

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: **English**

No.: **ICC-01/13**
Date: **18 May 2015**

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER I

Before: Judge Joyce Aluoch, Presiding Judge
Judge Cuno Tarfusser
Judge Péter Kovács

**SITUATION ON THE REGISTERED VESSELS OF THE UNION OF
THE COMOROS, THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC AND THE KINGDOM OF
CAMBODIA**

Public

**Decision on the “Request for extension of time to submit Victims’
Observations in relation to the article 53 proceedings”**

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

The Office of the Prosecutor

Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor

James Stewart, Deputy Prosecutor

Counsel for Defence

Legal Representatives of Victims

Geoffrey Nice

Rodney Dixon

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

Geoffrey Nice

Rodney Dixon

Amicus Curiae

REGISTRY

Registrar

Herman von Hebel

Counsel Support Section

Victims and Witnesses Unit

Detention Section

**Victims Participation and Reparations
Section**

Others

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER I (the “Chamber”) of the International Criminal Court issues the present decision on the “Request for extension of time to submit Victims’ Observations in relation to the article 53 proceedings” (the “Request”) ¹

1. On 6 November 2014, the Prosecutor decided that there is no reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation into the situation on the Registered Vessels of the Union of the Comoros, the Hellenic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia (the “Decision”).²

2. On 29 January 2015, the Comoros submitted the “Application for Review pursuant to Article 53(3)(a) of the Prosecutor’s Decision of 6 November 2014 not to initiate an investigation in the Situation” asking that the Chamber request the Prosecutor to reconsider her Decision.³

3. On 24 April 2015, the Chamber issued the “Decision on the Victims’ Participation”,⁴ in which it, *inter alia*, “invited the victims who have communicated with the Court to submit their observations by no later than Friday, 5 June 2015 at 16h00” (the “24 April 2015 Decision”).⁵

4. On 18 May 2015, the Chamber received the Request, in which the Legal Representative of the Office of Public Counsel for victims (the “OPCV Principal Counsel”) of unrepresented victims sought an extension of the time limit for submitting their observations until 22 June 2015.⁶

5. The Chamber notes article 53(3)(a) of the Rome Statute and regulation 35 of the Regulations of the Court (the “Regulations”).

¹ ICC-01/13-22.

² ICC-01/13-6-AnxA.

³ ICC-01/13-3-Conf; a public available version is also available, ICC-01/13-3-Red.

⁴ Pre-Trial Chamber I, ICC-01/13-18.

⁵ Pre-Trial Chamber I, ICC-01/13-18, p. 10.

⁶ ICC-01/13-22, p. 6.

6. The Chamber recalls that pursuant to regulation 35 of the Regulations, the Chamber may extend any time limit as prescribed in the Regulations “if good cause is shown, and where appropriate, after having given the participants an opportunity to be heard”.

7. In the Request, the OPCV Principal Counsel referred to some practical difficulties including the late receipt of victims’ applications which prevents her from performing her duties within the deadline specified in the 24 April 2015 Decision.⁷ According to the OPCV Principal Counsel, such delay has a direct impact on the process of reviewing the applications and contacting the victims.⁸ In effect, the process may require, *inter alia*, organizing a field visit to the locations, where the victims reside in order to receive their observations.⁹ In view of these exceptional circumstances, the Chamber considers that the OPCV Principal Counsel has shown good cause, which justifies granting the Request.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE CHAMBER HEREBY

grants the Request.

⁷ ICC-01/13-22, paras 3-5, 9-10.

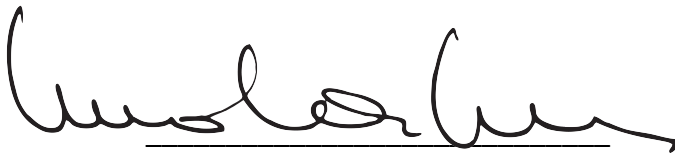
⁸ ICC-01/13-22, para. 10.

⁹ ICC-01/13-22, para. 10.

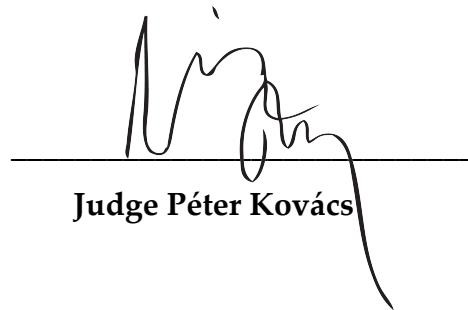
Done in both English and French, the English version being authoritative.



Judge Joyce Aluoch
Presiding Judge



Judge Cuno Tarfusser



Judge Péter Kovács

Dated this Monday, 18 May 2015

At The Hague, The Netherlands