

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

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

Date: 14 August 2025

THE APPEALS CHAMBER

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

SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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

Public

**Registry's Observations on measures taken to prioritize the draft translation
of essential parts of the *Yekatom and Ngaïssona* Judgment**

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

D29

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☒ 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

Registrar

M. Zavala Giler, Osvaldo

☐ Counsel Support Section

☐ Victims and Witnesses Section

☐ Detention Section

☐ Victims Participation and
Reparations Section

☐ Other

I. Introduction

1. On 1 August 2025, the Appeals Chamber (“Chamber”) ordered the Language Services Section of the Registry (“LSS”) to inform it, “by 16:00 on Thursday 28 August 2025 [...] of the estimated time to deliver the translated sections of the ‘Judgment’ (ICC-01/14-01/18-2784-Conf), identified as essential by the Defence for Mr Yekatom and the Defence for Mr Ngaïssona”.¹ LSS hereby provides the information requested by the Chamber regarding the measures taken to prioritize the translation into French of the relevant parts of the trial judgment.

2. On 25 July 2025, the Counsel Support Section forwarded to LSS an email in which the Defence for Mr Yekatom set out a first list of sections of the Judgment it deemed most important “to ensure Mr Yekatom’s ability to meaningfully engage with his defence team in potential appeal discussions”.² On 4 August 2025, the Defence for Mr Yekatom sent directly to LSS an amended list of its priorities, “all of which are essential for Mr Yekatom to understand”.³

3. On 25 July 2025, the Defence for Mr Ngaïssona wrote to LSS Chief, indicating that while its review of the Judgment was still ongoing, it wished to request, as a first priority, the draft translation into French of a section of the Judgment.⁴ On 12 August 2025, it addressed a further communication to the Acting Head of LSS French Translation Unit to request the prioritization of additional sections, “listed in order of importance”.⁵

4. In subsequent exchanges, both defence teams confirmed to LSS their willingness to receive, on a rolling basis, draft (unrevised) translations into French where only

¹ Appeals Chamber, Decision on requests for extension of time limits for notices of appeal and appeal briefs against the decision of Trial Chamber V entitled “Judgment”, ICC-01-14-01/18-2794, 1 August 2025, p. 3.

² Email from CSS to LSS, dated 25 July 2025 at 11:52, forwarding an email received from Mr Yekatom’s Defence team the same day at 10:56.

³ Email from Mr Yekatom’s Defence team to the Acting Head of the French Translation Unit, dated 4 August 2025 at 11:31.

⁴ Email from Mr Ngaïssona’s Defence team to the Chief of LSS, dated 25 July 2025 at 18:09.

⁵ Email from Mr Ngaïssona’s Defence team to the Acting Head of the French Translation Unit, dated 12 August 2025 at 10:07.

the body of the text would be translated, while the footnotes would remain in English.

II. Sections identified as essential

5. The following table presents the initial and amended priorities identified by the Defence for Mr Yekatom and the Defence for Mr Ngaïssona, with — between brackets and in bold characters —, an indication of the wordcount and number of standard pages⁶ of the requested portions of text, without footnotes.

Initial priorities Mr Yekatom	Amended priorities Mr Yekatom	Initial priorities Mr Ngaïssona	Amended priorities Mr Ngaïssona
Title II – FINDINGS OF FACT			
Section II. A. 4 and 5 (658) Section II. B (1,154) Section II. D and E (3,264)	Section II.A: paras. 27-68 (2,574) Section II.B: paras. 69-80 (1,154) Section II.C: paras. 81-88 (489) Section II.D: paras 89-112 (2,282) Section II.E: paras 113-125 (982)		
Wordcount without footnotes: 5,076 (17 p.)	Wordcount without footnotes: 7,481 (24 p.)		
Title III.– EVIDENTIARY CONSIDERATIONS			
From Section III.B.2: paras 219-222 paras 223-232 paras 256-265 paras 266-273 paras 274-285 paras 297-307 paras 322-329 paras 330-337 paras 355-364 paras 374-389 paras 400-402 paras 441-445	From Section III.B.2: paras 219-222 (311) paras 223-232 (743) paras 256-265 (484) paras 266-273 (606) paras 274-285 (980) paras 297-307 (1,047) paras 322-329 (553) paras 330-337 (826) paras 355-364 (884) paras 374-389 (1,100) paras 400-402 (299) paras 441-445 (423)		

⁶ For translation management purposes, a standard page has a wordcount of 300 words. In this document, “page” or “p.” means a standard page of 300 words of text without counting the footnotes.

Title V – LEGAL CHARACTERISATION			
Section V. A. 2 (1,310)			
Section V. B. 3 (46,004)	From Section V.B.3: paras. 4007-4026 (2,055) Section V.B.3, paras. 4233-4277 (5,111) Section V.B.3, paras. 4344-4369 (2,618)		
Wordcount without footnotes: 47,314 (158 p.)	Total wordcount without footnotes: 9,784 (33 p.)		
Title VI – SENTENCE			
	Section VI.B.2: paras. 4416-4439 (2,098)		pp. 1505-1513: paras. 4416-4439 (2,098)
Section VI. B. 3 (20,907).	Section VI.B.3: paras 4440-4666 (20,907)		pp. 1587-1640: paras. 4667-4845 (13,198)
Total wordcount without footnotes: 20,907 (70 p.)	Total wordcount without footnotes: 23,005 (77 p.)		Total wordcount without footnotes: 15,296 (51 p.)
Title VII – VERDICT			
Entire section (2,628, 9 p.)	Entire section (2,628, 9 p.)		pp. 1644-1649 (1,563, 5 p.)

6. To summarize, the Defence for Mr Yekatom initially identified a total of 1,112 pages, and then extended it to a total of 1,130 pages, deeming them essential “to ensure Mr Yekatom’s ability to meaningfully engage with his Defence team in potential appeal discussions”. The Defence for Mr Ngaïssona initially identified a total of 105 pages as essential “for Mr Ngaïssona to meaningfully participate in preparing an appeal in the event his Defence team does lodge one”, later extending this to a total of 585 pages, the vast majority of which is extracted from Title IV of

the Judgment (Factual Findings and Evidentiary Analysis). In addition, it gave a clear order in which its priorities should be tackled. Finally, it also mentioned other sections whose translation would be desirable, though not with the same level of urgency (in particular pages 68-161 and 226-235).

7. Because the Defence for Mr Yekatom did not provide indications as to what sections, among the 1,130 pages it deemed essential, should be translated first, LSS decided to start, as its immediate priority, with the draft translation of the portions of text initially requested by both defence teams, namely paragraphs 752 to 950. Since the Defence for Mr Ngaïssona now requests new parts that were also requested by the Defence for Mr Yekatom, LSS will again prioritise the common parts, until further information from the Parties or instructions from the Chamber.

III. Available resources and expected timelines for delivery of draft translations on a rolling basis

8. The current staffing of LSS French Translation Unit is as follows: one acting head, sharing their time between management and revision tasks; two revisers; and seven translators. However, a number of staff members are currently on annual leave, but most will be back by early September 2025, when peak output can be achieved.

9. The expected output from each translator is 1,500 words (approximately 5 pages) per day, or 7,500 words per week (approximately 25 pages). If LSS assigns four of its seven translators to work exclusively on the draft translation of the Judgment, the expected volume that can be delivered on a rolling basis is a maximum of 100 pages per week, depending on the complexity of the text and the need to consult evidence and other references in the original language.

10. At a maximum output of 100 pages per week, LSS estimates that it will require 11 to 12 weeks to translate all the sections identified as essential by the Defence for Mr Yekatom. LSS would therefore appreciate it if the Defence for Mr Yekatom

could set priorities within its identified priorities. An indication of the order in which the various portions should be translated would thus be most useful.

11. As of the date of filing, LSS is ready to deliver the draft translation of paragraphs 752 to 988 of the Judgment, which are relevant to both Defence teams.



Marc Dubuisson, Director, Division of Judicial Services,

on behalf of
Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar

Dated this 14 August 2025

At The Hague, Netherlands