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## TRIAL CHAMBER V

**Before:** 

Judge Bertram Schmitt, Presiding Judge Judge Péter Kovács Judge Chang-ho Chung

# SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC II

IN THE CASE OF THE PROSECUTOR v. ALFRED YEKATOM AND PATRICE-EDOUARD

NGAÏSSONA

Public

With Confidential Annex 1 and Confidential *EX PARTE* Annex 2 only available to the Registry

Registry Assessment Report on Victim Applications for Participation in Trial Proceedings pursuant to ICC-01/14-01/18-2148

Source: Registry

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

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### I. Introduction

- 1. On 19 March 2020, Trial Chamber V ("Chamber") issued its "Order Scheduling First Status Conference" ("Scheduling Order") in which it endorsed the victim application procedure previously adopted by Pre-Trial Chamber II ("PTC").<sup>1</sup> During the pre-trial stage, the latter had instructed the Registry in its "Decision establishing the principles applicable to victims' applications for participation" of 5 March 2019 ("5 March 2019 Decision")<sup>2</sup> to inter alia "classif[y] the applicants into three categories: (a) applicants who clearly qualify as victims ("Group A"); (b) applicants who clearly do not qualify as victims ("Group B"); and (c) applicants for whom the Registry could not make a clear determination for any reason ("Group C")." <sup>3</sup> Additionally, the PTC had ordered the Registry to transmit "to the Chamber on a rolling basis and in unredacted form all complete applications and any supporting documentation in its possession",<sup>4</sup> and to disclose "to the Prosecution and the Defence all Group C applications, redacted as needed" ("Procedure"). 5
- 2. On 17 October 2023, the Chamber issued its "Twenty-First Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups A and B) and Decision on Requests for Extension of Time to Transmit Applications" ("17 October 2023 Decision") in which it set the deadline to 29 February 2024 for the transmission of all completed applications among the 337 applications presently in the possession of the Registry ("Instruction").<sup>6</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Trial Chamber V, "Order Scheduling First Status Conference", 19 March 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-459, para. 8 (iv).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pre-Trial Chamber II, "Decision Establishing the Principles Applicable to Victims' Applications for Participation", 5 March 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-141.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> *Id.*, para. 41(i).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Id., para. 41(ii).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *Id.*, para. 41(iv).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Trial Chamber V, "Twenty-First Decision on Victim's Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups A and B) and Decision on Requests for Extension of Time to Transmit Applications", 17 October 2023, ICC-01/14-01/18-2148, para. 12.

- 3. The Registry hereby transmits its assessment report on a total of 95 applications for participation in the trial proceedings pursuant to ICC-01/14-01/18-2148, in relation to the case of *The Prosecutor v. Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona* ("Applications" and "Case", respectively), which includes:
  - A brief description of the assessment criteria applied in relation to the 48 applicants who clearly, in the Registry's assessment, qualify as victims falling within the scope of the Case (Group A);
  - A brief description of the assessment criteria applied in relation to the 47 applications who, in the Registry's assessment, clearly fall outside of the scope of the Case (Group B).
- 4. The applications falling in Group A and Group B are listed in annex 1 to the present submission ("Annex 1") and are being transmitted separately to the Chamber, in accordance with paragraph 41(ii) of the Decision. Annex 2 to the present submission ("Annex 2") contains a brief description of the assessment criteria applied in relation to Group B applications.

# II. Procedural History

- 5. On 5 March 2019, the PTC issued the Decision, setting out *inter alia* the admission procedure for victims' participation in the Case.<sup>7</sup>
- 6. On 21 June 2019, the PTC authorised 15 victims to participate at the confirmation hearing in the Case ("First Decision on Victims' Applications").<sup>8</sup>
- 7. On 13 September 2019, the PTC authorised an additional 1,070 victims to participate in the proceedings ('Second Decision on Victims' Applications'').<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Pre-Trial Chamber II, "Decision regarding the Registry's First Assessment Report on Applications for Victim Participation, the Registry's First Transmission of Group C Applications, the appointment of counsel for Victims of Other Crimes, and the victims' procedural position", 21 June 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-227-Conf. A public redacted version was filed on the same day (ICC-01/14-01/18-227-Red).
<sup>9</sup> Pre-Trial Chamber II, "Decision regarding the Registry's Outstanding Transmissions of Applications for Victim Participation", 13 September 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-338.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See *supra*, footnote 2.

- 8. On 11 December 2019, the PTC issued a decision partially confirming the charges against the accused ("Decision on the Confirmation of Charges").<sup>10</sup>
- 9. On 19 March 2020, the Chamber issued its Scheduling Order, in which it inter *alia*: i) endorsed the victim application procedure set out in the Decision;<sup>11</sup> and ii) requested the Registry to provide an update and forecast on (additional) applications by victims to participate in the proceedings.<sup>12</sup>
- 10. On 22 May 2020, the Registry provided its update on victim participation.<sup>13</sup>
- 11. On 16 July 2020, the Chamber set the start of the trial on 9 February 2021 and the "end of the Prosecution's presentation of evidence as the deadline for the transmission of victim applications by the Registry" ("16 July 2020 Decision").<sup>14</sup> The start of the trial was later postponed to 16 February 2021.<sup>15</sup>
- 12. Between 19 October 2020 and 7 September 2023, the Registry transmitted 1,896 applications categorised in Group A,<sup>16</sup> 931 applications in Group B<sup>17</sup> and 43 applications categorised in Group C,<sup>18</sup> together with reports thereon.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Pre-Trial Chamber II,"Decision on the confirmation of charges against Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona", 11 December 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-403-Conf. A public redacted version was filed on 20 December 2019. A corrected public redacted version was filed on 14 May 2020 (ICC-01/14-01/18-403-Red-Corr).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Scheduling Order, para. 8 (iv).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> *Id.*, para. 3 (I).

<sup>13</sup> Registry, "Update on Victim Applications for Participation", 8 April 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-470-Conf-Exp-AnxIII. A confidential redacted version was filed on the same day (ICC-01/14-01/18-470-Conf-AnxIII-Red). A public redacted version was filed on 22 May 2020 (ICC-01/14-01/18-470-AnxIII-Red2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Trial Chamber V, "Decision Setting the Commencement Date of the Trial", 16 July 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-589.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Trial Chamber V, "Order Rescheduling the Commencement Date of the Trial", 8 February 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-875.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> See last Registry, "Twenty-Fifth Registry Transmission of Group A Applications for Victim Participation in Trial Proceedings", 7 September 2023, ICC-01/14-01/18-2082.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> See last Registry, "Sixteenth Registry Transmission of Group B Applications for Victim Participation in Trial Proceedings", 7 September 2023, ICC-01/14-01/18-2083.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> See last Registry, "Third Registry Transmission of Group C Applications for Victim Participation in Trial Proceedings", 27 July 2022, ICC-01/14-01/18-1529.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> See last Registry, "Twenty-Eighth Registry Assessment Report on Victim Applications for Participation in Trial Proceedings", 7 September 2023, ICC-01/14-01/18-2081.

- 13. Between 23 November 2020 and 17 October 2023, the Chamber issued twentyone decisions on the merits of those applications.<sup>20</sup>
- 14. Between 12 September 2023 and 13 February 2024, the Common Legal Representatives of the Victims ("CLRVs") confirmed that they agreed with the Registry's preliminary assessment concerning 32 applications of their clients categorised as Group B.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> See Trial Chamber V, "Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings", 23 November 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-738 ("23 November 2020 Decision"); "Second Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A)", 11 December 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-765; "Third Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A)", 29 December 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-798; "Fourth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A)", 29 January 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-858; "Fifth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A)", 1 April 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-943; "Sixth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups A and B)", 4 May 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-980; "Seventh Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups A and B)", 1 June 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-1009; "Eighth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A)", 16 June 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-1028; "Ninth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups A and B)", 27 July 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-1075; "Tenth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups A and B)", 24 August 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-1092; "Eleventh Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group C)", 8 September 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-1104 ("8 September 2021 Decision"); "Twelfth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups A and B)", 29 October 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-1153; "Thirteenth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups A and B)", 19 November 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-1180; "Fourteenth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups A and B)", 9 February 2022, ICC-01/14-01/18-1274; "Fifteenth Decision on Victims" Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A)", 5 May 2022, ICC-01/14-01/18-1391; "Sixteenth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A)", 26 July 2022, ICC-01/14-01/18-1526 ("Sixteenth Decision"); "Seventeenth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups A, B and C), 21 November 2022, ICC-01/14-01/18-1672; "Eighteenth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups A and B), 20 December 2022, ICC-01/14-01/18-1708; "Nineteenth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Groups B and C)", 13 March 2023, ICC-01/14-01/18-1795; "Twentieth Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A)", 24 August 2023, ICC-01/14-01/18-2050; and "Twenty-First Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A and B) and Decision on Requests for Extension of Time to Transmit Applications", 17 October 2023, ICC-01/14-01/18-2148.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Email from Me Suprun to Registry on 12 September 2023 at 08:05; emails from Me Fall to Registry on 24 November 2023 at 17:17, on 22 December 2023 at 17:41, on 27 December 2023 at 20:05; on 24 January 2024 at 16:56; on 9 February 2024 at 19:28 and on 13 February at 14:17; emails from Me Dangabo to Registry on 29 November 2024 at 20:05 and on 28 December 2023 at 19:02; and email from Me Douzima to Registry on 14 December 2023 at 13:05. The Registry notes that 15 additional applications not represented by any lawyer have been added to the list of Group B applications concerned by the present report and related transmission filing (i.e a/40873/23, a/40875/23, a/40876/23, a/40877/23, a/40882/23, a/40885/23, a/40889/23, a/40892/23, a/40893/23, a/40906/23, a/40909/23, a/40910/23, a/40912/23, a/40912/23, a/40913/23 and a/40922/23).

#### III. Classification

15. The annexes to the present submission are classified respectively as confidential (Annex 1) and confidential *ex parte*, only available to the Registry (Annex 2), in accordance with the Decision.<sup>22</sup>

## IV. Applicable Law

16. The present report is submitted in accordance with the above-mentioned Procedure and Instructions.

## V. Submissions

- A. <u>Collection of supplementary information</u>
- 17. Between 7 September 2023 and 29 February 2024, the Registry received 72 items of supplementary information in relation to the 337 applications presently in the possession of the Registry.<sup>23</sup> In addition, one item of supplementary information was received in relation to an applicant for whom the Chamber had deferred its decision<sup>24</sup> and one item of supplementary information was collected for a victim already authorised to participate in the proceedings in the Case.<sup>25</sup>
- 18. In light of the 72 aforementioned items of supplementary information, 47 applications could be consolidated and were subsequently assessed as falling within the Group A; 18 consolidated applications were assessed as falling

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Decision, paras 41(iii) for the lists of applications to be addressed to the Chamber, parties and if applicable to the legal representatives of participating victims, and para. 41(vi) for the assessment reports containing the reasons for rejecting applications in Group B to be provided exclusively to the Chamber.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> The CLRVs collected 56 supplementary information and the Registry Country Office collected 16 supplementary information.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> See 8 September 2021 Decision, paras 43-44 (see *supra* footnote 20) in relation to application a/15015/20.
 <sup>25</sup> The application isa/20032/20. See *infra* para. 33 for more detailed information.

within the Group B; and 7 applications still remained incomplete despite the addition of consolidating additional information.

- 19. With regards to the collection of supplementary information, the CLRVs reported that they encountered various difficulties in reaching out to the victims concerned, which prevented them from completing all of their clients' applications.<sup>26</sup> Specifically, they mentioned:
  - The deterioration of the physical and psychological state of the applicants preventing them from being able to travel to meet with the CLRVs;
  - The discouragement of many victims following the withdrawal of charges in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Maxime Jeoffroy Eli Mokom Gawaka;*
  - The victims' frequent changes of permanent location that add to the challenges encountered by the CLRVs to locate the victims: in particular due to the insecurity as well as the difficult humanitarian conditions in the refugee camps, victims are frequently pushed to move to other camps or locations; and
  - Issues related to the telephone network: many victims have changed telephone numbers or providers, resulting in the impossibility for the CLRVs to contact them.

## B. Details on the Assessment Criteria of Applications Falling within Group A

20. Applying the criteria set out in paragraph 31 of the Decision, the Registry has assessed each of the 48 Applications presently transmitted under Group A as complete.<sup>27</sup> In conducting its assessment in accordance with paragraph 38 of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Email from Me Dangabo, Me Douzima, Me Fall and Me Rabesandratana to Registry on 21 February 2024 at 10:53.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Seven victims included in the Registry transmission of Group A Applications pursuant to ICC-01/14-01/18-2148 were admitted at pre-trial stage: a/65041/19, a/65043/19, a/65071/19, a/65100/19, a/65210/19, a/65212/19, a/65215/19. The Registry has reviewed said consolidated applications and concluded that the crimes suffered by these victims remained within the scope of the Case following the Decision on

the Decision, the Registry confirms that each of the applications transmitted in Group A have met *prima facie* the following criteria:

- i. Her or his identity as a natural person is established;
- ii. She or he has suffered harm;
- iii. The harm suffered is a result of an incident falling within the temporal, geographic and material scope of the Case.<sup>28</sup>

*Observations in relation to criterion (i)* 

- 21. Certain Applications<sup>29</sup> falling under Group A contain minor discrepancies, pertaining to *inter alia*: the date of birth of the applicant or the person acting on her/his behalf ("PAB"); an inversion of the applicant's first and last name; the spelling of the applicant or the PAB's name; or other minor inconsistencies in the information provided which appear to be the result of inadvertent errors. In these cases, the Registry remained mindful of the PTC's instruction as endorsed by the Chamber<sup>30</sup> that "a certain degree of flexibility must be shown",<sup>31</sup> and concluded in the present assessment that the discrepancies presented in these applications "do not call into question the overall credibility of the information provided by the applicant [...]".<sup>32</sup>
- 22. Some applicants have submitted as identification documents cards delivered by relevant camp management agencies following a registration process

the Confirmation of Charges. One application (a/15015/20) has been transmitted as falling within Group C at Trial on 31 March 2021 as part of the Second Registry Transmission of Group C Applications for Victim Participation in Trial Proceedings, ICC-01/14-01/18-940 and according to the 8 September 2021 Decision, the related Chamber's ruling on said application was deferred.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Id., para. 37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> The applications with minor discrepancies include a/65043/19, a/65071/19, a/65210/19, a/15015/20, a/15120/20, a/15175/20; a/15239/20, a/20270/21, a/20294/21, a/20295/21, a/20302/21, a/20306/21, a/20344/21, a/20419/21, a/20422/21, a/20425/21, a/20440/21, a/70459/22, a/70530/22, a/70546/22, a/70561/22, a/70611/22, a/70614/22, a/70629/22, a/70638/22, a/70991/22, a/70994/22, a/40880/23, a/40896/23, a/40898/23, a/40915/23, and a/40916/23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Scheduling Order, para. 8 (iv).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Decision, para. 34.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Ibid.

("Registration card") as well as identification documents delivered by nongovernmental organisations in the context of assistance programmes ("Entitlement card").<sup>33</sup> The Registry has previously obtained<sup>34</sup> the PTC's approval to consider such documents as sufficiently establishing the identity of applicants in the Case; this has been also presently applied in accordance with paragraph 25 of the Decision.

#### Observations in relation to criterion (iii)

- 23. In identifying the crimes falling within the scope of the Case, the Registry looks solely at the alleged acts and save in the case of alleged persecution does not make any assessment as to the potential underlying grounds for their commission.<sup>35</sup>
- 24. In accordance with the Decision on the Confirmation of Charges,<sup>36</sup> the Registry categorises within Group A *inter alia* applicants who mention the crime of imprisonment and other forms of severe deprivation of physical liberty in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> The Registry found that in many instances displaced applicants and/or persons acting on their behalf had lost their identification document and had difficulties to access local authorities. However, they often possessed cards delivered by UN agencies, refugee camp management agencies or NGOs in a similar role, which they used in lieu of any other type of identification (See, ICC-01/14-01/18-133-AnxI, para. 21. A sample of such documents is available in annex II to the Registry's report, see ICC-01/14-01/18-133-AnxII-Red2, pp. 78-80). The Registry further found that Registration cards and Entitlement cards were used outside of the context of internally displaced persons camps/sites for identification purposes. These applications are a/20270/21, a/20306/21, a/20425/21, a/70459/22, a/70546/22, a/70561/22, a/70991/22, and a/70994/22. The Registry notes that it only listed the relevant applications included in the Twenty-fifth Transmission of Group A Applications.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Email from PTC to Registry on 2 August 2019 at 15:20, in response to an email from Registry to PTC on 1 August 2019 at 18:33. The Registry noted (i) that both documents contained similar features to the ones considered to be valid by the PTC in the instant Case; and (ii) that many displaced victims had lost their identification documents (*see supra.*, fn. 26).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> As a result, the Registry assesses within Group A applicants who have suffered harm from at least one of the crimes charged against the accused. The Registry assesses whether relevant victim applicants were "perceived as collectively responsible for, complicit with, or supportive of the Seleka" only in cases where the applicant appears to have suffered from the charged crime of persecution.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Decision on the Confirmation of Charges, p. 106 at (v)(b).

relation to their forced stay at the *Ecole de la Liberté* in Bossangoa during December 2013.

- 25. In accordance with the 23 November 2020 Decision and the 8 September 2021 Decision,<sup>37</sup> the Registry furthermore categorises within Group A applicants who mention crimes committed by Anti-Balaka groups in areas neighbouring the borders of Cattin or Boeing and clearly related to the alleged attack in Bangui on 5 December 2013. In accordance with the 8 September 2021 Decision, the Registry categories within Group A applicants who mention crimes committed by Anti-Balaka groups along the PK9-Mbaiki axis and clearly related to the Anti-Balaka's advance through and takeover of villages along the PK9-Mbaiki axis, notably within a short distance of the villages of Sekia, Ndangala, Bimon, Kapou, Bossongo, Pissa and Mbaiki.<sup>38</sup>
- 26. Lastly, the Registry notes that certain applications provide an erroneous date of the alleged events or do not explicitly state specific dates. However, they refer to publicly known events (such as, in Mbaiki, the evacuation of the Muslim community to Bangui by the Chadian forces<sup>39</sup>), or provide other sufficiently detailed contextual descriptions that date the events.<sup>40</sup> In these cases, the Registry has applied the Chamber's instruction to assess applications "holistically by assessing their internal coherence and the overall context of the alleged acts".<sup>41</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Respectively, 23 November 2020 Decision, paras 27-33 and 8 September Decision, paras 17-29.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> 8 September Decision, paras 36 and 39.

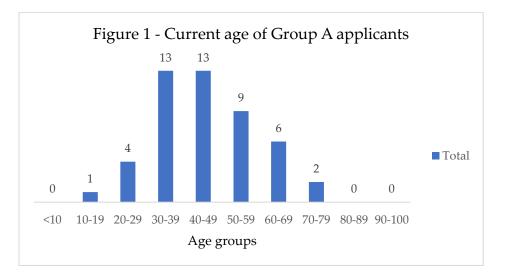
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> This event occurred on or around 6 February 2014. See TCV Single Judge, "Public redacted version of Corrected version of 'Decision on the confirmation of charges against Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona'", 29 June 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-403-Corr-Red, para. 134 or also Human Rights Watch, "Central African Republic: Muslims forced to flee", 12 February 2014, at <u>Central African Republic: Muslims Forced to Flee | Human Rights Watch (hrw.org)</u>.

 $<sup>^{40}</sup>$  These applications include: a/20440/21, a/20622/21  $\,$  and a/70994/22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Email from the Chamber to the Registry of 30 July 2020 at 17:29. The Registry notes that relevant instructions were provided where applications contained discrepancies with regards to the date. The Registry respectfully submits that the same logic should apply to those instances where an applicant did not provide an exact date but where the applicant's submission clearly relates to the events described in the Decision on the Confirmation of Charges. The Registry respectfully submits that such

#### C. Information about Group A applicants

27. Among the Group A applications assessed,<sup>42</sup> 29% were collected in Central African Republic and 71% were collected in Chad. All were received from individuals. 32 are female, 16 are male.<sup>43</sup> Applications received represent well the different victims' groups' age spectrum, except for those currently between 10 to 19 years and 20 to 29 years, for which fewer applications were collected than prevalent in all other age segments.<sup>44</sup> Considering that the average life expectancy for the CAR population is currently at 53 years for both women and men,<sup>45</sup> the Registry notes that many participating victims have presently reached that age.



interpretation is consistent with the guidance provided by the Chamber in the 23 November 2020 Decision.

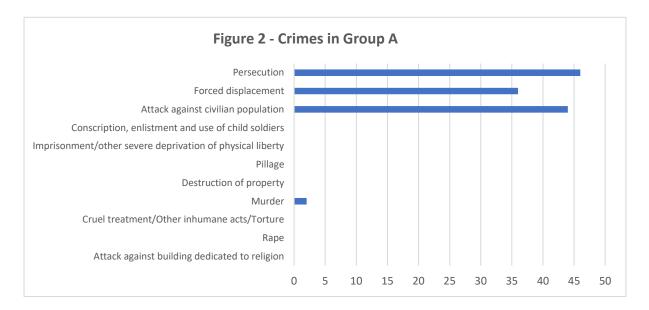
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> The figures provided relate to the 48 Group A applications transmitted in the present report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> The Registry notes that the standard victim application form approved for the Case contains only tick boxes for female and male genders. It does not provide tick boxes for other genders.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> According to World Health Organisation ("WHO") statistics, the group age 10-19 represented 26,7% of the CAR population and the group age 20-29 represented 16.6% in 2020. *See* WHO, « *Central African Republic [Country overview]* », at: <u>Central African Republic (who.int)</u>. The low number of participating victims in the 10-19 year age segment compared to the subsequent segments can be explained by the lack of understanding of victims in affected areas that children retain a separate right to participation and/or reparations before the Court. Registry efforts are focusing on clarifying this point with affected communities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> *See* "The World Bank in Central African Republic - Overview.", at: <u>Central African Republic</u> <u>Overview: Development news, research, data | World Bank</u>.

28. Among the applications that have been assessed as falling in Group A, none are from former child soldiers, none are from victims of the Bossangoa attack, 44 are from victims of the Bangui Attack, and four are from victims of the PK9-Mbaiki events.



## D. Details on the Assessment Criteria of Applications Falling within Group B

- 29. Applying the criteria set out in paragraph 31 of the Decision, the Registry has assessed each of the 47 victim applications transmitted under Group B as complete.
- 30. The 47 applications listed in the Annex 1 and presently transmitted under Group B include three applications from victims that had previously been admitted to participate during the pre-trial stage.<sup>46</sup>
- 31. In conducting its *prima facie* assessment in accordance with paragraph 38 of the Decision, the Registry has concluded that the persons whose applications have been transmitted under Group B clearly do not qualify as victims in the Case

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> The victims admitted at pre-trial stage are: a/65392/19, a/65836/19 and a/65872/19. The Registry recalls that when applicants or victims are represented, the transmission of their applications to the Chamber in Group B follows a process of verification with the CLRV to ensure that no additional information is available that could impact the Registry's assessment. See also *supra*, para. 10. This process may take several months, which in turn explains the present submission of the three abovementioned forms.

because the harm alleged has resulted from the indication of perpetrators and events falling outside the territorial, temporal, and/or material parameters of the Case.

32. Pursuant to paragraph 41(vi) of the Decision, the Registry has provided an assessment report for the Chamber in Annex 2, setting out the specific reasons for rejecting the applications. This is destined to assist the Chamber in its decision on said applications.

## E. Consolidated application of participating victims

33. The Registry has received one item of supplementary information regarding the application of a victim already admitted to participate in the proceedings by the Chamber.<sup>47</sup> The Registry has assessed the information provided and considers that it does not impact its previous Rule 85 assessment of said application. The Registry stands ready to transmit the consolidated file of said consolidated application to the Chamber, if ordered to do so.

## F. Overall Figures

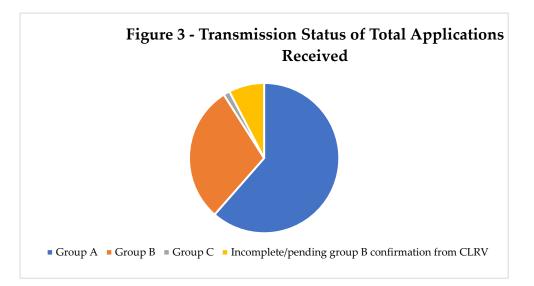
34. To date and including the present filing, among the 3,207 victim applications<sup>48</sup> to participate in the Case, the Registry transmitted 2,965 applications. 1,944 applications were assessed as falling in Group A<sup>49</sup>, 934 applications were

 $<sup>^{47}</sup>$  The application is a/20032/20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> The Registry notes that the Total Applications Received do not include withdrawn or duplicate applications (i.e. additional form(s) submitted by the same applicant in the same proceedings). Additionally, in order to meet the 16 July 2020 Decision's deadline, the Registry set the internal deadline of 11 August 2023 to its interlocutors and notably to the CLRV, for the transmission of applications to the Registry (e-mail correspondence of the Registry to the CLRV of 6 July 2023 at 13:19). The Registry was able to assess all victim applications and supplementary information received until 31 August 2023. The Registry notes that the CLRV requested 96 duplications of victim applications for other family members. As of 11 May 2022, the Registry introduced a follow-up form in the application to register the request of the CLRV and clarify the name of the applicant concerned when it differs from the name indicated on the front page of the application.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Among which one application was first transmitted as falling in Group C, consolidated with supplementary information and subsequently assessed as falling in Group A. See *supra*, para. 17 and fn. 13.

assessed as falling in Group B, 43 applications were assessed as falling in Group C,<sup>50</sup> and 242 applications still require final confirmation from respective legal representatives of victims that they can be transmitted by the Registry as Group B, or are pending receipt of supplementary information.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> See *supra*, fn.13.

35. To date, at the trial stage, the Chamber granted victim status to 1,917 applicants and rejected 945 applications.<sup>51</sup> Four applications have been deferred pending the collection of supplementary information. If the Chamber were to certify the Registry's current assessment, the total of participating victims would amount to 1,965.

p.p.

Marc Dubuisson, Director, Division of Judicial Services On behalf of Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar

Dated this 29 February 2024

At The Hague, The Netherlands

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> To date, Registry assessments of all 1,896 Group A applications have been certified by the Chamber. Similarly, Registry assessments of all 931 Group B applications have been confirmed by the Chamber. Finally, out of the 43 Group C applications submitted by the Registry, the Chamber granted victim status to 21 applicants, while 18 applicants were denied victim status in the Case; the decision on four applicants has been deferred.