



Original: **English**

No.: ICC-01/05-01/08
Date: **09 January 2009**

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER III

Before: Judge Ekaterina Trendafilova, Presiding Judge
Judge Mauro Politi
Judge Hans-Peter Kaul

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

**Public
with confidential annexes, ex parte only available to the Office of Public Counsel
for Victims**

**Report on legal representation of victims for whom the Office of Public Counsel
for Victims had been appointed as Legal Representative**

Source: Registry

Document to be notified in accordance with regulation 31 of the *Regulations of the Court* to:

The Office of the Prosecutor

Fatou Bensouda

Petra Knauer

Counsel for the Defence

Nkwebe Liriss

Karim Khan

Aimé Kilolo-Musamba

Legal Representatives of Victims

Marie Edith Douzima Lawson

Legal Representatives of Applicants

Unrepresented Victims

**Unrepresented Applicants for
Participation/Reparation**

**The Office of Public Counsel for
Victims**

Paolina Massidda

**The Office of Public Counsel for the
Defence**

States Representatives

Amicus Curiae

REGISTRY

Registrar

Silvana Arbia

Deputy Registrar

Didier Preira

**Victims Participation and Reparations
Section**

Fiona McKay

1. In his Fifth Decision on Victims' Issues Concerning Common Legal Representation of Victims, the Single Judge appointed the Principal Counsel of the Office of Public Counsel for Victims (hereafter, OPCV) to represent the views and concerns of all those victims recognized as participants in the present case who objected to be represented by the common legal representative from the Central African Republic.¹
2. On 5 January 2009, the Registrar appointed Maitre Marie Edith Douzima Lawson as common legal representative of all the victims recognized as participants in the present case, with the exception of those represented up until that point by the OPCV, deferred the appointment of a representative of the latter until the Chamber decided on the request submitted by the OPCV on 31 December 2008.²
3. In the meantime, the Registry has taken steps to contact all of the victims represented by the OPCV, other than the three who had already submitted written confirmation of their choice,³ in order to ascertain whether they agreed to be represented by the common legal representative from the Central African Republic or whether they objected to being represented by her. Given the short period of time before the hearing, and the fact that the Victims Participation and Reparations Section of the Registry does not have a representative based in the Central African Republic and its representative was only able to arrive there on 8 January 2009, the contact could only be made by telephone, and the victims were asked to express their view on the matter over the telephone. The victims were informed that the Registry may contact them again in the near future in order to request a written confirmation of their wishes.
4. The Registry succeeded in contacting all but one of the victims, victim a/0298/08, in this manner. All of the victims expressed the wish to continue to be represented by the OPCV. Two of the victims, a/0293/08 and a/0455/08, attached in annex, have presented written confirmation of this wish.

¹ ICC-01/05-01/08-322 of 16 December 2008

² ICC-01/05-01/08-343 and ICC-01/05-01/08-340

³ a/0291/08, a/0292/08 and a/0296/08

5. As regards victim a/0298/08, the Registry notes that it has been informed by the Principal Counsel of the OPCV that victim a/0298/08 has informed her that he wishes to be represented by her. The Registry will continue its efforts to contact him in order to confirm this information, and will inform the Chamber if any contrary information is received.
6. Since the terms of the Chamber's Fifth Decision on Victims' Issues Concerning Common Legal Representation of Victims indicates that the Chamber itself appoints the Principal Counsel, the Registry will not take any step to appoint her unless the Chamber so orders.



For the Registrar
Didier D. Preira,
Deputy Registrar

Dated this 09 January 2009

At The Hague, The Netherlands