



Original: English

No.: ICC-01/14-01/18

Date: 30 July 2019

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before: Judge Antoine Kesia-Mbe Mindua, Presiding Judge
Judge Tomoko Akane
Judge Rosario Salvatore Aitala

**SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC II
IN THE CASE OF
*THE PROSECUTOR V. ALFRED YEKATOM
and PATRICE-EDOUARD NGAÏSSONA***

**Public
With Confidential Annex**

**Registry's Fourth Assessment Report on Applications for Victims' Participation in
Pre-Trial Proceedings**

Source: Registry

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

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 41 of the Decision Establishing the Principles Applicable to Victims' Applications for Participation ("Decision"),¹ Pre-Trial Chamber II ("Chamber") established an admission system whereby the Registry should *inter alia* "classif[y] the applicants into three categories: (a) applicants who clearly qualify as victims ("Group A"); (b) applicants who clearly do not qualify as victims ("Group B"); and (c) applicants for whom the Registry could not make a clear determination for any reason ("Group C")."²
2. Additionally, the Chamber ordered the Registry to prepare "regular reports that list the applications for participation and classify them according to the three groups".³
3. The Registry hereby transmits its fourth report, on 150 complete applications received in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona* ("Case") and assessed by the Registry as clearly falling within Group A.
4. The applications falling in Group A have been listed in the annex to the present submission ("Annex") and are being transmitted separately to the Chamber in accordance with paragraph 41(ii) of the Decision.

II. Procedural History

5. On 5 March 2019, the Chamber issued the Decision, setting out *inter alia* the admission procedure for victims' participation in the Case.⁴

¹ Pre-Trial Chamber I, "Decision Establishing the Principles Applicable to Victims' Applications for Participation", 5 March 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-141.

² Decision, para. 41(i).

³ Decision, para. 41(iii).

⁴ See *supra*, footnote 1.

6. On 15 May 2019, the Victims Participation and Reparations Section (“VPRS”) transmitted 15 applications categorised in Group C (“First Transmission”)⁵ and submitted a first assessment report on those applications.⁶
7. On 15 May 2019, the Chamber decided to postpone the commencement of the confirmation of charges hearing in the Case until 19 September 2019.⁷
8. On 14 June 2019, the Registry transmitted 74 applications under the classification of “Group A” to the Chamber,⁸ and submitted a second assessment report on those applications.⁹
9. On 21 June 2019, the Chamber issued a decision on the merits of the applications included in the First Transmission.¹⁰
10. On 12 July 2019, the Registry transmitted 161 applications under the classification of “Group A” to the Chamber,¹¹ and submitted a third assessment report on those applications.¹²

⁵ Registry, “Registry’s First Transmission of Group C Applications for Victims’ Participation in Pre-Trial Proceedings”, dated 14 May 2019 and notified on 15 May 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-197.

⁶ Registry, “Registry’s First Assessment Report on Applications for Victims’ Participation in Pre-Trial Proceedings”, dated 14 May 2019 and notified on 15 May 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-198.

⁷ Pre-Trial Chamber II, “Decision on the ‘Prosecution’s Request to Postpone the Confirmation Hearing and all Related Disclosure Deadlines’”, 15 May 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-199, p. 17.

⁸ Registry, “Registry’s First Transmission of Group A Applications for Victims’ Participation in Pre-Trial Proceedings”, 14 June 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-222.

⁹ Registry, “Registry’s Second Assessment Report on Applications for Victims’ Participation in Pre-Trial Proceedings”, 14 June 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-223.

¹⁰ Pre Trial Chamber II, “Decision regarding the Registry’s First Assessment Report on Applications for Victim Participation, the Registry’s First Transmission of Group C Applications, the appointment of counsel for Victims of Other Crimes, and the victims’ procedural position”, 21 June 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-227-Red.

¹¹ Registry, “Registry’s Second Transmission of Group A Applications for Victims’ Participation in Pre-Trial Proceedings”, 12 July 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-245.

¹² Registry, “Registry’s Third Assessment Report on Applications for Victims’ Participation in Pre-Trial Proceedings”, 12 July 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-247.

III. Classification

11. The annex to the present submission is classified as confidential in accordance with the instruction of the Chamber.¹³

IV. Applicable Law

12. The present report is submitted on the basis of article 68(1) and (3) of the Rome Statute, rules 85 to 89 and 92 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, regulation 86 of the Regulations of the Court ("RoC"), and regulations 107 to 109 of the Regulations of the Registry.

V. Submissions

13. Applying the criteria set out in paragraph 31 of the Decision, the VPRS has assessed each of the 150 applications transmitted under Group A as complete. In conducting its initial assessment in accordance with paragraph 38 of the Decision, the VPRS confirms that each of the 150 applicants whose applications are being transmitted in Group A have met *prima facie* the following criteria:

- i. His or her identity as a natural person is established;¹⁴
- ii. He or she has suffered harm;¹⁵
- iii. The harm suffered is a result of an incident falling within the temporal, geographic and material scope of the Case.¹⁶

14. In relation to point (i), the VPRS notes that certain applications¹⁷ falling under Group A contain minor discrepancies, pertaining to *inter alia*: the applicant's date

¹³ Decision, para. 41(iii).

¹⁴ Decision, paras. 31-34.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, paras 31, 35.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 37.

¹⁷ The applications with minor discrepancies include: a/65035/19; a/65037/19; a/65038/19; a/65044/19; a/65064/19; a/65067/19; a/65068/19; a/65069/19; a/65070/19; a/65071/19; a/65391/19; a/65682/19; a/65704/19; a/65706/19; a/65726/19; a/65736/19; a/65741/19; a/65744/19; a/65746/19; a/65750/19;

of birth, an inversion of the applicant's first and last name, the applicant's signature date or the spelling of the applicant's name, or other minor inconsistencies in the information provided which appear to be the result of inadvertent errors. In these cases, the VPRS took note of the Chamber's instruction that "a certain degree of flexibility must be shown"¹⁸ and considers that the discrepancies presented in these applications "do not call into question the overall credibility of the information provided by the applicant [...]"¹⁹

15. Regarding criterion (iii) *supra* (para. 13), the VPRS notes that certain applications do not explicitly state specific dates but refer to publicly known events (such as for example the resignation of former President of the Central African Republic Michel Djotodia), or provide any other sufficiently detailed contextual descriptions that date the events.²⁰ In these cases, the VPRS again applied the Chamber's instruction "to adopt a flexible approach in assessing victim applications with regard to the temporal and territorial scope of the present case at this stage of the proceedings".²¹

16. The Registry will continue to assess all applications in its possession according to the criteria established by the Chamber and will transmit all complete

a/65764/19; a/65767/19; a/65777/19; a/65796/19; a/65798/19; a/65813/19; a/65816/19; a/65818/19; a/65830/19; a/65843/19; a/65846/19; a/65847/19; a/65848/19; a/65868/19; a/65904/19.

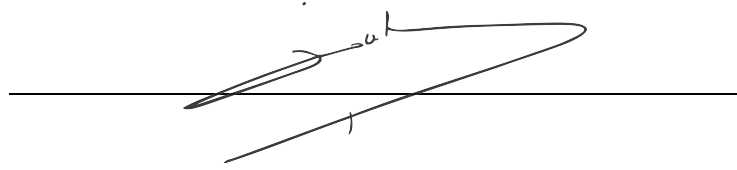
¹⁸ Decision, para. 34.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ These applications include: a/65390/19; a/65391/19; a/65611/19; a/65613/19; a/65649/19; a/65683/19; a/65687/19; a/65688/19; a/65689/19; a/65707/19; a/65708/19; a/65733/19; a/65735/19; a/65739/19; a/65743/19; a/65748/19; a/65749/19; a/65754/19; a/65773/19; a/65775/19; a/65777/19; a/65779/19; a/65783/19; a/65792/19; a/65793/19; a/65795/19; a/65797/19; a/65799/19; a/65800/19; a/65801/19; a/65807/19; a/65811/19; a/65824/19; a/65830/19; a/65833/19; a/65838/19; a/65840/19; a/65841/19; a/65842/19; a/65845/19; a/65849/19; a/65850/19; a/65851/19; a/65852/19; a/65857/19; a/65881/19; a/65895/19; a/65900/19; a/65902/19; a/65903/19; a/65904/19; a/65905/19; a/65908/19; a/65909/19; a/65916/19.

²¹ Pre Trial Chamber II, "Decision regarding the Registry's First Assessment Report on Applications for Victim Participation, the Registry's First Transmission of Group C Applications, the appointment of counsel for Victims of Other Crimes, and the victims' procedural position", 21 June 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-227-Red, para. 24. Accordingly, the Registry has considered as falling within Group A "applications that are internally coherent, clearly relate to the events described in the Warrants of Arrest and/or, where appropriate, the information in other victim applications, and clearly establish that the alleged perpetrators were part of the Anti-Balaka."

applications on a rolling basis in accordance with the deadlines set out in the Decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'u', is written over a horizontal line.

Marc Dubuisson, Director, Division of Judicial Services,

on behalf of Peter Lewis, Registrar

Dated this 30 July 2019

At The Hague, The Netherlands