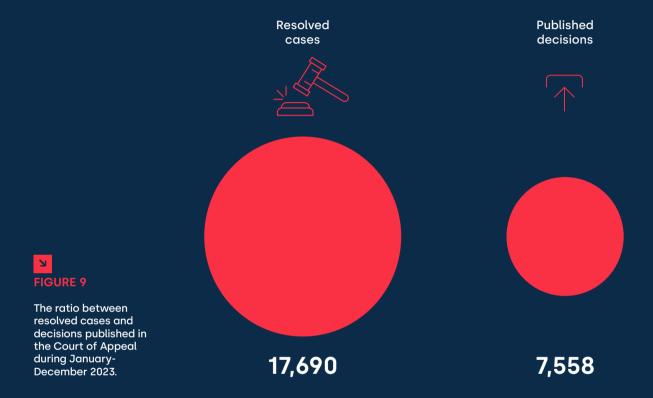


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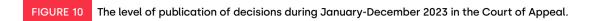
### **Court of Appeals**

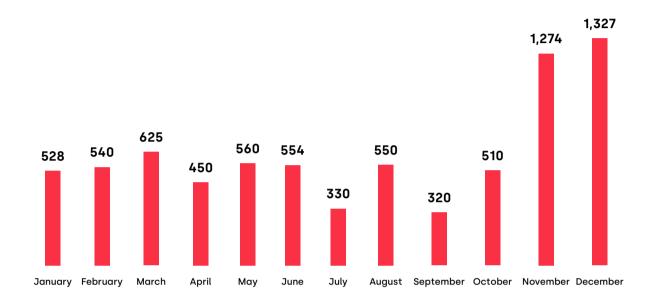


Court of Appeal during the period January - December 2023 has published a total of 7,558 court decisions. If the ratio with the number of cases resolved during this period is not taken into account, with this level of publication of decisions, this court ranks first in terms of the number of publications. Compared to the previous year, when this court had published 7,451 court decisions, namely about 50% of the resolved cases, it turns out that this number of published decisions this year has increased by 1.4%.

While in relation to the cases solved during the year 2023 (17,690 cases), it turns out that this court managed to publish 43% of the solved cases during this period.

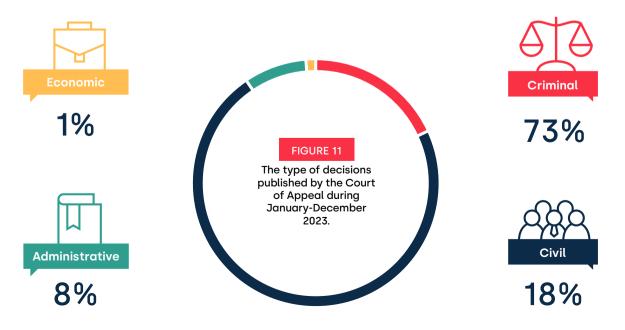
The figure below shows the level of publication of decisions by the Court of Appeal during the period January - December 2023. According to this figure, this court reached the highest level of publication of judgments during the months of November and December.





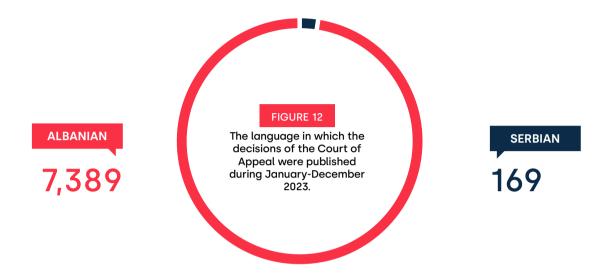
As for the nature of the cases, the Court of Appeal has also published more decisions of a civil nature. Of the total number of published decisions, 5,546 of them are of a civil nature, 1,365 of them are of a criminal nature, 596 are of an administrative nature, and 51 are of an economic nature.

The table below describes the publication of the decisions of the Court of Appeal, divided according to the type of cases.



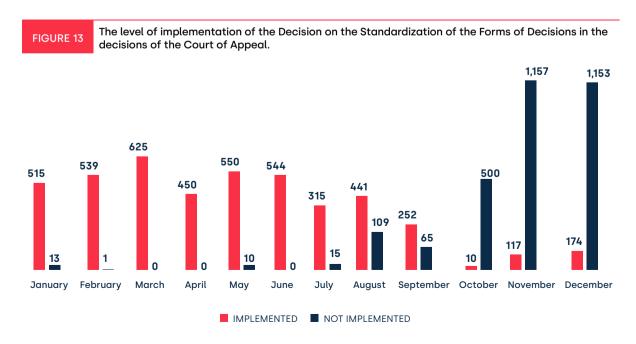
During this period, the Court of Appeal has published 28 decisions related to criminal offenses of corruption, while 2 decisions related to domestic violence.

As for the language in which the decisions were published, the Court of Appeal published 7,389 or 98% of the decisions in the Albanian language, while in the Serbian language 169 judgments or 2%. The language of the publication of judgments is graphically presented in the figure below.



The implementation of the Decision of the Kosovo Judicial Council on the Standardization of the Forms of Decisions by this court has reached a not very satisfactory level. In 4,532 decisions, the decision was implemented precisely, while in 3,026 decisions, this decision was not implemented in the manner defined in this decision.

The following figure shows the level of implementation of the Decision on the Standardization of the Forms of Decisions in the decisions published by the Court of Appeal.



Regarding compliance with the Administrative Instruction for the Publication of Processed Judgments, the Court of Appeal has published 50 of 7,558 decisions without hiding the personal data of the entities as required by this instruction.

From the monitoring of the publication of the decisions of the Court of Appeal, it was observed that this court took an average of 59 days to publish the decisions. If we compare it with the year 2022, during this year this court has marked progress in terms of publishing decisions on time, thus reducing the average publication by half.

Meanwhile, the judges with the most decisions published by the Court of Appeal during this period are presented in the table below.

FIGURE 14

Judges with the most published decisions in the Court of Appeal during January-December 2023.



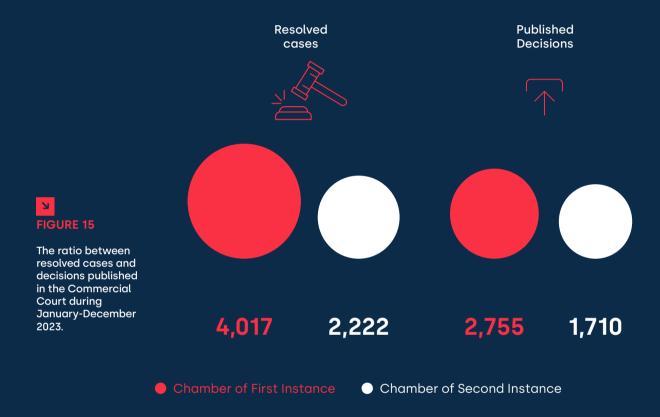




So, from the table above, it can be seen that the judges of the Court of Appeal with the most published decisions are: Besnik Feka (405 published decisions), Lumni Sallauka (389 published decisions), as well as Rafet Haxhaj (387 published decisions).



### Commercial Court

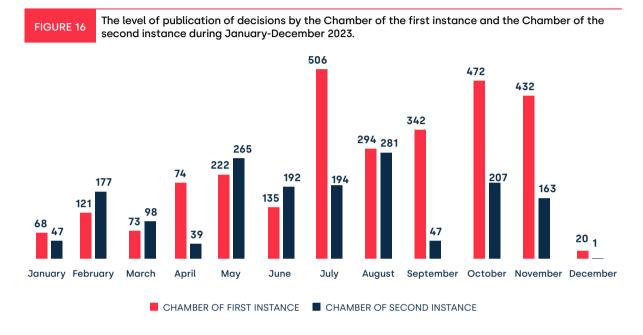


The Commercial Court together with the *Chamber of First Instance* and the *Chamber of Second Instance* has published 4,465 court decisions for the period January-December 2023, a number that had increased many times compared to 2022, when this court had published 422 court decisions.

The Chamber of First Instance of this court has published 2,755 decisions, out of 4,017 cases that it has resolved in total (69% of cases), while the Chamber of Second Instance has published 1,710 decisions out of 2,222 cases that it has resolved in total (77% of cases).

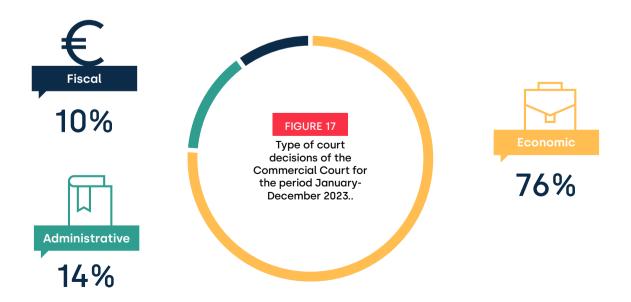
With these figures of publication in relation to resolved cases, this court ranks first in terms of the level of publication during 2023.

The level of publication of decisions by the Chamber of First Instance and the Chamber of Second Instance for each month of this period is displayed graphically in the table below. As can be seen from this figure, the Chamber of the First Instance has published the most judgments in the month of July, while the Chamber of the Second Instance has published the most judgments in the month of August.



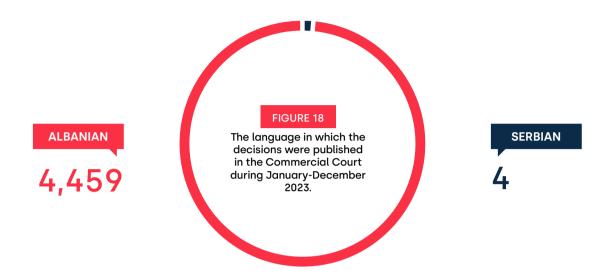
Regarding the type of published decisions, the Commercial Court for this period has published 3,399 decisions of an economic nature, 624 decisions of an administrative nature and 442 decisions of a fiscal nature.

The type of published decisions is presented graphically in the figure below.



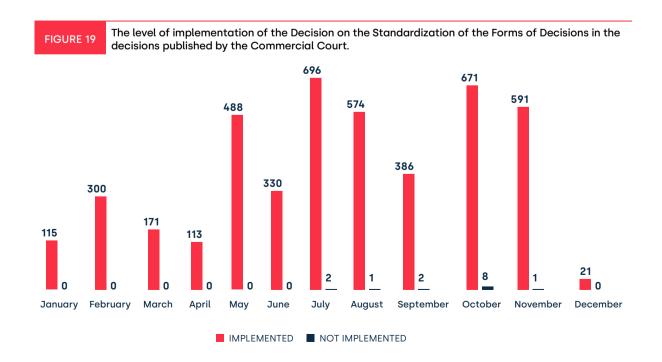
From the total number of published decisions, the Commercial Court has published 4 court decisions in the Serbian language (0.1%) and 4,459 decisions in the Albanian language (99.9%).

The language of the published decisions is also presented in the figure below.



The decision of the Kosovo Judicial Council on the Standardization of the Forms of Judgments has been satisfactorily implemented by this court, because only 14 decisions have been identified outside the rules provided by this decision.

The implementation of the Decision on the Standardization of Judgment Forms is graphically presented in the following table.



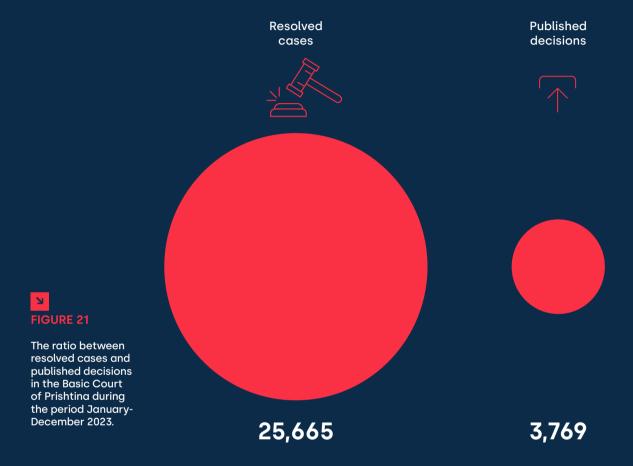
From the monitoring of the publication of the decisions of the Commercial Court, it was observed that this court took an average of 50 days to publish the decisions, calculated from the day of the announcement. So, this court has published the judgments in accordance within the time provided in the judicial provisions.

The judges with the most judgments published by the Commercial Court are presented in the figure below.

FIGURE 20 Judges with the most published decisions in the Commercial Court during January-December 2023. **FLORENT ZEQIRI VERONA DIBRA** 360 350

So, from the table above, it can be seen that the judges of the Commercial Court with the most published decisions are: Florent Zeqiri (398 published decisions) from the Chamber of the First Instance, Arbër Rexha (360 published decisions) from the Chamber of the First Instance, as well as Verona Dibra (350 published decisions) from the Chamber of the First Instance.





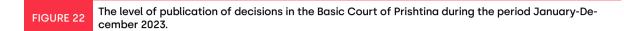
The Basic Court of Prishtina, including its 4 branches (Branch in Podujeva, Branch in Graçanica, Branch in Lipjan, Branch in Gllogoc, Branch in Fushë Kosovë<sup>10</sup>), during this period has published 3,769 decisions<sup>11</sup>. This level of publications by this court has fallen significantly (-34%), compared to the year 2022, when this court had published 5,784 judgments.

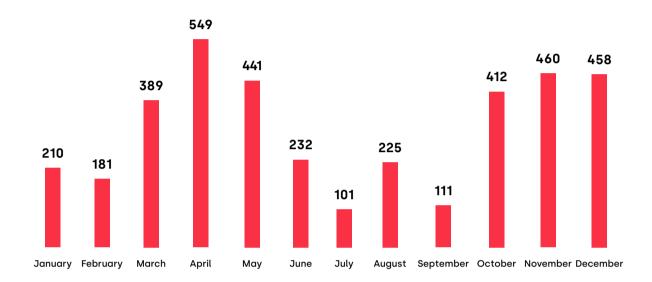
The Basic Court of Prishtina (as well as its branches) resolved 25,665 cases during 2023, and therefore from the monitoring data it results that this court has published only about 15% of the decisions from the cases that had received a judicial epilogue during this year.

<sup>10</sup> Fushë Kosova branch started working in July 2023.

<sup>11</sup> During the monitoring of the decisions on the KJC website, 38 other repeated decisions and minutes were recorded in this court, which are not included in these figures.

The following figure shows the data on the number of decisions published by the Basic Court of Prishting during the period January - December 2023, divided by month. From this figure it can be seen that this court has published the largest number of judgments during the month of April.





The branches of this court also contributed to this issue of the publication of decisions from this court. All branches of this court as a whole have published 1,413 decisions, namely 37% of the decisions published by this court as a whole.

During this period, the Lipjan branch has published 718 decisions out of 2,470 resolved cases (29%), the Podujeva branch 424 decisions, out of 2,834 resolved cases (15%), the Gllogovci branch 253 decisions out of 1,759 resolved cases (14%), the Graçanica Branch has published only 18 judgments out of 632 resolved cases (3%), while the Fusha Kosova Branch has not published any decision despite the fact that it has managed to resolve 637 cases<sup>12</sup>.

If we compare it with last year, the Gllogovci Branch has significantly fewer published decisions for this year, namely 597 fewer decisions. Meanwhile, the Graçanica Branch has recorded a limited increase, because last year there was only 1 decision published, while this year 18 decisions were published.

The publication figures of the branches of the Basic Court in Prishtina during the months of this year are graphically presented in the following figure.

<sup>12</sup> This branch officially started working on July 4, 2023.

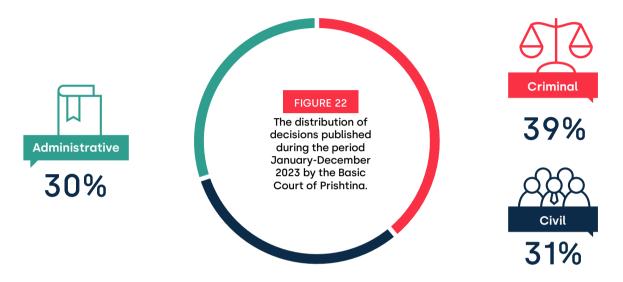
FIGURE 23

The level of publication of decisions by the branches of the Basic Court of Prishtina during the period January-December 2023.

	<b>Q</b> Lipjan	<b>Q</b> Podujeva	<b>Q</b> Gllogovc	<b>Q</b> Graçanica
January	74	0	22	0
February	70	0	30	0
March	35	52	25	0
April	14	98	22	0
May	133	54	27	0
June	0	23	21	0
July	0	17	4	0
August	69	29	10	0
September	0	15	0	0
October	38	96	17	0
November	182	26	24	11
December	103	14	51	7

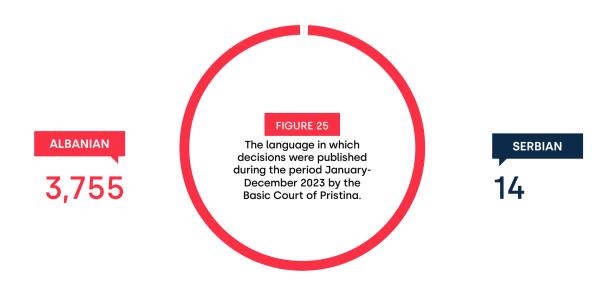
Meanwhile, regarding the type of published decisions, the Basic Court of Prishtina leads with the publication of decisions of a criminal nature. Respectively, from the total number of publications, 1,474 decisions are of a criminal nature, 1,150 of a civil nature, and 1,145 of administrative nature.

This classification of decisions published by the Basic Court of Prishtina is also reflected in the following figure.

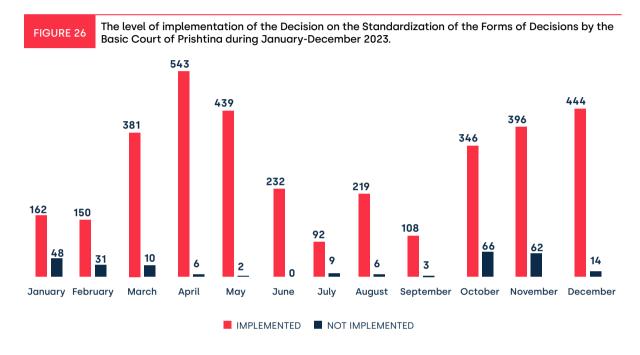


Of the criminal offense decisions, 37 decisions are for criminal offenses of abuse of official position and authority, while 41 decisions are for domestic violence.

The Basic Court in Prishtina has published 14 judgments in the Serbian language (0.38%), while the rest of the decisions have been published in the Albanian language. The language of the publication of the judgments is presented graphically in the table below.



The Decision on the Standardization of Forms of Judgments has been implemented by this court to a considerable extent. From the total number of published decisions, this decision has been implemented in 3,512 decisions, while in 257 other decisions omissions in its implementation have been observed. The following table graphically presents the implementation of this act in the published decisions of this court.



Meanwhile, regarding the concealment of personal data, from the total number of published decisions, 208 non-anonymized decisions were published (6%).

From the monitoring of the publication of the decisions of the Basic Court in Prishtina, it was observed that this court took an average of 117 days to publish the decisions. This means that this court significantly exceeds the time provided in the Law on Courts for the publication of decisions. Last year, the Basic Court of Prishtina needed 217 days to publish the decisions.

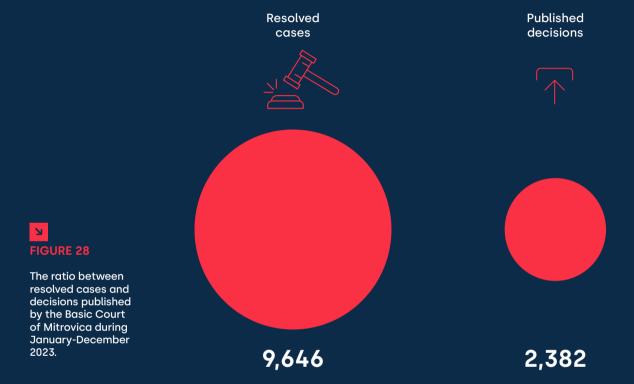
The judges who have published the most decisions in the Basic Court in Prishtina during the period January-December 2023 are presented in the following figure.



So, from the table above, it can be seen that the judges of the Basic Court of Prishtina with the most published decisions are: Kreshnik Kaçiu (590 published decisions), from the Basic Court in Prishtina, Avdirrahman Gashi (287 published decisions) from the Branch in Lipjan, and Shefqet Baleci (174 published decisions) from the Branch in Gllogovc.



### Basic Court of Mitrovica



During January - December 2023, the Basic Court of Mitrovica, including its four branches (Skenderaj, Vushtrri, Leposavic and Zubin Potok), have published a total of 2,382 decisions on the website<sup>13</sup>. This level of publication has marked a decrease - namely -27% compared to the previous year, when this court had published 3,254 decisions<sup>14</sup>.

Consequently, compared to the number of resolved cases by the Basic Court of Mitrovica during the year 2023, this number which during this period was 9,646 cases, it results that this court (including its branches) has published 25% of the decisions from the resolved cases.

<sup>13</sup> During the monitoring of the decisions on the website of the KJC in this court, 5 other repeated decisions were identified, which are not included in these figures.

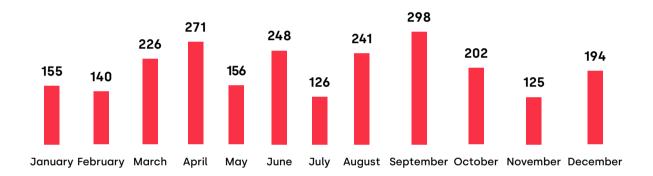
<sup>14</sup> This naturally happened as a result of the situation created with the lack of administrative staff and judges after their resignation from this court.

In terms of the number of published decisions (not considering resolved cases), the Basic Court of Mitrovica together with the branches is the second court with the fewest published decisions for the year 2023.

The publication of the decisions by the Basic Court of Mitrovica for each month is shown graphically in the figure below. From the figure below, it can be seen that the largest number of published judgments is in the month of September.

FIGURE 29

The level of publication of decisions by the Basic Court of Mitrovica during January-December 2023.



A significant part of the published decisions have been published by the branches of this court. The Vushtrri branch has published 924 decisions out of 3,293 resolved cases (28%), the Skenderaj branch has published 563 decisions out of 1,445 resolved cases (39%), and the Leposavic branch has published 7 decisions out of 107 resolved cases (7%), while Zubin Potok Branch published 7 decisions out of 14 resolved cases (7%).

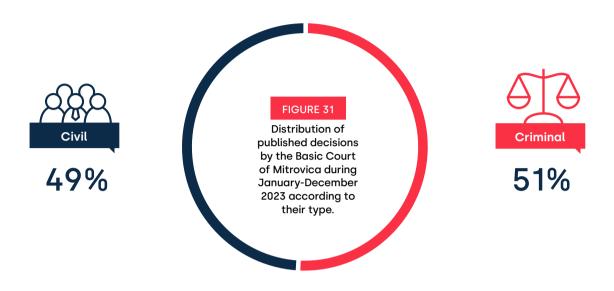
The publication of decisions from the branches of the Basic Court in Mitrovica is shown graphically in the table below.

FIGURE 30

The level of publication of decisions by the branches of the Basic Court of Mitrovica during January-December 2023.

	<b>Q</b> Skenderaj	<b>Q</b> Vushtrri	<b>Q</b> Leposavic	Q Zubin Potok
January	49	62	0	0
February	24	66	0	0
March	45	105	0	0
April	45	124	0	0
May	88	43	0	0
June	53	140	0	0
July	46	41	0	0
August	51	43	0	0
September	40	77	0	0
October	39	65	0	0
November	59	50	0	0
December	24	108	7	1

Most of the published decisions are of a criminal nature, namely 1,217 criminal offenses decisions, while 1,165 decisions are of a civil nature. The following figure shows the type of decisions published by the Basic Court of Mitrovica during the period January-December 2023 according to the nature of the offense.



From the criminal decisions, this court during this period has published 15 decisions on corruption and 22 decisions on domestic violence.

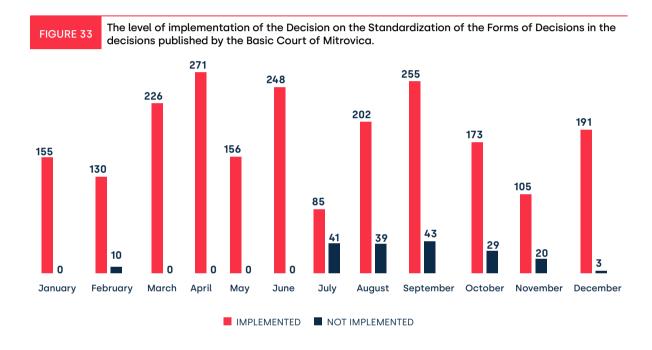
Unlike the year 2022, where 827 decisions were published in the Serbian language, during the period January-December 2023, no decision was published in the Serbian language.



As for the anonymization of decisions, this court during this period has published 114 decisions without anonymization of personal data.

Regarding the implementation of the Decision on the Standardization of the Forms of Decisions, from all the decisions published by this court and its branches, omissions were found in 185 decisions. While in the rest of the 2,197 decisions, this decision was implemented correctly.

The table below graphically shows the level of implementation of this decision by the Basic Court of Mitrovica.



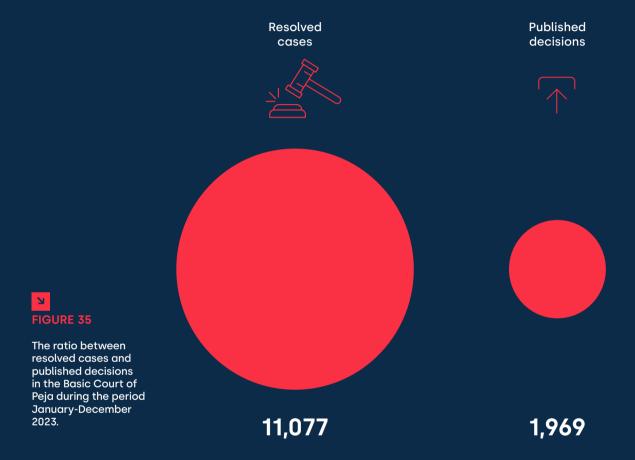
From the monitoring of the publication of the decisions of the Basic Court of Mitrovica, it was observed that this court took an average of 60 days to publish the decisions. As for the time of publication of decisions, this means that the Basic Court of Mitrovica respects the time provided in the Law on Courts for their publication.

The following table shows the judges with the most published decisions during this period in the Basic Court of Mitrovica.

Judges who have published the most decisions in the Basic Court of Mitrovica during the period FIGURE 34 January-December 2023. AVDULLAH MECINAJ AGRON MAXHUNI **XHEMAJL JUSUFI** 248 215 193

So, from the table above, it can be seen that the judges of the Basic Court of Mitrovica with the most published decisions are: Agron Maxhuni (248 published decisions), from the Branch of Vushtrri, Xhemajl Jusufi (215 published decisions), from the Basic Court of Mitrovica, as well as Avdullah Mecinaj (193 published decisions) from the Branch of Skenderaj.



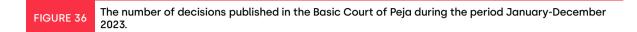


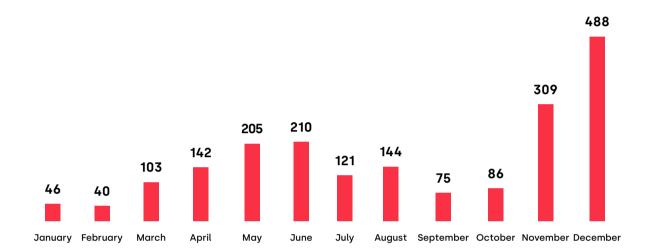
During the period January-December 2023, the Basic Court of Peja, including its three branches (Deçan, Istog and Klina), has published 1,969 decisions<sup>15</sup>, namely 19% more decisions than in 2022, (1,661 court decisions).

With these figures, this court ranks last in terms of the publication of decisions during this period. Meanwhile, in relation to the number of resolved cases, which in 2023 was 11,077 cases, it turns out that only 18% of the decisions from the resolved cases were published.

<sup>15</sup> During the monitoring of the decisions on the website of the KJC in this court, 8 more repeated decisions were identified, which are not included in these figures.

This court has published most of the decisions during the month of December, namely 488 decisions. While it published the fewest decisions in February, namely 40 decisions. The publication of decisions by this court during the year 2023, divided by month, is reflected graphically in the table below.





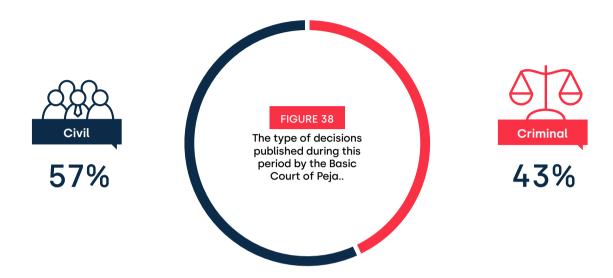
Istog Branch published 653 decisions, out of 1,857 resolved cases (35%), the Klina Branch published 326 decisions out of 1,077 resolved cases (30%), while the Deçan Branch published 164 decisions out of 1,486 resolved cases (11%). The level of publication for each month by the branches of the Basic Court of Peja during this period is also presented in the table below.

#### FIGURE 37

The level of publication of decisions by the branches of the Basic Court of Peja during the period January-December 2023.

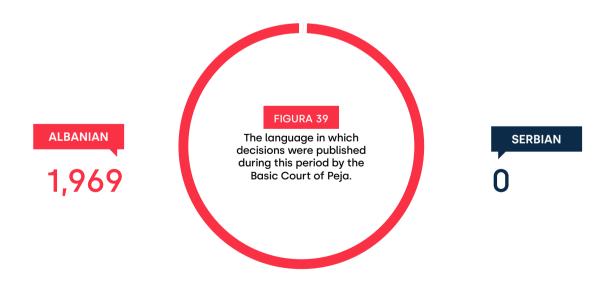
	<b>Q</b> Deqan	Q Istog	<b>Q</b> Klina
January	11 	<b>4</b> 	16 ■
February	2	1	9
March	5 	3 	31
April	17 •	47	23
May	13 •	95	33
June	15 •	71	13 •
July	10 	8 	62
August	30	3 	35 
September	3 	44	4. I
October	10 	4 	18
November	30	3 	45
December	18	370	37

From the total number of published decisions, 855 decisions are of a criminal nature, while 1,114 are of a civil nature. The nature of the published decisions by this court is also described in the figure below.



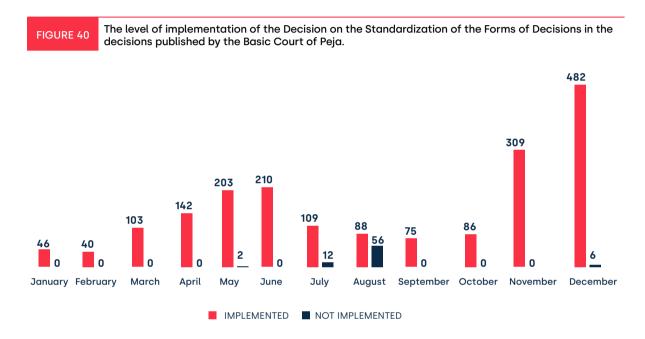
Of all the published decisions, we have identified only 8 decisions related to criminal offenses of corruption and no decisions of domestic violence.

This court had not published any decision in the Serbian language, the same as in the previous year. This is also shown graphically in the table below.



During monitoring, from the total number of published decisions by this court, we have identified 58 non-anonymized decisions.

The implementation of the Decision of the KJC on the Standardization of the Forms of Judgments has been implemented in most of the published decisions by this court. In 76 published decisions, omissions were found in the implementation of this decision. The table below shows the level of implementation of this decision by this court during this period.



From the monitoring of the publication of the decisions of the Basic Court of Peja, it was observed that this court took an average of 69 days to publish the decisions. This means that this court has exceeded the deadline set in the Law on Courts for the publication of decisions.

The following table lists the judges with the most decisions published during the period January-December 2023 by the Basic Court of Peja.

So, from the table above, it can be seen that the judges of the Basic Court of Peja with the most published decisions are: Petrit Nrecaj (299 published decisions), from Branch of Istog, Shemsedin Haxhijaj (296 published decisions), from the Branch in Istog, as well as Genc Hoxha (170 published decisions) from the Basic Court of Peja.

FIGURE 41

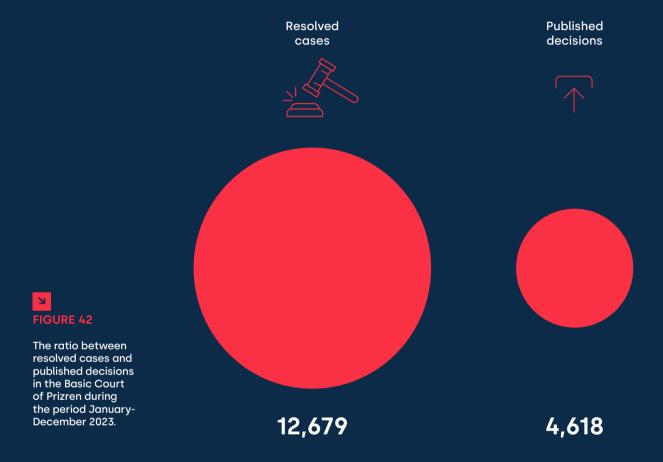
Judges with the most published decisions during the period January-December 2023 in the Basic Court of Peja.











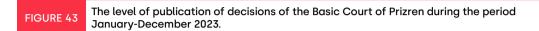
The Basic Court of Prizren, including the Suhareka and Dragashi Branches, during the period January- December 2023 has published a total of 4,618 decisions<sup>16</sup>, and ranks fifth in terms of the number of published decisions. Compared to the previous year, when this court had published 3,011 decisions, this level of publication of court decisions this year had increased by 53%.

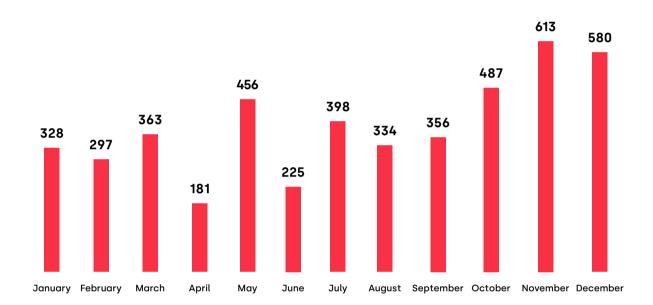
During the year 2023, this court had resolved a total of 12,679 cases, and therefore from the monitoring data it appears that this court has published only 18% of the decisions of the cases that during this period had received a judicial epilogue.

<sup>16</sup> During the monitoring of the decisions on the website of the KJC in this court, 6 repeated decisions were identified, which are not included in these figures.

So, compared to the previous year when this court had published 3,011 decisions, this year this number had increased by 53% more.

This court published the largest number of judgments in November, while the smallest number of judgments was published in April. The rate of publication of decisions by this court for each month of this period is graphically presented in the following table.





The Suhareka Branch had published 437 decisions from 2,129 resolved cases (21%), while the Dragash Branch has published a total of 188 decisions from 724 resolved cases (26%) on the website.

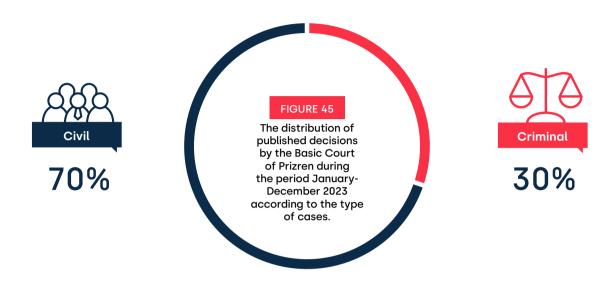
The publication of decisions from the branches of the Basic Court of Prizren is displayed graphically for each month in the table below.

FIGURE 44

The level of publication of decisions by the Branches of the Basic Court of Prizren during the period January-December 2023.

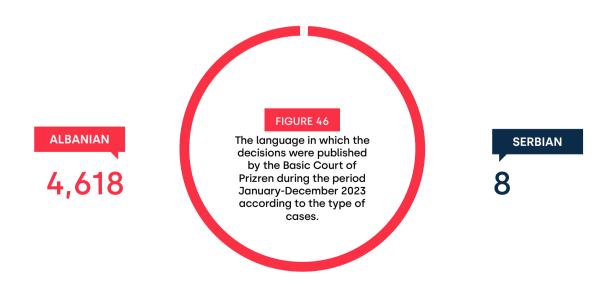
	<b>Q</b> Dragash	<b>Q</b> Suhareka
January	15 •	15 •
February	0	31
March	35	70
April	20	61
May	10	55
June	5 	16 •
July	16	62
August	13	11 
September	0	44
October	31 	31 
November	38	30 
December	5 	11 

As for the nature of published decisions, this court ranks third with the publication of criminal decisions, with 1,402, while it published 3,216 civil decisions. The classification of decisions according to their type is also described in the table below.



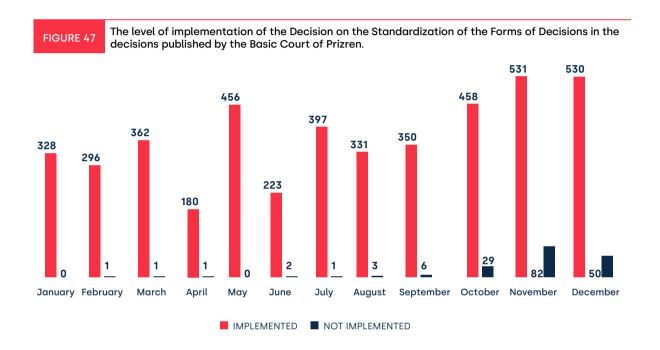
Of the published criminal judgments, only 3 of them are related to the criminal offenses of corruption, while 8 judgments of domestic violence have been published.

Regarding the language in which the decisions were published, it should be noted that during this period, out of 4,618 published decisions, only 8 decisions were published in the Serbian language (0.17%). So, all other decisions of the Basic Court of Prizren were only in the Albanian language.



Regarding the protection of personal data, this court has shown special care, where from the total number of decisions, only 27 of them are not anonymized.

Of all the decisions published by this court, omissions in the implementation of the Decision of the Judicial Council on the Standardization of Forms of Judgments were observed in 176 decisions. Meanwhile, in the rest of the 4,442 decisions, the template was applied precisely. The figure below describes the level of implementation of the Decision on the Standardization of the Forms of Decisions in the decisions of the Basic Court of Prizren, for each month.



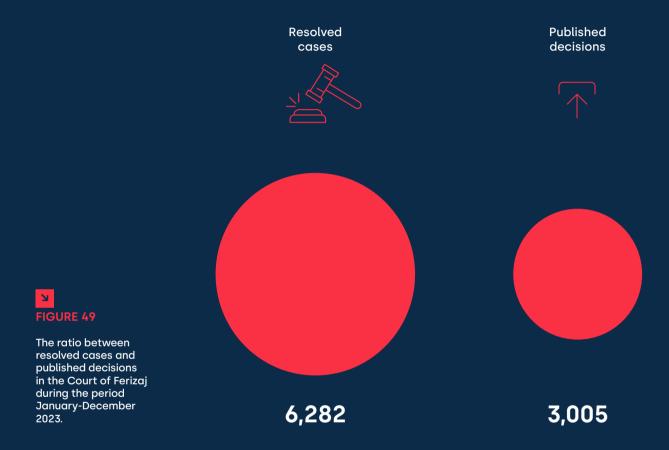
From the monitoring of the publication of the decisions of the Basic Court of Prizren, it was observed that this court took an average of 52 days to publish the decisions calculated from the day of the announcement, so this court has respected the deadline set by the Law on Courts.

The judges who have published the most decisions in the Basic Court of Prizren are presented in the table below.



So, from the table above, it can be seen that the judges of the Basic Court of Prizren with the most published decisions are: Njomëza Berisha (405 published decisions), from the Branch in Dragash, Shyqri Hoxha (377 published decisions), from Basic Court of Prizren, as well as Taulant Rexhëbeqaj (357 published decisions) from the Basic Court of Prizren.





During the period January - December 2023, *the Basic Court of Ferizaj*, including the *Kaçanik and Shterpce Branches*, *h*as published 3,005 decisions.<sup>17</sup> This level of publication marks an increase of 5% compared to the previous year, when this court had published 2,875 court decisions.

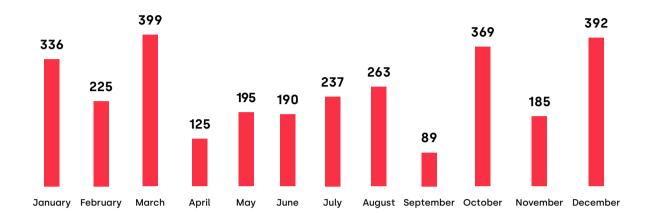
Consequently, of the 8,611 cases resolved by this court during 2023, from the monitoring data it follows that during this year 35% of the decisions of the cases that had received a judicial epilogue this year were published.

With these figures, this court ranks fifth among the courts of first instance in terms of the publication of judgments in relation to resolved cases.

<sup>17</sup> During the monitoring of the decisions on the website of the KJC in this court, 4 other repeated decisions and minutes were recorded, which are not included in these figures.

FIGURE 50

The level of publication of decisions for each month by the Basic Court of Ferizaj during the period January-December 2023.



The figure below graphically shows the publication of decisions by this court for each month, during the period January-December 2023. From the figure below, it can be seen that the largest number of judgments in this court was published in the month of March, while in the month of September the fewest judgments were published.

The Kaçanik Branch during this period has published 648 decisions out of 1,210 resolved cases (54%), while the Shterpce Branch has published 99 decisions out of a total of 401 resolved cases during this period (25%).

The table below graphically shows the publication of decisions from the branches of the Basic Court of Ferizaj, for each month.

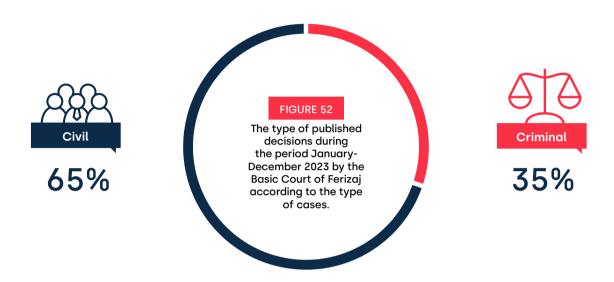
FIGURE 51

Publication of decisions from the branches of the Basic Court of Ferizaj during the period January-December 2023.

	<b>Q</b> Kaqanik	<b>Q</b> Shterpce
January	92	23
February	16 •	5 
March	94	15
April	42 	0
May	0	<b>4</b>
June	55	10
July	109	4 
August	41 	3 
September	17 •	1
October	63	21 •
November	66	<b>4</b> 
December	53	9

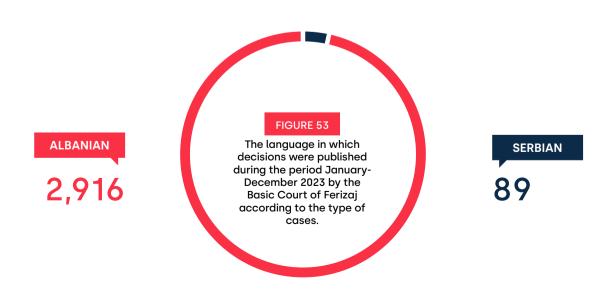
During the monitoring period, the Basic Court of Ferizaj has published more civil judgments than criminal ones. From the total number of judgments, 1,965 judgments are of a civil nature, while 1,040 are of a criminal nature.

The table below shows the division of the published decisions during this period by the Basic Court of Ferizaj, according to their type.



Out of all the criminal decisions published by this court, 8 of them are for the criminal offenses of corruption, while for this year this court has not published any decision of domestic violence. Meanwhile, in 2022, this court had published 46 decisions of a domestic violence nature.

As for the language in which these decisions were published, this court during the period January-December 2023 published 2,916 in the Albanian language (97%) while the other 89 judgments were in the Serbian language (3%).

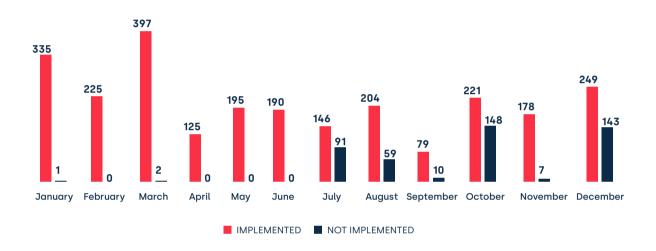


During this monitoring period, the Decision on the Standardization of the Forms of Decisions was implemented in 2,544 decisions or 85% in total, while in the rest of 461 or 15% decisions, omissions in its implementation were observed.

In the following table you can see the implementation of the Decision on the Standardization of the Forms of Decisions by the Basic Court of Ferizaj.



The level of implementation of the Decision on the Standardization of the Forms of Decisions by the Basic Court of Ferizaj.



During the period January-December 2023, the Basic Court of Ferizaj has published 249 decisions without hiding personal data, a number which has increased compared to last year, where only 34 decisions were published without hiding personal data.

From the monitoring of the publication of the decisions of the Basic Court of Ferizaj, it was observed that this court took an average of 42 days to publish the decisions. This means that this court publishes its decisions within the time provided in the Law on Courts for their publication.

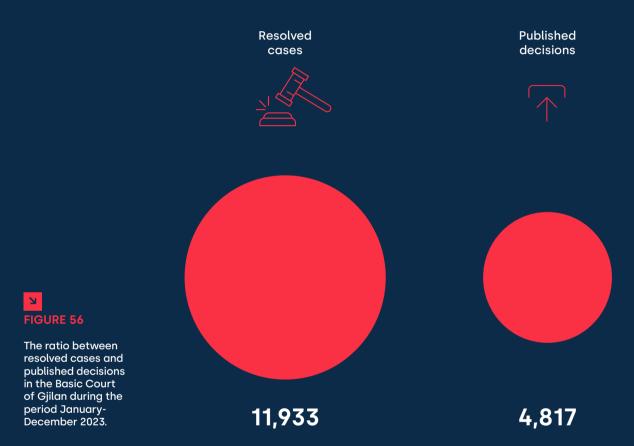
The following table lists the judges with the most published decisions during the period January-December 2023, from the Basic Court of Ferizaj.



So, from the table above, it can be seen that the judges of the Basic Court of Ferizaj with the most published decisions are: Faton Ajvazi (865 published decisions) from the Basic Court of Ferizaj, Kreshnike Zymberi - Beqiri (1785 published decisions) from the Basic Court of Ferizaj, as well as Burhan Berisha (167 published decisions) from the Branch in Kaçanik.



# Basic Court of Gjilan

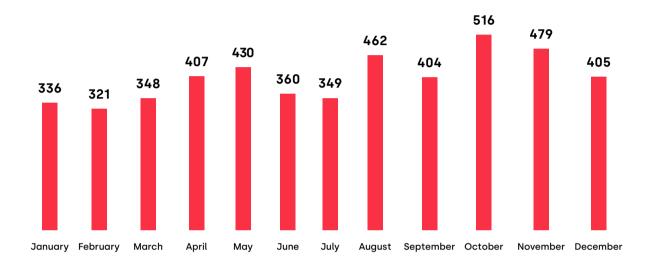


During this period, the *Basic Court of Gjilan*, including its three branches (*Kamenica*, *Vitia and Novoberda*) has published a total of 4,817 decisions, respectively 29% more than in 2022. This level of publication of judgments during this year, ranks the Basic Court of Gjilan in the third place in terms of the number of publication of court decisions.

Consequently, from 11,933 resolved cases by this court during 2023, it results that this court has managed to publish 40% of the decisions from the cases which during this period had received a judicial epilogue.

The level of publication of decisions by this court for each month is presented graphically in the table below. From this figure, it can be seen that most of the judgments were published in the month of October, namely 516 judgments during that month, while the least judgments were published during the month of February, namely 321 judgments.

The level of publication of decisions by the Basic Court of Gjilan during the period FIGURE 57 January-December 2023.



A large number of published decisions by this court have been added by its branches, where the three branches of the court have published 1,910 court decisions or 40% of the decisions.

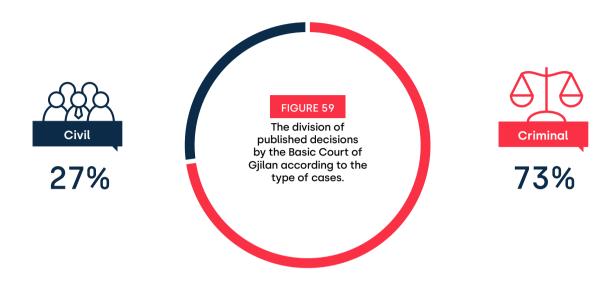
During this period, the Viti Branch has published 893 decisions out of 3,422 resolved cases (26%), the Kamenica Branch has published 547 decisions out of 1,345 resolved cases (41%), while the Novoberda Branch has published 470 decisions out of 642 resolved cases (73 %). The latter is the branch with the most published cases, in relation to resolved cases, during this period.

The level of publication of decisions by the branches of this court for each month is displayed graphically in the table below. From the data reflected in this figure, it can be seen that the largest number of decisions from the branches was published in the month of October.

FIGURE 58 The level of publication of decisions by the branches of the Basic Court of Gjilan.

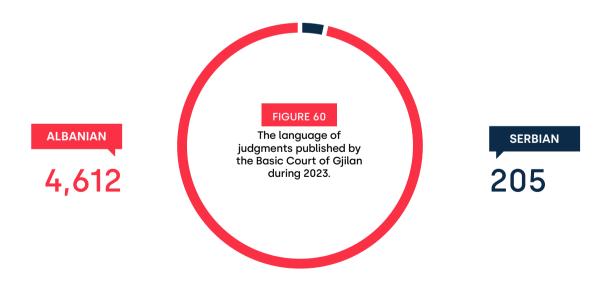
	<b>Q</b> Viti	<b>Q</b> Kamenica	Q Novoberde
January	78	42	32
February	21	15	62
March	57	72	23
April	76	18	51
May	48	41	2
June	58	48	0
July	55	35	94
August	110	35	23
September	18	38	29
October	172	70	34
November	158	74	35
December	42	59	45

Most of the decisions published by this court, or 3,537 decisions, are of a civil nature. While the rest of 1,280 decisions are of a criminal nature. This division of published decisions during this period by this court can also be seen in the figure below.

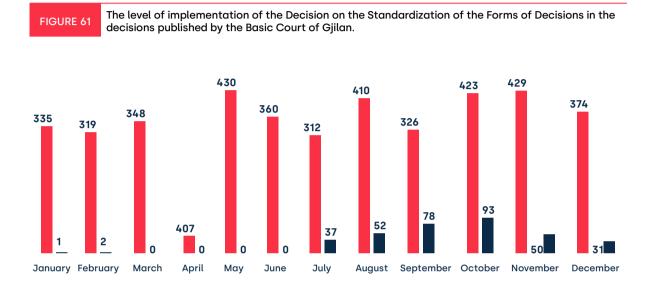


From all criminal cases published on the KJC website, FOL has identified 14 decisions on corruption offenses and 10 domestic violence decisions.

Of all the published decisions during this period, 205 of them were published in the Serbian language (4%), while the rest were in the Albanian language (96%).



During the monitoring, 265 published decisions with identified deficiencies in the anonymization of personal data were recorded. Meanwhile, regarding the Decision on the Standardization of Forms of Decisions by this court, FOL has recorded 344 decisions in which there were omissions in the implementation of this decision. The level of implementation of this decision is graphically presented in the table below.



From the monitoring of the publication of the decisions of the Basic Court of Gjilan, it was observed that this court took an average of 32 days to publish the decisions. This means that this court has strictly respected the time provided by the Law on Courts for the publication of decisions.

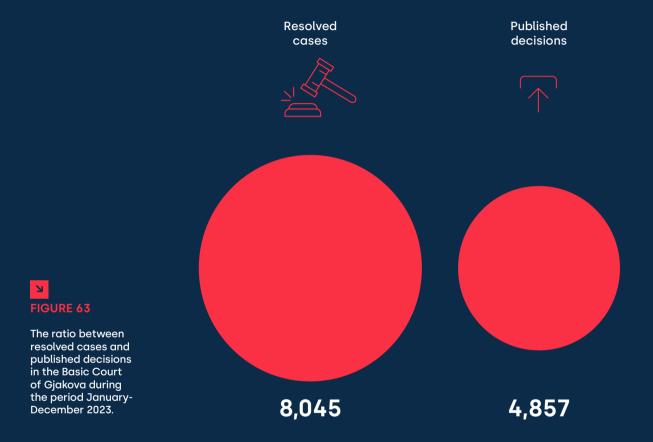
■ IMPLEMENTED ■ NOT IMPLEMENTED

The following table shows the judges with the most published decisions by the Basic Court of Gjilan, during the period January-December 2023.



So, from the table above, it can be seen that the judges of the Basic Court of Gjilan with the most published decisions are: Florije Qerimi (328 published decisions) by the Basic Court of Gjilan, Alush Sinani (308 published decisions) from the Branch of Viti, and Mevlide Shabani (265 published decisions) from the Basic Court in Gjilan.





During this period, the Basic Court of Gjakova, including the Branch of Rahovec and that of Malisheva, has published a total of 4,857 decisions on the official website<sup>18</sup>, namely 47% more than in 2022. With this number of publications, this court is the first among the courts of first instance (after the Court of Appeal) in terms of the level of publication.

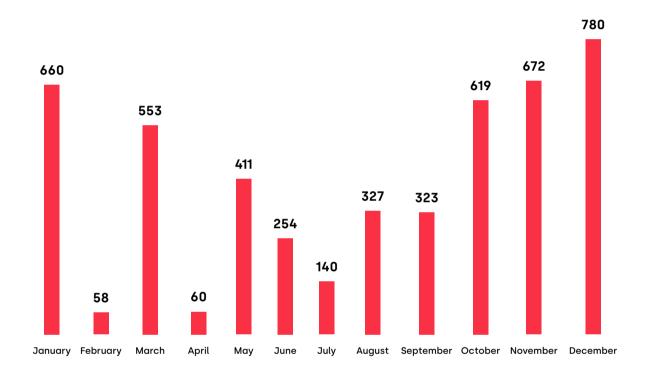
Meanwhile, from the 8,045 resolved cases by this court during 2023, the monitoring data shows that this court has managed to publish about 60% of the decisions from the resolved cases during this period.

<sup>18</sup> During the monitoring of the decisions on the website of the KJC in this court, 12 other repeated decisions were identified, which are not included in these figures.

Considering the ratio of resolved cases, this court is the second court with the most published court decisions for the year 2023 (after the Commercial Court), while the first among the basic courts.

The level of publication of decisions by the Basic Court of Gjakova for each month of this period is displayed graphically in the table below.

The level of publication of decisions for each month by the Basic Court of Gjakova, during the period January-December 2023.



Branches of this court have also contributed significantly to the increase in the publication of decisions within this court, publishing a total of 2,014 decisions, or 41% of all published decisions by this court.

During this period, the *Malisheva Branch* has published 840 decisions out of 1,672 resolved cases (50%), while the *Rahovec Branch* has published 1,174 decisions out of 2,170 resolved cases (54%). The latter is calculated within the three branches with the most published cases, in relation to resolved cases.

The table below graphically reflects the publication of the decisions of the branches of the Basic Court of Gjakova during this period.

FIGURE 65

The level of publication of decisions by the Branches of the Basic Court of Gjakova during the period January-December 2023.

	<b>Q</b> Malisheva	Rahovec
January	70	97
February	0	22
March	115	173
April	10 	50
May	49	144
June	39	60
July	0	63
August	76	73
September	14 •	146
October	150	117
November	200	112
December	117	117

As for the type of published decisions, this court, after the Court of Appeal, has set a record in publishing the type of civil cases, where 4,128 published decisions were of a civil nature and only 729 published decisions were of a criminal nature.

This division of the published decisions by the Basic Court of Gjakova is presented in the figure below.



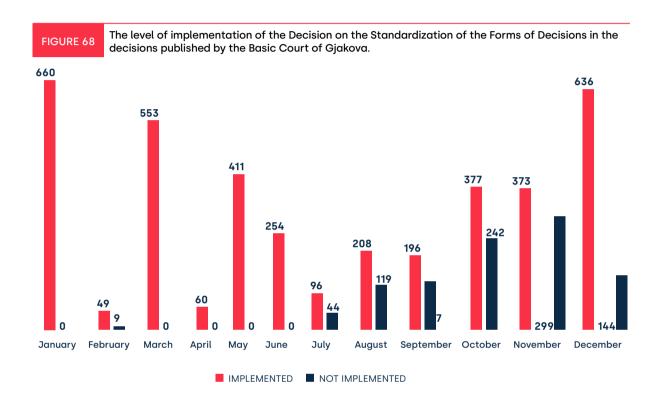
From the criminal offenses decisions, during this period, this court has published 6 judgments related to the criminal offenses of corruption and 22 judgments related to the criminal offenses of domestic violence.

The Basic Court of Gjakova has published all decisions in the Albanian language. So, it has not published any judgments in the Serbian language.



Regarding the anonymization of decisions by this court, during this period, 709 non-anonymized decisions were recorded.19

The decision of the Kosovo Judicial Council on the Standardization of the Forms of Decisions has not been sufficiently implemented by this court. Failures in the implementation of this decision have been identified in 984 published decisions.<sup>20</sup>



From the monitoring of the publication of the decisions of the Basic Court of Gjakova, it was observed that this court took an average of 47 days to publish the decisions. This means that this court has also published its judgments within the deadline provided by law.

The judges with the most published decisions in the Basic Court of Gjakova are presented in the figure below.

<sup>19</sup> Omissions have been identified in the non-disclosure of names of the parties, business names, addresses, etc.

<sup>20</sup> Omissions have been found mainly in the use of the KJC logo, instead of the Emblem of the Republic of Kosovo.



So, from the table above, it can be seen that the judges of the Basic Court of Gjakova with the most published decisions are: Durim Balaj (946 published decisions) from the Basic Court of Gjakova, Mirjeta Shala (751 published decisions) from the Basic Court of Gjakova, as well as Betim Behluli (367 published decisions) from the Branch in Rahovec.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of this monitoring report, the following recommendations are seen as necessary to improve the identified delays in this field. Recommendations are as follows:

- Kosovo Judicial Council to draft the new Instruction as soon as possible for the publication of judgments, harmonized with the new Criminal Procedure Code.
- Enhance human resources in courts and branches, in order to increase the number of publication of judgments.
- Kosovo Judicial Council to monitor the implementation of all regulations and decisions of the KJC, including the Decision on Standardization of Forms of Judgments.
- Increase the publication of judgments of abuse of official position and authority.
- Respect the deadline for the publication of judgments within 60 days, calculated from the day of its issuance, as provided for in the Law on Courts.
- All judgments to be published in PDF format, as required by the Administrative Instruction for the Publication of Processed Judgments.

#### **Sources:**

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