UNITED NATIONS

International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

Case

MICT-13-56-A

No.:

Date:

13 May 2020

Original English

BEFORE THE APPEALS CHAMBER

Before: Judge Prisca Matimba Nyambe, Presiding

Judge Aminatta Lois Runeni N'gum

Judge Gberdao Gustave Kam

Judge Seymour Panton

Judge Elizabeth Ibanda-Nahamya

Registrar: Mr. Olufemi Elias

Date: 13 May 2020

PROSECUTOR

v.

RATKO MLADIĆ

PUBLIC

REGISTRAR'S SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO 'ORDER SCHEDULING A STATUS CONFERENCE'

The Office of the Prosecutor:

Mr. Serge Brammertz Ms. Laurel Baig Ms. Barbara Goy

Counsel for Mr. Ratko Mladić:

Mr. Branko Lukić Mr. Dragan Ivetić

- 1. Pursuant to Rule 31(B) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and as requested by the Appeals Chamber in its "Order Scheduling a Status Conference" of 11 May 2020, ¹ I respectfully file information detailing the means available to Mr. Mladić for privileged communication with his counsel prior to and during the status conference, scheduled to take place on 29 May 2020.
- 2. On 14 March 2020, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding advice of the World Health Organisation, the European Centre for Disease Control, the Netherlands' National Institute for Public Health and Environment (*Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu RIVM*) and, in particular, the Netherlands' Custodial Institutions Agency (*Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen DJI*), the United Nations Detention Unit ("UNDU"), in consultation with the UNDU's Medical Officer, implemented a number of measures in line with those adopted by the Custodial Institutions Agency, aimed at preventing the occurrence of COVID-19 in the UNDU.² One of these measures is the suspension of all social and functional visits, including of counsel, until further notice. Allowing a visitor into the UNDU would not only pose an increased risk to a specific detainee, but to all the detainees, as well as staff, not only of the UNDU but also of the adjacent detention centres of the International Criminal Court and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers.
- 3. At this stage, the UNDU is unable to predict the potential easing of these measures. It is noted in this regard that in the event of an easing of the restrictions by, for example, the Netherlands' Custodial Institutions Agency, due consideration must be given to the specific requirements of the UNDU and its population, which is vulnerable and evidently at an increased risk, *inter alia*, in view of the detainees' advanced age and medical histories of particular detainees. In other words, the restrictions in the UNDU may have to remain in place for a longer period of time than in the Netherlands generally or in other remand centres.
- 4. Hence, while it is currently not possible for detainees to meet with their counsel in person, they may have privileged communications with counsel via telephone. For this purpose and so as to provide an environment more conducive to a 'working meeting',

¹ Prosecutor v. Mladić, Case No. MICT-13-56-A ("Mladić"), Order Scheduling a Status Conference, public, 11 May 2020.

² These measures were also discussed and agreed on with the International Criminal Court and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, whose detention centres are located in the same building as the UNDU.

the UNDU has installed a hands-free telephone set and a desk in one of its visit rooms. Detainees and counsel were advised of this possibility in communications from the UNDU's Commanding Officer, dated 13 March and 16 March 2020, respectively. Mr. Mladić has already made use of this option.

- 5. As regards privileged communications during the status conference on 29 May 2020, arrangements can be made for Mr. Mladić to attend the status conference via video link from the UNDU, with counsel being present in the courtroom. Counsel and Mr. Mladić will have access to a direct and dedicated telephone line for privileged communications between them during the status conference.
- 6. Due to the risk of COVID-19, certain additional measures will have to be put in place in connection with the status conference, including possibly limiting the number of persons present in the courtroom to ensure physical distancing. I propose that consultations between relevant staff in Chambers and Registry be held on a working level in this regard. Once appropriate arrangements have been agreed on, these could be communicated to the parties and relevant sections.
- 7. The above information might also be relevant in relation to the appeals hearing scheduled for 16 and 17 June 2020.³ The Registry will provide additional observations regarding practical, logistical and technical matters of relevance to this hearing as soon as possible.
- 8. The Registry remains available should the Appeals Chamber require further information.

Respectfully submitted,



Done this 13th day of May 2020 At The Hague, The Netherlands.

³ *Mladić*, Second Order Scheduling the Hearing of the Appeals, public, 1 May 2020 ("Second Order"). The Registry notes that according to the Second Order, the appeals hearing "shall take place [...] on 16 and 17 June 2020 [...], subject to change should coronavirus pandemic-related restrictions inhibit the necessary travel or the holding of the hearing for other reasons".

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NATIONS UNIES Mécanisme international appelé à exercer les fonctions résiduelles des Tribunaux pénaux

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