

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

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

Date: 12 November 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

**Registry's Observations further to the Appeals Chamber's 'Order in relation to the
 "Urgent Ngaïssona Defence Request for Extension of Time to File the Appeal
 Brief Pursuant to Regulation 35(2) of the Regulations of the Court"', ICC-01/14-
 01/18-2839, dated 11 November 2025**

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

D30

☒ 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

Mr Osvaldo Zavala Giler

☐ Counsel Support Section

☐ Victims and Witnesses Section

☐ Detention Section

☐ Victims Participation and
Reparations Section

☐ Other

I. Introduction

1. On 5 November 2025, the Defence for Mr Ngaïssona (“Defence”) filed its “Urgent Request for Extension of Time to File the Appeal Brief Pursuant to Regulation 35(2) of the Regulations of the Court” (“Request”), seeking “a brief variation of the current deadline for filing its appeal brief, from 25 November 2025 to 16 December 2025”.¹
2. On 11 November 2025, the Appeals Chamber (“Chamber”) issued an order instructing the Registrar to “file by 14h00 on Wednesday, 12 November 2025, submissions addressing: [...] submissions set out in the ‘Urgent Ngaïssona Defence Request for Extension of Time to File the Appeal Brief Pursuant to Regulation 35(2) of the Regulations of the Court’ (ICC-01/14-01/18-2837) [and the] status of the translation into French of the portions of the ‘Judgment’ (ICC-01/14-01/18-2784-Red) identified by the Defence Teams as essential” (“Order”).²
3. Pursuant to the Chamber’s order, the Registry hereby files the present observations to: (1) address the submissions made by the Defence regarding the efforts undertaken to provide draft translations of those portions of the Trial Judgement identified by the parties as essential; and (2) update the Chamber on the current status of this translation project.

II. Response to the Defence’s submissions

¹ Defence for Mr Ngaïssona, “Urgent Ngaïssona Defence Request for Extension of Time to File the Appeal Brief Pursuant to Regulation 35(2) of the Regulations of the Court, ICC-01/14-01/18-2837, 5 November 2025, para. 1 [emphasis in original].

² Appeals, Chamber, Order in relation to the “Urgent Ngaïssona Defence Request for Extension of Time to File the Appeal Brief Pursuant to Regulation 35(2) of the Regulations of the Court, ICC-01/14-01/18-2839, 11 November 2025.

4. In its Request, the Defence submits that “[t]he Registrar’s Observations of 13 October 2025 estimated that the remaining essential French translations of the Judgment could be delivered on a rolling basis within *seven to nine weeks*”,³ a projection that “formed part of the factual premise on which the Appeals Chamber’s 20 October 2025 Decision rested”.⁴ The Registry notes that the estimate provided in its observations of 13 October 2025 (“Registry’s First Observations”)⁵, namely, a period of seven to nine weeks, remains valid notwithstanding competing judicial and other demands that must be accommodated, as well as various system-related issues, which are being addressed and resolved with the support of the IT services.

5. The Defence further submits that “[a]s of the date of [the] Request, several essential sections of the Judgment remain untranslated, including those relating to the activities in the context of reconciliation (paras. 1853-1893), the findings on Nana-Mambéré and Mambéré-Kadéï (paras. 1989-1999), substantial portions of the Bangui attack narrative (paras. 2192-2406), and the entirety of the sentencing section (paras. 4667-4845). These untranslated portions correspond directly to issues forming part of the Defence’s appeal—particularly those concerning the contextual understanding of Mr Ngaïssona’s intent, the scope of the charged attacks, and the sentencing determinations. Their absence continues to prevent Mr Ngaïssona from reviewing and discussing with counsel findings that are central to his appeal”.⁶ The Registry recalls that both Defence teams identified which portions of the Judgment should be prioritised and in what order draft translations of the main text should be delivered. As indicated in the Registry’s First Observations, since “these orders of priorities seldom overlapped, LSS opted to tackle concurrently

³ Request, para. 13 [emphasis in original].

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ 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’, para. 10.

⁶ Request, para. 14.

the priorities set by both Defence teams”.⁷ During the course of the translation process, it became apparent that, in addition to the differing priorities, the overlapping portions deemed essential did not carry the same level of urgency for both teams. As a result, in certain instances, one team received extracts of lower priority before extracts of higher priority.

III. Current status and delivery of remaining portions

6. To date, the Language Services Section (“LSS”) has delivered 930.5 standard pages⁸ of draft translations, transmitted in eight batches as follows:

- 15 August 2025: 126 pages;
- 19 September 2025: 148 pages;
- 03 October 2025: 149 pages;
- 10 October 2025: 91 pages;
- 20 October 2025: 120 pages;
- 24 October 2025: 95 pages;
- 31 October 2025: 86 pages;
- 07 November 2025: 129 pages.

7. The Registry notes that several sections referred to by the Defence, namely paras. 1853-1893, paras. 1989-1999 and part of paras. 2192-2406 (paras. 2192-2327), were included in the batch delivered on 7 November 2025. As regards “the sentencing section (paras. 4667-4845)”,⁹ it has not yet been delivered but is listed as the tenth item out of twelve in the list of priorities provided to LSS, which were “listed in order of importance”.¹⁰

8. Approximately 288 pages remain to be translated in order to complete the draft translations of the portions identified by the Defence teams as priorities. The

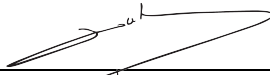
⁷ Registry’s First Observations, para. 10.

⁸ For translation management purposes, a standard page has a wordcount of 300 words. In this document, “page” means a standard page of 300 words of text without counting the footnotes.

⁹ Request, para. 14.

¹⁰ Email sent by the Defence for Mr Ngaïssona to the Language Services Section on 12 August 2025 at 10h17.

Registry's estimate provided in its Observations of 13 October 2025, namely, a timeframe of seven to nine weeks, thus remains valid, absent exceptional circumstances.



Marc Dubuisson, Director, Division of Judicial Services,

on behalf of
Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar

Dated this 12 November 2025
At The Hague, Netherlands