



J E A N - P I E R R E B E M B A G O M B O

I N F O R M A L W E E K L Y S U M M A R Y
S E P T E M B E R 5 - 9 2 0 1 1

Situation Case	Central African Republic 01/05-01/08 The Prosecutor vs. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo	<i>Mouvement de libération du Congo</i> (Movement for the Liberation of the Congo) (MLC). Participants: 1312 victims represented by Legal
Hearing Chamber	Trial Proceedings Trial Chamber III: Judge Sylvia Steiner (Presiding Judge), Judge Joyce Aluoch and Judge Kuniko Ozaki	Representatives for Victims: Ms. Marie Edith Douzima-Lawson and Mr. Assingambi Zarambaud
Parties:	OTP: Ms. Bensouda, Ms. Kneuer and team Defence: Mr. Nkwebe Richard Liriss, Mr. Aimé Kilolo-Musamba and team	Alleged crimes: Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo is allegedly responsible, as military commander, of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Crimes against humanity: Murder and rape.o War crimes: Murder, rape and pillaging.
<u>Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo</u> : born in 1962 in Bokada, Equateur Province; National of the DRC; Alleged President and Commander-in-chief of the		Start of Trial: 22 November 2010

This week two witnesses testified: **Witness 178 (OTP's 27th witness)** and **Witness 33 (OTP's 28th Witness)** are witnesses testifying under protective measures. The identities of the witnesses remain unknown.

5 September 2011

Judge Steiner announced that Witness 178 was not in a condition to testify. The trial was adjourned until 6 September.

6 & 7 September 2011

The trial continued in closed session

8 September 2011

Witness 33 was sworn in and the trial continued in closed session

9 September 2011

The Prosecution continued its examination-in-chief of witness 33

During examination-in-chief by the Prosecution, the witness provided testimony on:

- **ALC:** "L'armée de Libération du Congo" was the Army within the MLC¹. Mr. Bemba was allegedly the head of the military branch as Commander in Chief.
- **Chain of Command within the MLC:** The witness testified that, in theory, all the orders had to come from the General Staff and had to be transmitted hierarchically in a descending order.

¹The Mouvement pour la Libération du Congo is a political party in Democratic Republic of the Congo
This is an informal and unofficial summary of the trial hearings. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the CICC is not responsible for any omissions or inaccuracies contained within the following summary, which is provided for informational purposes only. Please do not forward without prior consultation with CICC staff.

- **Bemba Issuing Orders:** Allegedly, on several occasions, Mr. Bemba gave orders himself by bypassing the chain of command and he entered into contact with the troops on the field. Allegedly he sometimes ignored the General Staff. The General Staff then only had to make sure that these orders were executed.
- **Participation of Uganda:** Until the disagreement with Uganda, the Ugandan military participated in decision making. After the departure of Uganda, most of the decisions concerning the operations in the field were allegedly taken by Bemba himself.
- **Decision to engage troops in CAR in 2002-03:** The decision to intervene in CAR was allegedly made by Bemba himself. According to the witness, the General Staff had not been consulted about the decision to intervene.
- **Means of communications:** In his residence in Gbadolité, Bemba was in possession of a radio with which he could enter directly into contact with the different units on the field. He also possessed a satellite phone to speak with the brigades.
- **Daily reports:** The General Staff reported to Mr. Bemba on a daily basis. The person in charge of intelligence had to report, in theory, to the General Staff, but in practice he reported directly to Bemba, on a daily basis as well.
- **Visits to the field:** Mr. Bemba behaved differently than other rebel chefs. He went to the field from time to time to motivate the troops. He also went to Uganda Ethiopia and Bangui (CAR). During his travels, he stayed in contact, on a daily basis, with the troops.
- **Police within the MLC:** There was a police force within the MLC, under the control of the Secretary in charge of the administration of the territory.
- **Judicial system:** The MLC had allegedly established a judicial system with Courts.

This is an informal and unofficial summary of the trial hearings. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the CICC is not responsible for any omissions or inaccuracies contained within the following summary, which is provided for informational purposes only. Please do not forward without prior consultation with CICC staff.