

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

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

Date: 26 February 2010

TRIAL CHAMBER III

Before: Judge Adrian Fulford, Presiding Judge
Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito
Judge Joyce Aluoch

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

PUBLIC

Observations of the Registrar on translation and interpretation in Sango

Source: Registrar

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

The Office of the Prosecutor

Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor
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Counsel for the Defence

Nkwebe Liriss
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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

Defence Support Section

Deputy Registrar

Didier Preira

Victims and Witnesses Unit

Detention Section

**Victims Participation and Reparations
Section**

Other

Alexandra Tomic

THE REGISTRAR of the International Criminal Court (the “Court”);

NOTING the “*Corrigendum to “Prosecution’s Submission of a Chart listing Originals and Translations of Witness Statements”*”¹ submitted by the Office of the Prosecutor on 28 October 2009;

NOTING the “*Prosecution’s Submission re: Sango Translation and Interpretation issues*”² submitted by the Office of the Prosecutor on 03 November 2009;

NOTING the “*Réponse conjointe des représentants légaux des victimes aux soumissions du Bureau du Procureur concernant l’utilisation et l’interprétation de la langue Sango*”³ submitted by the Legal Representatives of Victims on 24 November 2009;

NOTING the “*Agenda for the Status Conference on 8 December 2009*”⁴ issued by Trial Chamber III (the “Chamber”) on 3 December 2009;

NOTING articles 55(c) and 67(f) of the Rome Statute; rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence; regulation 24*bis* of the Regulation of the Court;

CONSIDERING that during the hearing on 7 October 2009, the Prosecution requested guidance regarding the manner to conduct witness familiarisation for the Sango speaking witnesses⁵;

CONSIDERING that during the hearing on 8 December 2009, the Chamber stressed that, unless the Chamber receives any observation from the Registry to suggest otherwise, the Chamber will assume that interpretation in Sango will be provided for

¹ ICC-01/05-01/08-577

² ICC-01/05-01/08-585

³ ICC-01/05-01/08-611

⁴ ICC-01/05-01/08-636

⁵ ICC-01/05-01/08-T-14-ENG ET, page 13, line 19

the Sango speaking witnesses when giving their testimony before the Court during the trial and during witness familiarisation⁶;

CONSIDERING that pursuant to the "*Decision on the Date of Trial*" of 5 November 2009, the trial in the case of the *Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo* will commence on 27 April 2010⁷;

REPORTS to the Chamber as follows:

1. With regard to witness familiarisation, in order to assist the translation of witnesses' statements, the Registry will have language assistants available to sight-translate the statements and thus cater for Sango speaking witnesses who cannot read. The language assistants will also interpret for the Sango speaking witnesses during witness familiarisation.
2. As in the other cases before the Court, an African language never before used in this context will need to be interpreted to and from in the simultaneous mode. For the hearings of the present case, the Registry has identified accredited field interpreters to undergo training in simultaneous interpretation for hearings.
3. As for the Acholi, Swahili and Lingala languages, the training in the interpretation in Sango is expected to take between 6 and 8 months. However, it is anticipated that, with intense training, extensive preparation and targeted practice, the paraprofessional interpreters for Sango will be ready to work in the simultaneous mode as of 1 July 2010.
4. So far, the Registry has conducted tests and interviews of candidates for Sango paraprofessional interpreters. There are 6 trainee interpreters that have been

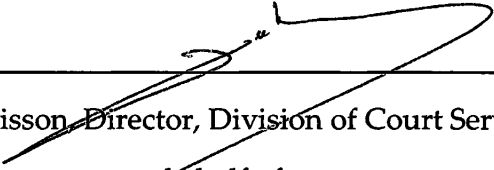
⁶ ICC-01/05-01/08-T-18-Red-ENG, page 44, line 2

⁷ ICC-01/05-01/08-598, page 5

given contracts. Four have started their training and another two will be joining them on Monday 1 March.

5. These Sango trainees are expected to be able to work in consecutive mode for the beginning of the trial as of 27 April 2010, but not in a simultaneous mode immediately.
6. Therefore, the Registry wishes to report to the Chamber that if Sango interpretation is required before 1 July 2010, the interpretation is likely to take place in a combination of liaison and consecutive modes which may add up to 30% of the time to proceedings.
7. In view of the importance of accuracy and completeness of the courtroom communication and presentation of evidence, the Registry assures the Chamber that the training for paraprofessional interpreters is carried out with the benefit of lessons learned in the Lubanga case. The Registry will report to the Chamber on any changes to the time line detailed above.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Marc Dubuisson, Director, Division of Court Services
on behalf of
Silvana Arbia, Registrar

Dated this 26 February 2010

At The Hague in the Netherlands