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## Key Witness and Victim Protection Measures Required for Kavumu Trial

This is a summary of requests that were made to the President of the Court by the Prosecutor and the Victims' Legal Team, following recommendations made by TRIAL and PHR.

1. Use of codes instead of names for witnesses and victims throughout the court proceedings.
2. Anonymity for witnesses who are deposed, including through use of a private booth, and with the option for the lawyer representing the accused to verify the identity of the witness in company of a lawyer representing the victims.
3. Use of voice-altering equipment as an additional measure of protection for listening to the recording of witnesses and those representing victims.
4. Assuring that the victims do not make a physical appearance in court during the hearings, with use of video testimony requisitioned by the court in lieu of live testimony, together with the establishment of closed hearings for the viewing of video and audio testimony of the victims.

PHR notes that Congolese law permits the adoption of all necessary measures to protect the physical and psychological security and dignity of victims of sexual violence. Minors are to be accompanied by a parent, teacher or social worker.

As the DRC has incorporated the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court into Congolese law, the principles of that court, including measures to protect victims and avoid re-traumatization, are also relevant. Extra special measures are required in this case given the very young ages of the victims (between 20 months and 11 years) and the psychological trauma they continue to suffer. PHR and TRIAL will be monitoring compliance with these protection measures now and throughout the trial.