



Original: **English**

No.: **ICC-01/05-01/13**

Date: **17/11/2016**

THE APPEALS CHAMBER

Before: Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, Presiding Judge
Judge Sanji Mmasenono Monageng
Judge Howard Morrison
Judge Geoffrey A. Henderson
Judge Piotr Hofmański

SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

IN THE CASE OF

THE PROSECUTOR

*v. JEAN-PIERRE BEMBA GOMBO, AIMÉ KILOLO MUSAMBA, JEAN-JACQUES
MANGENDA KABONGO, FIDÈLE BABALA WANDU AND NARCISSE ARIDO*

Public

Response to 'Order shortening time limit for responses'

Source: Defence for Mr. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo

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

The Office of the Prosecutor

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Victims Participation and Reparations Section Other

1. On 10 November 2016, the Appeals Chamber ordered the parties to respond, by 17 November 2016, to the Prosecution's proposals that:
 - i. the deadline for the submission of appellate briefs should be synchronised; and
 - ii. the parties should be ordered "to file a detailed notice of appeal, in line with the practice of the Bemba Main Case appeal, by 18 January 2017".
2. In response, the Defence for Mr. Jean-Pierre Bemba respectfully informs the Appeals Chamber that it does not oppose these proposals.
3. As regards the second proposal, the Defence agrees that such a document would expedite the appellate process and assist the parties to identify and focus on the issues in dispute. This is of particular importance in a case in which at least five parties have expressed an intention to appeal the judgment.
4. The Defence nonetheless submits that such a document should be viewed as an aid, and not a legally binding document. This document should not, therefore, preclude the Defence from either withdrawing or including additional grounds in its appellate brief. The ability to make minor adjustments to the scope of the appeal is of particular importance, given that:
 - a. The Defence's time and limited resources are focussed currently on the sentencing phase; and
 - b. The grounds raised by co-defendants (or the Prosecution, if it appeals) are likely to impact on the appellate strategy of the Defence for Mr. Bemba.



Melinda Taylor
Counsel of Mr. Jean-Pierre Bemba

Dated this 17th day of November 2016

The Hague, The Netherlands

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