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ICTR Appeals Chamber

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Tribunal Pénal International pour le Rwanda International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

IN THE APPEALS CHAMBER

Before:

Judge Theodor Meron, Presiding Judge Judge Mohamed Shahabuddeen Judge Mehmet Güney **Judge Fausto Pocar** Judge Inés Mónica Weinberg de Roca

Registrar:

Mr. Adama Dieng

Decision of:

30 March 2004

Prosper MUGIRANEZA

v.

THE PROSECUTOR

Case No ICTR-99-50-AR73.3

DECISION ON MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Counsel for the Prosecution

Mr. Paul Ng'arua Mr. Ibukunolu Babaiide Mr. Elvis Bazawule Mr. George Mugwanya

Counsel for the Defence

Mr. Tom Moran

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THE APPEALS CHAMBER of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States, between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994 ("Appeals Chamber" and "International Tribunal", respectively),

BEING SEISED OF "Prosper Mugiraneza's Motion for Extension of Time," filed by counsel for Prosper Mugiraneza on 26 March 2004 ("Motion");

NOTING Trial Chamber II's "Decision on the Accused Mugiraneza's Motion for Certification to Appeal the Chamber's Decision of 5 February 2004" dated 24 March 2004 ("Mugiraneza Certification Decision"), which certified for interlocutory appeal the Trial Chamber's "Decision on Prosper Mugiraneza's Motion to Exclude Testimony of Witnesses Whose Testimony Is Inadmissible in View of the Trial Chamber's Decision of 23 January 2004 and for Other Appropriate Relief" dated 5 February 2004 ("Impugned Decision");

CONSIDERING that, pursuant to Rule 73(C) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the International Tribunal ("Rules"), an interlocutory appeal brief must be filed "within seven days of the filing of the decision to certify," meaning that Prosper Mugiraneza's appeal brief is due on 31 March 2004;

NOTING Trial Chamber II's "Decision on the Prosecution Motion for Certification to Appeal the Chamber's Decision of 5 February 2004" dated 24 March 2004 ("Prosecution Certification Decision"), which certified the Impugned Decision for interlocutory appeal by the Prosecution;

CONSIDERING that, pursuant to the Practice Direction on Procedure for the Filing of Written Submissions in Appeal Proceedings Before the Tribunal dated 16 September 2002 ("Practice Direction") and the jurisprudence of the International Tribunal, Prosper Mugiraneza's response to any interlocutory appeal filed by the Prosecution pursuant to the Prosecution Certification Decision is due ten days after the filing of such an appeal;¹

NOTING that Rule 116(A) of the Rules permits the Appeals Chamber to grant a motion to extend a time limit "upon a showing of good cause";

¹ See, e. g., Prosecutor v. Bizimungu et al., No. ICTR-99-50-AR50, Decision on Prosecutor's Interlocutory Appeal Against Trial Chamber II Decision of 6 October 2003 Denying Leave to File Amended Indictment, 12 February 2004, para. 9.

CONSIDERING that, according to the Motion, counsel for Prosper Mugiraneza made travel plans, involving airline tickets that are neither changeable nor refundable, based on the timing of the trial session in this case, which was scheduled to conclude on 26 March 2004;

CONSIDERING that the requests for certification of the two interlocutory appeals were pending since 12 February 2004 and that the Mugiraneza Certification Decision and the Prosecution Certification Decision were issued without advance notice on 24 March 2004;

CONSIDERING that requiring counsel for Prosper Mugiraneza to alter his travel plans to meet the deadlines arising from the issuance of the Mugiraneza Certification Decision and the Prosecution Certification Decision on 24 March 2004 would be unnecessarily wasteful;

CONSIDERING that the Prosecution would suffer no prejudice from the granting of an extension;

CONSIDERING that good cause has been shown for granting an extension of time pursuant to Rule 116(A) of the Rules;

FOR THE FOREGOING REASONS,

HEREBY GRANTS the Motion;

ORDERS that Prosper Mugiraneza's appeal pursuant to the Mugiraneza Certification Decision may be filed on or before 7 April 2004; and

ORDERS that Prosper Mugiraneza may file a response to any interlocutory appeal filed by the Prosecution pursuant to the Prosecution Certification Decision on or before the seventeenth day following the filing of such appeal.

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

Done this 30th day of March 2004, At The Hague, The Netherlands.

an Mr

Theodor Meron Thesiding Judge [Seal of the uternational Pribunal]