

**THE TRIAL CHAMBER**

Case No: STL-11-01/T/TC

Before: Judge David Re, Presiding
Judge Janet Nosworthy
Judge Micheline Braidy
Judge Walid Akoum, Alternate Judge
Judge Nicola Lettieri, Alternate Judge

Registrar: Mr Daryl Mundis

Date: 29 September 2015

Original language: English

Classification: Public

**DECISION AUTHORISING WITNESS PRH651 TO TESTIFY VIA VIDEO-
CONFERENCE LINK**

(Extract from Official Public Transcript of Hearing on 29 September 2015, page 80, line 5 to page 81, line 12)

The decision is the following. It concerns filing 2170, "Prosecution Motion for Video-conference Link Testimony for PRH651."

The Prosecution filed a motion requesting -- sorry, on the 3rd of September, 2015, requesting authorization for Witness PRH651 to testify by video-conference link from the Special Tribunal's Beirut office. The Trial Chamber granted the witness protective measures on the 19th of August, 2015. The witness is scheduled to testify later this week.

The Prosecution submits that it is in the interests of justice to hear the witness's testimony by video-conference link because the witness would experience significant disruption to his life if required to travel to the Netherlands to testify.

In a confidential annex filed with the motion, the Prosecution elaborated on the witness's health and business concerns that would make travel to the Netherlands particularly burdensome to him.

No Defence counsel responded to the motion.

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The Trial Chamber has issued several decisions identifying the relevant principles of video-conference link testimony, the most relevant being the 27th of May, 2015, in a decision on Prosecution motion for testimony by video-conference link for Witnesses PRH041, 75, and 63, that is filing 1973.

The Trial Chamber has carefully considered the circumstances detailed in the Prosecution's application for video-conference link testimony and the accompanying annex. The Chamber believes it is in the interests of justice to authorize Witness 651 to testify by video-conference link from the Special Tribunal's Beirut office. Testimony by video-conference link preserves the rights of the five accused by allowing for their effective cross-examination by Defence counsel.

In addition, the Prosecution requested the Trial Chamber to maintain the confidentiality of the annex filed with the motion. Because it contains identifying information about the protected witness, the Trial Chamber orders that the annex to the motion remain confidential.

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