



International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
Tribunal pénal international pour le Rwanda

ICTR-01-65-1
04-05-2005
(835-832)

835
S. Musesa

TRIAL CHAMBER I

Before: Judge Erik Møse, presiding
Judge Jai Ram Reddy
Judge Sergei Alekseevich Egorov

Registrar: Adama Dieng

Date: 4 May 2005

THE PROSECUTOR
v.
Jean MPAMBARA
Case No. : ICTR-2001-65-1

JUDICIAL RECORDS/ARCHIVES
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ICTR

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DECISION ON PROTECTION OF DEFENCE WITNESSES

Office of the Prosecutor:

Richard Karegyesa

Counsel for the Defence:

Arthur Vercken

Vincent Courcelle-Labrousse

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THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA,

834

SITTING as Trial Chamber I, composed of Judge Erik Møse, presiding, Judge Jai Ram Reddy, and Judge Sergei Alekseevich Egorov;

BEING SEIZED OF the Defence's "Requête de la défense aux fins de protection des témoins à décharge", filed on 19 April 2005;

NOTING that the Prosecution has not filed a response;

HEREBY DECIDES the motion.

1. The Defence motion for special measures protecting the identity of its witnesses is brought under Article 21 of the Statute and Rule 75 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. Article 21 of the Statute obliges the Tribunal to provide in its Rules for the protection of victims and witnesses. Such protection measures shall include, but shall not be limited to, the conduct of in-camera proceedings and the protection of the victim's identity. Rule 75 of the Rules elaborates several specific witness protection measures that may be ordered, including sealing or expunging names and other identifying information that may otherwise appear in the Tribunal's public records, assignment of a pseudonym to a witness, and permitting witness testimony in closed session. Subject to these measures, Rule 69 (C) requires the identity of witnesses to be disclosed to the Prosecution in adequate time for preparation.

2. Measures for the protection of witnesses are granted on a case by case basis. The jurisprudence of this Tribunal and of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia requires that the witnesses for whom protective measures are sought must have a real fear for their safety or that of their family, and that there must be an objective justification for this fear. These fears may be expressed by persons other than the witnesses themselves. A further consideration is trial fairness, which favours similar or identical protection measures for Defence and Prosecution witnesses.¹

3. The Defence has submitted that its witnesses fear for their safety and that these fears are justified by the dangers and insecurities described in the reports of journalists and human rights organizations attached as annexes to the motion. The Chamber follows previous decisions regarding protection for defence witnesses and accepts the existence of these fears amongst Defence witnesses, and their objective justification.² Accordingly, the Trial Chamber finds that the conditions for ordering witness protection measures are satisfied.

¹*Simba*, Decision on Defence Request for Protection of Witnesses (TC), 25 August 2004, para. 5; *Bagosora et al.*, Decision on Ntabakuze Motion for Protection of Witnesses (TC), 15 March 2004, p. 2; *Bagosora et al.*, Decision on Bagosora Motion for Protection of Witnesses (TC), 1 September 2003, p. 2; *Bagosora, et al.*, Decision on Kabiligi Motion for Protection of Witnesses (TC), 1 September 2003, p. 2; *Niyitegeka*, Decision (Defence Motion for Protective Measures for Defence Witnesses) (TC), 14 August 2002, p. 4.

² See, e.g., *Simba*, Decision on Defence Request for Protection of Witnesses (TC), 25 August 2004, para. 6; *Bagosora et al.*, Decision on Ntabakuze Motion for Protection of Witnesses (TC), 15 March 2004, p. 2; *Bagosora et al.*, Decision on Bagosora Motion for Protection of Witnesses, 1 September 2003 (TC), p. 2; *Bagosora et al.*, Decision on Kabiligi Motion for Protection of Witnesses (TC), 1 September 2003, p. 2; *Niyitegeka*, Decision (Defence Motion for Protective Measures)(TC), 14 August 2002, p. 4; *Semanza*, Decision on the Defence Motion for Protection of Witnesses (Rule 75)(TC), 24 May 2001, p. 3; *Nahimana*, Decision on the Defendant's Motion for Witness Protection (TC), 25 February 2000, p. 3; *Ruggiu*, Decision on the Defence's Motion for Witness Protection (TC), 9 May 2000, p. 3. Such measures have not been granted where, unlike the present motion, no evidence of the security situation of witnesses has been submitted to the Chamber. *Gacumbitsi*, Décision relative à la requête de la défense aux fins de mesures de protection en faveur des témoins à décharge (TC), 25 August 2003, pp. 2-3.

4. The measures sought by the Defence are substantially identical to those previously ordered in respect of Prosecution witnesses. The interests of trial fairness and administrative simplicity strongly favour the adoption of similar measures, which are enumerated below in language customarily adopted in such orders.³

FOR THE ABOVE REASONS, THE CHAMBER ORDERS that:

- a) The Defence shall be permitted to designate pseudonyms for each of the witnesses for whom it claims the benefits of this Order, for use in trial proceedings, and during discussions between the Parties in proceedings.
- b) The names, addresses, whereabouts, and other identifying information concerning the protected witnesses shall be sealed by the Registry and not included in any non-confidential Tribunal records, or otherwise disclosed to the public.
- c) In cases where the names, addresses, locations and other identifying information of the protected witnesses appear in the Tribunal's public records, this information shall be expunged from the said records.
- d) The names and identities of the protected witnesses shall be forwarded by the Defence to the Registry in confidence, and they shall not be disclosed to the Prosecution unless otherwise ordered.
- e) No person shall make audio or video recordings or broadcastings and shall not take photographs or make sketches of the protected witnesses, without leave of the Chamber or the witness.
- f) The Prosecution and any representative acting on its behalf, shall notify the Defence in writing prior to any contact with any of its witnesses and, if the witness consents, the Defence shall facilitate such contact.
- g) The Prosecution team in this case shall keep confidential to itself all information identifying any witness subject to this order, and shall not, directly or indirectly, disclose, discuss or reveal any such information.
- h) The Prosecution shall provide the Registry with a designation of all persons working on the Prosecution team in this case who will have access to any identifying information concerning any protected witness, and shall notify the Registry in writing of any such person leaving the Prosecution team and to confirm in writing that such person has remitted all material containing identifying information.
- i) The Defence may withhold disclosure to the Prosecution of the identity of the witness and temporarily redact their names, addresses, locations and other identifying information from material disclosed to the Prosecution, in accordance with paragraph (j) below.

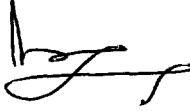
³ The witness protection order governing Prosecution witnesses is *Mpambara*, Decision (Prosecutor's Motion for Protective Measures for Prosecution Witnesses)(TC), 29 May 2002. During the status conference held on 29 April 2005, the Prosecution agreed to disclose all identifying information of its anticipated witnesses 30 days before the commencement of trial.

j) The information withheld in accordance with paragraph (i) shall be disclosed by the Defence to the Prosecution thirty days prior to commencement of the Defence case, in order to allow adequate time for the preparation of the Prosecution pursuant to Rule 69 (C).

Arusha, 4 May 2005



Erik Møse
Presiding Judge



Jai Ram Reddy
Judge



Sergei Alekseevich Egorov
Judge

[Seal of the Tribunal]

