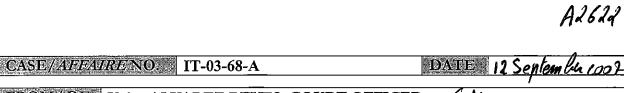
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# Criminal Tribunal for the Former

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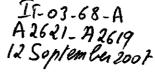
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Original:

# UNITED NATIONS



International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 Case No. IT-03-68-A Date: 12 September 2007

English

7621

## **IN THE APPEALS CHAMBER**

Before:

Judge Fausto Pocar, Presiding Judge Liu Daqun Judge Andrésia Vaz Judge Theodor Meron Judge Wolfgang Schomburg

**Registrar:** 

**Decision of:** 

Hans Holthuis

12 September 2007

#### PROSECUTOR

v.

NASER ORIĆ

**Public** 

## DECISION ON "MOTION IN RELATION TO GROUND 5 OF THE PROSECUTION'S APPEAL"

## Office of the Prosecutor:

Ms. Christine Dahl

## Counsel for Naser Orić:

Ms. Vasvija Vidović Mr. John Jones **THE APPEALS CHAMBER** of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991 ("International Tribunal"),

NOTING the Judgement rendered in this case by Trial Chamber II on 30 June 2006;<sup>1</sup>

**NOTING** the "Prosecution's Notice of Appeal" and the "The Prosecution's Corrigendum to Appeal Brief" filed by the Prosecution on 31 July 2006 and 18 October 2006, respectively, in which the Prosecution contends under its fifth ground of appeal ("Ground 5") that the Trial Chamber committed two errors of law that do not impact on the verdict but are matters of general importance to the case law of the International Tribunal, namely (1) that the Trial Chamber erred in law in distinguishing between a "general" obligation and a "specific" obligation under Article 7(3) of the Statute of the International Tribunal to prevent crime and in finding that superiors cannot be held responsible for failing to take "general" measures in order to prevent crimes committed by their subordinates, and (2) that the Trial Chamber erred in law in finding that "preventative destruction" of civilian objects may be lawful under international humanitarian law;<sup>2</sup>

**NOTING** the "Defence Respondent's Brief" filed on 27 November 2006 by Counsel for Naser Orić ("Defence"), in which the Defence opposes the Prosecution's arguments under Ground 5, but submits that it will not provide further arguments "[d]ue to limitations on space, and given that none of the errors alleged by the Prosecution [...] impact on the verdict in the present case";<sup>3</sup>

**BEING SEIZED** of the "Motion in Relation to Ground 5 of the Prosecution's Appeal" filed on 26 June 2007 ("Motion"), wherein the Prosecution argues that Ground 5 raises two errors of law that are of general significance to the case law of the International Tribunal which the Defence opposed but failed to respond to in its Respondent's Brief, and requests the Appeals Chamber to:

- (a) order the Defence to abstain from making oral submissions on Ground 5 at the Appeal Hearing;
- (b) invite the Association of Defence Counsel ("ADC") to submit an *amicus curiae* brief of 5000 words addressing the issues raised in Ground 5;
- (c) permit the Prosecution to file a reply of no more than 1500 words if the ADC files an *amicus curiae* brief on Ground 5;<sup>4</sup>

Case No. IT-03-68-A

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Case No. IT-03-68-T.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Prosecution's Notice of Appeal, paras 38-41; Prosecution's Corrigendum to Appeal Brief, paras 282-325; Motion, para. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Defence Respondent's Brief, paras 553-554.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Motion, paras 1, 9, 11.

**NOTING** that in support of the Motion the Prosecution submits that an *amicus curiae* brief would allow the Prosecution a fair opportunity to file a written reply as envisaged by the Rules of Procedure and Evidence ("Rules") and would enable the Appeals Chamber to be briefed on the issues arising in Ground 5 in advance of the hearing;<sup>5</sup>

**NOTING** the "Response to Prosecution 'Motion in Relation to Ground 5 of the Prosecution's Appeal" filed by the Defence on 2 July 2007 ("Response"), in which the Defence clarifies that it does not intend to make oral submissions in relation to Ground 5 at the Appeal Hearing unless requested to do so by the Appeals Chamber;<sup>6</sup>

**NOTING** that the Prosecution did not file a reply;

**CONSIDERING** that the Appeals Chamber may consider a legal issue even if it does not affect the verdict if it finds that its resolution is likely to contribute substantially to the development of the International Tribunal's jurisprudence and if it has a nexus with the case at hand;<sup>7</sup>

**CONSIDERING** that a Chamber has the power to invite *amicus curiae* submissions under Rule 74 of the Rules if it considers it desirable for the proper determination of the case;

**CONSIDERING** that the Prosecution has failed to demonstrate that *amicus curiae* submissions would assist the Appeals Chamber in its determination of Ground 5 if it were to decide to address the legal issues presented therein;

## FOR THE FOREGOING REASONS,

**DISMISSES** the Motion.

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

Dated this twelfth day of September 2007, At The Hague, The Netherlands.

Judge Fausto Pocar Presiding Judge

## [Seal of the International Tribunal]

Case No. IT-03-68-A

12 September 2007

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Motion, paras 2, 6-10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Response, para. 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Prosecutor v. Jean-Paul Akayesu, Case No. ICTR-96-4-A, Judgement, 1 June 2001, paras 19, 21-24. See also Prosecutor v. Radoslav Brdanin, Case No. IT-99-36-A, Decision on Motion to Dismiss Ground 1 of the Prosecutor's Appeal, 5 May 2005, p. 3; Prosecutor v. Dusko Tadić, Case No. IT-94-1-A, Judgement, 15 July 1999, paras 247 and 281.