



Original: **English**

No.: **ICC-01/05-01/13**

Date: **26 March 2015**

TRIAL CHAMBER VII

Before: Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji, Presiding Judge
Judge Olga Herrera Carbuccion
Judge Bertram Schmitt

SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**IN THE CASE OF
THE PROSECUTOR v. JEAN-PIERRE BEMBA GOMBO, AIMÉ KILOLO
MUSAMBA, JEAN-JACQUES MANGENDA KABONGO, FIDÈLE BABALA
WANDU AND NARCISSE ARIDO**

Public

**Request for Leave to Withdraw as Lead Counsel Pursuant to Regulation 78 (1) of the
Regulations of the Court**

Source: Counsel for Narcisse Arido

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

The Office of the Prosecutor

Fatou Bensouda

James Stewart

Kweku Vanderpuye

Counsel for Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo

Melinda Taylor

Counsel for Aimé Kilolo Musamba

Paul Djunga Mudimbi

Counsel for Jean-Jacques Mangenda Kabongo

Christopher Michael Gosnell

Counsel for Fidèle Babala Wandu

Jean-Pierre Kilenda Kakengi Basila

Counsel for Narcisse Arido

Göran Sluiter

Legal Representatives of the Victims

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

Xavier-Jean Keïta

REGISTRY

Registrar

Herman von Hebel

Counsel Support Section

Victims and Witnesses Unit

Nigel Verrill

Detention Section

**Victims Participation and
Reparations Section**

Other

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 March 2014, Mr. Narcisse Arido appointed Mr. Göran Sluiter as lead counsel on his Defence team.¹ On 26 March 2015, Mr. Arido informed his lead counsel, Göran Sluiter, of his intention to terminate his mandate and to appoint a new counsel. As a result, in accordance with Mr. Arido's right to choose counsel, Mr. Sluiter hereby requests the leave of the Trial Chamber to withdraw from the case.

II. APPLICABLE LAW

2. Article 67 (1) (c) protects an Accused's right to choose counsel, a right also enshrined in international human rights instruments.² Article 18 (3) of the Code of Conduct for Defence counsel states that where counsel is discharged by the client, his withdrawal takes place in accordance with the Regulations of the Court. According to Regulation 78 (1) of the said Regulations, prior to withdrawal, Defence counsel shall seek the leave of the Chamber.

III. SUBMISSIONS

3. In light of Mr. Arido's choice not to retain current counsel, lead counsel respectfully requests the Trial Chamber to grant him leave to withdraw from the case, as instructed by Mr. Arido. Counsel is mindful of his obligations under the Code of Conduct, particularly those contained in Articles 8, 15, 17 to 19, and will continue to represent the best interests of Mr. Arido until a new counsel is appointed.

Respectfully submitted,



Göran Sluiter, Counsel for Mr. Arido

Dated this 26th Day of March 2015

At Amsterdam, The Netherlands

¹ ICC-01/05-01/13-300.

² International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 14 (3) (b); European Convention on Human Rights, Art. 6 (3) (c); African Charter on Human and People's Rights, Art. 7 (1) (c); American Convention on Human Rights, Art. 8 (1) (d); International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 14 (3) (b); European Convention on Human Rights, Art. 6 (3) (c); African Charter on Human and People's Rights, Art. 7 (1) (c); American Convention on Human Rights, Art. 8 (2) (d).