

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**

**International
Criminal
Court**



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No.: ICC-01/14-01/18
Date: 2 February 2026

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before: Judge Tomoko Akane, Single Judge

**SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC II
IN THE CASE OF
*THE PROSECUTOR v. ALFRED YEKATOM***

Public

**Public Redacted version of “Prosecution’s Request for Expedited
Consideration of its Application for Warrant of Arrest (ICC-01/14-18-US-
Exp) in respect of Alfred YEKATOM”, 5 November 2018,
ICC-01/14-01/18-9-US-Exp, 17 December 2018**

Source: Office of the Prosecutor

Document to be notified in accordance with regulation 31 of the *Regulations of the Court* to:

The Office of the Prosecutor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Counsel for the Defence

[REDACTED]

Legal Representatives of Victims

Legal Representatives of Applicants

Unrepresented Victims

**Unrepresented Applicants
(Participation/Reparation)**

States Representatives

Amicus Curiae

REGISTRY

Registrar

[REDACTED]

Counsel Support Section

Victims and Witnesses Unit

Detention Section

**Victims Participation and Reparations
Section**

Other

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Office of the Prosecutor (“Prosecution”) requests the Pre-Trial Chamber to (1) expeditiously consider the Prosecution’s pending Application for Warrant of Arrest in respect of **Alfred YEKATOM** (“**YEKATOM**”);¹ and (2) urgently issue an arrest warrant against **YEKATOM**.

2. **YEKATOM**’s arrest and detention by Central African Republic (“CAR”) authorities on 26 October 2018 for brandishing and firing a gun during parliamentary proceedings in CAR’s National Assembly, provides the Court with an opportunity to ensure his immediate arrest and transfer.

3. Although CAR authorities are unaware of the pending Application, they have informed the Prosecution that **YEKATOM**’s current detention poses a risk to the security and stability of the country,² indicating their willingness to facilitate **YEKATOM**’s immediate transfer to the Court, should a warrant be issued.

4. **YEKATOM**’s continued detention and future availability to the Court is not guaranteed. The Court’s urgent action is thus warranted and justified in the circumstances.

II. CONFIDENTIALITY

5. This request is filed under seal and *ex parte*, pursuant to regulation 23bis(1) of the Regulations of the Court as it relates to the Warrant of Arrest Application filed with the same status. The Prosecution requests that the Chamber issue its decision with the same classification. Public disclosure at this time may jeopardise

¹ ICC-01/14-18-US-Exp (“Application”).

² See also e.g. Council on Foreign Relations, [Violence in the Central African Republic](#) [Last accessed 05/11/2018].

the Prosecution's ongoing investigation, the conduct of any arrest, and may place witnesses at risk. The Prosecution will seek to unseal both this motion and any related decisions as soon as it becomes feasible.

III. SUBMISSIONS

A. The Chamber should urgently consider the Application

(a) YEKATOM may be provisionally released in CAR if the Court does not act promptly

6. YEKATOM is currently being held for, *inter alia*, attempted murder, assault, rebellion and illegal possession of a weapon³ for entering CAR's National Assembly building with a gun and firing it twice during the candidacy speech of Laurent Ngon BABA, the President Elect of the National Assembly.⁴ He is being detained under tight security at Camp de Roux in Bangui.

7. Executing an ICC arrest warrant against YEKATOM in these circumstances would be opportune and minimise the risks otherwise inherent to his arrest and transfer to the Court to face charges for alleged crimes of serious concern to the international community.

8. This opportunity is not open-ended. YEKATOM [REDACTED], risking his future appearance to stand trial there, as well as the possibility of successfully executing arrest warrant at a later stage to bring him to justice. This risk is underscored by YEKATOM's recent and reported past criminal acts, which

³ [Centrafrique: quatre chefs d'accusation contre un député pour utilisation d'arme à feu à l'Assemblée nationale](#), Bangui.com, 31 October 2018 [Last accessed 05/11/2018].

⁴ See e.g. [RCA: coups de feu à l'Assemblée lors de l'élection du nouveau président](#), RFI, 29 October 2018 [Last accessed 05/11/2018]; [Centrafrique : arrestation d'au moins 4 députés proches de Méckassoua](#), African Daily Post, 29 October 2018 [Last accessed 05/11/2018]; [Centrafrique : Quatre députés arrêtés après la perturbation par arme du vote du nouveau président](#), Centrafriqueactu, 29 October 2018 [Last accessed 05/11/2018]; [CAR MP fires into air in parliament](#), news24, 30 October 2018 [Last accessed 05/11/2018]; [Centrafrique: quatre chefs d'accusation contre un député pour utilisation d'arme à feu à l'Assemblée nationale](#), Bangui.com, 31 October 2018 [Last accessed 05/11/2018].

includes his alleged violent attack on law enforcement institutions with Anti-Balaka elements in 2014.⁵

9. Indeed, **YEKATOM** has been listed on the UN Security Council's list of sanctioned persons since 20 August 2015 for "engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR, including acts that threaten or violate transitional agreements, or that threaten or impede the political transition process, including a transition toward free and fair democratic elections, or that fuel violence."⁶

10. The Court should thus urgently seize the opportunity to seek **YEKATOM**'s arrest and transfer while he remains in detention.

(b) CAR authorities may not be able to retain custody over YEKATOM indefinitely

11. The CAR authorities' [REDACTED] concerns regarding **YEKATOM**'s arrest and detention are serious, and suggest there may be [REDACTED]. It would appear however, that CAR is presently able to ensure **YEKATOM**'s immediate transfer to the Court on request.

(c) YEKATOM's arrest and transfer now is the safest and most guaranteed course

12. Executing **YEKATOM**'s arrest now, while he remains in detention, eliminates or minimises many serious risks associated with arresting a person in **YEKATOM**'s position: **YEKATOM**'s recent and past conduct demonstrate his support among the Anti-Balaka and armed groups, which present a serious and ongoing danger to public security in CAR.

⁵ See e.g. CAR-OTP-2075-1516. See also Application, paras. 349, 351.

⁶ CAR-OTP-2015-0782.

13. **YEKATOM**'s immediate arrest by the Court would deprive him of access to his support network. It is the safest course to pursue [REDACTED] as concerns the eventual execution of an ICC warrant on CAR territory.

14. Moreover, if **YEKATOM** were to be released or escape from detention in CAR, it would be very hard (potentially impossible) to execute a warrant in the future. Given the serious concerns expressed by CAR authorities it is necessary and urgent to secure **YEKATOM**'s arrest sooner than later, (and preferably under articles 58(5) and 92) when his whereabouts are known, and the CAR authorities are fully in position to assist in the process.

B. Protective and other measures following arrest and transfer

15. In its 30 October 2018 notice,⁷ the Prosecution informed the Chamber that given the volatile and dangerous security situation in the CAR, [REDACTED], should the Chamber grant the Application. Moreover, [REDACTED] may affect the timing of the Prosecution disclosure and the scheduling of the confirmation proceedings. Although this situation has not changed, [REDACTED] Suspect is a further consideration.

16. As noted in the same submissions, the Prosecution's Protection Strategies Unit, in consultation with the Victims and Witnesses Unit ("VWU"), [REDACTED].⁸ This will enable an expedited implementation of protective measures, and more so respond to the urgency posed by the issuance of **YEKATOM**'s warrant of arrest.

17. **YEKATOM**'s prompt arrest, in principle, will not affect the [REDACTED]. The Prosecution, however, recognises that [REDACTED], but considers that this

⁷ ICC-01/14-20-US-Exp.

⁸ ICC-01/14-20-US-Exp, para. 3.

need not produce any adverse effect on **YEKATOM**'s rights and/or the protection of witnesses [REDACTED]. Indeed, those risks can be mitigated, *inter alia*, by (a) disclosing [REDACTED]; (b) disclosing non-security implicated material and (c) disclosing material, including those in (a), with appropriate redactions.

IV. CONCLUSION

18. On the basis of the above, the Prosecution requests the Chamber to: (1) consider the pending Application with respect to **YEKATOM** on an expedited basis, and (2) urgently issue a Warrant of Arrest against **YEKATOM**.



Mame Mandiaye Niang, Deputy Prosecutor

Dated this 2nd day of February 2026
At The Hague, The Netherlands