Cour Pénale Internationale





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Date: 21 April 2008

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER I

Before: Judge Sylvia Steiner, Single judge

SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO IN THE CASE OF THE PROSECUTOR

v. Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui

URGENT Public Redacted Version

Sixth Decision on the Prosecution Request for Authorisation to Redact the Interviews Transcripts of Witness 238

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Decision to be notified in accordance with regulation 31 of the Regulations of the Court to:

The Office of the Prosecutor

Mr Luis Moreno Ocampo, Prosecutor Mr Éric Macdonald, Senior Trial Lawyer Counsel for the Defence of Germain Katanga

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Ngudjolo Chui

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Ms Carine Bapita Buyagandu Mr Joseph Keta

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Legal Representatives of the Applicants

Unrepresented Victims

Unrepresented Applicants for Participation/Reparation

The Office of Public Counsel for Victims

The Office of Public Counsel for the Defence

States Representatives

Amicus Curiae

REGISTRY

Registrar, acting

Ms. Silvana Arbia

Defence Support Section

Victims and Witnesses Unit

Mr. Simon Väätäinen

Detention Section

Victims Participation and Reparations

Section

Other

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Introductory Remarks	9
II.	Categories of Redactions	. 11
A.	Names and Identifying Information of Family Members of Witness 238	11
B.	Current Whereabouts of Family Members of Witness 238	12
C.	Innocent Third Parties	13
D.	The names and initials of the persons present when the interviews with	
	Witness 238 were conducted	14
III.	Application for Warrants of Arrest against Germain Katanga and Mathieu	
	Ngudjolo Chui	15
	∵ ,	

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 4/17 EO PT

I, Judge Sylvia Steiner, judge at the International Criminal Court ("the Court");

NOTING the "Warrant of Arrest for Germain Katanga" issued by Pre-Trial

Chamber I ("the Chamber") on 2 July 2007;

NOTING the "Warrant of Arrest for Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui" issued by the

Chamber on 6 July 2007;

NOTING the "First Decision on the Prosecution Request For Authorisation to Redact

Witness Statements" issued by the Single Judge on 14 December 2007;

NOTING the "Decision on the Prosecution Request for Leave to Appeal the First

Decision on Redactions"⁴ issued on 14 December 2007 by which the Single Judge

granted leave to appeal in relation to the following issues:

(i) whether "Article 54(3)(f) authorises the Prosecution to seek, and Rule 81(4)

read in conjunction with that article empower the Chamber to authorise

redactions for the protection of 'innocent third parties', i.e. persons who are

not victims, current or prospective Prosecution witnesses or sources, or

members of their families"; and

(ii) whether the Single Judge erred in the application of the test prescribed by

the Appeals Chamber in its 14 December 2006 Decisions by refusing to

authorise the redaction of the location of interviews of witnesses, and the

identifying information of current and former staff members of the Office of

the Prosecutor and the VWU at this particular stage of the proceedings;

¹ ICC-01/04-01/07-1

² ICC-01/04-02/07-1 [ICC-01/04-01/07-260]

³ ICC-01/04-01/07-84-US-Exp, ICC-01/04-01/07-88-Conf-Exp, and ICC-01/04-01/07-90

4 ICC-01/04-01/07-108

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 5/17 EO PT

NOTING the "Prosecution's Application Pursuant to Rule 81(2) and Rule 81(4) for

Redactions to Statements of Witnesses and Related Materials to be Relied Upon at the

Confirmation Hearing"⁵ filed by the Prosecution on 14 January 2008;

NOTING the ex parte, closed session hearing held with the Prosecution and the

Registry on 21 January 2008;6

NOTING the ex parte, closed session hearing held with the Prosecution and the

Victims and Witnesses Unit ("the VWU") on 28 January 2008;7

NOTING the "Submission of the Document Containing the Charges and of the List

of Evidence"8 ("the Prosecution's Charging Document against Germain Katanga")

filed by the Prosecution on 29 January 2008;

NOTING the ex parte, closed session hearing held with the Prosecution 4 February

2008;9

NOTING the "Submission of the Redacted English and French Versions of

Prosecution's Application for Warrants of Arrest against Germain KATANGA and

Mathieu NGUDJOLO CHUI"10 filed by the Prosecution on 14 February 2008;

NOTING the "Amended Submission of Prosecution's Application Pursuant to Rules

81(1), 81(2) and 81(4) for Redactions to Screening Notes and Transcripts of Witnesses

⁵ ICC-01/04-01/07-145, and its confidential and *ex parte* annexes (ICC-01/04-01/07-145-Conf-Exp-Anx1, ICC-01/04-01/07-145-Conf-Exp-AnxK1-K5); and a corrigendum filed thereto on 16 January 2008 (ICC-01/04-01/07-147-Conf-Exp, and its annexes ICC-01/04-01/07-147-Conf-Exp-AnxK1-K6)

⁶ ICC-01/04-01/07-T-14-Conf-Exp-ENG ET 21-01-2008

⁷ ICC-01/04-01/07-T-15-Conf-Exp-ENG ET 28-01-2008

⁸ ICC-01/04-01/07-170; ICC-01/04-01/07-170-Anx1; its confidential annexes (ICC-01/04-01/07-170-Conf-Anx1C-2D), and its confidential and *ex parte* annexes (ICC-01/04-01/07-170-Conf-Exp-AnxA-2B)

⁹ ICC-01/04-01/07-T-16-Conf-Exp-ENG ET 04-02-2008

¹⁰ ICC-01/04-01/07-196 and ICC-01/04-01/07-196-Conf-Anx1-Anx10, AnxA and AnxB

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 6/17 EO PT

2, 5, 6, 10, 0163, 0238, 0287, 0233, 0267, 0271 and 0132"11 filed by the Prosecution on 26

February 2008;

NOTING the *ex parte*, closed session hearing held with the Prosecution and the VWU

on 3 March 2008;12

NOTING the "Third Decision on the Prosecution Request for Authorisation to

Redact materials related to the statements of Witnesses 7, 8, 9, 12 and 14"13 issued by

the Single Judge on 5 March 2008;

NOTING the "Prosecution's Request for the Issuance of an Order to Protect

Witnesses 238 and 163"14 filed by the Prosecution on 10 March 2008;

NOTING the "Decision on the Joinder of the Cases against Germain KATANGA and

Mathieu NGUDJOLO CHUI"15 issued by the Chamber on 10 March and by which the

Chamber decided to join the cases of The Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga and The

Prosecutor v. Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui;

NOTING the "Decision Establishing a Calendar in the Case against Germain

KATANGA and Mathieu NGUDJOLO CHUI"16 issued by the Single Judge on 10

March 2008, in which the Single Judge, inter alia, decided:

(i) to give the Registrar until 1 April 2008 to decide and, if accorded, to

implement those protective measures already requested by the Prosecution

for witnesses on whom it intends to rely at the confirmation hearing in the

case of The Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui;

(ii) that the Prosecution shall file by 4 April 2008 its final requests for redactions

¹¹ ICC-01/04-01/07-240; and its confidential and ex parte annexes (ICC-01/04-01/07-240-Conf-Exp-Anx1, ICC-01/04-01/07-

concerning the statements, interview notes, interview transcripts and

240-Conf-Exp-AnxK1-K5).

¹² ICC-01/04-01/07-T-20-Conf-Exp-ENG ET 03-03-2008. ¹³ ICC-01/04-01/07-247-Conf-Exp-Corr, ICC-01/04-01/07-248-Corr and ICC-01/04-01/07-249

¹⁴ ICC-01/04-01/07-255-Conf-Exp.

¹⁵ ICC-01/04-01/07-257, and ICC-01/04-02/07-48 [ICC-01/04-01/07-307]

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 7/17 EO PT

documents relating to those witnesses on whom the Prosecution intends to

rely at the confirmation hearing for whom protective measures will be

implemented after the issuance of this decision and prior to the expiration of

the above-mentioned 1 April 2008 deadline; and

(iii) that the Prosecution shall (a) review by 8 April 2008 whether it still intends

to rely at the confirmation hearing in the case of The Prosecutor v. Germain

Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui on the statements, interview notes,

interview transcripts and documents relating to those witnesses for whom

protective measures cannot be implemented by 1 April 2008; and (b) file by 8

April 2008 its final request for redactions concerning the statements,

interview notes, interview transcripts and documents relating to those

witnesses under (a) above;

NOTING the "Decision on Prosecution's Request for the Issuance of an Order to

Protect Witnesses 238 and 163"17 issued by the Single Judge on 12 March 2008, in

which the Single Judge decided to give the Registrar (i) until 20 March 2008 to decide

on the Prosecution request for inclusion of Witness 238 in the Court's witness

protection programme; and (ii) until 1 April 2008 to implement those protective

measures, if any, granted to Witness 238;

NOTING the "Registrar's report on the status of assessment and implementation of

protective measures" 18 filed by the Registry on 31 March 2008;

NOTING the *ex parte*, closed session hearing held with the Prosecution and the VWU

on 1 April 2008;19

NOTING the "Registrar's further report on the status of assessment and

implementation of protective measures"²⁰ filed by the Registry on 4 April 2008;

¹⁷ ICC-01/04-01/07-317-Conf-Exp.

¹⁸ ICC-01/04-01/07-347-Conf-Exp.

¹⁹ ICC-01/04-01/07-T-22-Conf-Exp-ENG ET 01-04-2008

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 8/17 EO PT

NOTING the "Prosecution's Submission of Information on the Preventive Relocation

of Witnesses 132, 163, 238 and 287"21 filed by the Prosecution on 7 April 2008;

NOTING the "Prosecution's Submission of Information Pursuant to the Decision

Establishing a Calendar in the Case against Germain KATANGA and Mathieu

NGUDJOLO CHUI Dated 10 March 2008"22 filed by the Prosecution on 8 April 2008;

NOTING the ex parte, closed session hearing held with the Prosecution and the

Registry on 15 April 2008;²³

NOTING the "Decision on Evidentiary Scope of the Confirmation Hearing,

Preventive Relocation and Disclosure under Article 67(2) of the Statute and Rule 77

of the Rules"24 ("the 18 April 2008 Decision") issued by the Single Judge on 18 April

2008 and by which the Single Judge inter alia ordered, pursuant to article 57(3)(c), the

immediate inclusion in the Court's protection programme of Witness 238;

NOTING the "Prosecution's Submission of a New Chart Detailing the Legal Basis for

the Requested Redactions to Annex K2 of Court Document ICC-01/04-01/07-240-

Conf-Exp"²⁵ filed by the Prosecution on 18 April 2008;

NOTING articles 54, 57(3)(c), 61, 67 and 68 of the Rome Statute ("the Statute") and

rules 15, 76, 77, 81 and 121 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence ("the Rules");

²⁰ ICC-01/04-01/07-369-Conf-Exp

²¹ ICC-01/04-01/07-374-Conf-Exp.
²² ICC-01/04-01/07-375-Conf-Exp. and a corrigendum filed thereto on 9 April 2008 (ICC-01/04-01/07-375-Conf-Exp-Corr).
²³ ICC-01/04-01/07-T-23-Conf-Exp-ENG ET 15-04-2008.

²⁴ ICC-01/04-01/07-411-Conf-Exp

²⁵ ICC-01/04-01/07-408-Conf-Exp and ICC-01/04-01/07-408-Conf-Exp-AnxK6.

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 9/17 EO PT

I. Introductory Remarks

1. The Single Judge notes that the Prosecution has stated that it intends to rely

for the purposes of confirmation hearing, on the transcripts of interviews with

Witness 238.

2. The Single Judge recalls that the immediate inclusion of Witness 238 in the

Court's Witness Protection Programme has been ordered by the Single Judge in the

18 April 2008 Decision.26

3. Nevertheless, although the Prosecution is not requesting authorisation to

redact the name and identifying information of Witness 238, it is still requesting

authorisation to redact, pursuant to rule 81 (2) and (4) of the Rules, certain

information in the transcripts of interviews with Witness 238. As a result, the

Prosecution's request for authorisation for redactions in relation to Witness 238

constitutes a change in the approach adopted by the Prosecution during the

proceedings leading up to the confirmation hearing in the case of *The Prosecutor v*.

Thomas Lubanga Dyilo. In those proceedings, the Prosecution did not request

authorisation for any redactions in the statement of any of the [REDACTED] who

were accepted into the VWU's protection programme.²⁷

4. As the Single Judge stated in the First Decision on Redactions:

Only in a few instances where the Single Judge has found compelling reasons to depart from the practice in the case ICC-01/04-01/06 will the Single Judge authorise the requested redactions. Such redactions will be authorised after ensuring that the requirements set out by the Appeals Chamber in its two 14 December 2006 decisions are

met.28

5. As she has already emphasised in the five previous Decisions on Redactions:

[i]n order for any redaction in any given statement to be authorised, the Single

Judge must, first and foremost, have reached the conclusion that there is a risk that the disclosure to the Defence – at least at this stage of the proceedings – of

²⁷ ICC-01/04-01/07-T-7-Conf-Exp-ENG [30Oct2007Edited], p. 3. lines 4-18.

²⁶ ICC-01/04-01/07-411-Conf-Exp

²⁸ ICC-01/04-01/07-84-US-Exp, para.3, ICC-01/04-01/07-88-Conf-Exp, para.3; ICC-01/04-01/07-90, para.3. See also, ICC-01/04-01/06-773 and ICC-01/04-01/06-774.

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 10/17 EO PT

the information sought to be redacted could (i) prejudice further or ongoing investigations by the Prosecution (rule 81(2) of the Rules); (ii) affect the confidential character of the information under articles 54, 72 and 93 of the Statute (rule 81(4) of the Rules); or (iii) affect the safety of witnesses, victims or members of their families (rule 81(4) of the Rules). Moreover, after ascertaining the existence of such a risk, the Single Judge will analyse whether (i) the requested redactions are adequate to eliminate, or at least, reduce such a risk; (ii) there is no less intrusive alternative measure that can be taken to achieve the same goal at this stage; and (iii) the requested redactions are not prejudicial to or inconsistent with the rights of the arrested person and a fair and impartial trial. Only when these three additional questions have been answered in the affirmative will the Single Judge authorise the redactions requested by the Prosecution.²⁹

- 6. In carrying out her analysis, the Single Judge has classified the redactions requested by the Prosecution into the following four categories: (a) names and identifying information of family members of Witness 238; (b) current whereabouts of family members of Witness 238; (c) innocent third parties; and (d) the names and initials of the persons present when the interviews with Witness 238 were conducted.
- 7. Moreover, for the purpose of her analysis, the Single Judge considers that the security situation and context, in which the Prosecution requests are made, remain the same as that mentioned in the First Decision on Redactions.³⁰
- 8. Considering that the reasons for granting or rejecting the Prosecution's requests in relation to those redactions included within the same category are very similar, the Single Judge following the practice of Pre-Trial Chamber I in Annex I to the *Decision on the Confirmation of Charges* in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo* has decided to provide a full explanation of her decision with respect to each category of redactions.
- 9. In Annex I to the present decision, which is issued *ex parte* and available only to the Prosecution, the Single Judge, following the procedure prescribed by the Appeals Chamber,³¹ specifies to which of the four categories each of the redactions

³¹ ICC-01/04-01/06-773, para. 22

²⁹ First Decision on Redactions, para. 4. See also, ICC-01/04-01/06-773, paras. 21, 33 and 34; ICC-01/04-01/06-774, paras. 31-33.

³⁰ First Decision on Redactions, paras. 13 to 22

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 11/17 EO PT

requested by the Prosecution belongs. Furthermore, in those instances in which the

specific nature of the redactions requested by the Prosecution so requires, the Single

Judge has provided in Annex I to this decision an additional explanation of her

decision concerning those requests for redactions.

II. Categories of Redactions

A. Names and Identifying Information of Family Members of Witness 238

10. The Prosecution requests authorisation to redact pursuant to rule 81 (4) of the

Rules the names and identifying information of [REDACTED] of Witness 238.

11. As the Single Judge has already underlined, Witness 238 [REDACTED] insofar

as he was the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].32 However, the Single Judge is of the

view that Witness 238's [REDACTED] are not to be considered as close to the

Witness as shown by the fact that such family members are not covered by the

[REDACTED]. Furthermore, the Single Judge notes that Witness 238's [REDACTED]

are currently residing in [REDACTED] and are [REDACTED]. Hence, the Single

Judge is of the view that disclosing identifying information of Witness 238's

[REDACTED] - in the security situation and context referred to in the First Decision

on Redactions - could pose an additional risk to their safety and/or physical and

psychological well-being.

12. In addition, the Single Judge considers that the requested redactions are

adequate to minimise this risk and that, at this stage, there is no less intrusive

alternative measure that can be taken to achieve the same goal. Furthermore, in the

view of the Single Judge, the redaction of this information is not prejudicial to or

inconsistent with the rights of the Defence and a fair and impartial trial insofar as (i)

the Defence will have access to the identity of Witness 238 who gave the statement;

and (ii) Witness 238's [REDACTED] are not Prosecution sources or witnesses and are

not referred to as having any further information or knowledge of the crimes set out

32 ICC-01/04-01/07-411-Conf-Exp, para 47

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 12/17 EO PT

in the Prosecution's Charging Document against Germain Katanga and in the

Warrant of Arrest for Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui.

13. For these reasons, the Single Judge authorises the redaction of the names and

identifying information of Witness 238's [REDACTED].

B. Current Whereabouts of Family Members of Witness 238

14. The Prosecution requests authorisation, pursuant to rule 81(4) of the Rules, to

redact the information that could lead to the identification of the current

whereabouts of family members of Witness 238.

15. Considering the security situation and context referred to in the First Decision

on Redactions, the Single Judge is of the view that disclosing to the Defence

information that could lead to the identification of the current whereabouts of

Witness 238's family members who are currently located in [REDACTED] and are

[REDACTED], could pose an additional risk to their safety and/or physical well-

being.

16. Moreover, the Single Judge considers that the redactions requested by the

Prosecution, which are limited to the current whereabouts of family members of

Witness 238 or to information that could lead to the identification of such

whereabouts, are adequate to minimise this risk and that, at this stage, there is no

less intrusive alternative measure that can be taken to achieve the same goal.

17. Furthermore, in the view of the Single Judge, the redaction of this information

is not prejudicial to or inconsistent with the rights of the Defence and a fair and

impartial trial insofar as (i) the Defence will have access to the identity of Witness 238

who gave the statement; and (ii) the family members for whom redaction of their

current whereabouts is requested are not Prosecution sources or witnesses and are

not referred to as having any further information or knowledge of the crimes set out

No.: ICC-01/04-01/07

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 13/17 EO PT

in the Prosecution's Charging Document against Germain Katanga and in the

Warrant of Arrest for Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui.

18. For these reasons, the Single Judge grants authorisation for the redactions

relating to the current whereabouts of the family members of Witness 238 as detailed

in Annex I to this decision.

C. Innocent Third Parties

these individuals.33

20.

19. The Prosecution requests authorisation pursuant to rule 81(4) of the Rules to

redact in the transcripts of interview with Witness 238, all identifying information

concerning a number of individuals referred to as "innocent third parties" by the

Prosecution. In this regard, the Single Judge has already ruled that:

[r]edactions concerning individuals other than Prosecution witnesses, victims or members of their families may only be authorised (i) if they are needed to ensure

the confidentiality of information pursuant to rule 81(4) of the Rules; or (ii) in order not to prejudice further or ongoing Prosecution investigations because such

individuals are Prosecution sources pursuant to rule 81(2) of the Rules. Otherwise,

the use of redactions is not a measure that is available to ensure the protection of

Since the Prosecution explicitly states that none of the individuals referred to

as "innocent third parties" is a Prosecution source or is in any way involved in

ongoing or further Prosecution investigations, and that the relevant redactions have

only been requested because such individuals could erroneously be perceived as

Prosecution sources or witnesses, the Single Judge cannot authorise those redactions

requested by the Prosecution in relation to "innocent third parties".

21. However, the Single Judge is mindful that the issue of whether "article 54(3)(f)

authorises the Prosecution to seek, and rule 81(4) read in conjunction with that article

empower the Chamber to authorise, redactions for the protection of "innocent third

parties", i.e. persons who are not victims, current or prospective Prosecution

witnesses or sources, or members of their families" is currently pending before the

³³ First Decision on Redactions, para. 55.

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 14/17 EO PT

Appeals Chamber, and that, therefore, in order to preserve the effectiveness of the decision of the Appeals Chamber on this matter, it is necessary to authorise the Prosecution to provisionally maintain those redactions in the transcripts of interviews with Witness 238 which the Prosecution requested in order to protect innocent third parties, until the Appeals Chamber rules on the abovementioned issue.

D. The names and initials of the persons present when the interviews with Witness 238 were conducted

- 22. The Single Judge notes that the Prosecution requests authorisation to redact, pursuant to rule 81(2) of the Rules, the names and initials of current members of the Prosecution who were present when the interview with Witness 238 was conducted in order not to prejudice the ongoing investigation against Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui.
- 23. The Single Judge considers that, for the reasons given in the five previous Decisions on Redactions,³⁴ the authorisation for redactions requested by the Prosecution in relation to the names and initials of current staff members of the Prosecution present when the interviews with Witness 238 was conducted is denied.
- 24. Nevertheless, the Single Judge is mindful that the issue of "whether the Single Judge erred in the application of the test prescribed by the Appeals Chamber in its 14 December 2006 Decisions when declining to authorise the redaction of the location of interviews of witnesses, and the identifying information of current and former staff members of the OTP and VWU at this particular stage of the proceedings" is currently pending before the Appeals Chamber. Hence, in order to preserve the effective application of the Decision of the Appeals Chamber on this matter, it is necessary to authorise the Prosecution to provisionally maintain those redactions in the transcript of interview with Witness 238, that have been requested to protect the identities of current staff members of the Prosecution present during the interviews

³⁴ First Decision on Redactions, paras. 57-64. See also the Second Decision on Redactions, paras.57-60.

ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 15/17 EO PT

with Witness 238, until such time as the Appeals Chamber issues a decision on the

above-mentioned matters.

III. Application for Warrants of Arrest against Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui

25. The Single Judge notes that the last submission by the Prosecution of the

redacted English and French Versions of the Prosecution's Application for Warrants

of Arrest against Germain KATANGA and Mathieu NGUDJOLO CHUI was filed on

14 February 2008.

26. The Single Judge further notes that since this last filing, the Single Judge has

issued the Third, Fourth and Fifth Decisions on Redactions as well as the present

decision, as a result of which, identity of witnesses were subsequently disclosed to

the Defences along with the witnesses statements and other related documents.

27. It is the view of the Single Judge that the Prosecution shall re-file a revised

redacted English and French Versions of the Prosecution's Application for Warrants

of Arrest against Germain KATANGA and Mathieu NGUDJOLO CHUI taking into

accounts the findings of the Single Judge in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Decisions on

Redactions as well as the present decision.

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ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 16/17 EO PT

FOR THESE REASONS

DECIDE to partially grant the Prosecution's requests for authorisation for redactions

to the transcripts of interview with Witness 238;

DECIDE to authorise the Prosecution to provisionally maintain those redactions to

the transcripts of interviews with Witness 238 which the Prosecution requested in

order to protect innocent third parties and the identities of current staff members of

the Prosecution present during the interviews of the abovementioned witnesses,

until such time as the Appeals Chamber issues a decision on the matters concerning

these types of redactions pending before it;

DECIDE that, pursuant to rule 76 of the Rules, the Prosecution shall, no later than

21 April 2008, disclose to the Defence the transcripts of interviews with Witness 238

with the redactions authorised by the Single Judge, as specified in Annex I to the

present decision;

DECIDE that, pursuant to rule 121(2) of the Rules, the Prosecution shall, no later

than 21 April 2008, file the originals of the transcripts of interviews with Witness 238,

in the record of the case of The Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo

Chui following the guidance given at the hearing held before the Single Judge on

14 December 2007.

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ICC-01/04-01/07-425 21-04-2008 17/17 EO PT

DECIDE that the Prosecution shall re-file, by Monday 21 April 2008 at 16h00, a revised redacted English and French Versions of the Prosecution's Application for Warrants of Arrest against Germain KATANGA and Mathieu NGUDJOLO CHUI taking into account the findings of the Single Judge in the Third, Fourth, Fifth Decisions on Redactions as well as the present decision.

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

Judge Sylvia Steiner Single judge

Dated this Monday, 21 April 2008

At The Hague, The Netherlands