



Original: English

No. ICC-01/14-01/18

Date: 7 January 2025

TRIAL CHAMBER V

Before: Judge Bertram Schmitt, Single Judge

SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC II

**IN THE CASE OF
*THE PROSECUTOR v. ALFRED YEKATOM AND PATRICE-EDOUARD
NGAISSONA***

Public

Decision on Request to Withdraw as Associate Counsel for Mr Yekatom

Document to be notified in accordance with regulation 31 of the *Regulations of the Court* to:

The Office of the Prosecutor

Karim A. A. Khan
Mame Mandiaye Niang
Kweku Vanderpuye

Counsel for the Alfred Yekatom

Mylène Dimitri
Thomas Hannis
Anta Guissé
Sarah Bafadhel

Counsel for Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona

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Abdou Dangabo Moussa
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Legal Representatives of Applicants

Unrepresented Victims

**Unrepresented Applicants for
Participation/Reparations**

The Office of Public Counsel for Victims

**The Office of Public Counsel for the
Defence**

States Representatives

Amicus Curiae

REGISTRY

Registrar

Osvaldo Zavala Giler

Counsel Support Section

Juan Antonio Escudero Lobato

Victims and Witnesses Unit

Detention Section

**Victims Participation and Reparations
Section**

Other

Judge Bertram Schmitt, acting as Single Judge on behalf of Trial Chamber V of the International Criminal Court, in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona*, having regard to Regulation 78(1) of the Regulations of the Court (the ‘Regulations’), issues this ‘Decision on Request to Withdraw as Associate Counsel for Mr Yekatom’.

1. On 7 October 2020, the Registry informed the Chamber of Mr Thomas Hannis’s appointment as Associate Counsel for Mr Yekatom.¹
2. On 6 January 2025, Mr Hannis requested the Chamber’s leave to withdraw as Associate Counsel for Mr Yekatom with immediate effect, pursuant to Regulation 78(1) of the Regulations (the ‘Request’).²
3. On 7 January 2025, the Office of the Prosecutor (the ‘Prosecution’), the Ngaïssona Defence, the Common Legal Representative of the Former Child Soldiers (the ‘CLRV1’) and the Common Legal Representatives of Victims of Other Crimes (the ‘CLRV2’) informed the Chamber that they do not have any objections to the Request.³
4. The Single Judge notes that the Request is made with the consent of both Lead Counsel and Mr Yekatom and takes into account the final stages of the proceedings.⁴ Moreover, the Single Judge notes that Lead Counsel will continue to represent Mr Yekatom. In light of these circumstances, and noting that no objections were made to the Request, the Single Judge considers that Mr Hannis’s withdrawal will not cause any prejudice to the rights of the accused or affect the fairness and expeditiousness of the proceedings. Noting Mr Hannis’s request to withdraw, the Single Judge thus grants the Request.

¹ Registration of the appointment of Mr Thomas Hannis as Associate Counsel for Mr Alfred Yekatom, ICC-01/14-01/18-675 (with confidential Annex).

² Request for withdrawal, ICC-01/14-01/18-2749, para. 1.

³ Email from the Prosecution, 7 January 2025, at 10:01; email from the CLRV1, 7 January 2025, at 10:24; email from the Ngaïssona Defence, 7 January 2025, at 10:38; email from the CLRV2, 7 January 2025, at 10:48.

⁴ Request, ICC-01/14-01/18-2749, para. 2.

5. Mr Hannis is reminded of his continuing obligations under the Code of Professional Conduct for counsel, as well as any confidentiality obligations under the Rome Statute and the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. The Single Judge appreciates the assurances made in this regard.⁵

FOR THESE REASONS, THE SINGLE JUDGE HEREBY

GRANTS the Request.

Done in both English and French, the English version being authoritative.



Judge Bertram Schmitt
Single Judge

Dated 7 January 2025

At The Hague, The Netherlands

⁵ Request, ICC-01/14-01/18-2749, para. 3.