

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

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AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS  
COUR AFRICAINE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES PEUPLES

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IN THE MATTER OF

SYNDICAT DES ANCIENS TRAVAILLEURS DU GROUPE DE LABORATOIRE  
AUSTRALIAN LABORATORY SERVICES, ALS-BAMAKO (MORILA)

V.

REPUBLIC OF MALI

APPLICATION No. 002 OF 2015

DECISION



**The Court Composed of:** Augustino S. L. RAMADHANI, President, Elsie N. THOMPSON, Vice-President; Gérard NIYUNGEKO, Fatsah OUGUERGOUZ, Duncan TAMBALA, Sylvain ORÉ, El Hadji GUISSÉ, Ben KIOKO, Rafâa BEN ACHOUR, Solomy B. BOSSA, Angelo V. MATSSE, Judges; and Robert ENO, Registrar;

**In the matter of**

**Syndicat des Anciens Travailleurs du Groupe de Laboratoire Australian  
Laboratory Services, ALS-Bamako (Applicant)**

**V.**

**Republic of Mali (Respondent)**

After deliberations,

decides as follows:

**I. Parties**

1. The Applicant is the Syndicat des Anciens Travailleurs du Groupe de Laboratoire Australian Laboratory Services, ALS-Bamako (Morila), a private limited liability company operating in the mining sector and based in Bamako, Mali.
2. The Applicant is affiliated to the Fédération Nationale des Mines et de l'Energie (FENAME), which in turn is affiliated to the Confédération Syndicale des Travailleurs du Mali (CSTM).
3. The Respondent ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (hereinafter, referred to as "the Charter") on 21 December 1981 and deposited the instrument of ratification on 22 January 1982. The Respondent also ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (hereinafter

referred to as "the Protocol") on 10 May 2000 and deposited the instrument of ratification on 20 June 2000. On 19 February 2010, it deposited the declaration accepting the competence of the Court to receive cases from individuals and non-governmental organisations, in accordance with Article 34(6) of the Protocol.

## **II. Subject of the Decision**

4. On 29 December 2014, the Secretary General of the Fédération Nationale des Mines et de l'Energie (FENAME) seized the Court on behalf of the Applicant.
5. The initial Application was filed against the top management of the company. The Applicant claimed that the employees had knowingly been lead-contaminated and unfairly dismissed, that the former workers asked for compensation for damages suffered and for the company to pay for their healthcare expenses as well as those of their families.

### **I. Procedure**

6. By a letter of 7 January 2015, the Registry acknowledged receipt of the Application and informed the Applicant that it had put the registration of the Application on hold pending the submission by the Applicant of further information on the Respondent's identity, as well as the submission of evidence of compliance with Rule 34 (1), (2) and (4) of the Rules of Court.
7. On 11 February 2015, the Applicant transmitted a set of reports and documents relating to the workers' lead-contamination.
8. By a letter dated 16 February 2015, the Applicant redrafted the Application, this time around, against, Mali in lieu of the Groupe Laboratoires ALS Mali SARL.
9. By a letter of 19 February 2015, the Registry drew the attention of the Applicant to the fact that the same still did not comply with the relevant provisions of the Protocol and of the Rules of the Court, in particular, Rule 34 (4), and advised the Applicant to seek assistance to re-draft and re-submit the Application.



10. Following the Court's decision, at its 34th Ordinary Session, held from 8 to 19 September 2014, the Registry proceeded to register the Application.
11. At its 36th Ordinary Session, held from 9 to 27 March 2015, the Court examined the Application and instructed the Registry to request the International Human Rights Federation (IHRF) to assist the Applicant.
12. By a letter of 8 April 2015, the Registry wrote to IHRF requesting it to provide legal assistance to the Applicant.
13. By an e-mail dated 10 June 2015, IHRF wrote to the Registry indicating its acceptance to provide legal assistance to the Applicant.
14. At its 38th Ordinary Session, held from 31 August to 18 September 2015, the Court examined the application and concluded that it still did not conform to the requirements of the Rules and noted that IHRF had not formally responded to the request for legal assistance.
15. By a letter of 22 September 2015, the Registry informed IHRF that the Court had noted the lack of a formal response to the request for legal assistance and urged it to do so within 30 days.
16. By an e-mail of 29 September 2015, IHRF informed the Registry that it was gathering information on the case and asked for a few more days to respond to the request.
17. At its 39th Ordinary Session, held from 9 to 20 November 2015, the Court directed the Registry to forward a letter to IHRF, requesting the latter to provide its response to the request for legal assistance within 15 days.
18. By a letter of 13 November 2015, the Registry asked IHRF to formally inform the Court of its decision regarding the request within 15 days.

19. By a letter of 13 November 2015, IHRF accepted to provide legal assistance to the Applicant.
20. In the same letter, IHRF reported that the Application on the payment of claims was being handled domestically, through an out-of-court settlement between the parties, and requested information regarding the Application on the lead poisoning.
21. By a letter of 3 December 2015, the Registry responded and informed IHRF, with the Applicant in copy, that there was only one Application before the Court, that of 16 February 2015, which had been submitted in replacement of the Application dated 29 December 2014, which the Court requested the Applicant to recast for lack of conformity to the Rules.
22. By a letter dated 7 December 2015, the Applicant informed the Registry that it was not aware of the agreement IHRF referred to in its letter dated 13 November 2015, given that the matter was pending before the domestic courts.
23. By a letter dated 11 December 2015, the Applicant requested the Court to withdraw the said Application on the lead poisoning because the domestic remedies had not been exhausted.
24. By a letter of 4 January 2016, the Registry reminded the Applicant that there was only one Application before the Court, that of 16 February 2015, which the Court had indicated needed to be recast and that the Applicant should do so with the assistance of a Counsel.
25. At its 40th Ordinary Session, held from 29 February to 18 March 2016, the Court instructed the Registry to draw the attention of the Applicant to the need to reformulate the Application so as to comply with the applicable provisions of the Protocol and the Rules, failing which the relevant provisions therein would be invoked.

26. By a letter of 21 March 2016, the Registry requested the Applicant, with its Legal Representative in copy, to approach the latter in order to recast the Application, so as to conform to the provisions of Rules 34 (1), (2) and (4) of the Rules of the Court, failing which the relevant provisions therein would be invoked.

27. By a letter of 4 May 2016, the Registry drew the attention of the Applicant, with its Legal Representative in copy, to the fact that it had not reformulated the Application, indicating that it should do so within 15 days, failing which the relevant provisions of the Rules of the Court would be invoked.

28. The Applicant did not submit the reformulated Application within the above referred time.

For these reasons,

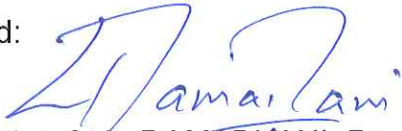
- i. The Court notes that its decision to register the Application hinged on the premise that the deficiencies identified on the same would be rectified. To that end, the Court provided legal assistance to the Applicant through IHRF.
- ii. The Court notes that, even after having been provided with legal assistance, the Applicant has not reformulated the Application, notwithstanding successive extensions of time for it to do so.
- iii. The Court notes further that the various communications addressed to the Applicant and their Counsel were duly served at the designated addresses.
- iv. The Court concludes that the non-reformulation of the Application, in order for it to conform to the provisions of Article 34 (1), (2) and (4) of the Rules, points to a lack of interest on the part of the Applicant and their Counsel in pursuing the matter before the Court.



The Court, making use of its inherent powers, decides, unanimously, that the Application be and the same is hereby, struck out, without prejudice to the possibility of the Applicant submitting a new Application on the same matter.

Done at Arusha, this 5<sup>th</sup> days of September 2016, in English, French and Portuguese, the French version being authoritative.

Signed:



Augustino S. L. RAMADHANI, President;

Robert Eno, Registrar.

