

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: **English**

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

Date: **17 April 2026**

THE APPEALS CHAMBER

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

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

Public

**Public redacted version of "Corrected version of "Prosecution's Reply to Yekatom
 Defence Observations on 'Prosecution's Request to Modify Conditions of Detention'
 (ICC-01/14-01/18-2868-Conf-Exp)", ICC-01/14-01/18-2877-Conf-Exp , 11 February
 2026", ICC-01/14-01/18-2877-Conf-Exp-Corr, 12 February 2026**

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

☒ Counsel for the Defence
D29, D30

☒ Legal Representatives of the Victims
V44 and 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
M. Zavala Giler, Osvaldo

☐ Counsel Support Section

☐ Victims and Witnesses Unit

☐ Detention Section

☐ Victims Participation and
Reparations Section

☐ Other

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the Appeals Chamber's ("Chamber") 9 February 2026 Decision,¹ the Office of the Prosecutor ("Prosecution") replies to the "*Yekatom Defence Observations on 'Prosecution's Request to Modify Conditions of Detention'*."²

2. In respect of Yekatom's admitted unauthorised contact with [REDACTED] on 20 December 2025, the Prosecution has identified certain significant information about [REDACTED] associations which could not be provided in its Request.³ As elaborated below, this comprises, *inter alia*, [REDACTED] association with: (a) a political movement advocating the overthrow of the current government of the Central African Republic ("CAR") with links to members of the *Coalition des patriotes pour le changement* ("CPC"); and (b) persons supportive of former President François Bozizé, including members of Bozizé's *Kwa na kwa* political party ("KNK) previously implicated [REDACTED] in this case.

3. The Prosecution considers that these factors bear directly on the Chamber's assessment of the risks regarding Yekatom's conduct in its determination of the Request.

II. CONFIDENTIALITY

4. Pursuant to regulation 23bis(2) of the RoC, this submission is classified as "Ex Parte" as it concerns filings of the same designation. A confidential redacted version will be filed as soon as practicable.

III. SUBMISSIONS

5. Although the Prosecution is not in a position to dispute the Defence's representation of the purported familial relationship between Yekatom and [REDACTED], it notes that Yekatom has similarly previously engaged in

¹ See ICC-01/14-01/18-2874-Conf-Exp, para. 11.

² See ICC-01/14-01/18-2868-Conf-Exp

³ See ICC-01/14-01/18-2865-Conf-Exp

unauthorised contact with a supposed family member — one [REDACTED]⁴ — as a third party.⁵ In that instance, his illicit communication was had through his purported [REDACTED]⁶ — whereas here, his [REDACTED]⁷ was enlisted for such purpose. In any event, Yekatom's contacts with [REDACTED] nevertheless present a further risk insofar as [REDACTED] associations and links — whether direct or indirect — to potential threat-actors.

“12 Apôtres” and CPC associations

6. [REDACTED] of a controversial political action group known as the “12 Apôtres.” Formed among members of the CAR diaspora in France, the group openly opposes the current CAR government led by President Faustin Archange Touadera and has been accused, *inter alia*, of participating in a strategy of destabilisation.⁸

7. According to open source information, Rodrigo Mayte aka ‘Kerembessé Govosango’⁹ or Kerembessé is a founder of the 12 Apôtres and a known Bozizé supporter and former KNK activist. As such, the 12 Apôtres is alleged to be linked to the CPC under Francois Bozizé¹⁰ — whose history of violence in CAR is well documented.¹¹ Contrary to Yekatom's characterisation of the Prosecution's reference to the CPC as an “unsubtle dog-whistle”¹², the CPC involved, *inter alia*, individuals in the Anti-Balaka leadership in the Mokom and Ngaissona wings, including individuals

⁴ ICC-01/14-01/18-1138-Conf-Exp, paras. 13 et seq.

⁵ See ICC-01/14-01/18-1138-Conf-Exp, paras. 13-16 [REDACTED]; see corresponding Decision, ICC-01/14-01/18-1148-Red, paras. 7-9.

⁶ See ICC-01/14-01/18-1138-Conf-Exp, paras. 13.

⁷ See ICC-01/14-01/18-2869-Conf-Exp-Anx, paras. 12, 24, and 40 [REDACTED].

⁸ [REDACTED]; See [Pan-African Movement denounces the Group of 12 Apostles - Central African Republic](#) 4 November 2025 (alleging “[t]ous ont condamné avec fermeté les actions des « 12 apôtres », accusés d'appeler ouvertement au renversement violent du gouvernement légitime. »).

⁹ For reference, see [Rodrigue Joseph Prudence Mayte | Facebook](#) (indicating Rodrigue Joseph Prudence Mayte); see also [Rjpm-media Mayte | Facebook](#) (referencing « RJPM -media Mayte is with Kerembesse Govosango and Rodrigue Joseph Prudence Mayte ») ; see also ICC-01/14-01/18-2868-Conf-Exp-AnxB [REDACTED].

¹⁰ See [Kerembessé Bozizé And The Old Guard In Action - Central African Republic](#), (further asserting « [l]es «apôtres» prolongent la stratégie de la Coalition des patriotes pour le changement (CPC), héritière du camp Bozizé, passée de la lutte armée »).

¹¹ See ICC-01/14-01/18-2865-Conf-Exp, para. 5, fn.10.

¹² ICC-01/14-01/18-2868-Conf-Exp, para. 34.

such as Sylvain Beorofei,¹³ directly linked to Yekatom and his group during the relevant period, as was Maxime Mokom,¹⁴ a known Bozizé hardliner.¹⁵ Several members of the CPC have since been tried, convicted, and sentenced to life imprisonment for the group's 2020 crimes, including Bozizé himself¹⁶ and Mokom.¹⁷

KNK associations and links to potential witness interference

8. Apart from [REDACTED] support for the CPC as the transcript of [REDACTED] 20 December 2026 conversation with Yekatom clearly reflects,¹⁸ social media records further show [REDACTED] links with members of Bozizé's KNK party.

9. For instance, [REDACTED] and Kevin KPEFIO – former president of the KNK youth¹⁹ – are linked through his Facebook profile, wherein [REDACTED].²⁰ In turn, Kevin KPEFIO– was directly implicated in efforts [REDACTED].²¹ Similarly, “Kerembesse” is linked to the Facebook profile of [REDACTED]²² - a KNK partisan²³

¹³ CAR-OTP-2130-2018 [REDACTED].

¹⁴ See e.g. ICC-01/14-01/18-2784-Conf (Trial Judgement), para. 966 (noting Beorofei's direct contacts with Maxime Mokom); see para. 2423 (“P-0889 stated that [REDACTED]; and para. 2474 (referencing a contemporaneous video in the relevant period and that “In this video, P-1339 also recognised ‘Beorofei’; 6229 he said that the ‘three persons’ that Mr Yekatom relied upon were ‘Yakouzou and Beorofei’ and those were the people that P-1339 ‘knew well’ and that Beorofei ‘until today’ is Maxime Mokom’s deputy”).

¹⁵ See also ICC-01/14-01/18-T-069-Red2-ENG CT WT, p.79, ln. 17-22 (confirming Mokom as a Bozizé “hardliner”).

¹⁶ See [Central African Republic ex-leader Bozizé handed life sentence for conspiracy, rebellion - France 24](#) (noting Bozizé's leadership role in the CPC and conviction and life sentence with forced labour for conspiracy, rebellion, including murder, along with 20 other co-accused); see also [Special Criminal Court issues warrant for ex-leader of Central African Republic](#), 30 April 2024 (noting “Bozize leads a new alliance of rebel groups called the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), formed in December 2020 in a bid to overthrow his successor, Faustin Archange Touadera”).

¹⁷ See [Former Central African President François Bozizé and Rebel Leaders Sentenced to Life Imprisonment in Absentia](#), 22 September 2023 (“Among those convicted are François Bozizé, along with his sons, Jean-François and Aimé-Vincent, known as “Papy,” and the leaders of the key rebel groups in the Central African Republic [...] including [of] undermining national security, conspiracy, and rebellion,” also noting Maxime Mokom);

¹⁸ Transcript, para. 54.

¹⁹ See e.g., ICC-01/14-01/18-T-141-Red3-ENG CT WT, p.40, l.7; see also ICC-01/14-01/18-T-034-FRA ET WT, p.63, l.12-23.

²⁰ See CAR-OTP-2137-0637, [REDACTED], see CAR-OTP-2062-0657 [REDACTED].

²¹ See ICC-01/14-01/18-2657-Red, paras. 7, 13, 14 (and see internal ERN references).

²² See CAR-OTP-2137-0199[REDACTED].

²³ See ICC-01/14-01/18-T-144-Red-FRA, p. 14, lns. 24-25.

who, along with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was also implicated in [REDACTED].²⁴ Notably, Facebook records also link [REDACTED].²⁵

10. Thus, Yekatom's illicit contacts pose a potential risk to the proceedings to the extent that his collocutor's, in this case [REDACTED], associations are not pre-vetted by the Registry. As such, they present an elevated risk that may precipitate consequences to witnesses associated with the trial which cannot be prevented or possibly even ascertained.

IV. CONCLUSION

11. The Prosecution respectfully requests that the Chamber take the information and evidence provided through the present reply into consideration in the disposition of the pending Request.



Mame Mandiaye Niang, Deputy Prosecutor

Dated this 17th April 2026

At The Hague, The Netherlands

²⁴ See ICC-01/14-01/18-2657-Conf, paras. 7, 13-14. [REDACTED]

²⁵ See CAR-OTP-00037722 [REDACTED].