

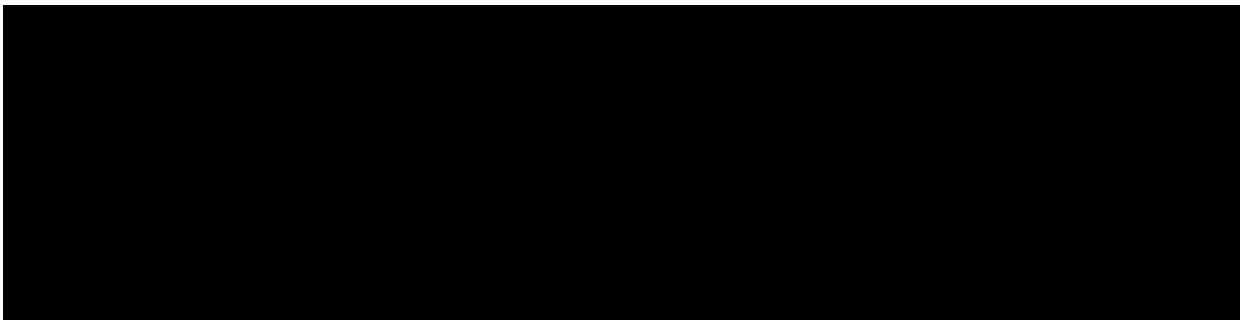
## **ANNEX C**

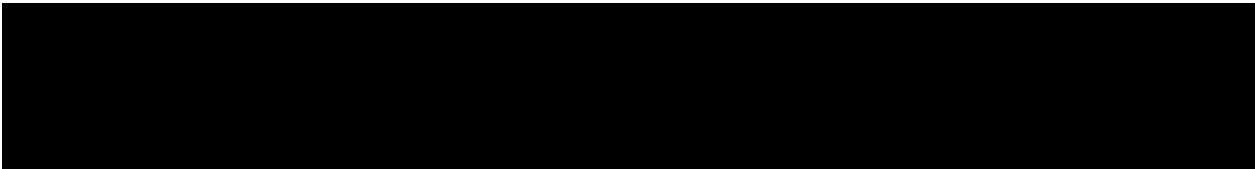
**Public redacted version of  
ICC-01/12-01/15-118-Conf-AnxC**

**Summary of Witness MLI-OTP-P-0431**

## MLI-OTP-P-0431

<b>Witness Pseudonym</b>	MLI-OTP-P-0431	<b>Duration (examination-in-chief)</b>	3 hours
<b>Language of testimony</b>	French	<b>Type</b>	Expert
<b>Charges / incidents:</b>			
War crime of attacking protected objects (article 8(2)(e)(iv))			
<b>Statement and exhibits, including annexes</b>	<p><b>Statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0013</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0013 ARB translation</li> </ul> <p><b>Annexes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0029</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0064</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0066</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0069</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0139</li> </ul> <p><b>Exhibits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLI-OTP-0007-0002</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0001-7121</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0004-0566</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0002</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0227</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0229</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0236</li> <li>• MLI-OTP-0037-0248</li> </ul>		

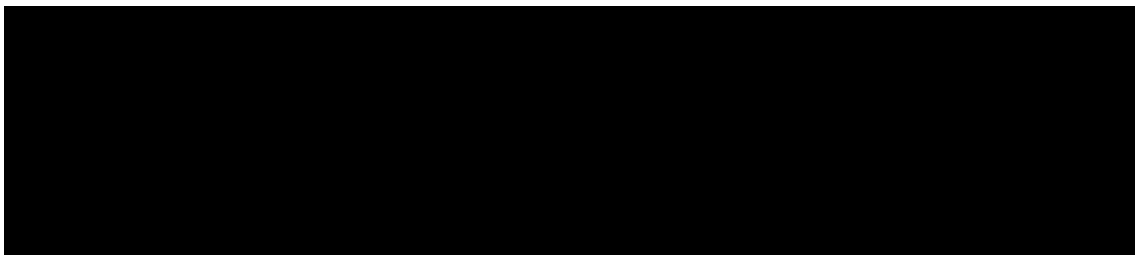




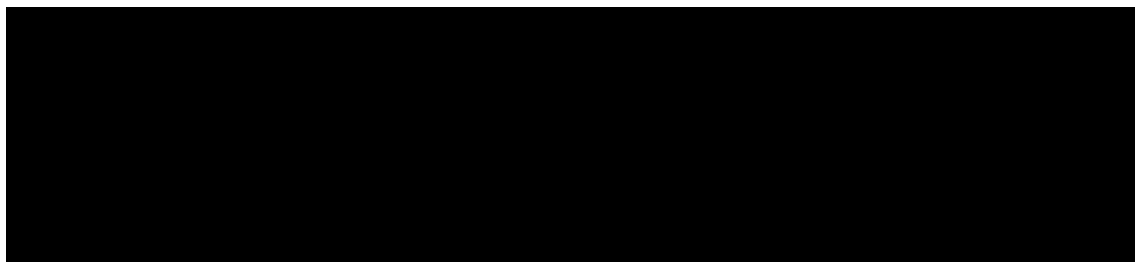
### Main Facts

P-0431 is expected to testify about the following:

1.



2.



3. Mali's cultural heritage is very important and rich given its diversity and high quality. It is comprised of historical sites, monuments and practices that have a deep meaning for the local communities, for the whole of Mali, for Africa and for the whole world.
4. Mali's cultural heritage is also important because it defines the identity of the local communities and plays an important role in their education, formation, social cohesion and socialisation. The mosques, mausoleums, ancient manuscripts, monuments and practices of the local communities combine several values: historical, cultural, architectural, touristic and economic.
5. Timbuktu has a central place in Mali's cultural heritage for its historical and cultural richness. The town is renowned for having been a centre for the diffusion of Islamic culture and trade. At its height, the town had a university comprising 180 Quranic schools with up to 25000 students. The mosques of Djingareyber, Sankoré and Sidi Yahia, the numerous religious saints and the

various historical monuments testify to the prestigious past and renown of Timbuktu.

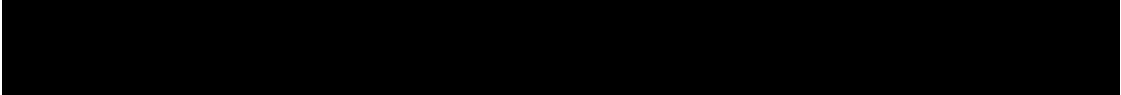
6. Timbuktu is called the City of the 333 Saints. Revered saints are found in the mausoleums around the town. Sixteen of these mausoleums are listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The mausoleums are the subject of religious practices such as prayers and meditation. The Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) named Timbuktu the Capital of Islamic Culture in 2006.
7. Timbuktu is protected both nationally and internationally. P-0431 is able to give evidence on the legal regimes protecting the different cultural sites of Timbuktu. At the national level, the protection covers the ancient town comprising the four districts of Sankoré, Djingareyber, Sareikaina and Badjindé; the mausoleums of Sidi Mahmoud, Alpha Moya and Tamba Tamba; and the well of Bouctou. At the international level, the Three mosques of Sankoré, Djingareyber and Sidi Yahya and Sixteen mausoleums are listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.
8. P-0431 has been to Timbuktu several times. [REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

According to P-0431, the local communities have a clear vision of what Timbuktu was and what it represents. As such, they want to maintain the integrity and authenticity of their cultural heritage. They also want to transmit that heritage to future generations. An example of this is when the whole local population participates in the roughcasting for the maintenance of the mosques under the authority of the masons of Timbuktu. According to P-0431, Timbuktu really likes Timbuktu ("*...Tombouctou aime vraiment Tombouctou*").

9. The masons of Timbuktu have a unique expertise, which enables them to maintain and construct the mausoleums and mosques. Consequently, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the guild of masons as a living human treasure.

10. In 2012, the destruction of the mausoleums made it impracticable for the community to conduct their religious activities. The destructions were a deep blow against the very soul of Timbuktu and its identity as the City of 333 Saints. It affected the exceptional universal value of Timbuktu.
11. The mausoleums have a deep symbolical importance for the local communities. The Sixteen mausoleums included in UNESCO's World Heritage List are among the best known ones. However, all of the mausoleums, whether or not they are listed by UNESCO and whether or not they are renown, are important for the population.
12. The terrorists attacked the cultural heritage of the population of Timbuktu. They prohibited practices related to the mausoleums and prevented the population from going there to pray and meditate. Those prayers were important for the manifestation of their faith. The destructions traumatised the local communities.
13. [REDACTED] P-0431 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
14. The international community showed support, including during the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee held in Saint Petersburg, Russia between 24<sup>th</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Timbuktu was then added to the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. This was as a direct result of the occupation of the town and the attacks against the mausoleums in Timbuktu. The Committee called for the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States to take the necessary measures to protect Mali's cultural heritage. The Committee also strongly condemned the destructions and called for the perpetrators to stop those acts. The destructions shocked everyone. The Ambassadors attached to UNESCO gathered in front of the Peter the Great monument in Saint Petersburg to launch an appeal condemning the destruction in Timbuktu. This monument was itself saved from bombing during the Second World War and was, therefore, chosen for the gathering because of its symbolism. [REDACTED]

15. The Ambassadors qualified the acts as a crime against history and called for international mobilisation. The then Malian Minister of Culture thanked everyone for their support and stated that Mali was prepared to reach out to the ICC for the prosecution of the perpetrators. According to P-0431, the destructions were grave crimes and were premeditated to harm to the local communities, the whole nation and the international community.
16. African countries also showed their support. At a conference in South Africa, Ministers of Culture from African countries declared their support to Mali. They recognised the importance of the mausoleums and qualified them as a continental pride. They also condemned the destruction of the heritage of Timbuktu and its listed mausoleums.
17. 

As soon as the occupation of the town ended in January 2013, the necessary steps were taken to remedy the damages to the cultural heritage, in particular measures to restore the mausoleums as quickly as possible. The Director General of UNESCO and the President of France came to Timbuktu to show their support as early as February 2013. An action plan for the restoration of the mausoleums was adopted on 18 February 2013 at the seat of UNESCO and a committee was set up to execute the plan.
18. The destruction and crisis underlines the importance of the heritage for the local communities and its impact on their ability to transmit cultural practices to future generations.  local communities wanted the reconstructions to occur as soon as possible. The imams of the mosques and the masons were equally eager to participate in the reconstruction of the mausoleums.
19. The crisis also had an economic impact. Tourists who used to visit Timbuktu because of its culture, mosques, mausoleums and manuscripts no longer come.
20. The population is still attached to their cultural heritage and religious practices. People resumed praying at the mausoleums immediately after the

end of the occupation even if the mausoleums were in ruins. P-0431 has a photograph showing that.