



Original: English

**No. ICC-02/18
Date: 24 April 2026**

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER I

Before: Judge Iulia Antoanella Motoc, Presiding
Judge Reine Adélaïde Sophie Alapini-Gansou
Judge María del Socorro Flores Liera

SITUATION IN THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA I

Public

Decision dismissing *in limine* a request for authorisation to file submissions from El Amparo Foundation

Decision to be notified, in accordance with Regulation 31 of the *Regulations of the Court*, to:

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| ☒ The Office of the Prosecutor | ☐ Counsel for the Defence |
| ☐ 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 |
| ☐ States' Representatives | ☐ Amicus Curiae |

REGISTRY

Registrar

Mr Osvaldo Zavala Giler

☐ Victims and Witnesses Unit

☐ Victims Participation and Reparations Section

☐ Counsel Support Section

☐ Detention Section

☐ Other

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER I (the ‘Chamber’) of the International Criminal Court (the ‘Court’), issues this ‘Decision dismissing *in limine* a request for authorisation to file submissions from El Amparo Foundation’.

1. On 1 March 2024, the Appeals Chamber confirmed the Chamber’s decision authorising the resumption of the investigation conducted by the Prosecution, pursuant to article 18(2) of the Rome Statute (the ‘Statute’), into alleged crimes against humanity committed in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela since 12 February 2014 (the ‘Situation in Venezuela’).¹
2. On 16 April 2026, the Registry transmitted to the Chamber a request filed by El Amparo Foundation, allegedly ‘representing 30 victims of crimes against humanity of persecution and forced deportation’ (the ‘Applicant’ and the ‘Request’, respectively).² The Applicant claims to represent the victims according to a power of attorney granted in the Republic of Colombia in 2019 and to be a ‘complainant in case OTP-CR-22/16’. It requests the Chamber’s authorisation ‘to exercise judicial oversight over the actions of [the Prosecution] in the [Situation in Venezuela]’, namely, that the Chamber order the Prosecution to submit a detailed report in the said situation, in accordance with article 57(3)(c) of the Statute.³
3. Consistent with the approach set out in previous decisions,⁴ the Chamber notes that victims have not yet been formally admitted to participate in the proceedings pursuant to rule 89 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence (the ‘Rules’) and that it ‘has not sought their views on any subject’ pursuant to rule 93 of the Rules. Accordingly, under the Court’s legal framework there is no automatic right to submit unsolicited requests and observations at this stage of the proceedings when there are no cases yet, no victims have been formally admitted to participate and the Chamber has not sought their views on any particular matter.
4. In light of the above, the Chamber dismisses the Request *in limine*.
5. Nonetheless, the Chamber reiterates its encouragement to the Applicant and other interested stakeholders to engage with the Prosecution, noting that any individual or group of

¹ Appeals Chamber, Judgment on the appeal of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela against Pre-Trial Chamber I’s ‘Decision authorising the resumption of the investigation pursuant to article 18(2) of the Statute’, 1 March 2024, ICC-02/18-89. *See also* Annex I to the Decision assigning the situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Pre-Trial Chamber I, dated 27 September 2018 and registered on 28 September 2018, ICC-02/18-1-AnxI.

² See Annex to Registry Transmission of a “Request for authorisation to file submissions”, ICC-02/18-160-Conf-Anx.

³ Request, p. 2.

⁴ *See, for instance*, Decision dismissing *in limine* a request from Arcadia Foundation and setting the procedure regarding requests for authorisation to file submissions, 23 December 2025, ICC-02/18-150, paras 9-13.

individuals can send information to the Office of the Prosecutor regarding any alleged crimes falling under the jurisdiction of the Court. Pursuant to article 68(1) of the Statute, the Prosecution is also responsible for taking any necessary measures to protect the safety, physical and psychological well-being, dignity and privacy of victims and witnesses, particularly during the investigation. Furthermore, the Prosecution can request the Chamber to adopt measures which might be required for the preservation of evidence.

6. Lastly, noting the lack of objections by the Applicant,⁵ the Chamber instructs the Registry to reclassify the Request as public.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE CHAMBER HEREBY

DISMISSES the Request *in limine*; and

INSTRUCTS the Registry to reclassify the Request as public.

Done in English. A French translation will follow. The English version remains authoritative.



**Judge Iulia Antoanella Motoc,
Presiding**



**Judge Reine Adélaïde Sophie Alapini-
Gansou**



Judge María del Socorro Flores Liera

24 April 2026

At The Hague, The Netherlands

⁵ Request, p. 2.