

Central African Coalition for the International Criminal Court – **CACICC**

Email: coalitioncpi_rca@yahoo.fr

MEETING REPORT
Informal/Internal translation

This report is the result of a meeting that enabled collaboration and exchange of views with the International Criminal Court's delegation of Experts regarding reparations. The meeting was held Tuesday, 12 September 2017 at 3:30 PM.

The Deputy Coordinator of the Central African Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CAICC), Mr. Bruno Hyacinthe GBIEGBA, along with Ms. Sandrine Alexandrie LOGNE and Mr. Emmanuel TAGBA MOLEAKA participated in the meeting. Mr. Albert PANDA GBIANIMBI, Vice President of the Central African Observatory of Human Rights (OCDH); Mr. Evrard BONDADE, Secretary General of the OCDH; Mr. Alain KIZINGUERE, Deputy Secretary General of the Central African League of Human Rights (LCDH) and Mr. Brice KAKPAYEN, National Coordinator of Children Without Borders Africa; also took part in the meeting.

Discussions concerned **Jean Pierre BEMBA GOMBO's** victims' reparations modalities in the Central African Republic.

Mr. Olivier RANDON, from the Office of the Registrar of the International Criminal Court, presented the context. He explained that reparations were decided after the court's verdict concerning Mr. Jean BEMBA GOMBO's crimes, but the case has been appealed. Then, ICC's Appeals Chamber ordered to determine which individuals could be compensated and designated experts to this end. The meeting with human rights organizations, with attorneys, and with the victims' representatives will enable the experts to gather elements and precise information on what the reparation should be in that case.

After the usual introductions, the discussions mainly focused on the different types of reparation that can be allocated to the victims to enable them redress (to rebuild both their life and themselves). In that regard the Assistant Coordinator of the Central African Coalition for the International Criminal Court introduced the Coalition as part of the NGO Network of Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, existing since 2006. The Coalition is a structure that support ICC's efforts in the fight against impunity on a national scale. As of now, its main goal is to monitor the prosecution of Jean Pierre BEMBA GOMBO which is pending before the ICC as investigations are still ongoing – Case Central Africa II –.

In response to Experts' concerns regarding the reparation of the victims, the Deputy Coordinator highlighted the victims are longing for the prosecution to end swiftly as they are in the need to be compensated. The reparation process must take into account the victims' needs so that they

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can effectively enable them to rebuild their life. Therefore, reparations cannot be determined without the victims' consent, otherwise they will not fulfill their purpose.

Generally speaking, reparations cover three different aspects: symbolic reparation, monetary reparation and reparation. Indeed, certain victims only ask for a symbolic reparation of one franc; other ask money for the Injury they endured and some ask for reparation that will benefit their community as a whole i.e. memorial, School and hospital with qualified personnel etc. this last type of reparation favors reconciliation among the damaged community; justice will have a true restorative effect, it will consolidate peace by helping communities to overcome structural struggles such as inequality, violence and marginalization following stigmatization.

It is important to note that any reparation must be done according to the victims' wish and can eventually involve rights holders, it must what the victims asked for because reparation is not limited to individual monetary support; it can take the form of collective reparation and symbolic measures or even only be aimed at the reconciliation of divided communities. Furthermore, individual reparation walls also discuss particularly concerning destruction of goods i.e. houses, lootings and how should children being taken care of i.e. creation of an orphanage, care center etc.

Finally, the delegation recalled the work that the Coalition and some other members of the Network conducted in 2006. Indeed, in collaboration with the OCODEFAD, coordinated by Ms. Bernadette SAYO, they have been able to legally assist Jean Pierre BEMBA GOMBO's victims by helping them to fill the legal victim forms.

The meeting, conducted in a cordial mood, ended at 5:45 PM.

Done in Bangui, September 14th 2017

Rapporteur of the CACICC

Emmanuel TAGBA MBOLEAKA

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Central African Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CACICC)

Phone (236) 75503151/75507227/72797461

Email: coalitioncpi_rca@yahoo.fr