

Situation in Central African Republic II

The Prosecutor v. Mahamat Said Abdel Kani

ICC-01/14-01/21

Suspected of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR) in 2013. Surrendered to the ICC on 24 January 2021. Initial appearance on 28 and 29 January 2021. Opening of the confirmation of charges hearing scheduled provisionally for 12 October 2021.

Mahamat Said Abdel Kani



Date of birth: 25 February 1970

Place of birth: Bria, Central African Republic

Nationality: National of the Central African Republic

Arrest warrant: issued under seal on 7 January 2019 ; Public Redacted Version: 17 February 2021

Surrender to ICC Custody: 24 January 2021

Initial appearance: 28 and 29 January 2021

Confirmation of charges hearing: scheduled provisionally for 12 October 2021

Charges

Mahamat Said Abdel Kani, also known as "Mahamat Said Abdel Kain" and "Mahamat Saïd Abdelkani" is alleged to have been a Seleka commander and is suspected of crimes against humanity (imprisonment or other severe deprivation of liberty; torture; persecution; enforced disappearance and other inhumane acts); and war crimes (torture and cruel treatment) allegedly committed in Bangui, Central African Republic in 2013.

Key judicial developments

REFERRAL AND OPENING OF THE INVESTIGATION

On 30 May 2014, the Prosecutor received a referral from the Central African authorities regarding crimes allegedly committed in CAR since 1 August 2012. On 24 September 2014, the Prosecutor opened a second investigation in CAR regarding crimes allegedly committed since 2012.

WARRANT OF ARREST

On 30 October 2018, the Prosecutor submitted under seal, *ex parte*, the application for the issuance of a warrant of arrest against Mahamat Said Abdel Kani. Pre-Trial Chamber II issued a warrant of arrest, under seal, against Mr Said on 7 January 2019. The [Public Redacted Version of the warrant of arrest](#) was published on 17 February 2021

SURRENDER TO THE ICC

On 24 January 2021, Mr Mahamat Said Abdel Kani was surrendered to the Court by the authorities of the Central African Republic.

DESIGNATION OF A SINGLE JUDGE

On 25 January 2021, Pre Trial Chamber II [designated](#) Judge Rosario Salvatore Aitala as Single Judge responsible for carrying out the functions of the Chamber in the Said case.

INITIAL APPEARANCE

The first appearance of Mahamat Said Abdel Kani before the Court [took place](#) on 28 and 29 January 2021 before Pre-Trial Chamber II. The hearing was held in the presence of the Prosecutor and the Defence. Mr Said was represented by his Counsel Jean Pierre Madoukou and appeared via video-link from the ICC Detention Centre.

The Single Judge verified the identity of the suspect, and ensured that he was clearly informed of the crimes he is alleged to have committed and of his rights under the Rome Statute of the ICC in a language he fully understands and speaks, which is Sango for Mr Said. The judge also announced the next steps in the proceedings.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

On 26 February 2021, the Registry informed Pre-Trial Chamber II that Mr Mahamat Said Abdel Kani has [appointed](#) Ms Jennifer Naouri as Counsel to represent him in the proceedings before the Court.

CONFIRMATION OF CHARGES PROCEDURE

The opening of the confirmation of charges hearing was scheduled provisionally for Tuesday 12 October 2021. The purpose of the confirmation of charges procedure is to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to establish substantial grounds to believe that the person committed each of the crimes charged. If the charges are confirmed, totally or partly, the case will be transferred to a Trial Chamber, which will conduct the subsequent phase of the proceedings: the trial.

Composition of Pre-Trial Chamber II

Judge Antoine Kesia-Mbe Mindua (Presiding judge)
Judge Tomoko Akane
Judge Rosario Salvatore Aitala

Office of the Prosecutor

Karim A.A. Khan QC, Prosecutor
James Stewart, Deputy Prosecutor

Defence

Jennifer Naouri
Dov Jacobs

Legal Representatives of the Victims

N/A