

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: **English**

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

Date: **24 April 2026**

THE APPEALS CHAMBER

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

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

Public

Public Redacted Version of “Yekatom Defence Response to ‘Registry Observations on the “Prosecution’s Request to Modify Conditions of Detention” (ICC-01/14-01/18-2865-Conf-Exp) dated 22 January 2026’, ICC-01/14-01/18-2869-Conf-Exp, 28 January 2026”, ICC-01/14-01/18-2871-Conf-Exp, 30 January 2026

Source: Defence for Mr. Alfred Rombhot Yekatom

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

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☒ 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

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REGISTRY

Registrar

M. Zavala Giler, Osvaldo

☐ Counsel Support Section

☐ Victims and Witnesses Unit

☒ Detention Section

☐ Victims Participation and
Reparations Section

☐ Other

1. The Defence for Mr Alfred Rombhot Yekatom ('Defence') hereby respectfully responds to the 'Registry Observations on the "Prosecution's Request to Modify Conditions of Detention" (ICC-01/14-01/18-2865-Conf-Exp) dated 22 January 2026' ('Registry Observations')¹ in accordance with Regulation 24(1) of the Regulations of the Court.²
2. In the Registry Observations, reference is made to a 3 January 2026 conversation wherein Mr Yekatom 'appeared to communicate with an unauthorised person'.³
3. Further to enquiries pursued following the notification of the Registry Observations, the Defence respectfully informs the Appeals Chamber [REDACTED]. He was fully vetted by the Registry [REDACTED].
4. As noted by the Registry and as evidenced in the transcript, the unauthorised conversation does not appear to be case-related.⁴ Rather, the discussions primarily concerned [REDACTED].⁵
5. In light of the Registry Observations, further to Mr Yekatom's instructions, the Defence does not oppose the Prosecution's requested investigation into all of Mr Yekatom's non-privileged calls since 28 August 2025, as sought in its filing of 22 January 2026,⁶ and in this respect the Defence partially withdraws the relief sought in its 28 January 2026 observations.⁷

¹ ICC-01/14-01/18-2869-Conf-Exp.

² See also, ICC-01/14-01/18-485-Conf, p. 16; and ICC-01/14-01/18-176-Conf-Red (noting that in respect of the 'Additional non-privileged call of potential concern', the Registry observes that the matter 'would ordinarily have been reported in the Registry's next report'; see ICC-01/14-01/18-2869-Conf-Exp, para. 15).

³ Ibid, para. 16.

⁴ Ibid; and ICC-01/14-01/18-2869-Conf-Exp-Anx.

⁵ See ICC-01/14-01/18-2869-Conf-Exp-Anx, paras 1-23.

⁶ ICC-01/14-01/18-2865-Conf-Exp, para. 9.

⁷ See ICC-01/14-01/18-2868-Conf-Exp, paras 32, 36.

6. However, the Defence maintains its opposition to the interim contact restrictions sought by the Prosecution, and reiterates its position that they remain unjustified and disproportionate.⁸
7. In the event that the Appeals Chamber considers it necessary that additional contact restrictions be imposed pending the completion of the [REDACTED], the Defence respectfully submits the following.
8. Mindful of previous contact restrictions applied in Mr Yekatom's case,⁹ any interim additional contact restrictions to be imposed should be limited to the [REDACTED] of Mr Yekatom's telephone communications with non-privileged contacts; and that [REDACTED].¹⁰
9. These interim additional restrictions should be revisited immediately upon completion of the Registry's investigation and following submissions from the parties.
10. It is respectfully submitted that the above measures and additional interim restrictions, if deemed necessary, would be proportionately tailored to mitigate risks and assuage any concerns in this regard; and that the balance continues to weigh in favour of Mr Yekatom's right to privacy and family life.
11. Pursuant to regulation 23 *bis* (2) of the RoC, these observations are filed confidentially *ex parte*, available only to the Prosecution and the Registry, in accordance with the classification of the Appeals Chamber's 'Order on the filing of observations'.¹¹

RELIEF SOUGHT

12. For the foregoing reasons the Defence

⁸ Ibid., paras 27-31.

⁹ See ICC-01/14-01/18-11, paras 6-8.

¹⁰ [REDACTED]; see, ICC-01/14-01/18-11, para. 8.

¹¹ ICC-01/14-01/18-2867-Conf-Exp.

WITHDRAWS in part its relief sought in its 28 January 2026 observations¹² and

REQUESTS the Appeals Chamber to consider its proposal as set out in paragraphs 8 to 10;

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED ON THIS 24TH DAY OF APRIL 2026



Me Mylène Dimitri
Lead Counsel for Mr. Yekatom

The Hague, the Netherlands

¹² See ICC-01/14-01/18-2868-Conf-Exp, paras 32, 36.