

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

No.: ICC-No. ICC-01/14-01/18

Date: 04 August 2025

THE APPEALS CHAMBER

Before: Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa, Presiding Judge
Judge Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza
Judge Gocha Lordkipanidze
Judge Kimberly Prost
Judge Erdenebalsuren Damdin

SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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

Public Document

Request for Amendment of Mr Ngaïssona's Contact Restrictions

Source: Defence of Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona

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

D30

D29

☒ Legal Representatives of the Victims

V44

V45

☐ 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

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M. Zavala Giler, Osvaldo

☐ Counsel Support Section

☐ Victims and Witnesses Unit

☐ Detention Section

☐ Victims Participation and
Reparations Section

☐ Other

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 25 July 2025, the Defence for Mr. Alfred Yekatom ('Yekatom Defence') filed an "Urgent Request for Amendment of Mr. Yekatom's Contact Restrictions" ('the Yekatom Amendment Request'),¹ requesting the Appeals Chamber to urgently amend the current restrictions on his non-privileged communications. Specifically, the Yekatom Defence requests that Mr. Yekatom be permitted to discuss public aspects of his case following the delivery of the Judgment.
2. On 30 July 2025, the Appeals Chamber invited the Office of the Prosecutor ('Prosecution') and the Registry to provide observations on the Yekatom Amendment Request by 22 August 2025.²
3. On the 1 August 2025, the Prosecution filed its observations on the Yekatom Amendment Request, where it did not oppose the sought variation of Mr. Yekatom's contact restrictions.
4. The Defence for Mr. Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona ('the Defence') hereby requests that the same variation on contact restrictions be applied to Mr Ngaïssona, and concurs with all the arguments provided in the Yekatom Amendment Request.
5. The current procedural posture of the case warrants the requested amendment. On 24 July 2025, Trial Chamber V rendered its Judgment, finding both Mr. Yekatom and Mr. Ngaïssona guilty of most of the charges confirmed against them, and sentencing them to 15 and 12 years of imprisonment, respectively. The Judgment was delivered publicly, and a public version has been notified. In light of this significant procedural development, there is no longer a reasonable basis to maintain restrictions that prevent Mr. Ngaïssona from discussing the outcome of

¹ ICC-01/14-01/18-2788.

² ICC-01/14-01/18-2792.

the proceedings with his family and close contacts, provided that no confidential information is disclosed.

6. Prohibiting Mr. Ngaïssona from engaging in such discussions imposes a disproportionate restriction on his right to private and family life. As noted in the Yekatom Amendment Request, the Judgment has received wide coverage in both international and local media. It was broadcast publicly and remains accessible via the Court's official channels. Given this visibility and the tremendous impact it will have on his family life, it is only natural that Mr. Ngaïssona's non-privileged contacts inquire about the content of the Judgment, his sentence, or his intentions moving forward. Maintaining the restrictions will negatively affect Mr. Ngaïssona's well-being during the next phase of proceedings, for which personal support and contextual input from family and community will be important.
7. Mr Ngaïssona undertakes, *mutatis mutandis*, to comply with the same conditions set out in the Yekatom Amendment Request; namely: (i) not to discuss or reveal any confidential information related to the case and (ii) not to discuss or reveal the identity of any witnesses, by name or pseudonym, regardless of whether or not they benefited from protective measures.

II. RELIEF SOUGHT

8. For the foregoing reasons, the Defence respectfully requests the Appeals Chamber to:

MODIFY the current restrictions on communications imposed on Mr. Ngaïssona to allow him to discuss the Judgment with his non-privileged contacts, provided that no confidential information is mentioned or revealed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'N' or 'G' followed by a horizontal stroke.

Mr Knoop, Lead Counsel for Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona

Dated this 4 August 2025

At The Hague, the Netherlands