

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

No.: ICC-01/05-01/08

Date: 12 December 2008

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER III

Before: Judge Ekaterina Trendafilova, Single Judge

**SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
IN THE CASE OF
THE PROSECUTOR
V. JEAN-PIERRE BEMBA GOMBO**

Public document

Prosecution's Observations on the Exact Date of the Confirmation Hearing

Source: The 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 of Jean-Pierre Bemba Mr Nkwebe Liriss Mr Karim Khan Mr Aimé Kilolo-Musamba
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Legal Representatives of Victims	Legal Representatives of Applicants
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Unrepresented Victims	Unrepresented Applicants for Participation/Reparation
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The Office of Public Counsel for Victims	The Office of Public Counsel for the Defence
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States Representatives	Amicus Curiae
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REGISTRY

Registrar Ms Silvana Arbia	Defence Support Section
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Victims and Witnesses Unit	Detention Section
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Victims Participation and Reparations Section	Other
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1. On 2 December 2008, the Single Judge rendered a “Decision on the Postponement of the Confirmation Hearing”¹ (“Decision”), whereby, *inter alia*, the Confirmation of Charges Hearing (“Hearing”) was postponed until January 2009. 12 January 2009 was envisaged as the earliest possible date for conducting the Hearing, the exact date to be determined in a decision to be issued by 29 December 2008. Observations from the parties on the exact date of the Hearing are to be submitted by 17 December 2008.

In compliance with the Decision, the Office of the Prosecutor (“Prosecution”) hereby respectfully submits its observations.

Prosecution’s Observations

2. The Prosecution supports Pre-Trial Chamber III’s efforts to ensure expeditious proceedings, and therefore does not object to 12 January 2009 as a possible date for the commencement of the Hearing.

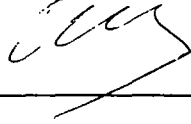
3. The Prosecution however respectfully proposes 19 January 2009 as the most convenient date for commencement of the confirmation proceedings for the following reasons.

4. The Prosecution has completed its preparation and is ready for the Hearing. It should nevertheless be considered that the Hearing will be held immediately after the Court recess. This implies that staff members involved will need to regroup and properly prepare after the Court recess. The date of 19 January 2009 would be more suitable than 12 January 2009, as it would provide slightly additional time to resume activities and ensure optimal conditions for the Hearing.

¹ ICC-01/05-01/08-304

Conclusion

The Prosecution respectfully requests that the Single Judge give consideration to its observations and set the date of 19 January 2009 for the commencement of the Hearing.



Luis Moreno-Ocampo, Prosecutor

Dated this 12th day of December 2008

At The Hague, The Netherlands