

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

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No.: ICC-02/04
Date: 11 May 2026

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER III

Before: Judge Althea Violet Alexis-Windsor , Presiding Judge
Judge Iulia Antoanella Motoc
Judge Haykel Ben Mahfoudh

SITUATION IN UGANDA

Public

**Forty-second periodic report of the Registry on applications received by the
Victims Participation and Reparations Section in the Situation in Uganda**

Source: Registry

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

☒ Legal Representatives of the Victims

V40 Ongwen LRV Team

V49 Kony LRV Team

☐ 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

Public Information and Outreach Section

I. Introduction

1. On 12 March 2012, the Single Judge of Pre-Trial Chamber II (in its previous composition) ordered the Victims Participation and Reparations Section (“VPRS”), following the submission of a comprehensive report on the *status quo* of all victim applications for participation in proceedings received in the Situation in Uganda (“Situation”),¹ to submit every four months a periodic report on further applications received and progress made by the VPRS on their assessment under rule 85 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.² The Registry hereby submits its forty-second periodic report in the Situation, covering the period from 10 January to 10 May 2026.

II. Applicable Law

2. The Registry submits the present report in accordance with article 68(1) and (3) of the Rome Statute, rules 16(1) and 89(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and regulation 86 of the Regulations of the Court.

III. Submissions

A. Status of applications

3. To date, approximately 19,700 victims have submitted to the Registry applications for participation and/or reparations in the Situation and the related cases.³

¹ Registry, “Comprehensive report on the *status quo* of all applications received in the Situation in Uganda and on other aspects related to victims' applications for participation in the proceedings”, 11 May 2012, ICC-02/04-193.

² Pre-Trial Chamber II, “Decision on Victim’s Participation in Proceedings Related to the Situation in Uganda”, dated 9 March 2012 and notified on 12 March 2012, ICC-02/04-191, para. 31.

³ This number does not include victim applications collected in the field but not yet registered in the VPRS database. Since the last periodic report, the Registry received and registered 808 new applications for participation and/or reparations (206 individual forms and 602 household forms) in the *Kony* case and 1,064 new applications for reparations (296 individual forms and 768 household forms) in the *Ongwen* case. Additional applications were collected in the field but not yet received in the headquarters.

4. In the case of *The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen* (“Ongwen case”), currently at the reparations stage,⁴ there are 4,096 participating victims.⁵ During the reporting period, the VPRS continued its eligibility and priority assessments for reparations, receiving 1,064 applications from newly identified beneficiaries⁶ and transmitting to the Trust Fund for Victims (“TFV”) information on 1,659 victims assessed to be eligible for reparations.⁷
5. In the case of *The Prosecutor v. Joseph Kony* (“Kony case”), Pre-Trial Chamber III authorised 5,795 victims to participate in the current stage of the proceedings.⁸ The VPRS continued to receive applications for participation and/or reparations in the *Kony* case throughout the reporting period.⁹

B. Activities undertaken by the VPRS during the reporting period

6. During the reporting period, the VPRS continued: (i) conducting information sessions for victims and engaging in stakeholder meetings; (ii) training and supporting intermediaries and field clerks for their interactions with victim communities and addressing input gathered from such exchanges; (iii) identifying victims of both thematic crimes and relevant case locations to assist them in filling out application forms; (iv) facilitating access to identity documents and (v) collecting supplementary information where needed. The VPRS also started notifying victims eligible for reparations in the *Ongwen* case

⁴ Trial Chamber IX, “Reparations Order”, 28 February 2024, ICC-02/04-01/15-2074 (“Ongwen Reparations Order”). The *Ongwen* case was referred to Trial Chamber II on 12 March 2024. Presidency, “Decision assigning judges to divisions and recomposing Chambers”, dated 12 March 2024 and notified on 13 March 2024, ICC-02/04-01/15-2079.

⁵ Trial Chamber IX, “Decision on the Registry Additional Information on Victims”, 16 December 2022, ICC-02/04-01/15-2024, para. 18 and footnote 37.

⁶ This number does not include victim applications received in the field and not yet registered in the headquarters.

⁷ Emails from VPRS to TFV, 21 January 2026 at 11:16, 25 February 2026 at 11:18, 18 March 2026 at 08:51 and 22 April 2026 at 11:03. This includes a small number of victims already included in transmissions prior to the reporting period for whom substantial updates were received (e.g., resumption of action following the death of the victim).

⁸ Pre-Trial Chamber III, “Decision on victim applications for participation in the proceedings”, 12 August 2025, ICC-02/04-01/05-624.

⁹ See footnote 3 above.

that were assessed as being in dire need of urgent assistance (first priority category) for follow up contact by the TFV.

7. On 28 January 2026, the VPRS began its notification of eligible victims in the first priority category for the *Ongwen* case, starting with an initial list of 671 victims identified and assessed as such. 575 of these victims were reached successfully, either directly or through alternative contacts. While the victims expressed appreciation, the contacts revived expectations for reparations, especially in relation to medical needs and symbolic cash payments.¹⁰ In the process, the VPRS also observed increasing levels of vulnerability among victims—resulting from unaddressed medical needs, further advancements in age and poor living conditions. Elderly victims in particular were developing health complications. Some of the victims notified had died prior to VPRS’ contact; for these victims, the VPRS initiated steps for resumptions of action with the surviving families.
8. The VPRS faced several challenges in the notification process. For some, the contacts provided were for intermediaries living far away from the victims, requiring coverage of transportation costs for the intermediaries to be able to reach the victim. For others, the phone numbers were no longer valid or reassigned to individuals who did not know the victims. For still another group of victims, phone contacts were unsuccessful despite multiple attempts across different intervals as the devices continued to be offline.
9. From 16 to 20 February 2026, in collaboration with the Public Information and Outreach Section (“PIOS”), the VPRS held six community dialogues in the Odek case location to monitor progress and address concerns raised as to the pace of and malpractice relating to the completion of victim applications for reparations in the *Ongwen* case. An estimate of 2,000 community members attended the discussions. Most questions related to the status of applications that the victims had filled out between July and November 2025. Based on the dialogues, victim

¹⁰ Ongwen Reparations Order, para. 621 (awarding a symbolic payment of 750 EUR for each eligible direct and indirect victim in the case).

communities proposed and identified intermediaries that were also victims of the attack at the Odek case location, to further support VPRS field clerks in identifying other victims who were present in the internally displaced persons camp when it was attacked.

10. From 24 to 26 March 2026, the VPRS participated in a TFV-organised workshop with civil society organisations, focused on stocktaking of good practices, lessons learned, and recommendations that could be drawn from the TFV assistance program in Uganda, implemented from 2010 to 2024. Participants emphasised the need for psychosocial support within communities for victims and partner organisations, as well as documentation of victims' stories to avoid repeated narration and retraumatisation. The stocktaking also highlighted the importance of a strong collaboration and coordination between the different actors of the Court—namely, the VPRS, the TFV, the PIOS and the Office of Public Counsel for Victims—in ensuring coherence and the protection of victims.
11. Throughout the reporting period, the VPRS continued to identify victims potentially eligible for reparations in the *Ongwen* case and supported them in completing application forms, assess the dossiers received and share information on eligible victims with the TFV. One continued challenge has been the lack of documents for victims, especially official identity documents.¹¹ A notable number of victims still lack documents for identification and have faced challenges in obtaining them from local authorities—lacking the financial means to afford the issuance of alternatives to the national identity card.

¹¹ In accordance with the Reparations Order in the *Ongwen* case, the VPRS accepts official and unofficial identification documents for the eligibility assessment, including “a statement signed by two credible witnesses establishing the identity of the victim and describing the relationship between the victim and any individual acting on their behalf” (Ongwen Reparations Order, para. 454). Victims without national identity cards are nonetheless encouraged to obtain them going forward, given input from the TFV that lack of such cards can create challenges in the implementation of reparations.

12. Also, the VPRS has continued to actively review and address feedback in relation to Registry processes in the field.¹²



p.p. Marc Dubuisson, Director, Division of Judicial Services
on behalf of
Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar

Dated this 11 May 2026

At The Hague, The Netherlands

¹² See, e.g., Transcript of 30 April 2026, ICC-02/04-01/15-T-272-ENG (ET WT), p. 7, lines 9-14 and p. 24, lines 1-5.