WITNESS: DAR-D31-P-0035

- 1 International Criminal Court
- 2 Trial Chamber I
- 3 Situation: Darfur, Sudan
- 4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman ("Ali
- 5 Kushayb") ICC-02/05-01/20
- 6 Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, Judge Reine Alapini-Gansou and Judge Althea Violet
- 7 Alexis-Windsor
- 8 Trial Hearing Courtroom 3
- 9 Monday, 22 April 2024
- 10 (The hearing starts in open session at 1.34 p.m.)
- 11 THE COURT USHER: [13:34:45] All rise.
- 12 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
- 13 Please be seated.
- 14 PRESIDING JUDGE KORNER: [13:34:59] Yes. Good afternoon all.
- 15 Could we call the case, please.
- 16 THE COURT OFFICER: [13:35:15] Good afternoon, Madam President, your
- 17 Honours.
- 18 This is the situation in Darfur, Sudan, in the case of The Prosecutor versus Ali
- 19 Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, case reference ICC-02/05-01/20.
- 20 And for the record, we are in open session.
- 21 PRESIDING JUDGE KORNER: [13:35:33] Yes, thank you very much.
- 22 And welcome all to a most unusual day, we've actually got a witness here in court.
- 23 Before we deal with that, can I say something about the
- 24 appearance of the witness. It has taken a great deal of really hard work and effort by
- 25 the Registry to get this witness organised. I, on the last occasion when we discussed

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- 1 it, I was not very complimentary about the Registry. I now wish to make it
- 2 absolutely clear that the Court, and indeed no doubt the Defence in this case and I
- 3 see Mr Laucci nodding owes a debt of gratitude to the Registrar and all his staff for
- 4 all the efforts they have put into enabling this witness to appear, because I understand
- 5 he's one of the more important Defence witnesses in this case.
- 6 So, having said that, can we now have the various appearances. First of all, from
- 7 the -- well, no, actually, we will start -- no, it's the Defence case, Defence first.
- 8 MR LAUCCI: [13:36:59] Thank you, Madam President. And I will start by
- 9 seconding what you just said about today and tomorrow, actually.
- 10 PRESIDING JUDGE KORNER: [13:37:05] Yes.
- 11 MR LAUCCI: [13:37:06] Together with Mr Abd-Al-Rahman, present in the
- 12 courtroom, legal assistants Nina Guilloux and Ahmad Issa. Our counsel
- 13 Iain Edwards will join us in a moment. And I am Cyril Laucci, lead counsel.
- 14 PRESIDING JUDGE KORNER: [13:37:26] Yes. Thank you very much, Mr Laucci.
- 15 Yes, Prosecution.
- 16 MR NICHOLLS: [13:37:30] Good morning, Madam President. Good morning, your
- 17 Honours. Good morning, everyone. Good afternoon, I'm corrected. It's nice to
- 18 see everyone again. Julian Nicholls with Alison Whitford, Edward Jeremy, Claire
- 19 Sabatini and Diana Saba. And Prosecution also echoes your Honour's comments.
- 20 We are grateful for the good work of the Registry. Thank you.
- 21 PRESIDING JUDGE KORNER: [13:37:54] Yes. Thank you very much, Mr Nicholls.
- Yes, and the representatives of the victims.
- 23 MS VON WISTINGHAUSEN: [13:37:58] Yes. Good afternoon, Madam President,
- 24 your Honours, dear colleagues. Good afternoon to everyone in and around the
- 25 courtroom. Next to me Anand Shah, my associate counsel; behind me you will see

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1 my case manager, Saif Kassis. And we've two new persons on our team, visiting

- 2 professional Kathryn Ravey, just behind me; and far in the back, intern Henriette
- 3 Willberg.
- 4 And, well, of course, I will join in the chorus of compliments to the Registry. I
- 5 understand, through all the correspondence, it's been a huge effort. Thank you.
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE KORNER: [13:38:33] Yes. Thank you very much,
- 7 Ms von Wistinghausen.
- 8 The witness actually has counsel but, as we are going to have to go into a private
- 9 session, indeed, in fact, closed session for the evidence, we will deal with his
- 10 appearance when we do so.
- 11 I think the only other thing I want to mention before we go into closed session, and
- 12 that, I'm afraid, to those who just appeared in the public gallery, it means you -- the
- blinds will be drawn and you won't be able to see anything or hear anything, so I'm
- afraid it's not going to be of very much interest in this Court.
- 15 There are a number of administrative matters to be dealt with, but I think what we'll
- do is, working on the basis that the evidence -- the two witnesses will be concluded
- on Wednesday, which seems to me reasonable, that we will have a status conference
- on Thursday morning to deal with outstanding administrative issues, or, if we finish
- 19 early on Wednesday, we'll go straight into a status conference.
- 20 We can't -- I don't think we can, because we have to sit Wednesday afternoon again,
- 21 don't we? All right.
- 22 Yes, thank you very much.
- 23 Actually, I'm sorry, before we go into closed session, I think, as the witness is
- 24 appearing under Rule 68(3), Mr Laucci, if you can read a short summary of his
- 25 evidence for the purposes of the public.

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- 1 MR LAUCCI: [13:40:13] Yes, so that the public did not come for nothing. Thank
- 2 you, Madam President.
- 3 Witness D-35 is a retired member of the Central Reserve Forces, CRF. He served in
- 4 the CRF over the same period as Mr Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman and he got
- 5 to know him from this period of service within the CRF.
- 6 Witness D-35 describes the entry of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman into the CRF in Garsila in
- 7 March 2004, and the various stages of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman's initial period of training,
- 8 until his formal appointment into the CRF in July 2005.
- 9 Witness D-35 explains that Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was recruited in the CRF, even
- 10 though he was older than the maximal admission age, because of his medical
- 11 background within the Sudanese Armed Forces and to serve as a medical officer.
- 12 Witness D-35 explains how he got to know Mr Abd-Al-Rahman and why he
- 13 remembers him still today. Witness D-35 also confirms the absence of any link
- 14 between Mr Abd-Al-Rahman and the name Ali Kushayb. Witness D-35 states that a
- 15 former Janjaweed leader who had been in direct communication with Minister
- 16 Ahmad Harun would never have been recruited within the CRF.
- 17 Witness D-35 explains that the so-called Janjaweed were recruited by the Border
- 18 Guards working under the supervision of the National Intelligence Services.
- 19 According to Witness D-35, former Janjaweed would never have passed the vetting
- 20 process that was compulsory prior to admission within the CRF.
- 21 PRESIDING JUDGE KORNER: [13:42:34] Yes. Thank you very much, Mr Laucci,
- and we will go straight into closed session.
- 23 (Closed session at 1.44 p.m.)
- 24 THE COURT OFFICER: [13:44:20] We are in closed session, Madam President.
- 25 (Redacted)

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- 23 (The hearing ends in closed session at 4.32 p.m)