

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

No.: ICC-02/04
Date: **12 May 2025**

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER III

Before: Judge Althea Violet Alexis-Windsor, Presiding Judge
Judge Iulia Motoc
Judge Haykel Ben Mahfoudh

SITUATION IN UGANDA

Public Document

**Thirty-Ninth Periodic Report of the Registry on Applications Received by the
Victims Participation and Reparations Section in the Situation in Uganda**

Source: Registry

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

☒ The Office of the Prosecutor

☐ Counsel for the Defence

☒ Legal Representatives of the Victims
V40 Ongwen LRV Team

☐ Legal Representatives of the
Applicants

☐ Unrepresented Victims

☐ Unrepresented Applicants
(Participation/Reparation)

☒ The Office of Public Counsel for
Victims

☐ The Office of Public Counsel for the
Defence

☐ States' Representatives

☐ Amicus Curiae

REGISTRY

Registrar
M. Zavala Giler, Osvaldo

☐ Counsel Support Section

☐ Victims and Witnesses Unit

☐ Detention Section

☒ Victims Participation and
Reparations Section

☒ Other
Trust Fund for Victims
Public Information and Outreach Section
V49

I. Introduction

1. On 12 March 2012, the Single Judge of Pre-Trial Chamber II (in its previous composition) ordered the Victims Participation and Reparations Section (“VPRS”), following the submission of a comprehensive report on the *status quo* of all victim applications for participation in proceedings received in the Situation in Uganda (“Situation”),¹ to submit every four months a periodic report on further applications received and progress made by the VPRS on their assessment under rule 85 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.² The Registry hereby submits its thirty-ninth periodic report in the Situation, covering the period from 11 January to 9 May 2025.

II. Applicable Law

2. The Registry submits the present report in accordance with article 68(1) and (3) of the Rome Statute, rules 16(1) and 89(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and regulation 86 of the Regulations of the Court.

III. Submissions

A. Status of applications

3. To date, 6,367 victims have submitted to the Registry application forms for participation and/or reparations in the Situation and the related cases.³

¹ Registry, “Comprehensive report on the *status quo* of all applications received in the Situation in Uganda and on other aspects related to victims' applications for participation in the proceedings”, 11 May 2012, ICC-02/04-193.

² Pre-Trial Chamber II, “Decision on Victim’s Participation in Proceedings Related to the Situation in Uganda”, dated 9 March 2012 and notified on 12 March 2012, ICC-02/04-191, para. 31.

³ Out of these, 3,785 forms of victims already participating in the *Ongwen* proceedings have since been transferred to the *Kony* case, following the victims’ expressed desire to participate in both cases. In addition, since the last periodic report, the Registry received 744 new applications for participation and/or reparations in the *Kony* case. The Registry is in the process of identifying whether the new forms received during the reporting period include applications of individuals who previously submitted forms in the context of the Situation and the related cases.

4. In the case of *The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen* (“Ongwen case”), currently at the reparations stage before Trial Chamber IX,⁴ there are 4,096 participating victims.⁵ During the reporting period, the VPRS continued its assessment of participating victims for the purpose of reparations, and transmitted to the Trust Fund for Victims (“TFV”) information on 549 participating victims assessed to be eligible for reparations and falling in the first priority category.⁶
5. In the case of *The Prosecutor v. Joseph Kony* (“Kony case”) and in light of Pre-Trial Chamber III’s decision issued on 13 December 2024,⁷ the VPRS has continued to review victim application forms for participation and/or reparations—both those received in the context of the Situation and the *Ongwen* case from victims who subsequently expressed their desire to participate in the *Kony* case, and those newly received in the context of the upcoming confirmation of charges hearing in the *Kony* case.⁸

B. Activities undertaken by the VPRS during the reporting period

6. During the reporting period, the VPRS also continued its initiatives in the field, spanning victims’ information sessions, training activities and stakeholder meetings.
7. Throughout January, the VPRS supported five victims’ intermediary organisations with the goal of facilitating access to information for victims of thematic crimes. This involved conducting information sessions and group discussions with various groups of survivors, as well as meetings with

⁴ Trial Chamber IX, “Reparations Order”, 28 February 2024, ICC-02/04-01/15-2074 (“Reparations Order”).

⁵ Trial Chamber IX, “Decision on the Registry Additional Information on Victims”, 16 December 2022, ICC-02/04-01/15-2024, para. 18 and footnote 37.

⁶ Email from VPRS to TFV, 17 April 2025 at 17:57.

⁷ Pre-Trial Chamber III, “Decision on victim participation, legal representation, and on the OPCV’s Application for recognition of the status of victims in the Kony case to the victims participating in the Ongwen case”, 13 December 2024, ICC-02/04-01/05-540.

⁸ Pre-Trial Chamber III, “Decision Setting the Date of the Confirmation of Charges Hearing and Related Time Limits”, 12 December 2024, ICC-02/04-01/05-539. See also footnote 3, above. The confirmation of charges hearing is scheduled to commence on 9 September 2025.

community leaders to inform them about participation and reparation. With the VPRS' support, the intermediary organisations reached out to 30 victims groups and 300 thematic victims across Northern Uganda, including victims of sexual crimes, children conscripted into the Lord's Resistance Army ("LRA") and children born in captivity.

8. The VPRS and the Public Information and Outreach Section ("PIOS") also conducted joint outreach activities in different subregions to increase awareness on the Reparations Order in the *Ongwen* case and the scope of *Ongwen* and *Kony* cases. From 13 to 26 January 2025, the VPRS and the PIOS focused on the Acholi and West Nile sub-regions, holding 25 community meetings with victims in different parishes across the four internally displaced persons' ("IDP") camp case locations for the *Ongwen* case, as well as in two subcounties in Adjumani. From 10 to 15 February 2025, similar joint outreach sessions took place in the Teso and Lango subregions, leading to 10 community sessions with victims and survivors.
9. The events had a large turnout. Discussions primarily focused on reparations, case scope, eligibility and progress, with an emphasis given to the use of household forms, especially in IDP camp case locations. The VPRS took note of the high expectations concerning reparations, along with the long distances that victims would need to travel if application forms were only filled out and collected at subcounty levels. The distance issue was a particular concern for the elderly, with a significant number of victims being visibly old. Concerns were also raised as regarding missing or burnt national identity cards. Accordingly, information on the process of obtaining new identity documents was provided as well.

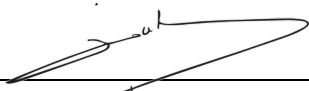
10. The VPRS reflected the observations from these outreach sessions in its strategies for the identification of victims and completion of application forms. Consideration was made to register victims at the parish/village level to better facilitate access and to increase engagement with district and subcounty leaders of relevant case locations prior to filling out forms with victims.⁹
11. In coordination with the PIOS, the TFV, the VPRS also organised meetings in Gulu and Lira with district authorities to solicit their cooperation and support for its activities. On 13 and 14 March 2025, two stakeholders dialogues were held with all District Chairpersons, Resident District or City Commissions and Chief Administrative Officers from 20 districts affected by the LRA. The meetings provided information on the Reparations Order in the *Ongwen* case, participation in the *Kony* case and relevant implementation strategies.
12. During the two meetings, the authorities highlighted the need for integrity, sustainability and awareness-raising in the process of identifying beneficiaries for *Ongwen* case reparations, along with the importance of honesty, reconciliation and tackling stigma in helping heal and rebuild the affected communities.¹⁰ For the *Kony* case, they stressed how the proceedings could be essential in addressing stigma faced by families of LRA abductees who never returned, expressing hopes that the eventual arrest of the suspect would lead to information about their whereabouts. Moreover, they voiced concerns about the limited scope of the two cases,¹¹ the potential gap between reparations

⁹ To this end, the VPRS identified 35 field clerk candidates who would provide support to victims in completing victims application forms for both Ongwen and Kony cases. These individuals received rounds of trainings from March to May 2025, covering topics such as paper and digital forms, cases scope, eligibility and basic trauma management skills. Based on pre- and post-training assessments, 32 field clerks were hired for the months of May to July 2025 and have been equipped with tablets, stationeries and other supporting accessories. The clerks have been deployed to their assigned locations and will start filling in forms with victims by mid-May, supported by VPRS intermediaries assisting with identifying and locating the survivors.

¹⁰ Relatedly, while a minority urged for speedy implementation, the majority of participants noted that what they request is not a fast process, but a careful one that does not create tensions in communities. The participants recommended in particular a low-profile approach to identifying victims.

¹¹ The authorities advocated for a broader scope that includes more locations of LRA attacks. In particular, many attendees noted that while the Lwala school community's trauma and continued

ordered in the *Ongwen* case and funds available, as well as the Court's low level of engagement with the districts. Altogether, the authorities expressed strong appreciation for the dialogue and encouraged frequent meetings of this nature—promising to support the implementation process for reparations in the *Ongwen* case and to make themselves available for further consultations as needed and requested by the Court.



Marc Dubuisson, Director, Division of Judicial Services
on behalf of
Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar

Dated this 12 May 2025

At The Hague, The Netherlands

suffering should be recognised and addressed, there is a level of tension created by how no other LRA attacks on schools were included in the charges of the *Kony* case.