

Trial Hearing  
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1838

(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 Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard  
5 Ngaiissona - ICC-01/14-01/18  
6 Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt, Judge Péter Kovács and Judge Chang-ho Chung  
7 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 1  
8 Monday, 20 March 2023  
9 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.32 a.m.)  
10 THE COURT USHER: [9:32:27] All rise.  
11 The International Criminal Court is now in session.  
12 Please be seated.  
13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:46] Good morning, everyone.  
14 Court officer, please call the case.  
15 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:32:58] 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 Ngaiissona, case reference ICC-01/14-01/18.  
18 And for the record, we are in open session.  
19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:14] Thank you very much.  
20 I ask for the appearance of the parties.  
21 We start with the Prosecution.  
22 MS PRATHABAN: [9:33:21] Good morning, your Honours, and everyone in the  
23 courtroom. The Prosecution is represented today by Ms Sylvie Wakchom, Mr Yassin  
24 Mostfa, Mr Kweku Vanderpuye and myself, Manochitra Prathaban.  
25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:33] Thank you.

1 I turn to the representatives of the victims.

2 MS RABESANDRATANA: [9:33:41](Interpretation) Good morning, your Honour,  
3 the Bench, and everybody in the courtroom.

4 The legal representative of victims and other crimes is represented today by  
5 Mrs Gabriella dos Santos, Mrs Evelyne Ombeni and myself,  
6 Elisabeth Rabesandratana.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:58] Thank you.

8 Mr Suprun.

9 MR SUPRUN: [9:34:02] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning,  
10 your Honours. The former child soldiers are represented by myself, Dmytro Suprun.  
11 Thank you.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:08] I turn to the Defence.

13 Ms Dimitri, your appearance seems to be -- well, more promising, to put it this way.

14 MS DIMITRI: [9:34:19] Indeed, Mr President. Thank you.

15 Good morning. Good morning, everyone. Good morning, Mr Witness.

16 Mr Yekatom is present in the courtroom and he is represented by Ms Lena Casiez,  
17 Ms Laurence Hortas-Laberge, Mr Jean-Michel Kola, \* Ms Cassandra Obussier and  
18 myself, Mylène Dimitri.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:38] Thank you.

20 Ms Proulx.

21 MS PROULX: [9:34:40] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. Good  
22 morning, everyone. Mr Ngaissona today is represented by Mr Michael Rowse,  
23 Mr Alexandre Desevedavy, Ms Myriam Hollant and myself, Marie-Hélène Proulx.  
24 Thank you.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:55] Thank you very much.

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1 Just a procedural matter before we start with the testimony of Mr Mongbandi. We  
2 are all waiting about news with regard to the summons. It does not look promising,  
3 actually. So I think we can decide that we go with the contingency expert.  
4 How many days do we have for the ...? I have a reason why I ask, Mr Vanderpuye, I  
5 think you might already figure why.

6 MR VANDERPUYE: [9:35:24] Thank you, Mr President. Good morning to you and  
7 your Honours. I believe that the expert is scheduled for three days. We have two --  
8 I think two hours of direct examination and the rest is cross-examination.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:36] Well, yes. So that's quite a lot, actually.  
10 I -- we have -- I have to say I think here on the Bench, we have experts on child  
11 soldiers already sitting. But, okay, I'm fine with that, but I think three days should  
12 be more than sufficient to put it this way. But it's -- we go, simply -- but this is just  
13 a remark by me, we simply go with the contingency witness. Thank you very much.  
14 So, good morning, Mr Mongbandi.

15 WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1838

16 (The witness speaks Sango)

17 THE WITNESS: [9:36:14](Interpretation) Good morning.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:36:16] On behalf of the Chamber, I would like to  
19 welcome you to the courtroom. You are here to assist this Chamber to determine the  
20 truth in the case of the Prosecutor against Mr Yekatom and Mr Ngaïssona.

21 Mr Mongbandi, there should be a card in front of you with a solemn undertaking to  
22 tell the truth. Please read this card out aloud.

23 THE WITNESS: [9:36:59](Interpretation) I solemnly undertake that I shall speak the  
24 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:37:07] Thank you very much, Mr Mongbandi.

1 You are now under oath. You know very well what your obligations are, you have  
2 just told us.

3 I have a few practical things before we start with your testimony. You recognise that  
4 everything we say here in the courtroom is written down and interpreted. To allow  
5 for the interpreters to follow everything we say here, we have to speak at a relatively  
6 slow pace, and please only start answering a question when the person who has  
7 asked you has finished, and perhaps wait two or three seconds so that they can catch  
8 up -- the interpreters who have a very, very difficult job here.

9 Thank you very much, Mr Mongbandi.

10 With that, I give the floor to the Prosecution.

11 QUESTIONED BY MS PRATHABAN:

12 Q. [9:38:00] Good morning, Mr Mongbandi. We met briefly a few days ago. Let  
13 me introduce myself again. I am Manochitra Prathaban and I'll be asking you  
14 questions today on behalf of the Prosecution. Thank you for coming to testify today.  
15 This morning, I'll first ask you questions about your background, followed by  
16 questions about your previous statement, specifically, to clarify portions of it.  
17 Now, if any of the questions I ask are unclear or you do not understand, please let me  
18 know and I'll rephrase, and if at any point you would like a break, please let us know.  
19 So we'll begin with the questions now. Could you please state your full name for the  
20 record.

21 A. [9:38:53] My name is Mongbandi, Raymond.

22 Q. [9:39:22] What is your date of birth?

23 A. [9:39:27] I was born on 1 January 1955.

24 Q. [9:39:27] And can you confirm that you're a Central African national.

25 A. [9:39:47] I confirm that.

- 1 Q. [9:39:50] And where were you born?
- 2 A. [9:39:59] I was born in Mbaïki.
- 3 Q. [9:40:04] And what is your religion?
- 4 A. [9:40:19] I'm a Catholic Christian.
- 5 Q. [9:40:25] You were the mayor of Mbaïki from 2009 to 2015; is that right?
- 6 A. [9:40:40] That is right. I was the mayor of Mbaïki during the indicated period.
- 7 Q. [9:40:56] And what were the names of your first and second deputies?
- 8 A. [9:41:14] Bongoma, Jean. Bongoma, Jean was the first deputy mayor, and the  
9 second deputy mayor was Djido Saleh. Djido Saleh was the second deputy mayor.
- 10 Q. [9:41:29] Can you confirm that they were appointed in 2009 as well?
- 11 A. [9:41:48] Yes, we were appointed by the same decree. I was the mayor and the  
12 other two were my deputy mayors.
- 13 Q. [9:42:03] Thank you. Djido Saleh was a Central African national; is that  
14 correct?
- 15 A. [9:42:29] Djido Saleh, the second deputy mayor, was Chadian.
- 16 Q. [9:42:40] Do you know how long he had been living in Mbaïki?
- 17 A. [9:43:02] He arrived in Mbaïki when he was very young and he grew up in  
18 Mbaïki. He spent a lot of time, many years in Mbaïki.
- 19 Q. [9:43:13] Thank you for the clarification.  
20 Can you confirm that you gave a statement to the investigators of the Office of the  
21 Prosecutor back in December 2018 and January 2019?
- 22 A. [9:43:33] Yes.
- 23 Q. [9:43:37] For the record, the statement is at tab 10 of the Prosecution list. It's at  
24 CAR-OTP-2100-0252. And the French translation is at tab 11, CAR-OTP-2107-6303.  
25 Mr Mongbandi, you had a chance to carefully review the statement recently and I

1 understand that you had no corrections to make to the statements; is that right?

2 A. [9:44:18] That's right. I reviewed my statement and I accepted to sign it.

3 Q. [9:44:33] Can you confirm that your statement is true to the best of your  
4 knowledge and recollection?

5 A. [9:44:57] I confirm that my statement reflects the truth. I have absolutely no  
6 reason to make accusations. I'm actually acting as representative of the people. All  
7 that I've said is what I have seen and what I've heard.

8 Q. [9:45:21] Thank you. Would you agree for the Chamber to use your statement  
9 as evidence in this case?

10 A. [9:45:43] Yes, I accept that my statement be considered as evidence.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:45:51] So for the record, I state that the conditions  
12 for the application of Rule 68(3) for the witness statement CAR-OTP-2100-0252 are  
13 fulfilled.

14 This is, Mr Mongbandi, a procedural thing. This means that your statement is in  
15 evidence and is already part of your testimony. And I think the Prosecutor will have  
16 some more questions for you, but this statement is already, as I said, part of your  
17 testimony before this Court. Thank you.

18 You have the floor.

19 MS PRATHABAN: [9:46:29]

20 Q. [9:46:32] Mr Mongbandi, as you just heard, your statement is already in  
21 evidence, so that means that the statement is quite complete and I just have a couple  
22 of questions to clarify and to obtain more information.

23 And for the record, I'll be using the English version of the statement, at tab 10.

24 So we'll start with the first topic.

25 You describe in your statement, at paragraph 25, that the Seleka erected barriers at all

1 exits of Mbaïki. Do you recall what happened to these barriers after the Seleka left?

2 A. [9:47:12] After the Seleka left, the Anti-Balaka took control of all the barriers or  
3 roadblocks.

4 Q. [9:47:40] And how did you know that it was the Anti-Balaka? How did you  
5 learn about this?

6 A. [9:47:47] I got to know this. I got to know they were Anti-Balaka because I was  
7 basically part of a prefectural committee and our role was to mediate between the  
8 Seleka and the Anti-Balaka, between the Seleka and the Christians and the Muslims.  
9 There was actually a committee that was set up for this.

10 One also needs to know that Mbaïki is a town where there was the Congolese  
11 contingent that was based in the city centre. And at that point of time, the  
12 Anti-Balaka forced themselves inside, but because of the Congolese -- Congolese  
13 contingent, they couldn't enter. So the Seleka entered and they set up base in Mbaïki.  
14 And there was also this interposition force in the city. At that point of time, we held  
15 meetings, and we would call upon the leaders of the Anti-Balaka, and that was  
16 Rambo.

17 Rambo was based in Pissa. The prefect of Lobaye would go and meet him and  
18 the -- the bishop of the Catholic church and the imam would also meet -- convene  
19 meetings and we would meet there. And when I went to Bangui, I would see the  
20 Anti-Balaka at the roadblocks.

21 Now who were these Anti-Balaka? They're the sons of the soil. We know them.  
22 These are people who were hungry. And this is exactly why they manned the  
23 roadblocks to have something to eat. The Anti-Balaka weren't foreigners. They  
24 were Central African nationals. And this is what I can tell you.

25 Q. [9:50:14] Thank you for the clarification, Mr Mongbandi. At paragraph 32 of

1 your statement, you mentioned that your second deputy, Djido, was attacked and  
2 beaten up by the Seleka. How did you learn of this?

3 A. [9:50:31] You -- you are asking me a question about my deputy, but this is  
4 someone with whom I was working regularly. Now when there was this conflict,  
5 we did not know anything. This came as a surprise. Fortunately for us in Mbaïki,  
6 we did not flee. Personally I did not flee, and Djido, since he was a Muslim, he did  
7 not flee. He was present in the city.

8 \* I actually gathered all my courage to be present and resist. When his fellow Muslims  
9 came, he was there, and they wanted to beat him up because he had lied to them.  
10 He actually suggested that he would get them a sheep, but since he did not do that  
11 quick enough, they came to basically beat him up black and blue, and -- very violently.  
12 I intervened so that he could be released. And I know Djido personally. I really cannot say  
13 that I do not know him. We worked until he died, and this is what I can say concerning Djido.

14 Q. [9:52:08] Thank you for the clarification, Mr Mongbandi. And also at  
15 paragraph 21, you talked about how Djido was forced to help the Seleka transport  
16 stolen property on his vehicle. Can you explain to us what you meant by "forced to  
17 help"?

18 A. [9:52:43] \* When I was the mayor of Mbaïki, I was in control of the town. Djido  
19 was like a Central African already. He had many resources, including a large vehicle.  
20 The goal of the Seleka was to loot the possessions of the Central Africans. Then they  
21 would ask Djido to load up these items into his vehicle and take them from Mbaïki to  
22 Bangui. From there, they could send them wherever they wanted to.

23 Q. [9:53:28] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. I will be now changing topic. You  
24 explain in your statement at paragraph 53 that the Anti-Balaka had progressed along  
25 the PK9-Mbaïki axis. How did you learn about their progression?



1 A. [9:54:00] But I really do not look for problems when they don't exist. I don't  
2 need to look for this information. You see, Mbaïki-Bangui is 105 kilometres and  
3 there were roadblocks manned by the Anti-Balaka. When you entered Mbaïki, there  
4 was a roadblock. In Pissa as well, they have their own roadblock or barrier, and  
5 until PK9, they had set up these roadblocks. When I left Mbaïki to go to Bangui, I  
6 could see these roadblocks, and I really do not actually need to get this information  
7 from someone else.

8 Q. [9:54:45] Thank you for the clarification, Mr Mongbandi. You said you could  
9 see these roadblocks. Could you also estimate how many Anti-Balaka elements you  
10 saw along this axis?

11 A. [9:55:23] I can't really give you an estimate, there were so many. They were  
12 just like soldiers. I really don't know how many there were. They were at the  
13 roadblocks and there were shifts that would actually replace the -- a team would  
14 replace the one in the morning.  
15 Now when I would cross the roadblocks, I would have to show them my I-card.  
16 And this is what I would do each time I had to gain passage. There were no longer  
17 Central African soldiers. They're the ones who would basically ensure the security  
18 and act as the defence for the country. Thank you.

19 Q. [9:56:13] Thank you. Do you recall approximately when this was? Was it  
20 before or after Djotodia's resignation?

21 A. [9:56:25] As -- when the -- when Djotodia and the Seleka arrived, there were  
22 Muslims all over. The Seleka were there, but they really couldn't erect the  
23 roadblocks -- the roadblocks, in fact, manned by the Seleka till Djotodia left. After  
24 his departure, the Anti-Balaka came and occupied the roadblocks that used to be  
25 manned by the Seleka. I don't know if you understand what I'm saying.

1 Q. [9:57:23] Thank you, that's very clear. And still at the same paragraph, you  
2 describe seeing mosques along the road between Mbaïki and Bangui that had been  
3 burned and destroyed by the Anti-Balaka, and how did you identify that they were  
4 the Anti-Balaka?

5 A. [9:58:00] During Djotodia's times, there were cases of pillaging by the Seleka,  
6 but after Djotodia's departure, the Seleka came. But look at the mosques, how -- it's  
7 the Seleka that destroyed --

8 THE INTERPRETER: [9:58:20] The witness says "Seleka" --

9 THE WITNESS: [9:58:20](Interpretation) -- it's not the population. It's the young  
10 youth, the youth that followed the Seleka. They're the ones who burnt down the  
11 mosques that belonged to the Muslims, but -- at the Mbaïki city centre. I opposed  
12 this practice in the city of Mbaïki.

13 MS PRATHABAN: [9:58:48]

14 Q. [9:58:49] I just want to clarify with you, Mr Mongbandi. You said it was the  
15 Seleka who had destroyed the mosques. Is that correct?

16 A. [9:58:59] Perhaps I -- you did not understand me properly. With regards to the  
17 destruction of mosques, when the -- when Seleka -- the Seleka were Muslims, they  
18 were praying in the mosques, so they could not have done it. It's after the departure  
19 when the Anti-Balaka came, they're the ones who burnt down or destroyed the  
20 mosques.

21 Q. [9:59:29] Thank you for the clarification.

22 And at paragraph 53, you talked about how you had discussions with the Muslims  
23 who had fled from the PK9 to Mbaïki. Now during your conversations with these  
24 displaced Muslims, did they share their experience that they faced at the barriers  
25 along the axis?

1 A. [9:59:55] Yes, it is true. They feared for their lives because of the Anti-Balaka.  
2 Who could kill them? No one else. It -- there were only the Anti-Balaka who were  
3 there, and the Muslims feared the Anti-Balaka. They couldn't go to Bangui. All  
4 Muslims who were in the *sous-préfecture* of Mbaïki gathered in the city of Mbaïki  
5 because they feared that they would be attacked and killed by the Anti-Balaka.

6 Q. [10:00:50] And did they share with you that they had passed along the barriers  
7 in PK9-Mbaïki, while on their way to Mbaïki?

8 A. [10:01:19] They were fleeing. They were going by various roads. Some went  
9 through the bush. You know, when you're fleeing death, you do anything you need  
10 to do to get to a shelter or a safe place. They left their various localities to get to  
11 Mbaïki and they met up there. After that, we negotiated with Chad so that they  
12 should send vehicles to evacuate them from the town.

13 Q. [10:01:59] Thank you for the clarification. I'll be changing topics now. You  
14 described in your statement at paragraph 96 that Mr Yekatom was in control over  
15 areas such as Pissa, Mbata, Sekia, Bimon, among others. Can you tell us how you  
16 learned about this?

17 A. [10:02:34] How I learned about this? Everyone knew that he was the one -- the  
18 supreme leader of the Balaka in the Mbaïki sub-prefecture and in Mongoumba  
19 sub-prefecture. Yekatom was the supreme leader. There were some times when he  
20 used his red motorbike to tour the entire region. We knew him because we were in  
21 the habit of having meetings at the church or at the city hall. I must identify  
22 him -- for example, you and I, we see one another right now, so I can't not identify  
23 you. He was the leader. He was the leader of the Anti-Balaka in Mbaïki  
24 sub-prefecture and also -- in the Mbaïki sub-prefecture. However, there was another  
25 person who led the Anti-Balaka in Boda. That leader tried to send his deputy.

1 Unfortunately, that deputy died. Actually, it was Yekatom's deputy who had been  
2 sent to Boda. Unfortunately, he died there.

3 Q. [10:04:12] Thank you for this clarification. And do you now recall the name of  
4 this deputy?

5 A. [10:04:21] I don't know his full name. I know his nickname. I don't know his  
6 surname though, but I do know his nickname, which was Coeur de Lion.

7 Q. [10:04:44] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. And at paragraph 96, you describe  
8 seeing Mr Yekatom's men collecting money in different localities and giving the  
9 money to Mr Yekatom. Could you provide us details on what you saw?

10 A. [10:05:15] Just to clarify things for you, I can tell you that there were roadblocks  
11 that they had set up and everyone who went by would pay them money. There  
12 were many such roadblocks in Mbaïki and in Mongoumba. Each time he would tour  
13 the area, it was to collect the money so that he could use the money.

14 Q. [10:06:00] Thank you. And who did they collect the money from?

15 A. [10:06:12] It wasn't he who did that. It was his elements who would take turns  
16 at the various roadblocks. He, as the leader, when he got to the roadblock, he would  
17 speak to the people in charge of the post, he would ask them to report to him and to  
18 pay the money to him. That's what he would do as he toured the area.

19 Q. [10:06:49] Thank you. And you also explained in the same paragraph that the  
20 Anti-Balaka elements said that they were working for Rambo who was their boss. I  
21 understand that to mean that you spoke to these Anti-Balaka elements; is that right?

22 A. [10:07:21] That is correct. When I left Mbaïki to go to Bangui, the ones who  
23 were asking to look at ID cards, who were they? It was his elements. And we  
24 would talk. They had a term, they said -- they called it "formalities". That meant  
25 paying some money, a kind of a tax so that they could pass through. So that's what

1 those elements did.

2 Let me repeat, it wasn't Rambo who was doing this work at the roadblocks, it was  
3 rather his elements who were doing this. And he would ask them to report to him  
4 and they would report to him about his activities. That's what happened at the  
5 roadblocks. Thank you.

6 Q. [10:08:17] Thank you for the clarification. And you also said at paragraph 109  
7 that you saw Mr Yekatom making collections at the barriers. Do you recall where  
8 this was?

9 A. [10:08:43] I haven't understood your question.

10 Q. [10:08:50] Let me repeat myself. So, at paragraph 109, you talked about how  
11 Mr Yekatom was patrolling the barricades on his red motorbike and making  
12 collections, and you had seen him making the collections. So which barriers were  
13 these, if you could recall?

14 A. [10:09:24] \* Well, all those roadblocks that he had set up, he could not go by  
15 them without checking. He would stop at each roadblock to ask the elements what  
16 they had been up to. He couldn't skip over a roadblock. He had established his  
17 elements at these various roadblocks and they would report back to him. Each time  
18 a person got -- each time --

19 THE INTERPRETER: [10:09:58] Correction --

20 THE WITNESS: [10:09:59] (Interpretation) -- each time he went to a barrier, he  
21 would ask for a report from his elements and he would collect the money. That's  
22 what happened. He was the leader.

23 MS PRATHABAN: [10:10:11]

24 Q. [10:10:12] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. And which barrier did you see him at?

25 A. [10:10:33] Well, I can mention the Pissa barrier. What's more, his main base

1 was in Pissa. He worked mainly at that place and, from there, he would leave to go  
2 check the other barriers and roadblocks.

3 Q. [10:11:01] Thank you. And when was this, approximately?

4 A. [10:11:19] I don't have a specific date. It was during the entire reign and it was  
5 every day. It was every day throughout their entire reign. He would do this every  
6 day.

7 THE INTERPRETER: [10:11:38] Correction --

8 THE WITNESS: [10:11:39] (Interpretation) They would do this every day. The  
9 work was done -- this work was done regularly. As soon as their activities began,  
10 they set up roadblocks and that's what they did until they left.

11 MS PRATHABAN: [10:12:03]

12 Q. [10:12:04] Would you say this was before or after they had arrived in Mbaïki?

13 A. [10:12:26] I told you, before it was the Seleka who reigned. After they left, the  
14 Anti-Balaka took control of the region right until the end. That is what I said.

15 Q. [10:12:42] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. So if I understood you correctly, you  
16 saw Mr Yekatom after the Seleka had left and the Anti-Balaka had arrived; is that  
17 correct?

18 A. [10:13:03] I think that's correct. Yekatom, as he would go by, sometimes he  
19 would stop and he would greet me. He was well known. He was the leader of the  
20 Anti-Balaka and I had a lot of respect for him and he also had respect for me. And  
21 we worked together, we would greet one another.

22 Q. [10:13:39] Thank you for the clarification, Mr Mongbandi. I just want to take  
23 you back briefly. You mentioned about Mr Yekatom's deputy, Coeur de Lion, and  
24 you said that the leader had sent him to Boda. Is the leader you're referring to  
25 Mr Yekatom?

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1 MS DIMITRI: [10:13:57] Mr President.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:13:58] Yes.

3 MS DIMITRI: [10:13:59] I'd like it in a more neutral way, especially given the  
4 previous answer he gave regarding Boda.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:14:07] Could you please reformulate.

6 I agree.

7 MS PRATHABAN: [10:14:13]

8 Q. [10:14:14] Do you know who -- who is the leader that you are referring to?

9 A. [10:14:36] The one who was above Coeur de Lion, his leader was Mr Yekatom.

10 He was the leader when they took control of Mbaïki. Coeur de Lion left the town of  
11 Mbaïki and he went to conquer Boda. When he was there, there was some resistance.

12 So, because of the presence of the Muslims in Boda, Coeur de Lion was sent there to  
13 conquer the town. I'm telling you that we got meetings with Yekatom at Jeanne  
14 d'Arc --

15 THE INTERPRETER: [10:15:36] Correction from the Sango booth --

16 THE WITNESS: [10:15:38](Interpretation) At the city hall, and the leader of Coeur de  
17 Lion, the boss of -- his boss was Yekatom. Now, there were three people. I don't  
18 remember the name of the third person, but I know that we were in the habit of  
19 having meetings. You couldn't not recognise someone that you were in the habit of  
20 having meetings with.

21 If my answer is not sufficient, you can tell me so and I'll try to answer in different  
22 words or if you have different questions, you can ask them to me.

23 MS PRATHABAN: [10:16:18]

24 Q. [10:16:19] Thank you. Just to clarify. And how did you learn about this, that  
25 Coeur de Lion in fact was sent to Boda?

1 A. [10:16:42] I am the mayor of Mbaïki. They invaded the town of Mbaïki and  
2 they occupied the city hall. Even my office was occupied and all those people would  
3 spend the night in my office. \* After they took control of Mbaïki and the city hall, they  
4 wanted to go on to Boda, and that is where he died. That is information that is  
5 well known, that is vital. I believe he is there and he can justify it. I was present  
6 during those events. I'm not here to bring anyone down.

7 Q. [10:17:38] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. I think I just -- maybe I'm not being very  
8 clear. I just want to know -- I understand that you were in Mbaïki, you were the  
9 mayor, but how did you know this specific information that it was Coeur de Lion  
10 who was sent to Boda? How did you learn this?

11 A. [10:18:15] It was a team that was working in perfect harmony. We would ask  
12 one another questions, and we learned that Coeur de Lion was on mission to Boda  
13 and he died. His body was taken away in the night. I was the mayor, I had  
14 intelligence officers, so it's not a lie. And he himself can confirm that Coeur de Lion  
15 died during a mission to Boda and that his body was taken back to Mbaïki.  
16 I was the mayor of the town. I was present, and I also had intelligence people from  
17 the city hall. It was a period of tension and it was important to obtain intelligence.  
18 And I believe I'm telling you the truth.

19 Q. [10:19:23] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. Just a final question on this. You said  
20 you had intelligence officers and you were working as a team. So did you also learn  
21 who had sent Coeur de Lion to Boda?

22 A. [10:19:51] I believe I told you that the Anti-Balaka group in the Mbaïki  
23 sub-prefecture was led by Rambo, and his deputy was Coeur de Lion, followed by  
24 others. If Coeur de Lion went on a mission, it was very easy to conclude that it was  
25 the leader who had sent him on mission, because a subordinate cannot decide all on



1 his own, unless Rambo himself had -- well, if Rambo himself had done the mission,  
2 that would be one thing, but it was his subordinate who was sent on mission.  
3 There was fighting, he died there and his body was brought back. They were there,  
4 they made up a team.

5 There was a leader, there was a hierarchy, there was a way of operating. So who  
6 was in charge of sending someone on a mission? I think it was the leader who sent  
7 the subordinate or the deputy on a mission. It's only logical.

8 Q. [10:21:11] Thank you very much for the clarification. I will be now changing  
9 topic. Could you provide us with details of the Anti-Balaka's arrival in Mbaïki?  
10 How did they arrive?

11 A. [10:21:40] The Anti-Balaka arrived in Mbaïki a while. The Seleka were in Pissa.  
12 When the Seleka elements left Pissa, they came to Mbaïki to meet up with their  
13 companions, and when the Seleka left Pissa, the Balaka took their place.  
14 After that, when the Seleka left Mbaïki -- when the Seleka left Mbaïki and the town,  
15 the Seleka --

16 THE INTERPRETER: [10:22:27] Said the witness --

17 THE WITNESS: [10:22:30] -- replaced the Seleka who left. So you see, I can't -- well,  
18 to estimate, the colonel said that there were not two -- well, you see, there were not  
19 two captains in a ship. And the MISCA asked the -- Rambo's team to leave, and his  
20 team could not stay in Mbaïki. The MISCA told them that. And that was the same  
21 day that my deputy, Djido, was killed.

22 I don't know whether I've answered your question.

23 MS PRATHABAN: [10:23:26]

24 Q. [10:23:27] So do I understand correctly that there was no combat between the  
25 Seleka and Anti-Balaka when they arrived?

1 A. [10:23:47] No. There were no clashes between the Seleka and the Anti-Balaka.  
2 There was no fighting between Christians and Muslims in Mbaïki because we  
3 conducted mediation. There were no mass crimes. Admittedly, there were some  
4 cases of murder -- isolated cases, for example, my deputy who was killed, but to say  
5 that the two forces fought in Mbaïki, no. That was not the case.

6 Q. [10:24:34] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. And at paragraph 89, you explain that  
7 Mr Yekatom installed about 50 to 100 elements in Mbaïki and left leaving Coeur de  
8 Lion in charge. Could you explain to us how you gathered this information?

9 A. [10:25:14] I experienced it myself. I left my house to go to the office and I saw  
10 that my office had already been occupied. Coeur de Lion, who was the deputy and  
11 who led the soldiers in Mbaïki, came across -- stopped my deputy, Djido, and  
12 someone said that -- came and told me that there had been an argument between  
13 Djido and the Anti-Balaka.  
14 I rapidly rushed there, and I saw Coeur de Lion. I greeted him and I introduced  
15 myself saying that I was the mayor of Mbaïki. Djido was the deputy to the mayor,  
16 and if there were any questions or things like -- or things to deal with, that I was the  
17 person to talk to.

18 I told Djido to go home. I stayed -- I was there to answer their questions. And with  
19 Coeur de Lion, that same day we had a meeting at the city hall and that is when I saw  
20 him. In the meantime, I saw him at other meetings. The first time was at Jeanne  
21 d'Arc church. As I said, we had several meetings with him, so I knew him well  
22 before.

23 Q. [10:26:55] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. You mentioned that Coeur de Lion  
24 was -- let me just read it here, that Djido was the deputy mayor and you saw that  
25 Coeur de Lion was interrogating him. You also mentioned that in your statement,

1 paragraph 91. Do you know why the Anti-Balaka were interrogating Djido?

2 A. [10:27:33] They were asking him questions and it was also a kind of intimidation.  
3 Because at that time, there were no longer any Muslims in Mbaïki. The trucks had  
4 extracted all the Muslims from Mbaïki. There was only one left. And if I hadn't -- if  
5 I hadn't gotten there early, if I hadn't interposed, there would have been problems. I  
6 went, I said I was the incumbent, and Djido left the town hall compound.

7 Q. [10:28:16] Thank you for the clarification. It's really helpful. You also  
8 mentioned that there was a meeting at the city hall with Coeur de Lion. When was  
9 this?

10 A. [10:28:37] Yes, the very day that they arrived in Mbaïki. When they got to  
11 Mbaïki, when they took control of the city hall and they occupied all the offices in the  
12 city hall of Mbaïki, and to work -- well, we held a meeting in the conference room,  
13 and then I went home and I didn't have an opportunity to actually enter my office  
14 because they were occupying it at that time.

15 Q. [10:29:15] Thank you. Going back to the interrogation that Coeur de Lion had  
16 with Djido Saleh, you said here, that:

17 "... if I hadn't gotten there early" and ... "I hadn't interposed, there would have been  
18 problems."

19 Could you explain what you meant by "problems."

20 A. [10:29:37] Well, as best I understood, the Seleka and the Anti-Balaka could not  
21 cohabitate because they were enemies. Given that the Anti-Balaka no longer had  
22 anyone in the -- well, Djido was the only one left in the town. I think that's what led  
23 to his death. That was the main discussion or the main point about the questioning.  
24 Everything that I already had considered did happen; so that was the goal. To kill  
25 him. They just wanted to kill him. Nothing more, nothing less than that.

1 Q. [10:30:46] So was this an impression you formed at the meeting when you met  
2 Coeur de Lion and Djido Saleh, that they wanted to kill him?

3 A. [10:31:02] Yes, he was interrogated. And it was rather rough, and he couldn't  
4 provide him with all the answers and this is why I asked him to step aside and let me  
5 do the talking. He left, and I'm the one who stayed on and responded to Coeur de  
6 Lion's questions.

7 Q. [10:31:47] Thank you very much. That's very helpful. So at paragraph 98, you  
8 describe seeing Mr Yekatom at a bar opposite the bus station in Mbaïki, and you  
9 explained that you saw Mr Yekatom appearing to be commanding the Anti-Balaka  
10 elements and instructing them to cause trouble.

11 Since we were not there that day, it would very helpful for us to hear in detail what  
12 was the interactions that you saw between the Anti-Balaka elements and  
13 Mr Yekatom?

14 A. [10:32:43] It was the day when Djido was killed. The day after he was killed,  
15 we had to bury him and there was no one -- you had this bar opposite the bus station  
16 and I was with Rambo -- Rambo asked me to wait. He wanted to give me help to  
17 bury Djido. After that, I left.

18 During this time, the MISCA contingent called him and asked him to meet them. He  
19 went to their base, and it's at that point of time the MINUSCA contingent gave him  
20 the order to withdraw from Mbaïki. Shortly after, I called my accountant because all  
21 the shops were closed and it was really difficult to find the funeral cloth; so the  
22 accountant went back to his home to get some sheets. He came back with some  
23 sheets.

24 I got close to the chief of the Red Cross. We went to the hospital, and we buried  
25 Djido together.

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1 But the promise he had made was not kept because the MINUSCA elements gave him  
2 the order to leave the city. They were irritated because of -- or angered, rather,  
3 because of Djido's murder. This is what I can tell you.

4 Q. [10:35:02] Just to clarify, Mr Mongbandi. So does this mean the conversation  
5 you had with Mr Yekatom about the burial of Djido took place at this bar?

6 A. [10:35:23] No. I wasn't inside the bar, but just opposite the bar. It was the day  
7 when the MISC A elements gave him the order to withdraw from Mbaïki because they  
8 did not want to see him in that city.

9 Q. [10:35:45] Thank you. So the conversation you had with Mr Yekatom, when  
10 did this take place?

11 A. [10:35:55] It was in the morning between 7.30 and 8 in the morning. We met in  
12 the morning, and we were concerned with the burial of my deputy, Djido, and this is  
13 when we met. We met and on this occasion, he promised -- he made a promise, but  
14 unfortunately, the interposition forces called him and he left to meet them. And  
15 after that, I found another way to bury Djido.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:36:57] I have a question.

17 Mr Mongbandi, did Mr Yekatom at that time, when you had this conversation,  
18 explain why he made that promise?

19 THE WITNESS: [10:37:27](Interpretation) I never asked him the question, because  
20 there was a murder and he -- I -- he knew it, I knew it. We were concerned. And  
21 all the shops were closed, and this is why he came to see me and he made the promise  
22 with regard to Djido's burial, but unfortunately he did not have the time, only  
23 because the interposition forces summoned him.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:38:02] Please continue.

25 MS PRATHABAN: [10:38:05]

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1 Q. [10:38:06] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. And at paragraph 99 of your statement,  
2 you said when Mr Yekatom visited you the day after Djido was killed, he told you  
3 that this was an accident. Could you provide us more details on what Mr Yekatom  
4 told you.

5 A. [10:38:42] No, he did not say much on that subject. What I retained was that he  
6 made me a promise to give me a way to bury Djido. This interposition forces were  
7 looking for him, and, during this time, on our side, we had problems to bury Djido.

8 Q. [10:39:15] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. You mentioned that Mr Yekatom didn't  
9 share much with you. But do you recall if he told you who was involved in this  
10 accident?

11 A. [10:39:44] \* No. He could not say anything. He did not have the time to speak  
12 about his men. It was not the subject of our discussion. At no point did he mention  
13 anything about this at all.

14 Q. [10:40:06] Thank you for the clarification.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:40:08] May I shortly.

16 In this paragraph 99 that was already mentioned, you said it was Yekatom's people  
17 who killed Djido. How did you come to know that? What was your source of  
18 information?

19 THE WITNESS: [10:40:24](Interpretation) I knew it because at a point of time, an  
20 Anti-Balaka group rented a house just near Djido in order to carry out surveillance on  
21 Djido's activities, and I told Djido that he was in danger and he should withdraw  
22 from there. The MISCA colonel also told him the same thing, but he was stubborn  
23 and he opposed -- to that, and he told us that he had -- he feared nothing and  
24 he -- there was no risk weighing on him.

25 Now, if I say that it's these elements who killed him, it's because they were asked to

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1 leave the city and -- but they were -- they rented a house. And when they were there,  
2 there were cases of murder. And it could only be them. You see, this conflict was  
3 between two groups, but there were no Muslims in the town. He was the only one,  
4 and this is why he was the target.

5 MS PRATHABAN: [10:42:13]

6 Q. [10:42:14] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. You mentioned that you told Djido and  
7 also the MISCA colonel advised him that he was in danger. What was Mr Djido's  
8 response to you?

9 A. [10:42:48] Djido told us that he was not exposed to any risk and nothing would  
10 happen to him. If he accepted -- if he had accepted our proposal, he wouldn't have  
11 died because there was a MISCA base and there were Muslims from Boda there. If  
12 he had joined them, he wouldn't have met this tragic fate. But he did not accept  
13 what I told him. He did not accept the colonel's advice in full knowledge that he  
14 wasn't armed. He had -- he did not have any firearms. He had a bow on that day.  
15 He only had a crossbow.

16 THE INTERPRETER: [10:43:49] Says the witness.

17 MS PRATHABAN: [10:43:51]

18 Q. [10:43:52] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. You mentioned that when Mr Yekatom  
19 met you the day after Djido's death and you're talking about the burial, he also told  
20 you that he was going to meet the MISCA colonel at the cross roads. Can you  
21 describe what he told you regarding this meeting?

22 A. [10:44:33] You're talking about the meeting with MISCA. \* Well, it wasn't a big  
23 meeting because the MISCA contingent was stationed at the town hall, a bit further  
24 up. We were further down, opposite the bus station. Now, when he came to see  
25 them, he said that there should be not -- there cannot be two captains, and the city

1 must be governed by them, and he was asked to leave. But unfortunately he did not  
2 -- he did not have the time to keep his promise. That's -- that's it. They were far  
3 from me. I could see them, and after their conversation, he basically left to go back  
4 to his base in Pissa.

5 Q. [10:45:57] You say you were far and you were able to see. Do you recall who  
6 else was present at this meeting?

7 A. [10:46:15] There were many people, many people were present. You see, such  
8 an event with -- such an event in the city of Mbaïki only caused people to gather.  
9 There were many people, but there were many also who did not want to be called as  
10 a witness to testify, and I mustered up the courage to basically testify on this event.

11 Q. [10:46:55] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. I'll be changing topics now.

12 At paragraph 66, you explained that a decision was made to call Mr Yekatom to  
13 a meeting concerning the fate of the Muslims. How did you learn about this  
14 decision?

15 A. [10:47:27] This was a memo sent by the prefect of Lobaye. You see, I was the  
16 mayor and the meeting was supposed to be held at the St Jeanne d'Arc church.  
17 Yekatom also received the memo inviting him to the meeting. Everyone knew that  
18 he had the keys to get peace back into the city and for the conflict to end.

19 Q. [10:48:14] Thank you for the clarification. And you referred here, the meeting  
20 was about the fate of the Muslims. Could you explain what you meant by that.

21 A. [10:48:39] During those times, there were Muslims present in Mbaïki. They  
22 were still present in Mbaïki, even -- even those who came from different localities, like  
23 the sub-prefecture of Mongoumba, Mbaïki, they actually all gathered in Mbaïki.  
24 Negotiations were underway. The leaders -- the political leaders, the prefect, the  
25 leaders of Anti-Balaka were all there and the former were represented by Yekatom



1 and Coeur de Lion. We held this meeting in Jeanne d'Arc. This -- the objective of  
2 the meeting was to avoid -- to ask him to avoid any conflict in the country, and peace  
3 must return and the war between the sons of the soil were not -- was not a good thing.

4 Q. [10:49:50] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. And do you recall what was  
5 Mr Yekatom's response to your request at this meeting?

6 A. [10:50:16] When he was given the floor, he made a speech. He agreed and he  
7 also said that the role of the Anti-Balaka was not to kill. It -- their role was to secure  
8 the country, and this is what Mr Rambo said during the meeting on that day. This  
9 meeting was held at Jeanne d'Arc. The chairman of the meeting asked him -- in fact,  
10 told him that in order for him to be trusted, he should hold a meeting with the  
11 population and tell them what he just said in order to calm the population.  
12 So we left, and, at the bus station, he held a meeting. \* I was there, the sub-prefect was  
13 there. And he actually made a speech in front of the whole population and said that  
14 the Anti-Balaka were not there to hurt them and everything was over, and he was  
15 ready for peace and security to be restored  
16 in the city.

17 Q. [10:51:45] That's very helpful. Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. And do you recall  
18 what was the reaction of Mr Yekatom's elements when he made this speech at the bus  
19 station?

20 A. [10:52:16] I do not know what was happening in their minds. I only know that  
21 the population listened to the leader's speech and was very happy. They applauded.  
22 However, what was happening in the heads or the minds of the soldiers is something  
23 that I'm not privy to.

24 Q. [10:52:49] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. You said, for example, you saw the  
25 population clapping. Did you see how the Anti-Balaka elements were reacting?

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1 A. [10:53:17] They were together with the inhabitants. They also clapped. When  
2 they saw the civilians clap, they also started clapping. They were in great numbers.  
3 Now, did -- did everyone applaud? I do not know.

4 Q. [10:53:37] That's very helpful. Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. And at paragraph  
5 74 of your statement, you explained that after the meeting at the church, a decision  
6 was made to evacuate the Muslims from Mbaïki. How did you learn about this  
7 decision?

8 A. [10:54:09] This was basically the fruit of this meeting. The leaders were there.  
9 The prefect, the bishop, the Muslim leaders, everyone was there. We sent the  
10 meeting summary to the Central African government, and the Chadian government  
11 sent vehicles, and there were lorries that were sent to evacuate Muslims from the city  
12 of Mbaïki and Mongoumba. So all Muslims from these cities were evacuated, thanks  
13 to these vehicles.

14 Q. [10:54:55] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. You explained to us that this decision to  
15 evacuate the Muslims was a result of the meeting you had. But could you explain to  
16 us why was this decision taken?

17 A. [10:55:24] Now, this decision was taken because there was a total breach of trust.  
18 The authorities understood that the Anti-Balaka couldn't keep up their promises,  
19 there was a doubt. So this is why it was important to evacuate the Muslims.  
20 Tension was rife and it would have been very dangerous. If we hadn't proceeded to  
21 evacuated the Muslims, there would have been a lot of deaths. Thank God that the  
22 procedure was adopted and this actually saved a good chunk of the Muslim  
23 population and reduced casualties.

24 Q. [10:56:20] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi.

25 Mr President, I'm about to start a new topic. So perhaps it's better to do it after the

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1 break.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:56:27] Good idea. Good idea.

3 So then we'll have a break until 11.30.

4 And for the parties, especially for Prosecution, with regard to next week, the  
5 scheduling, the Chamber still has to talk a little bit about it and we will inform you  
6 after the break. Thank you.

7 THE COURT USHER: [10:56:46] All rise.

8 (Recess taken at 10.56 a.m.)

9 (Upon resuming in open session at 11.31 a.m.)

10 THE COURT USHER: [11:31:28] All rise.

11 Please be seated.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:31:49] So for the announced procedural matter,  
13 we need a little bit more time. Because of that, we start immediately with the  
14 examination of the witness.

15 The Prosecution has the floor.

16 MS PRATHABAN: [11:32:02]

17 Q. [11:32:09] Mr Mongbandi, at paragraph 74 of your statement -- sorry, paragraph  
18 75, you explained that the decision to evacuate the Muslims from Mbaïki was  
19 announced at a meeting and you also explained that this meeting was attended by the  
20 *préfet*, Kouroupe-Awo, Djido Saleh and other well-respected Muslims.

21 Were you also present at this meeting?

22 A. [11:32:40] (No interpretation)

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:33:01] Do we have a translation? I think the  
24 witness agreed.

25 THE WITNESS: [11:33:12](Interpretation) Indeed.

1 THE INTERPRETER: [11:33:14] The Sango booth: The Sango booth has informed  
2 us that, yes, the witness did indicate that he agreed with the previous statement.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:33:32] Okay. Please continue.

4 MS PRATHABAN: [11:33:33]

5 Q. [11:33:34] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. And in the same paragraph you  
6 explained that this meeting was principally an open invitation for the Anti-Balaka to  
7 attend and agree not to harm the Muslims. Now, is the Anti-Balaka group you're  
8 referring to here Mr Yekatom's group?

9 A. [11:34:10] Yes, indeed, that was the Anti-Balaka group led by Yekatom based in  
10 Pissa.

11 Q. [11:34:19] Thank you. And did the Anti-Balaka group attend this meeting?

12 A. [11:34:40] Yekatom and his two deputies were present at this meeting at Jeanne  
13 d'Arc church.

14 Q. [11:34:53] So do I understand correctly that the announcement to evacuate the  
15 Muslims took place at the church as well?

16 A. [11:35:14] \* The meeting brought together the prefect and the local authorities  
17 and the Muslims, who feared the anti-Balaka. The Muslims who had assembled did  
18 not know what to do. A large meeting was called, and it was decided that the  
19 Muslims would be evacuated. But the decision that they would leave was taken in a  
20 discreet manner.

21 The authorities decided to inform Chad, and the President of Chad sent trucks to  
22 evacuate the Muslim colony.

23 Q. [11:36:14] And do you recall what was the reaction to -- by the Anti-Balaka  
24 group that were present to this announcement?

25 A. [11:36:32] No. The meeting about the evacuation of the Muslims decided upon

1 by the local authorities, the Anti-Balaka were not aware of that. I may have made  
2 a mistake in my statement. The Anti-Balaka were not aware of the meeting that had  
3 to do with the probable evacuation of the Muslims. It was the local authorities who  
4 kept the government informed -- the government of the Central African Republic, and  
5 then they contacted the Chadian government, and then after that, the Chadian forces  
6 arrived to evacuate the Muslims. But this meeting was not known to the  
7 Anti-Balaka.

8 Q. [11:37:47] Thank you for the clarification. So what I understand is that a  
9 decision was made to evacuate the Muslims, but then this decision was announced to  
10 the Muslims at a meeting, and this meeting you had also invited the Anti-Balaka to  
11 attend. And is it my understanding -- is my understanding correct that the  
12 Anti-Balaka did attend the announcement of the evacuation of the Muslims?

13 A. [11:38:17] The meeting where the decision was made to evacuate the Chadians,  
14 the Anti-Balaka were not present. The only meeting where the Anti-Balaka were  
15 present was the meeting that had to do with cohabitation between the two  
16 communities in Mbaïki, but the meeting concerning the evacuation of Muslims -- the  
17 Chadian Muslims or Muslims to Chad, that meeting was held in low-key -- a discreet  
18 way. \* That concerned the local authorities and the administration.

19 Q. [11:39:12] Thank you for the clarification, Mr Mongbandi. And when the  
20 decision was announced to evacuate the Muslims, what was the reaction of the  
21 Muslims present there when they heard the announcements?

22 A. [11:39:36] When the decision was announced, it was something that people  
23 wanted. They were looking forward to the arrival of the vehicles. However,  
24 during the evacuation, people were very sad because both Muslims and the  
25 native-born people were crying. \* I had friends myself amongst the Muslims. And the

1 soldiers who were responsible for the evacuation said that if the authorities only  
2 knew that the situation was like this they would not have carried out the evacuation,  
3 because they saw just how emotional people were during this separation. They said  
4 if only the local authorities knew what the situation was like, they would not carry  
5 out the evacuation.

6 Q. [11:40:56] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. And do you recall what was the  
7 reaction of your deputy, Djido, when he heard the announcement about the  
8 evacuation?

9 A. [11:41:24] When the announcement was made, he trusted his status. His medal  
10 -- as a mayor, he wore this medal, and in his mind, it was an assurance that he was  
11 running no risk. Members of his community asked him, even the religious  
12 authorities asked him to leave, to go into the vehicles and he refused. He said, "No  
13 way."

14 Q. [11:42:03] And was this something that Djido discussed with you as well?

15 A. [11:42:09] Yes. We talked about that. I believe it was three days before he was  
16 killed, the first deputy of the mayor and myself went to meet with him. He offered  
17 us some coffee, and we said to him to, "Come with us, we will take you to the  
18 MINUSCA site." And he said, no, he was not going to leave. He was not moving.

19 Q. [11:42:45] That's very helpful. Thank you, Mr Mongbandi.

20 Now, I'd just like to take you back to clarify something. You mentioned that the  
21 decision to evacuate the Muslims, the Anti-Balaka were not part of this decision. So  
22 when was Yekatom and his deputies informed about the decision to evacuate the  
23 Muslims?

24 A. [11:43:16] I don't know whether it was during or -- I don't know when. They  
25 were based in Pissa, and since that was information that had to do with the locality,

1 maybe they were aware, but I don't know how they heard about it or when they  
2 heard about it.

3 Q. [11:43:44] Thank you. That's fine. Okay. I'd like to show you a video, and  
4 this is a video of the visit by the then President, Catherine Samba-Panza, with the  
5 French defence minister to Mbaïki that took place on 12 February 2014 and I have  
6 some questions after that.

7 For the record, this is at tab 5, CAR-OTP-2023-1636.

8 And for the interpreters, the transcript is at tab 1 CAR-D29-0006-0107 at 0108, lines 13  
9 to 19. I will be playing it from minute 2:24 to minute 3:03. It can be shown  
10 publicly.

11 Could the interpreters let us know if you're ready.

12 THE INTERPRETER: [11:44:49] The interpreters are ready.

13 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

14 THE INTERPRETER: [11:45:10] (Interpretation of the video excerpt)

15 Sight translation:

16 "MR MARTIN MONGBANDI: On behalf of the people of the town of Mbaïki and  
17 those of Lobaye in general, we welcome you.

18 Your Excellency, Madam President of the Republic, the town of Mbaïki is honoured to  
19 receive such eminent high-level people today, namely, the President of the Republic,  
20 a number of days after her election, was so kind as to choose the town of Mbaïki for  
21 her first visit to the hinterland."

22 End of sight translation.

23 MS PRATHABAN: [11:46:00]

24 Q. [11:46:01] Mr Mongbandi, were you able to see and hear the video?

25 A. [11:46:05] (No interpretation)

1 Q. [11:46:07] And can you confirm this is you, at time stamp 3:03?

2 A. [11:46:19] Yes, I saw it, and I acknowledge that yes, it is me speaking. During  
3 that gathering, Djido was present. If you continue playing the footage, you will  
4 realise that this was during the visit by President Samba-Panza. We were together at  
5 that ceremony. If you continue showing the footage, you will realise that he was  
6 present. Thank you.

7 Q. [11:46:55] Thank you for the additional detail, Mr Mongbandi. You anticipated  
8 my next question actually. And do you recall what was the discussions you had  
9 with Djido regarding these events?

10 A. [11:47:26] Concerning this event, we were together before the President arrived.  
11 We were seated side-by-side, and even the people who were in Bangui during the  
12 various ceremonies took great interest in the event and were taking photographs.  
13 They feared nothing. With him, we continued to work together.

14 Q. [11:48:03] Thank you for the clarification, Mr Mongbandi. I will be playing  
15 another extract from the same video, same event from minute 1:01 to minute 2:05.  
16 And for the interpreters it's at tab 1, CAR-D29-0006-0107 at 0107, lines 13 to 0108 lines  
17 9.

18 Could you please let us know if you're ready.

19 THE INTERPRETER: [11:48:40] The interpreter is ready.

20 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

21 THE INTERPRETER: [11:48:44] (Interpretation of the video excerpt)

22 "UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER: The leader of the French army provided information  
23 about the assistance provided in the field and showed the authorities a large amount  
24 of weapons that were seized from the Anti-Balaka militia.

25 UNIDENTIFIED FRENCH SOLDIER: ... around Boda. It was ...



- 1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's Mbaïki?
- 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mbaïki and Boda.
- 3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Very well.
- 4 UNIDENTIFIED FRENCH SOLDIER: That's ... that's the weapon -- those are the  
5 weapons that were seized.
- 6 MR JEAN-YVES LE DRIAN: Anti-Balaka.
- 7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, from the Anti-Balaka basically. As you can see,  
8 they range from very basic bladed weapons to automatic weapons and home-made  
9 weapons. And here, we ... you can see the whole range of weapons being used  
10 against the population.
- 11 Okay, measures of confidence, that's no, only the words that you see on the chart, but  
12 it's also in material terms, the removal of these instruments from the people who  
13 should not have them.
- 14 MR JEAN-YVES LE DRIAN: And it was ... in Bangui, here, it was ... what kind of  
15 weapons?
- 16 UNIDENTIFIED FRENCH SOLDIER: Well, it was both weapons, a kind of a small  
17 Kalashnikov. And then at the end of the mission, the other weapons that we showed  
18 you a few moments ago.
- 19 MR JEAN-YVES LE DRIAN: Very well. Okay."
- 20 End of sight translation.
- 21 MS PRATHABAN: [11:50:53]
- 22 Q. [11:50:55] Mr Mongbandi, were you able to see and hear the video?
- 23 A. [11:51:01] Yes, I was able to see the footage and hear it. As far as I'm concerned,  
24 he did not take part -- I did not take part in this ceremony that we just viewed. I  
25 really don't have much to say about this particular ceremony.

1 Q. [11:51:32] Thank you. I was about to ask you questions on whether you had  
2 heard any discussions about this, since you were present on this day, the same day  
3 the event took place. But you explained to us that you had no knowledge of this, am  
4 I right?

5 A. [11:51:55] That is correct. I have no idea -- I knew nothing about it.

6 Q. [11:52:07] But did you hear about --

7 A. [11:52:08] I have no knowledge about that.

8 Q. [11:52:12] But apart from the ceremony, did you hear about weapons being  
9 seized from the Anti-Balaka by the Sangaris?

10 A. [11:52:32] Yes, I heard about it on the radio, because I was listening to the  
11 Central African radio and other stations as well. Some local community stations  
12 reported that weapons had been seized in Bangui in the north and in other parts of  
13 the Central African Republic, but that didn't happen in Mbaïki.

14 Q. [11:53:06] Thank you for the clarification, Mr Mongbandi.

15 We can remove the video from the screen.

16 I'll be changing topic now, and I have a few clarifications to ask you about the  
17 discussion that Mr Yekatom had with you the day after Djido Saleh's death, when he  
18 referred to meeting the MISCA colonel at his -- at the town hall, from what I see in the  
19 real-time transcript, page 28. You mentioned that many people were there.

20 Do you know if Mr Alexandre Kouroupe-Awo, the *préfet*, was also there?

21 A. [11:54:00] When the MISCA contingent deployed to the roundabout office, the  
22 city hall, there were only MISCA soldiers. During that time, Yekatom and his group  
23 were more further down, around the bus station. They said that the -- that the  
24 MISCA colonel had asked to see him -- to go see him. And when he went, before he  
25 left, we were speaking to him about the burial of Djido.

1 Unfortunately, he left to meet this MISCA contingent. There was colonel -- the  
2 colonel from the MISCA, and also senior officers from the MISCA, and that is when  
3 they gave the order to leave. And at that time I was further down, about 50 metres  
4 away. So they ordered him to leave the town of Mbaïki because in a boat, for  
5 example, you can't have two captains, and since he had established his base in Pissa,  
6 he was obliged to leave and go there.

7 So the MISCA, the MISCA contingent learned that he was in the town. And since he  
8 didn't want -- they -- they did not want what happened to Djido to happen to others,  
9 so they gave the order to leave the town. That is what happened.

10 Q. [11:56:07] And do you have any knowledge, when the MISCA colonel gave the  
11 order, if the gendarmeries were also present?

12 A. [11:56:36] Yes, it was 10 or 20 metres from the gendarmerie. The MISCA had  
13 their agenda. They were looking for Yekatom's group and they wanted to tell them  
14 to leave the town of Mbaïki. And they didn't know whether it was the Anti-Balaka  
15 or -- they were asked to leave, because you couldn't have two captains or two  
16 commanders in a single locality.

17 Q. [11:57:20] Thank you. You mentioned that the gendarmerie were also present.  
18 Do you recall seeing the chief of the gendarmerie there?

19 A. [11:57:40] The company commander was at the office. I don't know what he  
20 was doing. He was there. On the day of Djido's murder, he was there because  
21 when Djido was chased from Baguirmi neighbourhood and he was finished off in the  
22 gendarmerie compound, the CC, company commander, was present -- the CC of the  
23 gendarmerie was present. Something happened.

24 Q. [11:58:29] Thank you. And at the day of the meeting with the MISCA colonel  
25 and Mr Yekatom, do you recall if the chief of the gendarmerie was present at this

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1 meeting?

2 A. [11:58:54] No, he wasn't there. The MISCA had its own agenda and the  
3 company commander had his own agenda, and the prefect had his own agenda.  
4 And, you see, it was part of MISCA's agenda, that is why they decided to come and  
5 meet Yekatom and ask him to leave the town of Mbaïki.

6 Q. [11:59:30] Thank you. I understand that the MISCA's agenda, as you put it,  
7 was to ask Mr Yekatom to leave Mbaïki. But at the time that they asked him to leave,  
8 at that moment, do you know if the gendarmerie -- the chief of the gendarmerie, the  
9 prefect and others were present? If you know.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:59:54] Yes?

11 MS DIMITRI: [11:59:55] Mr President, I think the answer was -- was quite clear.  
12 She asked --

13 THE WITNESS: [11:59:59](No interpretation) (Overlapping speakers)

14 MS DIMITRI: [11:59:59] -- the question quite a few times, and he specifically said  
15 that the CC wasn't present, the préfet wasn't present; that it was only the MINUSCA.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:00:11] I also understood it like that.

17 But since the witness has already answered, you can perhaps tell us what the answer  
18 was, if it confirms what our suspicion is, that it has already been answered.

19 THE INTERPRETER: [12:00:32] Message from the booth: Could the witness repeat  
20 his last answer.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:00:36] Mr Witness, can you please repeat your  
22 last answer. It did not come through with the translation. Apologies for that.

23 THE WITNESS: [12:00:46](Interpretation) I was talking about the MISCA's work, so  
24 their soldiers came and they were stationed opposite the city hall, specifically at the  
25 roundabout of the town. \* They were looking for the leader of the Anti-Balaka to issue

1 the order to leave Mbaïki, because the town was under the command of the, MISCA,  
2 not the Anti-Balaka. So that decision by the MISCA did not have to do with the  
3 prefect or the CC, or me, the mayor. It was the decision taken by the MISCA. So  
4 their leader gave the order to Yekatom to leave the town and he carried out the order,  
5 he complied with it.

6 MS PRATHABAN: [12:01:52]

7 Q. [12:01:52] Thank you for the clarification, Mr Mongbandi. Now, taking you  
8 back to the time when you had to bury Djido Saleh, do you recall if his family was  
9 able to attend his burial?

10 A. [12:02:23] No, not at all. Djido was all by himself with his wife and his  
11 under-age child. After his murder, the body was put at the funeral site and the  
12 family did not participate in the burial. I was looking for Muslims so that the burial  
13 could take place in accordance with Muslim tradition. I managed to get Muslims,  
14 Central African, who could participate in the burial ceremony.

15 Q. [12:03:19] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. You mentioned that Djido was all by  
16 himself with his wife and under-age child. What was the reason why they were not  
17 present at this burial?

18 A. [12:03:33] How could they travel? \* The whole town of Mbaïki was in chaos.  
19 The wife and child were basically put in a safe space. Subsequently, they were  
20 evacuated to Bangui. It really wasn't possible that the wife could come to attend the  
21 funeral of her husband because the situation was very risky.

22 Q. [12:04:20] You mentioned that they couldn't attend the funeral because the  
23 situation was very risky. Could you elaborate on what you meant by "the situation  
24 was very risky."

25 A. [12:04:49] His wife was Muslim. If the Anti-Balaka took note of her presence,

1 she could have been executed. Muslim men did not have the courage to stay on.

2 Some travelled to the MISCA base, and others preferred to seek refuge in Bangui.

3 A woman could not really put up with such a situation.

4 Q. [12:05:30] Thank you for the additional details, Mr Mongbandi.

5 Now, you described today, having to bury your own deputy, Djido Saleh, after he  
6 was killed. Could you tell the Chamber the impact his killing had on you.

7 A. [12:06:08] What really caused an impact on me was the fact that a human being  
8 was decapitated. This was a horrible act. During this conflict, many people fled,  
9 but I did stay on. And thank God that the Red Cross contributed a lot. The  
10 accountant of the town hall also provided assistance. The secretary-general of the  
11 town hall also helped out. The Mbaïki youth, under the supervision of MISCA, dug  
12 up the grave. The prefect asked assistance from the MISCA. The MISCA escorted  
13 us to the cemetery and this really allowed Djido's burial.

14 Q. [12:07:22] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. And did you ever learn who had killed  
15 Djido Saleh?

16 A. [12:07:46] No, not at all. No one told me who killed him. Who was the enemy  
17 of the Muslims? It was the Anti-Balaka. So one can conclude that it was the  
18 Anti-Balaka who killed him. Now, just for an example, there was an Anti-Balaka  
19 combatant who severed his penis and this lady took him to Pissa, which was the  
20 Anti-Balaka base; so this is why I can conclude that the perpetrators of this crime  
21 were the Anti-Balaka. The combat was between two entities: The Anti-Balaka and  
22 the Seleka.

23 Q. [12:08:48] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. You described specifically about how  
24 there was a female Anti-Balaka combatant who had severed Djido Saleh's penis.  
25 How did you learn this information?

1 A. [12:09:08] I got this information because when I was going to Djido's funeral, his  
2 penis and his testicles were not there. I basically buried him without his genitals.

3 Q. [12:09:42] Thank you. But how did you learn who had perpetrated that?  
4 Who had caused it? You referred to a female Anti-Balaka combatant.

5 A. [12:10:09] You see, I was the mayor of the town. I received intelligence or  
6 information saying that it was a woman who severed his genitals. I wasn't present  
7 when this occurred, but I subsequently got to know that it was a woman who severed  
8 his genitals. And there was a person who basically was unconscious after this  
9 incident.

10 Q. [12:10:58] And just to clarify, the information that you received was also that  
11 this woman was part of the Anti-Balaka; is that right?

12 A. [12:11:09] Yes, that's right, it was an Anti-Balaka woman who was based in  
13 Pissa.

14 Q. [12:11:28] Did you receive other information in relation to this woman who was  
15 based in Pissa? For example, which group she was in?

16 A. [12:11:55] I got to know that she was part of the Anti-Balaka based in Pissa  
17 under the authority of Mr Rambo. It was them -- the perpetrators of this crime who  
18 left to execute the mission and they went back. Even those who were living close to  
19 Djido's house had to move house subsequent to this incident.

20 Q. [12:12:38] Thank you for the details; it's really helpful. Do you recall whether  
21 you heard her name? You received information about her name?

22 A. [12:12:55] No, not at all.

23 Q. [12:13:02] And my last question on this topic, do you recall receiving  
24 information about other Anti-Balaka perpetrators in relation to these incidents?

25 A. [12:13:24] I did not receive any information on the name and no other

1 information, besides what I just told you here.

2 Q. [12:13:38] Thank you for that, Mr Mongbandi; it's really helpful. Now, I've  
3 come to the last question for you. You described in your statement that after the  
4 Muslims were evacuated from Mbaïki, the town's population was reduced by a third.  
5 As the then mayor of Mbaïki, what was the impact their evacuation had on you and  
6 the town?

7 A. [12:14:27] You see, the commercial district was predominantly Muslim. I  
8 would say 80 per cent of that district was Muslim.  
9 After their departure, there was a shortage of basic day-to-day items. \* The Central  
10 Africans had problems taking over. Business was back to usual  
11 very gradually.

12 Q. [12:15:19] Thank you, Mr Mongbandi. Thank you for your patience in  
13 answering all of my questions.

14 Thank you to the Chamber and the interpreters.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:15:28] Thank you very much.

16 And the usual question, Ms Dimitri, you have said you would need perhaps five  
17 hours.

18 I can already assume that Ms Proulx will not be very persistent.

19 MS PROULX: [12:15:48] You are again correct, Mr President. I doubt we will have  
20 much for this witness, if anything.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:15:55] Thank you.

22 Ms Dimitri.

23 MS DIMITRI: [12:15:59] Thank you, Mr President. With your leave and with your  
24 Honours' leave, what we suggest is to start now with some subjects that were not  
25 impacted by the examination-in-chief, and then I notice that my learned friend went



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1 into several paragraphs that we intended to go into; so we could use the afternoon to  
2 perhaps reduce and hopefully finish -- hopefully for lunch tomorrow.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:16:27] Yes, I think that's very reasonable; so I  
4 give Ms Casiez --

5 Ms Rabesandratana, do you have any questions?

6 MS RABESANDRATANA: [12:16:37](Interpretation) Yes, your Honour, I've got  
7 a few questions, if you have absolutely no problem with that.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:16:43] (Overlapping microphones)... no, it was  
9 not indicated, because of that I had not asked you, but of course if you have questions,  
10 please start now and then nevertheless, we will continue with Ms Casiez.

11 Please, Ms Rabesandratana.

12 MS RABESANDRATANA: [12:17:03](Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour, so  
13 much.

14 QUESTIONED BY MS RABESANDRATANA: (Interpretation)

15 Q. [12:17:10] Good morning, Witness. You know me, I am

16 Elisabeth Rabesandratana and we met during the familiarisation meeting a few days  
17 ago. Now, I have got a few questions to get clearer information. I represent the  
18 victims of other crimes in this case. First of all, in paragraph 15, you have actually  
19 replied in part during the examination-in-chief, you explained that the Muslim  
20 population accounted for one-third. You also added -- you said that Yérima, Borno,  
21 Baguirmi, these were the districts that were predominantly Muslim.

22 My question is as follows, currently the Muslim population that had fled, has this  
23 population returned?

24 A. [12:18:17] Well, they haven't lost anything. I was very careful, and some  
25 people have come back to their homes and others who stayed abroad sold their

1 houses. There was no destruction. I said that there was no combat in -- there was  
2 no fighting in Mbaïki; so there was no destruction of houses. The houses stayed  
3 intact. Thank you.

4 Q. [12:19:13] I would like to thank you, Witness. Now, I've got another question  
5 on the population of Mbaïki and also this population and the rest of the population.  
6 Currently what is the sentiment of the people in Mbaïki after these crimes?

7 A. [12:19:40] Thank you for your question. I told you that when the presiding  
8 judge asked me this question, Mbaïki is coming back to life, so to speak, because there  
9 are NGOs that worked in the city to promote social cohesion between the two  
10 communities -- the Christians, the Muslims, and now they coexist peacefully.  
11 There is no separation and there is no division; so peace is gradually being restored  
12 and this question is really welcomed, and our wish is that the Court or even the  
13 President can promote the return of refugees, so that the social cohesion project can  
14 come to fruition and this city can develop.

15 Q. [12:21:01] Thank you. Currently what is the proportion of Muslims with  
16 respect to the rest of the population?

17 A. [12:21:21] Now, in terms of proportions, I would say that there are many  
18 Muslims who have come back. They have their shops. In the past, yes, there were  
19 very few, but now they are in greater numbers, and they are getting along with their  
20 day-to-day activities. I'm a mayor, I've come from there, and the peaceful  
21 co-existence is -- has become a reality. There are no -- there are no qualms on this  
22 point. Now the refugees who abandoned their property and houses have returned  
23 and their property is intact. The business has picked up and people are living  
24 normally and are peacefully coexisting.

25 Q. [12:22:25] Thank you. Now if you do not know the answer, please feel free to

1 say so, would there be 30 per cent or 20 per cent or 10 per cent?

2 A. [12:22:48] Well, it's -- I cannot put a percentage, but I told you that they have  
3 come back. I would say that 15 to 20 per cent of the Muslims have come back and  
4 have resumed their day-to-day business in the city of Mbaïki.

5 Q. [12:23:15] Okay, very well, Mr Witness. I'm going to change the subject. In  
6 paragraph 38, you indicated that there were two groups of Muslims, the ones who  
7 wanted to bear weapons and the others who did not. Now, according to the best of  
8 your recollections, can you estimate the percentage of Muslims who wanted -- or who  
9 basically took up arms and those who did not?

10 A. [12:23:53] No, I think they were in a minority. The ones who wanted to bear  
11 weapons, they were just bad elements. They created problems in Bangui and  
12 Bouchia, but the Muslims of Mbaïki did not want a war. It was just  
13 a handful -- a minority of people who were creating trouble.

14 Q. [12:24:26] Thank you. Now, according to the best of your recollections, did the  
15 Muslim population that refused to take up weapons, were they also attacked by the  
16 Anti-Balaka?

17 MS DIMITRI: [12:24:41] Mr President.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:24:46] Ms Rabesandratana, I don't allow the  
19 question. This is out of the realm of the questioning by the victim representatives,  
20 and it's in contradiction to our initial conduct of proceedings, and it was covered  
21 already by the Prosecution.

22 Please continue.

23 MS RABESANDRATANA: [12:25:10](Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour.

24 Q. [12:25:15] Now in -- in the end of paragraph 85, during the evacuation, you said  
25 that some of the effects of -- some of the property of Muslims was rather voluminous

1 and some Muslims basically agreed to keep their property. And I would like to  
2 know with regard to Muslims who were hurriedly evacuated and who did not have  
3 the opportunity to give their property to certain people, what happened to these  
4 people? What happened to the houses that were abandoned, for instance? The  
5 houses that were not taken care of by Muslims residing?

6 A. [12:26:20] \* With regards to houses, they were protected and they stayed intact.  
7 However, a few large items were not loaded into vehicles because there was no room,  
8 so these people basically left their property behind. And the people who -- various  
9 onlookers took these items. But it is clear that their homes were not destroyed, even  
10 though the items of property were large and could not be carried in the vehicles.  
11 These items were taken by onlookers, the people who were present as they were  
12 leaving. There is justice, and I don't think any Muslims have actually filed a  
13 complaint reporting the destruction of their property or their houses.

14 Q. [12:27:36] Thank you (Overlapping microphones)

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:27:39] Ms Rabesandratana --

16 MS RABESANDRATANA: [12:27:40] *Pardon* --

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:27:41] Ms Rabesandratana, you have correctly  
18 referred to paragraph 85, and the witness has answered the questions already, yes,  
19 with regards to what happened and those who wanted to take their cooking pots, for  
20 example, with them and they were grabbed by others afterwards and some were  
21 protected. The witness has answered that already. So if you have questions  
22 that are not already -- where the answers are not already in the Rule 68(3) statement,  
23 you are free to ask them but if you don't, I think we can leave it at that.

24 MS DIMITRI: [12:28:17] There's a small --

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:28:19] You don't agree, Ms Dimitri?

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1 MS DIMITRI: [12:28:21] No, I agree. There's a small translation issue, Mr President.

2 It says in the English:

3 "The vehicles basically were occupied by the population ..."

4 But that -- it's not what the witness said in French; so I'm just flagging it --

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:28:35] Yes, but this will -- in the process, this  
6 will be corrected.

7 Ms Rabesandratana, yes, you have the floor.

8 MS RABESANDRATANA: [12:28:47](Interpretation)

9 Q. [12:28:47] My last question was on the subject -- it was on homes, not property.  
10 Now, these homes -- are people living in these homes again?

11 A. [12:29:05] Yes. Now, people are living in these homes. They're occupied by  
12 some youth, but if the owner comes back, the youth will free up the homes because it  
13 was also about up-keeping these houses. And these houses are occupied by youth  
14 who do not have a house, and many Muslims are coming back to the city and  
15 recovering their houses. Some of them have actually designated the locals to take  
16 care of their homes. On this point, there is absolutely no problem.

17 Q. [12:29:56] Thank you so much. This was my last question, and I would really  
18 like to thank you for providing all this additional information which is extremely  
19 useful.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:30:06] Thank you very much, Ms  
21 Rabesandratana.

22 Is it enough time to start for you, Ms Casiez? Okay, fine. Then please, you have the  
23 floor.

24 MS CASIEZ: [12:30:22] If you allow me, Mr President. Thank you.

25 QUESTIONED BY MS CASIEZ: (Interpretation)

1 Q. [12:30:32] Good morning, sir.

2 THE INTERPRETER: [12:30:34] Apologies from the booth: Overlapping channels.

3 Could counsel repeat her question.

4 MS CASIEZ: [12:30:47] (Interpretation)

5 Q. [12:30:48] Good morning, sir. We met briefly last week. I'll introduce myself  
6 again, Lena Casiez, and I'm a member of Mr Alfred Yekatom's Defence team and I  
7 have a number of questions for you today, not for very long and also for tomorrow.  
8 Is that all right with you?

9 A. [12:31:13] Yes, that's fine.

10 Q. [12:31:20] At paragraph 33 of your statement, and I'll quote, because this is the  
11 first time I've mentioned it. This is tab 11, French version CAR-OTP-2107-6304, you  
12 made mention of Abdelkarim who was the president of the Muslim youth group.  
13 And I would just like to know, do we agree that we're talking about Abdoul Azim --  
14 Amousamil, the president of ... Are we talking about the same person?

15 A. [12:32:25] What is this about, please?

16 Q. [12:32:27] Sorry, I might have been a bit abrupt. Let me give you some  
17 background. You said that there were two kinds of Muslims in Mbaïki when you  
18 were answering questions from my colleague opposite, and then you said that you  
19 managed to recall the names of several influential people. You gave some names  
20 and then you said Abdelkarim, the president of the Muslim youth. \* Were you talking  
21 about Abdoul Salam Amousamil. Yes or no?

22 A. [12:33:08] I don't know what difference there is or what distinction I could make,  
23 but the person I mentioned -- well, these people were the ones who left and engaged  
24 in reprisals. They left and went to take vengeance; that's why I mentioned their  
25 names. It is true, he is the president of the Mbaïki youth group or youth association.

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1 Q. [12:33:40] Thank you for that information, sir. Now at paragraph 111 -- I'm  
2 shifting to another topic, paragraph 111, you said that you consider Mr -- paragraph  
3 111, you said that Kevin Kakpayen is like a son to you. Now, I'd like to know is  
4 there a family tie between the Bomassa family and the Kakpayen family?

5 A. [12:34:21] I don't know whether they are related, but I mentioned that person  
6 because he was the representative of an NGO that was taking care of  
7 children -- children -- child soldiers. They were taking care of these children, and  
8 they asked for the names of the children, and that's why I suggested that the  
9 investigators approach the NGOs -- this NGO, if they were interested in the names of  
10 child soldiers. So that is how it came to be that I mentioned that name.

11 Q. [12:35:16] Thank you.

12 A. [12:35:20] I'd like to add something. I wanted to specify one thing. I believe I  
13 saw that the Anti-Balaka had not used children in their movement. I said in my  
14 statement that the Anti-Balaka needed people, able-bodied people so that they could  
15 engage in extortion or get money from people. That's one point I wanted to make.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:35:58] And if I may, the paragraph 111 that you  
17 cited, he also said -- the witness said in concordance with that -- that it's mostly  
18 former members of Seleka I think he also mentions. So I think we don't have to  
19 elaborate further on that.

20 MS CASIEZ: [12:36:23] It was my only question, Mr President, so I will move on.  
21 Thank you for the advice.

22 Q. [12:36:31] (Interpretation) Thank you for that information, sir.  
23 Now I'd like to move to a different topic and I do have some questions for you. At  
24 paragraphs 47 to 50 of your statement, you mentioned the murder of an elderly  
25 Muslim person in Bangui-Bouchia, and I'll try to summarise and you can tell me if

1 I've got it right, is this a correct summary, if I -- did the murder occur in  
2 February 2014? Was it committed by Yekatom's men based in Pissa? Was he killed  
3 because he was a rich man? And --

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:37:18] This question is much too compound.

5 Please, one after the other. Was it in February? Was it this person, that person?

6 Please, it's easier for the witness. That's -- there's a lot of information in it - that was  
7 already four questions in one. Please, I appreciate it that you want to spare time, but  
8 I think it's even quicker when we do it this way.

9 MS CASIEZ: [12:37:45] No problem, Mr President. Of course.

10 Q. [12:37:50](Interpretation) I'll start my question again, Mr Witness. In your  
11 statement, you mentioned a murder, the murder of a Muslim man in Bangui-Bouchia.  
12 First of all, are you talking about Zacharia Hamid and his son, Abdoulaye Taïr? Do  
13 you remember? Zacharia Hamid?

14 A. [12:38:21] I told you that the names are similar. I don't know whether this is  
15 the person that you just mentioned. But regarding the person who was killed in  
16 Bangui-Bouchia, I believe I talked about that in my statement. They were -- they  
17 were some bad elements who met and they wanted to go and seek revenge, engage in  
18 reprisals. I didn't know those people by name. But the mayor -- if you wanted to  
19 have more information, it would be better to ask the mayor of Pissa because the  
20 commune in question was far away. When these things happen, I receive  
21 information from various sources and I also took part. But as for providing  
22 information about the names, I can't do that.

23 Q. [12:39:43] That's not a problem, Mr Witness. I'll show you a document now  
24 and let's try to see if this refreshes your memory. This is tab 1 of the Defence binder,  
25 CAR-D29-0016-0056, and if this item could be put up on the screen. Middle of the



1 account, please. If you could scroll down slightly. Thank you very much.

2 "C'était dans la nuit du mercredi 02 Octobre 2013, que deux hommes en armes ont fait

3 irruption dans le village Bangui-Bouchia et ont abattu deux tchandiens : Messieurs

4 ZACHARIA Hamid et Abdoulaye TAÏR."

5 (No interpretation)

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:40:56] Microphone in the booth, please.

7 MS CASIEZ: [12:41:08] (Interpretation)

8 Q. [12:41:08] Did that ...

9 THE INTERPRETER: [12:41:09] Apologies from the booth.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:41:10] I think you have to repeat.

11 THE WITNESS: [12:41:11](Overlapping speakers)

12 MS CASIEZ: [12:41:17](Interpretation)

13 Q. [12:41:18] We did not hear your answer, and the question was not heard either;

14 so I will repeat. In this article mention is made of a murder in Bangui-Bouchia. I

15 think we're talking about the same event, but I don't want to push you on this.

16 Now, was it in October 2013, well before the evacuation of Muslims from Bangui?

17 Does that refresh your memory about the period of time in question?

18 A. [12:41:50] Yes, that is true. When those events occurred, the Muslims were still

19 there and some of them left to engage in reprisals. They fought the Anti-Balaka who

20 were there. Unfortunately, the local people paid the price. I also said that my

21 deputy, Djido, was part of this group that went to engage in reprisals.

22 During that time, the Muslims were still there. When this elderly man was killed in

23 Bangui-Bouchia, the -- they were still there.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:42:53] I don't have the -- I don't have the

25 impression that we are talking --

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1 THE WITNESS: [12:42:57](Interpretation) When the elderly man was killed in  
2 Bangui-Bouchia, the Muslims were still there.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:43:04] I don't have the impression that  
4 Ms Casiez and the witness are talking about the same incident, because what the  
5 witness describes in paragraph 47 is, in so many aspects, different from it.  
6 You would have to try differently because --

7 Mr Witness, in this paragraph 47 of your statement, you speak -- perhaps we can do it  
8 this way. Do you have any information first-hand on this incident? Of this killing  
9 of the elder man, like you said. Do you have any first-hand information or is this  
10 hearsay, if I may ask you this way?

11 THE WITNESS: [12:43:53](Interpretation) I don't have information to give you about  
12 these events, because this didn't happen in my area of jurisdiction. It happened in  
13 another commune and they brought the body back. We just carried out the burial.  
14 I am not in a position to give you further details about these events.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:44:31] I'm saying that because in this -- in his  
16 statement, he says early February 2014.

17 The incident happened after the Seleka left, Mr Witness; is that correct? You are  
18 speaking about an incident that happened after the Seleka had left; is that correct?

19 THE WITNESS: [12:44:57](Interpretation) No. Concerning the murder of this man  
20 in Bangui-Bouchia, that was well before. But while -- that happened while the  
21 Muslims were still there at that location.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:45:24] So then I might be wrong, so please  
23 continue, but we will -- I think we can figure it out for 100 per cent. But okay, it  
24 might be that incident, yes.

25 MS CASIEZ: [12:45:34] Yes, I'm sorry, Mr President, but because it's a 68(3) witness,

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- 1 I have to go until –
- 2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:45:39] You have to perhaps –
- 3 MS CASIEZ: [12:45:40] -- a couple of details --
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:45:41] No, no, no. Just that --
- 5 MS CASIEZ: [11:31:24] I have to continue.
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: No, you have to. Yes, it's okay. Fine.
- 7 MS CASIEZ: [12:45:45] Thank you.
- 8 Q. [12:45:46](Microphone not activated)
- 9 THE INTERPRETER: [12:45:48] Microphone, please.
- 10 MS CASIEZ: [12:45:49](Interpretation)
- 11 Q. [12:45:50] Thank you, Mr Witness, for that information. I'd like to show you
- 12 another document, and this is tab 5 of the Defence binder, CAR-OTP-2088-2612.
- 13 If we could go to the second page, please. Perfect. Thank you.
- 14 Just to give you a bit of background. This is an article, 28 October 2013, and this is
- 15 an article that was written by the son of Zacharia about the murder in Bangui-Bouchia.
- 16 First of all, can you confirm that this incident was the topic of a great deal of
- 17 discussion in Lobaye area and that it was a well-known matter?
- 18 A. [12:47:09] Yes. What happened in Bangui-Bouchia was known to everyone and
- 19 everyone was talking about it. On the other hand, I can't give you more specific
- 20 information because the events occurred in an area that was at a distance from mine.
- 21 The mayors of the commune of Bangui-Bouchia who -- could give you the details
- 22 about this incident.
- 23 Q. [12:47:51] Thank you. I'd like to ask you one last question and then I'll speed
- 24 up because the article is up on the screen. In this article we read this:
- 25 "According to the population, Zacharia is a Muslim. He sheltered the Seleka when

1 they arrived in the village, he supported them, he gave them water to drink. That is  
2 why the population think that my father was part of the Seleka coalition."

3 Is this something you heard about?

4 A. [12:48:42] That's what people said. But I think, you see, there was some hatred  
5 between the Muslims and the Christians; that is what contributed to everything.  
6 Some people said that it was because he was a rich man. Was that the reason that  
7 people went to that place and attacked him? I have no idea.

8 Q. [12:49:27] Thank you for that additional information. You just mentioned  
9 hatred between Muslims and Christians, and at paragraph 49 you said that the  
10 Muslims thought that it was the Anti-Balaka from Bangui-Bouchia who killed this  
11 Muslim man. When you said this, that Muslims thought that Anti-Balaka from  
12 Bangui-Bouchia killed this person, are you referring to Muslims from Pissa, from  
13 Mbaïki, from Bangui-Bouchia? Could you be more specific.

14 A. [12:50:07] Just to ensure that everything is clear about the murder of this elderly  
15 man, when I was in Mbaïki, what I know is that some Muslims in Mbaïki had formed  
16 a group of people to go down and engage in reprisals in Bangui-Bouchia, subsequent  
17 to the murder of this older man, and that led to three or four deaths. The body of  
18 this man was taken to Mbaïki, and I was present when the body was buried.

19 Q. [12:51:10] Thank you, Mr Witness. Now, in your statement, once again the  
20 same paragraphs, you said that an identity card was found at the scene and you were  
21 told that the person was one of Yekatom's elements. \* Now, have I understood  
22 correctly that these were distant rumours, and you don't actually know what had  
23 happened and who was responsible for the murder? Particularly since we're well  
24 ahead when we're talking about this period of time, October 2013?

25 A. [12:51:55] What you're saying, I believe that's true. They showed me the ID

1 card, but I couldn't get specific information about the identity or the origin of the  
2 person.

3 Q. [12:52:24] Thank you, Mr Witness. I'd now like to move to a different topic,  
4 although it is somewhat related to paragraph 50 of your statement, you made  
5 mention of a delegation with two government ministers and the prefect,  
6 Mr Kouroupe-Awo, who distributed aid to the people of Bangui-Bouchia.  
7 Am I to understand that this mission was sent just after the events in Bangui-Bouchia  
8 that we have been discussing? Is that correct?

9 A. [12:52:59] Yes, it was only after -- the mission occurred after.

10 Q. [12:53:18] Thank you. I'd now like to show you a document, and this is tab 14  
11 of the Defence binder, CAR-D29-0005-0497. This is a report drafted by  
12 a parliamentary mission that was sent to -- and I believe this is the mission that you  
13 mentioned in your statement. Here, we see -- if we could go to the second page,  
14 please, and if we could zoom in. At the top, we see the list of the people who were  
15 part of the mission. If we could just scroll down slightly. Could we scroll down?  
16 So, "The mission and presence of the Prefect of Lobaye Mr Alexandre  
17 KOUROUPE-AWO ..."

18 And then at page 0500, if we could move to that page, we also see that the  
19 delegation -- thank you -- that the delegation provided salt, sugar and basic  
20 commodities. Now -- and soap. Now, do you know about this? Did the  
21 delegation provide this assistance to the population?

22 A. [12:55:06] Yes.

23 Q. [12:55:14] Thank you. And in the middle of the second page --

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:55:29] You mean 0499?

25 MS CASIEZ: [12:55:40] I am not sure, Mr President, I'm sorry.

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- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:55:43] "De la réunion de Bangui-Bouchia".
- 2 MS CASIEZ: [12:55:45] I'm looking for a paragraph with the "population de Pissa",
- 3 but I'm going to find it in a minute.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:55:55] Okay.
- 5 MS CASIEZ: [12:56:16] (Interpretation) Yes, that's the right page. Thank you.
- 6 Q. [12:56:26] I'm sorry, sir. Now, on this document we see that -- in the report, we
- 7 see that the people who drafted this report said that:
- 8 The people of Pissa favourably welcomed the various remarks, but stressed that --
- 9 THE INTERPRETER: [12:56:51] Correction --
- 10 MS CASIEZ: [12:56:52](Interpretation)
- 11 Q. [12:56:53] -- favoured the various interventions, but stressed that the elements
- 12 of the ex-Seleka coalition based at the Pissa gendarmerie were terrorising the
- 13 population and taking away machetes, their only work tools.
- 14 Am to understand that this mission was based in Pissa -- at the gendarmerie in Pissa?
- 15 A. [12:57:26] Yes, they were there.
- 16 Q. [12:57:30] Thank you. Further down we read that the parliamentary mission
- 17 was informed about various events subsequent to --
- 18 THE INTERPRETER: [12:57:48] Message from the interpreter: Could the court
- 19 clerk scroll down.
- 20 MS CASIEZ: [12:57:53] (Interpretation)
- 21 Q. [12:57:54] The report mentions Palmex, as you did, but there's no mention of
- 22 a meeting with Anti-Balaka members in Pissa, and I'd just like to ask you to
- 23 confirm that this mission -- we are talking about October 2013 -- did not meet with the
- 24 Anti-Balaka in Pissa? Can you confirm this?
- 25 A. [12:58:18] You are talking about October 2013? October 2013 -- I think they

1 were still in Pissa. They were still in Pissa.

2 Q. [12:58:36] You are talking about the Seleka? Do we agree?

3 A. [12:58:40] Yes.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:58:54] Yes, the witness has confirmed that.

5 MS CASIEZ: [12:58:58] (Interpretation)

6 Q. [12:59:05] Thank you, Mr Witness. I have two questions left for you this

7 morning. Now, at paragraph 51 of your statement, you said that Mr Yekatom

8 wanted to kill the prefect and that he had an opportunity to do so when the

9 government ministers had come to provide aid to the people of Bangui-Bouchia.

10 Perhaps the investigators misunderstood what you said or perhaps your memories

11 are a bit hazy. Were these rumours or is this something that the prefect told you?

12 A. [12:59:59] The prefect, Kouroupe-Awo, did tell me that it was Rambo. In actual

13 fact he said to me that Rambo wanted to hurt him, do him harm in Pissa. But he had

14 been lucky and he had been able to get away. Prefect Kouroupe-Awo himself told

15 me this when he wanted to move towards Bangui.

16 Q. [13:00:55] Thank you, Mr Witness. So what the prefect told you, was that just

17 before the meeting at the St Jeanne d'Arc church when Mr Kouroupe-Awo wanted to

18 meet Mr Yekatom in Pissa?

19 A. [13:01:11] No. No. I think it was well before. You know, Kouroupe-Awo

20 was on the Seleka side and Rambo was on the Anti-Balaka side. I think that this

21 event happened well before -- at the beginning.

22 Q. [13:01:54] You said "well before", sir. Are you talking about before the time

23 Djotodia stepped down?

24 A. [13:02:12] The person who appointed Kouroupe-Awo at that -- to that position

25 was Djotodia. He was his man. After that appointment -- it was after that

1 appointment, after the appointment of the prefect, that is when the situation occurred.

2 I repeat: It was Mr Djotodia who had appointed the prefect, so after he was  
3 appointed the Seleka were still there. \* The Anti-Balaka were taking action as well,  
4 but secretly.

5 Q. [13:03:12] Thank you. I have one last question for you. Mr Kouroupe-Awo  
6 came to give testimony here, publicly, and he stated -- transcript 182, speaking of  
7 Mr Yekatom, 14:17, he said this:

8 I never had any clashes or skirmishes with him and he didn't have any trouble with  
9 me. There was never any negative signs.

10 He also confirmed that he never told anyone and he never told you that Mr Yekatom  
11 wanted to kill him. Does this refresh your memory? Did you want to make  
12 a suggestion?

13 A. [13:04:01] Why would I lie here, especially on behalf of such a personality? It's  
14 the prefect himself who gave me this information.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [13:04:18] So (Overlapping microphones)

16 MS CASIEZ: [13:04:23] (Interpretation)

17 Q. [13:04:27] *Je vous remercie*, Mr Mongbandi, I'll come back to you tomorrow with  
18 further questions.

19 MS CASIEZ: [13:04:30] Mr President, I think we can ...

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [13:04:33] Thank you very much, Ms Casiez.

21 And a very special thank you, Mr Mongbandi, for answering so patiently the  
22 questions for today, but we still continue, obviously, tomorrow at 9:30.

23 THE COURT USHER: [13:04:44] All rise.

24 (The hearing ends in open session at 1.04 p.m.)

25 CORRECTIONS REPORT



1 The following corrections, marked with an asterisk \* and not included in the  
2 audio-visual recording of the hearing, are brought into the transcript.

3 Page 8 line 8-9:

4 " I actually gathered all my courage to be present and resist. These people came and  
5 they wanted to correct him."

6 is corrected to:

7 " I actually gathered all my courage to be present and resist. When his fellow Muslims  
8 came, he was there, and they wanted to beat him up because he had lied to them."

9 Page 8 line 18-22:

10 " These -- this information included that I was the mayor and I was present in Mbaïki.  
11 Djido had a truck and he was pillaged by the Seleka. They basically would take  
12 property away forcibly, and after they took the property, they forced Djido to load the  
13 stolen goods in their truck and drive them to drive it to Mbaïki, and from Mbaïki,  
14 these goods could be transported elsewhere. Thank you."

15 is corrected to:

16 " When I was the mayor of Mbaiki, I was in control of the town. Djido was like a  
17 Central African already. He had many resources, including a large vehicle. The goal  
18 of the Seleka was to loot the possessions of the Central Africans. Then they would ask  
19 Djido to load up these items into his vehicle and take them from Mbaiki to Bangui.  
20 From there, they could send them wherever they wanted to."

21 Page 13 line 14-17:

22 " Well, all those roadblocks or barriers that had been set up, he could people couldn't  
23 go through without being checked. They would be stopped at each roadblock and  
24 they would have to speak to the elements. They couldn't skip over a roadblock."

25 is corrected to:

1 " Well, all those roadblocks that he had set up, he could not go by them without  
2 checking. He would stop at each roadblock to ask the elements what they had been  
3 up to. He couldn't skip over a roadblock."

4 Page 16 line 3-4:

5 " After they took control of Mbaïki and the city hall, they wanted to go on to Boda,  
6 and that is where they died."

7 is corrected to:

8 " After they took control of Mbaïki and the city hall, they wanted to go on to Boda,  
9 and that is where he died."

10 Page 22 line 11-12:

11 " He could not say anything. He did not have the time to speak about the men. It  
12 was not the subject or the topic of our discussion."

13 is corrected to:

14 " No. He could not say anything. He did not have the time to speak about his men.  
15 It was not the subject of our discussion."

16 Page 23 line 22-24:

17 " Well, it wasn't a big meeting because the MISCA contingent was stationed at the  
18 town hall towards the -- towards upstream and we were on the bus station side."

19 is corrected to:

20 " Well, it wasn't a big meeting because the MISCA contingent was stationed at the  
21 town hall, a bit further up. We were further down, opposite the bus station."

22 Page 25 line 12-13:

23 " I was there, the sub prefecture was there -- the sub prefect was there."

24 is corrected to:

25 " I was there, the sub-prefect was there."

1 Page 28 line 16-22:

2 " The announcement of the evacuation of the Muslims was made at a meeting  
3 amongst the local authorities, the prefect, and the Muslims, because the people  
4 the Muslim community was afraid; so the prefect organised a meeting and he  
5 suggested that the Muslims be evacuated. And the departure of the Muslims was  
6 decided upon in a discreet manner by political authorities and they contacted  
7 Chadian authorities with a view to obtaining vehicles to escort -- to transport the  
8 Muslims towards Chad."

9 is corrected to:

10 " The meeting brought together the prefect and the local authorities and the Muslims,  
11 who feared the anti-Balaka. The Muslims who had assembled did not know what to  
12 do. A large meeting was called, and it was decided that the Muslims would be  
13 evacuated. But the decision that they would leave was taken in a discreet manner. The  
14 authorities decided to inform Chad, and the President of Chad sent trucks to evacuate  
15 the Muslim colony."

16 Page 29 line 18:

17 " That was a meeting with the local authorities."

18 is corrected to:

19 " That concerned the local authorities and the administration."

20 Page 29 line 25 - Page 30 line 3:

21 " I had friends myself amongst the Muslims, and the soldiers who were responsible  
22 for the evacuation said that if the authorities -- well, that they would not carry out the  
23 evacuation because they saw just how people -- just how emotional people were  
24 during this separation."

25 is corrected to:

1 " I had friends myself amongst the Muslims. And the soldiers who were responsible  
2 for the evacuation said that if the authorities only knew that the situation was like this  
3 they would not have carried out the evacuation, because they saw just how emotional  
4 people were during this separation."

5 Page 36 line 25 - Page 37 line 2:

6 " They were looking for the leader of the Anti-Balaka to issue the order to leave  
7 Mbaïki, because the town was under the command of the MINUSCA, not the Anti  
8 Balaka."

9 is corrected to:

10 " They were looking for the leader of the Anti-Balaka to issue the order to leave  
11 Mbaïki, because the town was under the command of the, MISCA, not the  
12 Anti-Balaka."

13 Page 37 line 18:

14 " The whole wheel of Mbaïki was in chaos."

15 is corrected to:

16 " The whole town of Mbaïki was in chaos."

17 Page 40 line 9-11:

18 " The Central Africans had problems in filling in the -- I mean, business was back to  
19 usual very -- business was back to usual very gradually."

20 is corrected to:

21 " The Central Africans had problems taking over. Business was back to usual very  
22 gradually."

23 Page 44 line 6-13:

24 " With regards to houses, they were protected and they stayed intact. The property  
25 that was voluminous and that was left behind because there was no place, and these

1 people basically left their property behind and this -- this was taken by others. Now  
2 but it is clear that their homes were not destroyed. The property was left back  
3 because they've -- voluminous, and could not be carried in the vehicles. The vehicles  
4 basically were occupied by the population that was leaving. There is justice, and I  
5 don't think any Muslims have actually filed a complaint reporting the destruction of  
6 their property or their houses."

7 is corrected to:

8 " With regards to houses, they were protected and they stayed intact. However, a  
9 few large items were not loaded into vehicles because there was no room, so these  
10 people basically left their property behind. And the people who -- various onlookers  
11 took these items. But it is clear that their homes were not destroyed, even though the  
12 items of property were large and could not be carried in the vehicles. These items  
13 were taken by onlookers, the people who were present as they were leaving. There  
14 is justice, and I don't think any Muslims have actually filed a complaint reporting the  
15 destruction of their property or their houses."

16 Page 46 line 20-21:

17 " Were you talking about Abdoul Salim (phon.)?"

18 is corrected to:

19 " Were you talking about Abdoul Salam Amousamil. Yes or no?"

20 Page 52 line 21-23:

21 " Now, were these rumours -- distant rumours and you don't actually know what  
22 happened and who was responsible for the murders?"

23 is corrected to:

24 " Now, have I understood correctly that these were distant rumours, and you don't  
25 actually know what had happened and who was responsible for the murder?"

- 1 The following corrections, marked with an asterisk \* and included in the audio-visual
- 2 recording of the hearing, are brought into the transcript.
- 3 Page 2 line 17:
- 4 "Ms Cassandra Obussier"
- 5 is corrected to:
- 6 " Ms Cassandra Oboussier"