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Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

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Date: 2 February 2026

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before: Judge María del Socorro Flores Liera, Presiding Judge
Judge Kimberly Prost
Judge Nicolas Guillou

SITUATION IN UGANDA

IN THE CASE OF THE PROSECUTOR v. DOMINIC ONGWEN

Public

Additional Registry Submissions on the Time Extension Request

Source: Registry

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| ☐ 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 |
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REGISTRY

- | | |
|---|---|
| Registrar
M. Zavala Giler, Osvaldo | ☐ Counsel Support Section |
| ☐ Victims and Witnesses Unit | ☐ Detention Section |
| ☒ Victims Participation and Reparations Section | ☒ Public Information and Outreach Section |

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to the order issued on 19 December 2025 (“Order”) in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen* (“Case”), the Registry hereby provides additional observations on “realistic monthly numerical projections on the identification of new beneficiaries for reparations, the assessment of victims eligibility and priority categorization and the communication of assessment results with applicants and the [Trust Fund for Victims (“TFV”)]”, as well as procedural innovations that could further expediate the administrative eligibility process of the Victims Participation and Reparations Section (“VPRS”).¹

II. Procedural History

2. On 28 February 2024, Trial Chamber IX issued the Reparations Order instructing the VPRS to proceed with the administrative eligibility process for reparations in the Case within two years.²
3. On 30 October 2025, the Registry filed its request for an extension of time (“Registry Request”).³
4. On 19 December 2025, Trial Chamber II (“Chamber”) issued the Order, suspending the initial deadline of 2 March 2026 and ordering the Registry to provide additional submissions on the abovementioned topics by 31 January 2026.⁴

III. Applicable Law

5. The Registry makes this submission in accordance with the Order.

¹ Trial Chamber II, “Order for the Registry to submit further information on the VPRS’ request for extension of time”, 19 December 2025, ICC-02/04-01/15-2114, para. 13. The Order also provided instructions to the Registry on resumptions of action and national identity card applications filed with the Ugandan National Identification and Registration Authority (“NIRA”). *Ibid.*, paras. 17-20. The Registry will proceed according to these instructions also.

² Trial Chamber IX, “Reparations Order”, 28 February 2024, ICC-02/04-01/15-2074, para. 813.

³ Registry, “Registry Request for Extension of Time”, 30 October 2025, ICC-02/04-01/15-2111.

⁴ Order, paras. 10 and 13. As 31 January 2026 falls on a Saturday, the present filing has been filed on the first working day following this date, as per reg. 33(1)(d) of the Regulations of the Court.

IV. Submissions

A. Monthly numerical projections

6. The table below summarizes the VPRS' expected monthly capacity for identification,⁵ assessment and notification, along with a projected timeline required for each step to reach the Order's estimate of 49,772 eligible beneficiaries.⁶ The three steps are consecutive by design but run in parallel. Furthermore, these estimates encompass efficiency gains seen from innovations already in place and explained in the Registry Request (*e.g.*, household form, digital platform for form collection)⁷ and to be expected from ongoing initiatives to further optimize the process, as detailed below.

(unit: number of victims applying for reparations⁸)

	Completed	Remaining	Monthly processing capacity	Projected timeline for completion
Identification	8,300 ⁹	41,472	1,290	2.7 years
Assessment	4,400 ¹⁰	45,372	840	4.5 years
Notification	12	49,760	640	6.5 years

⁵ Identification encompasses the steps of locating potential beneficiaries, meeting with the relevant victims in person, collecting their application forms and conducting an initial check for completeness. Monthly capacity for identification thus accounts for time needed to assist victims in completing applications (*i.e.*, number of forms collected per month, reported in Registry Request, para. 19) and to perform the initial review.

⁶ Reparations Order, para. 748. This target number has been used to calculate the number of victims remaining and the projected timeline for completion. However, the total number of potential beneficiaries that the VPRS identifies, assesses, and notifies will undoubtedly vary. Notably, the VPRS and the former common legal representatives of victims in the proceedings have faced challenges in locating some of the participating victims for the purpose of completing their applications, and the VPRS anticipates similar difficulties in reaching some of the victims applicants for notification of eligibility or ineligibility—especially thematic crime victims who tend to be more geographically dispersed, and participating victims for whom updated contact details could not be received from their former legal representatives. Moreover, a subset of applications will likely remain incomplete despite follow up efforts or result in negative eligibility determinations.

⁷ Registry Request, para. 13.

⁸ As detailed in para. 9, the figures are calculated based on there being an average of three members per household form, which is the average for forms collected so far.

⁹ Approximate total number of victims that have applied for reparations in the Case thus far. This includes: participating victims, victims previously identified that did not participate in the case, victims newly identified by the VPRS for whom the initial review for completeness has been finalized, and victims whose forms were submitted by external actors after the Reparations Order.

¹⁰ Approximate number of victims the VPRS assessed to be eligible for reparations thus far. This includes 3,973 that have been transmitted to the TFV. More victims have been assessed, but require further information or were assessed to be ineligible for reparations.

7. In comparison, without the recent and ongoing efficiency measures, identification, assessment and notification capacity would remain at the 2025 level of 900/month (identification), 480/month (assessment) and 380/month (notification), which would lead to even longer completion timelines.
8. The table above extrapolates in a steady linear line to the future in order to come to relevant completion timelines. It is expected that some procedural routines may over time shorten the discrepancy between assessment and notification—particularly since for newly identified potential beneficiaries, assessment and notification may go hand-in-hand, and IT developments and reallocation of resources will lead to a significant increase in monthly capacity. The projected notification timeline may thus turn out to closely match the assessment timeline, or lag by only a small margin.
9. The above estimates are contingent upon four key conditions: *(i)* forms from newly identified victims will predominantly be household forms, consisting of three household members on average;¹¹ *(ii)* the Section will maintain its current level of resources allocated to the Case;¹² *(iii)* there will be no major disruptions to the use of the IT tools already in place nor to the new ones that the Section is currently developing;¹³ and *(iv)* the quality and integrity of the process will not

¹¹ This first assumption is impacted by a number of contextual factors difficult to quantify at this stage. Some eligible victims will likely pass away while their applications are being processed, triggering additional processes for family members to resume action. As noted, not all victims identified are assessed to be eligible for reparations, increasing the total number of individuals that must be identified, assessed and notified to reach the target estimate. The current average of three persons per household form may also increase over time, as challenges that have prevented some family members from being part of household forms (*e.g.*, difficulty acquiring identity documents) get resolved with VPRS support. At this stage, however, it is difficult to anticipate the magnitude of any of the aforementioned contingencies.

¹² The current resources devoted to the case are divided as follows: *(i)* three Full Time Equivalent (“FTE”) based in Kampala, Uganda (Field Officer/Assistant), assisted by 27 field clerks tasked with identification and four field clerks tasked with notification; *(ii)* three FTE (Data Processing Assistant) for data registration; and *(iii)* 1.5 FTE (Assistant/Associate Legal Officer) for assessment. Resource allocation may be impacted by competing deadlines in other cases which may divert resources.

¹³ This third assumption requires continuous access to the VPRS’ core IT tools currently in use—namely, the internal database for victims (VAMS), the digital platform being used for form collection, and programs for document storage and transfer. While the VPRS is exploring possible alternatives, changes to the Court’s overall IT structure, if adopted, may have a notable impact on VPRS processing, requiring additional time for transitions and fine-tuning of new tools.

be otherwise compromised. An increased level of resources dedicated to the Case would also boost the processing capacity and thus reduce the timeline required for completion. Yet, with the *Ntaganda* reparation process in parallel and reparation proceedings in *Yekatom/Ngaïssona*, *Al Hassan* and *Abd-Al-Rahman* commencing in 2026, an increased capacity level does not appear realistic given the anticipated competing needs in these cases.¹⁴

B. Innovations and procedural amendments

a. Innovations

10. As mentioned, the VPRS has already implemented a number of innovations and continues to monitor and refine its processes to ensure that efficiency improves with time. Since the Registry Request was notified in October 2025, for instance, process optimization and the onboarding of an additional staff member have boosted the Section's assessment capacity. Further automation steps to improve data processing capacities are being incorporated in phases, with the next major update planned in mid-February 2026 and expected to take full effect in March 2026. Similarly, the process for form collection continues to be optimized, and internal feedback and targeted trainings for field intake have been improving the quality of applications received, thereby reducing the level of review and follow up required at the identification stage. Further capacity increases are anticipated with the addition of field personnel by spring 2026.
11. While efficiency gains from such routine updates will likely be smaller further along in the process, the VPRS is committed to a continued review of its procedures to identify additional areas where processing could be optimized and accelerated, and exploration of additional IT tools to further accelerate the pace and optimize data transfers from the field to HQ and from VPRS to the

¹⁴ *The Prosecutor v. Bosco Ntaganda, The Prosecutor v. Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona, The Prosecutor v. Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud and The Prosecutor v. Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman ("Ali Kushayb")*.

TFV. Whenever necessary, the VPRS will also review its strategies for reaching out to victims to ensure maximum efficiency.

12. Related to the above, and more generally in terms of innovation, the VPRS continues to coordinate closely with the TFV. The VPRS and the TFV, for instance, are working together to develop the feedback mechanism to ensure integrity in the process throughout both the administrative eligibility process and the implementation of reparations, and have been exploring ways to further streamline joint processes such as the adoption of shared IT tools and databases. The Registry also notes that the PIOS' outreach team continues to conduct outreach activities in support of the administrative eligibility process in close coordination and collaboration with VPRS as well as TFV and other relevant actors.

b. Proposed procedural amendments

13. In addition to the innovations in place and the continued fine-tuning, which mainly target procedural blockages and delays identified by the VPRS, procedural amendments could be envisaged to alter or simplify the overall design of the process. The Registry is cognisant that its projections as per the table above exceed substantially the timeline originally set in the Reparations Order. It is therefore eager to continually assess with its partners how the current identification-assessment-notification process could be further streamlined. Yet, certain minimum standards are presently part and parcel of the process, such as the individualized components required even for group-based intake; the need to carry out a legal determination (per individual) that the crime reported fits the confines of the conviction in the Case (which leads to a level of complexity in the intake form) as well as a priority assessment reflecting the current needs of each individual; and a vehicle to transfer the vetted dossiers to the TFV for implementation, alongside notifying the victims that have applied for reparations.

14. For the Chamber's suggestion to introduce "separate deadlines for identifying new potential beneficiaries of reparations and for completing the eligibility assessment process",¹⁵ the VPRS first observes that the different steps required for its administrative eligibility process naturally entail divergent timelines. Identification of potential beneficiaries necessarily precedes the processing and assessment of their forms and the subsequent notification of eligibility status. The amendment suggested by the Chamber may thus help maximize the number of forms collected that can be fully processed and acted upon, allowing more victims to take part in reparations. In the *Abd-Al Rahman* process, Trial Chamber I agreed for the Registry to collect victim applications up to a certain procedural juncture, and to continue to file the assessments of these forms in the succeeding procedural phase,¹⁶ effectively extending the Registry's time for submission of victims applications by more than a year while at the same time providing clear timelines for the overall process. A similar logic could be contemplated by the Chamber in setting deadlines in the current process, thus enabling the Registry to continue the assessment/notification process after the identification deadline has passed. If separate deadlines are adopted, the VPRS would recommend first setting the deadline for identification—to be followed by a second deadline for the remaining steps. Ideally, the latter deadline could be determined closer to the first one, based on the total number of forms collected by then and the Section's capacity to process these.¹⁷

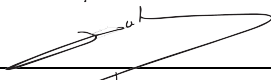
¹⁵ Order, para. 13.

¹⁶ *The Prosecutor v. Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman ("Ali Kushayb")*, Trial Chamber I, "Decision on the Second Registry's Request to Extend the Time Limit to Submit Victim Applications for Participation", 16 May 2023, ICC-02/05-01/20-943, para. 12 (a), (c).

¹⁷ The delayed setting of the second deadline would have the benefit of ensuring that all forms collected can be processed within the margin of the second timeline.

V. Conclusion

15. The Registry reiterates its request for an extension of time that allows a meaningful number of victims to benefit from reparations in the Case, as deemed appropriate by the Chamber.
16. Relatedly, the Chamber may wish to consider the adoption of separate deadlines as detailed in paragraph 14 above—a first one by which the VPRS would strive to finish its identification of potential beneficiaries as close as possible to the estimate of 49,772, followed by a second one for the remainder of the administrative eligibility process. The Registry will continue to engage in strategic discussions with the TFV and other relevant actors to deliberate on concrete options for further process acceleration and innovation, and proposes to report thereon in the coming months.



Marc Dubuisson, Director, Division of Judicial Services
on behalf of
Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar

Dated this 2 February 2026

At The Hague, The Netherlands