

Trial Hearing  
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2084

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/18

1 International Criminal Court  
2 Trial Chamber V  
3 Situation: Central African Republic II  
4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Alfred Rombhot Yekatom and  
5 Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona - ICC-01/14-01/18  
6 Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt, Judge Péter Kovács and  
7 Judge Chang-ho Chung  
8 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 1  
9 Friday, 26 May 2023  
10 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.31 a.m.)  
11 THE COURT USHER: [9:31:05] All rise.  
12 The International Criminal Court is now in session.  
13 Please be seated.  
14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:34] Good morning, everyone.  
15 Court officer, please call the case.  
16 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:31:43] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.  
17 Situation in the Central African Republic II, in the case of The Prosecutor versus  
18 Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona, case reference ICC-01/14-01/18.  
19 And for the record, we're in open session.  
20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:54] Thank you.  
21 I ask for the appearances of the parties. Ms Galupa for the Prosecution first.  
22 MS GALUPA: [9:32:02] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your  
23 Honours. Good morning, everyone in the courtroom. The Prosecution is  
24 represented today by Ms Claire Henderson, Mr Kweku Vanderpuye. We have a  
25 new member of the team sitting in the middle, in the second row, Mr Lucio Garcia,

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1 and Mr Yassin Mostfa, and myself Irina Galupa.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:23] Thank you.

3 I turn to the victims' representatives.

4 MR FALL: [9:32:30](Interpretation) Good morning, your Honour. The victims of  
5 other crimes are represented today by Orchlou Narantsetseg, Evelyne Komerwa, and  
6 by myself Yaré Fall.

7 MR SUPRUN: [9:32:50] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your  
8 Honours. The former child soldiers are represented by myself, Dmytro Suprun.  
9 Thank you.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:55] I turn to the Defence.

11 Ms Dimitri first.

12 MS DIMITRI: [9:32:58] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your  
13 Honours. Good morning, everyone. Mr Yekatom is present in the courtroom, and  
14 he's represented today by Ms Laurence Hortas-Laberge, Ms Alexandra Baer, Ms Fiona  
15 Houdin, Mr Lionel Messi Tikpa, Ms Anta Guissé, and I believe we might have the  
16 pleasure to have Mr Tom Hannis at the second session.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:20] Oh well, so we -- well, we cannot oversee  
18 him, so to speak.

19 Mr Knoops.

20 MR KNOOPS: [9:33:27] A very good morning, Mr President, your Honours.  
21 Good morning, everyone in the courtroom. The Defence team of Mr Ngaïssona  
22 comprises today of Mr Michael Rowse, Ms Chiara Giudici, Mathias Goffe and Lina  
23 Taki. And Mr Ngaïssona is present in the courtroom.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:45] Thank you, Mr Knoops.

25 And most importantly, we have our witness here again.

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- 1 Good morning, Mr Okoa-Penguia. I hope -- I hope you're feeling --
- 2 WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2084 (On former oath)
- 3 (The witness speaks French)
- 4 THE WITNESS: (Interpretation) Thank you. I'm fine, I'm fine. Thank you.
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:10] That is very, very good to hear.
- 6 Before we start, before we start, may I ask you to try to speak -- you know you have a
- 7 lot to say and you are very eloquent, we recognise that. And there is a -- this induces
- 8 you to speak a little bit too quick, Mr Okoa-Penguia.
- 9 You know, I have explained it last time that it's interpreted also into English and they
- 10 need a little bit time. So please try to speak a bit slower if you can. Yeah. That
- 11 would be very kind and that would be for the benefit of the translation and the
- 12 interpreters. Yeah. Thank you, thank you very much. *Merci beaucoup.*
- 13 THE WITNESS: [9:34:51](Interpretation) Thank you very much. I've taken note of
- 14 what you've said. I'm going to speak slowly, slowly and allow the interpreters
- 15 enough time to speak. Thank you very much.
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:09] We appreciate that a lot. So, Ms Dimitri,
- 17 you have the floor.
- 18 MS DIMITRI: [9:35:16] Thank you, Mr President.
- 19 QUESTIONED BY MS DIMITRI: (Interpretation)
- 20 Q. [9:35:21] Good morning, Mr Okoa-Penguia.
- 21 A. [9:35:22] Thank you.
- 22 Q. [9:35:24] I'm going to introduce myself again. We saw each other at the
- 23 familiarisation session. I'm Dimitri, one of the counsel lawyers for the defence of
- 24 Rambo Yekatom.
- 25 As you've noticed, I'm going to speak to you in French because I am also French

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1 speaking, although I'm not French. And it's therefore important that you and I  
2 pause five seconds at least, because, as the Presiding Judge has said, you have a  
3 tendency to speak extremely quickly and you have a lot of information to tell us,  
4 which is important for us. In order to fully understand, it's important for the court  
5 clerks, the people who write down everything you say, that you have a measured  
6 pace.

7 And also, there are interpreters above who interpret everything you say in English  
8 and in Sango so that your co-citizens can understand. And if you speak too quickly  
9 and if you speak too much, then not everything is captured and interpreted in Sango  
10 or/and in English. And behind me, you can't see them, there are people who take  
11 note of everything you say. They're behind the curtains. And so when you have a  
12 tendency to speak too much or to speak too quickly, they cannot capture everything  
13 you say.

14 Do you understand what I'm saying?

15 A. [9:37:02] Yes, indeed.

16 Q. [9:37:03] So to fully capture all the information you're sharing with us, I'm going  
17 to ask you very specific questions, targeted questions, very precise, and most of the  
18 time you have to say, "yes, I've understood", "no, I haven't understood."

19 So I have reread very carefully your statement of last Wednesday and my role today,  
20 throughout the entire day, is to look at it section by section chronologically in a very  
21 specific, targeted way to make sure that everybody understands, given the  
22 importance of what you are telling us.

23 A. [9:37:52] Thank you, Madam. I understand.

24 Q. [9:37:55] I'm also going to ask you some questions on members of the  
25 population of Pissa, because I noted that you're not only the doyen of all the mayors

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1 in the Central African Republic, but you were born, baptised in Pissa and your entire  
2 life you lived in Pissa, so you know a lot of people.

3 So I want to take advantage of that by showing you some photos. I'm going to ask  
4 you some questions about certain individuals and you can say "yes, I recognise that  
5 person", "no, I don't recognise that person." And then after that I might ask you  
6 another question about the role of that person, but first and foremost I want to know  
7 whether you know that person.

8 A. [9:38:43] No problem.

9 Q. [9:38:46] Sir, it's only when I ask you for details that you can tell us more, but  
10 once again we -- otherwise we'll be still here in the middle of next week.

11 A. [9:38:56] Yes, I understand what you're saying, Madam.

12 Q. [9:39:03] And my final instruction, Mr Okoa-Penguia: Sometimes you've given  
13 very lengthy answers. So, to put you in the context, I'm going to reread what you  
14 said and after that I'm going to ask you for some clarification.

15 A. [9:39:19] Okay.

16 Q. [9:39:26] So in paragraph 20 of your statement, you say that the Lobaye region is  
17 divided in five sub-prefectures and that those are subdivided in 13 districts or  
18 municipalities and you are responsible for Pissa. We also spoke about last  
19 Wednesday.

20 Could you explain to me what are the -- Kapou, Bossongo, are they municipalities,  
21 districts, villages, and are they part of the commune or municipality of Pissa?

22 A. [9:40:08] Kapou is a large village in the Pissa area. It is the second  
23 arrondissement. There is there -- also a mayor there, but Ndangala is not in the  
24 commune or district of Pissa, but it belongs to Bimbo. And Bossongo is a large  
25 village in Pissa. So Kapou and Bossongo are villages in Pissa, Madam, in the district

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1 of Pissa.

2 Q. [9:40:48] I've understood from you that Kapou has a second mayor. Does also  
3 Bossongo have a secondary mayor?

4 A. [9:40:58] No, Bossongo is part of the second arrondissement, because Pissa  
5 district is divided in three arrondissements. The first arrondissement starts from the  
6 village of Pissa 2, to the village of Bombe. It is close to the agricultural station where  
7 there are all the Chinese. That's the first arrondissement.  
8 The second arrondissement starts from the village Yakasapolo until the border Kapou  
9 with the municipality of Bimbo. There is a mayor of Pissa. There's a secondary  
10 mayor in Kapou and there's a secondary in Boganda. So we have three mayors in  
11 the Pissa district. Two secondary or deputy mayors and one main mayor where I  
12 work.

13 Q. [9:42:03] And at Bossongo, is that where you find Centrapalm, that industry?

14 A. [9:42:12] Yes, that is for processing palm oil, so that is a very big enterprise in  
15 the Central African Republic.

16 Q. [9:42:26] I'm going to remind you again, could you wait three seconds between  
17 the end of my question and the beginning of your answer. You are a bit too quick in  
18 starting up.

19 Am I to understand that Kapou is under your responsibility?

20 A. [9:42:50] Yes.

21 Q. [9:42:52] You explained to us that Kapou has a deputy mayor. Is it correct that  
22 Kapou has a health centre as well?

23 A. [9:43:01] Yes, Kapou has a community health centre. There is the deputy  
24 mayor, town hall, which is well equipped. There's a health centre next to the town  
25 hall. There's a school, kindergarten, and also a basic school 1, and for the moment

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1 we have a college who has just started up in Kapou.  
2 In the beginning, it was the first initiator was Yekatom, who wanted to set up that  
3 college, but he wasn't successful. But it's the CentraBois who arrived and built the  
4 college, and now we have this college which is just opened up, Madam.  
5 And there's a big market in Kapou. The people of Bangui often buy their supplies,  
6 their foods in Kapou. So it's a village that provides food to the population of Bangui.  
7 You have the village of Kapou, you also have the secondary town hall in Kapou, and  
8 you also have the various villages along the route number 6 and you also have a very  
9 large market in the centre of the town of Pissa centre.

10 Q. [9:44:27] Thank you very much.

11 I'm going to ask you a favour, Mr Okoa-Penguia. My question was only about the  
12 health centre. I know you know a lot of things and that it's important for you to  
13 explain everything, particularly as regards your community, your villages, your  
14 community, but if you elaborate each time with so much details we'll never finish. I  
15 have allocated time and I want to go step by step. So I'm asking you about the  
16 health centre. I'm going to ask you about certain specific schools. Please do your  
17 best to focus and limit yourself to -- to what I'm asking you in particular.

18 A. [9:45:18] Okay.

19 Q. [9:45:21] On Wednesday last, you mentioned that a midwife issues what you  
20 call a birth bulletin, which is then taken to the town hall so that you can issue a birth  
21 certificate. It was on Wednesday at 10:51.

22 Am I correct in saying that since you've just explained that Kapou has a health centre,  
23 the health centre of Kapou did issue birth bulletins?

24 A. [9:45:52] Yes. It is the law that covers that. We have seven health centres in  
25 the district and the ministry of health made available to each health centre what we

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1 call a register for delivery or births. So they all have a register to record births or the  
2 deliveries. And once the birth has taken place in the health centre, it is the person  
3 responsible who has to do the bulletin. Usually there are problems with this because  
4 the midwives who are there, because the health centres of the districts are not  
5 necessarily -- don't necessarily have qualified personnel, so it is -- it's very difficult to  
6 find qualified personnel in the health centres.

7 So we -- they're young women, young men who are there. They arrive, they don't  
8 have sufficient training, and they carry out this work. So these bulletins of their  
9 births need to be processed. And I think as regards the health centre in Kapou,  
10 there's also a registrar who is there.

11 Q. [9:47:37] Am I to understand that when the health centre issues a birth bulletin,  
12 the original of this birth bulletin is sent to the town hall in Pissa. Your services  
13 receive this birth bulletin. You put it in the register and then you issue a birth  
14 certificate on the basis of the birth bulletin; is that right?

15 A. [9:48:06] Yes. But usually, as I said before, the matrons usually don't send the  
16 birth bulletin. There is -- it's not completely done properly. And we had the head  
17 of Mbaïki who came and he gave the order that the minister of health must do  
18 something to improve this. And, therefore, there was training provider and a  
19 register for deliveries was provided. And if this is done at the health centre level,  
20 then at the end of the month you will take into account all the births and you will  
21 send that to the town hall so that the birth certificates can be issued, Madam.

22 Q. [9:49:04] Am I correct in saying that the birth bulletins do not go in the hands of  
23 the mother or the father? The birth bulletin, once it's been issued by the health  
24 centre, is sent directly to the town hall of Pissa, in the case of Kapou. So it goes to  
25 the town hall, who keeps the original in the archives so that they can issue a birth



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1 certificate and to give the birth certificate to the parents that come to the town hall?

2 A. [9:49:42] Yes, that's the way things work. That's the process.

3 Q. [9:49:48] Now, talking again about Kapou, do you know a pharmacy called  
4 Cogec in Kapou? Perhaps I'm not pronouncing it correctly, C-O-G-E-C.

5 A. [9:50:08] You know, if I had to know everything that happens in the country,  
6 people don't respect the orders any more of the ministry of health.

7 To open up a pharmacy, you have to have the required documents from the ministry,  
8 from the ministry of public health. But since there are inadequacies and  
9 insufficiencies, even in Bangui you'll see that. There are now pharmacies who start  
10 up, but these pharmacies do not meet the criterion of the ministry of health. So  
11 people with -- who aren't very well off, in order to help the local population, they  
12 open up small pharmacies to help the population, Madam.

13 But -- but the rule of the ministry of public health is not necessarily respected, because  
14 if you want to open a pharmacy you have to submit all the documents. And these  
15 documents are then submitted to the health district of Mbaïki, who look at the health  
16 requirements for the Lobaye, and it is the district that sends all the correspondence to  
17 the ministry of health. And those who have difficulties have to approach the  
18 ministry and see whether they are authorised to open a pharmacy, that's fine. But if  
19 they are not authorised, as I said, in Bangui there are pharmacies who are legally  
20 recognised, who carry out their work.

21 Q. [9:52:01] Please answer my question. Just focus my question. I'm talking  
22 about a specific pharmacy in Kapou.

23 I do apologise that I'm interrupting you, but I have hundreds of questions I want to  
24 put to you, and if each time you give me all those details we'll never finish.

25 A. [9:52:19] Okay.

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1 Q. [9:52:20] So, in Kapou do you recall a Wilfred Molouba, who was a manager of a  
2 community pharmacy within the health centre? Do you remember that? Do you  
3 know this individual? Do you know this pharmacy?

4 A. [9:52:43] In a health centre, there is the Cogec, the commission. The  
5 government sends partners and this Cogec who manages the medications, once the  
6 examination has taken place a prescription is made and the patient buys the medicine  
7 for their health. So in each community there is a pharmacy. But apart from that,  
8 apart from the pharmacy of the state, which is officially recognised, apart from this,  
9 there are some individuals who set up their own pharmacies, Madam.

10 Q. [9:53:34] On my question, which was very specific, Wilfred Molouba, who was a  
11 manager of a Cogec in Kapou, does that mean anything to you? Yes or no?

12 A. [9:53:50] Well, in fact, each time there's a poor management, each time  
13 something doesn't work, they try and find out. But if it's for the Cogec, okay. But if  
14 I see the photo of the person I could say yes, I know that person, but if I don't see his  
15 photo I can't really answer.

16 Q. [9:54:34] I'm going to change topics, Mr Okoa-Penguia.

17 Kalangoi, am I right in saying that this is a place which is in Kapou?

18 A. [9:54:46] Yes, Kalangoi is a village which is 7 kilometres away from Kapou. For  
19 the moment, we have built a health centre in Kalangoi. There are two leaders of the  
20 village in Kalangoi. Kalangoi is part of the 61 villages of the Pissa municipality.  
21 We have 61 villages in Pissa.

22 Q. [9:55:15] You've just told me - you were very specific, in fact - that's 7 kilometres  
23 from Kapou. Am I right in saying that in order to go to Kalangoi, you have to pass  
24 via Kapou by taking a route on the right? So if I'm coming from PK9, if PK9, PK9 is  
25 behind me and I arrive at Kapou, I take the route on the right-hand side, 7 kilometres

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1 later I'll arrive in Kalangoi?

2 A. [9:55:55] Yes, that's right. But before arriving at the village of Kalangoi, you  
3 also have the small villages Boutenene, a very small village. You cross Boutenene  
4 and then you arrive in Kalangoi. Usually Kalangoi, some of the officials have their  
5 farms there, so it's part of the Pissa municipality.

6 Q. [9:56:23] And since it's part of the villages which belong to the Pissa  
7 municipality, do you agree with me that Kalangoi is in the Central African Republic  
8 and not in the Democratic Republic of the Congo?

9 A. [9:56:38] Absolutely not, Madam.

10 MS DIMITRI: [9:56:52] If I may have just one moment, please.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:56:55] Of course.

12 MS DIMITRI: [9:57:41](Interpretation)

13 Q. [9:57:43] Just to be clear, Mr Okoa-Penguia. If you know, between PK9, Bangui,  
14 and Kapou, how many kilometres is that?

15 A. [9:57:51] Approximately 30 kilometres, Madam. About 30 kilometres, Madam.

16 Q. [9:58:01] Now, as regards the villages and the locations which are around Pissa,  
17 am I right in saying that there are routes who go from regions further afield like  
18 Boyali, Yaloke, Boboua, and they move towards Lobaye. So from those remote areas  
19 they're not in the Lobaye, but nevertheless there are routes you can end up in Lobaye.

20 A. [9:58:40] Madam, the route that goes to Lobaye is the national route number 6.  
21 It's the national route number 6. There's Yaloke. I think you go via Bangui, PK12,  
22 Boali, Bossembele in order to arrive at Yaloke. Well, sometimes there are the Peulh  
23 people who move around, of the Peulh, the Fulani people, and they don't respect  
24 what we call the transhumance corridors. And sometimes they arrive even from  
25 Chad and they will go up to Lobaye. They'll even arrive in Lobaye with their cattle.

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1 They'll take any route in order to come to Lobaye. For clarification, this year that's  
2 just ended, we had in Lobaye thousands, thousands, thousands of cattle.

3 Q. [9:59:56] We're going to talk about what I'm asking you. I just wanted some  
4 clarification as regards the routes, the internal roads other than the main roads, the  
5 national routes, other than those -- other than the tarred road. Nevertheless, through  
6 internal tracks and smaller roads, you can arrive in other prefectures?

7 A. [10:00:23] Yes. There's an internal track or route in Bobangui, *mausolée*  
8 Barthelemy, Boganda. If you get there, you have what we call the fourth parallel,  
9 which goes from Bobangui and which ends up in the village of Ndanga. Ndanga is  
10 in the direction of Boda, so it's a route which we call the fourth parallel: Boboua,  
11 Ndanga, Boda, all that. But usually, even for this, these tracks are used by the Peulh.

12 Q. [10:01:21] Thank you. I'd like now to talk about some individuals more  
13 specifically. And please, Mr Witness, try to draw on your knowledge of certain  
14 fellow citizens in Pissa, and I'm going to provide you with some names and I want  
15 from you: "Yes." "No." "I know him." "I don't." All right? That way we can  
16 make some progress. Please, confine yourself to answering my question without  
17 providing any history attending to that individual and then we'll look at that  
18 individual more closely, all right?

19 A. [10:02:00] Yes.

20 Q. [10:02:00] Very well. At Pissa, is it right to say that there's a parish, the  
21 St Esprit parish at Pissa; is that right?

22 A. [10:02:17] That's right.

23 Q. [10:02:18] Now, out of curiosity, I think you said Wednesday last that you were  
24 baptised at the St Esprit parish; is that right?

25 A. [10:02:31] Sorry?

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- 1 Q. [10:02:33] If I understood your evidence Wednesday last --
- 2 A. [10:02:33] Yes.
- 3 Q. [10:02:34] -- you said that you -- you had been baptised?
- 4 A. [10:02:36] Yes.
- 5 Q. [10:02:36] Were you baptised at the St Esprit parish at Pissa?
- 6 A. [10:02:42] Yes, I was. I was baptised at the St Esprit parish at Pissa. Now I
- 7 can give you have a clarification --
- 8 Q. [10:02:51] No, I'm getting there.
- 9 A. [10:02:54] Very well.
- 10 Q. [10:02:54] Please try and follow my red thread and then we'll move quickly.
- 11 A. [10:02:58] Yes, I was baptised in that parish.
- 12 Q. [10:03:02] Would I be right in saying, Mr Witness, that the secretary of that
- 13 parish is called Yongolo Rigobert?
- 14 A. [10:03:14] Yes. He's still in office, even today.
- 15 MS DIMITRI: [10:03:20] Mr President, for he record, I refer to tab 5,
- 16 CAR-OTP-00000320.
- 17 Q. [10:03:32](Interpretation) Now, Mr Yongolo, he holds -- well, he keeps a baptism
- 18 register; is that right?
- 19 A. [10:03:41] Yes.
- 20 Q. [10:03:41] And I'd be right to say, wouldn't I, that he works -- he's been working
- 21 in the parish for at least 20 years, right?
- 22 A. [10:03:49] That's right.
- 23 Q. [10:03:52] Now I've just received a yellow card. We're going too quickly, both
- 24 of us. Can you count up to three after having received my question and then you
- 25 providing an answer?

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1 A. [10:04:08] Yes.

2 Q. [10:04:09] Now, you've stated that you were baptised at Pissa. Would I be right  
3 in saying that the baptisms at the St Esprit parish were celebrated collectively, so in a  
4 given year there could be a whole batch of individuals, a whole series of individuals  
5 that would be baptised, and then they -- the secretary would be noting that down in a  
6 baptism register, their name and the date of their baptism and their date of birth; is  
7 that right?

8 A. [10:04:47] Well, I don't think so. I don't think so. Because before you have  
9 your baptism there is the catechism process. Catechism. And that has a certain  
10 period of time. You're going to follow what the priest or the catechism supervisor  
11 tells you. That lasts for months and you have to abide by it. So it's a batch of  
12 Christians.

13 Once they've finished that process, then the baptism will be scheduled. And the  
14 baptism is a major ceremony. It's a big ceremony in the locality. And there'll be a  
15 baptism on such-and-such a day, such-and-such a day, et cetera, et cetera, and then  
16 it's up to the local community, parents, relatives, friends who'll come for that  
17 ceremony. So that's how things customarily go. And the same thing for  
18 confirmation.

19 Q. [10:05:46] All right. Thank you, Mr Witness. We're going to focus on the  
20 baptisms.

21 All right. So we have a batch of Christians who finish their catechism process, a  
22 baptism is scheduled and then there's this big ceremony. Now listen to my question  
23 carefully, please. After the ceremony, or during the ceremony, when the batch of  
24 Christians have been baptised, would it be right to say that the parish then holds a  
25 register, the baptism register? Now, in that register we note down the Christian who

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1 has been baptised, the name of his parents, of his godmother, godfather or sponsor,  
2 his date of birth and, obviously, information going to the batch. So this is the 2000  
3 date batch of such-and-such a month. Have I understood the -- well, how the parish  
4 at Pissa operates in respect of the baptism register?

5 A. [10:06:56] Well, listen, a church organisation -- well, I can't get involved with  
6 inner workings. Because there's a priest, there's the person who leads the catechism  
7 process, and they are independent in the way that they run that. The mayor isn't  
8 entitled to check or keep tabs on what the church is doing in respect of that.

9 Q. [10:07:32] I understand. That's not the thrust of my question however. I'm  
10 not suggesting that you are monitoring or keeping tabs on the register. Not at all.  
11 All I want to know is whether you had knowledge, had specific knowledge, in other  
12 words, is it true that there's a register that is kept and then each baptist -- each  
13 Christian baptised received a certificate?

14 A. [10:08:04] A baptism card. But recently, during a ceremony there's a bishop.

15 Q. [10:08:11] Please just keep to my questions.

16 A. [10:08:12] Yes.

17 Q. [10:08:13] Yes, they're given a baptism card?

18 A. [10:08:20] Yes.

19 Q. [10:08:21] All right. Now, would I be right in saying that in addition to this  
20 baptism card that the parish -- that the St Esprit parish gives to the baptised  
21 individual - if you know, if you know - the parish also keeps a register? Do you  
22 know that?

23 A. [10:08:34] Well, there is the Christian register for all of Lobaye. For a long time  
24 the Mbaïki bishop celebrated the ceremony for installing a new priest.

25 Q. [10:08:49] Please, please, Mr Witness, once again, please, I'm not -- I don't want

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1 to talk about the Mbaiki bishop. I'm focusing on the Pissa St Esprit parish. All I'm  
2 seeking to understand is your knowledge. You talked about the baptism cards.  
3 Would I be right in saying that - yes or no, if you know - do you know that there's  
4 also a register, a register which is maintained by the secretary of the parish, a register  
5 of the baptism?

6 A. [10:09:17] Yes, there is a register.

7 Q. [10:09:20] Thank you.

8 A. [10:09:23] Yes. Each Christian is registered there. Each Christian has their  
9 baptism card. The date of the baptism is consigned there. And then there's a  
10 second phase, which is the confirmation phase, when the Christian is ultimately  
11 confirmed. Then the confirmation date is also entered. And then the third point is  
12 a wedding. If the Christian wishes to marry, then that date will be written there as  
13 well.  
14 So we have the baptism, the confirmation date, we have the wedding date. That's in  
15 there as well. And if -- if the person has children, then the names of the children also  
16 feature there. And then we have the dates for each year where you have to pay a  
17 contribution to the church.

18 Q. [10:10:17] My thanks, Mr Witness. It's very clear.

19 Now, I turn my mind to something else. We talked about the parish secretary.  
20 Let me refer you to another individual. Do you know a person called Godomo  
21 Giscard -- Godomokoma Giscard?

22 A. [10:10:37] Yes, I do.

23 Q. [10:10:41] Would I be right in saying that this is the town hall Pissa secretary?

24 A. [10:10:49] Yes, he is the head financial person, the head accountant at the Pissa  
25 town hall as we speak in fact.



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1 Q. [10:10:57] And do you know, Mr Witness, whether he has any kinship link with  
2 Godomoka Bonheur (phon) or Godomoka Regis (phon)?

3 A. [10:11:18] Yes, those are his parents. It's the same father, it's the same surname,  
4 and the father married women and you've just named the brothers.

5 Q. [10:11:40] And would I be right in saying, Mr Witness, that the father -- when  
6 I -- the father, tell me if I've got this wrong, Godomokoma Bonheur, his father is a  
7 Pissa neighbourhood chief called Ernest Godomokoma; is that right?

8 A. [10:11:58] Yes, he is a group chief, the big Pissa centre district. He is the group  
9 chief.

10 Q. [10:12:10] I'm going to show you a photo now, that you saw Wednesday last, in  
11 fact, with my friend from the Prosecution, and I would like you to look more  
12 specifically at an individual that we see on this photo. And I'll see if you can  
13 recognise him.

14 So, for the record, this is at tab 99 in our list of materials. CAR-D29-0010-0023.

15 So, Mr Witness, could I ask you to look at this. We see number 1. We see a circle  
16 with number 1 on the left-hand side of the photo. Mr Witness?

17 A. [10:12:58] I don't know. I can't see it.

18 Q. [10:13:01] You can't see it? Would you prefer a paper version?

19 A. [10:13:05] Yes, give me a copy, please. That wouldn't be a problem, because I  
20 see the circles.

21 Q. [10:13:10] Yes, but look, can you see my colleague, she's indicating here.  
22 There's a circle with a 1, can you see that on your screen? In the corner of your  
23 screen, the left-hand corner, can you see the circle with number 1?

24 A. [10:13:27] Yes, I do see that.

25 Q. [10:13:29] And you see that we have a person here indicated wearing a blue top,

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- 1 a pair of jeans, possibly, he's wearing as well. So would I be right in saying that this  
2 is Godomokoma Horis?
- 3 A. [10:14:10] The blue top?
- 4 Q. [10:14:12] Yes.
- 5 A. [10:14:15] The blue top?
- 6 Q. [10:14:17] Yes.
- 7 A. [10:14:20] There's another one there. Is that in the Pissa locality?
- 8 Q. [10:14:24] Yes. And the number 1 indicated here, is it Godomokoma Horis?
- 9 A. [10:14:34] Yes, but there are many children there in that locality.
- 10 Q. [10:14:38] Yes. But if you don't know, I understand. There's no shame in  
11 saying "listen, I don't know", you can say. I just wanted to know whether this jogged  
12 your memory somewhat about number 1 here, the individual marked number 1,  
13 otherwise don't spoil your eyes, move on to another question.
- 14 A. [10:15:00] Can we move on to another question because I don't really know.
- 15 Q. [10:15:05] That's not a problem.
- 16 A. [10:15:08] Well, we're here to provide answers, aren't we?
- 17 Q. [10:15:11] Absolutely so.
- 18 A. [10:15:12] We're here to provide answers.
- 19 Q. [10:15:17] I'm going to move on to another topic now.
- 20 A. [10:15:20] Yes.
- 21 Q. [10:15:21] Now, you spoke about schools at Pissa Wednesday last. You talked  
22 about the school complex and the fundamental school 1 in the transcript 231 at 16 past  
23 10 in the morning. Would it be right to say at Pissa you also have a school called  
24 *lycée de Berengo*?
- 25 A. [10:15:51] This was built by Emperor Bokassa. That's in the courtyard of

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1 Berengo, in that locality. When there were the 1979 events, as you know, Central  
2 African Republic, whenever there's a *coup d'état* everything is destroyed. And it was  
3 in 2005 that I called upon -- I called for, rather, the reopening of that *lycée*. And the  
4 government green-lighted that. I had the support of partners who helped me and  
5 we managed to reopen that upper secondary school that had been closed since 1979  
6 all the way through to 2005. So it meant that the children, their school life was made  
7 difficult, was compromised. They would go to Mbaïki upper secondary school or to  
8 the Bangui upper secondary school. And when we managed to make sure that that  
9 upper secondary school was opened, it was a source of joy for everybody in the Pissa  
10 community. It was 8 kilometres from the Pissa centre and all the efforts that we  
11 undertook, you may know that the social structures, like the notaries, et cetera, is very  
12 important to them. There's a huge number, huge number of children. And even  
13 the upper secondary school, they're lacking teachers. And so the Berengo upper  
14 secondary school, I can tell you, is part of the Pissa commune secondary school  
15 provision.

16 Q. [10:17:32] Thank you, Mr Witness. I'll take this opportunity, because, of course,  
17 you were involved in the reopening there. And I'm going to show you a document  
18 that we have on tab 6, CAR-D29-0014-0071.

19 And, Mr Witness, if it's difficult for you to see on the screen and if you prefer to have  
20 a print version, then please just tell me.

21 All right, as you said, we can see the chronological table of the headmasters of this  
22 Berengo upper secondary school, and we see that between 1979 and 2005 there were  
23 no headmasters at that establishment?

24 A. [10:18:23] Very well.

25 Q. [10:18:25] Do you see I've done my -- done my homework?

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1 A. [10:18:27] Thank you very much, Madam.

2 Q. [10:18:30] Here's my question: Elisée Hermann Hyanguere, my question is  
3 about that individual. Would I be right in saying that in 2020 Mr Hyanguere was no  
4 longer headmaster of the Berengo upper secondary school; is that right?

5 A. [10:18:49] That's right. He had been sent to the Bossembele upper secondary  
6 school. Now you're jogging my memory somewhat, my memory's coming back,  
7 because this is what the mayor has done for the Central African Republic. After  
8 Bokassa fell, those mayors would fight for these upper secondary schools to be open,  
9 so I pay tribute to the work that has been done for the hinterland and this is what our  
10 partners wanted. Thank you very much, Madam.

11 Q. [10:19:22] And are we also right in saying, Mr Witness, that Mr Hyanguere was  
12 headmaster at the Berengo upper secondary school between 2013 and 2016?

13 A. [10:19:38] Yes.

14 Q. [10:19:39] My thanks. Does he still live in Pissa?

15 A. [10:19:45] No. He was sent to Bossembele, Bossembele, the Bossembele upper  
16 secondary school. He is a state functionary, and every two or three years they are  
17 moved around and they are sent elsewhere.

18 Q. [10:20:04] Another individual, Didier Beninga, you talked about him in your  
19 evidence at 37 minutes past midday in your evidence. Would it be right to say that  
20 he was a PE teacher at the Berengo upper secondary school?

21 A. [10:20:24] Yes. He did his utmost to get the baccalaureate. And because there  
22 was a lack -- there was no PE master at that secondary school, he therefore threw  
23 himself into the fight to help children in their physical education.

24 Q. [10:20:54] And would I be right in saying that Didier Beninga lives in Pissa?

25 A. [10:21:05] Yes, that's right. He is a Pissa inhabitant.

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1 Q. [10:21:08] And to the best of your knowledge, he's married? He has children?

2 A. [10:21:12] Yes, he's married. He has children. And he married one of my  
3 sisters in actual fact. He's my son-in-law, in Central African parlance.

4 Q. [10:21:32] So you know the names of his children?

5 A. [10:21:34] Well, please forgive me, I can find out their names and then bring  
6 them back to you, but you're putting the question to me about Didier Beninga. I can  
7 tell you I know him. He's married. He's also -- he holds a position in the Pissa  
8 church. That, I can tell you.

9 MS DIMITRI: [10:22:09] I'm sorry, I'm kind of -- yes, it's my cue. Sorry about that.

10 Q. [10:22:18](Interpretation) Right, I'm going to try and work your memory,  
11 Mr Witness. You said Wednesday last -- well, you actually recognised the birth  
12 certificate of one of Didier Beninga's children, Emmanuel Don de Dieu. Would it be  
13 right to say that he has another son called Heritier, Heritier Beninga?

14 A. [10:22:44] Yes, he has got a son with that name.

15 Q. [10:22:48] And to the best of your knowledge, he doesn't have a son called  
16 Heritier Pounindji?

17 A. [10:22:56] I don't know anything about that, Madam.

18 Q. [10:23:01] Thank you, Mr Witness. Let me move to another name. Would it  
19 be right to say that at Pissa there's a family called Koussagale?

20 A. [10:23:15] Yes.

21 Q. [10:23:16] And the father of that family is called Aubin Koussagale and - hang  
22 on, wait for me to finish my question, please, Mr Witness - and if, unless I'm mistaken,  
23 he is a cook at the Pissa -- with the Pissa priests?

24 A. [10:23:38] Yes, at the St Esprit parish, he is the cook there.

25 Q. [10:23:42] Thank you. I'm going to show you a photo. If you recognise him

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1 then say yes and we move on.

2 A. [10:23:47] Yes.

3 Q. [10:23:50] CAR-D29-0010-0144.

4 On the right-hand side of the screen, Mr Witness, we see somebody wearing a  
5 gold -- a person wearing a golden watch, Mr Aubin Koussagale, with dark trousers  
6 and blue -- sky blue shirt?

7 A. [10:24:18] Yes, that's him, that is indeed him.

8 Q. [10:24:20] Fine. We can take down that photo now.

9 All right, we're going to still draw upon your memory, Mr Witness. Aubin  
10 Koussagale, did he have a wife called Sylvie Sokoyo?

11 A. [10:24:55] I think so, because he had a first wife, and that wife -- I think one died,  
12 one of Koussagale's wives died, and I think he married again from the Godomokoma  
13 family.

14 Q. [10:25:13] And would I be right in saying, Mr Witness, that Aubin Koussagale  
15 had a son called Geoffroy Koussagale who did battery recharges for telephones at a  
16 certain point in time?

17 A. [10:25:32] That's right.

18 Q. [10:25:33] And would I be right in saying that he was involved in the trade of a  
19 shop called Tchikaya?

20 A. [10:25:48] Well, there are a number of shops, there are a number of shops.

21 Q. [10:25:52] Tchikaya doesn't ring a bell?

22 A. [10:26:00] Well, maybe I've forgotten, because young people, when they got a bit  
23 of money, they -- they create something to trade with.

24 Q. [10:26:07] That's not a problem. You know a lot of things. So when you don't  
25 know something, just tell me. Just say "I don't know", we'll move on.

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- 1 A. [10:26:15] That's right, you can help me.
- 2 Q. [10:26:17] Exactly.
- 3 A. [10:26:18] Well, look, there are 34,000 people who live there, so you know, just  
4 look at the numbers.
- 5 Q. [10:26:25] That's fine, Mr Witness.
- 6 Would I be right in saying that Mr Yekatom has a shop opposite the Pissa market area,  
7 just next door to the hotel called Zendo?
- 8 A. [10:26:52] Yes.
- 9 Q. [10:26:52] Next to the hairdressers?
- 10 A. [10:26:54] Yes.
- 11 Q. [10:27:02] And just in front of the house there is somewhere where you have a  
12 kiosk and a place where you can recharge your telephone battery; is that right?
- 13 A. [10:27:15] Yes, that's right.
- 14 Q. [10:27:35] Let me show you now a photo. This will help you jog your memory.
- 15 A. [10:27:40] Yes.
- 16 Q. [10:27:43] Tab 10, CAR-D29-0016-0133.
- 17 THE INTERPRETER: [10:27:55] Indiscernible from the witness.
- 18 MS DIMITRI: [10:28:02](Interpretation)
- 19 Q. [10:28:03] Do you recognise this Tchikaya shop that we see where we see battery  
20 recharge point?
- 21 A. [10:28:12] Even the chap, even the boy I see on the photo I recognise. He's  
22 called Ramadhan.
- 23 Q. [10:28:22] Ramses or Ramadhan?
- 24 A. [10:28:25] No, I know this person Ramadhan.
- 25 Q. [10:28:27] Let me show you another photo. Here we have a metalworker shop,

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1 Tchikaya. It's not necessarily next door to the other shop but it's in Pissa?

2 A. [10:28:53] It's Ramadhan still here next to the photo, next to the pushbike. It's  
3 still the same person.

4 Q. [10:28:58] I'm not interested in the individual, I'm interested in the shop. This  
5 is at -- this hardware shop is in Pissa; is that right?

6 A. [10:29:07] Pissa is a big trading centre now. There are shops that sprout up.  
7 There are hardware shops. There are motels, there are restaurants, there are lots of  
8 things. There are bars. All that is popping up. Things are -- are emerging.

9 Q. [10:29:31] Yes. But if we bring back the first photo on which you recognise  
10 Ramses, the Tchikaya-Ramses, that shop is indeed, isn't it, in front of, or the little shop  
11 owned by Mr Yekatom; is that right?

12 A. [10:29:48] No, this is on the left-hand side. Mr Yekatom's shop is on the  
13 right-hand side.

14 Q. [10:29:57] Yes, but they're very close to each other?

15 A. [10:30:01] That's right, that's right, and the bar, Mr Zendo's bar.

16 Q. [10:30:06] Thank you very much.

17 MS DIMITRI: [10:30:08] I'm sorry for the interpreters.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:30:10] You got carried away, I would say.

19 MS DIMITRI: [10:30:13] I know.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:30:15] Understandable.

21 MS DIMITRI: [10:30:26](Interpretation)

22 Q. [10:30:27] I am going to continue, Mr Okoa-Penguia, to bore into your  
23 knowledge of your citizens in Pissa.

24 Am I correct in saying that Geoffroy Koussagale, the son of Aubin Koussagale for a  
25 certain point of time had a companion called Perlina Joinella - Jouanela, and they had



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1 children together. I'm going to show you a first period and I would like you to say if  
2 that jogs your memory.

3 A. [10:31:03] That's his children, yes.

4 Q. [10:31:08] And that's his wife?

5 A. [10:31:11] Yes.

6 Q. [10:31:12] Thanks.

7 I'm going to show you another photo, Mr Okoa-Penguia, 13 of the Defence binder,  
8 CAR-D29-0010-0146.

9 Look at your screen. Again, you're going to see the wife of Geoffroy Koussagale,  
10 Perlina, and I think you're going to recognise, with a lot of make-up, your niece  
11 Candide Mavode?

12 A. [10:31:54] Yes, yes, I see her. That's my niece Mavode Candide.

13 Q. [10:32:03] Thank you. I'm going to show you another photo. This time this is  
14 tab 14 of the Defence binder. Do you recognise the son of Koussagale Geoffroy?

15 A. [10:32:24] That's him.

16 Q. [10:32:24] And do you recognise the lady on the left-hand side?

17 A. [10:32:31] No, I don't know the lady.

18 Q. [10:32:33] No, you don't recognise her. Thank you. I really appreciate your  
19 very precious help in this.

20 A. [10:32:41] Thank you, Madam.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:32:49] Ms Galupa, you have an objection.

22 MS GALUPA: [10:32:52] Just for the record, if you can state the tab number of the  
23 first photo you have shown.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:32:56] Okay ...

25 MS DIMITRI: [10:32:59] Of course. I've shown -- I just showed three. Do you

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1 want the one in purple?

2 MS GALUPA: [10:33:09] Just the first one is not showing in the transcript.

3 MS DIMITRI: [10:33:13] It's 12, tab 12, CAR-D29-0010-0145.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:33:20] Thank you, Ms Galupa.

5 MS DIMITRI: [10:33:36] Thank you.

6 Q. [10:33:36](Interpretation) Another exercise for you, Mr Okoa-Penguia. I'm  
7 going to show you tab 15, CAR-D29-0010-0142.

8 Do you recognise this lady, Sylvie Sokoyo, who was the wife at a certain time, or  
9 a given period there, of Aubin Koussagale?

10 A. [10:34:16] Oh, that's a long time ago, Madam. Time passes and the memory  
11 sometimes fades.

12 Q. [10:34:20] But do you recognise her?

13 A. [10:34:21] Yes.

14 Q. [10:34:22] And you recognise her as the ex-wife of Koussagale, Sokoyo?

15 A. [10:34:31] Yes.

16 Q. [10:34:31] And am I right in saying that this is the mother, so Aubin, and this  
17 lady which you see on the photo are the biological parents of Geoffroy Koussagale; is  
18 that correct?

19 A. [10:34:46] Yes, that's correct, Madam.

20 Q. [10:35:02] Change of topic now.

21 I want to talk about Lobaye, and the barriers. To give you a bit of background on  
22 my next topic, Mr Okoa-Penguia, I'm going to talk about the period before the arrival  
23 of the Seleka. Do you follow me?

24 A. [10:35:30] Yes.

25 Q. [10:35:34] The judges and parties have not gone to Lobaye. They do not know

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1 Lobaye like you do. My role, for my next series of questions, is to try step by step to  
2 establish on the tarred road from PK9 to Mbaïki all the barrages, the different  
3 brigades, the different stations. I've done my background homework, I've noted  
4 them down, and so that it goes smoothly I'm going to ask you very specific questions.  
5 Often, they might just ask you to say "yes" or "no". We're going to go step by step  
6 slowly and we are going to draw or depict the situation before 2013, the government  
7 security forces in Lobaye; is that okay?

8 A. [10:36:42] Yes, fine, Madam.

9 Q. [10:36:45] My first question, Mr Okoa-Penguia: Before the arrival of the Seleka,  
10 is it correct that there was a state or checkpoint in PK9?

11 A. [10:36:57] Yes.

12 Q. [10:37:01] Do you agree with me that in this checkpoint there was a compulsory  
13 stop because of the metallic boom who made all the vehicles and passers-by, they  
14 were forced to stop; is that correct?

15 A. [10:37:23] Yes.

16 Q. [10:37:32] And at this checkpoint, Mr Okoa-Penguia, is it correct there were  
17 gendarmerie, there were FACA, there were people from water and the forestry  
18 department as well?

19 A. [10:37:47] Yes, Madam. Even the phytosanitary services were there.

20 Q. [10:37:59] And at this checkpoint, before 2013 - I'll tell you when we change time  
21 frame - is it correct that the FACA at the PK9 checkpoint supported the gendarme  
22 because they stepped in if there was a problem?

23 A. [10:38:17] Yes.

24 Q. [10:38:23] And is it correct that there were presidential guards sometimes at this  
25 checkpoint?

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1 A. [10:38:31] Yes.

2 Q. [10:38:34] Is it correct that there were also transport peoples, for example,  
3 heating, wood, and planks, firewood. And the FACA also had the role to search  
4 vehicles?

5 A. [10:39:09] Yes, Madam. Please continue.

6 Q. [10:39:12] I'm going to repeat my question. At this checkpoint of PK9, is it  
7 correct that the FACA before 2013 had the role, in particular, of searching vehicles  
8 and all those FACA agents, gendarme, all of them, they were armed?

9 A. [10:39:36] Madam, please. For the safety of the country --

10 Q. [10:39:43] Mr Okoa-Penguia, sorry, because I see there's an objection.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:39:48] Ms Galupa.

12 MS GALUPA: [10:39:50] Mr President, just to say that maybe we can break down  
13 the questions because Ms Dimitri is putting two different set of facts to the witness  
14 and he might not -- it's a bit of a compound question, (a), whether they were --

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:40:04] Well, it's not a real objection. I think it  
16 serves indeed -- I agree with you. I don't have to rule on that.

17 Please split is in two, Ms Dimitri.

18 MS DIMITRI: [10:40:14] No problem at all, Mr President.

19 Q. [10:40:20](Interpretation) I'm going to rephrase my question, Mr Okoa-Penguia.  
20 At the PK9 checkpoint before the Seleka, before the Seleka period, before 2013, we  
21 established the FACA were there at the checkpoint, in addition to all the others which  
22 we've just mentioned. Am I right in saying that in PK9, where there is the  
23 compulsory stop, where there's the metal boom, FACA also had the role of searching  
24 vehicles?

25 A. [10:40:52] Please, Madam, you're talking about a barrier. I would prefer that

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1 when you talk about the barriers PK9, Mbaïki, and now we come back to this barrier  
2 of PK9.

3 Q. [10:41:09] Mr Okoa-Penguia, I assure you, I assure you we're going to do all of  
4 them. We're going to go throughout PK9 up to Mbaïki in detail. We're going to go  
5 through Sekia, Bossongo, Kapou, Pissa, Centrapalm, we're going to do all of them.  
6 But my role, I'm going to start with the first when we arrive in PK9, and then we're  
7 going to have the details so that everybody fully understands. We're going to have  
8 details on each checkpoint. The security forces who were present at each checkpoint  
9 and their role. Because I understood that throughout the entire axis there were  
10 checkpoints, but they didn't have not the same security forces and they didn't all have  
11 the same role; am I right?

12 A. [10:42:03] Yes.

13 Q. [10:42:04] So we're going to do them all. I want to start with PK9 before 2013.  
14 I'm going to repeat my question.

15 A. [10:42:13] Yes, Madam.

16 Q. [10:42:14] Is it correct that before 2013, in PK9 where you have the metal barrier,  
17 FACA had the role in particular to search vehicles?

18 A. [10:42:27] I think it was under the instruction of their chief, because it's the  
19 intelligence service of the country noticed that there was a certain movement and that  
20 there were people were trying to enter Bangui. And PK9 is the entry to Bangui, so  
21 it's completely normal that the FACA has instructions from their chief to search  
22 vehicles to see who's coming. That's normal. That's not the duty of a mayor,  
23 Madam.

24 Q. [10:43:04] Thank you, Mr Okoa-Penguia. I ensure you I'm not insinuating  
25 anything. I'm not saying it's the duty of the mayor. But since you are the doyen of

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1 all the mayors of the Central African Republic, because of your knowledge of Lobaye,  
2 I would like to try and explain the role of the security forces from the government.  
3 So, at this PK9 barrier before 2013, is it correct that FACA, the gendarmerie, the  
4 presidential guards were armed?

5 MS GALUPA: [10:43:42] I'm sorry, Mr President, but I don't think the witness has  
6 the basis of knowledge for this particular question, whether there were -- whether the  
7 forces of security in general were armed at all times --

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:43:53] Well, we can found out if he has the basis  
9 of this. If he has the basis, I think really he will tell us. And he is the witness.  
10 You follow, Mr Witness. If you don't know and if you don't have any source of  
11 information on that, you simply say "No, I can't provide you with information." We  
12 got to know you in the past days in a way that you completely understand that you  
13 only provide us with information which you really have firsthand or where you can  
14 give us where the information comes from. And we stick like that. Yeah.  
15 Thank you very much.

16 Ms Dimitri.

17 MS DIMITRI: [10:44:34] Thank you, Mr President.

18 THE WITNESS: [10:44:36](Interpretation) Could you put me the question again.

19 MS DIMITRI: [10:44:39](Interpretation)

20 Q. [10:44:40] Of course, Mr Okoa-Penguia.

21 PK9, the metal barrier, all the people that you saw there when you passed by, when  
22 you go through the barrier before 2013, all these FACA, these security agents, the  
23 presidential guard, is it correct they were armed?

24 A. [10:44:59] Yes, they had their arms. It was part of their function. A gendarme  
25 must have his weapon. FACA, the police and the presidential guard should all have

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1 their weapons. That's the way it should be, Madam.

2 Q. [10:45:22] We will continue along the axis. We've moved on from PK9 and  
3 we're heading towards Mbaïki. The next checkpoint on this axis, is it between  
4 Pissmiss and just before Sekia; is that correct?

5 A. [10:45:49] A barrier?

6 Q. [10:45:51] It's a checkpoint this time. I wasn't very clear. Before 2013.  
7 Now, we leave behind us the metal barrier of PK9, we move on the axis. The next  
8 checkpoint, the next checkpoint is located just after the Pissmiss compound but just  
9 before Sekia; is that correct?

10 A. [10:46:20] Yes. There was some checkpoints there because you have the barrier  
11 at Sekia.

12 Q. [10:46:30] We're going to arrive at the barrier of Sekia. Now, the checkpoint  
13 which I'm talking about, which is between -- I see there's a yellow flag, I'm going too  
14 fast and so you are.

15 So the checkpoint between Pissmiss compound and Sekia, am I correct in saying that  
16 this station had the aim to sort of look at any traffic infringements?

17 A. [10:47:03] Well, this was set up by the Samba village. Perhaps you -- you pass  
18 the Pissmiss compound, you move on a bit, and it is in the Samba village. You see  
19 the village of Samba and, there, there were the FACA who were at this point, Madam.  
20 They were making -- they were carrying out checks.

21 Q. [10:47:32] And at that point was there a checkpoint from the gendarmerie and  
22 they had vehicles, they were motorised.

23 A. [10:47:44] Well, as regards that, I think they were at Zila. They were at Zila.  
24 Because from the Pissmiss residence you went a little bit further to Zila, and they  
25 were motorised there. Because there were many barriers and the government was

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1 forced to do something and said they had to dismantle some of the barriers and only  
2 have the legal barriers remaining.

3 Q. [10:48:16] I take up what you're saying and I want to make sure I have a understood you  
4 fully. I leave PK9, the metal barrier. I cross the bridge of PK9. I pass the Pissmiss compound  
5 on the left-hand side, and after that there's Zila on the right-hand side, and at that point there  
6 is a motorised check -- a checkpoint for the motorised checkpoint.

7 \*A. [10:48:42] They changed their posts, they are either here -- either they are in Zila  
8 or in Samba -- the motorized brigade of the gendarmerie. That's it. They would  
9 change their position from time to time, madam.

10 Q. [10:49:01] Is it correct that if there was a problem, if there was a problem  
11 regarding safety, these gendarme - this is before 2013 - these gendarmerie could step  
12 in if there was a problem or difficulty and do something with the person causing the  
13 harm? The delinquent, to stop the delinquent.

14 A. [10:49:36] Yes.

15 Q. [10:49:49] Yes, you said "yes", but it doesn't appear in the transcript. Could  
16 you repeat it. You talked so quickly and you said "yes".

17 A. [10:50:00] Yes, I said -- yes, I said "yes".

18 Q. [10:50:08] Well, if we pass Samba, Zila, do you agree that the next checkpoint  
19 before 2013 is at Sekia?

20 A. [10:50:18] Yes.

21 Q. [10:50:22] And this checkpoint was managed by the ministry of public works,  
22 the bridges and roads in particular?

23 \*A. [10:50:42] For the tolls there was the ministry for Forests and Water  
24 Management. The BARC was there, and the ministry of transport who was present.  
25 Well, you know, what they -- you know why they put that barrier in Sekia? There is



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1 a route on the *la gauche*, and that's why the government thought it was a good idea to  
2 have a checkpoint in Sekia.

3 Q. [10:51:32] Just to understand fully and visualise what you're saying. If I have  
4 PK9 behind me and I'm arriving at Sekia, on the left there's a route which goes down  
5 and which is parallel to the river which starts from Sekia, goes via Yombo, Sebokele,  
6 Yalimbo (phon), and which continues, continues and goes down, goes close to Lesse  
7 and ends up Bobele, Batalimo; is that correct?

8 A. [10:52:16] Yes.

9 Q. [10:52:17] And if you continue -- if you -- Batalimo, you can continue, you'll  
10 arrive at Mongoumba and then you have the Brazzaville-Congo and the Democratic  
11 Republic of Congo. It's the border.

12 So the checkpoint in Sekia, that checkpoint collected taxes from vehicles so they could  
13 maintain the routes. That's why it was called the Sekia toll post?

14 A. [10:53:00] Yes, that's correct, Madam.

15 Q. [10:53:09] So do you agree with me, Mr Okoa-Penguia, that at this toll there was  
16 also armed gendarme?

17 A. [10:53:19] Yes, there were gendarmerie there as well.

18 Q. [10:53:27] Quite rightly you pointed out that there was -- \*there were people from  
19 BARC present, namely from the freight department of the Central African Republic there.  
20 Am I right in saying, before 2013, that at the Sekia checkpoint there was also FACA  
21 members who searched the vehicles to see if in particular some individuals were  
22 transporting weapons or munition because of the significance of the checkpoint in Sekia?

23 A. [10:54:02] That's correct, Madam.

24 Q. [10:54:11] Mr Okoa-Penguia, could you confirm that the gendarme over there in  
25 2013, before 2013, were armed?

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1 A. [10:54:20] I believe so. I think so.

2 Q. [10:54:25] And my final question on the Sekia checkpoint. Am I right in saying  
3 that in the Sekia checkpoint there was a compulsory stop because there was a metal  
4 barrier? You had to stop, you were forced to stop?

5 A. [10:54:44] Yes, because it was a toll. All the private vehicles had to stop in  
6 order to pay the tax, the toll which they had to pay, Madam.

7 Q. [10:54:57] I'm continuing along the axis.

8 We talked about Kalangoi. We both spoke about that a little earlier. You explained  
9 to me that this was an area which you reach by taking a small bridge or a small road  
10 of 7 kilometres from Kapou. So if you leave Kapou, if you continue on PK9-Mbaïki  
11 route, after Sekia, am I right in saying the next checkpoint is at Kapou, at the  
12 edge -- at the point of the road which leads to Kalangoi?

13 \*A. [10:55:46] Yes, there was a roadblock there, Madam. And before 2013, the  
14 Kapou-Kalangoi section was not passable, but it was after the events that the lumber  
15 company helped us to open this up, who went there. And because of this, and because of  
16 this service, we did everything to make a health centre in Kalangoi because of that.

17 Q. [10:56:29] Mr Okoa-Penguia, this checkpoint at Kapou where you had the ramp  
18 for Kalangoi, am I right in saying that around 2013 it was managed by the gendarme  
19 who were deployed by the brigade from Bossongo?

20 A. [10:56:53] Yes, that's correct, Madam. In the beginning the company had  
21 problems. There were lots of thefts at the barrier and there was oil. The people  
22 who were making oil, they tried to steal things to make their oil and, therefore, the  
23 government thought it was necessary that the gendarmerie of Bossongo assist. And  
24 that's why the brigade of Bossongo deployed some men at the checkpoint in order to  
25 carry out checks. This is the company Centrapalm had the problems.

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1 Q. [10:57:39] And is it correct that the gendarme who were present were armed?

2 A. [10:57:46] Yes, it was a brigade of the gendarmerie. All the brigades have their  
3 own weapon for security reasons. They ensure the security and safety of the  
4 population. But if there's an incident how are they going to step in otherwise?

5 Q. [10:58:12] Am I right, Mr Okoa-Penguia, in saying that at this post in Kapou the  
6 aim was also to search and check all vehicles and motorbikes, in particular, those who  
7 turned off to Kalangoi and therefore didn't continue on the main axis?

8 A. [10:58:34] Yes, that's right. I'm telling you a little bit further on that the  
9 Kalangoi axis, if you go into the depth, there's lots -- there's Palme d'Or, and also the  
10 Peulh who had to use these routes. But if they are at Boali and go to Bossembele for  
11 their cattle, they use the entire corridor in order to arrive in Kapou. And as I was  
12 telling you, in order the Peulh then return to them, they needed the prefecture of  
13 Lobaye saying, "No, Lobaye is not a place for the cattles." But the -- there were a lot  
14 of Peulh that arrived and it is their presence on the ground in the area which created  
15 problems, because they wanted to protect -- lots of problems were created and,  
16 therefore, the prefecture asked us in Mbaïki to have a meeting with the prefecture and  
17 an order was issued to each mayor to retain and to ask the Peulh, who were  
18 everywhere, to return back home. And then the Peulh returned because it was the  
19 rainy season at that moment, Madam.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:59:55] I think we have a natural break, so to  
21 speak, which we extend to a normal 30-minute break until 11:30.

22 THE COURT USHER: [11:00:06] All rise.

23 (Recess taken at 11.00 a.m.)

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

25 THE COURT USHER: [11:31:57] All rise.

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1 Please be seated.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:32:08] Ms Dimitri, of course you have still the  
3 floor.

4 MS DIMITRI: [11:32:18] Thank you, Mr President.

5 Q. [11:32:37](Interpretation) Are we ready to continue, Mr Witness?

6 A. [11:32:43] Yes, we can. Thank you.

7 Q. [11:32:48] All right. Before the midmorning break, we talked about the Kapou  
8 barrier. Now, if we carry on along that PK9-Mbaïki axis, along the tar road, would it  
9 be right to say that the next checkpoint would be at Bossongo, in front of the road that  
10 leads to the Centrapalm palm tree location?

11 A. [11:33:32] Yes.

12 Q. [11:33:34] And would I be right in saying that there are gendarme who are  
13 deployed at that station to ensure the Centrapalm safety, and we're talking about  
14 2013 -- before 2013; is that right?

15 A. [11:33:50] Yes, that's right. Because I was saying earlier on, this is the only  
16 company operating in the country that does tiles. There were cases of theft. There  
17 were people who were involved in thievery and there was unfair competition with  
18 the company. This is a big palm tree area and so there was a Centrapalm -- there  
19 was a big brigade at Centrapalm. And this brigade was to open a Kapou control  
20 point, and a second one at Bossongo, to make sure that the track was safe and to stop  
21 the theft. All this was before the events. But I entirely agree with you, because, as I  
22 was saying, the last time -- I mean, perhaps -- perhaps I can offer a brief clarification  
23 with your leave.

24 Every 10 years in my country there's a *coup d'état*. Every 10 years. Every 10 years  
25 there's a *coup d'état*. And you can see that the government has to deploy security

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1 and defence forces in that locality because rumours were circulating that there was  
2 going to be a *coup d'état*. It's the only country in this Central African area which is a  
3 champion in *coup d'état*. Since the Barracuda operation and Bokassa was toppled in  
4 1979, there have been mutinies, rebellions and what have you. This Central African  
5 population doesn't remain quiet. So the regimes, the various regimes, have to make  
6 sure that they can keep things safe. But despite all those efforts, as you've  
7 understood, invaders come, they come from Chad, from Sudan. I'll stop at this  
8 juncture.

9 Q. [11:36:07] And would it be right to say, Mr Witness, that before 2013 the  
10 gendarmes that were deployed at the Bossongo checkpoint along the *palmeraie* tree  
11 road -- the palm tree road, those gendarmes were armed?

12 A. [11:36:25] Yes. Because at a given time the gendarme and the police were  
13 equipped with weapons. But there came a time when there wasn't enough  
14 confidence or trust and some brigades were without weapons and you could give the  
15 brigade one or two weapons. And then the other police officers and gendarmes had  
16 no weapons to speak off.

17 Q. [11:36:56] Now, if we carry on that PK9-Mbaïki road, that axis on the tar road,  
18 after the control or the checkpoint, before the Centrapalm turn-off, the next  
19 checkpoint would be the one at Bossongo itself. Now, this is a checkpoint where  
20 there's a gendarmerie brigade, so a compulsory stop, and at the time, if you remember,  
21 there were police officers, judicial police officers, administrative officers and  
22 economic or financial police officers; is that right?

23 A. [11:37:40] Well, we can say that these are mobile checkpoints, economic or  
24 financial ones, and that type of work was organised at specific times of the year, but  
25 not throughout the year. Sometimes there were leaks and so those leaks were

1 shored up where necessary. But they weren't ongoing checkpoints, permanent  
2 fixtures.

3 Q. [11:38:16] But, despite that, at Bossongo there was a gendarmerie brigade?

4 A. [11:38:23] Yes, that's right. Inside Bossongo itself, there was a gendarmerie  
5 brigade, and that brigade supported the local population because during the dry  
6 season there were cases of fire and theft, there were many incidents like that. And  
7 the company officials, when Centrapalm was created, they requested security from  
8 gendarmerie and for members of staff, and this is part and parcel of the agribusiness  
9 structure in the country.

10 Q. [11:39:17] All right. Let's move away from Bossongo. Let's carry on this axis.  
11 The next stop would be at Pissa.

12 A. [11:39:25] Yes, which is the main location in the commune.

13 Q. [11:39:34] That's right. And there was a gendarmerie brigade not far from the  
14 town hall; is that right?

15 A. [11:39:40] Yes. Now, that particular brigade, it was put together by Bokassa,  
16 because when he was still in power there were only two barriers on that way. When  
17 you leave Bangui to go off to Mbaïki, there was the PK9 brigade. You can see the  
18 barrier there, look, with a little wall. That was put together by Bokassa. And then  
19 the second one was at Pissa. There's the little wall there as well. So that was to  
20 keep the city safe. Now, he was head of state, and to go to his birthplace, his  
21 birthplace, there had to be some sort of security apparatus. And that's why Bokassa  
22 established that checkpoint, which still exists today. But up until that day, it had  
23 been removed.

24 At Pissa you'll see now that the barrier is at the entrance to the city. It's no longer  
25 actually inside the city per se, because you can't mix gendarmerie with the local

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1 population. The gendarmerie has to be a little outside of the village or the city in  
2 order to make things safe. Hence the new brigade is located at the entrance of Pissa,  
3 as you go into the locality.

4 Q. [11:41:18] Now, before 2013, that brigade stationed at Pissa, not far from the  
5 town hall, was supported by people from the forestry division, waters and forestry  
6 division; is that right?

7 A. [11:41:36] Yes. Yes, because there were -- there was the gendarmerie, there was  
8 the water and forestries commission. Because at that checkpoint Lobaye is a forested  
9 area, remember, and there were lumber companies which were trading in wood.  
10 But in terms of the crisis that the country was embroiled in, there were woodcutters  
11 who were unlawful, that had cutters that would go into the forest, would cut down  
12 trees, they would make planks and what have you, and they would load that up to go  
13 and sell the lumber in Bangui. And this trade, beforehand, this was an informal -- a  
14 black market trade, but -- but it was no longer possible to meet the lumber needs of  
15 the population.

16 When the crisis hit, as you know, a number of houses in Bangui were burned. Many,  
17 many houses just went up in smoke. And thanks to these unofficial woodcutters  
18 who opened black market lumber at Petevo -- at Petevo there is the wood market  
19 that's there which is -- which is operational. And even in the northern -- when you  
20 exit Bangui by the north, in those districts, the waters and forestries commission  
21 were -- had a contract there at the Pissa checkpoint.

22 Q. [11:43:19] At the Pissa checkpoint, before 2013, before the Seleka period, there  
23 was also armed gendarme, right?

24 A. [11:43:29] Well, not entirely so, not really. That is in the previous period.  
25 There were one or two armed gendarme, maybe a dozen or so. And in 2015 I was

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1 visited by the United States official David Brown. It's worth noting this. Now, this  
2 ambassador came to Pissa and I welcomed him, and the gendarme were there for his  
3 security. And when the ambassador left, he paid tribute to the gendarmes and he  
4 said, "You are the Pissa gendarme", he said, and they said, "Yes, that's us". "Where  
5 are you weapons", he said, and the gendarme said, "We don't have any", and the  
6 ambassador said, "Well, that's not possible, is it? That's not possible".  
7 And I said, "Mr Ambassador, this is what Central African Republic -- it's the reality,  
8 it's the country, the country that has seen all the evils in the world foisted upon it.  
9 It's a country that's not recognised. It's where, you know, General de Gaulle's  
10 independence -- its independence hasn't been given to the country, and, you know,  
11 I'm delighted to be here", he said.  
12 And everybody here in the courtroom should know that I paid tribute to your work.  
13 I thank you warmly for everything that you are currently doing, because this is all  
14 part and parcel of history, isn't it? This is going to be written in my country's history  
15 books. When I go back to my country, the authorities will receive me. And I think  
16 that what I say here in this courtroom people are aware of already.  
17 Pissa's mayor is telling the truth to the ICC. Possibly when you've finished -- please  
18 forgive me, but perhaps you'll have finished your work and the bandits that trigger  
19 the war often, maybe you'll interview them like you're interviewing me. I don't  
20 know. I really don't know. Please forgive me.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:45:41] You don't have to ask for forgiveness.  
22 It's very important, the evidence that you deliver. And when you say it's also -- it  
23 might also be important for the historical record, I think you might be right also in  
24 that regard because, as everybody knows here, and also for everyone here on the  
25 gallery, and everyone possibly listening in other countries, we have a complete record



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1 of the proceedings, and so that everything what has been said and what has been  
2 done is fixed and can at least, how it was said, not be questioned. Of course,  
3 interpretation is always prone to assessment.

4 Please, Ms Dimitri, you can continue.

5 MS DIMITRI: [11:46:28] Thank you, Mr President.

6 Q. [11:46:34](Interpretation) Now rest assured, Mr Witness, we're going to be  
7 coming to the reason why the gendarmes didn't have weapons in 2015 when the  
8 ambassadors came. I'm going to take things period by period and, with your  
9 support, Mr Witness, we're going to be able to traverse the history of Central African  
10 Republic. So rest assured we're going to get there.

11 A. [11:47:03] Thank you. Thank you, Madam. Thank you.

12 Q. [11:47:10] Now, have I understood that the Pissa brigade, in there before 2013,  
13 there were a dozen or so gendarme with one or two weapons? So not all of the  
14 gendarmes individually had weapons, but they had some weapons at that checkpoint,  
15 which at the time was near the town hall; is that right?

16 A. [11:47:36] Yes.

17 Q. [11:47:43] And I think you've mentioned this beforehand, but I want to be  
18 perfectly -- I want to avoid doubt. I think you talked about a wall. Would it be  
19 right to say that the Pissa checkpoint was -- was -- well, comprised of a metal barrier?  
20 Was it a compulsory stop?

21 A. [11:48:02] Yes, it was a compulsory stop. There was a metal barrier, but next  
22 door to it you see a wall, like you see here, which goes in both directions, right and  
23 left, to stop vehicles crossing the checkpoint or going into the district.  
24 It was to avoid people fleeing. That barrier appeared during the Bokassa period.  
25 That building was built itself by -- was built by Bokassa where the barrier is.

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1 Q. [11:48:44] And would I be right when I say that Pissa is a town which is bigger  
2 than Sekia, which is more in the hinterland?

3 A. [11:49:01] It's a big centre, Pissa. It's a big conurbation, Pissa today, I believe.  
4 In up and coming years the government could turn Pissa even into a sub-prefecture.  
5 It's a big town.

6 Q. [11:49:22] All right, let's carry on this road axis, and if we now go past Pissa,  
7 would it be right to say that there are two -- two points here? There is a major artery  
8 that leads to Mbaïki, but there's also a turn-off at Pissa. There's a fork in the road,  
9 which goes Baboua, Bangui-Bouchia, Mbata.

10 A. [11:49:54] Batalimo and even Mongoumba.

11 Q. [11:49:59] Yes. Just hang on a sec.

12 A. [11:50:00] Okay.

13 Q. [11:50:03] So that this is clear for everybody.

14 A. [11:50:08] Sorry?

15 Q. [11:50:09] So it's clear.

16 A. [11:50:13] Okay.

17 Q. [11:50:15] I want now to talk about the major artery, the tar road that goes to  
18 Mbaïki. We're going to return to the turn-off in just a second. So, if you've got  
19 Pissa here and you are going off towards Mbaïki, would it be right to say that the  
20 checkpoint that comes next is at the entrance into Mbaïki? And, Mr Witness, for the  
21 avoidance of doubt, I'm talking -- still I'm talking about before 2013, before the Seleka  
22 arrived.

23 A. [11:50:41] Yes. That's entering into Mbaïki. There is a checkpoint at that  
24 location. Because just like when you leave Mbaïki, when you go off to Boda, when  
25 you leave Mbaïki, you are going to ultimately get to Zanga, and there's a checkpoint

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1 there. Mbaïki is the main Lobaye town, so there had to be a secure barrier to enter  
2 but also to leave the town.

3 Q. [11:51:19] And more specifically, looking at the Mbaïki entry checkpoint before  
4 2013, would it be right to say that that checkpoint was manned by gendarme  
5 belonging to Mbaïki?

6 A. [11:51:35] Yes, because Mbaïki is responsible for that checkpoint, because the  
7 limit between Mbaïki and Pissa is the Mbeko bridge. There's a bridge that's called  
8 Mbeko, and when you cross the bridge you enter into Mbaïki's jurisdiction. And if  
9 you then turn round to go the other way, you're entering into the jurisdiction of Pissa.  
10 That's the limit. The bridge marks the border between those two jurisdictions.

11 Q. [11:52:10] And at that particular checkpoint, at the time, there was also FACA  
12 elements who are armed?

13 A. [11:52:19] That's right, yes, there were FACA.

14 Q. [11:52:27] There were also police officers?

15 A. [11:52:30] Yes. Mbaïki police.

16 Q. [11:52:38] There were also people from the waters and forestry commission?

17 A. [11:52:44] Yes.

18 Q. [11:52:48] And to make things utterly clear, because it was slightly ambiguous  
19 what you said, the FACA were armed, right?

20 A. [11:53:01] Yes, the FACA were armed because, as I was saying earlier on, before  
21 the events of 2013, there were rumours circulating, even at that point, rumours about  
22 a *coup d'état* that was being readied in the country. I'm very pleased to see that  
23 you're informed. Every 10 years in our country we have a *coup d'état*, as I said.

24 Q. [11:53:50] Mr Witness, I'm being called to order here. When I finish my  
25 question, please try to count one, two, three and then speak, because otherwise we

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1 have lots of crossing over of voices. And what you say is very important and the  
2 stenographers are not capturing everything you're saying, not to speak of the  
3 interpreters. So, all together, perhaps we can think in our minds, one, two,  
4 three -- when either of finishes we have to count to three before another person  
5 speaks. All right.

6 So, returning to the Mbaïki checkpoint. Would it be right to say that it was -- that  
7 was an obligatory stop and it was manned -- well, which consisted in a wooden  
8 barrier where all vehicles were searched?

9 A. [11:54:38] Yes. When coming into Mbaïki, as I said, you reach that checkpoint,  
10 the wooden barrier, so you can see it, and there is a checkpoint. Right. But next  
11 door there's also a kind of a turn-off to the right which goes to the Mbaïki prison and  
12 the prefect's residence, so you can see that these were security measures to try and  
13 secure the country, because the -- all the problem. I mean, I -- I always come back to  
14 the same answer. It's the only country in the Central African region where you have  
15 a *coup d'état* every 10 years, and that's almost like a recurring feature of the Central  
16 African Republic.

17 Q. [11:55:35] And a brief clarification. At the Pissa checkpoint and at the Mbaïki  
18 checkpoint, were there town hall officials?

19 A. [11:55:49] At Pissa? No. There was the tax, the vehicle parking tax. When  
20 you cross a town, for public transport vehicles, the passengers inside those vehicles,  
21 they would get out to buy things in the markets, and what have you. They would  
22 make things a bit dirty. But there's also this parking tax, as it's called, which means  
23 that you can clean up the town and you can make sure that things work smoothly and  
24 operate smoothly. So I think this is true everywhere. Taxes, little taxes that don't  
25 cost very much. And this is legal, this is lawful, this is authorised.

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1 \*Q. [11:56:50] Now let's turn to this secondary artery, the one that goes from Pissa  
2 and leads all the way to --  
3 A. [11:57:02] Boboua.  
4 Q. [11:57:04] Correct?  
5 A. [11:57:06] After Boboua, Bangui-Bouchia .  
6 Q. [11:57:08] Bangui Bouchia.  
7 A. [11:57:12] Bouchia, Mbata, Batalimo, Mobomba, and then we get to  
8 Congo-Brazzaville. And for the time being, that is corridor 13 from the economic  
9 perspective for the country. Because you may know that the country has the  
10 Douala-Bangui corridor, but there was an effort made by Nguesso, the Congolese  
11 president, and I think the World Bank made money available. Works will be starting  
12 shortly to build a Congo-Brazzaville-Bangui corridor, to make that operational, for  
13 the benefit of our country's and Congo-Brazzaville's economies, but also that of Chad,  
14 because these are tracks that need to be -- that needs to have upkeep, that are going to  
15 be lasting 30, 40 years. But there have been blockages.  
16 You know, when you want to take a decision in our country, you have to ask  
17 everybody, the world and his wife. Bilateral relationships between France and the  
18 Central African Republic, you don't hear about them at all. General de Gaulle gave an  
19 order to do this, that and the other, do this, and the Burkinabes, the Malian, et cetera.  
20 But, you know today, please forgive me, but today we feel discouraged, looking at the  
21 position of the new French authorities in respect of what's happening in our country.  
22 It's not right. General de Gaulle had a huge amount of respect for the Africans. He  
23 had a lot of respect for the Africans. And you can see somebody like Bokassa as an  
24 example who had no intellectual capacity, really, he was a captain in the French army.  
25 Bokassa -- well, General de Gaulle liked Bokassa very much. Gave him weapons,

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1 planes, and what have you. And the last two months, in November, December,  
2 were paid by France. That's -- but France doesn't give money at all now. And we  
3 see the blockage of this, that and the other, as if the country hasn't contributed at all.  
4 Now, as a mayor, in my position, I come here and I say, "This is written, black and  
5 white, in the history books." The First and Second World War, I've studied them, for  
6 example.

7 Q. [11:59:58] Mr Okoa-Penguia, on the secondary axis, am I correct in saying there  
8 is a territorial brigade at Mbata?

9 A. [12:00:06] Yes, Mbata is the head of the district, just like Pissa. It's like Pissa.  
10 There was a gendarmerie brigade there. There was a town hall in Mbata. There is a  
11 college in Mbata. There is a market. It's an old site which used to belong to a  
12 French industrialist, Mr Dujardin. He was an industrialist. He was in this area,  
13 Mr Dujardin, and (indiscernible) grew up. So, if there is a gendarmerie brigade there,  
14 there also has to be a barrier.

15 Q. [12:00:48] And since it's the headquarters, am I correct in saying that this barrier  
16 before 2013 was a compulsory, mandatory stop?

17 A. [12:00:57] But yes, each time you crossed the town, for your own safety you  
18 would have the barrier, you would stop, and the gendarme would do their work. I  
19 think in industrialised countries there are also barriers. There are barriers. There  
20 are checks in order to make sure the town is safe.

21 You put barriers here and there -- is there to make the town safe. Look, if you look  
22 at our border, it's very open. If you look at the border between Chad and CAR,  
23 that's more than 1,000 kilometres. So the Chadians come and go. It's not their  
24 problem. If you look the border between Sudan and CAR, it's 700, 800 kilometres.  
25 It's also open in places, so you can come and go as you please. So all -- all people

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1 who want to commit bad deeds can come and go and can always return to the Central  
2 African Republic. And even if they're in Chad, I heard on the radio there are two  
3 arms groups who entered CAR to make trouble. No, no, no. They can't come to  
4 occupy a country, to attack Chad. But that's the African reality. I have to tell you this.  
5 I must tell you, it's a reality. You can't get away from it.

6 Q. [12:02:39] Mr Okoa-Penguia, you have a lot you want to tell us, but please be  
7 focused.

8 We're going to concentrate on Mbata. We're going to talk about Chad and Sudan  
9 later on. I promise you.

10 A. [12:02:57] I do apologise.

11 Q. [12:02:58] You will have an opportunity to talk about Chad and Sudan, but now  
12 let's talk about the secondary axis.

13 So Mbata, am I correct in saying that the next stop on the secondary axis is Batalimo?

14 A. [12:03:16] Yes. There is a brigade of gendarmerie there at Batalimo. There  
15 was a large forestry company that belonged to the French, Mr Philippe Gaden. And  
16 that country has existed for more than 50 years. And that gentleman is a personal  
17 friend of mine, a friend of mine. And during the events, even before the events, he's  
18 the one who gave my telephone number to the Sangaris so that I could leave Pissa  
19 because I wasn't very safe. And the Sangaris elements phoned me and made me  
20 understand that Mr Gaden gave my number. And they said, "Are you the mayor?"  
21 And the Sangaris said to me, "You should leave Pissa", and I left Pissa two days later.

22 Q. [12:04:05] Mr Okoa-Penguia.

23 A. [12:04:08] Madam.

24 Q. [12:04:09] We will reach 5 December later on. I promise you. We will talk  
25 about Philippe Gaden and Cyrille from the Sangaris. It's Cyrille, is it not?

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1 A. [12:04:25] Yes, that's him.

2 Q. [12:04:26] But, please, go back to what I'm asking you. Batalimo, before 2013,  
3 was a compulsory stop?

4 A. [12:04:37] At the gendarmerie barrier, when you arrive at Batalimo, the site of  
5 the company is on the right-hand side. And the route that goes to Mongoumba, the  
6 gendarmerie brigade, this brigade was set up Mr Philippe Gaden. He gave it as a  
7 gift to the government.

8 Q. [12:05:07] Now, for reasons of safety in particular, is it correct that before the  
9 events of 2013 there were a FACA group and gendarme of Batalimo who were  
10 present at that place?

11 A. [12:05:29] Yes, because it was Mr Philippe Gaden who requested from the  
12 authorities, because it was a very big enterprise. You know, wood represents more  
13 than 50 per cent of the turnover for the government, more than 50 per cent. So if  
14 there's a problem looming, the government makes sure to protect this forestry  
15 company. You have the IFB company --

16 Q. [12:06:05] Just one moment. Like for the -- like the other barriers we talk about,  
17 FACA searched the vehicles to make sure there were no weapons or ammunitions at  
18 this checkpoint; is that correct?

19 A. [12:06:24] Yes, yes. But this is close to the border with the Congo, so if you  
20 arrive in Mongoumba --

21 \*Q. [12:06:31] I am getting there, don't worry. And Mr... Mr Okoa-Penguia, Mr  
22 Philippe Gaden's company is indeed the IBF, is it not, the forestry company *Industrie*  
23 *Forestière de Batalimo*?

24 A. [12:06:52] Yes, that's his company. His father Jacques Gaden was an  
25 industrialist who is now in the Ivory Coast.



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1 Q. [12:07:05] Fine, fine, fine. That's okay. I just wanted to make sure we're  
2 talking about the same company.

3 A. [12:07:10] Gaden Philippe, is the person who inherited the company, which also  
4 carries the name of his father.

5 Q. [12:07:20] So if we leave Batalimo, Mr Witness, is it correct that before -- before  
6 arriving at Mongoumba, heading towards Bossarangba, there is also FACA and  
7 gendarme who checked identities and carried out a check with the vehicles?

8 A. [12:07:48] Yes, you're absolutely right, Madam. You're at Bossarangba. And  
9 if you go to the Libenge side, on the other side is the Democratic Republic of Congo.  
10 And if you -- on the right-hand side to go to Mongoumba, you also have the  
11 Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo-Brazzaville. But the Congolese of  
12 Brazzaville are over-armed, as you can see at their frontier they have -- they are  
13 heavily armed to protect their country.

14 Q. [12:08:27] You want us to talk about Mongoumba. We're going to come to that  
15 point. Is it correct that in Mongoumba there was a police station in the centre of the  
16 town?

17 A. [12:08:40] Yes, Madam. There was a town hall with a police station, a  
18 gendarme brigade. There was the water and the forestry. The FACA were there  
19 because the FACA were controlling the two outlets for the Democratic Republic of  
20 Congo and Brazzaville-Congo. The FACA was there for the safety of the town and  
21 everything else, Madam.

22 So Mongoumba is a sub-prefecture and there are schools there. There's the high  
23 school. So Mongoumba is a large town and now the HCR has built accommodation  
24 for Central African refugees who come from Congo-Brazzaville. They have housing  
25 in Mongoumba now, right now. There is housing for Central African refugees, or

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1 even refugees from Congo who can enter Central African Republic. They, too, have  
2 housing there, now.

3 Q. [12:09:57] And final question on Mongoumba. Was it also a compulsory stop?

4 A. [12:10:01] Yes, it's a compulsory stop, Madam. It was a tourist town around  
5 Bokassa. It was built -- he built a bungalow --

6 Q. [12:10:15] Mr -- Mr -- Mr Okoa-Penguia, it's enough. Thank you.

7 On the Pissa-Mbata axis, at Bouchia, is it correct that there's a checkpoint with a  
8 compulsory stop? We're still talking about the period before 2013.

9 A. [12:10:45] The Mbata mayor who put this barrier up, because there's simple  
10 barriers as well, so in Bouchia there was a barrier. I think that the gendarme came  
11 from Mbata with the support of police -- of municipal police agents at Mbata.

12 Q. [12:11:17] Yes, you're absolutely right. There was municipal police, but there  
13 was also -- \*this station was also made safe by gendarmes from the Mbaïki  
14 gendarmerie and --

15 A. [12:11:28] Mbata.

16 Q. [12:11:30] Let me finish. Let me finish -- and the territorial Mbata brigade.

17 A. [12:11:35] Yes, because it's in the Mbata area, Madam.

18 Q. [12:11:45] Just remember the three-second pause, please, Mr Witness.

19 Now, we've made a depiction of all the checkpoints, of all the barriers, the places  
20 where checks took place. Do you agree with me that in particular these barriers  
21 were established and were set up by an inter-ministerial decree?

22 A. [12:12:25] Yes. For the legal barriers, there was an inter-ministerial decree.  
23 Yes, that's true, there was an inter-ministerial decree for those barriers.

24 Q. [12:12:36] I agree with you. I'm talking about the barriers which we've just  
25 talked about, those who were set up before 2013, legal barriers who were created

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1 because of an inter-ministerial decree?

2 A. [12:12:53] Yes, Madam.

3 MS DIMITRI: [12:12:56] For the record, Mr President, I don't need to show the  
4 document, but I'm referring to tab 85, CAR-D29-0001-0526.

5 Q. [12:13:15](Interpretation) I think you've already said that during your statement,  
6 where we went from barrier to barrier, the aim was -- I'm talking about before 2013,  
7 the aim was to ensure the territorial safety and to control the route here, the roads on  
8 these axes and to make everybody was safe; is that correct?

9 A. [12:13:37] Yes, Madam.

10 Q. [12:13:38] Now I'm reaching the Seleka period, Mr Witness.

11 In paragraph 37 --

12 A. [12:14:03] Madam, please, please. I want to give you a detail on the document.  
13 You talked about the Seleka coalition. This is the term. You can't talk about the  
14 Seleka alone, you have to talk about the Seleka coalition. Now, that coalition,  
15 politically speaking, the politicians had the support of the others so that there would  
16 be a Seleka coalition that entered into the Central African Republic. So you can't  
17 forget about the coalition and just talk about the Seleka. These politicians who  
18 started the war, I think you know that. We talk about the Seleka coalition, so please  
19 include that in your document. It's the "Seleka coalition", because in that way we'll  
20 make headway.

21 Q. [12:15:02] You're absolutely correct to correct me. Yes, I have taken note,  
22 "Seleka coalition".

23 A. [12:15:06] Yes, you must say Seleka coalition. It must be like that because they  
24 caused all the turmoil in our country.

25 Q. [12:15:24] Thank you. So as regards the Seleka coalition, in paragraph 37 of

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1 your statement you stated that the barrier which was close to the town hall in Pissa,  
2 that the Seleka took control of that barrier since July 2013?

3 A. [12:15:55] Even before, Madam. \*Even before, because the takeover, when  
4 there was a change in the country, was the 24<sup>th</sup> March. And also after the 24<sup>th</sup> they  
5 arrived. All the Seleka took over the entire Lobaye, the Seleka coalition, and all the  
6 other areas of the Central African Republic. Because if you bear in mind it's a  
7 coalition, you will know all of those who were involved, because there are some  
8 politicians who want disassociate themselves. But now, since I'm before the  
9 International Criminal Court, we have to -- we have to expose this because one day  
10 you will call upon them. It was even in the month of March where the elements of  
11 the Seleka coalition took over the Pissa brigade. The agent wasn't there.  
12 Everything was taken over by the Seleka coalition.

13 Q. [12:17:07] I've noted down the correction --

14 A. [12:17:08] It's not July, it's March 2013, where there was the Seleka.

15 Q. [12:17:17] Mr Okoa-Penguia, listen to me and let me finish my question before  
16 beginning your answer.

17 A. [12:17:24] Yes.

18 Q. [12:17:27] It's in March 2013 that the elements of the Seleka coalition took over  
19 control of the barrier of Pissa?

20 A. [12:17:38] Yes.

21 Q. [12:17:38] Now, listen carefully to my question. Now, amongst the elements of  
22 the Seleka coalition who took over the control of the Pissa barrier, were there also  
23 Chadian or Sudanese mercenaries who were not Central Africans? Were there  
24 amongst the Seleka coalition elements who took over the barrier and were not from  
25 the Central African Republic?

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:18:08] Ms Galupa.

2 MS GALUPA: [12:18:10] Mr President, I would have to object to that. It's not  
3 within the realm of the knowledge of this witness to speak about the general  
4 composition of the Seleka, who exactly was in there. Maybe he has some personal  
5 observation he can say about that, but not formulated as such (overlapping speakers)

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:18:25] Well, I disagree actually. I think the  
7 witness has a -- has a lot of knowledge, was in an official position and he can tell us  
8 what he knows.

9 So, Mr Witness, what can you tell us about -- but please only firsthand information  
10 that you have, about the composition of the Seleka coalition? Where did these  
11 people come from? Where were they composed of?

12 THE WITNESS: [12:18:55](Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour. The Seleka  
13 coalition was born how? In my statement you could read that things started, firstly,  
14 by the outcome of the elections of 2011, which were contested by the so-called  
15 democratic opposition, the democratic opposition. They contested the elections of  
16 2011 and set up an organisation called FARE, and they requested a resumption of the  
17 elections. Everything started with that. Everything started with that. The front  
18 for the cancellation and the retake of elections.

19 Gradually, they gained more support. I was a witness of that. As a Central African,  
20 I'm telling you the truth. Because no one was listening to the government in place.  
21 No one was listening to what they said. They had more faith or confidence in this  
22 particular group of the so-called armed democratic opponents, and in order to avoid a  
23 bloodbath in CAR, the heads of state decided that some sort of mediation should take  
24 place.

25 So everybody went to Brazzaville to try and reach an agreement. That also took

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1 place in Gabon, where there was the Libreville agreement. There was the Malabo  
2 trips where there was another agreement. But this did not bear any fruits to stop the  
3 Seleka elements, Mr President. So what were we to do? There was FOMAC that  
4 was already there in order to ensure the safety, but these rebels, these mercenaries  
5 entered into Bangui.  
6 Counsel asked me a very interesting question as regards the elements who arrived in  
7 Pissa. You know, all Central Africans from the south, from the east, from the  
8 west -- from the east to the west, from the north to the south, we have two languages,  
9 we speak Sango and we speak French. But if you have someone in front of you who  
10 says he's Central African and doesn't speak Sango, well, then he's not Central African.  
11 It's as easy as that. It's very simple. If he doesn't speak Sango, he's not Central  
12 African.  
13 By way of information, when things became bitter, when -- as I said, when things  
14 became bitter, the transitional president was forced to do something about it. But  
15 when he arrived in Bangui, there were more than 5,000 to try and set fire to the  
16 Central African Republic. So the barriers said this was -- in Damara was the red line  
17 and that you can't cross the red line of Damara. But this line was not respected.  
18 There was a Gabonese general who was called Akaga, and that general, he was the  
19 one who was responsible to stop the advance of the Seleka element. But that wasn't  
20 the case. They arrived at the barrier and went further.  
21 Your Honour, if you don't mind, I'm telling you, it was a very complicated problem in  
22 CAR. Extremely complicated. Extremely complicated.  
23 I can -- I give you another example. In January 2013, January 2013, before the Seleka  
24 entered Bangui, the former president, Thomas Boni Yayi, came to Bangui. He  
25 remained at the airport in M'Poko. There was the presidential major who was there.

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1 The politicians were there. And everybody who was at the outset of the Central  
2 African Republic. And Mr Boni Yayi, he said, "Look, I ask for your forgiveness. Do  
3 not accept the rebels to enter your country because that will create chaos." And this  
4 was the beginning of 2013. There was Central African opponents.

5 And what did Tiangaye say to Mr Thomas Boni Yayi? "Well, mister, you're too late,  
6 the rebels are already in Bangui." That's what happened at the beginning of 2013.

7 And in March 2013, the country was sucked into chaos. So --

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:24:13] Mr Witness. Mr Witness. Coming,  
9 coming --

10 THE WITNESS: [12:24:16](Interpretation) Yes, your Honour.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:24:17] Mr Okoa -- witness, coming back to the  
12 question. So you said there were, amongst the Seleka, there were mercenaries.

13 Please, a short answer: Where did these mercenaries, from which countries did they  
14 come?

15 THE WITNESS: [12:24:38](Interpretation) Most of them were from Chad. They  
16 were mostly from Chad, because somebody who doesn't speak Sango is not a Central  
17 African. And they understood and got on with the Muslim in my country. They  
18 spoke the same language.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:24:53] Yeah. Thank you, Mr Witness, for this  
20 clarification.

21 I give the floor to Ms Dimitri.

22 MS DIMITRI: [12:24:59] Thank you. Thank you, Mr President.

23 Q. [12:25:01] (Interpretation) Mr Okoa-Penguia.

24 A. [12:25:04] Madam.

25 Q. [12:25:05] Briefly, briefly, please answer my question. We established earlier the

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1 composition of the security forces in the Pissa barrier before 2013. \* When the Seleka took  
2 control in 2013 of the Pissa barrier, what happened to the FACA, to the gendarmes and to  
3 the police of the internal security forces? What happened to them all?

4 A. [12:25:31] War broke out. War broke out, or had already broken out. We  
5 didn't see the FACA, the gendarmerie or the soldiers. Police didn't exist anymore.

6 Q. [12:25:43] Thank you. Thank you. That answered my question. They fled?

7 A. [12:25:46] Yes, they fled.

8 Q. [12:25:52] I've noted that in some places in your statement, for example, in  
9 paragraph 28, you said: "I am the mayor of Pissa. I, through my counterparts, I am  
10 kept abreast of events. We've done everything as regards the PK9-Mbaïki security  
11 points."

12 In paragraph 46 of your statement and paragraph 38 of your statement, you explain  
13 that the members of the Seleka coalition installed barriers in Pissa, PK9, Bangui,  
14 Sekia --

15 A. [12:26:42] *Oui.*

16 Q. [12:26:43] Let me finish -- Batalimo, Mbaïki, Boda, Mongoumba and others.

17 A. [12:26:51] *C'est ça, Madame.*

18 Q. [12:26:55] Listen to my question, sir. Let me finish.

19 Now, according to what you learnt, my first question is: Do they take over control of  
20 these locations from March 2013, as soon as they arrived in Lobaye?

21 A. [12:27:16] Well, that is how they entered Lobaye, because they had the  
22 ComZones and they were scattered throughout Lobaye. Throughout the  
23 Lobaye -- they took over the entire Lobaye, and even some other areas of the Central  
24 African Republic.

25 Q. [12:27:35] Mr Okoa-Penguia, please focus on my question. My question was



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1 from March 2013: Is it from March onwards, that immediately after 24 March, when  
2 they arrived in Lobaye, was that when they took over all the locations which you've  
3 already mentioned?

4 A. [12:27:57] Yes. *Voilà.*

5 Q. [12:28:01] And which you mentioned in 37, 38 and 46 in your statement,  
6 is - from -- did they take that over from March 2013 onwards?

7 A. [12:28:15] *Oui.*

8 Q. [12:28:16] Second question, Mr Witness: Since you were keeping abreast of  
9 events through your counterparts, am I correct in saying that the security forces, they  
10 were there before, the gendarme, the members of the brigade which we already  
11 talked about, who were present to make sure Lobaye was safe before March 2013, am  
12 I right to say that in all those locations, when the member of the Seleka coalition  
13 arrived, all of them fled?

14 A. [12:28:49] Everybody fled, because the members the Seleka coalition didn't want  
15 to have FACA, the gendarme, the police. And when they saw them, they killed  
16 them. That's it, Madam. They took enormous vehicles and they went from town to  
17 town and made their men enter the town and had the ComZones. So when they  
18 arrived, you couldn't wear a military uniform, Madam.

19 Q. [12:29:19] I'm coming there. I'm coming there.

20 A. [12:29:22] All the gendarme, the police, the security forces, the regular armed  
21 forces couldn't wear a uniform anymore, Madam. They couldn't wear a uniform, so  
22 the defence forces had to stop wearing their uniform. You can ask anyone. You  
23 can ask anyone who belonged -- who was in their ranks.

24 Q. [12:29:52] You're talking about the fact that they couldn't wear their uniform  
25 because they would run the risk of being killed. In paragraph 35, you say that the

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1 members of the Seleka coalition replaced the regular army and the FACA, and that  
2 the members of the Seleka coalition took over their duties of the FACA and the  
3 regular security forces.

4 Am I to understand that according to the information that you got and according to  
5 what you saw yourself, that on this road axis of more than 100 kilometres between  
6 PK9 and Mbaïki, all the FACA had to flee at the risk of being killed by members of the  
7 Seleka coalition?

8 A. [12:30:46] They all fled, Madam. And the president of the transition, Djotodia,  
9 spoke about a Central African Republican army, army -- a Central African  
10 Republican army. He did not want to hear anything about FACA, the Central  
11 African forces. And that was said by the president, the transitional president himself  
12 who was in power, Mr Djotodia, and very swiftly he sent to Berengo, the site of  
13 Bokassa --

14 Q. [12:31:23] Mr Witness --

15 \*A. [12:31:25] The military, the gendarme, everybody fled, Madam. It was war,  
16 who could stay there in uniform before the elements of the Seleka coalition?

17 Q. [12:31:37] We're going to get to the matter of Berengo, because this is an  
18 important point for me, but let's -- let's not be too hasty. Don't be hasty in your  
19 answer. Focus on my question.

20 Now, I've taken great care of looking at your statement. We're going to talk about  
21 the Berengo training centre. We're going to get there very shortly, but beforehand  
22 here's my question:

23 Now, we've talked about the FACA, who were chased by the Seleka. In paragraph  
24 29 in your statement you say that the members of the Seleka coalition attacked and  
25 took over all the official institutions. They attacked the brigades, the gendarmerie

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1 brigades, the local police stations, the military bases.

2 \*So, should I understand that the Seleka, the members of the Seleka coalition, forced  
3 all official authorities along the PK9 Mbaiki road and the Mongoumba road to flee, all  
4 the police forces?

5 A. [12:32:58] Yes. There was nobody left, Madam.

6 Q. [12:33:03] Would I be also right in concluding, based on the information that  
7 you yourself received and based on what you were able to see through your own  
8 means, that when the Seleka coalition members took over the gendarmerie brigades,  
9 the local police stations, they also took vehicles and weapons?

10 A. [12:33:29] Well, that was their war loot, based on the information that we had at  
11 our avail. They came, and the transitional president, Mr Djotodia, told them: If  
12 you're a Christian, you pray on the bible. If you're a Muslim, you pray on the Koran.  
13 But when we have come, we're not -- we haven't promised one single franc to the  
14 Seleka members. So you're in Bangui, try to get in there.

15 But be -- any vehicles, for the administration, NGOs, private individuals, all those  
16 vehicles went off to Chad or Sudan, even at Pissa, even at Pissa itself. Private  
17 individuals' vehicles that were hidden kilometres away, well, Seleka elements from  
18 that coalition, even if it was 40 kilometres away in the forest, they would go and find  
19 the vehicle and take it away. So Central African Republic's vehicles, this was  
20 something that the -- this was the preferred loot of the Seleka coalition members.

21 Q. [12:35:07] My next question -- now please listen carefully.

22 A. [12:35:09] Yes, Madam.

23 Q. [12:35:10] And it calls from you an accurate answer. From paragraph 77 in  
24 your statement you say that the Anti-Balaka took over the Seleka bases wherever they  
25 were, and then you provide a list of those areas: Sekia, Boda, Centrapalm, Mbata,

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1 Batalimo, Palmex, Palme d'Or and PK9.

2 So here's my question, Mr Witness: Should I understand that based on what you saw  
3 and based on the information that you received, that the Seleka had barriers,  
4 checkpoints or bases in all those localities -- the elements of the Seleka coalition I'm  
5 referring to?

6 A. [12:36:06] I'm saying that what we never understood in respect of the country,  
7 Central African country, the -- since the independence, all the way to the arrival of the  
8 Seleka coalition, there had been an army. We had checkpoints. We had weapons.  
9 We had ammunition. We had all that.

10 Now, I'm from Pissa, and at Berengo, when Bokassa was in power, there were  
11 weapons. There was everything --

12 Q. [12:36:34] Mr Okoa-Penguia --

13 A. [12:36:37] Yes, I'm getting to your question.

14 Now, the Seleka elements were armed to the teeth. They came to steal the Central  
15 African Republic's ammunition and weapons. Everything, they took everything,  
16 leaving the army weaponless. So the Seleka elements, really, they -- they stripped  
17 our arsenal. And, fortunately, the authorities that are currently in power are doing  
18 what they can. The Anti-Balaka elements, they -- they arrived. Others fled. But it  
19 was war. I'm saying it was war. When war arrived -- beforehand it was the Seleka  
20 coalition elements.

21 Q. [12:37:25] Mr Witness --

22 A. [12:37:27] Yes, Madam.

23 Q. [12:37:29] Listen to my question.

24 A. [12:37:31] Yes.

25 Q. [12:37:33] You've already answered, very clearly, about the looting of vehicles

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1 and weapons, the looting by the members of the Seleka coalition.

2 Now my question is different and you haven't provided an answer. Please listen  
3 because I want an accurate answer from you.

4 In paragraph 77 in your statement you say that the Anti-Balaka took over the bases of  
5 the members of the Seleka coalition. In all those location -- this is what you have  
6 said, in all these locations. And then you provide a list of the locations. Listen to  
7 me. You say Sekia, Boda, Centrapalm, Mbata, Batalimo, Palmex, Palme d'Or and  
8 PK9.

9 Listen to my question: Should I understand from your evidence, based on the  
10 information that you received, should I understand that the members of the Seleka  
11 coalition had established barriers, checkpoints or bases in the locations I've just listed;  
12 yes or no?

13 A. [12:38:46] Yes, but those were their bases. But maybe what I mentioned in the  
14 statement, Anti-Bal, that's the clarification that needs to be provided.

15 Q. [12:38:59] We're getting there. We're getting there.

16 THE INTERPRETER: [12:39:05] Overlapping speakers.

17 THE WITNESS: [12:39:58](Interpretation) AK-47s.

18 MS DIMITRI: [12:39:09](Interpretation)

19 Q. [12:39:09] We're going to get to the FACA, the Anti-Balaka, but please just  
20 follow my questions and we'll make greater progress.

21 I'd like to show you some video footage.

22 A. [12:39:46] That's not a problem.

23 MS DIMITRI: [12:39:53] You'll have a short break, because I don't need  
24 interpretation. It's tab 22, CAR-OTP-2065-3748. It's a video. \*It was filmed  
25 around 13 December 2013.

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- 1 Q. [12:40:25](Interpretation) Can you see on the screen, Mr Witness?
- 2 A. [12:40:30] The house is for who?
- 3 Q. [12:40:32] I'm going to refresh your memories with two videos. Here's the first
- 4 one.
- 5 A. [12:40:37] Yes.
- 6 Q. [12:40:37] Do you recognise that building? And I don't know whether you can
- 7 pick that out. Between the two men there, there seems to be something that looks
- 8 like a barrier. This is a barrier which is located on the former Mbaïki road where
- 9 there was a gendarmerie station. The old Mbaïki road, the old one.
- 10 A. [12:41:09] To the PK -- what, to go to the river?
- 11 Q. [12:41:17] Towards M'Poko-Bac.
- 12 A. [12:41:20] Oh, M'Poko-Bac; that's right.
- 13 Q. [12:41:22] So you recognise the building which is on the screen as being the
- 14 barrier that was on the old Mbaïki road where there was a gendarmerie station; is that
- 15 right?
- 16 A. [12:41:33] Yes, that's right. I can see that. I can see that. To go to
- 17 M'Poko-Bac. That's in Bimbo.
- 18 Q. [12:41:54] Now, to the best of your knowledge, based on the information that
- 19 you received, this particular barrier, this checkpoint on the former Mbaïki road, was it
- 20 controlled by the members of the Seleka coalition that made it into an actual base?
- 21 A. [12:42:13] We're outside the Pissa commune. I have no knowledge of that.
- 22 Forgive me.
- 23 Q. [12:42:21] That's not a problem.
- 24 THE INTERPRETER: [12:42:21] Overlapping speakers.
- 25 MS DIMITRI: [12:42:22](Interpretation)

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1 Q. [12:42:24] Listen to me, please.

2 A. [12:42:27] Yes.

3 \*Q. [12:42:29] In fact, this is really where I'm going with my next question. Would  
4 I be right to say that that particular location, in actual fact, is located a few kilometres  
5 away from the PK9 bridge on the road from Cattin to M-Poko-Bac road? It isn't in  
6 Lobaye at all?

7 A. [12:42:46] That's right. That's right. This is the Mbaïki road.

8 MS DIMITRI: [12:43:01] Mr President, if I could just have a moment, please.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:43:04] Of course.

10 MS DIMITRI: [12:43:23](Interpretation)

11 Q. [12:43:23] I'm going to show you now some video footage, Mr Witness.

12 This is tab 16 in my list of materials, CAR-OTP-2065-5324. For the record, I'm going  
13 to have playing 00:36 to 01:39.

14 And this time I will need to enlist the support of the interpreters. This is at tab 18,

15 CAR-OTP-2107-3128, lines 17 to 47. And the translation is located at tab 19,

16 CAR-OTP-2118-5698, from 17 to 49.

17 Mr Witness.

18 A. [12:44:24] Yes, Madam.

19 Q. [12:44:25] I'm going to be showing you some video footage. We can see Alfred  
20 Rambo Yekatom speaking here and then we'll have somebody appearing next to him.  
21 Of interest to me, what is said. I'm interested in what is said by the man who is next  
22 to Mr Yekatom.

23 The location where this occurs, that's of interest as well.

24 I'll let you listen and then I'll have a follow-up question for you.

25 I understand we're far from Pissa, but since you know the location as being close to

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- 1 M'Poko-Bac, the former Mbaïki road, I'd just like to put a question to you on this  
2 location. Are you with me?
- 3 A. [12:45:09] Yes, I am.
- 4 Q. [12:45:16] All right then, let's look at the video.  
5 (Playing of the video excerpt)
- 6 THE INTERPRETER: [12:45:24](Interpretation of the video excerpt)  
7 "Journalist: And what this road, what does it represent?  
8 AY: Sorry?  
9 Journalist: This road, where does it lead to?  
10 INI: It's the old Mbaïki road. ... This ...  
11 INI: What did you say?  
12 Journalist: What's the point of this road?  
13 INI: The point of this road, the purpose? Well, let's say it's the road that all -- what  
14 the majority of *Banguissois* use to go to the fields.  
15 Journalist: And the Seleka, they were holding this place beforehand?  
16 INI: Sorry?  
17 Journalist: It was the Seleka who were holding this place beforehand?  
18 INI: Yes, yes, that's right, it was the Seleka. Their -- their station was here. ... They  
19 even came to hold up, hold up the brigade commander here.  
20 Journalist: And what became of them?  
21 INI: Well, they came to hit a gendarme here, a brigade commander.  
22 Journalist: And where are they now, the Seleka who were controlling this  
23 checkpoint?  
24 INI: I don't know."  
25 MS DIMITRI: [12:46:36](Interpretation)



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1 Q. [12:46:36] Now, based on what you saw in the video footage then, based on also  
2 the words that were uttered and you heard, the location that they're referring to is  
3 indeed, is it not, the former gendarmerie station that was on the former Mbaïki road  
4 between Cattin and M'Poko-Bac?

5 A. [12:46:56] Yes.

6 Q. [12:46:57] Several kilometres from PK9, a place that's not in Lobaye; is that  
7 right?

8 A. [12:47:01] That's right.

9 Q. [12:46:59] Thank you.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:47:00] Ms Galupa.

11 MS GALUPA: [12:47:03] I'm coming in a bit late, Mr President, but I'm just  
12 wondering what the -- I don't think that the video could be the basis of this question,  
13 because nothing in the video showed exactly where it was filmed and where it was  
14 situated between, or what counsel (Overlapping speakers)

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:47:22] Well, that is -- that is correct, but on the  
16 other hand, one speaker mentioned -- mentioned the road, and we have a question  
17 regarded to this mentioning and we have an answer by the witness. So the video, as  
18 such, does not show anything. And this is then, in the end, a matter of assessment  
19 by the Chamber, yeah. But you're right. But -- well, it -- important is that the  
20 witness spoke about another road, and also the one person who was in the video  
21 spoke about another road, so this was the relation.

22 Ms Dimitri.

23 MS DIMITRI: [12:48:07] Thank you, Mr President.

24 Q. [12:48:28](Interpretation) So Mr Alfred Rambo Yekatom, Mr Witness, when  
25 Yekatom arrived at Pissa, he sets up in Pissa -- perhaps I'll rephrase my question.

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1 In 2014, would I be right in saying that Mr Yekatom had established some men -- had  
2 deployed some men at the checkpoint at the Pissa barrier that had been taken over by  
3 the Seleka coalition members? Would I be right in saying that it's at that location at  
4 Pissa that Yekatom had deployed his men?

5 A. [12:49:32] Thank you, Madam. You may know that the elements belonging to  
6 the Seleka coalition initially had taken over all the checkpoints, all the barriers. And  
7 when the 4 and 5 December events occurred, they all fled. The Seleka coalition  
8 members, they all took to their heels, and it was the Anti-Balaka people who took  
9 over those barriers that formerly had been held by the members of the Seleka  
10 coalition. So in Pissa there were Yekatom elements that were there on the ground on  
11 the other barriers as well. But Samba-Panza had to step in and with the government  
12 would restore order. And that's where the Anti-Balaka would be able to liberate all  
13 the checkpoints. That was the work that was done, because initially it was members  
14 of the Seleka coalition that were occupying all these checkpoints.

15 And when the 4 and 5 December events occurred, well, the Anti-Balaka elements took  
16 over. But when Samba-Panza arrived and the soldiers, the police officers, the  
17 gendarme officially resumed their functions, then the order was given to the  
18 Anti-Balaka elements to liberate these checkpoints from the PK9, all the way through  
19 to Pissa, Mongoumba, Mbaïki. And that's how the Anti-Balaka liberated all the  
20 checkpoints, Madam.

21 Q. [12:51:12] We're going to get there, Mr Witness. You're going too fast. I want  
22 to take things step by step in time, incrementally. But I want to get to the liberation  
23 of those checkpoints.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:51:24] Yes. But, nevertheless, if the witness  
25 already, in -- let's say, in the sway of his narrative, has already mentioned certain

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1 things, perhaps you could ponder to skip a question. So he has clearly stated that all  
2 the former checkpoints were taken over, so this has not to be entertained further.

3 MS DIMITRI: [12:51:43] No, I agree.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:51:45] Yeah. Okay. Good. Yeah.

5 MS DIMITRI: [12:51:46] And -- and trust me, Mr President, I skipped quite a number,  
6 given the --

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:51:50] Yeah, I understand. I do know, but --

8 MS DIMITRI: [12:51:52] I do. I take it into account.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:51:56] Okay. Thank you. Please continue.

10 MS DIMITRI: [12:52:14](Interpretation)

11 Q. [12:52:15] My next question, Mr Witness -- and here I'm talking about the  
12 period -- I'm really homing in on this period, namely, after Djotodia's resignation on  
13 10 January. You remember, we have the 4 and 5 December attack that you just  
14 referred to, then President Djotodia would resign at N'Djamena on 10 January, and  
15 then around 20 January, Madam Samba-Panza would become president -- the  
16 transitional president of the Central African Republic.

17 All right. After President Djotodia's resignation, at paragraph 77 in your statement  
18 you say that at a certain point in time the Anti-Balaka elements took over the Seleka  
19 bases. And you also say that Mr Yekatom, and I quote, "played a central role in the  
20 pushing out of the members of the Seleka coalition", this dislodging of those elements.  
21 Now, should I understand, because we're going to talk about the rest in a moment,  
22 but at this point in time should I understand the information that you had at your  
23 disposal, the information that you had gleaned, and based on what you yourself saw,  
24 Mr Yekatom was advancing through Lobaye to dislodge the Seleka in the vicinity and  
25 ensure that they would not return; is that right?

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1 A. [12:54:02] Well, let me provide a clarification. Djotodia didn't resign. We  
2 need to pick up on that, I think. François Hollande had sent the Sangaris operation  
3 into Central African Republic to make the country secure. Unfortunately, the Seleka  
4 coalition didn't take that in consideration. They killed two Sangaris soldiers. So  
5 President Hollande, who was attending Nelson Mandela's funeral ceremony in  
6 South Africa, he came very quickly to bow and salute the mortal remains of those  
7 French soldiers and brought them back to France.  
8 A few weeks later the Seleka coalition would kill, again, two Sangaris soldiers.  
9 President Hollande would come back into Central African Republic to salute those  
10 mortal remains, and then he said something that we remembered. He said, "We  
11 cannot continue to support somebody who does absolutely nothing. We cannot  
12 continue to support somebody who does nothing and who just gets run roughshod  
13 over. So we're going to take the decision."  
14 And that's why Mr Hollande would instruct Idriss Déby to convene, bring together  
15 Djotodia. And when they went to N'Djamena he was asked to resign. But he didn't  
16 do it off his own bat, of his own will. It was under pressure from France. He was  
17 saying, "Look, you're creating lots of problems. Off you go. You're going to have to  
18 be pushed out."  
19 That's what happened and that's the clarification I wish to provide. But, please,  
20 what I said initially, I don't know whether you can retrieve that in the statement.  
21 But on 30 January 2014, Yekatom, he said something at Mbaïki. You can probably  
22 retrieve that.  
23 Q. [12:56:08] Please, Mr Witness.  
24 A. [12:56:11] The Anti-Balaka coalition is not against the Muslims. That's what he  
25 said. And I'm referring to that. So -- but I'm just offering you a clarification,

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1 Madam. That's -- that's what it was.

2 So the Anti-Balaka had organised themselves to put an end to Mr Djotodia's interim  
3 presidency. He brought in the mercenaries, the Chadians, the mercenaries, the  
4 Sudanese to wreak havoc in the country. And so it was the Anti-Balaka, their  
5 movement was to push out Mr Djotodia. That's what was said on 30 January at  
6 Mbaïki, Madam.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:56:54] I'm sure you will address that later on.

8 MS DIMITRI: [12:56:57] I will.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:56:58] Some of it.

10 MS DIMITRI: [12:56:59] I will. If I can just have one last question before the lunch  
11 break.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:57:04] Yes, of course.

13 MS DIMITRI: [12:57:02] Thank you.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:57:03] Perhaps a short question with -- yeah,  
15 please.

16 MS DIMITRI: [12:57:12] I have no control.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:57:14] Yeah, yeah. Please, please.

18 MS DIMITRI: [12:57:23](Interpretation)

19 Q. [12:57:23] Mr Okoa-Penguia, you just said, and I would just like to pick up on  
20 what you just said, you just said that the Anti-Balaka organised themselves to push  
21 out Djotodia. Listen to me.

22 A. [12:57:30] Yes.

23 Q. [12:57:31] The objective was to push out the Seleka coalition.

24 Now, let's forget for the time being Mbaïki. We'll return to that meeting at a later  
25 point. Just listen to what I'm asking you. According to the information that came

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1 to you, and based on what you yourself saw when Mr Yekatom and his men  
2 advanced along the PK9-Mbaiki axis, you speak about this in your statement and you  
3 say that they take up positions where there had been bases, checkpoints held by  
4 members of the Seleka coalition.

5 Now, would I be right in saying that as he progressed along that axis, and as he  
6 deployed his troops, the purpose of that was to dislodge the members of the Seleka  
7 coalition, to push them out from Lobaye, and to make sure that those mercenaries  
8 wouldn't return into the region; is that right?

9 A. [12:58:30] That's right.

10 Q. [12:58:32] Thank you.

11 MS DIMITRI: [12:58:33] Perfect time for the lunch break.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:58:35] Okay. Then let's have the lunch break  
13 until 2:30, yeah. See you then.

14 THE COURT USHER: [12:58:40] All rise.

15 (Recess taken at 12.58 p.m.)

16 (Upon resuming in open session at 2.32 p.m.)

17 THE COURT USHER: [14:32:56] All rise.

18 Please be seated.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:33:20] Good afternoon, everyone.

20 Good afternoon, Mr Okoa-Penguia.

21 Ms Dimitri, you still have the floor.

22 MS DIMITRI: [14:33:26] Thank you, Mr President.

23 Q. [14:33:33] (Interpretation) Good afternoon, sir.

24 A. [14:33:37] Thank you, Ma'am.

25 Q. [14:33:40] I still have many topics to discuss with you. Now, my next topic is

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1 very specific in terms of time, namely, the beginning of your discussions with  
2 Mr Yekatom Rombhot Alfred in January 2014.

3 So there was 5 December, and then Djotodia, as you said, was forced to step down in  
4 N'Djamena on 10 January 2014. And then, around 20 or 22 January, Ms Catherine  
5 Samba-Panza came in as transitional president. And on 30 January 2014 there was  
6 the meeting at the St Jeanne d'Arc church in Mbaïki.

7 Now, several witnesses have come to this Court and testified to the effect that the  
8 Seleka from Pissa, the members of the Seleka coalition from Pissa left Pissa and went  
9 to Mbaïki. And one or two days before the meeting at the St Jeanne d'Arc church,  
10 members of the Seleka coalition left Mbaïki and headed towards Birao. Is this  
11 something that you are aware of?

12 A. [14:35:38] Thank you, Ma'am. The change occurred because the Seleka  
13 elements were already in the field and the events of 4 and 5 December, including the  
14 departure of Djotodia, that was over. The Seleka had no further solution in Lobaye.  
15 They knew that their leader, the one who brought them there, was no longer in power,  
16 power no longer lay with him.

17 So they were really in a chaotic state. They were scattered. They realised that the  
18 Anti-Balaka would be coming in and the Anti-Balaka were powerful, miraculously  
19 powerful. They knew about that. And so the Seleka elements left Pissa. Some  
20 headed towards Boda. But for your information, Ma'am, the few Muslims in Boda  
21 were the ones who agreed to stay. So, you see --

22 Q. [14:36:57] We'll get to that, we'll get back to that.

23 A. [14:36:59] They had already liberated the town.

24 Q. [14:37:05] Am I correct in saying, sir, that Mr Yekatom had no men, no base, no  
25 post in Pissa before the last week of January 2014?

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1 A. [14:37:36] Mmm-hmm.

2 Q. [14:37:38] He got to Pissa in the last days of January 2014, just before the  
3 meeting at Jeanne d'Arc church?

4 A. [14:37:51] Yes, that's correct.

5 Q. [14:37:52] Thank you. And now my question is this: We agree before  
6 January 2014, according to the information that you have at your disposal, before  
7 January 2014, before Djotodia was forced to step down, the Seleka had a base in  
8 Palmex. Am I correct in saying that at that particular time, before January 2014,  
9 before Djotodia was forced to step down, Mr Yekatom had no base in Palmex? And  
10 my question is very specific in time.

11 \*A. [14:38:30] Yes, that's right. Congratulations. The companies of that location  
12 were held by elements of the Seleka, yes.

13 Q. [14:38:40] Once again, before the Seleka left, before they left Pissa, or Lobaye, do  
14 we agree that Mr Yekatom did not have a base at Centrapalm or at Palm d'Or before  
15 the Seleka left; am I right?

16 A. [14:39:08] You are completely right. Mr Yekatom did not have a base in those  
17 areas. He had no such base. What we heard was -- we heard about the events that  
18 occurred on 4 and 5 December in Bangui, but he didn't have a base at either one of  
19 those places. He had no such base, Ma'am, nor did he have one in Batalimo.

20 Q. [14:39:37] My next topic, sir, will be the international forces. Am I correct in  
21 saying that after -- after Djotodia was forced to step down, do we agree that  
22 international forces, if you know, were just inter-positioning forces; they did not have  
23 any role or mandate to drive out Seleka elements from Lobaye? That was not the  
24 role of the -- that was not their role?

25 A. [14:40:33] Yes. But, Ma'am, you must realise -- well, I am testifying here



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1 and -- but if you go back in time, you must realise that there was the FOMAC -- there  
2 was the FOMAC, they were already in the field. So as an interposition force, they  
3 had a role to play, so unfortunately there was pressure from outside on these  
4 members, on this force, the Damara checkpoint. The FOMAC people were there.  
5 Who asked them to leave? That's the first thing. And all the same, it was an  
6 international force. Perhaps you, too, have information. You see, there was a  
7 problem. There was a problem between the South African soldiers. I don't know  
8 whether you are aware of this, but, you see, there was the South African soldiers that  
9 Bozize had asked for to stop the aggression and the forward progress of the Seleka.  
10 And once again, I return to the topic of Mr Hollande, a great statesman, but he did not  
11 play his role correctly with the -- when it came to the Central African Republic. It  
12 was François Hollande who put pressure on Jacob Zuma not to send these soldiers.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: Thank you, Mr Witness.

14 Ms Galupa.

15 MS GALUPA: [14:42:21] Thank you, Mr President.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:42:22] Absolutely understandable, Ms Galupa.

17 MS GALUPA: [14:42:24] I just wanted to say that the way the question was  
18 formulated was very general and it calls upon the witness to talk about the  
19 composition of international forces in general. Again, I think he might be able to say  
20 something (Overlapping speakers)

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:42:39] Yeah, we can put that into perspective.

22 And, Ms Dimitri, you know, any general questions are problematic in different ways.

23 MS DIMITRI: [14:42:50] But I don't know if it was interpreted, Mr President, but I  
24 spoke about the Lobaye. I was very specific to the role of them, because he was in  
25 the --

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:42:56] Yeah, yeah, yeah, absolutely. So it's fine,  
2 please. Yeah.

3 Please continue, Ms Dimitri.

4 MS DIMITRI: [14:43:05](Interpretation)

5 Q. [14:43:21] Specifically in relation to the international forces and what you  
6 observed, we're going to talk later about the South African soldiers. Later we'll talk  
7 about FOMAC in particular and the members of the FOMAC from Chad and the  
8 problem that created in the country. We will talk about Berengo. Truly, please  
9 focus on my question. Now my question is about the international forces. In  
10 Lobaye, when you were there in Lobaye, am I correct in saying that you observed that  
11 the international forces present in Lobaye at PK9 or Mbaïki did not have a concrete  
12 role to drive out the members of the Seleka coalition; am I correct?

13 A. [14:44:26] Ma'am, it was only later that MINUSCA sent their men to Mbaïki.  
14 You see, there were no FOMAC elements in Mbaïki, but after the departure of the  
15 Sangaris forces, then MINUSCA came in. Initially, in the case of Lobaye, it was  
16 MINUSCA elements from Congo-Brazzaville. And I saw those forces from  
17 Congo-Brazzaville even in my area. We ate with them. Even Alfred Yekatom came  
18 one day, because they wanted to speak to him. Yekatom chatted with them in  
19 Lingala because Alfred Yekatom speaks Lingala well. He has been to the Congo.  
20 And if the other peace enforcement forces had played the role of the Congolese and  
21 the FOMAC, the crisis in the Central African Republic already would be over, because  
22 they -- they could see that the people of the Central African Republic were being  
23 killed and the people from the -- from Congo-Brazzaville and the people from the  
24 CAR are brothers, so to speak, and they could see that this was a terrible thing.  
25 The people from Congo-Brazzaville wanted to act -- well, their leader first said, "No,

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1 no, no, don't intervene for this, for that reason." We who were in the field, we saw  
2 that the UN forces from the DRC, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda  
3 played their role normally. But the others who were from Bangladesh or Pakistan,  
4 people like that who were sent, who weren't familiar with the field, they got to  
5 Bangui, they got to the MINUSCA base and you should have seen the number of  
6 vehicles, the arsenal they had. With that, they were supposed to ensure security, but  
7 that's not how it all played out.

8 Q. [14:46:54] Paragraph 81 of your statement, sir, you said, and I quote: In 2014,  
9 when Samba Panza had taken office, you said, "Yekatom provided security in the area  
10 with his men" - wait, wait - "while there were no official authorities such as the police,  
11 gendarmerie or the FACA in place after the Seleka had left." End of quote.

12 Wait, wait. My question, Mr Witness, am I correct in saying that between January  
13 and March 2014, in the very first weeks and months of Samba-Panza's term, she did  
14 not send domestic security forces in the first few weeks to ensure that members of the  
15 Seleka coalition should not return?

16 A. [14:48:17] She had taken up her duties and the situation was still unusual. She  
17 had to review the situation, cross-check, try to build bridges, ensure the return of the  
18 police, the gendarme, et cetera. She had an initial meeting at the ENAM, the  
19 national administration and magistrature school of the CAR. She had an initial  
20 meeting to bring together the military, the police, et cetera, to discuss the return to  
21 peace. She was there to ensure that peace returned. Gradually things got going.  
22 It was only later that the security and defence forces were redeployed to Lobaye,  
23 and -- and the team -- yes, Ma'am? And the team, the Anti-Balaka team liberated all  
24 the checkpoints, starting with PK9. And, you see, it was -- there were some  
25 gendarmes and police officers who had returned to service, Ma'am.

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1 Q. [14:49:42] Exactly. You said it was only later, only after, that is the point that is  
2 of interest to me.

3 Am I correct in saying that it was only afterwards that the forces were redeployed to  
4 the Lobaye? Do you agree with me that it was after, or at least after the first  
5 two months of her mandate, the first two months, March?

6 A. [14:50:12] Yes. She asked for regular forces to return to their normal duties,  
7 Ma'am.

8 Q. [14:50:20] If we go back to January 2014, as of January 2014, at the very  
9 beginning of Samba-Panza's term of office, paragraph 99, you said that - correction,  
10 79 - so you were saying that she needed to end the chaos in January 2014. You said  
11 that the checkpoints were manned by Anti-Balaka forces - I'm just talking about the  
12 Lobaye area - and these people were wearing military garb and many of them had  
13 come from the FACA forces. Would you agree with me that you are referring to  
14 Mr Yekatom's elements; is that correct?

15 A. [14:51:17] Correct.

16 Q. [14:51:20] Thank you. Once again, paragraph 79 of your statement, you said  
17 that Yekatom, and this is what you said yourself, quote: "... Yekatom left the police  
18 and gendarmerie to man the barriers."

19 I'd now like to play some video footage that I think will confirm what you've said,  
20 and then after that I'll put a question to you. Are you with me?

21 A. [14:51:50] Yes.

22 Q. [14:51:51] This is video footage from January 2014.

23 A. [14:51:55] Yes.

24 Q. [14:52:04] At PK9, from the other side of the bridge, close to the concession of  
25 Mr Pissmiss. \*This is tab 24, CAR-OTP-2055-2610 -- this is, for the interpreters,

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1 tab 25, CAR-OTP-2107-6906. Then the French translation, tab 26, CAR-OTP-2122-2271  
2 at page 2275, lines 45 to 71. Mr Okoa-Penguia, please watch the video footage  
3 carefully, and I remind you we are talking about January 2014, the PK9 bridge. Please  
4 listen to what's being said and then after that I will have a number of very specific  
5 questions for you.

6 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

7 THE INTERPRETER: [14:54:07](Interpretation of the video excerpt)

8 "Journalist: On the other side, the director general of the gendarmerie has a meeting  
9 with some surprising allies to say the least.

10 JK: Colonel.

11 HWL: Mr Minister.

12 JK: Welcome.

13 HWL: Thank you very much.

14 JK: We are happy to welcome you.

15 HWL: Truly we too.

16 Journalist: [Voice over] These men belong to a group of Anti-Balaka people,  
17 Christian militiamen who are ensuring law ..."

18 MS DIMITRI: [14:54:52](Interpretation)

19 Q. [14:54:54] I see you smiling.

20 Now, when the director of the gendarmerie said what happened after the barrier,  
21 after PK9, when he said that they didn't have control, in the video footage we realise  
22 that there were no gendarme once you crossed over, once you crossed the bridge at  
23 PK9. Does that correspond to what you said in your statement, in January and  
24 February there was no official government authorities, no domestic law enforcement  
25 staff, and it was Mr Yekatom's men who were ensuring security by stopping those

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1 who wanted to destroy the country?

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:55:55] Ms Galupa, first.

3 MS GALUPA: [14:55:56] I'm sorry, just for precision, I think the date of the video is  
4 17 March 2014, actually. That's what I see in the translation on the first page.

5 MS DIMITRI: [14:56:09] The date of the -- the day the video was broadcast is  
6 probably March, but when you look at the full video, you'll see at some point a date  
7 of February 2014, and you'll also see the journalist saying, "six weeks prior". So the  
8 events that were captured in the video are January 2014 and February 2014.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:56:32] Well, we -- this can be checked, of course,  
10 and if you think this is not correct, you can let us know.

11 So, please, Ms Dimitri.

12 MS DIMITRI: [14:56:44](Interpretation)

13 Q. [14:56:50] I will put my question again.

14 The director general of the gendarmerie of the Central African Republic said, "You see,  
15 the gendarmerie, he stopped here, right at the checkpoint", speaking of PK9. And  
16 that corresponded to what you said somewhat earlier when you were saying that  
17 there were no gendarmes, no police officers, no domestic law enforcement personnel  
18 on that road in January 2014. So when he said: "What happens on the other side of  
19 the checkpoint, we have no control over that, it's the men here", pointing to  
20 Mr Yekatom and his men, "they are the ones who are ensuring security and stopping  
21 those who would destroy the country."

22 So, does that correspond to what you saw at the time, that those men were there to  
23 help the gendarme and the police officers, who were no longer in Lobaye?

24 A. [14:58:12] Thank you, Ma'am. General Wanze Linguissara I saw here. He was  
25 the one who signed my approval to be interviewed. The defence and security forces

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1 were being gradually redeployed throughout the country, as I said earlier, and you  
2 can see the picture of Yekatom right beside. So you see there was -- that was  
3 mediation, to say, "Okay, the defence and security forces will be in the field gradually  
4 and the Anti-Balaka will leave the various checkpoints that they occurred -- that they  
5 occupied earlier."

6 But, you see, Ma'am, the situation was untenable. There was Seleka coalition  
7 members, and then you have the Anti-Balaka coming in, so you see it was chaotic.  
8 The country had been plunged into chaos. The director general was talking about a  
9 war. Who can control a war?

10 And people said to the people of the Central African Republic, "Okay, we will send in  
11 the UN forces." But did we see them come in? We don't listen to the Security  
12 Council talking about Ukraine and Russia and all that stuff; they only send UN forces  
13 into Africa. Those UN forces that go into Africa don't do the work that we Africans  
14 expect of them. So you can see Rombhot here, already there had been a mediation  
15 between the Anti-Balaka and the defence and security forces. That was the  
16 beginning of the negotiation process.

17 And for your information, when things exploded, there were Sangaris elements who  
18 attended those discussions at the PK9 bridge, with the coalition on one side of the  
19 bridge and the Anti-Balaka on the other, and the Sangaris elements had to mediate  
20 and said, "Okay, from now on, you Seleka people, you are going to leave that  
21 checkpoint." And that was when Rombhot officially came into the town, and  
22 everyone was trying to see him, Ma'am, and greet him and congratulate him.

23 Q. [15:00:58] Now, there was a witness that came to the stand before you. This  
24 witness said before this Court that he had heard Mr Yekatom say that without the  
25 gendarmerie, without the police, the country cannot enjoy peace. Did you also hear

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1 that said?

2 A. [15:01:27] Who said that?

3 Q. [15:01:27] Mr Yekatom. Mr Yekatom allegedly said, at the time, that without  
4 the police, without the gendarmerie, this country cannot achieve peace. And he was  
5 referring to the gendarme, the police officers that had been stripped of their weapons  
6 by members of the Seleka coalition. Did you hear Mr Yekatom utter such words?

7 A. [15:01:51] No, not at all, but I wasn't always with Mr Alfred Yekatom. He was  
8 doing his job and I was working in Pissa. He was doing his job over there, and I was  
9 working in Pissa where I was.

10 Q. [15:02:10] Paragraph 26 of your statement, you say that the Seleka, the member  
11 of the Seleka coalition, took all the weapons in the military camps and the  
12 gendarmerie stations. You said this earlier on, that the Seleka coalition members had  
13 stripped the Central African Republic of its weapons and this had been shipped off to  
14 Chad and Sudan?

15 A. [15:02:44] Yes.

16 Q. [15:02:45] You said this at 9:50 on Wednesday during your evidence?

17 A. [15:02:50] Yes.

18 Q. [15:02:51] Do you agree with me when I say that when Mr Djotodia was pushed  
19 out of power, his weapons weren't returned to these camps, weren't brought back into  
20 Central African Republic?

21 A. [15:03:07] You can't find one single solution to this matter. The weapons had  
22 gone off to N'Djamena after Bozize was toppled.  
23 And you will see that in Bossembele -- in Bossembele, where Bozize had stored lots of  
24 weapons, weapons and ammunition in Bossembele had been stashed there, and in  
25 Bangui as well, at Camp Beal, in the gendarmerie camp as well, at -- in the Camp de



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1 Roux as well there -- where there was the Central African army weapons. The  
2 Seleka elements had taken everything. How were they going to bring back -- the  
3 weapons back into the country? Weapons, ammunition, had all gone off to Chad.  
4 They stripped the country bare. And to be honest with you, why didn't the Security  
5 Council keep saying embargo, embargo, against my country? There is one -- one  
6 thing which is international justice, but look at the injustice there.

7 Q. [15:04:26] I'm going to show you the same video footage, but just an extract a  
8 little further on.

9 This is tab 25 of our list of materials, 2055-2610. This will be a 10-second extract, 44  
10 seconds to 55 seconds.

11 For the interpreters, it's the same tab, tab 25, but this time it's page 6908, lines 20 to 21.

12 And the translation, tab 26, page 2264.

13 So, Mr Witness, can you look at this video footage carefully, and can I ask you to  
14 look -- well, to listen carefully to what the journalist said. It lasts 10 seconds. And  
15 then I have a follow-up question on those words said by the journalist.

16 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

17 THE INTERPRETER: [15:05:35](Interpretation of the video excerpt)

18 "The government is endeavouring to get the State back up running, but everything is  
19 lacking. The gendarmerie only has five vehicles and weapons are lacking."

20 THE WITNESS: [15:05:57](Interpretation) Well, there you are.

21 MS DIMITRI: [15:05:59](Interpretation)

22 Q. [15:06:00] So, Mr Witness, Samba-Panza at this time is in power. She is trying  
23 to kick-start the State, but everything is lacking, vehicles for the gendarme, weapons  
24 for the gendarme.

25 So, based on what you saw, would I be right in saying that it was extremely difficult

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1 for the gendarmes when they took up their positions again in Pissa and in other  
2 gendarmerie stations or positions in the Lobaye area, it was very difficult for them to  
3 ensure the State's security without weapons and without vehicles; is that right?

4 A. [15:06:46] Yes, that's exactly right. Madam Samba-Panza, when she came to  
5 power, she even said that she'd only found 47 Kalashnikovs. She said that over the  
6 radio. Officially, she said that, for the entire country, 47 Kalashnikovs alone, and  
7 that was that. So the gendarmerie was absolutely right to say that there were no  
8 weapons. All the Central African Republic's weapons went off to Chad, to Sudan.  
9 There was nothing. And the Security Council, look, 47 weapons, the president had  
10 only found 47 weapons, and the Security Council places an embargo. Look at the  
11 complicitness of the international community. This should be condemned.  
12 Forty-seven Kalashnikovs for one entire country that had thousands, thousands of  
13 weapons, thousands of ammunitions. Bokassa was in power, Dacko, and those were  
14 the people in power, and the international community accuses people of being  
15 dictators, and what have you, but these were people who had qualities. Africa has  
16 its qualities. You can't say that Africa is going to align itself with western world  
17 civilisation. Look at this. We have it before our eyes. Samba-Panza, where is she  
18 going to get the weapons from to equip the gendarme and the police officers, and  
19 what have you?

20 Q. [15:08:30] Don't worry, never fear, I'm getting there. This is my next area, the  
21 embargo.

22 Now, you talked about the embargo, weapons embargo, at paragraph 28 in your  
23 statement. Now, you've just said something that struck me, actually, a few moments  
24 ago. You said that that embargo was an injustice. Those are your words,  
25 Mr Witness.

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1 So, you know, how could the Central African soldiers, the FACA, how could they  
2 defend the country with the embargo placed on weapons and measures such that  
3 only international forces were entitled to bear weapons?

4 A. [15:09:25] Well, that -- we can't find -- we're not ready to find an answer. That's  
5 why everybody in Central African Republic is looking at France, François Hollande,  
6 Mr François Hollande. Even the Sangaris soldiers, when they arrived in Bangui,  
7 when Mr Hollande sent them there. When those soldiers, those French soldiers  
8 crossed the city of Bangui, little children would call them, "Diamond thieves,  
9 diamond thieves", they shouted after them. And the young people in Sangaris, they  
10 said "Diamond thieves are Muslims." And when they -- when they came into the  
11 Muslim district, the Muslims would say, "Diamond thieves, diamond thieves", and  
12 they would say to the Muslims, "Christian prisoners, Christian prisoners".

13 So there was a prevailing sentiment, anti-French sentiment, that was starting to -- to  
14 bubble up and rise, because it wasn't possible. In a country like France, a French -- a  
15 power that had colonised our country, that could play this game to fuel injustice, a  
16 huge amount of injustice, and the Security Council placed the embargo following  
17 French pressure. Hence -- I mean, you know -- you know things, and I pay tribute to  
18 you and everybody at the ICC. I think what I'm saying now is going to be written  
19 down and will circulate very, very broadly what I say, to place before the French  
20 authorities, because the person who led Mr Hollande down the wrong road, it was  
21 the very bad ambassador, French ambassador. It was Charles Malinas. And it was  
22 Charles Malinas and Jean-Yves Le Drian, because there were two of them, to lead  
23 France astray. There was Serge Mucetti and Le Drian, the super minister of foreign  
24 affairs in France. It was him I know. You've come to see a country in war, you see  
25 the mercenaries, you see the terrorists pillaging the country, setting the country

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1 ablaze and you don't find an answer.

2 Because at the end of Hollande's term of office, he couldn't run for a second term of  
3 office because he had done -- he had managed our case badly. It was Charles  
4 Malinas who did everything he could to make sure that things could become normal  
5 again. And that ambassador invited me, officially, to a 14 July celebration at his  
6 residence. And I went, and he said, "Mr Mayor, following what you're doing, well  
7 done. We're going to help you exit this crisis", he said. It was Charles Malinas who  
8 said that. It wasn't Serge Mucetti. You know, for -- you know, I would tell you that  
9 that ambassador should be brought before the ICC, because he's responsible, he and  
10 his minister of foreign affairs, Jean-Yves Le Drian. I know you have it.

11 Q. [15:13:08] Mr Witness, if we can just return to Lobaye and on the international  
12 forces.

13 Now, we've understood there is this embargo. There are confidence measures such  
14 that only the international forces were authorised to bear weapons. Now, thinking  
15 about these international forces, based on what you saw, based on the information  
16 you were able to glean, either by talking to your counterparts or talking to your  
17 fellow citizens, based on that, based on what you saw, when Djotodia was forced out  
18 of power, forced to resign, from that point in time would I be right in saying that in  
19 the stretch of road of 107 kilometres between Mbaïki and PK9, there is no station in  
20 Sekia, for example? The international forces are at PK9, they're at Mbaïki, but they're  
21 not positioned between the two, whereas it's -- it's a stretch of road that is more than  
22 100 kilometres long; is that right?

23 A. [15:14:22] Yes, that's right, but from time to time they would move, if they had  
24 information. They would come and patrol and they would come into the  
25 surrounding villages. But Mbaïki was where they were. And now it's the

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1 MINUSCA who is at Mbaïki, it's the Tanzanian contingent, that's it.

2 Q. [15:14:52] Mr Witness, I'm going to get there. I'm going to get there, I promise,  
3 but you're leaping ahead of things. You're too -- you know, more haste and less  
4 speed. Let's take things one at a time.

5 Would I be right in saying - and here I'm simply talking about January, February  
6 2014 - on the PK9, all the way through to Mbaïki, that stretch of road, Sangaris, the  
7 Sangaris soldiers didn't systematically search vehicles that were travelling along that  
8 axis; is that right?

9 A. [15:15:35] Yes, that's right. They didn't search people, they didn't search the  
10 vehicles.

11 Q. [15:15:40] Paragraph 54 of your statement, you've made reference to this earlier  
12 on, and you say that Sergeant Cyrille, belonging to the Sangaris forces, had your  
13 telephone number and he rang you up. Now, in the case file we have Cyrille's  
14 telephone number.

15 A. [15:16:14] Yes.

16 Q. [15:16:15] And he also appears -- well, it appears that he was also in touch with  
17 Mr Yekatom?

18 A. [15:16:18] Yes.

19 Q. [15:16:19] Mr Yekatom, did he also tell you that he was in touch with Cyrille  
20 from the Sangaris and he was cooperating with him?

21 A. [15:16:32] Yes. But I have to pay tribute to that chap from Sangaris, Cyrille.

22 Q. [15:16:40] Please, I think -- I think we want to make progress here. So I'm  
23 going to move now to an area that you love, Berengo.

24 Paragraph 46 of your statement, you say that the members of the Seleka coalition had  
25 a big training base at Berengo. Is it right to say that that is in the Pissa district?

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1 A. [15:17:03] Well, I've already said that. Berengo is 8 kilometres away from Pissa  
2 and Pissa is the head town of the commune. So -- and it's the -- Bokassa's imperial  
3 palace there. And when Djotodia arrived, because he didn't want to have the FACA,  
4 he chose about three sites: There was Berengo, there was Sibut, possibly a place in  
5 the hinterland, that immediately he wanted to have his men informed so that they  
6 could be integrated into the national army. \*And that's why he sent to Berengo 1,490  
7 men for military training.

8 But, you know, as a Central African, as an African - well, some Africans are among us  
9 here - in our African culture, we have our own African civilisation. Among all the  
10 presidents who have come and gone in Central African Republic, on every 24 March  
11 they will go to Boganda's mausoleum for a festival to pay tribute to the founding  
12 president.

13 But let me tell you something, on 24 March 2013, the Seleka coalition took power, and  
14 on the Friday, 29 March 2013, me as the mayor of the locality at Pissa, I was at the  
15 mausoleum, at Boganda's mausoleum, for placing flowers on his tomb. And we  
16 heard the new transitional president who's come -- coming to pay tribute to the  
17 founding father of the Central African Republic. Unfortunately, he went to the  
18 Central Mosque.

19 And from word to mouth - this is the culture in our country - but it came along the  
20 grapevine that women, men, young people, you know, "Oh, he neglected Boganda's  
21 memory, he's not going to last very long", it was said. That was what the grapevine  
22 said, from March 2013 all the way through to January 2014. Then he threw in the  
23 towel, didn't he, in January?

24 Q. [15:19:25] Let's go back to the matter of Berengo, please.

25 A. [15:19:28] Sorry?

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1 Q. [15:19:30] I'd like to revert back to the training base in Berengo.

2 A. [15:19:34] Yes. Please, speak, I'm listening.

3 Q. [15:19:37] So you say that there were 1,490 men to receive military training and  
4 they'd been sent there by Djotodia. You also talk about that in your statement.  
5 These new recruits, then, those new recruits that had been sent by Djotodia to  
6 Berengo, were they wearing military uniforms?

7 A. [15:19:58] Well, when they arrived, all the military equipment of the Central  
8 African Republic had been taken by the Seleka coalition, because there was a huge  
9 amount of military equipment. But the only person who committed the error was  
10 Bozize, President Bozize. And there you are. If he had handed around -- handed  
11 out that equipment to the Central African soldiers, if he'd given the soldiers the  
12 weapons to stop the propagation of the Seleka coalition, then perhaps we wouldn't  
13 have fallen into what we did. But he kept the weapons, he kept the military  
14 uniforms, he kept the shoes, the boots, everything.  
15 But the Seleka elements, when they turned up, everything they found, well, you had  
16 to see them. They were wearing new FACA uniforms. They were wearing  
17 new -- brand new military uniforms. And where did they get that from, then?  
18 Where did they get that? Well, they got it from what had been stored and that  
19 hadn't been made available to the FACA in the first place.

20 Q. [15:21:08] Mr Witness, you're moving away from my question, you're straying  
21 away from my question. Now, because we talked about looting already, I don't  
22 want to revisit what you've already said. Your evidence is important. Listen  
23 carefully to my question, please. At Berengo, at Berengo, the recruits, Djotodia's  
24 recruits, they were wearing military uniform?

25 A. [15:21:38] Yes. But --

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1 Q. [15:21:41] Please, just hang on a sec, Mr Witness. I've got another question,  
2 which is very discrete, very accurate and requires from you an accurate, focused  
3 answer. Here's my question. If you don't know, it doesn't matter, but do you know  
4 whether some of those recruits, the recruits sent by Djotodia, who were wearing  
5 military uniform, do you know whether some of them claimed to be Anti-Balaka by  
6 committing crimes?

7 A. [15:22:16] Well, how could they be with the Anti-Balaka?

8 Q. [15:22:19] I'm not saying they were with the Anti-Balaka. Listen to my  
9 question. It's very carefully worded, and I really need to make progress.

10 A. [15:22:26] Yes, let's keep going.

11 Q. [15:22:28] Do you know whether some among them, among those recruits that  
12 were wearing FACA uniforms, and they were at Berengo at the time, do you know  
13 whether some of them claimed, they had themselves pass off as Anti-Balaka at a  
14 certain point in time? If you don't know, you don't know.

15 A. [15:22:44] I don't know.

16 Q. [15:22:46] Let's move on, then.

17 A. [15:22:48] Yes, because they weren't new recruits. These were people who had  
18 accompanied Djotodia to take power. But they had no military notions, per se,  
19 hence they had to be sent to the Berengo military base to be -- to learn about the army.  
20 Djotodia was a civilian who doesn't necessarily know much about the army. But  
21 how can he be made a transitional presence? So many errors. Even in some  
22 African countries with the changes, you're a captain, colonel, commander, then  
23 you -- then you direct things. But Mr Djotodia, he was just a civilian. How can you  
24 imagine that you could make him a president, a transitional president? He was  
25 supported by --



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1 THE INTERPRETER: [15:23:39] Indiscernible.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:23:44] Thank you, Mr Witness. You have  
3 answered the question.

4 Please continue, Ms Dimitri.

5 MS DIMITRI: [15:23:48] Thank you, Mr President.

6 Q. [15:23:52](Interpretation) Should I understand from what you've just said,  
7 Mr Witness, then, that Djotodia brought in new recruits, 1,490, who were -- who were  
8 sent to Berengo? And should I understand from your answer that Djotodia wanted  
9 to dispel the FACA?

10 A. [15:24:16] Yes. He said that on the radio.

11 Q. [15:24:19] Let's move on, let's move on.

12 A. [15:24:31] He doesn't need the FACA.

13 Q. [15:24:33] Next subject. Paragraph 23 of your statement, you say, and let me  
14 quote you: "[The] FOMAC troops were present on the ground. They made  
15 armbands for the Seleka but the South Africans thought they were allies and 13 South  
16 African military were killed in a gun battle with the Seleka."

17 A. [15:24:59] Yes.

18 Q. [15:25:01] Now, you talked about this earlier on. I'm not going to return to the  
19 incident involving the South African soldiers. My question is this: In this  
20 paragraph of your statement you say "They made armbands for the Seleka". When  
21 you say "they", you're talking about the FOMAC troops, are you?

22 A. [15:25:29] Well, there needs to be a clarification here. The Seleka people, the  
23 Seleka coalition people, they saw the FOMAC armbands. They made armbands,  
24 tailors made for them armbands and the Seleka coalition people wore the same  
25 military uniform as the FOMAC, they wore the same armbands as the FOMAC.

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1 And for the South African soldiers, they thought that they were allies.  
2 Unfortunately, they were enemies and they killed 13 South African soldiers in Bangui.  
3 All that you know. There was a diplomatic incident between Jacob Zuma and  
4 François Hollande.

5 Q. [15:26:26] Now I'm going to show you some video footage. I just caution you,  
6 Mr Witness, it's a bit difficult to watch, but it's important to show, because it's part of  
7 your country's history.

8 It's at tab 27, CAR-OTP-2005-0129. I'm going to be showing it from 34:26 to 25:36  
9 seconds.

10 For the interpreters, this is tab 28. Transcription is at -- is there,  
11 CAR-OTP-2130-1184 - that's at tab 28 - lines 477 to 483. The translation can be found  
12 at tab 29, CAR-OTP-2130-1307, page 0129, lines 617 to 633.

13 Can I have a sign from the interpreters to see whether we can start? Thank you very  
14 much.

15 So, Mr Witness, please look at this video footage carefully. Listen to what the  
16 journalist says. This is a video that was -- that came out on 26 March 2014. And I  
17 have questions to put to you afterwards.

18 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

19 "The Anti-Balaka attack had been relatively minor, but the former Seleka, now  
20 masquerading as Chadian FOMAC, had responded by lighting up the surrounding  
21 areas with a ton of gunfire."

22 THE INTERPRETER: [15:28:23](Interpretation of the video excerpt)

23 "INI: Yeah, yeah, we're here.

24 INI: We don't need them."

25 THE INTERPRETER: English spoken.

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1 "INI: Chadian?

2 INI: Yes, the Chadians, they want to kill everybody here.

3 INI: FOMAC Chadian, they're coming.

4 INI: It's the FOMAC Chadian. He's here, Gobongo, they're going to kill everybody  
5 here. The FOMAC, the Chadian FOMAC did that."

6 THE WITNESS: [15:28:49](Interpretation) This is the reaction from young Central  
7 Africans.

8 MS DIMITRI: [15:29:14](Interpretation)

9 Q. [15:29:17] So in that video footage, Mr Witness, the journalist says that these  
10 former members of the Seleka coalition are passing themselves off as Chadian  
11 FOMAC soldiers, and they repositied by opening fire in the sector, in the vicinity. So  
12 this incident that you're referring to is the African soldiers one, so it's not an isolated  
13 incident.

14 And according to the information that you received, there are other incidents,  
15 FOMAC, or at least people who were passing themselves off as such, they are firing,  
16 opening heavy gunfire on entire sectors, yes?

17 So I'm saying these were not isolated incidents. There were several such incidents.

18 A. [15:30:43:] Ma'am, you know, it is very concerning to watch this footage. It was  
19 more than 10 years ago that the Central African Republic was plunged into the  
20 darkness. Justice can be exceedingly slow. I was interviewed years ago, in 2018,  
21 five years ago, and now we see once again what happened. And this truly touches  
22 our hearts. But that doesn't bother me. That is the role of justice. The people of  
23 justice, the justice system has to do its work. But when I see things like this, you  
24 know, what can I say? What kind of answer can I give you on behalf of the Central  
25 African Republic? What kind of answer can I give you?

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1 Q. [15:31:46] But you haven't answered my question. This incident during which  
2 people who appeared to be members of the FOMAC forces opened fire on areas,  
3 opened fire on South African soldiers, these were not isolated incidents?

4 A. [15:32:15] What was the date?

5 Q. [15:32:17] March 2014. The footage dates back to then.

6 A. [15:32:23] March 2014.

7 Q. [15:32:27] It was broadcast in March, but the actual footage was shot earlier.

8 A. [15:32:34] Yes, yes, that's right. The FOMAC were there. They were an  
9 interposing force. But when the Seleka seized the opportunity and the South African  
10 soldiers were already in the field, there was already that -- well, there were people  
11 already saying -- there were -- the South African soldiers had come to stop the  
12 advance, the barbarous and blind advance of the Seleka coalition. People had come  
13 from Chad, from Niger, from the Sudan. I have no idea. They emptied all the  
14 places where ammunition was being stored. They were running the show.

15 \*Q. [15:33:39] Am I correct in saying that this peacekeeping operation by the economic community of  
16 central African states, whose military forces were FOMAC, was called MICOPAX, if you know?

17 A. [15:33:58] Well, the names were changing all the time, and the names still are  
18 changing. And when things don't work out, well, they change the name again,  
19 because they are the ones in control. We don't have control. We don't have control.

20 Q. [15:34:11] We'll talk about these changes, but first of all, MICOPAX, which was the  
21 peacekeeping operation --

22 A. [15:34:29] Of Central Africa.

23 Q. [15:34:31] Correct. And is it correct the role of that force was to protect  
24 civilians, restore general security and order and restore the authority of the central  
25 government, in particular, that was the role of MICOPAX?

1 A. [15:34:53] Did they play that role? They didn't play that role, you see.  
2 Because, first of all, we had asked for assistance from heads of State from Central  
3 Africa; we had asked for mediation. There was the accord of Brazzaville, the accord  
4 of Libreville, and none of that got us anywhere. None of that got us anywhere.  
5 And the Seleka, they came in, they entered the territory and did whatever they  
6 wanted to. So anything that we might --

7 Q. [15:35:33] Sir, sir.

8 A. [15:35:34] Yes.

9 Q. [15:35:36] We have 20 minutes before we adjourn and I really need to make  
10 progress. I am getting to that point, to the fact that those forces didn't play their role.  
11 I realise we'll get to the changes in the acronyms. Just answer my question as  
12 concisely as possible, because this is important. Things have to be clear and when  
13 we go -- when we go off track, things aren't clear any more. You have so much  
14 information to share with us, you have to answer my questions concisely, okay?

15 A. [15:36:14] Okay.

16 Q. [15:36:15] Now --

17 MS DIMITRI: [15:36:19] I don't need to show it to the witness, just for the Chamber's  
18 reference, tab 31 concerns the MICOPAX CAR-D29-0002-0663 at page 0666, where it  
19 discusses the role notably of the MICOPAX.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:36:42] Thank you.

21 MS DIMITRI: [15:36:52](Interpretation)

22 Q. [15:36:53] You said, did those forces play their role. You said they didn't play  
23 their role and you referred to some other -- other forces. Wait, wait, just a second.  
24 And other interposing forces that didn't play that role either. I have an article, a  
25 press article here from September 2013, that makes the same criticisms as you, tab 30

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1 of the Defence binder, CAR-D29-0002-0656, page 0659 and there on -- page 0659 and  
2 60.

3 We don't have to show it to the witness, but the journalist said, "We know FOMAC  
4 had trouble ensuring security in Bangui and in the Central African Republic. What  
5 guarantees that MISCA will be able to succeed where FOMAC sometimes failed?"

6 A. [15:38:04] That's a good point. Yes, that is in keeping with the statement by  
7 Mr Guterres. He said that the international community had failed, otherwise we  
8 would have avoided the war in Sudan. Here, this is the same thing. The  
9 international community failed and FOMAC failed the Central African Republic.  
10 MINUSCA practically the same thing. If you were my age, I think you would see  
11 this the same way.

12 Q. [15:38:38] Sir, Mr Okoa-Penguia, also said in the same article, he said, and I  
13 quote, "We know within FOMAC one contingent is being criticised, namely the  
14 Chadian contingent."

15 A. [15:38:59] Exactly.

16 Q. [15:39:01] So I take it that you agree with the journalist?

17 A. [15:39:06] Yes, he did an excellent job.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:39:09] Ms Galupa?

19 MS GALUPA: [15:39:11] Thank you, Mr President. I think in all fairness for the  
20 witness, the article also presents other facts which should be presented to the witness,  
21 notably that between the FOMAC and the MISCA there was an increase in men which  
22 might have shed another light on his answer.

23 Also, the same article in the last paragraph says that there is a voluntary *dénigrement*  
24 *des Tchadiens*, so the Chadians were seen voluntarily denigrated by those who did not  
25 support the transition. So the article speaks about more of a --

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:39:54] Well, we are not -- we are not assessing  
2 an article here, we are simply questioning the witness and I have expressed, I think  
3 several times, that I'm not a huge fan, to be honest, to present newspaper articles to a  
4 witness. What we have is what the witness's opinion, yeah, opinion on certain  
5 matters are, and that is -- Ms Galupa, between the lines, please, read between the lines  
6 what I'm saying. Thank you.

7 Ms Dimitri.

8 MS DIMITRI: [15:40:27](Interpretation)

9 Q. [15:40:29] Sir, did FOMAC intervene, to your knowledge, in the Lobaye area?

10 A. [15:40:36] In which month, Ma'am?

11 Q. [15:40:38] I'm asking you. If you tell me that you don't know --

12 A. [15:40:44] Well --

13 Q. [15:40:46] I'm not saying -- I'll slow down. I'm not saying that they intervened.  
14 This is a question, this is a factual question. Did you ever see FOMAC intervene, yes  
15 or no?

16 A. [15:41:01] In no way, shape or form, Ma'am. There were no problems in  
17 Lobaye -- there were no longer any problems in the Lobaye area.

18 Q. [15:41:22] Now, going by what you learned, after FOMAC and the MICOPAX  
19 operation, do you agree that it was MISCA, the African Union peacekeeping mission,  
20 they were the ones who took over from MICOPAX, they took over with that  
21 operation; is that correct?

22 A. [15:41:48] Yes, that's right, Ma'am.

23 MS DIMITRI: [15:41:56] And again, I don't need to show it to the witness. It's just  
24 to have a clear picture of which international forces were when. Tab 32,  
25 CAR-D29-0002-0668.

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1 If I could just have a moment, please.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:42:25] of course.

3 MS DIMITRI: [15:43:08](Interpretation)

4 Q. [15:43:09] I'm going to move to another topic. Now, paragraph 26 and 27 of  
5 your statement, you said that -- and we talked about looting by the Seleka coalition,  
6 they stole weapons, but I don't want to talk about the weapons that were taken to  
7 Chad or the Sudan. I'd like to ask you about a large amount of weapons were taken  
8 to PK5, where the Seleka -- where all the local Muslims were armed with weapons by  
9 the Seleka. According to what you saw, because you kept in contact with other  
10 mayors in the Lobaye area and also contacts with your fellow citizens, now, do you  
11 know whether the members of the Seleka coalition distributed weapons to Muslim  
12 traders, Muslim civilians in Pissa?

13 A. [15:44:20] Yes, the Muslim trader merchants had both weapons and ammunition.  
14 Why? \*Because, you know, when they left, they all left. The youth told them that if  
15 they stayed put they would be in for it. They all left and, you see -- you see, they  
16 cleared out of there fast and they got some weapons. At Kilometre 5, that was still a  
17 terrible base when it came to weaponry. You would hear all kinds of both heavy  
18 weaponry and light weaponry going off. They were shooting off the weapons day  
19 and night, night and day. I'm from the Central African Republic, and I can tell you,  
20 we are losing that neighbourhood at PK5. We are losing the neighbourhood. Why?  
21 Because when that chaos erupted, some people from Bangui who were at KM5 at  
22 Gbaya Doumbia, Cattin neighbourhood, Kina neighbourhood, Ali neighbourhood,  
23 Makambo neighbourhood, Bibale neighbourhood, Yakite neighbourhood --

24 Q. [15:45:34] Sir --

25 A. [15:45:36] I'm clarifying.



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1 Q. [15:45:40] I know.

2 A. [15:45:41] They are leaving to -- they are leaving their original neighbourhoods  
3 and going elsewhere, and this is going to be a huge danger in 20 years, in 50 years, for  
4 our children. And I mean look at what's going on in Israel with the Palestinians,  
5 look at the terror. This is history, we have to --

6 Q. [15:46:08] I understand, and you are correct to be worried, but truly, let me  
7 explain something to you and maybe you'll understand. You are about the 70th  
8 witness. Many witnesses have come and told us about Boeing and Cattin and these  
9 other locations. I am taking advantage of your presence here to talk about Pissa and  
10 the Lobaye area, and I don't have a lot of time with you. We already have a lot of  
11 evidence about Boeing, Cattin and these other places. I have a few hours left and I  
12 need to take advantage of that time, to take advantage of your expertise. I know you  
13 know a lot about these other places in Bangui, but we don't have a lot of witnesses  
14 about Pissa, and for me it's very important, it's very important for us to focus on Pissa  
15 and Lobaye area. Let's focus on my questions. Let's do that.

16 Now, you confirmed to me that members of the Seleka coalition had distributed  
17 weapons to civilians of the Muslim faith who were traders in Pissa?

18 A. [15:47:36] Yes.

19 Q. [15:47:38] I have another question for you - very specific - you mentioned some  
20 automatic weapons at paragraph 27 of your statement. Am I correct in saying that  
21 the Muslim civilians and merchants who got weapons from the Seleka coalition, those  
22 Muslim civilians had no military training?

23 A. [15:48:06] No military training. Kalashnikovs and the automatic weapons, they  
24 were sharing weapons and ammunition. At each marriage, for example, they would  
25 shoot into the air. At each circumcision ceremony, they would shoot --

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1 Q. [15:48:32] Stop, stop, because you've already told us about that at paragraph 31.  
2 You are very clear about that. You said there were somewhere between 400 and 500  
3 Muslims in that area, and you said that you and the Muslims -- you were starting to  
4 become suspicious, because Muslims were shooting in the air when there was a  
5 marriage, and so that is how you came to realise that Muslim civilians and families  
6 had received weapons from the Seleka coalition, is that correct?

7 A. [15:49:11] That's correct.

8 Q. [15:49:15] Once again, about Pissa, Mr Witness, at paragraph 40 of your  
9 statement, you said that members of the Seleka coalition made up various rules that  
10 were their own rules. If you had a debt, for example, if you owed a Muslim person  
11 money, members of the Seleka coalition would extort the money from you, they  
12 would hit you up for the money. So am I to understand that some Muslim  
13 civilians -- I don't want to make a general statement, but did some Muslims, traders or  
14 not, in Pissa or around that area, did they have the support of the Seleka coalition?

15 A. [15:50:10] That's exactly it. They were their fellow citizens. They spoke the  
16 same language, they were often with them. Members of the Seleka Coalition would  
17 go and drink tea with them and they would share information. They received their  
18 relatives very nicely.

19 Q. [15:50:31] Now, at paragraph 39 of your statement, you said that the people of  
20 Pissa were terrorised by the Seleka. To your knowledge, were the Muslim civilians  
21 in Pissa assisting the Seleka in this reign of terror?

22 A. [15:51:01] Yes, they were in cahoots. For your information, in Pissa, in the time  
23 of Bokassa, it was an area with a lot of soldiers who were trained. Some of them had  
24 been outside of the country, so they were soldiers ready to go. But when the regime  
25 changed, those soldiers went back to their villages. They were peasants. They had

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1 no weapons. They farmed. They fished. They did odd jobs and chores to support  
2 their families. And when the Seleka came in, some of the Muslims came in, they  
3 married our daughters, they married our sisters, and then they switched camps and  
4 the Pissa -- the people of Pissa said, "This is dangerous. What happened in Chad is  
5 going to happen to us. What happened in Rwanda is going to come here. What  
6 should we do?" So what happened? They -- people built makeshift structures in  
7 the bush, so they had a second house in the bush, in the forest. Mosquitoes, the  
8 drinking water was not drinkable, but all the same, they had those places.  
9 Sometimes they would send the children to see what was going on at the market or in  
10 the town, but the town was empty by then. People fled, because already people had  
11 been told that the genocide in Rwanda was going to happen in the Central African  
12 Republic. We had already been tipped off.

13 Q. [15:52:56] Someone else from Pissa, an individual of the Muslim faith was  
14 interviewed by the OTP investigators, and this person said, and I quote: "Some  
15 Muslims were collaborating with the Seleka, in particular, the head of the Arab  
16 neighbourhood, who was a butcher." Wait. Wait. "He would call upon the Seleka  
17 to get back money that some local Christians owed him. Often he would take  
18 advantage of the situation to inflate the amount of money that was owed. So the  
19 Seleka would call the debtor to the base. If he didn't have money, he would be kept  
20 in detention until the family came with the money." End of quote.

21 Now, sir, is this something that you saw yourself?

22 A. [15:54:08] Yes, that Muslim said the truth. That's what we saw, Ma'am.

23 MS DIMITRI: [15:54:17] For the Chamber's reference it's P-2389,  
24 CAR-OTP-2122-4458 at page 4463.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:54:28] Well, thank you. I would have asked

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1 anyway. Otherwise, good.

2 Please continue.

3 MS DIMITRI: [15:54:33](Interpretation)

4 Q. [15:54:36] Mr Okoa-Penguia, did some Muslim civilians in Pissa assist the  
5 members of the Seleka coalition? Did they help abduct Christians, torture Christians,  
6 identify the homes of people who had vehicles or had more money? Did you see  
7 that?

8 A. [15:55:10] I said that at the beginning. The private vehicles that had been  
9 hidden outside of the town, the Seleka elements would get people and get them to tell  
10 them where the vehicles were, and then they would go and get the vehicle. And for  
11 the most part, these -- these were people who did not have driver's licence. The  
12 elements of the Seleka coalition learned how to drive in Bangui or certain other  
13 towns.

14 Q. [15:55:52] At paragraph 36 of your statement, you said that the Seleka were  
15 practicing with their -- with guns. Am I to understand that some mercenaries, some  
16 Seleka members in Pissa were not trained soldiers, because you said they were  
17 familiarising themselves with their weapons?

18 A. [15:56:17] Well, you know the story of Chad, Ma'am. Chad has a great many  
19 delinquents, and they are killing machines. For the most part, they are killing  
20 machines, looting machines, stealing machines, torching machines. They are well  
21 known for that. Let's tell the truth. Go to their country, they are more sadistic, and  
22 then they go to a country like the Central African Republic, each time their  
23 government is overthrown --

24 Q. [15:57:00] In Pissa, these mercenaries in Pissa, these members of the Seleka  
25 coalition, am I correct in saying that some of them had weapons? I'm asking you,

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1 were they not -- is it correct that they were not trained soldiers?

2 A. [15:57:16] Yes, that's right. It was clear. If someone comes into the country, he  
3 doesn't speak Sango, what are you going to call that person? The person doesn't  
4 speak French, the person doesn't speak Sango.

5 Q. [15:57:31] Sir, I need to make some progress. Let's focus on Pissa, let's stay  
6 there.

7 At paragraph 43, you said that members of the Seleka coalition were stealing and  
8 without any particular discernment. Were there any other acts of looting in Pissa,  
9 and did some Muslims -- did some fellow citizens who were from the Muslim faith  
10 help the Seleka elements in the acts of destruction and in the looting?

11 A. [15:58:11] The only stroke of luck that Pissa had was the checkpoint. There was  
12 the Pissa checkpoint. Some of them spoke Sango perfectly. One was actually even  
13 a soldier and a -- Alkanto was his name. He was shot in the foot and now he limps.  
14 From time to time, he would be able to diffuse the tension. And at that checkpoint,  
15 they were given a lot -- they got a lot of many. There were six leaders and every day  
16 they would hit up people for money. So every day it was 60,000 francs to one, 60,000  
17 to another one, and then for food, 20,000 francs a day. So they were doing well for  
18 themselves with all that money they were getting. As for the others, they told us  
19 that they had come from Sudan, some had come from Chad, and to get in, they  
20 needed vehicles and also furniture, they took furniture and went back. For example,  
21 there was --

22 Q. [15:59:32] Sir, sir, I think we have strayed far away from Pissa. Birao is far  
23 away. You mentioned the South Africans and the amount of poverty that is  
24 prevalent in the Central African Republic, 1:35, transcript 233. You have been the  
25 mayor of Pissa for 30 years. If someone loses furniture or a vehicle, if they are stolen

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1 by someone, am I correct in saying that that represents months of savings for that  
2 family?

3 A. [16:00:18] Normally in Pissa, people who have vehicles -- I wouldn't say there  
4 are even 10 such people, but the vehicles I was talking about were private vehicles.

5 If there was a problem, they would take their vehicle from Bangui and put it in Pissa  
6 for safekeeping, so to speak, so it would be safe, and Seleka coalition members did  
7 everything they could to try to steal their vehicles. But in Pissa, not many people.

8 The mayor had a vehicle, a few other people had vehicles, but that was it. So, in  
9 other words, the level of poverty - and I said this earlier - the level of poverty is very,  
10 very high. The poverty is there. It's right in front of us, right in our -- in our eyes.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [16:01:11] Thank you, Mr Okoa-Penguia. We  
12 finish for today and for this week and on behalf of the Chamber I would like to thank  
13 you. For the moment, you still are not at the end of your testimony. This continues  
14 at 9.30 on Monday.

15 Thank you to everyone and a good weekend.

16 A specific thank you to the interpreters today, again.

17 THE COURT USHER: [16:01:40] All rise.

18 (The hearing ends in open session at 4.01 p.m.)

19 CORRECTIONS REPORT

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

22 Page 32 lines 8-9

23 "A. [10:48:42] Either they're there or they're Zila or they're Samba, the motorised  
24 brigade of the gendarmerie. Sometimes they changed their position, Madam."

25 Is corrected to

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1 "A. [10:48:42] They changed their posts, they are either here – either they are in  
2 Zila or in Samba – the motorized brigade of the gendarmerie. That's it. They would  
3 change their position from time to time, madam."

4 Page 32 lines 23-25

5 "A. [10:50:42] For the tolls there was the ministry of forestry who was there as well,  
6 the ministry of forest and water. There was the ministry of transport who was  
7 present."

8 Is corrected to

9 "A. [10:50:42] For the tolls there was the ministry for Forests and Water  
10 Management. The BARC was there, and the ministry of transport who was present."

11 Page 33 lines 18-19

12 "there was people from the freight department of the Central African Republic there"

13 Is corrected to

14 "there were people from BARC present, namely from the freight department of the  
15 Central African Republic there"

16 Page 34 line 13

17 "A. [10:55:46] Yes. Before 2013 Kapou Kalangoi route wasn't used"

18 Is corrected to

19 "A. [10:55:46] Yes, there was a roadblock there, Madam. And before 2013, the  
20 Kapou-Kalangoi section was not passable"

21 Page 45 lines 1-6

22 "Q. [11:56:50] Now let's turn to this secondary artery, the one that goes from Pissa  
23 and leads all the way

24 A. [11:57:02] Boboua. After Boboua

25 Q. [11:57:01] Bangui Bouchia

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1 A. [11:57:12] Bouchia, Mbata, Batalimo, Mobomba, and then we get to Congo  
2 Brazzaville.”

3 Is corrected to

4 “Q. [11:56:50] Now let's turn to this secondary artery, the one that goes from Pissa  
5 and leads all the way to

6 A. [11:57:02] Boboua.

7 Q. [11:57:04] Correct?

8 A. [11:57:06] After Boboua, Bangui Bouchia .

9 Q. [11:57:08] Bangui Bouchia.

10 A. [11:57:12] Bouchia, Mbata, Batalimo, Mobomba, and then we get to Congo  
11 Brazzaville.”

12 Page 48 lines 21-23

13 “Q. [12:06:31] No, no, I'm going to arrive in Mongoumba, don't worry about that.

14 So, Mr Okoa Penguia, the company of Philippe Gaden is a lumbering company of IFB  
15 in Batalimo; is that correct?”

16 Is corrected to

17 “Q. [12:06:31] I am getting there, don't worry. And Mr... Mr Okoa-Penguia, Mr  
18 Philippe Gaden's company is indeed the IBF, is it not, the forestry company Industrie  
19 Forestière de Batalimo?”

20 Page 50 lines 13-14

21 “this station was also made safe by gendarme from the Mbaïki gendarmerie and”

22 Is corrected to

23 “this station was also made safe by gendarmes from the Mbaïki gendarmerie and”

24 Page 52 lines 3-4

25 “Even before, because the takeover, when there was a change in the country, was the



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1 24th. “

2 Is corrected to

3 “Even before, because the takeover, when there was a change in the country, was the

4 24th March. “

5 Page 56 lines 1-3

6 “When the Seleka took control in 2013 of the Pissa barrier, what happened to FACA,

7 gendarme, police, the internal security forces?”

8 Is corrected to

9 “When the Seleka took control in 2013 of the Pissa barrier, what happened to the

10 FACA, to the gendarmes and to the police of the internal security forces?

11 Page 58 lines 15-16

12 “A. [12:31:25] The military, the gendarme, everybody fled, Madam, before the

13 elements of the Seleka coalition.”

14 Is corrected to

15 “A. [12:31:25] The military, the gendarme, everybody fled, Madam. It was war,

16 who could stay there in uniform before the elements of the Seleka coalition?”

17 Page 59 lines 1-4

18 “All right. Now, should I understand from this that the members of the Seleka

19 coalition had all along the PK9 Mbaïki axis and the Mongoumba axis, they had flee

20 everybody who was representing order in the forces of order?”

21 Is corrected to

22 “So, should I understand that the Seleka, the members of the Seleka coalition, forced

23 all official authorities along the PK9 Mbaïki road and the Mongoumba road to flee, all

24 the police forces?”

25 Page 61 lines 24-25

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1 “\*It was captured around 13 December 2013.”

2 Is corrected to

3 “It was filmed around 13 December 2013.”

4 Page 63 lines 3-6

5 “Q. [12:42:29] In fact, this is really where I'm going with my next question. Would  
6 I be right to say that that particular location, in actual fact this is located a few  
7 kilometres away from the PK9 bridge from the M'Poko Bac Cattin road. It's not  
8 (indiscernible); is that right?”

9 Is corrected to

10 “Q. [12:42:29] In fact, this is really where I'm going with my next question. Would  
11 I be right to say that that particular location, in actual fact, is located a few kilometres  
12 away from the PK9 bridge on the road from Cattin to M-Poko-Bac road? It isn't in  
13 Lobaye at all?”

14 Page 72 lines 11-12

15 “A. [14:38:30] Yes, that's right. Congratulations. The company was held by  
16 elements of the Seleka, yes.”

17 Is corrected to

18 “A. [14:38:30] Yes, that's right. Congratulations. The companies of that location  
19 were held by elements of the Seleka, yes.”

20 Page 77 line 1

21 “This is tab 24, CAR OTP”

22 Is corrected to

23 “This is tab 24, CAR-OTP-2055-2610”

24 Page 86 lines 6-7

25 “And that's why he sent to Berengo 1,482 men for military training, 1,482 men.”

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1 Is corrected to

2 "And that's why he sent to Berengo 1,490 men for military training."

3 Page 92 lines 15-16

4 "Q. [15:33:39] Am I correct in saying that this peacekeeping operation by ECOWAS,  
5 whose military forces were FOMAC, was called MICOPAX, if you know?"

6 Is corrected to

7 "Q. [15:33:39] Am I correct in saying that this peacekeeping operation by the  
8 economic community of central African states, whose military forces were FOMAC,  
9 was called MICOPAX, if you know?"

10 Page 96 lines 14-15

11 "Because, you know, when they left, they all left. They all left and, you see"

12 Is corrected to

13 "Because, you know, when they left, they all left. The youth told them that if they  
14 stayed put they would be in for it. They all left and, you see"