

Annex 8

Confidential

From: Trial Chamber X Communications
Sent: 14 April 2021 13:15
To: D28 Al Hassan Defence Team; Al Hassan Prosecution Team; V43 Victims Al Hassan Team
Cc: Associate Legal Officer-Court Officer; Chamber Decisions Communication; Trial Chamber X Communications
Subject: Decision on Mr Al Hassan's request to be excused from attending the trial hearing on 14 April 2021

Dear Counsel,

The Chamber notes in particular that although Mr Al Hassan is authorised to follow the hearing via video-link, in the instant case he is requesting to be excused from following today's hearing (*see* e-mail of Trial Chamber X on 9 March 2021 at 14:17). However, noting the scope and technical nature of the expected testimony of P-0635, the Chamber grants the request. The Chamber therefore instructs the Defence to file on the record of the case a waiver signed by Mr Al Hassan.

Kind regards,

On behalf of Trial Chamber X

From: Taylor, Melinda <mtaylor[REDACTED]>
Sent: 14 April 2021 11:20
To: Trial Chamber X Communications <TrialChamberXCommunications[REDACTED]>
Cc: Al Hassan Prosecution Team <AlHassanProsecutionTeam[REDACTED]>; V43 Victims Al Hassan Team <V43LRVTeam[REDACTED]>; D28 Al Hassan Defence Team <D28AlHassanDefenceTeam[REDACTED]>
Subject: Today's hearing

Dear Trial Chamber X,

Yesterday, Mr Al Hassan started observing Ramadan. As part of this, he stopped drinking any caffeine or taking any paracetamol during the day. He experienced severe headaches yesterday but informed us that he thought he would be better today. He just contacted us to inform us that his headaches had returned. He therefore asked if it would be possible to be excused from today's hearing.

In light of the technical nature of today's witness, the Defence respectfully requests that Mr Al Hassan be excused from attendance.

This is the first time that Mr. Al Hassan has had trial hearings during Ramadan and it is difficult for the Defence and for Mr. Al Hassan to predict the manner in which it will impact on his ability to follow the proceedings. We will endeavour to update the Trial Chamber on an ongoing basis as soon as we receive any information that might impact on his ability to following proceedings or the trial schedule.

Kind regards

Melinda Taylor, on behalf of the Al Hassan Defence

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