

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

No. ICC-01/14-01/18

Date: 5 May 2026

TRIAL CHAMBER V

Before: Judge Beti Hohler , Presiding Judge
Judge Joanna Korner
Judge Keebong Paek

SITUATION IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC II

*IN THE CASE OF THE PROSECUTOR v.
ALFRED ROMBHOT YEKATOM & PATRICE-EDOUARD NGAÏSSONA*

Public

Public Redacted Version of the “Yekatom Defence Urgent Request for Extension of Time to Respond to the Submissions on Reparations”, ICC-01/14-01/18-2911-Conf, 22 April 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

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

M. Zavala Giler, Osvaldo

☐ Counsel Support Section

☐ Victims and Witnesses Unit

☐ Detention Section

☒ Victims Participation and
Reparations Section

☒ Other
Trust Fund for Victims

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Regulation 35(2) of the Regulations of the Court, the Defence respectfully seeks a reasonable extension of time to file its response to the various observations on reparations pursuant to the Trial Chamber's Order for Submissions on Reparations, until 13 June 2026.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

2. On 8 October 2025, the Trial Chamber issued its Order for Submissions on Reparations setting the date of 26 March 2026 for the parties and participants to submit their observations on reparations ("Order for Submissions").¹
3. On 23 February 2026, the Common Legal Representatives of Victims of Other Crimes ("CLRv") requested the Trial Chamber to extend the deadline to submit their observations on reparations until 10 April 2026 ("CLRv Extension Request").² The Defence did not oppose.³
4. On 5 March 2026, the Trial Chamber granted the CLRv's request with an extension of time to all parties and participants until 13 April 2026 to file their observations. It also set the deadline for parties' responses to the submissions on reparations to 13 May 2026.⁴
5. On 23 March 2026, the Appeals Chamber issued its Decision on whether to hold a hearing and further directions ("Appeals Chamber Decision")⁵ setting the deadline to file any requests for leave to reply by 13 April 2026 and the response to the CLRv's observations by 20 April 2026.

¹ ICC-01/14-01/18-2821.

² ICC-01/14-01/18-2883-Conf.

³ Email from Yekatom Defence to Trial Chamber V, dated 27 February 2026 at 16:44.

⁴ ICC-01/14-01/18-2889.

⁵ ICC-01/14-01/18-2894.

6. On 26 March 2026, the Human Rights Centre of the Queen's University of Belfast submitted its submission on reparations.⁶
7. On 13 April 2026, the Yekatom and Ngaïssona Defences, the Prosecution, the CLRV, the Victim Participation and Reparations Sections of the Registry ('VPRS') and the Association des Réintégréés en Centrafrique (ARC-EN-CIEL) submitted their observations on reparations.⁷
8. On 15 April 2026, the Trust Fund for Victims filed its observations.⁸

SUBMISSIONS

9. While the Defence remains fully committed to complying with the Chamber's instructions and to contributing meaningfully to the reparations phase, good cause has significantly constrained its ability to do so within the current timeframe.
10. First, the Defence has only now been in a position to begin a thorough review of the six filings submitted on 13 and 15 April 2026.⁹ Given the overlap with the 20 April appellate deadline, it was not feasible to engage with these submissions earlier. The volume and complexity of these filings require careful analysis, including detailed note-taking and cross-referencing. This task is further compounded by the fact that there appear to be, *prima facie*, differences between certain information contained in these submissions and the evidence collected by the Defence during its mission in the Central African Republic in March 2026. The Defence anticipates making substantive observations on these discrepancies to assist the Trial Chamber with tangible information and documents, which necessitates additional time for proper assessment and verification.

⁶ ICC-01/14-01/18-2895 (22 pages).

⁷ ICC-01/14-01/18-2904; ICC-01/14-01/18-2903 (28 pages); ICC-01/14-01/18-2900 (17 pages); ICC-01/14-01/18-2899-Conf (46 pages); ICC-01/14-01/18-2905-Conf (52 pages) ; ICC-01/14-01/18-2906 (22 pages).

⁸ ICC-01/14-01/18-2907-Conf (53 pages).

⁹ See above footnote 5. In addition with the submission filed by the Human Rights Centre of the Queen's University of Belfast notified on 26 March 2026.

11. Second, the Defence recalls that the Chamber's Order set out the deadline of 13 April 2026 for the parties and participants to file their observations after a request for extension was filed by the CLRV; this deadline concurred with other obligations the Defence had to meet which the Defence was not aware of at the time the Trial Chamber issued its Order for Submissions.¹⁰ Indeed, parallel to the reparations schedule, the Defence was required to meet critical appellate deadlines, including filing its application for leave to reply to the Prosecution's Response Brief by 13 April,¹¹ and on 20 April 2026, its 60 page response to the consolidated response brief of the CLRV.¹² Despite operating with a reduced team in accordance with the legal aid framework applicable at the appeal stage, the Defence made sustained efforts to advance both appellate and reparations workstreams simultaneously. Indeed, in order to attempt to meet all deadlines imposed by both Chambers, Counsel further undertook a mission to Bangui throughout this period, during which she worked concurrently on both appeal and reparations matters. However, the immediacy and procedural priority of the appellate deadlines required the Defence to devote the last two weeks almost exclusively to appeal-related filings.
12. Third, [REDACTED] to fully comply with the Chamber's Order for Submissions in presenting meaningful submissions.¹³ The Defence recalls that "the guiding principle for trial chambers must be to ensure that the convicted person, as party to the litigation, has a meaningful opportunity to challenge the

¹⁰ At the time the CLRV filed its Extension Request the initial deadline imposed by Trial Chamber V was set for 26 March 2026. Once the Trial Chamber issued its Order for Submissions on 5 March 2026, the deadline was postponed to 13 April 2026. It is only a few weeks later that the Appeals Chamber Decision was issued setting deadlines concurrent and closely overlapping with the deadlines imposed within the Order for Submissions.

¹¹ ICC-01/14-01/18-2992.

¹² ICC-01/14-01/18-2910-Conf.

¹³ A prima facie analysis indicates that the figures provided by the parties and participants differ significantly. For example, the CLRV estimate that between 140.000 and 214.000 victims were affected by the attack in Bangui (ICC-01/14-01/18-2899-Conf, para. 20) while VPRS estimates [REDACTED]; see ICC-01/14-01/18-2905-Conf-AnxI). Similarly, while the CLRV estimate that at least 10.000 people were affected by the crimes committed along the PK9-Mbaïki axis, VPRS estimates that approximately [REDACTED]; see ICC-01/14-01/18-2905-Conf-AnxI).

information on the basis of which a chamber will make an award against him or her.”¹⁴

13. While Mr Yekatom is currently indigent, it cannot be excluded that, upon release and reintegration into society, he may be able to establish a livelihood and support his family. In that context, the Defence must continue to safeguard his interests. This necessarily includes ensuring that any submissions on reparations are not exaggerated and accurately reflect the reality on the ground.
14. However, recent discussions with [REDACTED], which are not immediately compatible with the Defence’s existing professional and personal commitments. Moreover, [REDACTED].
15. In light of the foregoing, the Defence respectfully submits that a short extension is warranted to ensure that its response is both comprehensive and of genuine assistance to the Chamber. The Defence therefore requests that the deadline for filing its response to the reparations submissions be extended to 13 June 2026. This revised timeline would allow the Defence to complete its review of the filings, [REDACTED], and prepare a fully informed and meaningful response.
16. The Defence informs the Chamber that following inter partes discussions, the Prosecution does not oppose the request for extension and defers to the decision of the Chamber; and that while the CLRV were consulted, the Defence does not have their confirmed position at the time of filing. The Defence submits that no prejudice will be suffered by the parties and participants or would be minimal compared to that which Mr Yekatom would face, given that his personal financial liability may be engaged in the reparations proceedings; he must be therefore guaranteed a full opportunity to verify the accuracy of the information contained in parties’ and participants’ submissions.¹⁵

¹⁴ ICC-01/04-01/06-3466-Red, para. 256; see also, ICC-01/04-02/06-2908-Red, para. 224. ICC-02/04-01/15-2108, para. 46.

¹⁵ ICC-01/14-01/18-2904-Conf, para. 6.

17. Finally, the Defence files the present request urgently since the deadline to respond to the Observations has begun to run [REDACTED].
18. The Defence is therefore seizing the Chamber at the earliest opportunity and respectfully requests that the applicable deadlines to respond to this request be shortened, [REDACTED].
19. [REDACTED]– the Defence further requests that the deadlines for parties and participants to respond be shortened, and that Trial Chamber V issue an expedited decision.
20. The Defence reiterates its commitment to the efficient conduct of proceedings and submits that the requested extension is justified, proportionate, and in the interests of justice.

CONFIDENTIALITY

21. The present Request is filed confidentially as it contains information regarding the organisation of a field mission.

RELIEF SOUGHT

22. The Defence respectfully requests Trial Chamber V to shorten the deadlines for parties and participants to respond to this request, and issue an expedited decision;
23. The Defence respectfully requests Trial Chamber V to grant its request for an extension of time until 13 June 2026 to respond to the observations on reparations filed by the parties and participants.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED ON THIS 5th DAY OF MAY 2026



Me Mylène Dimitri
Lead Counsel for Mr. Yekatom

Dated 5 May 2026

At The Hague, the Netherlands