

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: **English**

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

Date: **07 November 2025**

THE APPEALS CHAMBER

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

**SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC II
IN THE CASE OF *THE PROSECUTOR v.*
*ALFRED ROMBHOT YEKATOM & PATRICE-EDOUARD NGAÏSSONA***

Confidential

**Yekatom Defence Response to the Ngaïssona Defence 'Urgent Request for
Extension of Time to File the Appeal Brief pursuant to Regulation 35(2) of
the Regulation of the Court' (ICC-01/14-01/18-2837)**

Source: Defence for Mr. Alfred Rombhot Yekatom

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

☐ 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

1. As Lead Counsel for Mr. Alfred Yekatom, I am compelled to inform the Appeals Chamber that, despite the team's unwavering diligence, the task imposed has become practically and responsibly unsustainable, rendering it impossible to complete a fully substantiated appeal brief by 25 November 2025; for these reasons, the Yekatom Defence must support and join the *Ngaïssona Defence's Urgent Request for an Extension of Time to File the Appeal Brief* ("Ngaïssona Request"),¹ pursuant to Regulation 35(2) of the Regulations of the Court.
2. While fully mindful of the Appeals Chamber's Decision of 20 October 2025 denying the Yekatom Defence's own request for an extension,² I have exceptionally paused the drafting to convey to the Appeals Chamber, through this response, the importance and urgency of the situation faced by the Defence and the unbearable strain under which the team is currently working. It has become nearly impossible to complete the task within the current timeframe, while I cannot, in good conscience, ask members of the team to further increase their workload and working hours.
3. Immediately upon issuance of the Judgment, and notwithstanding the judicial summer recess, the Yekatom Defence began its review without interruption. A meticulous and organised internal work structure was put in place, and the team has since worked relentlessly — through evenings, weekends, and late into the night, routinely after 22:00 and often until 02:00 — to maintain steady progress toward completing the appeal brief.
4. Nevertheless, the scope of the Judgment and the interwoven evidentiary references render the current deadline of 25 November 2025 impossible to meet without compromising the completeness, accuracy, and quality of the appeal brief, and therefore the effective exercise of Mr. Yekatom's rights.

¹ ICC-01/14-01/18-2837.

² ICC-01/14-01/18-2828.

5. As Lead Counsel, I bear a duty of care under the Code of Professional Conduct, towards all members of the Defence team, as well as a duty to the Court and the Appeals Chamber to respect its orders, the applicable procedure, and established deadlines. Equally, I owe my client his best interests and a zealous and diligent defence.
6. I must, however, express deep concern regarding the extremely demanding working hours currently required of the Defence team, which raise genuine risks to health and well-being. It has become impossible ethically to reconcile and balance the obligation to ensure a humane and sustainable working environment — as required morally and by the Code of Professional Conduct and the Administrative Instructions—with the expectation to produce, by 25 November, a comprehensive and substantiated appeal brief of the standard my client and this Appeals Chamber deserve and expect.
7. The Yekatom Defence has acted in good faith throughout these proceedings, has never sought unwarranted extensions, and has on several occasions opposed them to safeguard judicial economy and expeditiousness. This present position is taken only after exhausting all possible internal measures.
8. The Yekatom Defence therefore fully supports and joins the Ngaïssona Defence's request for an extension until 16 December 2025 — a modest and reasonable adjustment that would not prejudice any party or participant but would allow the Yekatom Defence team to file well-structured, substantiated appeal briefs that will meaningfully assist the Appeals Chamber in its review.

CLASSIFICATION

9. Given that this filing addresses internal working conditions, team management, and matters of a sensitive nature, the Yekatom Defence submits it under the classification Confidential. However, the Defence does not oppose its reclassification should the Appeals Chamber consider that a lesser level of confidentiality is appropriate.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED ON THIS 7 DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025



Me Mylène Dimitri
Lead Counsel for Mr. Yekatom

The Hague, the Netherlands