

**UNITED
NATIONS**



International Residual Mechanism
for Criminal Tribunals

Case No.: MICT-14-73-ES.2

Date: 4 August 2026

Original: English

THE PRESIDENT OF THE MECHANISM

Before: Judge Graciela Gatti Santana, President

Registrar: Mr. Abubacarr M. Tambadou

Order of: 4 August 2026

PROSECUTOR

v.

MATTHIEU NGIRUMPATSE

PUBLIC

**ORDER RELATED TO MATTHIEU NGIRUMPATSE'S
APPLICATION FOR PARDON, COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE
OR EARLY RELEASE**

Counsel for Mr. Matthieu Ngirumpatse:

Mr. Frédéric Weyl

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

RECALLING that Mr. Matthieu Ngirumpatse (“Ngirumpatse”) is serving a life sentence of imprisonment in the Republic of Senegal, following his conviction by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (“ICTR”);¹

BEING SEISED of an application filed by Ngirumpatse on 23 July 2026, requesting pardon, commutation of sentence, or early release on the basis of exceptional or compelling circumstances;²

NOTING that Ngirumpatse has not yet served two-thirds of his sentence;³

RECALLING that, according to Article 25 of the Statute of the Mechanism, the Mechanism supervises the enforcement of sentences pronounced by the ICTR, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (“ICTY”), or the Mechanism;

RECALLING that, pursuant to Article 26 of the Statute, there shall only be pardon or commutation of sentence if the President so decides on the basis of the interests of justice and the general principles of law;⁴

RECALLING that, according to paragraph 18 of the Practice Direction on Lengths of Briefs and Motions,⁵ a word count shall be included in filings before the Mechanism;

RECALLING further 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;

NOTING that while the Application does not contain a word count, it is clearly well above the applicable word limit of 3,000 words;

¹ See Order Designating State in Which Matthieu Ngirumpatse is to Serve his Sentence, 24 November 2017, p. 2; *Édouard Karemera & Matthieu Ngirumpatse v. Prosecutor*, Case No. ICTR-98-44-A, Judgement, 29 September 2014, paras. 743-750; *Prosecutor v. Édouard Karemera & Matthieu Ngirumpatse*, Case No. ICTR-98 44-T, Judgement and Sentence, 2 February 2012, paras. 1715, 1751, 1763.

² Nouvelle requête pour Monsieur Matthieu Ngirumpatse sur le fondement des articles 149 à 151 du Règlement de Procédure et de Preuve, 23 July 2026 (“Application”), pp. 1-3, 13.

³ See Decision on the Application for Commutation of Sentence or Early Release of Matthieu Ngirumpatse, 9 October 2024 (public redacted), para. 22. See also Application, p. 5.

⁴ While Article 26 of the Statute, like the equivalent provisions in the Statutes of the ICTR and the ICTY, does not specifically mention requests for early release of convicted persons, the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Mechanism reflect the President’s power to adjudicate such requests, which is also consistent with the longstanding practice of the ICTR, the ICTY, and the Mechanism.

⁵ MICT/11/Rev.1, 20 February 2019 (“Practice Direction on Lengths of Briefs and Motions”).

CONSIDERING that the Application does not contain a word count and appears to substantially exceed the prescribed word limit, as well as the fact that Ngirumpatse has neither sought prior authorisation nor provided an explanation of the exceptional circumstances necessitating an oversized filing;

FINDING, therefore, that as Ngirumpatse has failed to comply with the requirements contained in the Practice Direction on Lengths of Briefs and Motions,⁶ he should promptly remedy the deficiencies identified in his Application;

NOTING that Ngirumpatse does not share in the Application information about the location where he intends to live if released early;

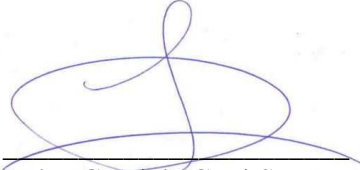
CONSIDERING that the location where a convicted person intends to live if released early is information that the President may consider in determining applications for pardon, commutation of sentence, or early release;⁷

FOR THE FOREGOING REASONS,

ORDER Ngirumpatse to: (i) re-file his Application within seven days, in compliance with the Practice Direction on Lengths of Briefs and Motions; and (ii) include in his Application information setting out the location where he intends to live if released early.

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

Done this 4th day of August 2026,
At Arusha,
Tanzania.


Judge Graciela Gatti Santana
President

⁶ Cf. *Prosecutor v. Aloys Ntabakuze*, Case No. MICT-14-77-ES.1, Decision Related to Aloys Ntabakuze's Application for Early Release, p. 1; *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. I note that the Application was filed publicly, and should Ngirumpatse wish to submit a confidential version along with a public redacted version, he can do so following 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 ("Practice Direction on Applications for Pardon, Commutation of Sentence, or Early Release"), para. 6.

⁷ See Practice Direction on Applications for Pardon, Commutation of Sentence, or Early Release, para. 10(d).



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			☐ Registrar/ Greffier	☐ Other/ Autre
Case Name/ Affaire :	Prosecutor v. Matthieu Ngirumpatse		Case Number/ Affaire n° :	MICT-14-73-ES.2
Date Created/ Daté du :	4 August 2026		Date transmitted/ Transmis le :	4 August 2026
			Number of Pages/ Nombre de pages :	3
Original Language/ Langue de l'original :	☒ English/ Anglais	☐ French/ Français	☐ Kinyarwanda	☐ B/C/S
	☐ Other/Autre (specify/ préciser):			
Title of Document/ Titre du document :	Order Related to Matthieu Ngirumpatse's Application for Pardon, Commutation of Sentence or Early Release			
Classification Level/ Catégories de classification :	☒ Public/ Document public	☐ Ex Parte Defence excluded/ Défense exclue		
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