

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2082

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/18

1 International Criminal Court
2 Trial Chamber V
3 Situation: Central African Republic II
4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Alfred Rombhot Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard
5 Ngaïssona - ICC-01/14-01/18
6 Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt, Judge Péter Kovács and Judge Chang-ho Chung
7 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 1
8 Friday, 24 March 2023
9 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.30 a.m.)
10 THE COURT USHER: [9:30:46] All rise.
11 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
12 Please be seated.
13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:07] Good morning, everyone. Court officer,
14 please call the case.
15 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:31:16] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
16 Situation in the Central African Republic II, in the case of The Prosecutor versus
17 Alfred Yekatom and Patrice Edouard Ngaïssona, case reference ICC-01/14-01/18.
18 And for the record, we're in open session.
19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:29] The appearance of the parties. I think
20 Prosecution, CLRV, Mr Suprun, they're all unchanged. Ms Dimitri, the same.
21 Mr Knoops, too. So, wonderful.
22 Then I wish our witness a good morning. I hope you had a good rest yesterday.
23 WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2082 (On former oath)
24 (The witness speaks French)
25 (The witness gives evidence via video link)

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1 THE WITNESS: [9:32:03](Interpretation) Yes.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:05] Then we continue with the examination.

3 Ms Guissé has the floor. We are in open session. Thank you.

4 MS GUISSÉ: [9:32:20](Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour.

5 QUESTIONED BY MS GUISSÉ: (Interpretation)(Continuing)

6 Q. [9:32:24] Good morning, Witness.

7 A. [9:32:26] Good morning.

8 Q. [9:32:27] We're going to continue with our cross-examination, and I can assure

9 you and the Chamber as well that I will keep up to my promises and I will finish this

10 morning. So this is a good news -- a piece of good news.

11 Now, I would want to explore with you a document, which is the first report

12 prepared by the ESF; in fact, it's an extract from -- it's a photo extracted from the first

13 report of ESF, which is in the tab 11 of the Defence binder, CAR-D29-0010-0023.

14 Now, this corresponds to the first page that appears in the report CAR-OTP-2068-0558,

15 with the markings to identify -- to simplify identification. So we're going to try and

16 zoom in.

17 Madam, may I remind you that we are in open session, so I'm going to do what is

18 needed to ensure that your identity is kept secret, and I would ask you as well to not

19 reveal your identity in your responses.

20 I would also like to remind you that with the OTP investigators, and in paragraph 61

21 of your witness statement, you said, regarding this photo that -- 71, sorry, paragraph

22 71, you said that you recognised Mbororo and you also recognised a lady called

23 Kainozo, and you recognised the director of social affairs and Mr Yekatom who was

24 wearing a red pullover.

25 Now, first of all, do we agree that Ms Kainozo was the head of the social services

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1 division?

2 A. [9:34:53] Yes, that is right.

3 Q. [9:34:59] Now, unfortunately, I don't think she has been identified, but could
4 we -- by a circle, but could we just lower the photo so that we can see the figures on
5 the top of the page. If we could just lower the photo so that we could see the figures
6 on the top of the page.

7 Now, I don't know if you've had the time to see Mrs Kainozo on the photo, but we do
8 agree that it's the lady who is wearing a striped-coloured attire and she's on the left,
9 number 8 of the photo. She is number 8; is that right?

10 A. [9:35:42] Yes, that is right.

11 Q. [9:35:47] Now, you also indicated that Mr Yekatom was wearing a red polo shirt
12 and, on the right, you recognised Kevin Kakpayen. He's the one who's wearing a
13 blue polo T-shirt. He's actually towards the left of Yekatom.

14 A. [9:36:15] Yes, yes; it is him.

15 Q. [9:36:20] Subsequently, and you talked about the man on the right of the photo
16 wearing a blue safari costume. Now, you -- a blue safari suit. He's been identified
17 as number 13. And you said that he was the mayor of Pissa.

18 Could we actually zoom in on the photo so that the witness can see it properly. I
19 think she's having a problem seeing the photo.

20 So, in your statement you said -- in paragraph 71 you said that he was the mayor of
21 Pissa. I feel that you are mistaken. The photo is not very clear and with the help of
22 my colleague, I would like to show you the extract of a video, which is in tab 2 of the
23 Prosecution binder. It's CAR-OTP-2068 -- 2068-0586, and I would like to stop at
24 06:24. Now, this is a public video.

25 We are going to make it a bit more clear. No, we can't. We can't. It was actually

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1 better on my screen yesterday.

2 But you can see this gentleman who is wearing a blue safari suit and you recognised
3 him on the photo. Now, when you see him like this, from this perspective, from this
4 angle, are you sure that that is the mayor, because I'm putting it to you that he is a
5 person who works with ESF and who is called Didier Beninga? Now, does that jot
6 your memory?

7 A. [9:38:37] I do not know. I said he was the mayor because he was
8 standing -- standing with a person who worked as a security guard at the town hall,
9 and this is what I thought. I don't know if he works with *Enfants Sans Frontières*.
10 That is something I don't know.

11 Q. [9:39:10] There is no problem. There is absolutely no problem. We can
12 remove the video from the screen.

13 Now, since you said that you met in Pissa the trainers on that day, I would like you to
14 see the photo of an individual and see his -- and see if his face rings a bell. I would
15 like the document that is in tab 2 of the Defence binder to be shown. It's
16 CAR-OTP-0000-1073 -- and it's five times zero 2 for the reference to which I would
17 like to get to.

18 Right. So I don't know if the court officer has managed to -- right, I'm sorry. The
19 quality of the photo is not at its best, but do you recognise this face? Have you seen
20 this person amongst the ESF staff on the day of the ceremony?

21 A. [9:40:51] As I told you, it's been a very long time. I do not remember the
22 specificities of people I met.

23 Q. [9:41:06] No problem, witness. If you do not remember, you can say it and you
24 can continue saying it. This document can be removed from the screen.

25 Now, in your discussions with the representatives of the ESF, have you heard of a

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1 staff member called as Wilfred Molouba or Wilfred Demba?

2 A. [09:41:42] What position was he filling in for?

3 Q. [9:41:54] I do not know what position he was in, but he was in -- but he worked
4 for ESF, with the coordination unit of the ESF.

5 A. [9:42:09] The third person I know is the manager, because {ICR: (Redacted).
6 (Redacted)} The third person I know from ESF is
7 him.

8 Q. [9:42:37] Thank you, Witness. There's absolutely no problem.

9 I would now like to move on to another subject.

10 Now, I would like the document to be brought on the screen. This is a report which
11 is in the tab 4 of the Defence binder. This is document CAR-OTP-2068-0568. And
12 this is entitled, it's "The final report of the psychosocial support project and
13 rehabilitation of children associated with armed groups and forces in Lobaye".
14 This document does not bear a date, but in light of what you said during the previous
15 days, I've understood that you haven't personally seen this final report, so I am not
16 going to ask you questions on things that you don't know. I am just going to point
17 to -- on themes that you might have known given the period that's mentioned in the
18 report.

19 Could we please go to page 517, please -- 577, please? And you can see the first
20 sentence, it speaks about the duration of training and it says -- it says:

21 "The time period of three months given for psychosocial support is insignificant ..."
22 End of quote.

23 Now, I just wanted to focus on the length of the training period, because in paragraph
24 54 of your statement you said, and I'm quoting you here:

25 After having spent four months in the ESF centre, certain children were placed in

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1 foster families for four months. End of quote.

2 Now, I don't know if this is a mistake in which -- a mistake in the statement, but in
3 this statement we feel that there's been a four-month training and then four months
4 again in the foster families which means that psychosocial support was given for
5 eight months, which was not the case.

6 So could you please clarify this? Did the training programme last for three months?

7 A. [9:45:41] As I told you in the beginning, I took part in the -- in fact, I resigned
8 and after that {ICR: (Redacted)}
9 (Redacted)}

10 anything about the foster families as well. I had absolutely no idea because I wasn't
11 following up the implementation of the programme.

12 THE INTERPRETER: [9:46:33] I'm sorry, there's a correction from the booth. The
13 witness did not resign, the witness, in fact, {PFR: (Redacted)}
14 (Redacted)}

15 MS GUISSÉ: [9:46:52] (Interpretation)

16 Q. [9:46:52] I would now like to go to page 573 of this report. And if you could
17 scroll down a bit. A bit more -- scroll down a bit more. I'm sorry, court officer, it's
18 not 573, but we're still on page 577, please, so if you could go back to 577. And if
19 you could just scroll down a bit.

20 Now, on the question of difficulties related to space -- the number of children that
21 participate in the activities is more than the trainers. The trainer-child ratio, which is
22 1 to 15, is actually much more than what it was -- it was supposed to be. We can
23 remove the document from the screen.

24 Now, in the documents that you've seen before, and I'm referring to Mr Kongaye's
25 report, CAR-OTP-2109-0473, page 0490. There's no need to actually display this

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1 document. It's in tab 4 of the Prosecution binder.

2 Now, this is another report of the ESF, which is in tab 5 of the Defence binder. It is
3 indicated that for each day centre - and we're going to come back to this - there were
4 two trainers, so total eight trainers. Whilst in the final report, it is indicated on page
5 0573, there were totally 18 trainers. So, according to ESF, there were eight trainers in
6 the day centres and 10 trainers for the only centre in Mbaïki.

7 So my question is as follows: Now, do these figures ring a bell or do you remember
8 that the question of the number of trainers was discussed and, as Mr Mborolo
9 indicates, the trainer-child ratio was one trainer to 15 children, which means that in
10 the Mbaïki centre there should have been four?

11 Now, do you know why there were 10? And don't you think there was a resource
12 problem? Was this a subject that was raised? Perhaps for the rest of the session we
13 need to move to private session to get exhaustive responses from the witness.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:50:57] Then we go to private session.

15 (Private session at 9.51 a.m.)

16 THE COURT OFFICER: [09:51:20] We are in private session, Mr President.

17 MS GUISSÉ: [9:51:31] (Interpretation)

18 Q. [9:51:31] We are in private session, Witness, so you can actually reply to my
19 questions without any restrictions.

20 A. [9:51:45] The real question is because you've given explanations --

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:51:56] Wait a second. Mr Belbenoit.

22 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [9:51:58] (Interpretation) Just two clarifications. It's not
23 clear for me. I'm looking at -- looking at page 577 and at the report, which is referred
24 to by my counsel. It says, "a trainer-child ratio one as to 15". There is no indication
25 of the centre to which we are referring to. It would be nice to clarify which centre

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1 are we specifically referring to. Are we referring to any specific centre? It's not
2 very clear to me.

3 MS GUISSÉ: [9:52:33] (Interpretation) Now, the -- in the other references I gave
4 you, your Honour, the report CAR-OTP-2109-0473, in page 480, the document in tab 5
5 of the Defence binder, CAR-OTP-2071-0285, page 0293 -- so this is the reference I gave
6 before, before I asked my question, and I told you that it's mentioned in these two
7 reports that in each day centre, there were two trainers; so total eight trainers for the
8 centres -- for the day-care centres.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:53:23] That's clear, but it's important for the
10 witness, for the answer, to know what you're referring to, so this is the point. So it
11 was from your -- there was nothing objectionable to the question, but the witness
12 must be clear what we're talking about.

13 MS GUISSÉ: [9:53:42](Interpretation)

14 Q. [9:53:44] My question is with respect to the total number of trainers for the ESF.
15 I was -- I want to know if you actually had this discussion. How many trainers were
16 needed for the Mbaiki centre and for other activities?

17 A. [9:54:09] I would like to say that I have no knowledge with regards to how the
18 activities are implemented, so I only (Redacted)
19 (Redacted) And the final report is
20 something that I never saw.

21 So you do agree with me that it's very difficult for me to give you information on this
22 issue at hand.

23 Q. [9:54:57] More specifically, when I asked you on the financial supporting
24 documents, you said that in the practice -- in the final report, these documents appear;
25 in fact, at least the way the -- how the funds that were earmarked were spent. This

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1 information is in the report. I understand that you do not have access to this final
2 report, but we have access to it and we haven't seen anything that is basically linked
3 to the financial supporting documents or any information on how -- how much
4 money was allocated and how these funds were used.

5 Now, when you say that in the final report, was this something that you assumed?

6 Is this the normal practice or this is -- is this something that you assumed? I'm going
7 to let you answer the question.

8 A. [9:56:05] Yes. In this case, you should mention the supporting documents and
9 give explanations for each amount that is spent. Generally, this is the way it works.

10 I spoke about this, but with regard to this programme, I'm really not aware of
11 anything. But, normally, this is how things should work.

12 Q. [9:56:42] Again, I know that you haven't read this final report, but since it's
13 basically talking about activities that happened over the entire period, I just want to
14 know what you know about this personally. Again, on this final report in tab 4,
15 page 577 of this report, it is stated that 205 children -- so 205 children participated in
16 the activities of the day-care centre.

17 Now, in your testimony you said, and you repeated this today, that you did not
18 follow up on the activities and (Redacted)

19 (Redacted) and you were also very clear that you did not have any knowledge about
20 the functioning of the day-care centre.

21 Now, my question is related to the period when (Redacted)

22 (Redacted). Now, during this period (Redacted)

23 (Redacted) there were amounts that were allocated, that were

24 earmarked for the functioning of the day-care centre for 205 children.

25 Now, (Redacted)?

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1 A. [9:58:36] Now, generally, the NGO will present a financial report and (Redacted)

2 (Redacted) but I do not have the details, the specific details of the expenses. But I

3 remember that (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 Q. [9:59:34] Now, since you remember that (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 A. [9:59:54] I should have the amount somewhere. I should know this, but since
10 it's been a long time I've forgotten.

11 Q. [10:00:06] Something I forgot to ask you. You talked about the third person in
12 ESF who was a manager. Do you remember his name?

13 A. [10:00:19] No, not at all. (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 Q. [10:00:57] Thank you for that clarification.

18 I'm now going to turn to another point. During the ceremony in Pissa, which you
19 attended, am I correct in saying that the reception of the children was done in the tent
20 outside?

21 A. [10:01:23] Yes. This was done under the tent, which you saw. But after, by
22 curiosity I went into one of the rooms and I saw the mats -- the mats. But it wasn't in
23 all the rooms. It's only the one room which I went into and saw that.

24 Q. [10:01:57] You're talking about mats and children. Can you agree that this was
25 once the children had been transferred to Mbaïki?

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1 A. [10:02:04] Yes.

2 Q. [10:02:11] What -- what I'm interested in is the moment in Pissa before you went
3 to Mbaïki, the moment before they were transferred to Mbaïki, when the children
4 arrived, before the town hall in Pissa where the meeting took place with Yekatom.
5 Do you agree that outside there were tarps, or did you just simply see the town hall
6 and the surroundings?

7 A. [10:02:52] No, I saw the area and the town hall, and when I was there under the
8 mango tree where I saw the children. It was under the mango tree before the town
9 hall.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:03:11] You keep in mind when we can go back
11 to open session. Well, the last two answers that -- but I -- you know, you have a flow,
12 so I wouldn't insist for one or two answers, but just as a reminder, a kind reminder.

13 MS GUISSÉ: [10:03:40](Interpretation) I will try a little later on, your Honour.

14 Q. [10:03:47] So you saw the town hall. Did you also see the school of Pissa on
15 that day? The school -- the school, did you see the school of Pissa?

16 A. [10:03:58] No, I didn't see the school of Pissa. But I know it's not very far away
17 from the town hall, but I didn't go there at that time.

18 Q. [10:04:21] Am I correct in saying that when you went to Pissa, you saw no -- any
19 place which is called the day centre of Pissa or the ESF didn't show you any day
20 centre; is that correct?

21 A. [10:04:41] That is correct. I didn't see any centre in Pissa.

22 Q. [10:04:51] I want to be very clear and specific. I understand you (Redacted)
23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted) But since we have a report, (Redacted)

25 I would like to go through with you whether you have any specific information on

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1 elements in the report. Perhaps we could go to tab 5 of the Defence binder,
2 document CAR-OTP-2071-0285, page 287. I want to draw your attention to a specific
3 point, perhaps, that might have escaped your attention.

4 MS GUISSÉ: [10:06:08](Interpretation) Your Honour, perhaps we might try to move
5 into public session.

6 Q. [10:06:13] Madam Witness, please be careful of how you answer the questions
7 so that we don't identify you in any way.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:06:21] Private session. Open -- you know, open
9 session, of course.

10 (Open session at 10.06 a.m.)

11 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:06:56] We're in open session, Mr President.

12 MS GUISSÉ: [10:07:12](Interpretation)

13 Q. [10:07:12] Madam Witness, once again, we are in open session, so be careful how
14 you answer the questions so that you're not identified in any way.

15 Could we go down the document a bit, so that we can see number 1 in its entirety.

16 In this report, which was signed by the management or direction of social affairs, it
17 says that amongst the activities carried out at the beginning, the five main activities
18 from the outset: "Cleaning of the areas, dormitories, the play game and the

19 construction of a hanger with tarps for psychosocial and cultural activities, as well as
20 the selection of areas for day centres in Pissa, Mbata, Batalimo and Mongoumba."

21 End of quote. In this report we talk about a selection of choice of premises. My
22 question is: Do you remember if any of the ESF representatives mentioned and
23 discussed the selection of premises in these particular areas?

24 A. [10:08:45] There again, I can't remember. As I told you, I didn't go to all these
25 places. I didn't visit the various sites, so I have no idea. This report was sent to me,

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1 but I didn't go and check whether there were tents or anything else on the sites. I
2 really don't know. I can't say more than that.

3 Q. [10:09:34] It's very clear, and that's also what I saw in your statement yesterday.
4 You didn't even see anything from the photos. You didn't see it either in our reports,
5 and that is why I'm putting the questions to you. I want to know whether
6 discussions took place on this point. I heard your answer so I'm not going to go on
7 about it.

8 I'm interested now in another part of the very same report, and in particular page
9 0289 of the same document. The last paragraph, please.

10 Look, this is what is indicated as a reminder. This report is 15 September 2014, so
11 these activities should have started. And this is what is stated as regards the Mbaïki
12 centre:

13 "...the Mbaïki centre must shelter 60 EAFGA that are non-accompanied. There will
14 be three girls and 57 boys, but currently the number is 48..."

15 It says 48 in brackets, but the number is 50, so I think there is some mistake there. So
16 there are 50 --

17 "...and 12 absentees. Seven come -- have found the group only on 14 September
18 when I was supposed to have already submitted this present or current report." End
19 of quote. Could you tell me what you've understood at that time when you read
20 through the report as regards the number of children actually present in the centre in
21 Mbaïki in September 2014?

22 A. [10:12:18] Well, it's only now that I'm reading the report, so I can't say anything
23 about the numbers that have been raised. I don't know. I just don't know. *I don't
24 know what's happened. I don't know how many children there were, maybe 70, if it
25 was 50 or so.

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1 It wasn't really as if I was aware of the number of children until now. Some arrived
2 later, some weren't present, so I don't have that type of information.

3 MS GUISSÉ: [10:13:13](Interpretation) Your Honour, we have to move into private
4 session for the next set of questions.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:13:18] Then now private session, I would say.

6 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:13:40] We are in private session, Mr President.

7 (Private session at 10.13 a.m.)

8 MS GUISSÉ: [10:13:49](Interpretation)

9 Q. [10:13:51] Once again we are in private session (Redacted)

10 (Redacted) As I said to you, this document, I

11 understood -- you didn't pay attention to all the details and Mr Kongaye was

12 following it through. But this document was drafted by ESF, (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 I've also understood that you didn't pay attention to this particular paragraph. So

15 what comes out of this report is that the 70 children, which is the number you

16 mentioned before, didn't arrive in the centre of Mbaïki in August and -- and even at

17 the moment on 15 September 2014, (Redacted) the figures aren't clear. I can say -- I

18 admit that.

19 But from the report we understand that there are 50 or 48 children who are present,

20 and after some were absent and who came back -- and if you refer to the famous

21 document, which Mr Kongaye explained that there were children who had left to go

22 and look for caterpillars in the fields.

23 My question to you is as follows: (Redacted)

24 clearly at some point in time that all the children, which they talked about, were not

25 there at the same time in the centre of Mbaïki and that some of them even never

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1 turned up in the centre?

2 A. [10:15:59] I maintain my position. This information here is something I can't
3 react to. I didn't follow things through like that. (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 Q. [10:16:55] Just to complete everything as regards the figures. At any point in
9 time, did they talk about *153 children? Was that a figure that was given to you?

10 A. [10:17:16] I think you can check in the report about that figure. Look at that
11 figure, those are the figures that were given. That's what (Redacted) as a figure.
12 Whatever (Redacted) as a figure, you can find in the report. I can't imagine one
13 figure.

14 Q. [10:17:49] Thank you for your clarification.

15 MS GUISSÉ: [10:18:00](Interpretation) I think we can try and move again into open
16 session.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:18:04] Open session.

18 (Open session at 10.18 a.m.)

19 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:18:19] We are in open session, Mr President.

20 MS GUISSÉ: [10:18:29](Interpretation)

21 Q. [10:18:30] Once again, we are in open session, Madam Witness, so my normal
22 suggestions -- if you feel you can't answer my questions without identifying yourself,
23 please let me know and we'll take the necessary steps. Thank you.

24 In responding to a question I put to you on Wednesday, transcript 217 at 14:41, you
25 said that you heard something about the problems of the child soldiers for the first

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1 time when you heard about the ESF programme. You also specified that even before
2 August 2014, you didn't have any idea and I quote you, "that this group actually
3 existed". End of quote.

4 Am I to understand that when you said in paragraph 30 of your statement that it was
5 common knowledge that Yekatom had child soldiers under his command, in fact, it is
6 from information which was given to you from ESF based from -- based on
7 August 2014?

8 A. [10:19:53] Yes, that's correct. It is ESF who came and I could talk with them,
9 and I understood that there were child soldiers who had really benefited from some
10 support from UNICEF and that they had a programme of reintegration. That was
11 the gist of our conversation.

12 Q. [10:20:32] When you use the expression "common knowledge" is it because
13 the -- the ceremony in Pissa took place in public and there was a speech in front of all
14 the local communities; is that how you -- is that why you used the expression
15 "common knowledge"?

16 A. [10:20:55] Yes, because it wasn't done privately, it was public. It was in front of
17 the community, in front of the local authorities, in front of everybody, and that's why
18 I used those words.

19 Q. [10:21:17] On Wednesday, again, transcript 217, at 10:27, the Prosecution asked
20 you the children which you spoke to where you exchanged information about the
21 group which they belonged to, you answered that you didn't have all that
22 information and that it is ESF that had that information. I am referring to your
23 statement, your previous statement when you stated that the children -- that the men
24 of Yekatom told the children to loot and that they had to return with booty for him.
25 So you're referring to the men of Yekatom, but you don't know which leader they had

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1 or which group they were talking about; is that correct?

2 A. [10:22:20] That's correct. It was during the discussion with some of the
3 children. That's what they told me. They said that -- the bigger ones said that, that
4 they were sent to look for things and must return with the booty.

5 Q. [10:22:48] And do you agree when they talk about the booty -- or the bigger ones,
6 they are at no time talking about giving you a name?

7 A. [10:23:03] These are people in the bush, so I don't know who they are. *Giving a
8 name would not help.

9 Q. [10:23:11] I now want to go to another topic. The demobilisation of the
10 children in Pissa and Mbaïki. Did ESF broadcast this? Did they talk about it
11 publicly on all the social media?

12 A. [10:23:35] That is part of the organisation of their organisation. {ICR:

13 (Redacted).

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)}

21 But, unfortunately, that was not the case.

22 Q. [10:24:52] I'm going to go back to your trips to Pissa. You said that the day of
23 the meeting with Yekatom, there was a meeting that was supposed to take place at
24 8 o'clock but you only saw him ultimately at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Who spoke
25 to you about this meeting at 8 o'clock in the morning? Who spoke about it?

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1 A. [10:25:26] That was the programme of ESF. We had to have a meeting with
2 Mr Yekatom at 8:00, but things dragged on until 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

3 Q. [10:25:45] Am I correct in saying that it's not you who directly took up contact with
4 Yekatom, it's ESF who told you this is the programme and you are expected to be
5 there? You didn't have any direct dialogue with Mr Yekatom yourself; is that correct?

6 A. [10:26:03] Yes. For this famous meeting there, it wasn't that I was involved
7 directly with him, but I did say to ESF before -- before sending the children to Mbaïki
8 that we should have a meeting with him. Since we were in Pissa we should meet
9 him and discuss certain issues before taking -- taking the children to Mbaïki, and that
10 is why ESF act as an interface to facilitate this meeting.

11 Q. [10:26:52] I want to focus on that particular moment where you were
12 expected -- I think you were not the only one who was waiting -- everybody was
13 waiting for his arrival, the children, the head of the neighbourhood, the mayor; was
14 everybody waiting?

15 A. [10:27:13] Everybody. The last point was everybody was there.

16 Q. [10:27:30] (Overlapping microphones)(No interpretation)

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:27:44] We have the answer. Please continue.

18 MS GUISSÉ: [10:27:53](Interpretation)

19 Q. [10:27:53] If I understand correctly, everybody was aware that
20 Mr Yekatom -- that the arrival of Mr Yekatom was vital that day because if there was
21 no signature on that day, there would be no funding for the programme and the
22 children could not benefit from the advantages of the programme; is that correct?

23 A. [10:28:19] Yes; it was because he was the main actor,* the main person who
24 could deal with the demobilisation of the children, because the children were all in his
25 camp, so it was he who had to give the go-ahead to ESF so that demobilisation could

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1 take place and that they could go to Mbaïki for the other activities.

2 Q. [10:29:03] So we'll come back to that a little later about the children in his camp.

3 But, more specifically, do you agree that the people present, be they the children, the

4 adults who were accompanying them, understood that in order to benefit from the

5 programme, not only you had to be less than 18 years of age, but also you had to

6 belong to an Anti-Balaka group and that that Anti-Balaka group would have to be the

7 one of Yekatom? Was that clear to everyone who was present on that day?

8 A. [10:29:39] Yes, clearly, because he was the one in Pissa with his group, the

9 Anti-Balaka group, so it's only he. You can't identify anybody else but him. It is his

10 organisation. You see, we had to wait from 8 to 3 o'clock and we waited because we

11 really wanted these children to be demobilised and be reintegrated into normal life.

12 Q. [10:30:32] Given that one of the conditions of participation in the ESF

13 programme is to be less than 18, you agree with -- agreed with me yesterday that

14 there were people who were over 18 who -- who wittingly gave another age because

15 they wanted to avail themselves of this programme.

16 Now, in order to participate in this programme, you also -- at least, you should say

17 that you had to be part of Mr Yekatom's group.

18 Now, personally, do we agree that you did not have any means to check that the

19 people who said that they were part of Mr Yekatom's group were indeed part of

20 Mr Yekatom's group?

21 A. [10:31:32] Yes, but this is -- this deduction is on the same lines of the general

22 report you presented shortly before. In fact, there was only him. He was all

23 powerful and there was only him.

24 Q. [10:32:03] Again, this is information that you read in the report and this is what

25 ESF told you, but personally when you say that there was only him, this is something

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1 that you're deducing. You did not concretely know that the people who were
2 enrolled in the programme -- I'm not saying that they are not -- sometimes they're not
3 Anti-Balaka and they're not part of the group, but you also said that there were some
4 people who came from very far away and you don't know how they managed to
5 come. But we agree that you did not have the means to check that children who
6 were enrolled in the programme gave accurate information on what Anti-Balaka
7 group they were part of because they had understood that they had to say that they
8 belonged to Yekatom's group to be enrolled for the ESF programme.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:33:04] Before you answer, Madam Witness,
10 Mr Belbenoit.

11 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [10:33:08] (Interpretation) There's so many questions that
12 have been asked in one intervention. It would be really nice to actually break these
13 questions down for more clarity.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:33:18] Yeah, actually I -- Ms Guissé, indeed,
15 these questions -- and I would have intervened if Mr Belbenoit would not have done
16 it. This question and some others are too long, simply. So, please break it down,
17 like always, that's always better, yes? I think you call this a compound
18 question -- yes, Mr -- well, I'm still learning, yes? A compound question.
19 Yes.

20 MS GUISSÉ: [10:33:58](Interpretation)

21 Q. [10:33:58] I'm going to break down my questions so that they are clearer for you.
22 So, we agree that yesterday you told us that there were children or young men who
23 lied on their age and, in fact, they gave lower ages because they knew it was a criteria
24 to be part of the ESF programme. We agree on that?

25 A. [10:34:25] Right. I don't know what to say, again, because I explained that -- I

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1 explained to you the conditions under which I participated in the activity. I -- too

2 many -- I really cannot give you too much specific information on this.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:34:48] Well, we have it on the record what the

4 witness said yesterday.

5 So, Madam Witness, you understood at the time that the children were part of

6 Mr Yekatom's group; yes or no, please?

7 THE WITNESS: [10:35:13](Interpretation) I would say yes.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:35:17] Did you yourself check if this was correct,

9 this information?

10 THE WITNESS: [10:35:31](Interpretation) {ICR: (Redacted)}

11 (Redacted)}

12 *Enfants Sans Frontières*, ESF, in all sites.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:35:46] Did you speak with him -- did he inform

14 you about the fact that the children in the programme were part of Mr Yekatom's

15 group?

16 THE WITNESS: [10:36:06](Interpretation) Yes. We would speak {ICR: (Redacted)}

17 (Redacted)} he's the only one who could give me this

18 information.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:36:21] So, the answer is the witness did not

20 check herself. She had the information from someone else -- whatever.

21 Ms Guissé, please.

22 MS GUISSÉ: [10:36:38](Interpretation)

23 Q. [10:36:41] As you did not check yourself, it's on the basis of information that was

24 given to you that you concluded that all the children of the group were part of

25 Mr Yekatom's group; is that it?

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1 A. [10:36:57] That is exactly it. That is exactly it.

2 Q. [10:37:05] Now, in paragraph 37 of your witness statement, you say that it's
3 Mr Yekatom who contacted ESF in order to give the children -- hand over the children
4 to the NGO because the children were costing him a lot. Now, my question is as
5 follows: Who gave you this information?

6 A. [10:37:37] I think these children were identified by ESF first, and in the
7 explanations it was said that the youngest ones were actually costing a lot, because
8 you had to take care of them, you had to feed them and things were not working as
9 before. And this is {ICR: (Redacted)} told me.

10 Q. [10:38:16] Right, {ICR: (Redacted)} gave you this information, and there is a
11 document signed by Mr Mborolo that states that he contacted ComZone, an
12 Anti-Balaka ComZone, and this ComZone fixed a meeting with Yekatom for him.
13 Now, is this something that was -- this information, was it given to you by {ICR:
14 (Redacted)}?

15 A. They did not directly go and meet Mr Yekatom, but they went via a person.
16 Right, well, you can't meet the *chef* directly -- the chief directly. You always have to
17 go through a subordinate to request for a meeting, so this is right.

18 Q. [10:39:32] Now, I would like the document to be displayed. This is in tab 3 of
19 the Defence binder. Now, this is a report, an ESF report signed by Mr Kakpayen and
20 I would -- now, let me give you the reference. It's CAR-OTP-2068-0558, page 559.
21 Now, we need to focus on the second part of the page, number II, which says, "The
22 unfolding of the mission".

23 Now, this is what is indicated in Mr Kevin Kakpayen's report:

24 "Leaving from Bangui on Saturday 2 August 2014, the mission met the first leader of
25 the high commandment of the Anti-Balaka in Ombella-M'Poko and Lobaye,

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1 Mr Alfred Yekatom Rombhot, with whom a meeting took place on the subject of
2 freeing the children associated with the movement." End of quote.

3 Now, we agree, Witness, that the ceremony in Pissa took place on 4
4 August 2014 -- that is to say, 48 hours after. Now, you said yesterday -- I think the
5 document can be removed from the screen, thank you. You indicated yesterday at
6 15:07 {ICR: (Redacted)} that Mr Yekatom gave his approval. Did he say at what time
7 and at what moment he obtained the approval?

8 A. [10:41:52] He did not tell me that. He just told me that Mr Yekatom gave his
9 agreement and agreed to the meeting.

10 Q. [10:42:09] I am putting it to you that the reason why Mr Yekatom was reluctant
11 to sign the document the {ICR: (Redacted)} is important to sign the document and
12 hand over the children -- I'm putting it to you that this reluctance is due to the fact
13 that he did not understand the implications and the entire process that was put in
14 place given the very short time between the discussions with the ESF staff and the
15 day of the ceremony.

16 Now, my question is as follows: Is it due to this apparent misunderstanding that
17 Mr Yekatom referred, when you said on Wednesday in transcription 217, at -- I'm
18 quoting you: "Perhaps what the NGO explained was not the same thing. We did
19 not have the same vision of things so he perhaps was thinking of something else."
20 End of quote. Now, do I understand when you say that, that you've understood that
21 there's a misunderstanding with respect to the process by Mr Yekatom?

22 A. [10:43:55] Yes. I've understood that because when we generally speak about a
23 project -- about the project, people have illusions, and {ICR: (Redacted)} wanted
24 things to be crystal clear -- for things to be clear. It's in the best interest of one and all.
25 It's in the best interest of one and all. And we really wanted

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1 to train the -- train these children and make them responsible adults, and we wanted
2 to sustain this training till they become adults. So {PFR: (Redacted)}
3 (Redacted)}

4 Q. [10:45:00] Now, did you also explain that...

5 MS GUISSÉ: [10:45:25](Interpretation) I think for the rest of my cross-examination,
6 I'm going to request to move --

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:45:31] Private session.

8 (Private session at 10.45 a.m.)

9 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:45:48] We are in private session, Mr President.

10 MS GUISSÉ: [10:45:54](Interpretation)

11 Q. [10:45:55] Witness, there is a procedure that has been implemented to basically
12 eliminate any identifying information, but when I was asking you questions I
13 completely forgot that this could identify you and I would really like to apologise for
14 that, but things are done at the same time and I can ensure that everyone was rather
15 careful and -- from the Prosecution, and identifying information will be redacted from
16 the transcript. Now, again I apologise.

17 Now, my last question. (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 A. [10:47:07] (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted) if he did not sign the document, the children wouldn't be transferred to

24 Mbaïki, there would be no funding and the project will not take off.

25 So this is something that (Redacted)

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1 Q. [10:47:45] Thank you for these clarifications. And now I would like to move on
2 to my last theme. We -- this is almost the end, Witness. I only have a few points to
3 raise with you.

4 You were very clear on the fact, once again, that you do not know what the leaders of
5 the ESF did when it came to selecting the beneficiaries of the programme. That was
6 very clear. That was well heard. You said this was their internal business and you
7 weren't involved.

8 Now, you also -- you also spoke about the specific context in the Central African
9 Republic between 2013 and 2014 and the way certain NGO leaders could completely
10 turn a blind eye to the public because people were in need of assistance, so this again
11 was well noted.

12 Now, my question is different. It might seem a bit obvious, but I have to ask you
13 this question because I need it for my follow-up questions. Now, do you agree with
14 me that the principle of ethics that must prevail within the NGOs (Redacted)
15 (Redacted) is that at least the leaders or the employees of this association do not ask
16 money from the beneficiaries of the programme or any kind of compensation,
17 whether it's during the programme or after the programme? Once again, this is
18 obvious, but do you confirm that?

19 It's on this basis --

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:49:42] Please let her answer, Ms Guissé. It's too
21 long. It's too long. The question is clear.

22 THE WITNESS: [10:49:54](Interpretation) It is obvious. But I told you in the start
23 that (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted) But there was no financial support. (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 MS GUISSÉ: [10:51:06](Interpretation)

4 Q. [10:51:06] Indeed, Witness. My question was too long and I wasn't clear, so I'm
5 going to reword it. So we do agree that the NGOs (Redacted)

6 (Redacted) must not ask the beneficiaries of the programme any money or

7 compensation in return for the programme in which they were enrolled. It is

8 forbidden and this is something that is completely unethical. We agree on that?

9 A. [10:51:43] Yes, I agree with you.

10 Q. [10:51:54] Yesterday -- I'm sorry, day before yesterday, when you said that
11 the -- that ESF was an exceptional organisation, and you understand that we don't
12 have the same position. Now, my question is as follows: Have you heard -- I'm
13 going to reword my question.

14 Now, in this Chamber, before this Chamber we -- we heard the former prefect of
15 Mbaïki, Mr Kouroupe-Awo, and he said that *Enfants Sans Frontières* is part of an NGO
16 and certain people actually complained about this NGO because certain children from
17 some families were privileged at the expense of others. And this is in transcription
18 181, 12:41. End of quote.

19 Now, yesterday, you also said that on the day of the ceremony in Pissa, you heard
20 children who were complaining of people that they never saw before.

21 My question is as follows: Now, as of this time or further down were there
22 rumours -- did you hear that -- were there rumours that ESF was actually not acting in
23 an ethical way?

24 A. [10:53:43] Now since I did not -- I was not in touch with anyone, I did not hear
25 the rumours, but I'm telling you sincerely what I deduced from the discussions with

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1 certain children. They said that there were certain children, certain people that they
2 did not see in -- in their site. They do not know them, and, very strangely, they are
3 beneficiaries. This is what I told you, and this is a deduction in light of the
4 discussions *the children had amongst themselves.
5 (Redacted) without the children -- without the children telling me from their mouth
6 but from the way they were behaving, I understood certain things. But this is during
7 the launch of the programme. But saying that rumours -- whether I heard rumours,
8 you see, I wasn't in touch with these children so this is rather regrettable.
9 If I knew that, (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 Q. [10:55:29] I'm asking you these questions because we have the file of the
13 Facebook discussions of a former beneficiary of the programme, (Redacted)
14 (Redacted) - number 26 on the ESF list - with two people who worked with ESF,
15 (Redacted), that you did not recognise shortly -- a while ago, and (Redacted)
16 (Redacted) -- discussions where money was demanded. And I would like to display
17 the document which is in tab 51.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:56:18] Mr Belbenoit.

19 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [10:56:21] (Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour.

20 Before we could actually display this document, I object to its use. These are
21 discussions that date back to 2022. When you read the messages between Madam
22 (Redacted) and (Redacted), there is no indication that they're talking about the
23 demobilisation programme. There is no element that can lead to the conclusion that
24 this is in relation to with the demobilisation process, so this is absolutely non-relevant
25 for me.

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- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:56:54] Well, the more important is that we first,
2 please, figure out if the witness has any knowledge about this at all. We don't show
3 the witness some Facebook things where she doesn't have -- know. Does she know
4 this lady. Does she know a conversation, and I think that's it.
5 Still, whatever you have here is documentary evidence - again, I repeat myself here,
6 but we only discuss it with the witness and when we don't discuss it with the witness
7 if it doesn't make sense at all; meaning, if the witness cannot tell us in the answer
8 anything at all about it. If she doesn't know the person, if she doesn't know that the
9 person has a Facebook account, she was not part of the conversation -- this was not
10 suggested by anybody. So...
11 So, Madam Witness, you have heard our -- there's sometimes a back and forth in the
12 courtroom, there are procedural issues. Have you ever heard of this lady? What
13 was her name? (Redacted) -- yeah. This is correct, Ms Guissé.
14 MS GUISSÉ: [10:58:05] (Interpretation) It's (Redacted),
15 number 26 on the ESF list.
16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:58:12] Yeah, (Redacted), number 26 on the ESF
17 list, the list that you have seen in the last couple of days. Have you ever heard of her?
18 Do you know her?
19 THE WITNESS: [10:58:25](Interpretation) No, I don't know her.
20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:58:27] Then, please, move on and submit the
21 document in evidence. And you can discuss it, or you will discuss it with somebody
22 else, perhaps. Yeah.
23 MS GUISSÉ: [10:58:47](Interpretation)
24 Q. [10:58:47] Have you heard that the members of ESF tried to make the most of
25 this project and asked for compensation from people who availed of the programme?

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1 A. [10:59:10] No, I have no idea. But (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted) if people were properly trained, if they have a trade, if they were properly

7 placed in foster families, and after the three or four-month time period, what

8 happened to them, what did they become, what came of them. (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 MS GUISSÉ: [11:00:53] (Interpretation) Your Honour, I know it's 11. I'm almost

12 finished, so if you give me five minutes more, I will finish before the break.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:01:00] Absolutely, that's a -- I just wanted to say

14 that, of course, the witness brought up another issue now, which didn't have -- she

15 has answered your question, but she brought up another thing that it would have

16 been a good idea to follow up on that, which sounds reasonable, but I don't know if

17 this is forensically relevant.

18 Please, Ms Guissé.

19 MS GUISSÉ: [11:01:25] (Interpretation)

20 Q. [11:01:26] You talk about a follow-up, Madam Witness. Do we agree there was

21 no follow-up for the people who benefited from the programme? (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted) Do we agree they shouldn't ask for money as a counterpart.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:02:01] Mr Belbenoit.

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1 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [11:02:05] (Interpretation) I do apologise. I think the
2 witness said that there was -- she was not aware that there was any money given by
3 the beneficiaries of the programme from the ESF or the NGOs, and I think this is just
4 pure speculation.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:02:22] Indeed, the witness has answered to that
6 effect, but I think you were headed to something else.

7 MS GUISSÉ: [11:02:32](Interpretation) I'm not talking about the ESF, I'm talking
8 about (Redacted)
9 (Redacted)

10 Q. [11:02:47] And I'd like to know, Madam Witness, do you agree that when you
11 had -- faced with a public difficulty, (Redacted) or the NGOs that worked with the
12 public. If those public are out of the difficulty, once, then you do not request money
13 as a benefit?

14 A. [11:03:07] No. You cannot ask for money. These are social activities which we
15 carry out in order to emancipate the population.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:03:26] I know you want to have the answer, but
17 I think the answers are self-evident, sort of. Okay, please continue.

18 MS GUISSÉ: [11:03:35](Interpretation)

19 Q. [11:03:36] My final question: You can't ask for money during the programme
20 or after the programme; is that correct?

21 A. [11:03:45] Yes.

22 Q. [11:03:51] You'll be delighted to hear, Madam Witness, that that was my final
23 question for you.

24 Thank you very much for your patience, which you showed throughout all these
25 hours. I would like to thank you for your frankness throughout and the way in

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1 which you gave us the information.

2 MS GUISSÉ: [11:04:14](Interpretation) Your Honour, for the records I would like to
3 refer to the documents which I could not use; namely, the exchanges with (Redacted),
4 which is tab 49 of the Defence binder CAR-D29-0016-0078, with the metadata which is
5 in tab 50, CAR-OTP- -- there are so many zero, five times zero, 144 -- so 00000123; and
6 the exchanges with (Redacted), which is in tab 51 of the Defence binder,
7 CAR-D29-0019-0068, and the metadata which is in tab 52 in the Defence binder,
8 CAR-D29-0018-0002.

9 That -- I have now finished, your Honour.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:05:33] That's fine. That is not a problem. I
11 think you have used at least part of it already with another witness, but it is, as I
12 sometimes also used to say, it's -- and also I allow it with the Prosecution, it's also
13 good when we have it in a concrete transcript where the relation is immediate, so to
14 speak, between the documents.

15 We have questions then after the break, which we -- I think, now, it's -- let's say a
16 quarter to 12. Is that fine, yes? A quarter to 12, and then we continue.

17 THE COURT USHER: [11:06:08] All rise.

18 (Recess taken at 11.06 a.m.)

19 (Upon resuming in open session at 11.45 a.m.)

20 THE COURT USHER: [11:45:44] All rise.

21 Please be seated.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:46:04] I give Ms Pedroso the floor. We are in
23 open session.

24 MS PEDROSO: [11:46:14] Thank you, your Honours.

25 QUESTIONED BY MS PEDROSO: (Interpretation)

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1 Q. [11:46:22] Good-day, Madam Witness. My name is Sara Pedroso. I am
2 a lawyer and I'm a member of the Defence team of Patrice-Édouard Ngaïssona.
3 I don't have many questions for you today. They are mainly questions to clarify
4 certain points which you made in your statement. I'd also like to remind you that
5 we are in public session, so I won't mention your name nor any information which
6 might identify you.

7 I only have very short brief questions as regards your experience under the Seleka
8 regime. In your statement, you said you were in Bangui during the Seleka coup
9 d'état and you spoke about the period at the end of 2012 when troubles started, so
10 even before the coup d'état of Djotodia.

11 Could you elaborate what you mean by "troubles"?

12 A. [11:47:48] Thank you very much. I said "trouble" when we started hearing
13 about the rebel groups who were going to invade Bangui. And there were rumours,
14 even on the radio there was talk about it, because in the hinterland, there was a lot of
15 insecurity. So we were expecting trouble or turmoil at that time.

16 Q. [11:48:36] In your statement, you talk about the murder of two children of your
17 neighbour by the Seleka. It is paragraph 22 of your statement. Firstly, do you
18 remember the period -- which month did it take place, if you recall?

19 A. [11:49:00] I don't remember precisely as to when, but it is really at the very
20 beginning -- at the very beginning when the Seleka crossed the red line, when he was
21 at Damara and they entered the town. So it was really in the very beginning.
22 Those children -- there was an explosion of arms and the children were very curious,
23 and the other boy was much bigger, but the girl was small. It was a very small little
24 girl. And, she heard people cry out and running left, right and centre,
25 and so she

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1 went out to see what was happening, and the Seleka were around and that's how
2 the -- those children got killed.

3 Q. [11:50:07] In your statement you also said -- and for the records, I'm referring to
4 your state -- your French statement, CAR-OTP-2122-4558, and it is tab 9 of the
5 Prosecution binder.

6 You said during the Seleka regime, there was several difficulties which the population
7 faced because of going -- health as regards going to the hospital or having a baby.
8 Could you perhaps explain the impact of this lack of access; for example, did people
9 die as a consequence of this?

10 A. [11:51:01] At that time, nobody could leave their home. Indeed, I -- well, can I
11 represent myself? Is this a private session? Or...

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:51:21] No. No, then let's shortly go to private
13 session, please.

14 Thank you for asking, Madam Witness, indeed.

15 (Private session at 11.51 a.m.)

16 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:51:33] We are in private session, Mr President.

17 MS PEDROSO: [11:51:50] (Interpretation)

18 Q. [11:51:59] We are now in private session, so you can speak freely.

19 A. [11:52:03] Thank you. Because I wanted to explain my position. I knew there
20 were problems as regards access in the health centres and in the hospitals. In the
21 neighbourhood, as people knew that (Redacted), so even if there were children who
22 were ill and could not have access to the health centres, then they came
23 to my house.

24 You know, (Redacted) So the medications -- the medicines which

25 I had in my home for my family, I used those. And I even had somebody give birth

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1 in my home because it was the first time that she was delivering; so her families were
2 so worried and since it was in the evening, they took her to my home.

3 And when I looked at her, I noticed that she was ready to deliver, so I didn't have
4 many alternatives. It's true I had a vehicle, but I couldn't travel around to take her to
5 the hospital; so she delivered at home -- in my home. And I looked after her until
6 the early hours of the next morning, and then I told her she could go home.

7 Q. [11:53:54] Thank you for that clarification, Madam Witness. I have
8 a small -- another question about this before moving on. We could go into open
9 session.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:54:05] Good, yes, thank you.

11 Open session.

12 (Open session at 11.54 a.m.)

13 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:54:10] We are in open session, Mr President.

14 MS PEDROSO: [11:54:25] (Interpretation)

15 Q. [11:54:27] My final question on this topic, would you agree, given the situation
16 of the stress which you mentioned in your statement and also today, this meant that
17 the population rose up against the Seleka government?

18 A. [11:54:51] Yes. In the neighbourhood at a certain point of time, since people
19 couldn't move around freely and there were weapons here and there, there was
20 a feeling of insecurity, particularly in our neighbourhood. The -- the Seleka were all
21 over the place. We couldn't go to the market. We couldn't go walking around. It
22 was a really -- a very, very difficult moment.

23 Q. [11:55:31] Thank you, Madam Witness. I'm going to move on to the next
24 subject. I have some questions on the Anti-Balaka. I'm not so interested in the child
25 soldiers, but I'm more interested in the Anti-Balaka in general.

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1 In paragraph 26 of your statement, and I quote you:

2 "In the beginning, the Anti-Balaka movement was made up of men coming from the
3 provinces to liberate their relatives from the Seleka. They noticed that their relatives
4 had been suffering a lot, so they wanted to help them."

5 Would you agree with me that the Anti-Balaka movement was a self-defence
6 movement who was born as a reaction to the Seleka government?

7 A. [11:56:25] I can confirm that. Yes, I confirm that.

8 Q. [11:56:29] Thank you. Several witnesses came before the Court relating to the
9 fake Anti-Balaka. You also mentioned it in your statement. You talked about this
10 phenomenon, you said the criminals and the poor, you also talk about thieves, the
11 drug addicts, the members of gangs and street children joined the Anti-Balaka. And
12 here I'm referring to your statement, paragraph 27 and 32.

13 Do you agree with me to say that all those people -- the criminals, the thieves, the
14 thugs who were not Anti-Balaka benefited from the Anti-Balaka rebels in order to
15 commit crimes?

16 A. [11:57:27] That's exactly correct, because when the true Anti-Balaka arrived,
17 there were no exactions. They said they came to free the Christians, the Christians
18 from all the actions undertaken by the Seleka. And there are some individuals who
19 even gave them ... to eat, and they refused because they said they didn't want to touch
20 anything from the population of Bangui.

21 Strangely enough -- strangely enough, with the brigands which you mentioned just
22 now, the bandits, they started to destroy -- to break down the houses, harm people
23 and that really changed the Anti-Balaka.

24 Q. [11:58:53] Would you agree when I say -- when an exaction was committed, it
25 was because of this confusion. Sometimes it was very difficult to see who was the

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1 perpetrator, whether it was an Anti-Balaka or a bandit who joined for personal gain.

2 Was it very difficult to distinguish the true from the fake Anti-Balaka?

3 A. [11:59:26] Yes, it was very difficult. In any case, I didn't leave my home at that
4 time. I was so scared that I remained in my compound, so I don't know how the true
5 Balaka behaved. But what I do know is people told me that the true Anti-Balaka did
6 not carry out these exactions.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:00:02] So Mr Belbenoit, I think the last
8 answer makes it clear that it's -- I think it's not necessary to make an objection here.

9 MS PEDROSO: [12:00:17] I just want to apologise because I didn't see Mr Belbenoit
10 on his feet.

11 Q. [12:00:20](Interpretation) Thank you for your answer, Madam Witness.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:00:40] It was my fault. I didn't hear you. Can
13 you please repeat it?

14 MS PEDROSO: [12:00:50] (Interpretation)

15 Q. [12:00:50] Thank you, Madam Witness, for your answer.

16 Would you agree with me that because of the confusion that sometimes the press or
17 people indeed could be incorrect and blame the Anti-Balaka for some of the crimes
18 that were committed, although they weren't committed by the true Anti-Balaka.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:01:15] Before your answer --
20 Mr Belbenoit.

21 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:01:20] Yes, this seems to me very speculative, because
22 what people -- what you think people thought. I think it should stick to her personal
23 testimony rather than what she thinks.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:01:38] I agree. Yes, you know, Ms Pedroso, the
25 last question was already bordering the speculative, to put it this way, but this one

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1 clearly is. Please move on.

2 MS PEDROSO: [12:01:47] I just want to clarify that this witness did have quite direct
3 interactions with the Anti-Balaka and could have also -- you know, her testimony is
4 directly --

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:01:56] But you have asked her to comment on
6 newspaper articles.

7 MS PEDROSO: [12:02:03] Okay, I will move on. Thank you.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:02:04] Please.

9 MS PEDROSO: [12:02:10] (Interpretation)

10 Q. [12:02:11] In your statement in paragraph 32, you state that the Seleka
11 encouraged the infiltration within Anti-Balaka so they could commit crimes like
12 pillage and theft.

13 When you said they infiltrated the Anti-Balaka or encouraged infiltration, could you
14 elaborate?

15 A. [12:02:41] I don't know. How can you encourage infiltration?

16 Q. [12:02:51] For example, if you know, did they encourage people to wear
17 different clothing, to try and join the group? Do you have any information about
18 that?

19 A. [12:03:07] No, I don't have any information about that.

20 Q. [12:03:11] You said in your statement - and here, I'm going to be careful not to
21 identify you in any way - that this question of infiltration was discussed during the
22 training sessions, the workshops organised with the Anti-Balaka.

23 Do you agree with me that this is a question that was already discussed, so this was
24 a question or problem that was seriously considered?

25 A. [12:03:53] Yes. This is a -- an issue that we raised as regards the Anti-Balaka's

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1 training. We wanted to know that if you are in your community and if you are
2 trying to help your community, then how can you do that? Even the Seleka -- some
3 of the exactions weren't noticed, but when the fake Anti-Balaka were part of the true
4 Balaka, it was at that moment that we started to describe what was happening.

5 Q. [12:04:39] In your statement in paragraph 28, you said that the international
6 forces and the media were in some way biased in favour of the Seleka vis-à-vis the
7 Anti-Balaka, and you gave a specific example. You talked about Bambari, when
8 the -- the UN forces didn't intervene when the Seleka set houses on fire, but they did
9 a lot of activity when the Anti-Balaka committed only a minor crime and that was
10 also reported in the media. Very briefly, I'd like to show you an extract from
11 a document, tab 3 of the Defence binder, CAR-OTP-2025-0396, page 401.

12 This is a memorandum from June 2014 from the Anti-Balaka coordination, and the
13 extract that interests me is the end of the second paragraph, which I will very briefly
14 read out.

15 They are talking about an incident that --

16 "Recently on 9 June 2014 at Liwa (10 kilometres from the town of Bambari) Seleka
17 elements set 147 houses on fire, killed 8 persons and took 2 individuals as hostage
18 without that being of any concern to the commandments of the international military
19 forces deployed in the Central African Republic."

20 My question is as follows: This incident which you raised in your statement, is that
21 the very same incident as the one referred to here?

22 A. [12:06:47] I think it's the same incident. That was said by the radio, and then
23 also people who were telephoning each other in Bangui in order to talk about what
24 was happening. They saw that the United Nations was present, but the houses were
25 still set on fire without any reprisals or actions being taken. So that was talked about

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1 on several occasions. We were trying to keep abreast of the information that was
2 broadcast.

3 Q. [12:07:30] Do you have any other examples of a similar nature?

4 A. [12:07:42] Similar examples?

5 Q. [12:07:45] Yes. Yes, for example, where the international forces showed
6 a possible bias vis-à-vis the Seleka against the Anti-Balaka or they didn't intervene,
7 for example, as far as you know?

8 A. [12:08:10] Well, at Kaga-Bandoro, we also heard these rumours. These are
9 rumours. I can't really say it's the truth. We heard these rumours also as regards
10 Kaga-Bandoro where the UN forces were present, but when something happened, the
11 least things done by the Anti-Balaka, it was broadcast. It was dramatised. That is
12 what everybody was saying. People who were there said that. So some telephoned
13 Bangui and spoke to their family and explained what was happening. That's how I
14 was kept informed as well.

15 Q. [12:09:11] Thank you. I haven't got a lot of questions for you. I'm nearing the
16 end.

17 I would like to broach a topic with you which is a bit different. Several witnesses
18 testified before the Court that the Anti-Balaka National Coordination asked
19 repeatedly for billeting and that the Anti-Balaka be taken care of from the beginning
20 of 2014; whereas, the Seleka were billeted, so that there would be a return to peace.

21 My question is as follows: Would you agree with me that poverty, absence of
22 billeting or anybody taking care of the Anti-Balaka - for example, who came from the
23 provinces and found themselves in Bangui - contributed to the insecurity that reigned
24 at that time, even if they were isolated incidents?

25 A. [12:10:25] That's what I've said in my testimony, because the people who left the

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1 provinces and came, didn't have any means to survive. And the Seleka were very
2 well organised. They were very, very well organised in their camps. However, the
3 Anti-Balaka, they were left to their sad fate. So in the capital, ... said that in order to
4 survive, they had to break-in, thief and they weren't really billeted. The people in
5 charge asked me, but I didn't see a site where the Anti-Balaka were housed. I didn't
6 see anything like that.

7 Q. [12:11:33] So you would agree, as you said, the Anti-Balaka were -- in one way
8 or another were abandoned to their own lot by the transitional government, by the
9 international community, would you agree with that?

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:11:44] Mr Belbenoit.

11 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:11:51](Interpretation) Sorry, your Honour. The
12 witness, according to her own experience, was -- had a certain function, but she
13 wasn't part of the Anti-Balaka; so she can't give an assessment or give any relevant
14 information as regards what the Anti-Balaka felt or what their general situation was.

15 MS PEDROSO: [12:12:12] If I may?

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:12:13] Of course, yes.

17 MS PEDROSO: [12:12:14] Without going into the details of course because we are in
18 open session, but I think this witness is very well placed given her role, given her
19 interactions --

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:12:25] So it's -- yes, I tend to agree, although I
21 don't think that -- let me put it mildly, the immediate knowledge of the witness is
22 very profound here, but still I allow the question.

23 Perhaps you repeat it, and I know you're referring to the background and, yes, well,
24 you know (inaudible) also come to an end.

25 MS PEDROSO: [12:12:57](Interpretation)

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1 Q. [12:12:57] My apologies, Madam Witness, and I'm going to repeat my question.
2 Based on what you said - your analysis, your understanding - would you agree that
3 the Anti-Balaka were abandoned by the transitional government, by the international
4 community at that time?

5 A. [12:13:21] As regards what I heard, which I did not experience personally, I
6 didn't experience this, but the man in the street talked about this and you also heard
7 about it on the radio. They described the situation and that's how I learnt all this,
8 but I didn't experience it myself.

9 Q. [12:13:54] Thank you. I'm going to now put my last question to you. The
10 Anti-Balaka -- the national Anti-Balaka coordination not only appealed to have
11 billeting and DDR for the Anti-Balaka at that time, so 2014 and thereafter, but also
12 proposed that the Anti-Balaka be included in projects, all sorts of social reintegration
13 problems, and at least to provide them with a means, agricultural means, for example,
14 that they could return back home.
15 Would you agree with me, given your experience, that such projects of social
16 reintegration would favour the return to peace?

17 A. [12:14:49] Quite clearly, yes. Yes, if that had -- some of their concerns had been
18 taken into consideration, then I think that peace would have returned, because we
19 looked for all possible means so that peace could be found. It was everybody's wish
20 and it's -- they mentioned this initially. So they wanted to have the DDR -- "You
21 have to do this, you have to do that so that peace would be restored."
22 I really don't see any objections to that.

23 Q. [12:15:42] Thank you very much.
24 For the judges, I'd like to point out document 4 and 7 in the Defence binder.
25 And I would like -- thank you, Madam Witness, sincerely for having answered all my

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1 questions.

2 A. [12:16:03] Thank you.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:16:04] Thank you very much.

4 I don't assume that you will have any questions, Mr Belbenoit.

5 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:16:11] (Interpretation) I'm so sorry, I have four points I
6 would like to raise with your leave.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:16:22] I really wonder what can be raised, but
8 please.

9 QUESTIONED BY MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: (Interpretation)

10 Q. [12:16:27] The first point, first of all, I think it was yesterday that my Defence
11 colleague asked you about a report by -- written by Mr Kongaye. It's in -- the
12 reference is CAR-OTP -- in tab 6 -- 2109-0470.

13 Now, she asked this question at 11:44, and there was an error made in the reading of
14 the report and I would like some clarification.

15 Court officer, could you please pull up the document. Page 0472, the top of the page,
16 please.

17 Now the fourth line, it says:

18 "Out of 222 child soldiers associated that was communicated by the leaders ..."

19 So the leaders said there are 222 child soldiers, and when my colleague asked you the
20 question, she did not say "leaders." She said:

21 "It is indicated that the authorities communicated that there were 222 child soldiers."

22 That's an important point.

23 Now could you please, court officer, display the previous page, the lower portion of
24 the previous page, please.

25 And it is said that:

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1 "On the first day of 11/06 was basically devoted for getting in touch with the
2 authorities -- the local administrative authorities and the leaders of the child soldiers
3 associated with the groups."

4 {ICR: (Redacted)} Can you clarify what leaders are we referring to in the report who
5 communicated that the number of child soldiers were 222?

6 A. [12:18:49] It could have only been the leaders of ESF, it's their activity.

7 It's -- they're the ones who communicated the figures, and they are in charge of these
8 child soldiers who are associated to the Anti-Balaka group because it's their
9 programme.

10 Q. [12:19:21] I was perhaps not too clear. The report says that out of 222 child
11 soldiers associated, this was the number communicated by the leaders who were
12 members of the mission; so ESF, COOPI, UNICEF and Mr Kongaye.

13 My question is, who are these leaders who communicated to the members of the
14 mission the number of child soldiers?

15 A. [12:19:50] It's the leaders of the NGO. They're the ones who communicated it
16 to Mr Kongaye and he is the one who drafted this report. Not me. This report
17 comes from him. It's his work.

18 Q. [12:20:03] Right. So is Mr Kongaye -- and did Mr Kongaye and the members of
19 the mission interact with the Anti-Balaka leaders?

20 MS DIMITRI: [12:20:10] Mr President.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:20:15] Ms Dimitri.

22 MS DIMITRI: [12:20:16] Just for the record, this report was part of the 68(3). It was
23 submitted by the Prosecution when they called this witness. It was available to the
24 Prosecution. They could have anticipated questions on this report.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:20:32] Well, but you have made an issue during

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1 your examination, so I let this question pass. But please, for everyone, shorter
2 questions.

3 These are all -- today, I think we are in the mode of having statements and speeches
4 and it's extremely difficult -- with a little bit the exception of Ms Pedroso, it's a little
5 bit difficult for the witness to figure out what she has to answer to.

6 So please, short summaries. It must be possible to draw out the information that you
7 want in one line, so to speak.

8 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:21:10] (Interpretation) I'm going to make a last
9 attempt, your Honour.

10 Q. [12:21:14] So my question is based on the fact that yesterday, my colleague did
11 not read the report properly.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:21:25] We know what -- we have clarified
13 what it is based on. It's nice to have always a basis for everything, but put your
14 question to the witness. Simply ask her what you want to know.

15 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:21:38] (Interpretation)

16 Q. [12:21:45] Right, Witness, what -- who were the people who communicated the
17 number of children to the ESF within the framework of the --

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:21:55] Stop, stop. Yes. Who were the people
19 who submitted this number to her.

20 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:21:58] *Voilà*.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:21:59] Stop. That's the question, a short
22 question that can be answered by the witness.

23 THE WITNESS: [12:22:06](Interpretation) Can I answer the question, please?

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:22:25] *Oui*. Yes, of course.

25 THE WITNESS: [12:22:32] Okay. (Interpretation) Right. {ICR: (Redacted)}

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1 (Redacted)}

2 (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)} -- then, there was a hundred or something, but all that, you see, I wasn't

5 really interested. This was a mission report that was carried out. Perhaps the

6 report was not properly drafted. I don't know, but I really do not have an answer to

7 give because I know that this is just a report and that's all I know.

8 It's a report.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:23:43] That's absolutely okay, Madam Witness,
10 and you have given your answer and the answer is clear now.

11 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:23:55] (Interpretation)

12 Q. [12:23:56] Thank you so much. I'm going to move on to my second point.

13 Yesterday, when you replied to my colleague at 10:20:02 and 04, you explained that

14 Mr Mborolo ...

15 Could we move to private session, please, your Honour?

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:24:09] Yes, shortly to private session.

17 (Private session at 12.24 p.m.)

18 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:24:17] We are in private session, Mr President.

19 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:24:31] (Interpretation)

20 Q. [12:24:34] Right, Witness, yesterday, you explained that (Redacted)

21 the list of children that was drawn up by ESF in Pissa, and I'm quoting you:

22 "We were waiting for the arrival of the Anti-Balaka leader."

23 Now, just to be clear, do I -- am I to understand that you saw this list (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)?

25 A. [12:24:55] Yes, that is it. I saw this list and it's (Redacted) who showed it to me

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1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 He saw me, he showed me the list, but I did not have the time to scroll the entire list.

4 There were different ages and everything. And we were waiting for him and I also

5 had to go to the group and speak to the children -- to some of the children to find out

6 more details.

7 I saw the list. (Redacted), I just saw the list and then he took the

8 list back.

9 Q. [12:25:47] Right. So you explained (Redacted) discussions with Mr Yekatom

10 and several other people.

11 Now during these discussions, did Mr Yekatom also had the opportunity to look at

12 the list?

13 A. [12:26:06] That, I don't know.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:26:10] You can sit down. She doesn't know.

15 Please, Mr Belbenoit, number 4. Can we have this in open session or?

16 No, no, this was already three. But you are the one -- by the way to take a little bit of

17 tension out on a Friday, you are, by the way, the one who set a bad precedent, if you

18 know.

19 Yes, yes, yes, that was a couple of months ago. You said you had six or seven

20 questions and I stopped counting at 12. I know that.

21 Mr Belbenoit, but -- you still have the floor -- to underscore you.

22 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:26:56](Interpretation) Right, your Honour, we could

23 move on to open session.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:27:01] Open session.

25 (Open session at 12.27 p.m.)

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1 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:27:04] We are back in open session, Mr President.

2 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:27:21] (Interpretation)

3 Q. [12:27:24] Witness, this morning, my colleague asked you a question on the
4 discussions that took place with Yekatom before the agreement was signed -- the
5 demobilisation agreement, and the circumstances under which he signed the
6 agreement.

7 I would like the court officer to show you the document CAR-OTP-2068-0558 in tab 3
8 of the Defence binder and page 0560, if you could scroll to the top of the page.

9 Now, on the right-hand photo, you could see the document that Mr Yekatom is ready
10 to sign, the document that's just with him. Could you see the header of the
11 document, the first part of the document?

12 Now I'd like you to show the document, CAR-OTP-2128-1373.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:28:42] Ms Guissé.

14 MS GUISSÉ: [12:28:47](Interpretation) Your Honour, I don't know how -- why is it
15 surprising that we are speaking about the signature of Mr Yekatom because this
16 document was part of the Prosecution binder. He decided not to use it -- not to call
17 it up. Now why is he doing it now in redirect?

18 There is absolutely a new element here. This was -- this could have been anticipated
19 perfectly.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:29:13] Well, the criteria is not something can be
21 anticipated. The criteria is if something has been addressed by the other party
22 during examination and this has been addressed. However, this is, again,
23 a photograph and it's part of a report and the report will be submitted; it's in evidence.
24 And well -- and we see persons in the photograph doing something.
25 So where are we heading at, Mr Belbenoit?

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1 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:29:45] What is interesting for me is the document that
2 I've referred to -- not the report itself, but the document, CAR-OTP-2128-1373, which
3 says a "DISCLAIMER".

4 I would like to ask a question on that, the document we see in the report.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:30:04] Yes, you are allowed to do that. Yes,
6 please do that, but quickly.

7 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:30:16] (Interpretation)

8 Q. [12:30:17] Witness, can you see the document?

9 A. [12:30:18](Overlapping microphones) *Non, je vois...*

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:30:22] And since -- and again, Mr Belbenoit,
11 since I don't know how often I have to repeat that - since it is a document which has
12 evidential value in itself, how much, we will have to assess later on - but since it is
13 a document, please ask not the witness to read something out or to comment what
14 she sees there, but if she has any knowledge of it, please. This is only interesting
15 then, yes?

16 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:30:51] (Interpretation)

17 Q. [12:30:53] Right, Witness --

18 If you could zoom out, court officer, so that the witness can have a holistic view of the
19 document.

20 Witness, do you recognise this document?

21 A. [12:31:13] Yes, I told you earlier that my concern was that Mr Yekatom not sign
22 this document. {ICR: (Redacted)}

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)} So the document says that there is a *résolution* to free up 153 children

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1 associated with the movement. Now, was this discussed with Yekatom before the
2 signature of the document?

3 A. [12:31:59] No, I did not discuss with him. We had no discussions with him and
4 it's ESF that did it.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:32:12] So it's absolutely all right there to have
6 the additional -- as I said, this disclaimer is signed and this has potential evidentiary
7 value in itself. The witness has said she had had something to do with it, with the
8 signing, and the witness has also clearly said with regard to the number entailed in
9 the document she does not know that -- where this is coming from. And here we are
10 back to -- I will not say square 1, but to the question how many, and if there are
11 discrepancies.

12 I think that should do it, yes? Mr Belbenoit.

13 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:32:48](Interpretation)

14 Q. [12:32:48] Just a last question with respect to the discussions you had with
15 Mr Yekatom and with respect to this document. The signatories of the document
16 take a commitment to free the children and not... And -- and...

17 A. [12:33:10] This was not discussed at that time and I -- these children could never
18 be enrolled in -- be part of that circuit. This was what was said in the disclaimer.

19 Q. [12:33:34] Thank you, Witness. I've actually come to my penultimate point, my
20 last point. My colleague asked you a question at 10:29:02 --

21 "Was it clear for the children and the adults involved in this demobilisation
22 programme that they had to be less than 18 years old to be part of the programme?"

23 So my question is as follows so that it's clear, the children -- you said that some
24 children told you that they were less than 15. Now was there any interest in -- was
25 there any point in them saying that to be part of the programme?

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1 A. [12:34:13] As I said previously, they only saw their interest. They did not see
2 the interest of the programme. They just saw their personal interest. Each person is
3 standing up for their own interest. This is what I find.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:34:38] And that's also something that we -- I
5 think we can take from the evidence of this witness in the past days that there indeed
6 were interests at stake to put it in a generic manner.

7 So this concludes your testimony, Madam Witness. On behalf of the Chamber I
8 would like to thank you; that you made yourself available as a witness in these
9 proceedings. We appreciate that and we thank you for answering patiently for now
10 two and a half days the questions of the judges, of the parties and we wish you a safe
11 trip back home, Madam Witness.

12 THE WITNESS: [12:35:18](Interpretation) Thank you.
13 (The witness is excused.)

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:35:19] Ms Dimitri, before we conclude, yes?

15 MS DIMITRI: [12:35:23] Yes, Mr President, just a clarification for organisational
16 purposes next week with the detention centre, the day that we're sitting half day, are
17 we doing two long morning sessions? I mean, if I could have just a --

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:35:38] No, I think we only have the
19 afternoons -- oh, no, we have two normal sessions. Well, really --

20 MS DIMITRI: [12:35:44] So we adjourn around one?

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:35:45] -- I think the judges made it clear that we
22 really expect to finish this witness with the time that we have for the witness. So we
23 have two normal sessions, 9.30, 11, 11.30, 1 o'clock.

24 So this concludes also the hearing for today and for this week. We continue with
25 2927 on Tuesday, 9.30.

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- 1 THE COURT USHER: [12:36:29] All rise.
- 2 (The hearing ends in open session at 12.36 p.m.)