Cour Pénale Internationale
International Criminal Court

Case Information Sheet

Situation in Central African Republic II

Updated: January 2023

The Prosecutor v. Maxime Jeoffroy Eli Mokom Gawaka

ICC-01/14-01/22

Suspected of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly in various locations in the Central African Republic (CAR) between at least 5 December 2013 and at least December 2014. Surrendered to the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 14 March 2022.

Maxime Jeoffroy Eli Mokom Gawaka

Date of birth: 30 December 1978
Place of birth: Bangui, CAR
Nationality: national of the Central African Republic
Function: National Coordinator of Operations of the Anti-Balaka
Arrest warrant: issued under seal on 10 December 2018
Surrender to ICC Custody: 14 March 2022
Initial appearance: 22 March 2022

Charges

- Crimes against humanity: (attempted) murder, extermination, deportation or forcible transfer of population, imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty, torture, persecution, enforced disappearance and other inhumane acts; and

- War crimes: (attempted) murder, torture, cruel treatment, mutilation, intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population, intentionally directing an attack against personnel, installations, material, units or vehicles involved in a humanitarian assistance, intentionally directing an attack against buildings dedicated to religion, pillaging, enlistment of children under the age of 15 years and their use to participate actively in hostilities, displacement of the civilian population and destroying or seizing the property of an adversary.

Key judicial developments

OPENING OF THE INVESTIGATION

On 30 May 2014, the Government of the CAR referred the situation in the CAR since 1 August 2012 to the Court. The situation reportedly involved alleged crimes committed by both the Seleka and the Anti-Balaka. On 24 September 2014, the ICC Prosecutor opened an investigation in relation to this situation.

WARRANT OF ARREST

The warrant of arrest against Mr Mokom was issued under seal on 10 December 2018.

SURRENDER

On 14 March 2022, Mr Mokom was surrendered to the International Criminal Court by the authorities of the Republic of Chad. He is currently in ICC custody.

INITIAL APPEARANCE

On 22 March 2022, Maxime Jeoffroy Eli Mokom Gawaka made his first appearance before Pre-Trial Chamber II.. During the first appearance, the Chamber verified the identity of the suspect, and ensured that he was clearly informed of the charges 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. The opening of the confirmation of charges hearing was scheduled provisionally for 31 January 2023 but is likely to be postponed. The Chamber will announce a new date in due course.

Composition of Pre-Trial Chamber II
Judge Rosario Salvatore Aitala (Presiding Judge)
Judge Antoine Kesia-Mbe Mindua
Judge Tomoko Akane

Representation of the Office of the Prosecutor
Karim A. A. Khan KC, Prosecutor
Mame Mandiaye Niang, Deputy Prosecutor
Kweku Vanderpuye, Senior Trial Lawyer

Defence Counsel
Philippe Larochelle

Legal Representatives of the Victims
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