

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

**No.: ICC-01/14-01/21
Date: 19 September 2025**

TRIAL CHAMBER VI

Before: Judge Miatta Maria Samba, Presiding Judge
Judge María del Socorro Flores Liera
Judge Sergio Gerardo Ugalde Godínez
Judge Keebong Paek, Alternate Judge

**SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC II
IN THE CASE OF
*THE PROSECUTOR v. MAHAMAT SAID ABDEL KANI***

Public

Further Directions in Relation to the Closing Briefs

Directions 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

☐ 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

Mr Osvaldo Zavala Giler

☐ Counsel Support Section

☐ Victims and Witnesses Unit

☐ Detention Section

☐ Victims Participation and Reparations
Section

☒ Other
Language Services Section

TRIAL CHAMBER VI of the International Criminal Court, in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Mahamat Said Abdel Kani*, having regard to article 64(2) of the Rome Statute (the ‘Statute’), regulations 35(2) and 37(2) of the Regulations of the Court (the ‘Regulations’) issues these ‘Further Directions in Relation to the Closing Briefs’.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

1. On 5 March 2025, the Chamber issued the Fourth Directions on the Conduct of Proceedings in which it gave, *inter alia*, a number of directions in relation to the Closing Briefs.¹

2. On 9 September 2025, the Chamber declared the evidentiary phase of the proceedings closed and directed the Office of the Prosecutor (the ‘Prosecution’) and Common Legal Representative of Victims (the ‘CLRV’) to file their Closing Briefs on 23 September 2025.²

3. On 17 September 2025, the Prosecution and Defence submitted a joint request for extension of pages for their Closing Briefs, specifically, the Parties request an extension from 120 to 200 pages.³ In addition, the Prosecution requests that the Chamber extend the deadline for the filing of its Closing Brief to 29 September 2025.⁴

4. On the same day, the CLRV filed submissions, indicating that she did not oppose the Parties’ requests, and requesting that, should additional time be granted to the Prosecution, an equivalent extension be applied to the deadline for her Closing Brief.⁵

II. SUBMISSIONS

5. In support of their request for an extension of page limit, the Parties make reference to previous cases at the Court, noting that it appears that in no other case did

¹ Fourth Directions on the Conduct of Proceedings, 5 March 2025, [ICC-01/14-01/21-932](#).

² Declaration on the Closure of the Presentation of Evidence, 9 September 2025, [ICC-01/14-01/21-1025](#).

³ Email from the Parties to the Chamber, dated 17 September 2025, at 14:03.

⁴ Email from the Parties to the Chamber, dated 17 September 2025, at 14:03.

⁵ Email from the CLRV to the Chamber, dated 17 September 2025, at 14:29.

the parties have fewer than 200 pages for their closing briefs. The Parties submit that it is necessary to have the requested number of pages in order to present their position as fully as possible, with precise references to the necessary items of evidence. In this regard, the Parties make reference to the Fourth Directions on the Conduct of Proceedings where the Chamber informed the Parties that ‘if they wish the Chamber to consider a particular item of evidence, they must reference it specifically (where relevant, identify the pertinent passage(s) within the item) and provide a short explanation of the point or points they wish to raise in relation to such item if this is not already clear from the context.’⁶ The Parties aver that if they do not have sufficient pages then they will be placed in a situation where they would not be able to use all the relevant evidence since the reference to that evidence takes up space.

6. Last, the Parties also make reference to the fact that the Chamber has directed them to make reference to both the English and French versions of any transcripts and statements in their Closing Briefs,⁷ which the Parties submit mechanically increases the number of pages.

7. In respect of the Prosecution’s request for extension of time, the Prosecution requests an additional week to file a documented, argued and precise brief within the limit of the requested pages, noting that the Defence does not oppose the Prosecution’s request.

III. ANALYSIS

A. Determination on the Requests

8. At the outset, the Chamber regrets the fact that the Parties elected to submit these requests less than a week before the Prosecution’s Closing Brief is due, effectively rendering an extension a *fait accompli*. The Chamber recalls that the Parties have been on notice since March 2025 regarding the modalities and overall timeline for the Closing Briefs and considers that the Parties should have made any request for an extension of page limit or time much earlier.

⁶ Fourth Directions on the Conduct of Proceedings, 5 March 2025, [ICC-01/14-01/21-932](#), para. 29.

⁷ Fourth Directions on the Conduct of Proceedings, 5 March 2025, [ICC-01/14-01/21-932](#), para. 26.

9. Turning to the Parties' request for an extension of pages, the Chamber recalls that pursuant to regulation 37(2) of the Regulations, it may, at the request of a participant, extend the page limit. The Chamber has taken note of the submissions by the Parties and finds that a limited extension is warranted in the present circumstances. In this regard, the Chamber takes note of the fact that it has directed the Parties to make reference to particular items of evidence if they wish the Chamber to consider them. The Chamber finds that in order to ensure that its directions are properly implemented a limited extension of pages is necessary. In this regard, the Chamber finds that it is in the interest of the Parties, Participants and the Chamber to have Closing Briefs which are comprehensive and accurate to the greatest extent possible. Accordingly, in these circumstances, the Chamber extends the page limit for the Parties' Closing Briefs to no more than 180 pages.

10. The Chamber notes that, notwithstanding that a limited extension has been granted, the Parties should ensure that their Closing Briefs are succinct, focussing on the key aspects of their respective cases, and avoiding repetition and irrelevant arguments.

11. Turning to the Prosecution's request for an extension of time for the filing of its Closing Brief, the Chamber recalls that regulation 35(2) of the Regulations provides that the Chamber may extend a time limit if good cause has been shown. The Chamber notes Prosecution's case closed in November 2024⁸ and it has been on notice for a significant period of time that its Closing Brief would be due two weeks after the closure of the evidentiary phase of the case.⁹ Furthermore, the Chamber recalls that the Defence's deadline for its Closing Brief is dependent on the filing of the Prosecution's Closing Brief.¹⁰ In this regard, the Chamber recalls its obligation to ensure that the trial is expeditious and considers that there is a need to avoid unnecessary delays.

⁸ Notification of the Conclusion of the Prosecution's Presentation of Evidence, 15 November 2024, [ICC-01/14-01/21-895](#).

⁹ Fourth Directions on the Conduct of Proceedings, 5 March 2025, [ICC-01/14-01/21-932](#), para. 21.

¹⁰ Fourth Directions on the Conduct of Proceedings, 5 March 2025, [ICC-01/14-01/21-932](#), para. 22.

12. Based on the foregoing, the Chamber finds that the Prosecution has not shown good cause justifying an additional week extension. Nevertheless, in light of the fact that the Chamber has granted a limited page extension, it will grant the Prosecution a limited extension of time to 25 September 2025. The Chamber grants the same extension to the CLRV and orders her to file her Closing Brief on 25 September 2025.

B. Further Directions

13. The Chamber recalls that the Defence's Closing Brief is due two weeks after it receives a non-revised French translation of the Prosecution's Closing Brief.¹¹ At the outset, the Chamber recalls that it held that Mr Said is not entitled to receive a formal translation of the Closing Brief, but a non-revised translation may be beneficial.¹² In this regard, the Chamber notes that the translation is for the benefit of Mr Said solely and not his defence team,¹³ and, in any event, recalls that Mr Said has been present for all evidentiary hearings and been able to provide ongoing instructions to his counsel. Accordingly, the Chamber puts the Defence on notice that it will not entertain any request for an extension of time for the filing of the Defence's Closing Brief after receipt of the non-revised translation of the Prosecution's Closing Brief.

14. Connected with the foregoing, the Chamber is conscious that there is a need to ensure that the non-revised translation is received as soon as possible. Accordingly, in order to avoid delays, the Chamber orders the Prosecution to immediately start sending any parts of its Closing Brief to the Registry that have already been finalised for translation, before it is formally filed on the record. The Chamber accepts that there may be edits needed to the portions sent to the Registry before the Prosecution's deadline and trusts that the Prosecution will liaise with the Registry to resolve, as necessary.

15. The Defence is ordered, as soon as the Prosecution's Closing Brief is filed, to identify the relevant parts of the Closing Brief which should be prioritised, and liaise

¹¹ Fourth Directions on the Conduct of Proceedings, 5 March 2025, [ICC-01/14-01/21-932](#), para. 22.

¹² Fourth Directions on the Conduct of Proceedings, 5 March 2025, [ICC-01/14-01/21-932](#), para. 23.

¹³ See Decision on Defence Request for Suspension of Deadline for Response to the Trial Brief and Postponement of Commencement of Trial pending Translation of Trial Brief, 14 July 2022, [ICC-01/14-01/21-408](#), paras 14-15.

with the Registry and Prosecution. In this regard, the Chamber notes that any legal sections of the Prosecution's Closing Brief will be less relevant for the accused.

16. The Registry is ordered to inform the Chamber, by email, as to how long it will take to produce a non-revised French translation of the Prosecution's Closing Brief as soon as possible after the latter is filed.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE CHAMBER HEREBY

GRANTS the Parties' and Participants' Request in part;

EXTENDS the page limit for the Prosecution's and Defence's Closing Briefs to no more than 180 pages;

ORDERS the Prosecution and CLRV to file their Closing Briefs no later than 25 September 2025;

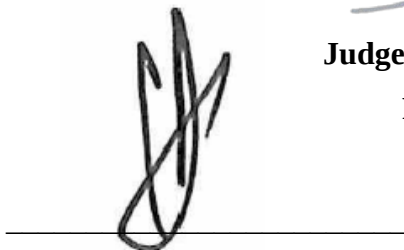
ORDERS the Registry to inform the Chamber as to how long it will take to produce a non-revised French translation of the Prosecution's Closing Brief in line with paragraph 16 above;

ORDERS the Prosecution to immediately start sending parts of its Closing Brief to the Registry for translation, in line with paragraph 14 above; and

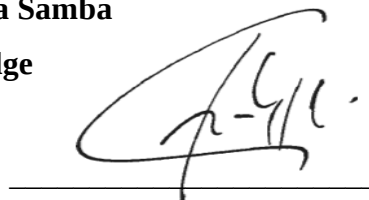
ORDERS the Defence to identify the parts of the Prosecution's Closing Brief which should be prioritised in line with paragraph 15 above.



Judge Miatta Maria Samba
Presiding Judge



Judge María del Socorro Flores Liera



Judge Sergio Gerardo Ugalde Godínez

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

Dated 19 September 2025

At The Hague, The Netherlands