Cour Pénale Internationale



International Criminal Court

Original: English

No.: ICC-01/05-01/08 Date: 9 March 2012

TRIAL CHAMBER III

Before:

Judge Sylvia Steiner, Presiding Judge Judge Joyce Aluoch Judge Kuniko Ozaki

SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IN THE CASE OF THE PROSECUTOR v. JEAN-PIERRE BEMBA GOMBO

Public Document

With confidential *ex parte* annexes only available to the Registry and the respective common legal representative

Decision on 471 applications by victims to participate in the proceedings

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

The Office of the Prosecutor Ms Fatou Bensouda Ms Petra Kneuer	Counsel for the Defence Mr Aimé Kilolo Musamba Mr Peter Haynes				
Legal Representatives of the Victims Ms Marie-Edith Douzima Lawson Mr Assingambi Zarambaud	Legal Representatives of the Applicants				
Unrepresented Victims	Unrepresented Applicants for Participation/Reparation				
The Office of Public Counsel for Victims Ms Paolina Massidda	The Office of Public Counsel for the Defence Mr Xavier-Jean Keïta				
States Representatives	Amicus Curiae				
REGISTRY					
Registrar Ms Silvana Arbia	Defence Support Section				
Victims and Witnesses Unit Ms Maria Luisa Martinod Jacome	Detention Section				
Victims Participation and Reparations Section Ms Fiona McKay	Other				

Trial Chamber III ("Chamber") of the International Criminal Court, in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo*, issues the following Decision on 471 applications by victims to participate in the proceedings ("Decision").

I. Background

1. On 21 October 2011, the Victims Participation and Reparations Section ("VPRS") filed its "Fourteenth report to Trial Chamber III on applications to participate in the proceedings", *ex parte*, Registry only,¹ and transmitted 209 victims' applications to the Chamber,² and redacted versions to the Office of the Prosecutor ("prosecution") and the defence (together, "the parties") ³ ("Fourteenth Set").

2. Similarly, on 4 November 2011, the VPRS filed its "Fifteenth report to Trial Chamber III on applications to participate in the proceedings", *ex parte*, Registry only,⁴ and transmitted 262 victims' applications to the Chamber,⁵ and redacted versions to the parties ("Fifteenth Set").⁶

3. In accordance with the "Decision setting a timeline for the filing of observations on pending victims' applications", ⁷ the prosecution ⁸ and the

¹ Fourteenth report to Trial Chamber III on applications to participate in the proceedings, 21 October 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1856-Conf-Exp and confidential *ex parte* annexes.

² Fourteenth transmission to the Trial Chamber of applications for participation in the proceedings, 21 October 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1854 and confidential *ex parte* annexes.

³ Fourteenth transmission to the parties and legal representatives of the applicants of redacted versions of applications for participation in the proceedings, 21 October 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1855 and confidential redacted annexes.

⁴ Fifteenth report to Trial Chamber III on applications to participate in the proceedings, 4 November 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1886-Conf-Exp and confidential *ex parte* annexes.

⁵ Fifteenth transmission to the Trial Chamber of applications for participation in the proceedings, 4 November 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1884 and confidential *ex parte* annexes.

⁶ Fifteenth transmission to the parties and legal representatives of the applicants of redacted versions of applications for participation in the proceedings, 4 November 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1885 and confidential redacted annexes.

⁷ Decision setting a timeline for the filing of observations on pending victims' applications, 9 September 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1726.

⁸ Prosecution's Observations on 209 Applications for Victims' Participation in the Proceedings, 14 November 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1905; Prosecution's Observations on 262 Applications for Victims' Participation in the Proceedings, 28 November 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1945.

defence⁹ filed their observations on the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Sets on 14 and 28 November 2011 respectively.

4. By e-mail of 27 January 2012, the Registry informed the Chamber that two applications contained in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Sets constitute duplicates of applications that had been previously transmitted and decided upon by the Chamber.¹⁰

5. In accordance with Article 21(1) of the Rome Statute ("Statute"), the Chamber has considered the following provisions of the Statute, the Rules of Procedure and Evidence ("Rules") and the Regulations of the Court ("Regulations"): Article 68 of the Statute, Rules 85 and 89 of the Rules and Regulation 86 of the Regulations.

II. Summary of the observations of the parties

A. Observations of the prosecution

6. The prosecution submits that 403 out of 471 applicants should be granted authorisation to participate as they meet all of the requirements under Article 68(3) of the Statute for participation at the trial stage of the proceedings.¹¹ The prosecution specifies that four out of these 403 applicants meet all requirements on account of crimes they personally suffered, but should be invited to provide further information or documentation with regard to crimes

⁹ Observations de la Défense sur les 209 demandes de participation transmises le 21 octobre 2011, 14 November 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1906 and confidential Annex A; Observations de la Défense sur les 262 demandes de participation transmises le 4 novembre 2011, 28 November 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1944 and confidential Annex A.

Annex A. ¹⁰ E-mail from the Legal Coordinator of the Division of Court Services to the Assistant Legal Officer of the Chamber on 27 January 2012 at 17.39. The applications registered under the registration numbers a/1354/11 and a/1182/11 constitute duplicates of applications a/0566/08 and a/0812/11, respectively granted authorisation to participate in Corrigendum to Decision on the participation of victims in the trial and on 86 applications by victims to participate in the proceedings, 12 July 2010, ICC-01/05-01/08-807-Corr and Decision on 418 applications by victims in the proceedings, 15 December 2011, ICC-01-05-01/08-2011.

¹¹ ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraphs 9 to 10; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraphs 9 to 14.

allegedly suffered by their family members.¹² With regard to three out of the 403 applicants, it is submitted that they should be accepted on account of the alleged crime of pillage, but not in relation to the alleged incidents of arson, beating or shooting.¹³

7. In relation to 25 further applicants, it is submitted that they should be deemed to meet the requirements for participation.¹⁴ To that end, the prosecution asserts that déclarations de perte, déclarations de reconnaissance, déclarations de naissance, déclarations de décès, attestations de résidence, signed and stamped by the *Chef de quartier, as well as cartes d'adhésion, constitute sufficient proof of identity* because they contain similar features to documents contained in the list of acceptable documentation previously endorsed by the Chamber.¹⁵ With regard to applications that (i) mention dates that fall slightly outside the temporal scope of the charges; (ii) state that "the events happened in 2002 when Bozizé attempted to take over power" or "at the end of Tabaski festivities in 2003, which in that year happened in the month of February", the prosecution underlines that the applicants concerned identify the perpetrators of the alleged crimes as Mouvement de Libération du Congo ("MLC") troops.¹⁶ Noting further that other applications from the same locations concern crimes allegedly committed within the temporal scope of the charges, the prosecution submits that these applicants "have established, prima facie, the causal link between the harm suffered and the crimes committed within the acceptable time frame."17 Finally, the prosecution suggests that discrepancies with regard to three applicants' dates of birth "do not affect the merits of their respective applications, which may be deemed to meet the requirements for victim participation."18

¹² ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraph 10; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraphs 10, 12, 13 and 14.

¹³ ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraph 11.

¹⁴ ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraphs 11 to 12; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraphs 15 to 17.

¹⁵ ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraph 11; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraph 15.

¹⁶ ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraph 12; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraph 16.

¹⁷ ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraph 12; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraph 16.

¹⁸ ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraph 17.

8. With respect to thirty applicants, the prosecution submits that the applications should be deferred until further information or documentation is obtained.¹⁹ This concerns instances where the applicants (i) fail to provide sufficient information as to the time²⁰ or the location²¹ of the alleged events; (ii) submit unclear or illegible identity documents;²² or (iii) provide an unclear account of the events, which makes it difficult to establish whether they suffered harm as a result of a crime charged against the accused and whether the perpetrators of the alleged crimes were MLC troops.²³

9. With regard to ten applications, the prosecution contends that redactions make it difficult to determine whether the applicants meet all the requirements for participation and leaves it to the Chamber to decide whether the applicants have provided adequate proof of identity or sufficient information to demonstrate a link between the alleged harm and the charges in the case.²⁴

10. Finally, the prosecution submits that three applications do not meet the requirements for participation,²⁵ since they concern harms allegedly suffered as a result of conduct not included among the crimes charged against the accused.²⁶

B. Observations of the defence

11. The defence urges the Chamber to (i) reject all 471 applications contained in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Sets;²⁷ (ii) order the VPRS to communicate less redacted versions of the applications to the parties or to the prosecution so that it

¹⁹ ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraphs 13 to 15 and 19; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraphs 18 to 22 and 30.

²⁰ ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraph 13; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraph 18.

²¹ ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraph 19.

²² ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraph 14; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraph 20.

²³ ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraph 15; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraphs 21 and 22.

²⁴ ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraphs 16 and 20; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraphs 23 to 27 and 31.

²⁵ ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraphs 17 and 21; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraphs 28 and 32.

²⁶ ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraphs 24 and 21; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraphs 28 and 32.

²⁷ ICC-01/05-01/08-1906, paragraph 43; ICC-01/05-01/08-1944, paragraph 44.

can fulfil its disclosure obligations towards the defence;²⁸ and (iii) instruct the VPRS to examine the redactions procedure with a view to ensuring that redactions are proportionate and are made only when absolutely necessary.²⁹

12. To substantiate its request to reject all 471 applications, the defence relies upon the arguments it asserted in relation to previous sets of applications. Specifically, the defence challenges the causal link between the harm suffered and the location of MLC troops³⁰ or the charges against the accused³¹ and argues that certain applications are incomplete. ³² Further, the defence recalls its challenges to the credibility of a number of identity documents ³³ and the accounts provided by the applicants.³⁴

13. In addition to its observations on the 471 individual applications, the defence requests the Chamber to either reclassify as "confidential" the annexes to its decisions on applications by victims to participate in the proceedings or to provide redacted versions thereof to the defence, in order to guarantee the principle of due process and the defence's right of appeal. ³⁵

III. Analysis and conclusions

14. In its previous decisions on victims' applications, the Chamber has established the general legal criteria for determining whether an applicant should be authorised to participate in the proceedings.³⁶ In the absence of any new considerations in the parties' observations on the 471 individual applications

²⁸ ICC-01/05-01/08-1906, paragraph 43; ICC-01/05-01/08-1944, paragraph 44.

²⁹ ICC-01/05-01/08-1906, paragraph 43; ICC-01/05-01/08-1944, paragraph 44.

³⁰ ICC-01/05-01/08-1906, paragraphs 3 to 10; ICC-01/05-01/08-1944, paragraphs 4 to 11.

³¹ ICC-01/05-01/08-1906, paragraphs 11 to 14; ICC-01/05-01/08-1944, paragraphs 12 to 14.

³² ICC-01/05-01/08-1906, paragraphs 25 to 26; ICC-01/05-01/08-1944, paragraphs 26 to 27.

³³ ICC-01/05-01/08-1906, paragraphs 22 to 24; ICC-01/05-01/08-1944, paragraphs 23 to 25.

³⁴ ICC-01/05-01/08-1906, paragraphs 27 to 31; ICC-01/05-01/08-1944, paragraphs 28 to 32.

³⁵ ICC-01/05-01/08-1906, paragraph 42; ICC-01/05-01/08-1944, paragraph 43.

³⁶ Decision on 772 applications by victims to participate in the proceedings, 18 November 2010, ICC-01/05-01/08-1017; Decision on 653 applications by victims to participate in the proceedings, 23 December 2010, ICC-01/05-01/08-1091; ICC-01/05-01/08-1590-Corr; Decision on 270 applications by victims to participate in the proceedings, 25 October 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1862; ICC-01-05-01/08-2011.

contained in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Sets,³⁷ the Chamber is of the view that further elaboration upon the general legal criteria is not warranted. In line with the approach adopted in previous decisions, a case-by-case analysis for each application is provided in Annexes A, B, C, D and E appended to the present Decision.

15. Likewise, in its "Corrigendum to the Decision on 401 applications by victims to participate in the proceedings and setting a final deadline for the submission of new victims' applications to the Registry", ³⁸ the Chamber already addressed the defence's request for the communication of lesser redacted versions of the applications as well as the submissions regarding the redactions procedure applied by the VPRS. In the present circumstances, the defence does not provide any new arguments warranting a departure from the Chamber's previous findings. Accordingly, these requests are rejected.

A. Confidentiality level of the Annexes

16. The defence requests that the confidentiality designation of the annexes be altered.³⁹ As an initial matter, the Chamber underlines that the current level of confidentiality *- ex parte*, only available to the Registry and the respective common legal representative *-* is designed to ensure the safety and security of the applicants inasmuch as the annexes contain information that might lead to the identification of the applicants.⁴⁰

³⁷ In their observations on the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Sets the parties endorse the observations formulated in relation to previous transmissions. *See* ICC-01/05-01/08-1905, paragraph 6; ICC-01/05-01/08-1945, paragraph 6; ICC-01/05-01/08-1906, paragraph 3; ICC-01/05-01/08-1944, paragraphs 3 and 4.

³⁸ Corrigendum to the Decision on 401 applications by victims to participate in the proceedings and setting a final deadline for the submission of new victims' applications to the Registry, 21 July 2011, ICC-01/05-01/08-1590-Corr, paragraphs 28 to 34 and 38(g).

³⁹ ICC-01/05-01/08-1906, paragraph 42; ICC-01/05-01/08-1944, paragraph 43.

⁴⁰ See Decision on three issues related to victims' applications for participation in the proceedings, 6 September 2010, ICC-01/05-01/08-871, paragraph 17.

17. The Chamber agrees that the parties should be provided with redacted versions of the annexes. These will be provided in due course, taking into account the time constraints resulting from the large number of applications pending before the Chamber and the redactions to be applied to them. Because the Chamber's general legal analysis is set out in the various decisions, the Chamber is of the view that there is no prejudice to the defence as a result of the interval between the filing of the initial decision and the provision of redacted versions of the annexes. For this reason, the defence's contention as to the infringement of the principles of due process and the rights of the accused cannot be sustained.

B. Summary of the Annexes

18. The applicant-by-applicant analysis is set out in the appended Annexes as follows:

- Annex A, filed as *ex parte* only available to the Registry and Mr Assingambi Zarambaud: analysis of the applications belonging to Group A (alleged crimes committed in or around Bangui and PK12);

- Annex B, filed as *ex parte* only available to the Registry and Ms Marie-Edith Douzima Lawson: analysis of the applications belonging to Group B (alleged crimes committed in or around Damara and Sibut);

- Annex C, filed as *ex parte* only available to the Registry and Ms Marie-Edith Douzima Lawson: analysis of the applications belonging to Group C (alleged crimes committed in or around Boali, Bossembélé, Bossangoa and Bozoum);

- Annex D, filed as *ex parte* only available to the Registry and Ms Marie-Edith Douzima Lawson: analysis of the applications belonging to Group D (alleged crimes committed in or around Mongoumba); and

- Annex E, filed as *ex parte* only available to the Registry and Mr

Assingambi Zarambaud: analysis of application filed by the one dual status individual.

IV. Orders

19. For these reasons, the Chamber hereby:

a. Grants participating status to the following 457 applicants:							
-	(Group A:	a/0858/11;	a/0984/11;	a/0985/11;	a/0986/11;	
a/0987/11;	a/0991/11;	a/0992/11;	a/0993/11;	a/0994/11;	a/0995/11;	a/0996/11;	
a/1095/11;	a/1096/11;	a/1097/11;	a/1098/11;	a/1099/11;	a/1101/11;	a/1102/11;	
a/1179/11;	a/1180/11;	a/1181/11;	a/1183/11;	a/1184/11;	a/1185/11;	a/1186/10;	
a/1187/11;	a/1188/11;	a/1189/11;	a/1190/11;	a/1191/11;	a/1192/11;	a/1193/11;	
a/1195/11;	a/1196/11;	a/1202/11;	a/1203/11;	a/1204/11;	a/1207/11;	a/1208/11;	
a/1209/11;	a/1217/11;	a/1218/11;	a/1219/11;	a/1221/11;	a/1222/11;	a/1223/11;	
a/1224/11;	a/1225/11;	a/1226/11;	a/1227/11;	a/1228/11;	a/1229/11;	a/1230/11;	
a/1231/11;	a/1232/11;	a/1233/11;	a/1234/11;	a/1235/11;	a/2855/10;	a/2860/10;	
a/0700/10;	a/0701/10;	a/1236/11;	a/1237/11;	a/1238/11;	a/1239/11;	a/1240/11;	
a/1241/11;	a/1242/11;	a/1243/11;	a/1244/11;	a/1245/11;	a/1246/11;	a/1247/11;	
a/1248/11;	a/1249/11;	a/1250/11;	a/1251/11;	a/1253/11;	a/1259/11;	a/1260/11;	
a/1261/11;	a/1262/11;	a/1264/11;	a/1265/11;	a/1292/11;	a/1294/11;	a/1295/11;	
a/1296/11;	a/1297/11;	a/1298/11;	a/1299/11;	a/1300/11;	a/1301/11;	a/1302/11;	
a/1303/11;	a/1304/11;	a/1306/11;	a/1307/11;	a/1308/11;	a/1309/11;	a/1310/11;	
a/1313/11;	a/1314/11;	a/1316/11;	a/1317/11;	a/1318/11;	a/1321/11;	a/1322/11;	
a/1324/11;	a/1325/11;	a/1326/11;	a/1329/11;	a/1332/11;	a/1333/11;	a/1334/11;	
a/1335/11;	a/1336/11;	a/1337/11;	a/1338/11;	a/1339/11;	a/1340/11;	a/1341/11;	
a/1342/11;	a/1343/11;	a/1344/11;	a/1345/11;	a/1346/11;	a/1347/11;	a/1348/11;	
a/1349/11;	a/1350/11;	a/1351/11;	a/1352/11;	a/1353/11;	a/1355/11;	a/1357/11;	
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a/1399/11;	a/1400/11;	a/1401/11;	a/1404/11;	a/1405/11;	a/1406/11;	a/1407/11;	
a/1409/11;	a/1410/11;	a/1411/11;	a/1412/11;	a/1440/10;	a/1445/10;	a/1448/10;	

a/1505/10; a/1518/10; a/1539/10; a/1600/10; a/1700/10; a/1711/10; a/1717/10; a/1817/10; a/1833/10; a/1913/10; a/2861/10;

-		Group B:	a/0989/11;	a/0997/11;	a/1093/11;	a/1103/11;	
a/1104/11;	a/1105/11;	a/1109/12	; a/1157/11;	a/1158/11;	a/1159/11;	a/1160/11;	
a/1161/11;	a/1162/11;	a/1163/11	; a/1164/11;	a/1165/11;	a/1166/11;	a/1167/11;	
a/1168/11;	a/1169/11;	a/1170/11	; a/1171/11;	a/1172/11;	a/1173/11;	a/1174/11;	
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a/1327/11;	a/1328/11;	a/1331/11	; a/1356/11;	a/1363/11;	a/1364/11;	a/1366/11;	
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a/1467/11;	a/1468/11;	a/1469/11	; a/1470/11;	a/1471/11;	a/1472/11;	a/1473/11;	
a/1474/11; a/1475/11; a/1476/11; a/1477/11; a/2223/10;							

-	(Group	C:	a/0990/11;	a/1094/11;	a/1100/11;	a/1106/11;
a/1108/11;	a/1197/11;	a/1198/	/11;	a/1199/11;	a/1200/11;	a/1201/11;	a/1206/11;
a/1211/11;	a/0720/10;	a/1252/	'11;	a/1254/11;	a/1256/11;	a/1257/11;	a/1258/11;
a/1267/11;	a/1268/11;	a/1269/	'11;	a/1270/11;	a/1271/11;	a/1272/11;	a/1273/11;
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a/1392/11;	a/1393/11;	a/1394/	'11;	a/1395/11;	a/1396/11;	a/1413/11;	a/1414/11;
a/3162/10;							

Group D: a/0943/11; a/0944/11; a/0945/11; a/0988/11;

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a/0998/11;	a/0999/11;	a/1000/11;	a/1001/11;	a/1002/11;	a/1003/11;	a/1004/11;	
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a/1112/11;	a/1113/11;	a/1114/11;	a/1115/11;	a/1116/11;	a/1117/11;	a/1118/11;	
a/1119/11;	a/1120/11;	a/1122/11;	a/1123/11;	a/1124/11;	a/1125/11;	a/1126/11;	
a/1127/11;	a/1205/11;	a/1210/11;	a/1212/11;	a/1213/11;	a/1214/11;	a/1215/11;	
a/1216/11;	a/1293/11;	a/1305/11;	a/1311/11;	a/1312/11;	a/1315/11;	a/1319/11;	
a/1320/11; a/1397/11; a/1408/11;							

Group E: a/1369/11;

b. Rejects the applications to participate of 12 applicants, namely: a/0782/10; a/1481/10; a/1716/10; a/2625/10; a/0901/11; a/0769/11; a/1107/11; a/1255/11; a/1384/11; a/1389/11; a/2187/10; a/2510/10;

c. Instructs the VPRS to withdraw the registration numbers of the duplicate applications a/1354/11 and a/1182/11 and to consolidate the corresponding applications transmitted in previous sets of applications;⁴¹

d. Orders the Registry to submit to the Chamber as soon as practicable a report on any potential requests for protective and special measures of victims

⁴¹ The applicants concerned are registered under the registration numbers a/0566/08 and a/0812/11 and were respectively granted authorisation to participate in decisions ICC-01/05-01/08-807-Corr and ICC-01/05-01/08-2011.

who have been granted status to participate;

e. Orders the Registry, in accordance with the Chamber's oral decision of 2 December 2010,⁴² to provide the parties with a less redacted version of application a/1369/11, completed by an individual who also appeared as a witness before the Chamber;

f. Orders the Registry to (i) prepare a report compiling the extracts of the annexes to the present decision relating to applicants represented by the Office of Public Counsel for Victims ("OPCV") and whose applications were rejected; and (ii) notify such report to the OPCV as soon as practicable.

⁴² Transcript of hearing of 2 December 2010, ICC-01/05-01/08-T-42-Conf-ENG, page 8, lines 10 to 13.

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



Judge Sylvia Steiner

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Judge Joyce Aluoch

Judge Kuniko Ozaki

Dated this 9 March 2012

At The Hague, The Netherlands