Cour Pénale Internationale



International Criminal Court

Original: English No.: ICC-01/12-01/18

Date: 30 May 2020

Date of Submission: 12 June 2020

TRIAL CHAMBER X

Before: Judge Antoine Kesia-Mbe Mindua, Presiding

Judge Tomoko Akane Judge Kimberly Prost

SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

IN THE CASE OF THE PROSECUTOR V. AL HASSAN AG ABDOUL AZIZ AG MOHAMED AG MAHMOUD

Public

With confidential Annex A

Public redacted version of "Prosecution application under rule 68(3) to introduce Witness MLI-OTP-P-0638's prior recorded testimony and associated material", ICC-01/12-01/18-836-Conf, 1 June 2020

Source: Office of the Prosecutor

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

Court to:

The Office of the Prosecutor

Ms Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor

Mr James Stewart

Counsel for the Defence

Ms Melinda Taylor

Ms Marie-Hélène Proulx

Mr Thomas Hannis

Legal Representatives of the Victims

Mr Seydou Doumbia Mr Mayombo Kassongo Mr Fidel Luvengika Nsita Legal Representatives of the

Applicants

Unrepresented Victims

Unrepresented Applicants

The Office of Public Counsel for Victims

The Office of Public Counsel for the

Defence

States Representatives

Amicus Curiae

REGISTRY

Registrar

Counsel Support Section

Mr Peter Lewis

Victims and Witnesses Unit

Mr Nigel Verrill

Detention Section

Victims Participation and Reparations Other

Section

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Rules of Procedure and Evidence ("Rules").

² "Chamber".

³ See Annex A for details on the precise paragraphs, and items which the Prosecution seeks to admit through this Request.

5. Based on past practice, the Prosecution estimates that it will require in total three hours for the examination-in-chief of P-0638: namely, approximately thirty minutes for the formalities associated with the admission of a witness's prior recorded testimony and associated exhibits,⁴ and an additional two and half hours to conduct a supplementary examination to elicit further focussed, limited *viva voce* evidence of certain issues,

Eliciting further details on these topics is important for the Prosecution's case against the Accused.

6. Granting the Request would not be prejudicial to the rights of the Accused and it would enhance the expeditiousness of the proceedings by reducing the length of Witness P-0638's examination-in-chief by two hours, which amounts to 40% of the duration initially estimated.⁵

Confidentiality

7. Pursuant to regulation 23bis(1) of the Regulations of the Court, the Prosecution files this submission and its accompanying annexes as confidential because they contain confidential information including information regarding Prosecution witnesses, in addition to referring to filings classified as confidential. The Prosecution shall file a public redacted version in due course.

Prosecution's Submissions

8. Rule 68(3) of the Rules provides that the Chamber may allow the introduction of the previously recorded testimony of a witness who is present before the Chamber

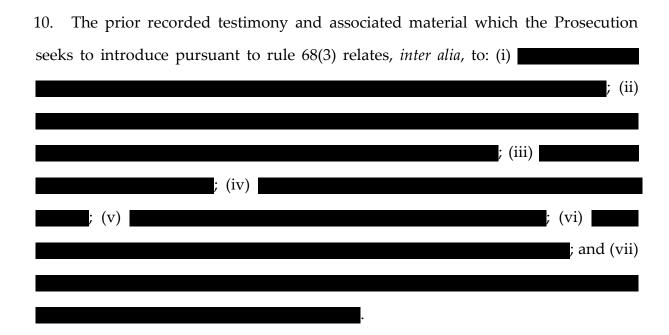
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⁴ This estimate depends, in particular, on the procedure which the Prosecution will be required to follow in relation to the admission of the associated material which it seeks to admit, *see* para.27-31 below.

⁵ The Prosecution initially estimated five hours for P-0638's examination-in-chief. *See* ICC-01/12-01/18-740-Conf-AnxB, p. 1115.

where the individual does not object to the submission, and the Parties⁶ and Chamber have the opportunity to examine the witness.

9. Witness P-0638 provided a statement to the Prosecution _____.⁷ The Prosecution identified Witness P-0638 as an appropriate witness for the procedure under rule 68(3) of the Rules.⁸



11. In its Decision on the conduct of proceedings, the Chamber ordered the Prosecution to file motivated rule 68(3) applications together with copies of the previously recorded testimony, identifying the precise passages it wishes to tender into evidence, and other materials referred to in these passages, without which the passages would not be understandable.⁹

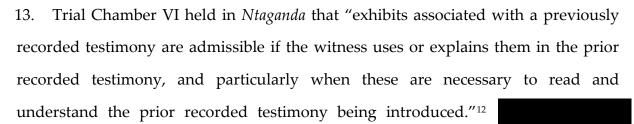
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⁶ ICC-02/11-01/15-744 OA 8, para. 69, stating that "rule 68 (3) of the Rules provides for the possibility for the Prosecutor, the defence and the Chamber to have the opportunity to examine the witness during the proceedings – this de facto includes the calling party, which in the instant case is the Prosecutor".

In accordance with ICC-01/12-01/18-789-AnxA, para. 62, the Prosecution provided the Prosecution List of Witnesses in which it indicated its intention to apply for the admission of Witness P-0638's prior recorded testimony under rule 68(3) of the Rules.

⁹ ICC-01/12-01/18-789-AnxA, para. 63. Each item of evidence which the Prosecution seeks to introduce into evidence through the present application may be accessed by clicking on the ERN listed in Annex A, which is hyperlinked to the item of evidence in eCourt, as authorised by the Chamber in its email of 28 May 2020 13:38.

12. As set out in section I of Annex A to this filing, the Pro	osecution seeks to
introduce paragraphs in Witness P-0638's statement. These p	oaragraphs explain
the facts identified above ¹⁰ and provide details on	that were
shown to the witness (without sound) during his interview, which the Prosecution	
also seeks to introduce under rule 68(3), as set out in section II	of Annex A. The
Prosecution does not seek to introduce the remainder of this witne	ss' statement.11





- 14. There is no reason to adopt any other test or standard for the admission of as opposed to other types of material.
- 15. Since these ere already during P-0638's interview, and he already provided his explanations thereof, there is no need to repeat this lengthy exercise in court. Judicial expediency warrants the admission of the shown to him together with his explanation thereof.¹⁴

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 $^{^{10}}$ See para. 10 supra.

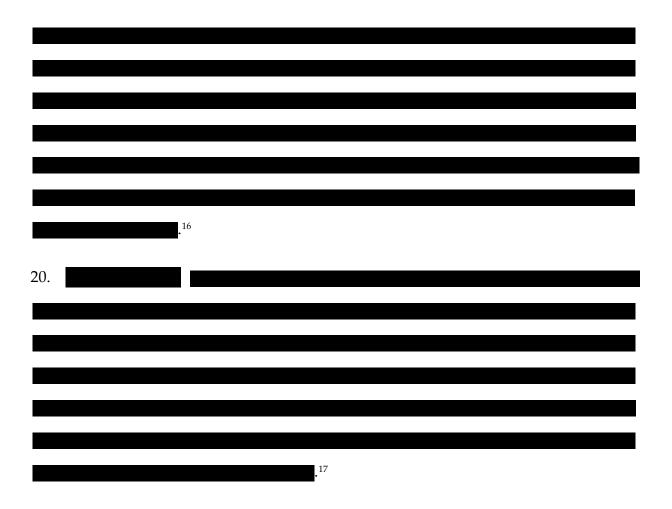
of these hich was not or explained by the witness, the prosecutio mission through other witnesses.

¹² ICC-01/04-02/06-T-105-Red-ENG ET, p.93, 1.24 - p.94, 1.7. *See also* ICC-01/04-02/06-1205, para.7; ICC-01/04-02/06-1029, para.23, 35; ICC-01/09-01/11-1938-Corr-Red2, para.33.

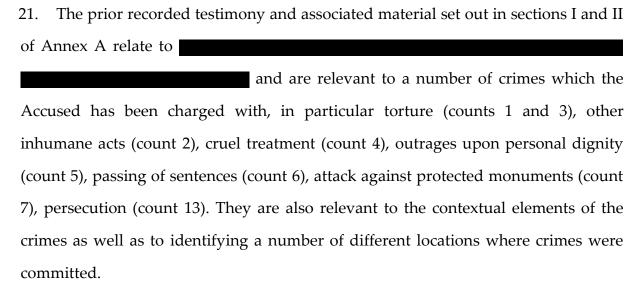
¹⁴ See ICC-01/12-01/18-789-AnxA, para. 58-59.

Brief descriptions of the associated material

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Witness P-0638's prior recorded testimony should be introduced into evidence pursuant to rule 68(3)



 16 The $$\rm will\ seek\ to\ admit}$ the $$\rm to\ seek\ to\ admit}$.

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22. The material that the Prosecution seeks to introduce pursuant to rule 68(3) is probative and reliable. Witness P-0638 provided his witness statement voluntarily

He will be asked to confirm the accuracy of his testimony when he appears before the Chamber. As such, the Parties, the participants if applicable, and the Chamber will have the opportunity to examine this witness during the proceedings and he will confirm whether he consents to the admission of his materials, in accordance with rule 68(3) of the Rules. Therefore, the admission of Witness P-0638's prior recorded testimony under rule 68(3) is not prejudicial to or inconsistent with the rights of the Accused.

Supplementary examination

- 23. Should Witness P-0638's prior testimony and associated material be introduced into evidence, the Prosecution requests leave to conduct a streamlined supplementary examination in accordance with rule 68(3) of the Rules in line with the Decision on the conduct of proceedings¹⁹ and the prior jurisprudence of this Court.²⁰
- 24. The Prosecution would first elicit, *viva voce*, further details in relation to certain issues which were only briefly referred to during Witness P-0638's prior recorded testimony,

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¹⁸ ICC-01/12-01/18-789-AnxA, para.65.

¹⁹ ICC-01/12-01/18-789-AnxA, para.65

²⁰ ICC-01/04-01/06-T-205-Red3, p.19, l.11 et seq; ICC-01/04-01/07-2233-Corr, para.16-17; ICC-01/04-01/06-1603, para.25; ICC-01/04-02/06-T-110-Red2-ENG, p.34, l.8-13; ICC-02/11-01/15-498-AnxA, para.40.

25. The Prosecution would ensure that the witness is not merely asked to repeat the information which he already provided in his prior recorded testimony. This supplementary examination is necessary for the fair evaluation of the witness, the determination of the truth and to elicit further specific evidence.

26. The Prosecution intends to complete the process of admission of Witness P-0638's material as well as its supplementary examination within three hours. Should the Chamber reject this Request in whole or in part, the Prosecution may require up to the five hours originally estimated for this witness's examination-in-chief because of the time-consuming nature of seeking to admit as identified, and the facts included in the paragraphs of his witness statement as indicated above.

Proposed procedure for the introduction of prior recorded testimony

27. Should this application be granted, the Prosecution submits that there will be no need to read into evidence Witness P-0638's prior recorded testimony as he will be asked to confirm its accuracy and to provide any corrections or amendments, if any.

28. During witness preparation, the Prosecution will ask Witness P-0638, *inter alia*, to review his prior recorded testimony, advise of any corrections or clarifications he wishes to make to it, and then to confirm its accuracy.²¹ In accordance with the Witness Preparation Protocol this session will be video-recorded and the Prosecution will disclose a log of the session clearly indicating any changes or corrections which the witness makes.²²

29. When Witness P-0638 appears in court, the Prosecution will seek to elicit, in principle by way of neutral questions, any clarifications noted by the witness during witness preparation.²³ The Prosecution will then ask the witness whether he has any

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²¹ ICC-01/12-01/18-666-Anx, para.18-19.

²² ICC-01/12-01/18-666-Anx, para.12-15.

²³ ICC-01/12-01/18-666-Anx, para. 50.

further changes or clarifications to make to his prior recorded testimony and to confirm his consent to be questioned by the Parties and the Chamber.

30. In order to save time, the Prosecution should not be required, for the purposes of admission, to show Witness P-0638 which it seeks to admit through this Request, or even portions of Witness P-0638 described them in his witness statement, and the Defence and the Chamber will be able to question him further in relation to them.

31. In terms of further procedure, after tendering his prior recorded testimony into evidence, with any changes or clarifications noted on the record, the Prosecution will then conduct a brief supplementary examination of Witness P-0638 as outlined above.

Conclusion

32. For the foregoing reasons, the Prosecution requests that the Chamber grant its Request.

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Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor

Dated this 30 May 2020

At The Hague, The Netherlands