

UNITED
NATIONS



International Residual Mechanism
for Criminal Tribunals

Case No.: MICT-13-37-ES.2

Date: 16 October 2026

Original: English

THE PRESIDENT OF THE MECHANISM

Before: Judge Graciela Gatti Santana, President

Registrar: Mr. Abubacarr Tambadou

Date: 16 October 2026

THE PROSECUTOR

V.

HASSAN NGEZE

PUBLIC

**REQUEST TO CONSIDER TWO ADDITIONAL LETTERS IN DECIDING
HASSAN NGEZE'S APPLICATION FOR EARLY RELEASE**

Office of the Prosecutor:

Ms. Laurel Baig, Officer-in-Charge, Arusha branch

Pro Bono Counsel for Mr. Hassan Ngeze:

Tanya Pettay

1. Hassan Ngeze, through his Counsel, respectfully requests that the attached documents, a letter to the Norwegian Nobel Committee concerning Ms. Navanetham Pillay's contribution to international criminal justice and a similar letter addressed to the Office of the President,¹ be considered as part of his Application for Early Release.² These documents are relevant to the assessment of Mr. Ngeze's rehabilitation and acceptance of responsibility for the crimes of which he was convicted.
2. In these letters, Mr. Ngeze expresses his appreciation for Ms. Pillay's contribution to international criminal justice, notwithstanding the fact that she presided over his trial at the ICTR, participating in the judgment finding him guilty. Rather than harboring resentment toward Ms. Pillay or the judicial process, Mr. Ngeze expresses his respect for her work and acknowledges the importance of the rule of law and the pursuit of accountability. This demonstrates his acceptance of the legitimacy of the proceedings against him and of the judgment rendered in his case.
3. Consistent with statements he has made previously,³ in these letters Mr. Ngeze acknowledges his personal responsibility for the crimes of which he was convicted and reiterates his sincere remorse. He further recognizes the significance of his conviction to the victims of those crimes and demonstrates an understanding of the role that justice plays in acknowledging their suffering. These letters are notable because they reflect not merely an expression of remorse, but a continued and voluntary commitment to accountability, reconciliation, and peaceful coexistence. They therefore provide additional evidence of Mr. Ngeze's rehabilitation and may assist the President in assessing whether the purposes of punishment have been fulfilled and whether early release is appropriate in the circumstances.

Word count: 293

Respectfully submitted,



Tanya Pettay

Pro bono counsel for Mr. Hassan Ngeze

¹ See Annex.

² Application for Early Release, 28 July 2026.

³ See *Id.*, fn. 18 and Annex A.

ANNEX

HASSAN NGEZE
Prison d'Akpro-Misséréte
Republic of Benin
Under the authority of the United Nations.

Date : 10 October 2026

TO:

**The Honourable Judge Graciela Gatti Santana
President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT).**

**The Honourable Aboubacar M. Tambadou
Registrar of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT).**

COPIES TO:

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee — for information and consideration.
- Ms. Tanya Pettay, Legal Counsel — for information and records.

SUBJECT : CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDGE NAVANETHEM “NAVI” PILLAY FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2026 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, AND REQUEST FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF MY PERSONAL MESSAGE

Honourable President, Honourable Registrar,

I have the honour of addressing you respectfully to request your assistance in transmitting my sincere congratulations and personal message of appreciation to Judge Navanethem “Navi” Pillay following the announcement concerning the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize.

As I do not have a reliable means of establishing direct contact with Judge Pillay, I consider it appropriate to seek the assistance of the Mechanism in conveying this communication to her.

1. My appreciation for Judge Pillay’s contribution to international justice

I wish to express my profound appreciation for Judge Pillay’s contribution to international criminal justice, the protection of human dignity, and the advancement of international law, particularly in relation to Rwanda and the African continent. Judge Pillay served as President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Her judicial career forms an important part of the international effort to ensure accountability for genocide and other serious international crimes.

Her work reflects a fundamental principle of justice ; no individual, regardless of social position, political influence, military rank, or civilian status, should consider themselves above the law. Those responsible for serious international crimes must be brought before competent courts and held accountable in accordance with the laws. This principle is essential to the protection of victims, the preservation of human dignity, and the prevention of future atrocities.

2. My personal testimony and acknowledgment of responsibility.

My message carries particular significance because I am not writing merely as an outsider observer of international justice. I am writing as a person whose case was adjudicated by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and who was convicted of serious crimes.

I acknowledge my direct responsibility for my role in the crimes of which I was convicted. I deeply regret my involvement and recognize the suffering that these crimes inflicted upon victims, their families, Rwanda, and humanity as a whole. Through my own judicial proceedings, I experienced the authority of international criminal justice and witnessed the importance of judicial institutions in addressing crimes that caused immense suffering and shocked the conscience of humanity.

I recognize that victims and their families deserve to have their suffering acknowledged and their dignity respected. Their suffering must never be forgotten, and justice remains essential to building a more peaceful and responsible society.

It is from this position of personal responsibility, remorse, and reflection that I wish to convey my congratulations to Judge Pillay.

3. The personal significance of Judge Pillay’s judicial role

Judge Pillay’s judicial role gives this communication a particularly personal dimension.

As a former President of the ICTR and a judge involved in the proceedings that resulted in my conviction, she occupies a significant place in my personal history.

I offer my congratulations with humility and respect, notwithstanding my own conviction.

My purpose is not to challenge the judgment, reopen my proceedings, or seek any advantage in my legal situation through this communication. Rather, I wish to acknowledge the importance of international criminal justice, express my remorse, and recognize the responsibility of judicial institutions to uphold the laws and protect the rights and dignity of victims.

I believe that acknowledging the importance of justice is compatible with expressing sincere regret for one's own actions and recognizing the suffering of others.

4. The significance of this recognition for victims and humanity

In my personal view, the recognition of Judge Pillay carries a profound message for two important groups.

First, it represents a message of hope and recognition for victims.

It underscores the importance of acknowledging their suffering, respecting their dignity, and ensuring that serious crimes are addressed through competent and independent judicial institutions.

Victims should never feel that their suffering has been erased from the memory of humanity. Their experiences must remain part of our collective commitment to justice, reconciliation, and the prevention of future crimes.

Second, it sends a message to those who believe themselves untouchable.

No individual should assume that political power, military authority, social standing, or influence can permanently protect them from accountability for serious crimes.

Time does not erase the suffering of victims, nor does it remove the importance of justice. Every individual must understand that responsibility for one's actions is a fundamental principle of humanity and the rule of law.

I believe that these principles are essential to building a future in which peace, justice, accountability, and respect for human dignity reinforce one another.

5. My personal congratulations to Judge Pillay

I wish to convey my sincere congratulations to Judge Navanethem "Navi" Pillay and to express my respect for her contribution to international criminal justice. My message is offered in a spirit of humility, reflection, and recognition of the importance of accountability for serious international crimes.

As a convicted person who acknowledges his direct responsibility and expresses profound remorse, I believe that this communication carries a particular meaning. It demonstrates that recognizing the authority of justice, accepting responsibility, and expressing remorse can form part of a sincere commitment to human dignity.

I hope that my message will be understood in the spirit in which it is offered: as a personal expression of congratulations, a recognition of the importance of justice for victims, and an acknowledgment of the responsibility that all individuals bear for their actions.

6. Formal request for transmission of this communication

Honourable President, Honourable Registrar,

As I have no reliable direct means of contacting Judge Navanethem "Navi" Pillay, I respectfully request that you consider the appropriate institutional means of transmitting this letter to her or forwarding it to the relevant office.

I would be deeply grateful for your assistance in ensuring that my personal congratulations and message of appreciation reach their intended recipient.

I wish to request you also to providing a copy of this communication to the Norwegian Nobel Committee for its information and consideration, and to my legal counsel, Ms. Tanya Pettay, for her information and records.

I understand that the transmission of this communication is subject to the appropriate procedures of the respective institutions.

I hope that this message will contribute, in its own modest way, to the continuing international commitment to justice, peace, accountability, and respect for human dignity.

Please accept, Honourable President and Honourable Registrar, my sincere gratitude for your consideration of this request.



Hassan Ngeze

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HASSAN NGEZE
Prison d'Akpro-Missérété
Republic of Benin
Under the authority of the United Nations

Date: 10 October 2026

TO:

The Norwegian Nobel Committee - Oslo, Norway

COPY FOR INFORMATION:

1. The Honourable Judge Graciela Gatti Santana President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT).
2. The Honourable Aboubacar M. Tambadou Registrar of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT).
3. Ms. Tanya Pettay, Legal Counsel.

SUBJECT: PERSONAL TESTIMONY ON JUDGE NAVANETHEM “NAVI” PILLAY, INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE, ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY, AND THE PURSUIT OF PEACE.

Honourable Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee,

I have the honour of addressing you directly to share my personal testimony concerning Judge Navanethem “Navi” Pillay and her contribution to international criminal justice, the protection of human dignity, and the advancement of the rule of law.

I write to you from the Prison civile d'Akpro-Missérété in the Republic of Benin, where I am serving a sentence imposed by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). My circumstances give this testimony a particular personal significance. I am writing not merely as an observer of international justice, but as a person whose life has been profoundly affected by its authority.

1. My recognition of Judge Pillay's contribution to international justice

Judge Navanethem “Navi” Pillay served as President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Her judicial career forms part of the international effort to establish accountability for genocide and other serious international crimes.

I recognize the importance of the work performed by international judicial institutions in affirming that no individual, regardless of political position, military rank, social influence, or civilian status, is above the law. The principle of accountability is essential to protecting victims, defending human dignity, and preventing future atrocities. It reminds humanity that justice must not depend on a person's power or influence, but on the law and the evidence.

I wish to express my respect for Judge Pillay's contribution to this important international mission.

2. My personal testimony as a convicted person

My testimony carries a particular weight because I am writing as a person convicted of serious crimes by the ICTR.

I acknowledge my direct responsibility for my role in the crimes of which I was convicted. I deeply regret my involvement and recognize the immense suffering inflicted upon victims, their families, Rwanda, and humanity as a whole.

I understand that acknowledging responsibility cannot erase the suffering of victims or undo the harm caused. Nevertheless, I believe that honest acknowledgment, sincere remorse, and respect for the authority of justice are essential elements of personal reflection.

My experience has taught me that international justice is not merely an institution that delivers judgments. It also represents the principle that human dignity must be protected, victims must not be forgotten, and those responsible for serious crimes must face accountability.

I offer this testimony in a spirit of humility, responsibility, and profound respect for the victims.

3. The personal significance of Judge Pillay's judicial role

Judge Pillay occupies a significant place in my personal history because of her association with the ICTR and the proceedings that resulted in my conviction.

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My recognition of her judicial contribution does not diminish my acknowledgment of responsibility. Nor is this letter intended to challenge my conviction, reopen my judicial proceedings, or seek any advantage in my legal situation.

Rather, I wish to demonstrate that a person who has been convicted of serious crimes can acknowledge the importance of the judicial institutions that held him accountable, express remorse for his actions, and recognize the dignity and suffering of victims.

In my view, accepting responsibility and recognizing the importance of justice are compatible with respecting the work of judges who have served the cause of international accountability.

4. My personal perspective on peace and the recognition of judicial service

I believe that peace cannot be built on silence about suffering, the denial of responsibility, or the belief that certain individuals are beyond the reach of justice.

Lasting peace requires truth, accountability, respect for victims, and a commitment to preventing the recurrence of serious crimes.

The recognition of individuals who have contributed to justice and human dignity can also serve as an opportunity to remind the international community of the importance of independent judicial institutions.

For victims and their families, the international commitment to justice affirms that their suffering matters and that their dignity must never be erased from humanity's collective memory.

For those who have committed serious crimes, the same principle is a reminder that personal responsibility cannot be separated from the pursuit of peace.

These are principles that I believe deserve continued international recognition and support.

5. My personal message concerning Judge Pillay and the Nobel Peace Prize

Honourable Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this personal testimony for your consideration in connection with Judge Navanethem "Navi" Pillay, her contribution to international justice, and any relevant consideration of her work in the context of the Nobel Peace Prize.

My purpose is not to presume upon the Committee's independence or to interfere with its deliberations. I fully respect its responsibility to assess candidates and make its decisions according to its own procedures and criteria.

I wish only to share my perspective as a person whose life has been directly affected by international criminal justice.

If recognition is being considered for Judge Pillay, I hope that my testimony may serve as one personal account of the broader significance of judicial accountability, the protection of victims, and the principle that no one is above the law.

My message is offered with humility and respect, without any expectation of personal benefit.

6. My appeal to humanity

I remain convinced that the world needs more than declarations of peace. It needs people and institutions committed to justice, responsibility, and respect for human life.

My own history obliges me to reflect on the consequences of serious crimes and the suffering they cause.

I cannot change the past, but I can acknowledge my responsibility and express my profound regret.

I believe that a meaningful commitment to peace begins with the courage to recognize wrongdoing, respect those who have suffered, and support principles that protect future generations from similar tragedies.

It is in this spirit that I address the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

I respectfully invite you to receive this letter as my personal testimony concerning the importance of international justice and the contribution of Judge Navanethem "Navi" Pillay.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please accept, Honourable Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, the assurances of my highest consideration and respect.

Respectfully,



HASSAN NGEZE

Prison d'Akpro-Misséré République de Bénin Under the authority of the United Nations



TRANSMISSION SHEET FOR FILING OF DOCUMENTS / FICHE DE TRANSMISSION POUR LE DÉPÔT DE DOCUMENTS

I - FILING INFORMATION / INFORMATIONS GÉNÉRALES

To/ À : IRMCT Registry/ Greffe du MIFRTP		☒ Arusha/ Arusha		☐ The Hague/ La Haye	
From/ De :	☐ President/ Président	☐ Chambers/ Chambre	☐ Prosecution/ Bureau du Procureur	☒ Defence/ Défense	☐ Registrar/ Greffier
Case Name/ Affaire : Hassan Ngeze		Case Number/ Affaire n° : MICT-13-37-ES.2			
Date Created/ Daté du :	16 October 2026	Date transmitted/ Transmis le :	16 October 2026	Number of Pages/ Nombre de pages :	7
Original Language/ Langue de l'original :	☒ English/ Anglais	☐ French/ Français	☐ Kinyarwanda	☐ B/C/S	☐ Other/Autre (specify/ préciser):
Title of Document/ Titre du document : REQUEST TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT AS PART OF MATERIAL RELEVANT TO HASSAN NGEZE'S APPLICATION FOR EARLY RELEASE					
Classification Level/ Catégories de classification :	☒ Public/ Document public	☐ Ex Parte Defence excluded/ Défense exclue ☐ Ex Parte Prosecution excluded/ Bureau du Procureur exclu ☐ Ex Parte Rule 86 applicant excluded/ Article 86 requérant exclu ☐ Ex Parte Amicus Curiae excluded/ Amicus curiae exclu ☐ Ex Parte other exclusion/ autre(s) partie(s) exclue(s) (specify/ préciser) :			
Document type/ Type de document :					
☒ Motion/ Requête	☐ Judgement/ Jugement/Arrêt	☐ Book of Authorities/ Recueil de sources	☐ Warrant/ Mandat		
☐ Decision/ Décision	☐ Submission from parties/ Écritures déposées par des parties	☐ Affidavit/ Déclaration sous serment	☐ Notice of Appeal/ Acte d'appel		
☐ Order/ Ordonnance	☐ Submission from non-parties/ Écritures déposées par des tiers	☐ Indictment/ Acte d'accusation			

II - TRANSLATION STATUS ON THE FILING DATE/ ÉTAT DE LA TRADUCTION AU JOUR DU DÉPÔT

☒ Translation not required/ La traduction n'est pas requise					
☐ Filing Party hereby submits only the original, and requests the Registry to translate/ La partie déposante ne soumet que l'original et sollicite que le Greffe prenne en charge la traduction : (Word version of the document is attached/ La version Word du document est jointe)					
☐ English/ Anglais ☐ French/ Français ☐ Kinyarwanda ☐ B/C/S ☐ Other/Autre (specify/préciser):					
☐ Filing Party hereby submits both the original and the translated version for filing, as follows/ La partie déposante soumet l'original et la version traduite aux fins de dépôt, comme suit :					
Original/ Original en :	☒ English/ Anglais	☐ French/ Français	☐ Kinyarwanda	☐ B/C/S	☐ Other/Autre (specify/ préciser):
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