Cour Pénale Internationale



International Criminal Court

Original: English No.: ICC-01/05-01/13

Date: 10/02/2014

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before: Judge Cuno Tarfusser, Single Judge

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

Confidential Document

Defence response to Decision ICC-01/05-01/13-161-Conf

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 Counsel for Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo

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Legal Representatives of the Legal Representatives of the

Victims Applicants

Unrepresented Victims Unrepresented Applicants

(Participation/Reparation)

The Office of Public Counsel for The Office of Public Counsel for

Victims the Defence

States' Representatives Amicus Curiae

REGISTRY

Registrar Defence Support Section

Mr. Herman von Hebel

Victims and Witnesses Unit Detention Section

The Defence for Mr. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo ("the Suspect") hereby files its

response to the Single Judge's Decision: ICC-01/05-01/13-161-Conf.

1. In so far as the request emanating from the Belgian authorities is designed to

facilitate the identification of potentially privileged materials, the Defence

respectfully declines to provide keywords. As stated elsewhere, the Defence believes

that the provision of keywords will not provide a sufficiently safe mechanism for

filtering out potentially privileged material. Without acknowledging that the Belgian

authorities have lawful grounds to perform a search of Aime Kilolo's electronic

materials, the Defence believes that the isolation of privileged information ought to

be performed, first and foremost, by Counsel for the Defence. If obliged to agree to

the present alternative, the Defence believes that the Investigating Magistrate is

legally and ethically bound to search each and every electronic file or document for

the isolation of potentially privileged information.

2. The Defence notes the Registry's observation that during the searches

performed in Belgium on 20 November 2013, the Office of the Prosecutor informed

the Belgian investigating magistrate that it would like to supply the latter with a list

of keywords not for the identification of potentially privileged materials but, rather,

for the identification of materials of relevance to the case.1

3. The Defence futher notes that in his letter to the Belgian authorities on 23

December 2014, the Registrar's representative highlighted the fact that the

Prosecutor's abovementioned and apparently informal communication was liable to

delay the disclosure schedule.²

¹ ICC-01/05-01/13-82-Conf-Anx1.

 2 ibid.

4. In the circumstances, the Defence repeats that the burden of proof is with the Prosecutor and that it will not assist her in the task of identifying materials of relevance to the case.

5. Given the potential delay at which the Registrar's representative hinted and given that the request for the supply of keywords was made some while ago, the Defence will oppose any request for the extension of disclosure deadlines in advance of the confirmation proceedings specifically for the purpose of permitting the electronic search of the materials seized from Aimé Kilolo Musamba.

Nicholas Kaufman

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Counsel for Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo

Jerusalem, Israel

Monday, February 10, 2014