

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

No.: ICC-01/14-01/18

Date: 12 April 2021

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
NGAISSONA**

Public

**With Confidential *EX PARTE* Annex, available only to the Registry and the
Common Legal Representatives of Victims**

First Periodic Report on the Victims Admitted to Participate in the Proceedings

Source: Registry

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

The Office of the Prosecutor

Fatou Bensouda
James Stewart
Kweku Vanderpuye

Counsel for Alfred Yekatom

Mylène Dimitri
Thomas Hannis

Counsel for Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona

Geert-Jan Alexander Knoops

Legal Representatives of the Victims

Abdou Dangabo Moussa
Elisabeth Rabesandratana
Yaré Fall
Marie-Edith Douzima-Lawson
Paolina Massidda
Dmytro Suprun

Legal Representatives of the Applicants

Unrepresented Victims

**Unrepresented Applicants
(Participation/Reparation)**

**Office of the Public Counsel for
Victims**

**Office of the Public Counsel for the
Defence**

States' Representatives

Amicus Curiae

REGISTRY

Registrar

Peter Lewis

Counsel Support Section

Victims and Witnesses Unit

Detention Section

**Victims Participation and Reparations
Section**

Philipp Ambach

Other

I. Introduction

1. On 11 December 2020, Trial Chamber V ("Chamber") issued its "Second Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A)" ("Decision") in which it directed the Registry to report every four months on: (i) the number of participating victims; (ii) the number of victims represented by each team of Common Legal Representatives of Victims ("CLRVs"); (iii) the recent activities of the CLRVs in their respective victims' communities; and (iv) any views and/or concerns expressed by the participating victims to the CLRVs, including regarding the victims' ability to follow the proceedings from their respective communities.¹
2. In accordance with the Decision, the Registry's Victims Participation and Reparations Section ("VPRS") has liaised with the CLRVs to collect the above mentioned information.² The latter provided the VPRS with detailed information relating to their activities with participating victims during the reporting period (from December 2020 to April 2021) as well as information on victims' views and concerns.³
3. The Registry hereby transmits its first periodic report on the requested information. It further appends to it information - provided by the Registry's Country Analysis Unit and Victims and Witnesses Section - pertaining to the safety and security of the victims during the reporting period ("Annex"), to provide the Chamber with a comprehensive overview of the challenges participating victims and intermediaries may be facing on the ground relating to the case of *The Prosecutor v. Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard. Ngaissona* ("Case").

¹ Trial Chamber V, "Second Decision on Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A)", 11 December 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-765, para. 9.

² Email from VPRS to Mr Dangabo, Ms Rabesandratana, Mr Fall and Ms Douzima, 2 February 2021 at 21:04; email from VPRS to Mr Suprun on 2 February 2021 at 21:11, email from VPRS to Ms Massidda, 4 February 2021 at 18:09; email from Ms Massidda to VPRS, 18 February 2021 at 09:43; email from VPRS to Mr Dangabo, Ms Rabesandratana, Mr Fall, Ms Douzima and Ms Massidda, 6 April 2021 at 12:59.

³ Emails from Mr Suprun to VPRS, 30 March 2021 at 13:38 and 6 April 2021 at 11:29; email from Ms Massidda to VPRS, 7 April 2021 at 13:34.

II. Procedural History

4. On 5 March 2019, Pre-Trial Chamber II set out the admission procedure for victims' participation in the Case ("PTC" and "5 March 2019 Decision").⁴
5. On 21 June 2019, the PTC authorised 15 victims to participate at the confirmation hearing in the Case,⁵ and on 13 September 2019 an additional 1,070 victims.⁶
6. On 11 December 2019, the PTC issued a decision partially confirming the charges against the accused ("Confirmation Decision").⁷
7. On 19 March 2020, the Chamber issued its "Order Scheduling First Status Conference" ("Scheduling Order"), in which it *inter alia*: i) endorsed the victim application procedure set out in the 5 March 2019 Decision;⁸ and ii) requested the Registry to provide an update and forecast on (additional) applications by victims to participate in the proceedings.⁹
8. On 22 May 2020, the Registry provided its Update on Victim Participation ("Update").¹⁰
9. On 16 July 2020, the Chamber set 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").¹¹

⁴ Pre-Trial Chamber II, "Decision Establishing the Principles Applicable to Victims' Applications for Participation", 5 March 2019, ICC-01/14-01/18-141.

⁵ 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).

⁶ 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.

⁷ Pre Trial Chamber II, "Decision on the confirmation of charges against Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaissona", 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).

⁸ Trial Chamber V, "Order Scheduling First Status Conference", 19 March 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-459, para. 8 (iv).

⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 3 (I).

¹⁰ 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).

10. On 19 October 2020, the Registry transmitted 15 applications categorised in Group C¹² and submitted a report thereon.¹³
11. On 23 November 2020, the Chamber issued a decision on the merits of those applications and authorised one victim to participate in the proceedings (“23 November 2020 Decision”).¹⁴
12. Between 30 November 2020 and 31 March 2021, the Registry transmitted 472 applications categorised in Group A, 250 applications categorised in Group B and 25 applications in Group C together with reports thereon.¹⁵
13. On 11 December 2020, the Chamber issued the Decision, in which it admitted 100 applicants as participating victims and directed the Registry to report every four months on the victims admitted to participate in the proceedings.¹⁶
14. Between 29 December 2020 and 1 April 2021, the Chamber issued three decisions admitting an additional 294 applicants as participating victims for the purpose of the trial proceedings.¹⁷

¹¹ Trial Chamber V, “Decision Setting the Commencement Date of the Trial”, 16 July 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-589.

¹² Registry, “First Registry Transmission of Group C Applications for Victims’ Participation in Trial Proceedings”, 19 October 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-687.

¹³ Registry, “First Registry Assessment Report on Applications for Victims’ Participation in Trial Proceedings”, 19 October 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-688.

¹⁴ Trial Chamber V, “Decision on Victims’ Participation in Trial Proceedings”, 23 November 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-738.

¹⁵ See Registry, “Second Registry Assessment Report on Applications for Victims’ Participation in Trial Proceedings”, 30 November 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-747; “Third Registry Assessment Report on Applications for Victims’ Participation in Trial Proceedings”, dated 16 December 2020 and notified on 17 December 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-777; “Fourth Registry Assessment Report on Applications for Victims’ Participation in Trial Proceedings”, dated 21 January 2021 and notified on 22 January 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-846; “Fifth Registry Assessment Report on Applications for Victims’ Participation in Trial Proceedings”, 1 March 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-895, “Sixth Registry Assessment Report on Victim Applications for Participation in Trial Proceedings”, 29 March 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-934, and “Seventh Registry Assessment Report on Victim Applications for Participation in Trial Proceedings”, 31 March 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-939.

¹⁶ See *supra*, footnote 1.

¹⁷ Trial Chamber V, “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; and “Fifth Decision on Victims’ Participation in Trial Proceedings (Group A)”, 1 April 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-943.

III. Applicable Law

15. This submission is made pursuant to articles 68(1) and (3) of the Rome Statute, rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, regulation 86 of the Regulations of the Court (“RoC”) and in compliance with the Decision.

IV. Classification

16. In accordance with regulation 23*bis*(1) of the RoC, the annex to this filing is submitted as confidential *ex parte*, available only to the Registry and both CLRVs, because it contains sensitive information that relates to the safety and physical well-being of victims.

V. Submissions

A. Number of Participating Victims

17. To date, the Registry has received a total of 2212 applications for participation in the proceedings in relation to the Case. This includes 1,244 victim applications received prior to the Confirmation of Charges hearing.

18. Out of these, the Registry transmitted to date 762 applications - including 472 Group A applications - to the Chamber, which has so far granted victim status to 395 applicants at the trial stage.

19. The Registry recalls that 1,085 victims were accepted to participate ahead of the confirmation of charges hearing at the pre-trial stage.¹⁸ In accordance with the Confirmation Decision and the Chamber’s 23 November 2020 Decision, the VPRS has been reviewing these victim applications against the revised scope of the Case. The Registry has assessed until now:

- approximately 700 of these applications as potentially adversely affected by the revised scope of the Case;¹⁹ out of these, 213 applications were

¹⁸ See *supra*, para. 5.

¹⁹ As explained in its Update (see paragraph 7 and footnotes 9 and 10), the VPRS provided on 27 February 2020 the CLRVs with a preliminary list of approximately 570 individuals. It latter informed the CLRVs that further 130 might fall outside the scope of the case following the 23 November 2020

transmitted to the Chamber on 29 March 2021 as Group B applications upon confirmation from the respective CLRVs that no additional clarification/information could be obtained from the victims;²⁰

- approximately 200 of these applications as Group A applications;²¹ out of these, 165 were admitted for participation at trial stage;
- approximately 180 of these applications as incomplete,²² or as raising issues that are pending before the Chamber.

20. The Registry is carrying on its preliminary assessments and will continue to transmit periodically to the Chamber applications for participation in compliance with the deadline set by the Chamber in its 16 July 2020 Decision.²³

B. Number of victims represented by each team of CLRVs

21. For the purpose of the current update, the Registry only presents hereafter the number of victims accepted thus far by the Chamber that are represented by the CLRVs, following the Registry's review of applications against the revised scope of the charges. However, it notes that the CLRVs represent additional victims whose status at the trial stage still remains to be settled.²⁴

Decision (Emails from VPRS to Mr Dangabo, Ms Rabesandratana, Mr Fall and Ms Douzima, 4 February 2021 at 12:07 and to Ms Massidda, 4 February 2021 at 12:07)

20 Registry, "First Registry Transmission of Group B Applications for Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings", dated 26 March 2021 and notified on 29 March 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-936.

21 Registry, "Registry's First Transmission of Group A Applications for Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings", 30 November 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-746; "Registry's Second Transmission of Group A Applications for Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings", dated 16 December 2020 and notified on 17 December 2020, ICC-01/14-01/18-778; "Registry's Third Transmission of Group A Applications for Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings", 21 January 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-847; "Registry's Fourth Transmission of Group A Applications for Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings", 1 March 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-896; "Fifth Registry Transmission of Group A Applications for Victims' Participation in Trial Proceedings", dated 26 March 2021 and notified on 29 March 2021, ICC-01/14-01/18-935.

²² While some of these applications were assessed as complete at pre-trial stage, they became incomplete in light of the revised scope of the Case (e.g. they require more details in relation to geographical locations of the alleged crimes).

²³ See *supra*, footnote 11.

²⁴ As highlighted in para. 20 above, the Registry's review of applications formerly accepted at pre-trial stage is still ongoing. As such, the Registry considers that the mandate of the CLRVs in relation to

- **Former Child Soldiers**

22. A total of 73 victims of the crime of enlistment of children under the age of 15 years and their use to participate actively in hostilities (“Former Child Soldiers”) have been admitted so far as participating victims at the trial stage.²⁵

23. The table below provides details on the gender of these victims as well as their age at the time of the alleged crimes.

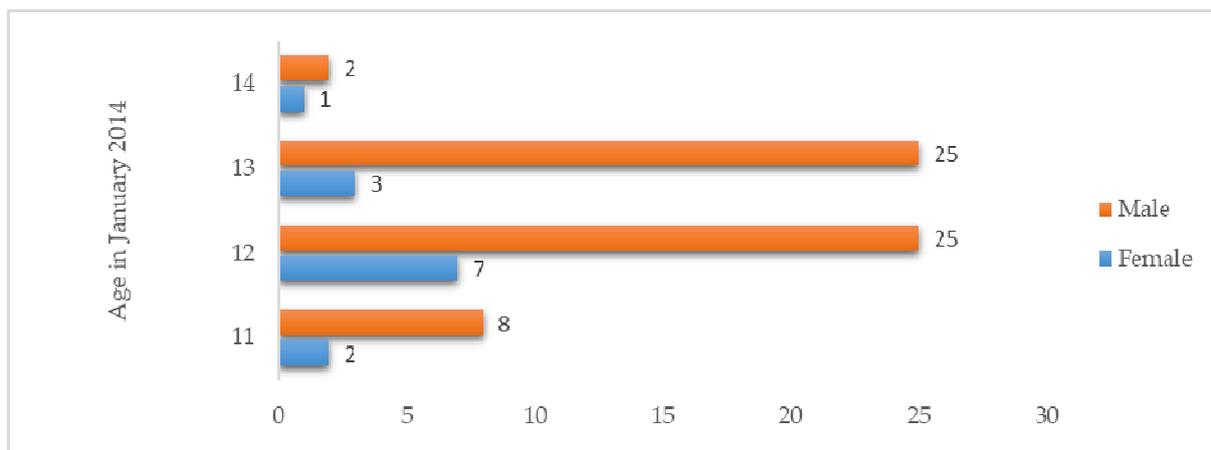


Figure 1

- **Victims of the Other Crimes**

24. 322 victims of the other crimes listed in the Confirmation Decision (the ‘Victims of Other Crimes’) have been admitted as participants at trial stage.²⁶

25. Of these 322 victims:

- 171 victims allege that they suffered from crimes charged in the context of the Anti-Balaka attack in Bangui on 5 December 2013 (“5 December 2013 Attack”);

victims accepted at pre-trial continues until their status has been determined by the Chamber and the CLRVs have informed the applicants accordingly.

²⁵ 88 Former Child Soldiers were admitted to participate at pre-trial stage.

²⁶ 997 Victims of the Other Crimes listed in the Prosecutor’s Document Containing the Charges (ICC-01-14/01-18-282-Conf-AnxB1) were admitted to participate at the pre-trial stage.

- 89 victims report that they suffered from crimes charged in the context of the Anti-Balaka attack on Bossangoa on 5 December 2013 and in the days following this attack (“Bossangoa events”);
- 62 victims allege that they suffered from crimes charged in the context of the Anti-Balaka’s advance through and takeover of villages along the PK9-Mbaïki axis (“PK9-Mbaïki events”).

26. The following chart provides an overview of the Victims of the Other Crimes including their gender, age category and the events at which they suffered harm.

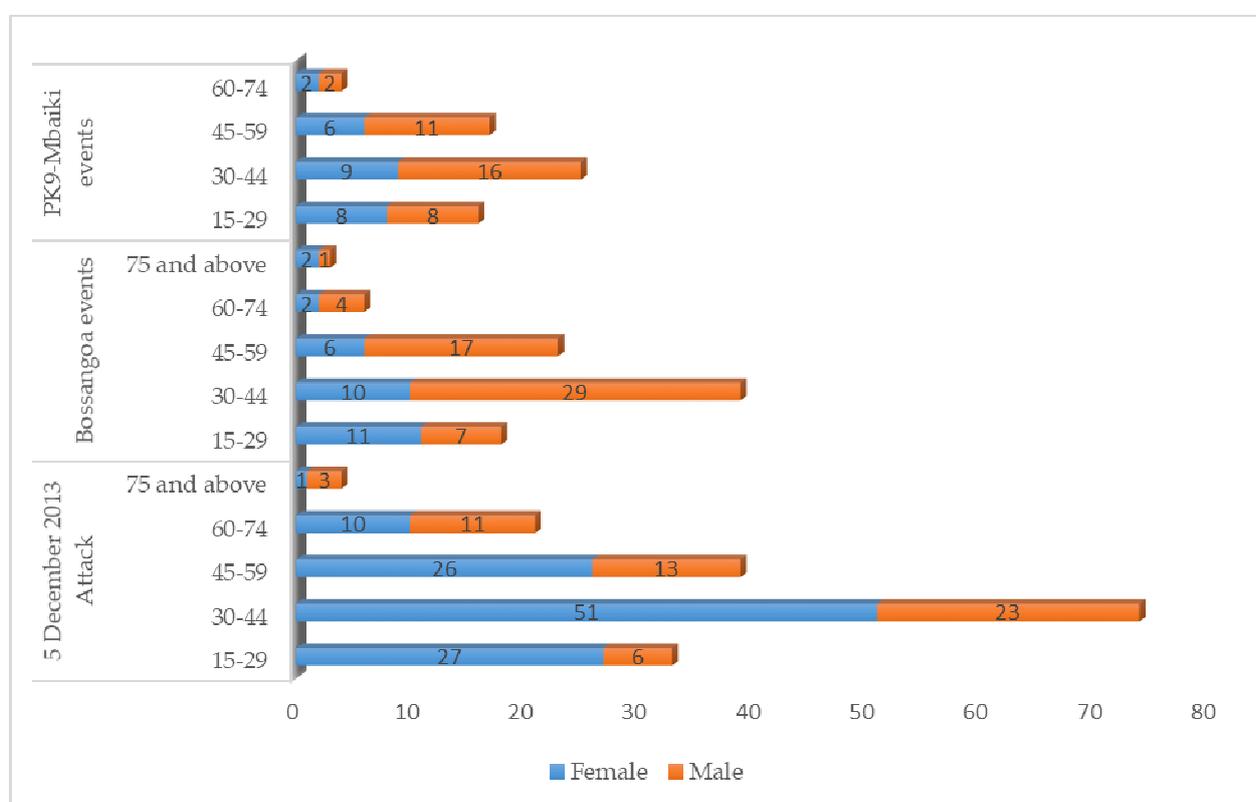


Figure 2

C. CLRVs Activities and Victims' Views

27. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Decision the common legal representative of the Former Child Soldier ("CLRVI1") and the CLRVs of the Victims of the Other Crimes ("CLRVs2") have provided the Registry with :

- information relating to their recent teams' activities amongst the victims' communities, and
- the views and/or concerns expressed by the participating victims to the CLRVs, including the victims' ability to follow the proceedings from their respective communities.

28. The following tables present the information reported to the Registry by the two CLRVs.

- *Former Child Soldiers*

Information provided by CLRVI1
On the form and content of interactions with victims
<p>The CLRVI1 reported that considering the security situation in the region, interactions with the victims were mainly held by telephone, in groups and individually. He further explained that during the group meetings, which were held on a weekly basis and lasted on average one and a half hours, the victims were first informed of the developments in the proceedings, and then had the opportunity to ask questions, express their views and concerns, as well as their expectations in terms of the justice and assistance they need.</p> <p>The CLRVI1 also indicated that other interactions were on a daily individual basis in relation to a specific topic which could be related to health, security or socio-economic reintegration issues.</p>
On the security situation in the respective communities
<p>The CLRVI1 highlighted that the particular context of the CAR, which remains in crisis with various armed groups that have not been disarmed, continues to be one of the major concerns of the Former Child Soldiers; most of the victims live in localities where many ex-combatants of the Anti Balaka live. The CLRVI1 further submitted that, according to the victims, several ex-Anti Balaka combatants have recently pledged allegiance to the <i>Coalition des Patriotes de la</i></p>

Centrafrique led by former President Bozizé. He also indicated that some victims have reported that they were approached by these ex-combatants, especially in January and February 2021, to re-enlist with them with promises of integration into the Central African armed forces in the event of victory.

The CLR V1 explained that faced with the risk of re-recruitment into armed forces, most of the victims preferred to leave their locality to find refuge elsewhere until security returned to their locality. According to him, it is worth noting that the refusal by the Former Child Soldiers to join armed groups in the region has worked in favour of the victims, as this has been seen by other members of the respective community as a sort of paying a fine. The CLR V1 also flagged that in this context, several Former Child Soldiers have reported a positive change in attitude towards them by their community.

On the views and concerns of victims

The CLR V1 reported that the victims were particularly interested in the likely length of the trial and how they would be compensated at the end, should the accused be convicted. He also submitted that many victims expressed concerns about the possibility that, as in the case of Jean Pierre Bemba, the two accused would be released and allowed to return to their country, especially with regard to their safety if the other combatants who have remained free were not disarmed.

The CLR V1 highlighted that the victims also sought to know when and how possible reparations would be provided to them if their needs as expressed in the first participation forms were to change over time and that they stressed that they need assistance as soon as possible.

The CLR V1 further flagged that many victims have reported physical and psychological health concerns, as well as difficulties with social reintegration. According to him, their health concerns remain unresolved, due in part to the absence of specialists in the areas where they live and the same applies for their social reintegration, as they are now left to their own and are asking to return to school for some, to be provided with a vocational training or to be assisted in finding a job for better reintegration for others.

On the victims' ability to follow the trial

The CLR V1 reported that most of the victims live in the Ombella-Poko and Lobaye regions, which are rural areas, some on the outskirts of Bangui and others in the provinces, which in the Central African context is an obstacle to accessing information in real time. He also indicated that nevertheless, thanks to the large-scale awareness and information campaign organised (large posters in the city of Bangui and radio broadcasts), the victims were able to follow the progress of the trial in real time, or at least the different stages thereof.

The CLRV1 further submitted that during the information sessions, many of them hoped that at the same time as the trial was taking place, information campaigns would be organised in the various localities where they live, with the possibility of following some of the trial sequences live, which would allow all the populations of these localities to be aware of the reality of the situation, as many rumours had been circulating about the release of the accused, creating a psychosis within the communities. For the CLRV1, it should be noted that after the resumption of the trial on 15 March 2021, there was a slackening in the broadcasting of the trial sequences on the radio waves, with only the large posters in the city of Bangui remaining. He also reported that in this regard, the victims have expressed the wish for the Court to remobilise the media for a better follow-up of the trial by the victims in their respective localities.

- *Victims of the Other Crimes*

Information provided by the CLRV2 team

On the form and content of interactions with victims

Victims based in CAR

The CLRV2 team reported that until March 2020, it was possible to undertake missions outside Bangui to meet with clients. They further noted that however, the situation changed due to the pandemic. The CLRV2 team highlighted that counsel based in CAR faced some difficulties in performing their mandate due to the volatile security situation in the country.

The CLRV2 team noted that as of April 2020, in Bangui, interactions with victims were mainly held *via* individual or small groups meetings with Counsel/Assistant to Counsel based in CAR and that it was also possible to hold meetings via WebEx/ WhatsApp between victims and Counsel based outside CAR. The CLRV2 team explained that special precautions were taken because of the COVID-19 pandemic (including limiting the number of victims if met in group/ wearing face masks / washing of hands/ social distancing).

The CLRV2 team further reported that considering the security situation in the region, interactions with the victims outside Bangui were mainly held by telephone and/or WhatsApp.

The CLRV2 also indicated that the number of victims reached per week varied depending on the possibility for them to come at the venue; their professional obligations; restrictions due to the pandemic; security situation, in particular

before and after the elections period. However, more than 95% of the victims were met. They submitted that it was not possible to reach all victims formerly unrepresented because the contact details provided at the time of the completion of the forms are not anymore in use or the person is not anymore living in the same area. They also explained that in this regard, Counsel will further liaise with the Registry (VPRS) to find a solution.

The CLRV2 team highlighted that during the meetings, victims were first informed about their status and the developments of the proceedings, and then had the opportunity to ask questions, and express their views and concerns. They were also asked about their health needs and/or socio-economic situation.

The CLRV2 team explained that specific individual meetings were also organised with victims whose forms were considered incomplete or for whom the Chamber had asked supplementary information and that, in this regards, Counsel provided supplementary information of a number of victims to the Registry (VPRS). This task is ongoing.

Finally, CLRV2 team reported that Counsel dedicated an important part of their time to re-verify the applications of a number of victims who appeared to not qualify anymore for the case following the decision confirming the charges. According to CLRV2 team, this task was particularly cumbersome in light of the disappointment of the victims and often required follow-up to verify the situation of the person concerned after having had knowledge that he/she is not anymore a victim of the case. They further explained that for each person falling in this category, Counsel verified whether the victim concerned suffered from other prejudice deriving from crimes in the scope of the case and that this task is in completion.

Victims based in Chad

The CLRV2 team reported that due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the measures implemented by the government of Chad, Counsel could not meet the victims in the field. However, in cooperation with the field assistant and the intermediaries who received a basic training from the VPRS, Counsel have been able to maintain contact with victims and carry out some activities. Interactions with victims were held both via individual meetings and group meetings. Meetings have been organized in compliance with the preventive measures (limitation of the number of victims when necessary, wearing of masks, use of disinfecting gel).

The CLRV2 team further indicated that group meetings aimed to inform and update the victims about the progress of the proceedings. Media such as radio were also used to inform victims about said meetings. Victims were able to express their concerns and ask questions. Thus, Counsel reached out a large majority of the victims they represent.

The CLRV2 team also noted that individual meetings - held mainly via WhatsApp - aimed to update victims on their personal status and to identify their personal situation and needs, for example in terms of health. The goal of these meetings was also to collect supplementary information requested by the VPRS. This task is currently ongoing.

Finally, Counsel from CLRV2 team underlined that the current presidential elections have a negative impact on the security situation in Chad. As a consequence, even if some anti-Covid measures have been lifted, entering Chadian territory is still difficult. The CLRV2 team also highlighted that however, Counsel will maintain the efforts to perform their mandate in the interest of their clients.

On the views and concerns of victims

According to the CLRV2 team, victims were particularly disappointed about the narrow interpretation of the geographical and temporal scope of the case. They reiterated that the events took place in an area broader than the one identified as neighbouring Boeing and Cattin and asked for a more flexible approach in assessing their applications. Some of them also expressed sadness and dissatisfaction indicating that their sufferings were not duly taken into account and that this is the second time that their quest for justice is not heard.

The CLRV2 team reported that victims were also concerned about the likely length of the trial and how they would be compensated at the end of the trial if the accused will be convicted. Many expressed concerns about the possibility of the release of the accused and their return to the country, especially with regard to their safety. Indeed, the security situation in the country remains a great concerns for the victims who indicated that the anti-Balaka are still active and armed. Some victims also expressed the fear that this trial will conclude as the one against Mr Bemba, without a responsible recognised for the crimes they suffered from.

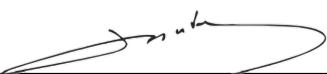
The CLRV2 team further noted that many victims reported physical and psychological health problems, as well as difficulties in finding a job and the impossibility to send their children to school. Others indicated that they still live separated from members of their family who sought refuge in other countries, mainly in Chad and Cameroon. The vast majority asked about the TFV assistance programme.

On the victims' ability to follow the trial

The CLRV2 team specified that victims represented at trial live in Bangui and in other areas of CAR, as well as in refugee camps in Chad. The current situation in CAR where network and phone connections are not stable do not allow to access

information easily. However, the efforts deployed by the Registry (PIOS and FO) to disseminate information about the trial via large posters in the city of Bangui and radio broadcasts, made possible for a number of the victims to follow the start of the trial. In Chad also, victims who live in refugee/returnee camps located next to the capital were able to follow the opening of the trial thanks to the efforts deployed by the field assistant and the NGO partners. For example, a giant screen was installed to enable victims to follow the opening of the trial.

The CLV2 team also reported that the possibility to be informed and follow the trial varies depending on the location where victims reside, being higher in Bangui town and surroundings and low in rural areas. In this regard, during the meetings, many victims indicated that the Court should organise information campaigns in the various localities where they live, with the possibility of following parts of the trial live. According to the victims, this will allow them to be aware of what really happens at the Court, since often rumours are spread about the release of the accused, worrying victims and their communities. The CLRV2 team further explained that victims also indicated that, while the start of the trial was largely covered by the media, there was little information about the resumption of the trial on 15 March 2021. In this regard, victims expressed the wish for the Court to remobilise the media for a better follow-up of the trial in all the areas where victims reside. According to the CLRV2 team, this is even more true in Chad where the Court's field presence is nearly non-existent.



Marc Dubuisson, Director, Division of Judicial Services

On behalf of Peter Lewis, Registrar

Dated this 12 April 2021

At The Hague, The Netherlands