WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

- 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
- 7 Judge Chang-ho Chung
- 8 Trial Hearing Courtroom 1
- 9 Monday, 30 May 2022
- 10 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.31 a.m.)
- 11 THE COURT USHER: [9:31:02] All rise.
- 12 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
- 13 Please be seated.
- 14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:31] Good morning, everyone.
- 15 Court officer, please call the case.
- 16 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:31:37] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
- 17 Situation in the Central African Republic II, in the case of The Prosecutor versus
- 18 Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona, case reference ICC-01/14-01/18.
- 19 And for the record, we are in open session.
- 20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:52] Thank you.
- 21 The appearances of the parties. Ms Berdennikova for the OTP first.
- 22 MS BERDENNIKOVA: [9:31:57] Good morning, your Honours and everyone in the
- 23 courtroom. This morning the Prosecution is represented by Pierre Belbenoit Avich,
- 24 Kweku Vanderpuye, Yassin Mostfa, and myself Maria Berdennikova.
- 25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:11] Thank you.

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

- 1 And the representatives of the victims, Ms Douzima.
- 2 MS DOUZIMA LAWSON: [9:32:15](Interpretation) Good morning, Mr President.
- 3 The victims of the other crimes are represented by myself, Maître Douzima-Lawson,
- 4 assisted by Maître Mouhia Asso. Thank you.
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:36] Thank you.
- 6 Mr Suprun.
- 7 MR SUPRUN: [9:32:37] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. The former
- 8 child soldiers are represented by Fiona Lau, associate legal officer, and myself,
- 9 Dmytro Suprun, counsel at the Office of Public Counsel for Victims. Thank you.
- 10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:49] Thank you.
- 11 I turn to the Defence. First of all, Ms Dimitri.
- 12 MS DIMITRI: [9:32:55] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your
- 13 Honours. Good morning, everyone. Mr Yekatom is present in the courtroom this
- 14 morning and he's represented by Ms Wilhelmina Whittingham, Ms Daniela
- 15 Myoungou Police, Ms Anta Guissé, Ms Sabrine Bayssat, Mr Gyo Suzuki, Ms Lena
- 16 Casiez, Ms Laurence Hortas-Laberge, and myself, Mylène Dimitri.
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:17] Well, quite a staff, so to speak.
- 18 And I turn to Mr Knoops.
- 19 MR KNOOPS: [9:33:22] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your
- 20 Honours. Good morning everyone in the courtroom. Our modest appearance
- 21 today with our team restricts to Ms Marie-Hélène Proulx, and Mr Alexandre
- 22 Desevedayy, and myself. And, of course, the defendant in the courtroom.
- 23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:40] You don't have to be too modest, frankly
- 24 speaking, yes.
- 25 MR KNOOPS: [9:33:42] Thank you, Mr President.

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:43] And then we have counsel for the witness.
- 2 MR GOLUBOK: [9:33:46] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your
- 3 Honours. Good morning, colleagues, everyone present in the courtroom. I'm legal
- 4 adviser to the protected witness. My name is Sergei Golubok, I'm counsel. Thank
- 5 you.
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:00] Thank you very much.
- 7 And, of course, good morning, Mr Witness. I hope you are feeling well and had a
- 8 good rest in the past couple of days.
- 9 WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475 (On former oath)
- 10 (The witness speaks Sango)
- 11 THE WITNESS: [9:34:26](Interpretation) Yes, I feel good. But since yesterday I
- 12 started feeling the pain where (Redacted).
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:47] Okay.
- 14 So, Mr Witness, whenever you think it is necessary that you need a break that you can
- relax a little bit, calm down, whatever, please let us know. Please raise your hand
- and then we will give you the chance to do so. Is okay?
- 17 THE WITNESS: [9:35:09] Very well.
- 18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:11] Okay. Then we continue with the
- 19 examination by the Prosecution.
- 20 Ms Berdennikova, you have the floor.
- 21 MS BERDENNIKOVA: [9:35:16] Thank you, your Honours.
- 22 I'm afraid that, unfortunately for the public, we'll have to finish this in -- in private
- 23 session. And I don't think I need more than 30, 45 minutes this morning.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:29] Okay. It's okay.
- 25 Then we go to private session.

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-01/14-01/18

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

1 (Private session at 9.35 a.m.)

2 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:35:46] We are in private session, Mr President.

- 3 (Redacted)
- 4 (Redacted)
- 5 (Redacted)
- 6 (Redacted)
- 7 (Redacted)
- 8 (Redacted)
- 9 (Redacted)
- 10 (Redacted)
- 11 (Redacted)
- 12 (Redacted)
- 13 (Redacted)
- 14 (Redacted)
- 15 (Redacted)
- 16 (Redacted)
- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 (Redacted)
- 19 (Redacted)
- 20 (Redacted)
- 21 (Redacted)
- 22 (Redacted)
- 23 (Redacted)
- 24 (Redacted)
- 25 (Redacted)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 Page redacted – private session 14

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475 Page redacted – private session 

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-01/14-01/18 WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-01/14-01/18

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

- 1 (Redacted)
- 2 (Redacted)
- 3 (Redacted)
- 4 (Redacted)
- 5 (Redacted)
- 6 (Redacted)
- 7 (Redacted)
- 8 (Redacted)
- 9 (Redacted)
- 10 (Redacted)
- 11 (Redacted)
- 12 (Redacted)
- 13 (Redacted)
- 14 (Redacted)
- 15 (Redacted)
- 16 (Redacted)
- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 (Redacted)
- 19 (Redacted)
- 20 (Redacted)
- 21 (Recess taken at 11.00 a.m.)
- 22 (Upon resuming in open session at 11.31 a.m.)
- 23 THE COURT USHER: [11:31:42] All rise.
- 24 Please be seated.
- 25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:32:07] Do the representatives -- do the

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

- 1 representatives of the victims have further questions for this witness?
- 2 MS DOUZIMA LAWSON: [11:32:25](Interpretation) Mr President, the
- 3 representatives of the victims of the other crimes are of the view that the witness's
- 4 testimony is clear and concise and, therefore, we do not intend to question this
- 5 witness.
- 6 Thank you, Mr President.
- 7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:32:46] Mr Suprun.
- 8 MR SUPRUN: [11:32:47] Mr President, I have three questions for this witness with
- 9 the Chamber's leave.
- 10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:32:57] Yes, please, start.
- 11 MR SUPRUN: [11:33:00] Thank you.
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:33:09] We are in open session, Mr Suprun. Do
- 13 you think --
- 14 MR SUPRUN: [11:33:12] Yeah, I can -- I can ask my questions in open session.
- 15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:33:15] Okay. Thank you. Please proceed.
- 16 QUESTIONED BY MR SUPRUN: (Interpretation)
- 17 Q. [11:33:25] Good morning, Mr Witness. My name is Mr Suprun, and I represent
- a group of victims who are former Anti-Balaka soldiers, and I have three questions for
- 19 you.
- 20 Mr Witness, during your testimony, you said that from 2013, you were unable to
- 21 continue your studies. My question is as follows: Does the fact that you didn't
- 22 continue your school education have -- did it have an impact on your life?
- 23 A. [11:34:12] Since 2013, when the Seleka came in, I did not attend school. I had
- 24 intended to go back to school. I really had the intention to return to school, but I
- 25 didn't have the resources and, then later on, we joined the Anti-Balaka -- or, should I

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

1 say that even when we left, the NGO asked us to return to school after testing us in

- 2 Mbaïki.
- 3 During those tests, they realised that I had the potential to return to school. They
- 4 asked me to go back to school, and I said I wasn't able to, but that I was ready to
- 5 undergo some kind of training.
- 6 Q. [11:35:01] Thank you, Mr Witness. You have just described some of the harm
- 7 that you suffered during your experience with the Anti-Balaka. My question is as
- 8 follows: If, at the end of this trial before this Court, Mr Yekatom is found guilty,
- 9 would you expect reparations for the harm you suffered?
- 10 A. [11:35:56] My wish is that at the end of this trial, I can register in a football
- training centre, and, if it were possible for my training to by facilitated in that way, I
- would really be happy. I wish to have an income-generating trade.
- 13 Q [11:36:28] Thank you, Mr Witness. I have no further questions for you.
- 14 Thank you, Mr President. That will be all.
- 15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:36:37] Thank you, Mr Suprun.
- 16 I give now the floor to the Defence of Yekatom.
- 17 Ms Dimitri, take your time to ...
- 18 MS DIMITRI: [11:37:26] Thank you, Mr President. Sorry for the delay.
- 19 QUESTIONED BY MS DIMITRI: (Interpretation)
- 20 Q. [11:37:35] Let me introduce myself. My name is Mylène Dimitri. I am the
- 21 lead counsel for Mr Yekatom.
- 22 I observed that you speak some French, that you reread your statement in French,
- 23 that you annotated some comments in French, and so, since you understand French, I
- 24 would ask you, in any event, to observe a break between my question and your
- 25 answer. This makes it possible for interpreters to properly interpret what is said and

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

also allows the court reporters to write down and record everything that is being said.

- 2 That's my first recommendation to you.
- 3 Do you understand it?
- 4 A. [11:38:38] Yes, I do.
- 5 Q. [11:38:39] My first question, Mr Witness, will address with you the statements
- 6 that you gave to the OTP in 2019 and in 2020. I would like to know -- well, you
- 7 explained to us how the Prosecutor contacted you, and I would like to know in
- 8 relation to the time of your first meeting with the OTP, did somebody come with you
- 9 to the appointment venue?
- 10 A. [11:39:36] At the first appointment with the OTP team, as I already today you, I
- told you that initially, they had contacted (Redacted), but I don't know who gave
- 12 them (Redacted) phone number. It must have been the (Redacted) that
- provided them with (Redacted) contacts. It is probably through that NGO that they
- 14 were able to contact (Redacted), and then he gave them my number. They called me
- and indicated a location for our appointment, and I went there all by myself.
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:40:21] We have to -- I think it was not an area
- 17 covered that had to be covered in private session, but we have to be sensible to that
- issue, yeah, Ms Dimitri. I know you are, but I just want to remind you.
- 19 Also, we anticipate the answers, so that the witness -- the identity of the witness still
- is concealed, of course.
- 21 MS DIMITRI: [11:40:47] Mr President, to play it on the safe side, maybe we go into
- 22 private session. And, unfortunately, I think it's going to be the case for the majority
- of my -- of my examination. I'm sorry, but ...
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:41:04] No, but this is -- actually, this is to be
- 25 expected.

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-01/14-01/18

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

1 We go to private session.

- 2 (Private session at 11.41 a.m.)
- 3 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:41:30] We are in private session, Mr President.
- 4 (Redacted)
- 5 (Redacted)
- 6 (Redacted)
- 7 (Redacted)
- 8 (Redacted)
- 9 (Redacted)
- 10 (Redacted)
- 11 (Redacted)
- 12 (Redacted)
- 13 (Redacted)
- 14 (Redacted)
- 15 (Redacted)
- 16 (Redacted)
- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 (Redacted)
- 19 (Redacted)
- 20 (Redacted)
- 21 (Redacted)
- 22 (Redacted)
- 23 (Redacted)
- 24 (Redacted)
- 25 (Redacted)

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Recess taken at 12.35 p.m.)

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

Trial Hearing

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-01/14-01/18 WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2475 (Redacted) (Redacted)

- 1
- 2
- 3 (Redacted)
- (Redacted) 4
- 5 (Redacted)
- 6 (Redacted)
- 7 (Redacted)
- (Redacted) 8
- 9 (Redacted)
- 10 (Redacted)
- 11 (Redacted)
- (Redacted) 12
- 13 (Redacted)
- 14 (Redacted)
- 15 (Redacted)
- 16 (Redacted)
- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 (Redacted)
- (Redacted) 19
- 20 (Redacted)
- 21 (Redacted)
- 22 (Redacted)
- (The hearing ends in private session at 4.01 p.m.) 23