

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

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

Date: 23 October 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 II

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

Public

Public redacted version of “Registry’s Observations pursuant to the Appeals Chamber’s “Order in relation to the ‘Yekatom Defence Request for extension of time to file the Appeal Brief’ ”, dated 8 October 2025 (ICC-01/14-01/18-2822-Conf)”, 13 October 2025, ICC-01/14-01/18-2825-Conf

Source: Registry

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M. Zavala Giler, Osvaldo

☐ Counsel Support Section

☐ Victims and Witnesses Section

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I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the Appeals Chamber's order in relation to the "Yekatom Defence Request for extension of time to file the Appeal Brief", dated 8 October 2025¹ ("Order"), the Registry hereby submits observations on (1) the status of the requested French translations of the "Judgment" (ICC-01/14-01/18-2784-Red), including an updated timetable for the delivery of translations of sections identified as essential by the Defence teams for Mr Yekatom and Mr Ngaïssona respectively; and (2) [REDACTED].

II. Procedural Background

1. On 25 July 2025, the Registry Counsel Support Section ("CSS") forwarded to the Language Services Section of the Registry ("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
2. On the same day, 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.³
5. On 1 August 2025, the Appeals Chamber ("Chamber") ordered 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".⁴

¹ Appeals Chamber, Order in relation to the "Yekatom Defence Request for extension of time to file the Appeal Brief", 8 October 2025, ICC-01/14-01/18-2822-Conf.

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 Ngaïssona's Defence team to the Chief of LSS, dated 25 July 2025 at 18:09.

⁴ 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.

6. 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”.⁵
7. On 12 August 2025, it addressed a further communication to the Acting Head of the LSS French Translation Unit to request the prioritization of additional sections, “listed in order of importance”.⁶ In subsequent exchanges, both Defence teams confirmed to LSS their willingness to receive, on a rolling basis, draft (unrevised) translations into French where only the body of the text would be translated, while the footnotes would remain in English.
8. On 14 August 2025, the Registry filed its observations on measures taken to prioritize the draft translation of essential parts of the Judgment.⁷ In this filing, it presented the priorities identified by the Defence team for Mr Yekatom and the Defence team for Mr Ngaïssona, respectively, and recalled that a draft translation of the main text only (without footnotes) would be provided.⁸ It was further underscored that as the Defence for Mr Yekatom had not specified in which order it would like to receive the parts it had identified as priorities, LSS would prioritize those parts of the Judgment requested by both Defence teams.⁹
9. On 18 August 2025, the Defence for Mr Yekatom filed a response to the Registry’s Observations,¹⁰ specifying its “First-Level Priority Sections” under “Title III. – EVIDENTIARY CONSIDERATIONS” and “Title IV. – FACTUAL FINDINGS AND EVIDENTIARY ANALYSIS”¹¹ and indicating that its “previously identified sections for priority translation within Sections II, V, and

⁵ Email from Mr Yekatom’s Defence team to the Acting Head of the French Translation Unit, dated 4 August 2025 at 11:31.

⁶ Email from Mr Ngaïssona’s Defence team to the Acting Head of the French Translation Unit, dated 12 August 2025 at 10:07.

⁷ Registry’s Observations on measures taken to prioritize the draft translation of essential parts of the *Yekatom and Ngaïssona* Judgment, ICC-01/14-01/18-2799 (“Registry’s Observations”), 14 August 2025.

⁸ Registry’s Observations, para. 5 and 6.

⁹ Registry’s Observations, para. 7.

¹⁰ Yekatom Defence Response to ‘Registry’s Observations on measures taken to prioritize the draft translation of essential parts of the *Yekatom and Ngaïssona* Judgment’ (ICC-01/14-01/18-2799), ICC-01/14-01/18-2800 (“Yekatom Defence Response”), 18 August 2025.

¹¹ Yekatom Defence Response, para. 6.

VI of the Judgment remain unchanged (in other words, the Defence [for Mr Yekatom] requests that they be treated as First-Level Priority Sections)."¹²

10. On 30 September 2025, the Defence for Mr Yekatom filed a request for extension of time until 2 February 2026 to file its appeal brief.¹³

11. On 6 October 2025, the Defence for Mr Ngaïssona submitted its “ ‘Ngaïssona Defence Response to the Yekatom Defence’s ‘Request for extension of time to file the Appeal Brief’, ICC-01/14-01/18-2817-Conf’ ”.¹⁴

12. On 8 October 2025, the Chamber ordered the Registry to file, by Monday 13 October 2025, submissions on: “1. [t]he status of the requested French translations of the ‘Judgment’, including an updated timetable for the delivery of translations of sections identified as essential by the Defence Teams”; and “2. [REDACTED].”¹⁵

III. Classification

13. In accordance with regulation 23*bis*(2) of the Regulations of the Court, the present submissions are classified as confidential as they refer to the Order which bears the same classification level.

IV. Submissions

1. Status of the requested French translations

14. The sections identified as essential by the Defence Teams amount to 1,235 standard pages¹⁶ out of the 1561 standard pages of the Judgment,

¹² Yekatom Defence Response, para. 7.

¹³ Yekatom Defence Request for extension of time to file Appeal Brief, ICC-01/14-01/18-2817-Conf, 30 September 2025.

¹⁴ Ngaïssona Defence Response to the Yekatom Defence’s ‘Request for extension of time to file the Appeal Brief’, ICC-01/14-01/18-2817-Conf”, dated 6 October 2025, ICC-01/14-01/18-2819-Conf (A3).

¹⁵ Appeals Chamber, Order in relation to the “Yekatom Defence Request for extension of time to file the Appeal Brief, ICC-01/14-01/18-2822-Conf, 8 October 2025, page 3.

¹⁶ 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.

excluding footnotes. As of 10 October 2025, LSS had delivered 516 translated pages out of the 1,235 requested, leaving 719 standard pages still pending delivery.

15. LSS initially focused on translating portions common to both Defence Teams, as no clear sequencing instructions had been provided. Subsequently, the Defence for Mr Yekatom requested that the portions it identified as essential be delivered in the order in which they appear in the Judgment, while the Defence for Mr Ngaïssona established another order of priority for its own identified portions. Since these respective priorities rarely overlapped, LSS opted to tackle concurrently the priorities set by both Defence teams, thus translating and delivering on a rolling basis portions defined by the Defence for Mr Yekatom as “First-Level Priorities”, together with portions following the specific order of priority given by the Defence for Mr Ngaïssona.
16. While LSS continues to produce the draft translations, it has been receiving competing judicial and other translation requests. To facilitate progress on this specific task, certain judicial translation work was outsourced; however, not all translations can be outsourced and LSS must continue to accommodate other requests. Assuming a sustained output of up to 100 pages per week,¹⁷ it is estimated that the draft translations of the remaining 719 standard pages could be delivered on a rolling basis within approximately seven to nine weeks from 13 October 2025. This estimate reflects the current workload of the French translation team but does not account for any urgent requests that may arise subsequently. A more precise timeline can be provided once approximately half of the estimated period has elapsed.

2. [REDACTED]

(i) [REDACTED]

¹⁷ Registry’s Observations, para. 10.

17. [REDACTED].

18. [REDACTED],¹⁸ [REDACTED].

(ii) [REDACTED]

19. [REDACTED].

20. [REDACTED].

21. [REDACTED].

22. [REDACTED].



Marc Dubuisson, Director, Division of Judicial Services,

on behalf of
Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar

Dated this 23 October 2025

At The Hague, Netherlands

¹⁸ [REDACTED].