

**UNITED
NATIONS**



International Residual Mechanism
for Criminal Tribunals

Case No.: MICT-13-36-ES.2

Date: 22 March 2021

Original: English

THE PRESIDENT OF THE MECHANISM

Before: Judge Carmel Agius, President

Registrar: Mr. Abubacarr Tambadou

Order of: 22 March 2021

PROSECUTOR

v.

LAURENT SEMANZA

PUBLIC

**FURTHER ORDER TO THE REGISTRAR
RELATED TO LAURENT SEMANZA'S URGENT
PETITION FOR EARLY RELEASE**

The Office of the Prosecutor:

Mr. Serge Brammertz

Counsel for Mr. Laurent Semanza:

Mr. Peter Robinson
Mr. Sadikou Alao

I, CARMEL AGIUS, President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (“President” and “Mechanism”, respectively);

BEING SEISED of a motion filed by Mr. Laurent Semanza (“Semanza”) on 11 March 2021 seeking immediate early release due to the presence of COVID-19 in the prison where he is serving his sentence (“Prison”) and the high risk he faces if he were to contract COVID-19;¹

RECALLING my order of 15 March 2021, in which I requested detailed submissions from the Registrar of the Mechanism (“Registrar”) regarding the epidemiological situation in the Prison; steps taken to limit further COVID-19 infections in the Prison; and the procedures in place to treat prisoners who have already contracted the virus, including the capacity of nearby medical institutions to provide necessary care for those infected;²

NOTING that on 19 March 2021, the Registrar filed a confidential and *ex parte* submission in response to the Order of 15 March 2021;³

NOTING that the Registrar confirms that adequate medical care is available to all persons serving their sentences in the Republic of Benin (“Benin”) under the supervision of the Mechanism (“Convicted Persons”), including for the handling of COVID-19 related cases;⁴

NOTING that the Registrar further reports, *inter alia*, that the Prison has isolated the Convicted Persons who tested positive for COVID-19 from the remainder of the Prison population, including the Convicted Persons who have not tested positive for COVID-19;⁵

CONSIDERING, however, that I am still awaiting other information that is necessary for me to adjudicate the Application;⁶

NOTING that the Registrar has already indicated that he will file a supplemental submission providing additional information once it is received;⁷

HEREBY INSTRUCT the Registrar to continue to urgently liaise with the Beninese authorities and to file a submission at the earliest possible opportunity, and in any event no later than Friday,

¹ Urgent Petition for Immediate Early Release due to COVID-19, 11 March 2021 (“Application”), paras. 1, 8. The Application was circulated on 12 March 2021.

² Order to the Registrar Related to Laurent Semanza’s Urgent Petition for Early Release, 15 March 2021 (“Order of 15 March 2021”), p. 3.

³ Registrar’s Submission in Relation to the “Order to the Registrar Related to Laurent Semanza’s Urgent Petition for Early Release” of 15 March 2021, 19 March 2021 (confidential and *ex parte*) (“Registrar’s Submission”).

⁴ Registrar’s Submission, paras. 13-14.

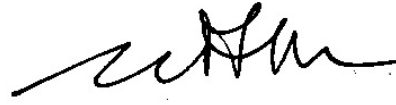
⁵ Registrar’s Submission, para. 8.

⁶ Registrar’s Submission, paras. 6-10, 21.

⁷ Registrar’s Submission, para. 21.

26 March 2021, setting out the remaining information as requested in the Order of 15 March 2021, as well as any updated information with respect to this matter.

Done this 22nd day of March 2021,
At The Hague,
The Netherlands.



Judge Carmel Agius
President

[Seal of the Mechanism]



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