

IT-06-90-T  
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26 April 2010

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**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-06-90-T**  
**Date: 23 April 2010**  
**Original: English**

**IN TRIAL CHAMBER I**

**Before: Judge Alphons Orie, Presiding  
Judge Uldis Ķinis  
Judge Elisabeth Gwaunza**

**Registrar: Mr John Hocking**

**Order of: 23 April 2010**

**PROSECUTOR**

v.

**ANTE GOTOVINA  
IVAN ČERMAK  
MLADEN MARKAČ**

***PUBLIC***

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**ORDER ISSUING A PUBLIC REDACTED VERSION OF THE  
CONFIDENTIAL "DECISION ON IVAN ČERMAK'S MOTION FOR  
PROVISIONAL RELEASE PURSUANT TO RULES 54 AND 65" OF 24 MARCH 2010**

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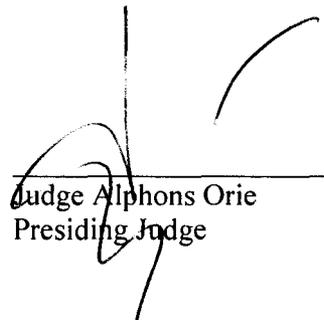
**TRIAL CHAMBER I** of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991;

**NOTING** the Decision on Ivan Čermak's Motion for Provisional Release Pursuant to Rules 54 and 65 ("Decision"), issued confidentially on 24 March 2010;

**CONSIDERING** that some of the information contained in the Decision is to remain confidential;

**HEREBY ISSUES** a public redacted version of the Decision.

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



Judge Alphons Orie  
Presiding Judge

Dated this 23rd day of April 2010  
At The Hague  
The Netherlands

**[Seal of the Tribunal]**



International Tribunal for the  
Prosecution of Persons Responsible for  
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Date: 24 March 2010  
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IN TRIAL CHAMBER I

Before: Judge Alphons Orie, Presiding  
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Decision of: 24 March 2010

PROSECUTOR

v.

ANTE GOTOVINA  
IVAN ČERMAK  
MLADEN MARKAČ

*PUBLIC REDACTED VERSION*

DECISION ON IVAN ČERMAK'S MOTION FOR PROVISIONAL RELEASE  
PURSUANT TO RULES 54 AND 65

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## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

1. Mr Čermak was first granted provisional release on 2 December 2004, and returned to the United Nations Detention Unit (“UNDU”) on 5 March 2008.<sup>1</sup> On 14 March 2008, the Chamber denied a motion by the Čermak Defence for provisional release, holding that although the requirements of Rule 65 (B) of the Tribunal’s Rules of Procedure and Evidence (“Rules”) for granting provisional release had been met, the commencement of trial on 11 March 2008 constituted a relevant and material change in circumstances which justified the exercise of the Chamber’s discretion not to grant the request (“March 2008 Decision”).<sup>2</sup> On 18 July 2008, the Chamber granted a further motion by the Čermak Defence for provisional release during the summer recess.<sup>3</sup> In its decision, the Chamber held that the specific requirements set out in Rule 65 (B) of the Rules for granting provisional release had been met, and that the procedural situation at the time constituted a change in circumstances that materially affected the approach taken in the March 2008 Decision.<sup>4</sup> On 2 December 2008, the Chamber again granted a motion by the Čermak Defence for provisional release, this time for the period of the winter recess.<sup>5</sup> On 27 February 2009, the Chamber denied a motion by the Čermak Defence for provisional release, finding that although the requirements of Rule 65 (B) of the Rules had been met, the short duration of the requested provisional release constituted a relevant and material change in circumstances, which justified the Chamber’s exercise of its discretion to deny the request.<sup>6</sup> On 3 April 2009, the Chamber issued its decision pursuant to Rule 98 *bis* of the Rules, holding that all three accused had a case to answer on the counts of the indictment.<sup>7</sup> On 14 July 2009, the Chamber denied a motion by the Čermak Defence for provisional release, holding that although the requirements of Rule 65 (B) of the Rules for granting provisional release had been met, compelling humanitarian grounds which must be shown in the post-Rule 98 *bis* stage of the proceedings to tip the balance in favour of provisional release, had not been demonstrated.<sup>8</sup> The Čermak Defence appealed the July 2009 Decision, with the Appeals Chamber holding that the Trial Chamber

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<sup>1</sup> Decision on Interlocutory Appeal against Trial Chamber's Decision Denying Provisional Release, 2 December 2004, para. 44; Order Scheduling Start of Trial and Terminating Provisional Release, 6 February 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Decision on Motion for Provisional Release of Ivan Čermak, 14 March 2008 (“March 2008 Decision”), paras 10-11.

<sup>3</sup> Decision on Ivan Čermak’s Motion for Provisional Release, 18 July 2008 (“July 2008 Decision”), para. 25.

<sup>4</sup> July 2008 Decision, paras 17-21.

<sup>5</sup> Decision on Motion for Provisional Release of Ivan Čermak, 2 December 2008 (“December 2008 Decision”), para. 13.

<sup>6</sup> Decision on Motion for Provisional Release of Ivan Čermak, 27 February 2009 (“February 2009 Decision”), paras 7-11.

<sup>7</sup> T. 17595-17623.

<sup>8</sup> Decision on Motion for Provisional Release of Ivan Čermak’s, 14 July 2009 (“July 2009 Decision”), para. 11.

had committed a discernable error in finding [REDACTED].<sup>9</sup> The appeal was granted in part and the Trial Chamber's decision was reversed.<sup>10</sup> On 14 December 2009, the Trial Chamber again granted a motion by the Čermak Defence for provisional release holding that the requirements of Rule 65 (B) of the Rules for granting provisional release had been met and that [REDACTED] presented a sufficiently compelling humanitarian ground to tip the balance in favour of provisional release.<sup>11</sup>

2. On 4 March 2010, the Čermak Defence filed a motion for provisional release.<sup>12</sup> The Čermak Defence requested that the Accused be provisionally released on a day after 1 April 2010 until 10 April 2010 or for a period that the Chamber deems appropriate and proportionate.<sup>13</sup> Also on 4 March 2010, the Čermak Defence filed a letter from the Government of the Republic of Croatia ("Croatia") dated 2 March 2010, providing guarantees in respect of the requested provisional release.<sup>14</sup> On 10 March 2010, the Tribunal's host state filed a letter pursuant to Rule 65 (B) of the Rules stating that it had no objection to the Motion being granted.<sup>15</sup> On 18 March 2010, the Prosecution filed its Response, in which it did not oppose the Motion.<sup>16</sup> On 19 March 2010, in court, the Čermak Defence modified its Motion for provisional release, requesting that the Accused be provisionally released from 27 March 2010 until the next witness is scheduled to testify, in the second week of April 2010.<sup>17</sup> On 23 March 2010, the Prosecution filed a supplemental submission in response to the Čermak Defence's modification of its Motion for provisional release.<sup>18</sup> Also on 23 March 2010 the Chamber put on the record information received from the Čermak Defence regarding [REDACTED] the requested provisional release period.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Decision on Ivan Čermak's Appeal Against Decision on his Motion for Provisional Release, 3 August 2009 ("Appeals Decision"), para. 18.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., para. 20.

<sup>11</sup> Decision on Motion for Provisional Release of Ivan Čermak, 14 December 2009 ("December 2009 Decision"), paras 7-10.

<sup>12</sup> Ivan Čermak's Motion for Provisional Release Pursuant to Rules 54 and 65, 4 March 2010 ("Motion").

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., paras 2, 18.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., Confidential Annex C.

<sup>15</sup> Letter by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands, 10 March 2010.

<sup>16</sup> Prosecution's Response to Čermak's Request for Provisional Release, 18 March 2010 ("Response").

<sup>17</sup> T. 27619-27620.

<sup>18</sup> Prosecution's Supplemental Submission in Response to Čermak's Request for Provisional Release, 23 March 2010 ("Supplemental Submission").

<sup>19</sup> T. 27696-27698.

### SUBMISSIONS OF THE PARTIES

3. The provisional release is requested to take place during a period for which the Chamber has stated that it is not sitting in this case, and is requested for a period which the Chamber deems appropriate and proportionate in the circumstances.<sup>20</sup> The Čermak Defence notes that Mr Čermak surrendered to the Tribunal voluntarily, co-operated with the Prosecution prior to trial, and that his conduct during trial has been proper and co-operative.<sup>21</sup> In addition, Mr Čermak agrees to be bound by the same conditions as those ordered by the Chamber in its December 2009 Decision, as well as any other measures the Chamber deems appropriate.<sup>22</sup> The Čermak Defence submits that the Chamber has recognized that a relevant factor in determining whether provisional release would be appropriate [REDACTED].<sup>23</sup> The Čermak Defence further submits [REDACTED] presents a sufficiently compelling humanitarian ground to warrant provisional release.<sup>24</sup> In this regard, the Čermak Defence submits that [REDACTED].<sup>25</sup> The Čermak Defence finally submits that Mr Čermak has never posed a danger to victims, witnesses or other persons, and notes that because the parties have now concluded their cases, any remote risk to Prosecution witnesses has ceased to exist.<sup>26</sup> The Čermak Defence and Mr Čermak also offer to take all reasonable steps to eliminate media coverage of Mr Čermak's departure from and return to the UNDU.<sup>27</sup> As put on the record by the Chamber, the Čermak Defence submitted that [REDACTED].<sup>28</sup>

4. In its Response, the Prosecution states [REDACTED] move the situation towards the margins of the compelling humanitarian grounds required for provisional release at the post-Rule 98 *bis* stage of the proceedings.<sup>29</sup> The Prosecution further notes that both the Appeals Chamber and the Trial Chamber previously relied on [REDACTED] in finding sufficiently compelling humanitarian reasons.<sup>30</sup> The Prosecution notes that [REDACTED].<sup>31</sup> The Prosecution also observes that [REDACTED] reuniting an Accused with family members outside the UNDU does not, in itself, amount to compelling humanitarian grounds.<sup>32</sup> [REDACTED] the Prosecution does not oppose the Motion, as long as the provisional release

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<sup>20</sup> Motion, paras 2, 18.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., para. 4.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., para. 5.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., para. 6.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., paras 10-12.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., paras 7-8.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., para. 14.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., para. 15.

<sup>28</sup> T. 27696-27698.

<sup>29</sup> Response, para. 2.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., para. 3.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., para. 5.

is subject to the same conditions that the Chamber has routinely imposed.<sup>33</sup> In its Supplemental Submission, the Prosecution states [REDACTED].<sup>34</sup> The Prosecution also states that the duration of provisional release should be limited [REDACTED].<sup>35</sup>

### APPLICABLE LAW

5. Rule 65 (B) of the Rules sets out that a Chamber may grant provisional release for an Accused if it is satisfied that the Accused will appear for trial and, if released, will not pose a danger to any victim, witness, or other person. Rule 65 of the Rules applies during pre-trial, as well as during the trial.<sup>36</sup> The mentioned conditions are the minimum requirements necessary for granting provisional release. A Chamber has the discretion not to grant the provisional release of an accused even if it is satisfied that these conditions have been met.<sup>37</sup>

6. According to the Appeals Chamber, when considering a provisional release motion at the post-Rule 98 *bis* stage of the proceedings, even when satisfied that sufficient guarantees exist to offset the risk of flight, a Chamber should not exercise its discretion in favour of a grant of provisional release unless compelling humanitarian grounds are present which tip the balance in favour of allowing provisional release.<sup>38</sup> The existence of compelling humanitarian reasons will only become relevant if the accused has met the aforementioned prerequisite requirements of Rule 65 (B) of the Rules, which must be satisfied for the Chamber to have the discretion to consider granting provisional release.<sup>39</sup> Further, the duration of post-Rule 98 *bis*

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid., para. 7.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., para. 6.

<sup>34</sup> Supplemental Submission, paras 3, 5.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., para. 4.

<sup>36</sup> *Prosecutor v. Milutinović et al.*, Case no. IT-05-87-AR65.2, Decision on Interlocutory Appeal of Denial of Provisional Release During the Winter Recess, 14 December 2006, para. 10.

<sup>37</sup> *Prosecutor v. Popović et al.*, Case no. IT-05-88-AR65.3, Decision on Interlocutory Appeal of Trial Chamber Decision Denying Ljubomir Borovčanin Provisional Release, 1 March 2007, para. 5; *Prosecutor v. Milutinović et al.*, Case no. IT-05-87-T, Decision on Milutinović Motion for Provisional Release, 22 May 2007, para. 6.

<sup>38</sup> *Prosecutor v. Prlić et al.*, Case no. IT-04-74-AR65.5, Decision on Prosecution's Consolidated Appeal Against Decisions to Provisionally Release the Accused Prlić, Stojić, Praljak, Petković and Čorić, 11 March 2008 ("*Prlić* 11 March 2008 Decision"), para. 21; *Prosecutor v. Prlić et al.*, Case no. IT-04-74-AR65.7, Decision on "Prosecution's Appeal from *Décision* relative à la demande de mise en liberté provisoire de l'accusé Petkovic dated 31 March 2008", 21 April 2008 ("*Prlić* 21 April 2008 Decision"), paras 15, 17; *Prosecutor v. Prlić et al.*, Case no. IT-04-74-AR65.8, Decision on "Prosecution's Appeal from *Décision* relative à la demande de mise en liberté provisoire de l'accusé Prlić dated 7 April 2008", 25 April 2008 ("*Prlić* 25 April 2008 Decision"), para. 14; *Prosecutor v. Prlić et al.*, Case no. IT-04-74-AR65.9, Decision on "Prosecution's Appeal from *Décision* relative à la demande de mise en liberté provisoire de l'accusé Stojić dated 8 April 2008", 29 April 2008 ("*Prlić* 29 April 2008 Decision"), paras 13-15; *Prosecutor v. Popović et al.*, Case nos IT-05-88-AR65.4, IT-05-88-AR65.5, IT-05-88-AR65.6, Decision on Consolidated Appeal Against Decision on Borovčanin's Motion for Custodial Visit and Decision on Gvero's and Miletić's Motions for Provisional Release During the Break in the Proceedings, 15 May 2008 ("*Popović* 15 May 2008 Decision"), paras 23-24.

<sup>39</sup> *Prlić* 21 April 2008 Decision, para. 17.

provisional release must be proportionate to the circumstances of the request for provisional release.<sup>40</sup>

## DISCUSSION

7. In its December 2009 Decision, the Chamber found that Mr Čermak did not pose a risk of flight if provisionally released, and since that point there have been no developments which would impact negatively on this assessment.<sup>41</sup> On the basis of the renewed Croatian guarantees, the Chamber is satisfied that Croatia would be willing and able to secure Mr Čermak's attendance before the Tribunal and compliance with any conditions that may be imposed by the Chamber.<sup>42</sup> In addition, the fact that Mr Čermak surrendered voluntarily to the Tribunal indicates that he would not pose a flight risk.<sup>43</sup> Furthermore, Mr Čermak's in-court attitude and behaviour do not provide any indication to the contrary.<sup>44</sup> For these reasons, having considered that the proceedings are in the post-Rule 98 *bis* stage, the Chamber remains satisfied that Mr Čermak would return for trial, if provisionally released.

8. As was the case in previous decisions on provisional release for Mr Čermak, the Chamber has received no indication that if released, Mr Čermak would pose a danger to witnesses, victims, or other persons.<sup>45</sup> Moreover, nothing arose during his prior periods of provisional release that suggests that Mr Čermak did not abide by all conditions set by the Chamber.<sup>46</sup> In conclusion, the Chamber finds that the requirements set out in Rule 65 (B) of the Rules for granting provisional release have been met.

9. In previous decisions, the Chamber considered [REDACTED] a relevant factor in favour of provisional release.<sup>47</sup> However, as the proceedings are now in the post-Rule 98 *bis* stage, the Čermak Defence must demonstrate the existence of compelling humanitarian grounds which tip the balance in favour of provisional release.<sup>48</sup> The Čermak Defence

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.; *Prlić* 25 April 2008 Decision, para. 18; *Prlić* 29 April 2008 Decision, para. 20; *Popović* 15 May 2008 Decision, para. 32.

<sup>41</sup> December 2009 Decision, para. 7.

<sup>42</sup> Motion, Confidential Annex C.

<sup>43</sup> See March 2008 Decision, para. 8; July 2008 Decision, para. 19; December 2008 Decision, para. 11; February 2009 Decision, para. 7; July 2009 Decision, para. 9; December 2009 Decision, para. 7.

<sup>44</sup> See Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> See March 2008 Decision, para. 9; July 2008 Decision, para. 20; December 2008 Decision, para. 12; February 2009 Decision, para. 8; July 2009 Decision, para. 10; December 2009 Decision, para. 8.

<sup>46</sup> See February 2009 Decision, para. 8; July 2009 Decision, para. 10; December 2009 Decision, para. 8.

<sup>47</sup> July 2008 Decision, para. 22; December 2008 Decision, para. 14.

<sup>48</sup> *Prlić* 11 March 2008 Decision, para. 21; *Prlić* 21 April 2008 Decision, paras 15, 17; *Prlić* 25 April 2008 Decision, para. 14; *Prlić* 29 April 2008 Decision, paras 13-15; *Popović* 15 May 2008 Decision, paras 23-24.

[REDACTED].<sup>49</sup> The requested provisional release would [REDACTED], and would thus be limited to a short period of time.

10. The Chamber has previously held that [REDACTED].<sup>50</sup> [REDACTED].<sup>51</sup> [REDACTED].<sup>52</sup> The Chamber notes that [REDACTED].<sup>53</sup> Considering [REDACTED], the Chamber finds that [REDACTED]. For these reasons, the Chamber is satisfied that [REDACTED] constitutes a sufficiently compelling humanitarian ground to tip the balance in favour of provisional release.

11. With regard to the length of provisional release, the Chamber recalls that in its March 2008 Decision it found provisional release to be inappropriate, considering, *inter alia*, that the release requested was for a short period of time, during a break in the proceedings from the day following the last day of trial in March 2008 until 5 April 2008.<sup>54</sup> In reaching that decision, the Chamber further considered the fact that at that time the Čermak Defence had not submitted any humanitarian grounds that would support granting provisional release for such a short period.<sup>55</sup> Considering that [REDACTED] presents a sufficiently compelling humanitarian ground, the Chamber finds that provisional release [REDACTED] for the requested period is appropriate.

#### DISPOSITION

12. For the foregoing reasons and pursuant to Article 29 of the Statute of the Tribunal and Rules 54 and 65 of the Rules, the Chamber hereby **GRANTS** the Motion, and **ORDERS** as follows:

- (a) On the first practicable date after the current witness has concluded his testimony but not earlier than **29 March 2010**, Mr Čermak shall be transported to the appropriate airport in The Netherlands by the appropriate Dutch authorities;
- (b) At the appropriate airport, Mr Čermak shall be provisionally released by the Dutch authorities into the custody of an official of Croatia to be designated prior to his release in accordance with subparagraph (e)(4), below, who shall accompany Mr Čermak for the remainder of his travel to and from the address detailed in Annex B of the Motion;

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<sup>49</sup> Motion, Confidential and Ex-Parte (Except OTP) Annex A. The Chamber notes that the substance of the Ex-Parte (Except OTP) Annex A was disclosed in significant part in the Motion.

<sup>50</sup> December 2009 Decision, para. 10.

<sup>51</sup> Motion, Confidential and Ex-Parte (Except OTP) Annex A.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> March 2008 Decision, para. 11.

- (c) On his return, Mr Čermak shall be accompanied by the same designated official of Croatia, who shall deliver him into the custody of the Dutch authorities at the appropriate airport, and the Dutch authorities shall then transport him back to the UNDU in The Hague;
- (d) During the provisional release, Mr Čermak shall:
- 1) surrender his passport and any other valid travel documents to the Ministry of Interior of Croatia;
  - 2) remain within the confines of his private residence in Croatia, at the address listed in Annex B of the Motion;
  - 3) report once a week to the local police station;
  - 4) consent to having his presence checked, including checking by occasional, unannounced visits by the Ministry of Interior, officials of Croatia, the local police, or by a person designated by the Registrar of the International Tribunal;
  - 5) not have any contact or in any way interfere with victims or potential witnesses or otherwise interfere with the proceedings or the administration of justice;
  - 6) not seek direct access to documents or archives nor destroy evidence;
  - 7) not discuss or speak about the case with anyone, including the media, other than his counsel;
  - 8) not engage in any activity that is not in accordance with the private nature of the provisional release, including any contact with public officials or public figures not relating to the administration of the provisional release;
  - 9) comply strictly with any requirements of the Croatian authorities necessary to enable such authorities to comply with their obligations pursuant to the present decision;
  - 10) return to the custody of the Tribunal by **12 April 2010**, or at such time and date as the Chamber may order;

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<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

11) comply strictly with any order issued by the Chamber varying the terms of, or terminating, the provisional release;

(e) The Chamber requires Croatia, to assume responsibility for:

- 1) the personal security and safety of Mr Čermak while on provisional release;
- 2) ensuring compliance with the conditions imposed on Mr Čermak under the present decision;
- 3) all expenses concerning the transport of Mr Čermak from the airport in The Netherlands to his place of residence in Croatia, and back to The Netherlands;
- 4) ensuring that upon release of Mr Čermak at the airport in The Netherlands, designated officials of Croatia (whose names shall be provided in advance to the Chamber and the Registry) take custody of Mr Čermak from the Dutch authorities and accompany him as detailed in subparagraphs (b) and (c), above;
- 5) not issuing any new passports or other documents which would enable Mr Čermak to travel;
- 6) monitoring on a regular basis the presence of Mr Čermak at the address detailed in Annex B of the Motion, and maintaining a log of such reports;
- 7) submitting a written report every week to the Chamber and the Registry as to the presence of Mr Čermak and his compliance with the terms of the present decision;
- 8) reporting immediately to the Registrar of the Tribunal the substance of any threats to the security of Mr Čermak, including full reports of investigations related to such threats;
- 9) immediately detaining Mr Čermak should he breach any of the terms and conditions of his provisional release and reporting immediately any such breach to the Registry and the Chamber.

12. The Chamber further **INSTRUCTS** the Registrar of the Tribunal to consult with the Ministry of Justice of The Netherlands as to the practical arrangements for the provisional release of Mr Čermak, and to continue to detain Mr Čermak at the UNDU in The Hague until

such time as the Chamber and the Registrar has been notified of the name of the designated official of Croatia into whose custody Mr Čermak is to be provisionally released.

13. Finally, the Chamber **REQUESTS** the authorities of all states through which Mr Čermak will travel:

- (a) to hold him in custody for any time that he will spend in transit at an airport in their territories; and
- (b) to arrest and detain him pending his return to the UNDU in The Hague, should he attempt to escape.

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

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Judge Alphons Orié  
Presiding Judge

Dated this Twenty-fourth day of March 2010  
At The Hague  
The Netherlands

**[Seal of the Tribunal]**