

**UNITED  
NATIONS**



International Residual Mechanism  
for Criminal Tribunals

Case No.: MICT-14-77-ES.1

Date: 26 June 2026

Original: English

---

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE MECHANISM**

**Before:** Judge Graciela Gatti Santana, President

**Registrar:** Mr. Abubacarr M. Tambaou

**Decision of:** 26 June 2026

**PROSECUTOR**

v.

**ALOYS NTABAKUZE**

*PUBLIC*

---

**DECISION RELATED TO ALOYS NTABAKUZE'S  
APPLICATION FOR EARLY RELEASE**

---

**Counsel for Mr. Aloys Ntabakuze:**

Sandrine Gaillot

**I, GRACIELA GATTI SANTANA**, President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (“President” and “Mechanism”, respectively);

**RECALLING** that Mr. Aloys Ntabakuze (“Ntabakuze”) is serving a 35-year sentence of imprisonment in the Republic of Benin, following his conviction by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda;<sup>1</sup>

**NOTING** that Ntabakuze has served two-thirds of his sentence as of November 2020;<sup>2</sup>

**BEING SEISED** of the direct petition for early release filed confidentially by Ntabakuze on 22 June 2026;<sup>3</sup>

**RECALLING** that, according to paragraphs 15 and 17 of the Practice Direction on Lengths of Briefs and Motions, a motion shall not exceed 3,000 words and that, to exceed the word limit, a party must seek advance authorisation and provide an explanation of the exceptional circumstances that necessitate the oversized filing;<sup>4</sup>

**CONSIDERING** that the 4,636-word Application substantially exceeds the prescribed word limit,<sup>5</sup> and that Ntabakuze has neither sought prior authorisation nor provided an explanation of the exceptional circumstances necessitating an oversized filing;

**FINDING**, therefore, that as Ntabakuze has failed to comply with the requirements contained in the Practice Direction on Lengths of Briefs and Motions,<sup>6</sup> the Application is not validly filed;

**HEREBY DECLARE** the Application null and void.

---

<sup>1</sup> See *Prosecutor v. Aloys Ntabakuze*, Case No. ICTR-98-41-T, Decision on the Enforcement of Sentence, 21 June 2012, p. 3; *Aloys Ntabakuze v. Prosecutor*, Case No. ICTR-98-41A-A, Judgement, 8 May 2012, para. 317.

<sup>2</sup> Decision on the Application for Early Release of Aloys Ntabakuze, 17 May 2022 (public redacted), para. 33.

<sup>3</sup> Aloys Ntabakuze’s Direct Petition for Early Release, 22 June 2026 (confidential) (“Application”). I note that Ntabakuze filed another request on 15 June 2026 which, he submits, is filed “concurrently with, and in direct support of,” the Application. See Request for Witness Protection, 15 June 2026 (strictly confidential) (“Request for Witness Protection”), para. 1. I consider that all arguments in support of the Application must be included in a single filing, as opposed to cross-referencing to the Request for Witness Protection.

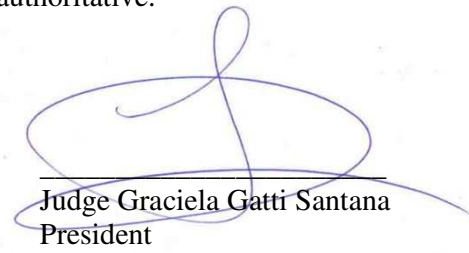
<sup>4</sup> Practice Direction on Lengths of Briefs and Motions, MICT/11/Rev.1, 20 February 2019 (“Practice Direction on Lengths of Briefs and Motions”), Articles 15, 17.

<sup>5</sup> Application, p. 15.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. *Prosecutor v. Jovica Stanišić*, Case No. MICT-15-96-ES.2, Decision Related to Jovica Stanišić’s Application for Early Release, 10 March 2026, p. 1; *Prosecutor v. Fulgence Kayishema*, Case No. MICT-12-23-R14.1, Decision on Fulgence Kayishema’s Motion for the Assignment of a Trial Chamber, 4 July 2025, fn. 6; *Prosecutor v. Alfred Musema*, Case No. MICT-12-15-ES.1, Decision on the Request for Leave to Exceed the Word Limit for Alfred Musema’s Early Release Application, 16 December 2024, p. 2. I further note that the Application was not filed publicly or together with a public version as required by the Practice Direction on the Procedure for the Determination of Applications for Pardon, Commutation of Sentence, or Early Release. See Practice Direction on the Procedure for the Determination of Applications for Pardon, Commutation of Sentence, or Early Release of Persons Convicted by the ICTR, the ICTY, or the Mechanism, MICT/3/Rev.4, 1 July 2024, para. 6.

Done in English and French, the English version being authoritative.

Done this 26th day of June 2026,  
At Arusha,  
Tanzania.



Judge Graciela Gatti Santana  
President

**[Seal of the Mechanism]**



**I - FILING INFORMATION / INFORMATIONS GÉNÉRALES**

<b>To/ À :</b>	IRMCT Registry/ Greffe du MIFRTP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arusha/ Arusha	<input type="checkbox"/> The Hague/ La Haye			
<b>From/ De :</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> President/ Président	<input type="checkbox"/> Chambers/ Chambre	<input type="checkbox"/> Prosecution/ Bureau du Procureur	<input type="checkbox"/> Defence/ Défense	<input type="checkbox"/> Registrar/ Greffier	<input type="checkbox"/> Other/ Autre
<b>Case Name/ Affaire :</b>	Prosecutor v. Aloys Ntabakuze		<b>Case Number/ Affaire n° :</b> MICT-14-77-ES.1			
<b>Date Created/ Daté du :</b>	26 June 2026	<b>Date transmitted/ Transmis le :</b>	26 June 2026	<b>Number of Pages/ Nombre de pages :</b>	3	
<b>Original Language/ Langue de l'original :</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English/ Anglais	<input type="checkbox"/> French/ Français	<input type="checkbox"/> Kinyarwanda	<input type="checkbox"/> B/C/S	<input type="checkbox"/> Other/Autre (specify/ préciser):	
<b>Title of Document/ Titre du document :</b>	Decision Related to Aloys Ntabakuze's Application for Early Release					
<b>Classification Level/ Catégories de classification :</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public/ Document public	<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential/ Confidentiel	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex Parte Defence excluded/ Défense exclue	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex Parte Prosecution excluded/ Bureau du Procureur exclu	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex Parte Rule 86 applicant excluded/ Article 86 requérant exclu	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex Parte Amicus Curiae excluded/ Amicus curiae exclu
<b>Document type/ Type de document :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion/ Requête	<input type="checkbox"/> Judgement/ Jugement/Arrêt	<input type="checkbox"/> Book of Authorities/ Recueil de sources	<input type="checkbox"/> Warrant/ Mandat		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision/ Décision	<input type="checkbox"/> Submission from parties/ Écritures déposées par des parties	<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit/ Déclaration sous serment	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Appeal/ Acte d'appel		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Order/ Ordonnance	<input type="checkbox"/> Submission from non-parties/ Écritures déposées par des tiers	<input type="checkbox"/> Indictment/ Acte d'accusation			

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Translation not required/ La traduction n'est pas requise
<input type="checkbox"/> 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)
<input type="checkbox"/> English/ Anglais <input type="checkbox"/> French/ Français <input type="checkbox"/> Kinyarwanda <input type="checkbox"/> B/C/S <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Autre (specify/préciser):
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 :
<b>Original/ Original en :</b> <input type="checkbox"/> English/ Anglais <input type="checkbox"/> French/ Français <input type="checkbox"/> Kinyarwanda <input type="checkbox"/> B/C/S <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Autre (specify/ préciser):
<b>Traduction/ Traduction en :</b> <input type="checkbox"/> English/ Anglais <input type="checkbox"/> French/ Français <input type="checkbox"/> Kinyarwanda <input type="checkbox"/> B/C/S <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Autre (specify/ préciser):
<input type="checkbox"/> Filing Party will be submitting the translated version(s) in due course in the following language(s)/ La partie déposante soumettra la (les) version(s) traduite(s) sous peu, dans la (les) langue(s) suivante(s):
<input type="checkbox"/> English/ Anglais <input type="checkbox"/> French/ Français <input type="checkbox"/> Kinyarwanda <input type="checkbox"/> B/C/S <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Autre (specify/préciser):