



Original: English

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

Date: 27 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

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

To be notified, in accordance with Regulation 31 of the *Regulations of the Court*, to:

The Office of the Prosecutor

Ms Fatou Bensouda

Mr James Stewart

Mr Kweku Vanderpuye

Counsel for Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo

Ms Melinda Taylor

Counsel for Aimé Kilolo Musamba

Mr Paul Djunga Mudimbi

Counsel for Jean-Jacques Mangenda Kabongo

Mr Christopher Gosnell

Counsel for Fidèle Babala Wandu

Mr Jean-Pierre Kilenda Kakengi Basila

Counsel for Narcisse Arido

Mr Göran Sluiter

Legal Representatives of Victims

Legal Representatives of Applicants

Unrepresented Victims

Unrepresented Applicants for Participation/Reparation

The Office of Public Counsel for Victims

The Office of Public Counsel for the Defence

States Representatives

Amicus Curiae

REGISTRY

Registrar

Mr Herman von Hebel

Counsel Support Section

Victims and Witnesses Unit

Detention Section

Victims Participation and Reparations Section

Others

Trial Chamber VII (the ‘Chamber’) of the International Criminal Court, in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, Aimé Kilolo Musamba, Jean-Jacques Mangenda Kabongo, Fidèle Babala Wandu and Narcisse Arido*, having regard to Articles 64(2) and 67(1)(d) of the Rome Statute (‘Statute’), Rules 20 to 22 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence (the ‘Rules’), Regulation 78(1) of the Regulations of the Court and Articles 8, 15, 17 to 19 of the Code of Professional Conduct for counsel (the ‘Code’), issues the following ‘Decision on Request for Leave to Withdraw as Lead Counsel Pursuant to Regulation 78 (1) of the Regulations of the Court’.

1. On 27 March 2015, defence counsel for Mr Arido (‘Counsel’) requested to withdraw from this case (the ‘Request’).¹ Counsel indicated that Mr Arido informed him the previous day of his intention to terminate his mandate and appoint a new counsel.²
2. The Chamber, noting Mr Arido’s right to the legal assistance of his choosing³ and considering that no undue delay would be caused to the other accused to change his counsel at this point in the proceedings, hereby grants the Request. The Chamber reminds Counsel that he remains subject to Articles 8, 15 and 17 to 19 of the Code.
3. The Chamber directs the Registry to take the necessary steps, in accordance with Rules 20 to 22 of the Rules, to ensure continuous legal representation of Mr Arido in order to protect his rights as an accused. To this end, the withdrawal of Counsel shall only take effect once a new defence counsel has been appointed for Mr Arido.

¹ Request for Leave to Withdraw as Lead Counsel Pursuant to Regulation 78 (1) of the Regulations of the Court, 26 March 2015, ICC-01/05-01/13-875.

² Request, ICC-01/05-01/13-875, para. 1.

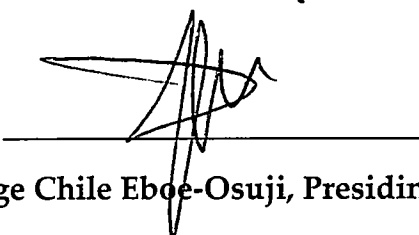
³ Article 67(1)(d) of the Statute.

FOR THE FOREGOING REASONS THE CHAMBER HEREBY

GRANTS leave to Counsel to withdraw from the case upon the appointment of a new defence counsel for Mr Narcisse Arido; and

DIRECTS the Registry to take all the necessary steps to promptly facilitate the appointment of a new defence counsel for Mr Narcisse Arido.

Done in both English and French, the English version being authoritative.



Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji, Presiding



Judge Olga Herrera Carbuccion



Judge Bertram Schmitt

Dated 27 March 2015

At The Hague, The Netherlands