



Original: English

No. ICC-01/14-01/18 A A2 A3

Date: 17 February 2026

THE APPEALS CHAMBER

Before:

**Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa, Presiding
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-ÉDOUARD NGAÏSSONA**

Public

**Decision on the Victims' request for an extension of the page limit for their
consolidated observations**

Decision 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

☐ **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 Unit**

☐ **Detention Section**

☐ **Victims Participation and Reparations
Section**

☐ **Other**

The Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court,

In the appeals of the Deputy Prosecutor, Mr Alfred Yekatom and Mr Patrice-Édouard Ngaïssona against the decision of Trial Chamber V entitled “Judgment” of 24 July 2025 (ICC-01/14-01/18-2784-Red),

Having before it the “Victims’ Request for extension of page limit for their consolidated response to the Prosecution’s and Defence’s Appeal Briefs” of 6 February 2026 (ICC-01/14-01/18-2873),

Renders, pursuant to regulations 37(2) of the Regulations of the Court, the following

DECISION

The page limit for the filing of the victims’ consolidated observations on the respective appeal briefs is extended by 10 pages.

REASONS

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

1. On 24 July 2025, Trial Chamber V rendered the “Judgment”.¹
2. On 24 October 2025, the Defence for Mr Alfred Yekatom (hereinafter: “Yekatom Defence”) filed an application, pursuant to regulation 62 of the Regulations of the Court (hereinafter: “Regulations”) seeking to present additional evidence on appeal.²
3. On 25 November 2025, the Prosecutor, the Defence for Mr Patrice-Édouard Ngaïssona (hereinafter: “Ngaïssona Defence”) and the Yekatom Defence filed their respective appeal briefs.³

¹ [Judgment](#), ICC-01/14-01/18-2784-Conf (public redacted version filed on the same day, ICC-01/14-01/18-2784-Red), with Annexes A and B.

² [Yekatom Defence Application to present additional evidence](#), ICC-01/14-01/18-2830.

³ [Prosecution Appeal Brief](#), ICC-01/14-01/18-2846-Conf (public redacted version filed on 28 November 2025, ICC-01/14-01/18-2846-Red); [Ngaïssona Defence Appeal Brief against the Trial Judgment](#), ICC-01/14-01/18-2847-Conf, with public Annexes A to L (public redacted version filed on 19 December 2025, ICC-01/14-01/18-2847-Red); [Yekatom Defence Appeal against the Judgment](#), ICC-01/14-01/18-2784-Conf, 24 July 2025, ICC-01/14-01/18-2848-Conf, with public Annexes 1 and 2, and confidential Annexes 3 to 6 (public redacted version filed on 19 December 2025, ICC-01/14-01/18-2848-Red).

4. On 10 December 2025, the Appeals Chamber issued a decision setting out the modalities of victim participation in the proceedings (hereinafter: “Decision of 10 December 2025”). The Common Legal Representatives of Victims of Other Crimes (hereinafter: “CLR V”) were directed to file consolidated observations on the appeal briefs and on Mr Yekatom’s application to present additional evidence, not exceeding 140 pages.⁴

5. On 6 February 2026, the CLR V filed a request seeking an extension of the aforementioned page limit by 20 pages (hereinafter: “Request”).⁵

6. On 10 February 2026, the Ngaïssona Defence filed its response opposing the Request (hereinafter: “Ngaïssona’s Response”).⁶

II. MERITS

7. The CLR V submit that exceptional circumstances exist warranting a limited extension of the page limit.⁷ In particular, the CLR V aver that in the course of preparing their observations, it became apparent that the “interconnection of several arguments” concerning “the targeting of the Muslim population and their displacement, and the evidence provided by dual status individuals [...] require more extensive developments than originally foreseen”.⁸ These issues, they contend, have a direct impact on the interests of the victims and in order to fully present their views and concerns, a page limit extension is necessary.⁹

8. The Ngaïssona Defence opposes the request, arguing that the CLR V have not “persuasively demonstrate[d]” that the issues identified “were unforeseen and require development beyond the current page-limit”.¹⁰ In addition, they argue that this justification is “overly abstract” and does not demonstrate “why the interconnection of arguments is exceptional”.¹¹

⁴ [Decision on the modalities of victim participation](#), ICC-01/14-01/18-2859, para. 5.

⁵ [Victims’ Request for extension of page limit for their consolidated response to the Prosecution’s and Defence’s Appeal Briefs](#), ICC-01/14-01/18-2873.

⁶ Ngaïssona Defence Response to “Victims’ Request for extension of page limit for their consolidated response to the Prosecution’s and Defence’s Appeal Briefs”, ICC-01/14-01/18-2876.

⁷ [Request](#), paras 1-2.

⁸ [Request](#), para. 9.

⁹ [Request](#), para. 9.

¹⁰ Ngaïssona’s Response, para. 12.

¹¹ Ngaïssona’s Response, para. 12.

9. Pursuant to regulation 37(2) of the Regulations, the Appeals Chamber may extend the applicable page limit “in exceptional circumstances”. The Appeals Chamber recalls that its determination under regulation 37(2) of the Regulations is made on a case-by case basis, depending on its assessment of the specific circumstances of each case.¹²

10. In the present case, the Appeals Chamber recalls that in the Decision of 10 December 2025 the Appeals Chamber set a page limit of 140 pages for the victims’ consolidated observations taking into account: (i) the issues on appeal; (ii) the fact that page extensions for the appeal briefs and the response thereto had been granted; and (iii) that observations from the victims on Mr Yekatom’s application to present additional evidence were warranted.¹³ Indeed, that page limit was set with full awareness of the novelty and complexity of the issues on appeal and with the intention of ensuring that the victims’ interests could be meaningfully addressed. That said, given the significance of the issues identified by the CLRV as requiring further development and consequently more pages, the Appeals Chamber is persuaded that exceptional circumstances within the meaning of regulation 37(2) of the Regulations exist.

11. Notwithstanding the above, the Appeals Chamber is, however, not convinced that the 20-page extension sought is justifiable in the circumstances. Rather, in the Appeals Chamber’s considered view, an extension of 10 pages is more appropriate. Accordingly, the page limit for the CLRV’s consolidated observations on the appeal briefs, including Mr Yekatom’s application for additional evidence, is 150 pages.

Done in both English and French, the English version being authoritative.



Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa
Presiding

Dated this 17th day of February 2026

At The Hague, The Netherlands

¹² *The Prosecutor v. Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud*, [Decision on the “Defence Request for Extension of Page Limit for its Appeal Brief”](#), 17 October 2024, ICC-01/12-01/18-2656 (A), para. 11.

¹³ [Decision of 10 December 2025](#), para. 5.