

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-D29-P-5012

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/18

1 International Criminal Court
2 Trial Chamber V
3 Situation: Central African Republic II
4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Alfred Rombhot Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard
5 Ngaiissona - ICC-01/14-01/18
6 Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt, Judge Péter Kovács,
7 Judge Chang-ho Chung and Judge Beti Hohler
8 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 1
9 Wednesday, 3 July 2024
10 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.32 a.m.)
11 THE COURT USHER: [9:32:48] All rise.
12 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
13 Please be seated.
14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:12] Good morning, everyone.
15 Court officer, please call the case.
16 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:33:22] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
17 This is the situation in the Central African Republic II, in the case of The Prosecutor
18 versus Alfred Rombhot Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaiissona, case reference
19 ICC-01/14-01/18.
20 And for the record, we are in open session.
21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:38] Thank you very much.
22 I ask for the appearances of the parties. The Prosecution is changed.
23 MR VANDERPUYE: [9:33:43] Yes, Mr President. Good morning to you, your
24 Honours. Good morning, everyone. Good morning, Mr Witness. The
25 Prosecution is represented by Olivia Struyven, Yassin Mostfa and myself, Kweku

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1 Vanderpuye. Good morning.
2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:56] Thank you.
3 Ms Rabesandratana next.
4 MS RABESANDRATANA: [9:34:00](Interpretation) Good morning, Mr President.
5 Good morning, your Honours.
6 The team is the same, Madam Paolina Massidda, Elisabeth Rabesandratana --
7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:27] And?
8 Ms Rabesandratana, can you, just for the record, repeat the name of your colleague,
9 please.
10 MS RABESANDRATANA: [9:34:35](Interpretation) And Ms Alexis Lariviere.
11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:39] Okay. Yes, Ms Alexis Lariviere. Okay.
12 Thank you.
13 And now the former child soldier representatives.
14 MS GRABOWSKI: [09:34:53] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your
15 Honours. Good morning, everybody in the courtroom. The former child soldiers
16 are today represented by myself, Anne Grabowski, from the Office of Public Counsel
17 for Victims, and with me is Amina Merrouche, our intern. Thank you.
18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:07] Thank you very much.
19 We turn now to the Defence. We note, Ms Dimitri, that your client, Mr Yekatom, is
20 not in the courtroom. Perhaps just to make the record complete, what is the team
21 and then what is with Mr Yekatom.
22 MS DIMITRI: [9:35:22] Thank you, Mr President, good morning. Good morning,
23 your Honours. Good morning, everyone. *Bonjour, Abbé Antareze.*
24 So, indeed, Mr Yekatom is not present this morning. I will come to that in a
25 moment.

1 He's represented by Mr Gyo Suzuki, Ms Alexandra Baer, Ms Lina Hammi,
2 Ms Anne-Sophie Veillette, Ms Anta Guissé, Ms Sarah Bafadhel and myself, Mylène
3 Dimitri.

4 I spoke to my client this morning. The prison called me to inform me that he was
5 bedridden, that he was extremely sick, that he couldn't attend.

6 So I asked to speak with him and I -- we came to an agreement that he would waive
7 his right to be present this morning because he understands that *Abbé* Antareze has a
8 flight tonight, that he's been here for a couple of days now due to the circumstances
9 that your Honours are aware, which was very complicated to meet, and so he's been
10 here for a few days.

11 He is -- my client's aware of the questions that are left, so, under those exceptional
12 circumstances, he agrees to provide me with a waiver.

13 If your Honour - if your Honours agree that at the end of my examination, I could
14 have a short phone call with my client to update him on the questions and the
15 answers. He also understand that Mr Vanderpuye doesn't have much and, if your
16 Honours agrees, at the end of Mr Vanderpuye's cross-examination, I would again
17 speak to my client. So, under those conditions, I'm just waiting for a signed waiver
18 and we could, with your Honours' leave, continue.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:37:18] Thank you very much. So I can say on
20 behalf of the Chamber that we appreciate this waiver that you declared for your client
21 very much.

22 And, of course, your, so to speak, conditions are self-evident, so after you have
23 finished your examination, we make a break and you have the time you need to
24 discuss this with your client and, of course, also after the examination by
25 Mr Vanderpuye. So, with that, we can continue.

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- 1 MS DIMITRI: [9:37:45] Thank you, Mr President.
- 2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:37:52] You are not in agreement, Ms Proulx?
- 3 MS PROULX: [9:37:55] I just wanted to give our appearances, for the record.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:37:58] You know, this is when something out of
5 the order happens. You are absolutely right. Your appearance seems to -- okay,
6 but, please.
- 7 MS PROULX: [9:38:08] Indeed. Good morning to you, Mr President, your Honours.
8 Good morning, Mr Witness. Good morning, everyone. We are unchanged and
9 Mr Ngaïssona is present.
- 10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:38:16] So my apologies to be too quick here.
11 Ms Dimitri, you have the floor.
- 12 MS DIMITRI: [9:38:34] Thank you, Mr President.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:38:42] Ms Dimitri, before you start, I think it's
14 good to address that. We all hope that your client feels better tomorrow. In case
15 this is not the case, perhaps you can ponder if you would discuss with him if he
16 would also be prepared to declare a waiver for the next witness, for at least for
17 tomorrow then. Think about it; no pressure. You have all the time and you can let
18 us know, in case. We very much hope that he's feeling better tomorrow.
- 19 MS DIMITRI: [9:39:12] Thank you, Mr President. Well noted.
20 Just to anticipate, if the Registry could also organise perhaps -- I understand today
21 he's not well enough for that, but if the Registry could organise for him to follow
22 remotely tomorrow if he feels good enough to go in the dedicated room at the
23 detention centre.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:39:42] Absolutely. I think this is noted. I saw
25 also the court officer nodding, so it is on our agenda. So you have the floor.

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1 MS DIMITRI: [9:39:49] Thank you.

2 WITNESS: CAR-D29-P-5012 (On former oath)

3 (The witness speaks French)

4 QUESTIONED BY MS DIMITRI: (Continuing)(Interpretation)

5 Q. [9:39:55] Good morning, once again, Father Antareze.

6 A. [9:40:01] Good morning.

7 Q. [9:40:01] We are almost at the end. I have almost completed. I have a few
8 more questions, so I would like to thank you for your patience.

9 First of all, a few clarifications on certain answers that you gave yesterday.

10 First question: During the meeting at the St Jeanne d'Arc cathedral on 30 January,
11 were you personally present during the entire meeting in the hall?

12 A. [9:40:53] Thank you very much.

13 Mr President, your Honours, during that meeting, in the meeting room of the
14 St Jeanne d'Arc cathedral on 30 January 2014, I was indeed present throughout the
15 meeting.

16 I was the one actually coordinating the discussions.

17 Q. [9:41:31] Thank you.

18 Second clarification: You remember that we talked about your meeting in Pissa with
19 Mr Yekatom and the fact that it was planned for there to be a meeting between
20 Mr Yekatom and the Seleka in Mbaïki, particularly Colonel Anour.

21 My question is as follows: Did Colonel Anour initially accept to be present?

22 A. [9:42:09] Thank you very much.

23 Mr President, I have already stated it here that in relation to that meeting at the
24 Jeanne d'Arc, the meeting was prepared in collaboration with the two parties, so we
25 made a point of approaching Colonel Anour, who was in Mbaïki at that time with his

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1 Seleka elements.

2 We discussed that initiative from us in the platform and then he was in agreement.

3 Afterwards, we were to go and see Mr Yekatom in Pissa to talk with him and he also
4 was in agreement.

5 Q. [9:43:12] Another point of clarification: You referred -- or, rather, you stated
6 that the Seleka had taken refugees, Muslims, from certain villages and taken them
7 towards Mbaïki.

8 My question is this: Do you know, not -- I'm not talking about all the Muslims here,
9 but do you know what the Seleka was saying to some of those surrounding villagers
10 in order to take them to Mbaïki?

11 A. [9:44:09] Thank you.

12 Mr President, in answer to that question, I personally do not know precisely what the
13 Seleka told those Muslims in order to bring them to Mbaïki, but according to the
14 information that I received, they went and fetched them, because they felt that it was
15 good for them to come to Mbaïki for their own safety because the Seleka were based
16 in Mbaïki, and also because there were incidents occurring in those surrounding
17 villages -- that is, against the Muslim residents. So we were faced with that fact and
18 we observed that those Muslims from the surrounding villages were brought to
19 Mbaïki.

20 Q. [9:45:25] Another clarification: Father Antareze, you talked about the
21 unfortunate incident in Fatima where Father Nzale died. You also mentioned that
22 some people who were apparently witnesses to that incident are alleged to have seen
23 one of the members of the family of Mamadou Gari. Now, if you know, did the
24 people of Mbaïki talk about this incident in Fatima, the fact that the son of Gari
25 Mamadou was apparently seen at the location?

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1 A. [9:46:25] Thank you. Mr President, regarding this incident in Fatima when
2 Father Nzale died, there were witnesses who said there was a member of the family
3 of Mr Gari. That is what was said. The information was known by many people in
4 Mbaïki. And, as I have said here, the Fatima neighbourhood is inhabited in majority
5 by people from Lobaye, people from Mbaïki, and others, so the information was
6 known by many people in Mbaïki.

7 Q. [9:47:28] And when this information was known in Mbaïki, Father Antareze,
8 what were people saying about this incident and about the return of some Muslims to
9 Mbaïki?

10 A. [9:47:51] Thank you.
11 Mr President, in answer to that question, I would say that I really do not have any
12 recollection, but I know that people knew about that incident. But I don't really
13 remember much about that.

14 Q. [9:48:14] The next topic, Father Antareze, without necessarily being an
15 eyewitness, did you hear about the murder of the imam of Bagandou?

16 A. [9:48:51] Thank you.
17 Mr President, I heard about that murder of the imam of Bagandou. As you have
18 said, and as I have stated here, Bagandou is one of the parishes of the Mbaïki diocese.
19 So, in Bagandou, there is a team of priests. There is also a group of nuns,
20 Cambodian nuns, working there. So, when something happens there, those of us
21 who were at the bishopric with the bishop were aware. But, regarding that
22 particular situation, I really do not have any details to give you now because it was a
23 long time ago and it was a situation that we were not -- we did not really master, but
24 we had information that the imam of Bagandou had been killed.

25 Q. [9:49:59] I understand. What is of interest to me is not the details of the murder

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1 of the imam of Bagandou, but, rather, the consequences of that murder on the
2 population of Bagandou.

3 Do you know what happened amongst the population of Bagandou regarding this
4 murder? I know you were not an eyewitness, so it should be based on what you
5 heard.

6 A. [9:50:33] Thank you. Mr President, we heard that from the time of the murder
7 of the imam of Bagandou, many Muslims left Bagandou, so it was said that the
8 situation was that of panic. So they left. I no longer remember whether it was at
9 that time that the Seleka of Mbaïki went to bring them to come to -- went to bring
10 them back to Mbaïki, or whether they used their own resources to come to Mbaïki. I
11 don't really remember.

12 Q. [9:51:32] Thank you. I move on to something else once again. I wanted to talk
13 to you about Mbata.

14 You mentioned Mbata at 12:12 yesterday, and you talked about some reprisals on the
15 part of the Seleka. And my question, Father Antareze, is as follows: Do you know
16 whether at that time - that is, during the incidents of the Seleka - do you know
17 whether someone from the Catholic mission had gone to Mbata?

18 A. [9:52:24] Thank you.

19 Mr President, I remember that incident in Mbata. As I said yesterday or the day
20 before that, I am not sure, so I remember that after a few weeks following that Mbata
21 incident, the bishopric, through Father Maximim, who was the director of Caritas,
22 together with Father Patrick Alello (phon), who was the parish priest of Mbata, so he
23 was someone who knew Mbata very well. I think at that time he was at
24 Saint Augustin, or something like that. If I remember, it was also with
25 Prefect Alexandre, so they travelled to the scene at Mbata to see with their own eyes

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1 what has -- had happened.

2 I do not know whether they took along foodstuffs with them, because they included
3 Father Maximim, who was director of Caritas, but I remember that the bishopric
4 reacted through Fathers Maximim and Alello (phon) Patrick, and I think with the
5 prefect also.

6 Q. [9:54:31] And what did they tell you about what they saw regarding what had
7 happened in Mbata at that time? What did Fathers Alello (phon) Patrick and
8 Maximim tell you?

9 A. [9:54:53] Thank you.

10 Mr President, quite frankly, at this precise time, I really do not remember the details
11 of what they told me, but what I can say is that they went there. That is a fact. But
12 whether they held a meeting or did anything else, I really have no precise recollection
13 of that.

14 Q. [9:55:23] Father Antareze, Father Maximim and Father Mozanga, do these
15 names refer to the same person?

16 A. [9:55:44] Thank you. Father Maximim and Father Mozanga are the same
17 person, so his family name is Mozanga and his first name is Maximim. So it was
18 him who was director of Caritas, but he was also the vicar of the bishopric. So he
19 was sort of like the deputy to the bishop. So there were missions that he made on
20 behalf of the bishop.

21 Q. [9:56:17] Thank you. Just so as it should be clear, because there is some sort of
22 confusion in the transcript. Alello (phon) Patrick and Father Maximin Mozanga are
23 the two who went to Mbata. Am I pronouncing the two names well?

24 A. [9:56:55] Yes, it was Maximim Mozanga. But his -- the other priest, the
25 surname is Mokopame.

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:57:10] You are a little bit too quick. You don't
2 have to hurry. We have time.

3 MS DIMITRI: [9:57:21] Thank you, Mr President.

4 Q. [9:57:23](Interpretation) Father Antareze, my last question on Mbata: Did the
5 two priests tell you about houses burnt down by the Seleka in Mbata? Do you have
6 any recollection of that?

7 A. [9:57:43] Thank you.

8 Mr President, I have said it a short while ago. Right now, I really do not remember
9 any specific details about that incident, but I also remember that, in the aftermath of
10 the incident, there were reprisals by the Seleka coming from Mbaïki. So this was
11 directly linked to the incident, but the priests and the prefect went to the location only
12 subsequently, only later. So there were reprisals, but the mission of the priests and
13 the prefect, that is from the bishopric, they went there later, if I remember correctly.

14 Q. [9:58:47] Did you hear of any individual by the name of Lawa-Lawa?

15 A. [9:58:59] Thank you.

16 Mr President, I remember that I heard that name, or that nickname Lawa-Lawa. I
17 don't know whether it was linked to Bangui-Bouchia, or Bouchia or Mbata. But that
18 name, Lawa-Lawa, was known, because they're names that one can remember very
19 easily. So that name, Lawa-Lawa, I believe that I already heard it.

20 Q. [9:59:44] And when you heard that name Lawa-Lawa, whether it was linked to
21 Bangui-Bouchia or any of those locations, did that Lawa-Lawa, was he said to be
22 alone or to have a group?

23 A. [10:00:09] Thank you.

24 Mr President, I would be surprised that he would have been alone, because we were
25 being told about an unidentified group. That is the information that we received.

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1 So the group is not a single individual, but the name Lawa-Lawa was mentioned as if
2 he was the leader of that group, so we heard about his name.

3 Q. [10:00:53] Father Antareze, now, these incidents in Mbata, you made mention of
4 attacks by the Seleka -- or, according to reports you heard, you were not an
5 eyewitness, so my question to you is this: What happened with the population of
6 Mbata? What were the consequences on the population of Mbata, if you know.

7 A. [10:01:28] Thank you.

8 Mr President, right now, well, we heard that the situation was difficult in relation to
9 incident because there was the incident, there were reprisals, so the situation was a
10 difficult one. But at the present time, I do not remember exactly. What I can say is
11 that, after all of that, we saw that the Seleka had brought the Muslims back to Mbaïki.

12 Q. [10:02:20] Thank you.

13 I'd like to play some video footage for you now.

14 And this is tab 4, CAR-OTP-00002244. So I'll be playing just a few seconds, from
15 time stamp 2:15 to 2:34.

16 And for the interpreters, this is at tab 41 of your binder, CAR-OTP-000077, page 4,
17 line 36 to line 39.

18 I'd like to draw your attention to one thing. The date for this video is
19 January 2014 -- 27 January '14. I'll play the passage and then I have just one question
20 for you.

21 (No interpretation)

22 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

23 THE INTERPRETER: (Interpretation of the video excerpt)

24 "Unidentified person: Yes. Those are the -- these are the displaced people from
25 Mbata, the Muslims ...

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1 Unidentified person: No, don't frighten them.

2 Unidentified person: Don't eh!

3 Unidentified person: ..."

4 MS DIMITRI: [10:04:24](Interpretation)

5 Q. [10:04:25] Father, do you recognise this person on the screen who says that these
6 were displaced people from Mbata?

7 A. [10:04:31] Thank you. It was quite a quick passage from that video, so I wasn't
8 able to identify, sorry.

9 Q. [10:04:42] No problem. We will rewind a bit and then we will take a screenshot
10 for you.

11 A. [10:05:07] Okay. Thank you. Mr President, I think this gentleman must have
12 been either the mayor of Mbata at that time, or one of the councillors from the Mbata
13 municipality. I've seen that gentleman before. I've seen him before. But whether
14 he was the mayor, the primary mayor of Mbata, or a member of the delegation, yes,
15 yes.

16 Q. [10:05:41] Thank you for that.

17 I'd like to move on to something else now. We are making progress. We're moving
18 forward. I'm nearly finished.

19 Now, do you know whether there's a mosque in Bossongo Café -- rather, Café
20 Bossongo?

21 A. [10:06:25] Thank you. Mr President, to answer that question, now, a mosque at
22 Café Bossongo, that is a location that I am familiar with. It's on the road between
23 Pissa and Bangui. The mosque at Café Bossangoa was visible. It's along the main
24 road. It's national road 6. It's a paved road. And just beside that mosque, there
25 was the Catholic church, the Catholic Church. So, indeed, there is a mosque in the

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1 village of Café Bossongo.

2 Q. [10:07:24] At the time, did you know if anything happened at that mosque,
3 anything whatsoever?

4 A. [10:07:37] Thank you. Mr President, that mosque at Café Bossongo, initially we
5 heard that it had been destroyed. Later on, once we began to move about and we
6 moved along that road, we did see that the mosque, the mosque at Café Bossongo, no
7 longer existed. It had been destroyed.

8 Q. [10:08:23] I'd like to play some -- a video excerpt for you and then I'll have some
9 questions for you.

10 Now, this -- this is a video from 21 January 2014, tab 36 Defence binder,

11 CAR-OTP-2107-1191. And I'd like for us to go from time stamp 30 seconds to time
12 stamp 1:28. The transcript is at tab 37, page 1, page 1, lines 13 to 23.

13 So, please look at the footage and then I do have a question for you.

14 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

15 (The following inserted excerpt is a transcription prepared and provided by the
16 parties of the aforementioned recording, without any modifications or alterations)

17 "BARNABY PHILLIPS: Next we come to the village of Bossongo Café, where we are
18 surrounded by an agitated crowd.

19 We're meeting a great variety of armed groups along the road. Some are relatively
20 well armed, but these people are essentially vigilantes, village self-protection groups.

21 They say that they are guarding their community against Seleka soldiers who are only
22 some 15 kilometres along the road.

23 We notice that many houses in the village are destroyed. It seems that the Muslim
24 population has been driven out.

25 Then we see that the villagers are demolishing the mosque. It's one shocking

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1 moment in one small village. But all over this country in recent weeks mobs of
2 people have destroyed mosques and churches."

3 MS DIMITRI: [10:11:01](Interpretation)

4 Q. [10:11:04] Father Antareze, do you recognise the mosque of Café Bossongo?

5 A. [10:11:17] Thank you. Mr President, that is a very sad piece of footage. I more
6 or less recognise the locality, because I usually go through that spot. Well, I don't
7 just go through that location, I had meetings in the church of Café Bossongo. I led
8 prayers there, because as I developed as -- well, before I was a priest I was a sort of
9 intern and I was at the Pissa parish from the year 2000 to 2001 and Café Bossongo was
10 part of the territory covered by that parish, the parish of Pissa. So I am familiar with
11 the location. Now, on the footage, I did see indeed that is Café Bossongo.

12 Q. [10:12:48] Now, at the time when you received reports that the mosque had been
13 destroyed, what were you told? Did anyone tell you who destroyed the mosque?

14 A. [10:13:04] Thank you. Mr President, the information that we received about
15 that situation in Café Bossongo, it was said that it was some young people from that
16 locality who decided to destroy the mosque. Now, I think it's also important to
17 stress that that village, the village of Café Bossongo, was a village, how should I put
18 this, all the same. That's the impression we had. It was a village known for -- well,
19 there were groups of young people there who were violent. That was known.
20 For example, if there was an accident or if someone was careless and caused an
21 accident - let's say you bump into someone or you hit someone when you're on your
22 motorbike - you have to be careful. The slightest thing, if you knock someone over,
23 for example, there is no gendarmerie brigade close by. But the young people from
24 that place would confront you and indeed attack you. So the village is known for
25 that sort of thing. So we were told that it was young people from that village who

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1 had risen up, because they didn't want to see Muslims, so they had to destroy their
2 mosque.

3 Q. [10:15:14] Thank you. I'd like to move on to something else now.

4 MS DIMITRI: [10:15:57] Mr President, if I could just have a moment.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:15:59] Of course.

6 (Counsel confers)

7 MS DIMITRI: [10:16:31] Thank you, Mr President.

8 Q. [10:16:41](Interpretation) Father, I would like to move on to another topic now.

9 Is that all right, can we continue?

10 So, now, after the meeting at the St Jeanne cathedral, while Mr Yekatom's elements
11 were in the town of Mbaïki, you, the bishopric, the platform, your colleagues, were
12 there any awareness-raising meetings of any kind in the town of Mbaïki?

13 A. [10:17:40] Mr President, your Honours, as for our interfaith platform in Mbaïki
14 during the time of Mr Yekatom and his elements, we continued holding
15 awareness-raising activities. I remember -- I don't remember specific dates, but I do
16 know that we continued with our activities so as to raise awareness and continue to
17 reassure both communities and to urge both communities to continue with the social
18 cohesion that we desired.

19 So there were -- well, I don't know whether during that period -- there might have
20 been one or two meetings, one or two plenary sessions of awareness-raising before
21 the Mbaïki town hall -- at the Mbaïki town hall. You see, there's an area that is
22 suitable for such activities. That was one way to transmit our message of peace and
23 social cohesion. So I believe that's what we did.

24 Q. [10:19:32] During these awareness-raising sessions, during which people talked
25 about peace and social cohesion, who was invited? Who took part in these

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1 gatherings?

2 A. [10:19:50] Thank you. Mr President, I believe I've said here that each time the
3 platform organised meetings, plenary sessions, relating to peace, social cohesion, we
4 were careful to ensure that everyone from society in Mbaïki be present so as to reach
5 our objective. We were attentive to that, mindful of that. That is what we always
6 did.

7 Q. [10:20:56] Now, when you say that you were careful to ensure that all people
8 from society were present, am I to understand that Mr Yekatom's elements -- you may
9 not remember specifically whom, but were Mr Yekatom's elements present at these
10 plenary sessions?

11 A. [10:21:21] Thank you. Mr President, I believe that they were there. I would
12 be surprised if they hadn't been there. I believe they were there.

13 Q. [10:21:35] Thank you. I'd like to move on to something else now.
14 I'd like for us to hark back to Boda for a few moments, and I have some very specific
15 questions about that topic for you. My first question is this: At any time
16 whatsoever, did you hear about the death of a person called Coeur de Lion?

17 A. [10:22:28] Thank you. Mr President, Mr Coeur de Lion, I met him, I saw him,
18 because he was part of Mr Yekatom's group, so I did meet him and I saw him for the
19 first time during the meeting in Pissa with Mr Yekatom. So, afterwards, when they
20 got to Mbaïki officially, subsequent to the meeting in January 2014, 30 January 2014, I
21 believe he was there, if I recall correctly. At one point, we were told that he had
22 been killed on the way into Boda, Mr Coeur de Lion.

23 Q. [10:23:42] Who told you that he had been killed on the way into Boda?

24 A. [10:23:51] Thank you. Mr President, myself, personally, if I recall correctly, I
25 received that news from some of Mr Yekatom's elements who were in Mbaïki. So

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1 they were the ones who told me, but this information about his death was familiar to
2 many people in Mbaiki when people found out that he had died.

3 I heard this myself from some of Mr Yekatom's elements.

4 Q. [10:24:47] And when Mr Yekatom's elements told you, that Coeur de Lion had
5 died on the way into Boda, what did they tell you about how he went to Boda?

6 A. [10:25:18] Thank you. Mr President, I do remember some parts of that
7 discussion, when I was informed about Mr Coeur de Lion's death by a number of
8 Mr Yekatom's elements. Generally speaking, there were a few who said, "Well, what
9 was he going to Boda for? Why did he go there?"

10 Some of them were even sad that he had decided to go to Boda and, according to the
11 information, let's say -- well, the Anti-Balaka or the non-Muslims who were fighting
12 the Muslims, they were the ones who called upon him and asked him to go there. So
13 that was part of the information that we received about the death of
14 Mr Coeur de Lion.

15 Q. [10:26:37] Father Antareze, could you be a bit more specific and give us more
16 details. Now, when you said that some people -- some of Mr Yekatom's elements
17 told you or said, rather, why did he go to Boda, and then you said some people even
18 were sad the fact that he, Coeur de Lion, had decided to go to Boda, could you be a bit
19 more specific?

20 What did they say exactly about the fact that Coeur de Lion had decided to go to
21 Boda? What sort of words did they use?

22 A. [10:27:21] Thank you. Mr President, well, you know, when you make contact
23 with a group - and I met a group of them, you see - and they were having a drink in a
24 cellar, so I came in, I saw them, and I had to greet them because they knew me. So I
25 had to go up and say hello to them and, in the meantime, I had already heard about

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1 the death of Mr Coeur de Lion.

2 So I took advantage of the opportunity to sound them out a bit and to see what they
3 were going to tell me, what Mr Yekatom's elements would tell me. And, so, you see,
4 they were having a drink and they were all talking, so I said -- well, I would say it
5 was a discussion and each person told me what he knew.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:28:47] Ms Dimitri is, I think, interested in your
7 recollection of what these people told you. It was a long time ago, more than
8 10 years, but, still, if you have a recollection what exactly they said - that is, of course,
9 difficult, we understand that - please tell us. If not, you say, "Well, I don't have a
10 recollection with regard to the content of this discussion".

11 THE WITNESS: [10:29:17](Interpretation) Thank you, Mr President.

12 Well, what I remember is that Mr Yekatom's elements whom I met at the bar where
13 they were having a drink, they were wondering what had he gone there for. They
14 said that, indeed, he had been killed and some people were saying, "Why did he go
15 there, what did he go there for?"

16 That's what I can tell you.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:30:29] Thank you, Mr Witness.

18 Ms Dimitri, you have to move on.

19 MS DIMITRI: [10:30:34] With your permission, I'll give it one last try, but from a
20 different angle.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:30:41] But not a leading try.

22 MS DIMITRI: [10:30:43] No.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:30:43] Mr Vanderpuye, you have to make a
24 comment?

25 MS DIMITRI: [10:30:52](Interpretation)

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1 Q. [10:30:52] Father Antareze, what is of particular interest to me is this: During
2 those discussions, did any one of them tell you how Coeur de Lion took the decision
3 to go to Boda?

4 A. [10:31:08] Thank you. Mr President, in answer to that question, I really do not
5 have any answer to that, but I know that some of them said, "But why did he go there?
6 What did he go to do there?" They were regretting why.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:31:38] Ms Dimitri, that was a very clever try.
8 You angled, frankly speaking.

9 Yes, please continue.

10 MS DIMITRI: [10:31:45] Thank you.

11 Q. [10:31:47] You mentioned that you knew Coeur de Lion, you got to know him
12 during that period. Regarding your observations on the individual, what can you
13 say about that?

14 A. [10:32:15] Thank you. Mr President, my impressions about
15 Mr Coeur de Lion -- well, what I can say, is that I met him the first day when I met
16 with Mr Yekatom. So I saw him with Mr Yekatom, and those of us who were in the
17 platform, when we met with them, the impression that we had was that he was sort of
18 like the assistant or deputy to Mr Yekatom.

19 He had a role of authority. Even in our presence, we could see how he gave orders
20 to the elements who were there, so he was someone -- well, I'm trying to remember
21 the scene from memory, and I will say that he was someone who was a little bit more
22 rigid in his way of speaking. I would use the word "sec" or "dry". Because
23 afterwards, we really did not get to know each other well, but that was the image that
24 I have of him.

25 Q. [10:34:17] What do you mean by he was a bit rigid in his way of speaking, he

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1 was a bit "dry", to use the same word?

2 A. [10:34:31] When he spoke -- when he took the floor, with regard to us, in fact, he
3 spoke very little because when we met with them, we spoke much more with
4 Mr Yekatom and listened to what he was saying. We knew that Mr Yekatom was
5 the chief, but there was Mr Coeur de Lion, and when -- before his death,
6 Mr Coeur de Lion, when I met with him -- because there were times when we met
7 either at the market or during certain meetings, or when I just came across him, he
8 was someone who seemed that he was not really having a sense of dialogue. It was
9 not someone you could dialogue with very easily, to the point where with regard to
10 him, I, myself, was not much encouraged to speak with him, because he was someone
11 who was rather reserved. It was not someone that you could really just discuss with
12 or exchange ideas. So that is the image that I have of Mr Coeur de Lion.

13 Q. [10:36:35] You say that you saw him as someone, and I'm quoting you, "The
14 impression that we had was that he was sort of the deputy or assistant to
15 Mr Yekatom".

16 Now, my question is this: Was that an impression based on the fact that you saw
17 him giving orders, or did anyone officially introduce him as the deputy to
18 Mr Yekatom?

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:37:26] Mr Vanderpuye.

20 MR VANDERPUYE: [10:37:28] Again, there's a very simple way to ask this question
21 in a non-leading manner, which is to simply ask the witness how, on what basis did
22 you draw the impression.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:37:39] Yes. At least the second part was a bit
24 leading.

25 Well, Ms Dimitri, I think I take over what Mr Vanderpuye said.

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1 What gave you the impression that he was sort of an assistant to Mr Yekatom?

2 THE WITNESS: [10:38:00](Interpretation) Thank you, Mr President, your Honours.

3 In relation to that question, I do remember -- well, I don't remember that it was

4 Mr Yekatom who introduced Mr Coeur de Lion as his deputy. Even when we were

5 in Pissa during our first meeting, each person tried to introduce himself or give their

6 names, the name or the nickname. It was later on that I got to know that Mr Rambo

7 is actually called Mr Yekatom, but at that time he was Mr Rambo. Coeur de Lion

8 also introduced himself with that nickname. That was all. No one said, "I am the

9 chief, this is my deputy, this is the secretary" and so on and so forth. So when I used

10 the word "impression", it is because no one in particular told us that, we simply

11 observed that. It was just our observation of his manner of acting.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:39:33] That's quite a good description, actually.

13 It's very difficult to describe impressions.

14 Please continue, Ms Dimitri.

15 MS DIMITRI: [10:39:44] Thank you.

16 Q. [10:39:45](Interpretation) You have told us that during your discussions with

17 the elements you heard that Coeur de Lion had died on the way into Boda, the

18 entrance into Boda. And my question is of a geographical nature. Now, you know

19 Boda. What do you understand by "the entrance into Boda", the "way into Boda"?

20 That is, before coming into Boda and you pass through a first gendarmerie post, what

21 do you -- where do you go to next before actually arriving Boda town?

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:40:36] Ms Dimitri, you told him the geographics,

23 actually.

24 What do you, Mr Vanderpuye --

25 MR VANDERPUYE: [10:40:41] There's that, but also it presumes that the person

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1 who explained this to the witness understood "*entree de Boda*" as the same thing as the
2 witness does. Now, it may very well be a common expression, and that's fine, but
3 it's not clear yet on the record.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:40:57] Yeah. Yeah -- no, I don't agree on that,
5 because this is something that in the end is assessment of evidence, yeah, for what it's
6 worth.

7 So, Mr Witness, you know Boda. In your understanding, yeah, notwithstanding
8 what the other person might have thought of the entrance of Boda, what, in your
9 understanding, is the entrance -- would be the entrance of Boda?

10 THE WITNESS: [10:41:24](Interpretation) Thank you. Mr President, Boda is a
11 locality that I know and that I can describe a little bit. To begin with, I can say -- I
12 can emphasise that when people informed us that Mr Coeur de Lion had been killed,
13 was allegedly killed at the entrance into Boda, or "*entree de Boda*", we ourselves were
14 aware that people were incapable of identifying precisely where he died, because the
15 entrance to Boda can mean many things. Was it the entrance into the town of Boda
16 or before PK5? Because there is a gendarmerie post there 7 kilometres from the
17 arrival in Mbaïki.

18 When you arrive there, it is a gendarmerie checkpoint, that is regarding the entrance
19 and exit from Boda, and after that gendarmerie post there is a school called Samboli
20 school, Samboli school, which is a primary school which was attended both by
21 Muslim and non-Muslim children, built with blocks. That school is located
22 500 metres before the entrance into the Muslim neighbourhood. Because to reach the
23 centre of town, you have to pass through the Muslim neighbourhood. After that,
24 there is a small bridge that you have to cross before you arrive the central market of
25 Boda, where you have the shops of Muslims and non-Muslims, and that is the centre

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1 of Boda.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:44:01] Two things: First of all, this is really a
3 very exact description; secondly, it sort of confirms what Mr Vanderpuye has said,
4 that there could be different understandings of the entrance of Boda is. Even the
5 witness has worded it. He picked up what you said, even, sort of.

6 Ms Dimitri.

7 MS DIMITRI: [10:44:24] Yes. If I could just have a moment before I change subject
8 again, Mr President.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:44:28] Yes.

10 (Counsel confers)

11 MS DIMITRI: [10:45:11] You can see my smile. One last question on that topic,
12 with your leave.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:45:17] Well -- but we have to be very attentive, I
14 think, what you are going to ask.

15 MS DIMITRI: Yes.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:45:18] And Mr Vanderpuye has already
17 alerted --

18 MS DIMITRI: [10:45:24] He's always very alert.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:45:27] He's alerted.

20 MS DIMITRI: [10:45:30](Interpretation)

21 Q. [10:45:30] Last question on that topic before I move on to something else.

22 Now, during your conversation with the elements of Mr Yekatom when they told you
23 about the death of Coeur de Lion, did they tell you whose initiative it was that
24 Coeur de Lion went to Boda?

25 A. [10:46:01] Thank you.

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1 Mr President, during that discussion, I remember very well, and based on what I
2 understood, according to what those elements of Mr Yekatom that I met told me, it is
3 as if it was he himself who took the decision to go. It might have been appealed to
4 by some non-Muslim people in Boda to go there, so he went.

5 MS DIMITRI: [10:46:45] Mr President --

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:46:46] Mr Witness, do we understand your
7 answer that this is, let's say, a conclusion that you took from what you heard, that this
8 was not expressly said?

9 THE WITNESS: [10:47:09](Interpretation) Thank you, Mr President.

10 There were many people who spoke, so based on what I heard directly from them, I
11 understood that Mr Coeur de Lion went on his own initiative because they
12 themselves, some of them were asking, "What did he go to do there?" That is what I
13 can say.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:47:41] Yes. I think that covers it sufficiently.

15 MS DIMITRI: [10:47:48] Yes, Mr President.

16 And just for the record, because I believe it's important, Mr Yekatom is currently
17 following the proceedings through the phone with our legal assistant from our office.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:47:58] That's very good to hear.

19 And, as we have already said in the beginning, we will soon have a break, I think.

20 I'm not sure that you will finish until the break? You will? Okay, good. That's a
21 promise.

22 MS DIMITRI: [10:48:16] Sometimes I talk too much.

23 Q. [10:48:23](Interpretation) Father Antareze, the next topic.

24 Did you see any children amongst the group of Mr Yekatom, to your knowledge?

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:48:40] Mr Vanderpuye, what's wrong with this

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1 question?

2 MR VANDERPUYE: [10:48:42] She could have stopped at the first part of it, because
3 the second part of it calls for a conclusion.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:48:47] Well, yes.

5 Mr Witness, you have seen a lot of Anti-Balaka, of elements of Mr Yekatom.

6 According to your recollection, were children amongst them? You know, we have
7 a -- all have perhaps a different concept of children, but you understand what I mean.
8 Young people that you thought were -- that you would qualify as children. Did you
9 see such elements amongst the elements of Mr Yekatom?

10 THE WITNESS: [10:49:25](Interpretation) Thank you, Mr President.

11 The word "children", well, I myself, I understand that word to mean maybe 15 years,
12 14 years, 16 years. But the elements of Mr Yekatom that I saw with my own eyes, I
13 think I have said it here, that there were young people, but not young, young people.
14 So, I would say young people between 25 years, 30 years, maybe up to 35 years.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:50:13] Well, that's very clear. And even the
16 definition by the witness is -- well, at least when it comes to the term "children", in our
17 context, at least something we can work with.

18 Ms Dimitri.

19 MS DIMITRI: [10:50:28] Thank you, Mr President.

20 Q. [10:50:30](Interpretation) Next topic for clarification. You talked about a
21 Central African called Eloge who worked within an NGO. According to your
22 information, was Eloge in contact with the population?

23 A. [10:51:03] Thank you. Mr President, Mr Eloge, I remember him, but I have
24 forgotten his family name. He was a very sociable young man and he could interact
25 very easily, so in relation to that, he was amongst the population. I think he was

1 working for DRC or another international organisation, but he was someone who was
2 a member of the population. He had his house in the neighbourhood, so he was one
3 of the members of the population.

4 Q. [10:52:03] Prefect Alexandre Kouroupe-Awo, now, I would like to hear what
5 you think about the exercise of his functions by the prefect at that time, how he
6 carried out his duties.

7 A. [10:52:31] Thank you. Mr President, I am being asked questions on people. It
8 is really quite difficult to talk about the personality of people, but I think I can say
9 something based on what I saw, based on what I observed or the impression that I
10 had of the person, because Mr Alexandre, as the prefect of Lobaye at that time, was
11 based in Mbaïki, even at the time of the Seleka, because he was appointed by
12 Mr Djotodia and he continued during the period of Mr Yekatom and his elements.
13 So he is a man who gave us a good impression, a good impression. To be honest, he
14 was very calm, very reserved and I think -- I thought of him as someone who was
15 courageous. He -- we were with him in Pissa, he was in Mbata, he was in Boda. He
16 might have been afraid of going to these places because he was representing the
17 government, since he was the prefect, but the impression that I have of him is that he
18 is someone who is courageous and someone who said what he was thinking. Even
19 to us, if he had someone -- if he had something to say, if he observed anything, he
20 would say it. That is the impression that I have kept of him, that is, Mr Alexandre
21 Kouroupe-Awo.

22 Q. [10:54:42] Now, in which way was he informed at the time? In which manner
23 did he gather information, that is if he gathered any?

24 A. [10:54:58] Thank you. Mr President, as to that question, it is difficult for me to
25 say precisely the way in which he, as the prefect of Lobaye, the means that he was

1 using. I knew that he had his telephone. In the committee, we also had his phone
2 number, and he would also call. And apart from him, I think he had his own
3 network of communications, but that, I really cannot say. I cannot take a position on
4 that.

5 Q. [10:55:43] And how was he in relation to the religious communities in Mbaïki,
6 the various religious communities in Mbaïki?

7 A. [10:56:01] Thank you. Mr President, with regard to the various religious
8 communities, I don't know whether you are referring to the Muslims and the
9 Christians, but I would say that it was -- he was someone that I think -- whether it
10 was on the Muslim or non-Muslim side, I think it was someone who was not hated or
11 detested by any community. I do not think so, because whenever he took the floor,
12 whenever he spoke - for example, during meetings that he attended - we would listen
13 to what he was saying. He was sharing -- he shared the same motivation like us.
14 He wanted peace and social cohesion in his region of authority. So I think he was
15 inspired by a good spirit, or a positive mind. We never observed a scene in which
16 we thought the Muslims or Christians did not trust him. No, we never saw any such
17 thing.

18 Q. [10:57:50] Was he active in the promotion of reconciliation and social cohesion?

19 A. [10:58:05] Thank you. Mr President, I think I have the impression that I've
20 already answered that question. I'm sorry, but the prefect was active, because on
21 several occasions he was personally present and he took the floor openly during
22 occasions to appeal to people to maintain social cohesion and not to allow themselves
23 to be led by emotions. He was someone who spoke really well. He was a good
24 speaker, so one really liked to listen to him speaking.

25 Q. [10:58:54] My last question on the prefect. During that period, did you at any

1 point hear the prefect tell the Muslims, and I quote, "Leave, return to your places, to
2 your places where you come from and leave us alone"?

3 A. [10:59:22] Thank you. Mr President, regarding those utterances, I am not
4 aware of them. I am not aware of them. I am not aware of them.

5 Q. [10:59:36] Thank you. Now, I will move on to my last topic.

6 The mayor of Mbaïki, Raymond Mongbandi, was he present, was he active, was he
7 courageous? How was he involved, or was he involved at the time in the events?

8 Q. [11:00:04] Thank you. Mr President, well, I really didn't make any judgments
9 about people's personalities, but I can say that during the Seleka times and after
10 Mr Yekatom and his elements, after that period, I can say, truth be told, Mr Raymond,
11 who was the mayor of Mbaïki at the time, was not very active. For example, he was
12 accompanying us, or he was supposed to go to the working sessions we had
13 organised. I don't remember him being very active, not really active in the meeting
14 at the St Jeanne d'Arc cathedral on 30 January. He was there, he was in the room, as
15 the mayor of Mbaïki because we from the platform, we wanted him to be there. He
16 was the mayor of Mbaïki representing the citizens. He agreed to take part in the
17 meeting. That's what I can say about the mayor, Mr Raymond Mongbandi. And
18 perhaps one shouldn't forget that these were not normal times, nor should one forget
19 the fear that I've stressed a number of times here. Nearly everyone was fearful, so
20 people responded, depending on their various personalities. I can say that.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:02:56] I have to say, you can read the answers of
22 the witness between the lines also, he has made the best of this a little bit -- I don't
23 want to say confused question, but this very generic question, I think the witness has
24 made the best out of it. Just a remark.

25 Ms Dimitri.

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1 MS DIMITRI: [11:03:15] Thank you.

2 Q. [11:03:18](Interpretation) Do you know whether someone went to fetch him so
3 that he might attend that meeting on 30 January?

4 A. [11:03:29] Thank you. Mr President, to answer that question, I remember quite
5 well that there were a number of partners, leaders, high-profile people, and I, myself,
6 went on my motorbike to go meet with them and to explain to them why that meeting
7 was so important, and I believe that Mr Raymond Mongbandi was amongst these
8 people that I went to see. I remember I had gone to see him at his home, at his
9 residence, which I know quite well, in the Bombole neighbourhood. That is the
10 neighbourhood on the way out of Mbaïki as one takes the road towards Boda. So I
11 went to speak to him and explain to him what the meeting would be all about, and he
12 agreed to take part in the meeting, so that's why he was there.

13 Q. [11:04:55] One last question about him. Do you know whether, during the
14 events, if at the time he would go to the town hall, or did he take shelter somewhere
15 during some of these events?

16 A. [11:05:12] Thank you. Mr President, now, to answer that question relating to
17 Raymond Mongbandi, mayor of Mbaïki at the time, I said that when the Seleka came
18 in, people panicked throughout the town. There was no longer any authorities
19 serving. Each person took shelter wherever he or she could. And in practical terms,
20 the town hall was not operating. It was almost closed down. It was not operational
21 at one time. So the mayor was either at home or at his farm. It's difficult for me to
22 know where he was. I don't have any exact recollection of that time when he
23 resumed his work at the town hall, but I do know that it was a gradual thing.
24 Government services resumed and I think it was subsequent to that that the mayor,
25 Mr Raymond Mongbandi, and the others working at the town hall resumed their own

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1 activities.

2 Q. [11:06:49] You mentioned your mediation team, the ones mediating between
3 Mr Yekatom's elements and the Seleka. Was the mayor part of this mediation team?

4 A. [11:07:06] Thank you for that question. Mr President, well, our mediation team,
5 no, did not include the mayor. There was the platform, and when we were in Pissa
6 we were with the prefect and one or two pastors, and when we were in Boda, some
7 pastors. No, he wasn't really -- he wasn't directly involved in our mediation
8 committee.

9 MS DIMITRI: [11:07:58] If I could have a moment again before I finish, Mr President.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:08:02] But if you have another -- okay, then we
11 have to make a break at some point in time.

12 (Counsel confers).

13 MS DIMITRI: [11:08:17] That was my last question. I'm just going to speak with
14 my client, but technically there is nothing more.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:08:25] I would make the proposal we have the
16 break now.

17 MS DIMITRI: [11:08:29] Yes.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:08:30] Is it enough for you if we - of course, to
19 have a meaningful break, we would have half an hour - if we continue at a quarter to
20 12?

21 MS DIMITRI: [11:08:39] That should be enough, because my understanding is that
22 he's following through the phone so it's going to take me less time to update him.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:08:46] Okay. We will break until 11.45.

24 THE COURT USHER: [11:08:50] All rise.

25 (Recess taken at 11.08 a.m.)

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1 (Upon resuming in open session at 11.51 a.m.)

2 THE COURT USHER: [11:51:57] All rise.

3 Please be seated.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:52:19] So, Ms Dimitri, did you have the chance
5 to consult with your client?

6 MS DIMITRI: [11:52:25] Indeed, Mr President, and that is it for us. If I could just
7 inform the witness that that was my last question.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:52:32] Yes, you can.

9 MS DIMITRI: [11:52:34] Thank you.

10 Q. [11:52:37](Interpretation) Thank you, very much, father. That was my last
11 question. I'd like to thank you for being so patient and now my learned friend from
12 the OTP will be questioning you.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:52:50] Indeed, Ms Dimitri is right. I give the
14 floor to Mr Vanderpuye.

15 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:52:56] Thank you, Mr President. I hope I'll be as brief in
16 reality as I am or as I have planned.

17 QUESTIONED BY MR VANDERPUYE:

18 Q. [11:53:14] So, good morning, again, Mr Madongagba.

19 I have not too many questions for you, so hopefully we'll be relatively brief.

20 I'll start by showing you a photograph that was presented to you. It's the Defence
21 binder tab 5. CAR-D29-0010-0165.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:54:06] It takes a second, Mr Vanderpuye.

23 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:54:13] It's on evidence channel 1.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:54:14] No -- now evidence 1.

25 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:54:15] I see it now. Thank you.

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1 Q. [11:54:17] I believe you testified that this is a photograph of the meeting that you
2 organised on 30 January 2014 in Mbaïki.

3 The three Muslim representatives -- or, rather, individuals in the front there, you
4 identified them, you know them well; is that right?

5 A. [11:54:52] Thank you.

6 Mr President, these three Muslim brothers on the photograph are the delegates. So
7 I think there was Aboubakar Diakité, and the others -- Aboubakar Diakité and the
8 others, I recognise these people.

9 Q. [11:55:29] After the Muslims were removed from Mbaïki on or about 4 and 5
10 February 2014, what happened to these three individuals?

11 A. [11:55:56] Thank you.

12 Mr President, when those trucks came to get the Muslims from Mbaïki, as I was
13 saying, most of the Muslims had left and these three people had also left, I believe,
14 because the few Muslims who remained were mostly women, native to Mbaïki or the
15 surrounding villages who had married Muslim -- our Muslim brothers, and a few
16 children from those families who -- had remained.

17 But I think these three people here, that we see in the video, they had left.

18 Q. [11:57:02] On the first day of your testimony you estimated that the
19 Muslim -- the percentage of Muslims in Mbaïki were somewhere around 15 per cent.
20 What was that percentage after 5 February 2014?

21 A. [11:57:35] Thank you, Mr President. To answer that question, truth be told, the
22 percentage, I don't know. How could -- how can I put this clearly? What's for sure
23 is that many, many Muslims at that time had left. They had left. The ones who
24 remained, I don't know if there were many of them. There -- there weren't a lot of
25 them.

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1 The group, well, I couldn't know them all, but I saw a few. I would say a fairly -- a
2 rather small group had remained behind.

3 Q. [11:58:28] A rather small group. In fact, you know that there were fewer than
4 100 people, Muslims, in Mbaïki after the Muslim population was removed from the
5 town, don't you, sir?

6 A. [11:58:58] Mr President, if someone gives me a number, but I don't know
7 whether the number corresponds to the number of people who had stayed behind.
8 I think 100 people *is not an exaggeration, I don't know. But as I said, it was -- it was
9 a restricted group, a limited group.

10 Q. [11:59:33] Let me show you tab 17 of the Defence binder, this is another
11 photograph, CAR-D29-0010-0181.

12 I'd like to focus in on the person on the right of the screen -- there's two people by a
13 window. If we can blow that up, I'd like the witness to take a look.

14 Do you recognise -- there's three people that you can see from the middle of the
15 screen to the right, do you recognise the person in the middle of those three, in the tan
16 shirt?

17 A. [12:00:36] Thank you, Mr President.

18 You've zoomed in and the person in the middle, that's Saleh Djido, unless I'm
19 mistaken -- Mr Saleh Djido, who was one of the deputies to the mayor of Mbaïki at
20 the time.

21 Q. [12:01:06] And I think during the course of your direct examination you said
22 that Djido Saleh was Chadian, do I have that right?

23 A. [12:01:28] Thank you, Mr President.

24 Mr Saleh Djido, I think he was a Central African Republic Muslim, but I think he is of
25 Chadian origin. That is information that I received. I don't know whether his

1 parents or grandparents may have come from Chad, because amongst the Muslims of
2 Mbaïki there were some of them who talked about their origin. Mamadou Gari, for
3 example, told me that he was of Malian origin but he was a Central African national.
4 But probably Mr Djido, I really do not know whether he was born in Mbaïki, but
5 probably he was born in Mbaïki and grew up there.

6 Q. [12:02:47] Thank you for that clarification.

7 I asked the question because in your testimony, in the course of your testimony, you
8 refer to people as being Chadian or having the appearance of being Sudanese and
9 I wanted to know what your understanding of that it is. When you say that
10 somebody is Chadian, do you mean that they are from Chad and not Central African,
11 or do you mean that they are of Chadian extract or origin, for example?

12 A. [12:03:26] Thank you.

13 Mr President, I remember that I talked about Seleka elements, especially from the first
14 group which had arrived in Mbaïki, most of them did not speak the local
15 language - that is Sango - nor French. So, they spoke Arabic. That is one point.
16 I also talked about that Seleka chief that we saw at Boganangone when I went there
17 with Monsignor Rino at the gendarmerie brigade at the entrance to Boganangone.
18 So we saw that leader there physically. He spoke neither Sango nor French, because
19 when he spoke to us he had an interpreter. I was talking about Yaya, that Peuhl, the
20 Peuhl person I knew in Boganangone. But regarding Djido, it is something else.
21 He is someone who has always lived in Mbaïki and that everyone knows, and who
22 speaks Sango very well. So I think one can say he is Central African. He is of
23 Central African nationality.

24 But I was talking about origin -- Chadian origin.

25 Q. [12:05:35] Okay, thank you for that clarification.

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1 Now, you are aware, of course, that there are regions near the borders in the Central
2 African Republic where Central Africans speak Arabic, right?

3 A. [12:06:02] Thank you.

4 Mr President, I do not know what prevails in the villages bordering Chad or Sudan.

5 Whether they speak Arabic or not, I really do not have any detailed knowledge of that.

6 But I know that the Sango language is a language that is spoken throughout the entire
7 territory. That is what I know.

8 I don't know whether I have answered the question.

9 Q. [12:06:45] Have you been to the Vakaga prefecture?

10 A. [12:07:00] Thank you, Mr President.

11 I have not yet had the opportunity to visit it -- that region of the Central African

12 Republic, Vakaga. I know that it is towards the north and it is on the border with

13 Chad, I believe.

14 Q. [12:07:25] I'm sure you've heard about -- you've heard of Birao, the town?

15 A. [12:07:38] Thank you, Mr President.

16 I have heard about the town of Birao. Maybe it is in Vakaga prefecture, I think.

17 Q. [12:07:50] All right. So you're not sure.

18 Have you been to Haute-Kotto prefecture?

19 A. [12:08:05] Thank you, Mr President.

20 I have not been to the Haute-Kotto prefecture, no.

21 Q. [12:08:21] Have you been to Bamingui-Bangoran?

22 A. [12:08:31] Thank you, Mr President.

23 I have never been to that Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture, but I know a little bit about

24 the geography of the various prefectures of the Central African Republic. That is just

25 knowledge that I have.

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1 Q. [12:09:07] Okay. That's helpful.

2 You mentioned Djido Saleh during your direct examination and you were told that he
3 was killed. Do you recall what you were told about where he was killed and how he
4 was killed?

5 A. [12:09:36] Thank you.

6 Mr President, your Honours, Mr Saleh Djido, he was indeed killed in Mbaïki. I'm
7 talking about that with a lot of sadness because when he was killed, it really saddened
8 us very much, at least those of us at the bishopric. So, yes, I know that he was killed
9 in Mbaïki. In Mbaïki, I was told that he was killed at the roundabout of Mbaïki town.
10 If you go to the Mbaïki central town, you have the Mbaïki hospital, then the
11 gendarmerie, and just after the gendarmerie there is the sub-prefecture, then the
12 prefecture, and then the residence or base of the MISCA at the time, the former
13 cooperative. So that roundabout was also next to Socatel, near the town hall. So
14 according to what I heard, this was the place at which Mr Djido was killed.

15 Q. [12:11:42] You mentioned the Socatel building. Can you tell us where the
16 Anti-Balaka base was of Mr Yekatom's men relative to the Socatel building at that
17 time?

18 A. [12:12:05] Thank you.

19 Mr President, in answer to that question, I think that one should look at the position
20 of Mr Yekatom with some perspective, because when they arrived in Mbaïki as from
21 30 January 2014, they were occupying the zone, the area of the Socatel building, some
22 of the sites of the sub-prefecture and the prefecture. In any case, they were there.
23 Personally, I am not in a position to tell you precisely where they were, but one could
24 see them there in this zone, in that area. They could be seen there.

25 Now, afterwards, during the time of the murder of Mr Saleh Djido, it was another

1 phase. The MISCA was already present, and I believe that at the prefecture and the
2 sub-prefecture and the gendarmerie, I think the state administrative services had
3 started resuming, even though not at the normal rate, but they had started resuming.
4 Now, there were Mr Yekatom's elements more towards the Socatel building. That is
5 the answer I can give you.

6 Q. [12:14:19] Maybe my question was inartful, but how far away from the point
7 where Mr Saleh killed is the Socatel building? What's the distance?

8 A. [12:14:41] Thank you, Mr President.

9 One can estimate that distance, I can estimate it at between 100, 200 metres -- between
10 200 and 300 metres. That's it.

11 Q. [12:15:14] During that period of time, from the time that you invited
12 Mr Yekatom to the meeting until Djido Saleh's murder - which the Chamber has
13 heard evidence was on 28 February 2014 - where were the bases of Mr Yekatom's men
14 in and around -- in and around Mbaïki?

15 A. [12:15:57] Mr President, I did not quite understand that question. I'm sorry.
16 If it could be repeated, please.

17 Q. [12:16:08] Yes. My question was: Where were the bases of Mr Yekatom's men
18 during the period of time that they were in Mbaïki -- that is, from the date that they
19 first came, that you first met them, anyway, on -- at the -- at the gendarme -- at the St
20 Jeanne d'Arc church? Where were they situated in Mbaïki, where were they based?

21 A. [12:16:40] Thank you. Mr President, for that question, I said a short while ago
22 that one has to take things into context. When we finished the Jeanne d'Arc meeting,
23 and after the speech, after the meeting at the Mbaïki station, after which people went
24 back home, the Yekatom elements occupied the area approximately where the Seleka
25 had been -- that is, Socatel and the area of the gendarmerie, the sub-prefecture. So

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1 they were there. They could be seen there. I, myself, when I was passing by,
2 I could see them in that area.

3 Now, after, there was the second phase. You had the MISCA, then the services of
4 the prefecture, the sub-prefecture and the gendarmerie progressively started
5 resuming, and then I started seeing them more towards -- in the neighbourhood, in
6 the vicinity of Socatel.

7 Q. [12:18:15] Didn't you hear that they had a base in Baguirmi?

8 A. [12:18:29] Thank you, Mr President.

9 A base at Baguirmi, I don't have that information. I was not aware of the fact that
10 Mr Yekatom had a base -- a base, meaning that there were many of them there, or
11 they had meetings. But I think it was more in the vicinity, in the area of Socatel.

12 Q. [12:19:04] Did you hear that they had a base opposite the youth centre in Demo?

13 A. [12:19:19] Thank you, Mr President. I have no information about that.

14 Q. [12:19:26] Do you know somebody by the name of Jean Joseph
15 Bongoma -- Josephat Bongoma?

16 A. [12:19:40] Thank you, Mr President. In the video footage where the various
17 persons who took part in the Jeanne d'Arc meeting were being shown, I pointed out
18 Mr Jean Josephat Bongoma. Jean Josephat Bongoma at that time was one of the
19 assistance mayors of Mbaïki.

20 Q. [12:20:25] Did you ever have a chance to speak to him about the Anti-Balaka's
21 presence in Mbaïki?

22 A. [12:20:38] Thank you, Mr President.

23 Mr Jean Joseph Bongoma, well, I know him, I know his family. I know him as well
24 as an assistant mayor and after the one who became the substantive mayor, so it is
25 someone that I met. But to speak with him at any occasion about the Anti-Balaka, no,

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1 I do not remember.

2 He was at the Jeanne d'Arc meeting, and in some of the meetings that we organised
3 he was also present. But to say that having a discussion, a two-person discussion
4 with him like that, no, I do not think so.

5 Q. [12:21:44] Did you ever talk with Djido Saleh about the presence of the
6 Anti-Balaka in Mbaiki before his untimely death?

7 A. [12:22:01] Thank you, Mr President. With Mr Saleh Djido, we did not have any
8 discussion, the two of us, in the presence of Mr Yekatom and his elements, except
9 during the meetings before his death. When we organised meetings, he, as an
10 authority, as a deputy mayor, he was always there. He was also there.

11 Q. [12:22:45] Okay. I'm going to play you a video.

12 It's at tab 2, CAR-OTP-0000-2245. It's a video that's partially in Sango and partially
13 in French. To the extent that a sight translation of at least the French is possible, that
14 would be appreciated.

15 But in any event, I understand, Mr Witness, you speak both Sango and French so you
16 should be able to follow it quite clearly. I'll ask you some questions after that as
17 soon as we set that up.

18 THE INTERPRETER: [12:23:29] From the interpreters: A sight translation, we
19 would need a transcript. I don't know whether there is one.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:23:39] Do we have a translation for the
21 interpreters?

22 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:23:43] One would think we would, because I think it's
23 already submitted, but I can't find it. But I assure you it's a very short extract and
24 very clear.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:23:52] So to the interpreters: Please give your

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1 best. There is an assurance by Mr Vanderpuye that it's short and clear.
2 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:24:00] The French is.
3 THE INTERPRETER: [12:24:02] From the interpreters: Yes, we can try.
4 Thank you, sir.
5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:24:07] Thank you so much.
6 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:24:09]
7 Q. [12:24:09] All right. We're going to play a short extract. It's from 01:04 to
8 02:24. I see Ms Dimitri is on her feet.
9 MS DIMITRI: [12:24:25] It is to help you.
10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:24:26] I thought so. There couldn't be an
11 objection imaginable.
12 MS DIMITRI: [12:24:31] There is a transcript on Nuix. The ERN is 0000-2278.
13 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:24:46] There it is.
14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:24:47] That's something.
15 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:24:48] Yes, that is very helpful. Much appreciated.
16 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:24:52] Could counsel please say if it's CAR-OTP or
17 CAR-D29?
18 MS DIMITRI: [12:24:58] CAR-OTP.
19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:25:00] So, for the interpreters, well, you can tell
20 us when you're ready, when you have it.
21 MS DIMITRI: [12:25:42] In the meantime, could you just repeat the extract you want
22 to play.
23 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:25:47] Yes, it's from 01:04, I think, to 02:24.
24 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:25:58] For the interpreters, we have put the transcript on
25 evidence channel 1.

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1 THE INTERPRETER: [12:26:03] From the interpreters: We can see the transcript.

2 Much obliged.

3 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:26:11] Then we can see. Thank you. Thank you,
4 everybody. I think we can play it. Are you ready in the booth? Okay. We'll play
5 it. Thank you.

6 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:26:44] We have to start anew. We don't have
8 the interpretation.

9 THE INTERPRETER: [12:26:52] From the interpreters: The first part seemed to
10 have been in Sango. If we can have the line numbers, it would be very helpful.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:27:09] Ms Dimitri? No.

12 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:27:11] It's just enough to translate the French, I think, for
13 our purposes.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:27:15] Okay, so for the interpreters, no worries.
15 The Sango part, we'll just play without translation and when they start to speak
16 French, please translate it. But we would have to start anew, I think, from the
17 beginning, please.

18 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:27:33] Yes, Mr President.

19 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

20 THE INTERPRETER: [12:27:48] (Interpretation of the video extract)

21 "I have said that we are afraid. It makes us afraid because we are in a total risk, in a
22 total risk. We are authorities. For example, myself, I am the second assistance to
23 the mayor. I have a foundation in this country. Where am I going to go? I cannot
24 say. I am in my country. I'm a Muslim. I'm a Muslim, so I'm appealing to the
25 international community that one needs to protect, they need to protect the Muslims

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1 and protect the Christians without any discrimination. We are tired. It means that
2 we are tired of this war and we know where it is coming from. We are tired."

3 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:29:05]

4 Q. [12:29:05] You recognise Mr Saleh in that video; is that right?

5 A. [12:29:16] Thank you.

6 Mr President, yes; yes, I recognise Mr Saleh Djido. Yes.

7 Q. [12:29:23] Do you recognise the location that he's in?

8 A. [12:29:40] Thank you, Mr President.

9 Regarding the location, I think it is -- maybe it resembles slightly the houses opposite,
10 not far away from the Baguirmi mosque, the Baguirmi mosque, yes, just by the side of
11 the main tarred road. That is what it looks like.

12 Q. [12:30:22] You could see at the beginning of the video that he's picking up the
13 pages of a burnt Koran; can we agree on that?

14 A. [12:30:50] Thank you, Mr President.

15 I can't see very well, myself. I can see some papers, but I can't confirm that this is a
16 Koran that has been burnt. And I don't know the context, I don't even know when
17 this photograph was taken. I see paper and this seems to be Arabic script, but -- but
18 is it a Koran that has been burnt? I'm not in a position to know that.

19 Q. [12:31:33] That's fair enough. What he says in the video is he's a Central
20 African, he's a Muslim and where should he go. You testified on direct examination
21 that he exercised the choice to remain in Mbaïki. That's the information you had.
22 And that's why he was killed, isn't it, sir?

23 A. [12:32:12] Thank you.

24 Mr President, it is true that the information I received was that Mr Djido said several
25 times -- he said several times that he was from the Central African Republic and it

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1 was his country. But to our mind that was normal, because it wasn't a surprise that
2 he said that and it was a fair statement -- a correct statement. He said that he was
3 from the Central African Republic, it was his country, Mbaïki was his village. For us,
4 that was something normal. On our side, the bishopric, the platform, that wasn't a
5 problem.

6 Now, the second part of the question, whether that is -- whether it's because of that
7 that he had been killed, I really don't have any answer to give you as such. But I do
8 know -- well, what I can say here is that when -- when the -- the vast majority of the
9 Muslims left on the trucks that had been sent in, according to the information
10 I received, Mr Djido decided -- well, he refused to leave and, according to that same
11 information I received, the people who were there said that Djido's wife apparently
12 was pregnant at the time with their child and wanted to get on the truck, and with the
13 children wanted to -- they were already in the truck and Djido kept them from
14 leaving. He had his wife and children get off the truck, and he said no, he was from
15 the Central African Republic and that there was no question of him leaving. That
16 was part of the information that I received about Mr Djido.

17 Q. [12:35:10] Maybe my question was inartful. But would you agree that if -- had
18 he left, he would not have been slayed in front of that gendarmerie on
19 28 February 2014?

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:35:24] Ms Dimitri.

21 MS DIMITRI: [12:35:25] Thank you, Mr President. It's hypothetical, speculative.
22 Let's just deal with the facts and not would have happened if.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:35:33] Yeah, I think it's -- I know -- I know why
24 you're saying that, but it's -- the witness has --

25 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:35:39] I can -- I can come around it a different way.

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:35:42] Okay, please try that.

2 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:35:44]

3 Q. [12:35:44] You said that the Muslims that left Mbaïki did so voluntarily, in your
4 direct testimony in answering a question put to you by my learned counsel
5 across -- across the room. Do you consider the circumstances that Mr Saleh relates
6 here to be voluntary, to indicate voluntariness?

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:36:10] I let that pass. We have a very
8 intelligent witness who can differentiate and, well, mister -- Mr Witness, please
9 answer that.

10 MS DIMITRI: [12:36:20] Mr President, it's just a reference for the word "voluntarily",
11 that's all I'm asking.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:36:28] That's true, of course. That's correct.
13 I think "voluntarily" was not -- the word was not used. That's probable.

14 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:36:36]

15 Q. [12:36:36] Let me ask it then. Do you consider that the Muslims left Mbaïki
16 voluntarily, in February 2014? Do you consider that all those Muslims in Mbaïki got
17 on those buses voluntarily?

18 A. [12:36:56] Thank you.

19 Mr President, well, I don't know whether I used the word "voluntarily"; I don't
20 believe I did. Well, frankly, given that context, in that context, I don't know whether
21 one had a choice or not to leave. I don't know how those convoys had been
22 organised. Some trucks had come. They got to Mbaïki and, according to my
23 information, those trucks came from far away, from Chad. So if these trucks came
24 from far away, given the state of the roads and all of that, and the expenditures, one
25 could see it as possibly an investment if -- then if that were the case, things would

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1 have been prepared.

2 When the trucks arrived, many people got onto the trucks and, according to my
3 information, the information that I received, I was told that Mr Djido, he said he could
4 not leave, and, apparently, he asked his wife and his children to get off the truck, or
5 he forced them to get off the truck. That's what I can tell you.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: Mr Vanderpuye --

7 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:38:44] He answered my question. Unless, Mr President,
8 you --

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:38:47] Well, I have a question.

10 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:38:50] Okay.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:38:52] Mr Witness, these Muslims that left, did
12 they consider Mbaïki and the surrounding areas as their home?

13 THE WITNESS: [12:39:11](Interpretation) Thank you.

14 Mr President, those Muslims who left, indeed, they thought of Mbaïki and the
15 surrounding villages, they thought of those places as their territory, their -- the place
16 they were from. That is why I said yesterday, or the day before that, that there were
17 Muslims who were asking some non-Muslims to keep an eye on their houses, so they
18 entrusted their houses to some non-Muslim individuals. If someone says "Could
19 you keep an eye on my house?" that means that there is a hope that one day they will
20 return.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:40:04] I think we leave it at that,

22 Mr Vanderpuye.

23 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:40:07] Thank you, Mr President. I just have one last area.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:40:11] Yes, let's hear it.

25 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:40:14]

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1 Q. [12:40:14] And this just relates to how it is that you came about organising the
2 meeting that you had on 30 January 2014. You said, I think it was on your first day
3 of testimony, and that's transcript -- I think it's 293, page 63, line 5, on, you said that
4 you wanted to get ahold of Mr Yekatom's telephone number. You said, "I no longer
5 recall how I got hold of his telephone number, but I looked for it, I am sure of it.
6 I wanted his contact details and I contacted him." And then he accepted to meet you
7 in Pissa.

8 My question is: Why exactly did you seek out Mr Yekatom's contact details?

9 A. [12:41:27] Thank you.

10 Mr President, your Honours. Yes, because Mr Yekatom, first of all, the first thing,
11 I didn't know him. I didn't know him, so the information that I received that the
12 people responsible for this group who were called the Anti-Balaka, who were in Pissa,
13 in Pissa, that the person responsible for them, or the person in charge, was
14 Mr Yekatom, Mr Rambo. And to put our initiative into effect -- that is to say, to meet
15 the two leaders, the Seleka colonel -- contacting him was easy.

16 As for Mr Yekatom, first of all, we had to speak to him. We didn't know how he
17 would respond. We had to speak to him. We needed meetings, we needed a prior
18 meeting with him to see what his intentions were, to sound him out, to get his
19 approval.

20 Was he in approval? Could he support our efforts? And as I said -- as I said here,
21 I don't know quite how I managed to get his contact information, but, you know,
22 when you want something, you look for it.

23 So I looked and looked, and, ultimately, I got his contact information, because it was
24 absolutely necessary to contact him.

25 First, I spoke to him on the telephone and he was in agreement to meet with us in

1 Pissa.

2 Q. [12:43:39] And what did Mr Yekatom's presence in Pissa have to do with your
3 situation in Mbaïki that you needed to contact him at all?

4 A. [12:44:03] Thank you, Mr President. In my testimony, I mostly focused on the
5 psychological climate reigning in Mbaïki. It was a climate of fear and worry, and it
6 was related to the general context. One mustn't forget that -- one mustn't forget
7 what happened and what information was coming in from other places in the Central
8 African Republic -- the information that we were receiving.

9 And also one mustn't forget the situation in Boda.

10 So, there you have it, and the incidents that occurred in surrounding villages where
11 there were clashes between non-Muslims and Muslims.

12 So we took all those parameters into consideration within our platform to assess the
13 need to provide some kind of space for dialogue and listening for these two forces
14 that were present. There were the Seleka in Mbaïki; there was Mr Yekatom and his
15 elements in Pissa. And Pissa is less than 30 minutes away from Mbaïki, so because
16 of all that, we felt it was necessary to carry out that endeavour.

17 Q. [12:46:04] You contacted Mr Yekatom because Mr Yekatom could have affected
18 the situation in Mbaïki, the security situation; that's why you called him, isn't it?

19 A. [12:46:29] Thank you, Mr President.

20 To have an influence on security in Mbaïki, no, but they were there. They were in
21 Pissa. So they were in Pissa and, well, truly, we were always in a state of fear. We
22 didn't know what could happen all the same. We could see some things and things
23 were not looking good, something had to be done.

24 As a religious platform, our objective and our mission, our fundamental mission, the
25 very reason for our interfaith platform was to bring about peace and social cohesion

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1 so that Mbaïki would not become a conflict area, a place of clash -- clashes.

2 So that is why we decided to contact those various leaders, the various forces that
3 were present. So that's why. That was our motivation.

4 And we remained with that particular motivation.

5 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:48:09] Do you have a further --

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:48:10] No, no. I think that has covered your
7 question as far as I'm concerned.

8 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:48:14] I have maybe just one different angle on this.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:48:18] Yes, well, this is always nice -- the
10 different angle. We know about that from this morning.

11 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:48:23]

12 Q. [12:48:23] You mentioned that you had information coming to Mbaïki about
13 things were happening -- that were happening in other parts of the country. And
14 that's a bit of a mystery as to what information you had. So if you could tell us what
15 information you had, concerning what was going on in the other parts of the country
16 that caused you concern in Mbaïki, enough to call Mr Yekatom to intervene.
17 What information did you have exactly?

18 A. [12:48:58] Thank you.

19 Mr President, we weren't aware of all the information, that's for sure. Our means
20 were limited, but what happened in Batangafo, in Bossangoa, et cetera, and even with
21 the event of 5 December 2013 in Bangui, when we were told that there were clashes
22 between the Seleka and the Anti-Balaka, we were there, we had that information.
23 And, so, for the population, in the eyes of the population, Mr Yekatom and his
24 elements, the population of Mbaïki called them the Anti-Balaka. And the
25 Anti-Balaka were in Pissa, at the very doors of Mbaïki.

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1 And what happened in Mbata, in Bangui-Bouchia, the information that the
2 population in Mbaïki had, according to that information, the Anti-Balaka attacked the
3 Muslims -- once again, the Anti-Balaka attacking the Muslims.

4 So that was the information that we were receiving and that truly fed the climate of
5 fear and worry. In the minds of the people, if there was an attack or a -- well,
6 between the Anti-Balaka and the Muslims, that could be the case for Mbaïki. So we
7 tried to say, "Well, we have to do something. We have to try to do something to
8 avoid a possible attack or a clash."

9 I think it's also important to take into account what was going on at the time in other
10 localities and the information we were getting, so, for us, it was important to take all
11 of that into account.

12 Q. [12:51:38] And to take that into account, Mr Yekatom is the only Anti-Balaka
13 chief that you invited to your meeting in Mbaïki on 30 January 2014, right? No other
14 Anti-Balaka chief, leader, commander in the area; is that right, sir?

15 A. [12:52:07] Thank you. Mr President, yes, it was Mr Yekatom, Mr Yekatom.
16 For us it was much more in relation to Pissa, and in Pissa -- well, you see we realised
17 that the elements based -- the Anti-Balaka elements in Pissa were Mr Yekatom's
18 elements, so we had to contact their leader, and we discovered it was Mr Yekatom.

19 Q. [12:52:47] Okay. Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

20 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:52:49] Mr President, I have no further questions.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:52:51] Thank you very much. I cannot assume
22 that, yes? Yes, the representatives of the victims also have no questions.

23 Ms Dimitri, I don't want to rush you. You have to -- I think you have to make a call
24 with your client.

25 I can make a suggestion to be fair to you and your client that we have a -- the break

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1 now and you revert, I think that would be the best or?

2 MS DIMITRI: [12:53:20] Mr President, if you and your Honours are up to it, if you
3 give me maximum 15 minutes, I can be back down with an answer.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:53:30] Yes, then we do it this way.

5 MS DIMITRI: [12:53:31] Thank you.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:53:32] Okay, 15 minutes. And let us know.

7 Please don't run away, everyone, yes? Stay close.

8 And please let me immediately know via some channels when you're ready.

9 THE COURT USHER: [12:53:43] All rise.

10 (Recess taken at 12.53 p.m.)

11 (Upon resuming in open session at 1.09 p.m.)

12 THE COURT USHER: [13:09:23] All rise.

13 Please be seated.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [13:09:48] So, Ms Dimitri, you had a chance to speak
15 with your client.

16 MS DIMITRI: [13:09:53] Indeed, Mr President. And thank you for accommodating
17 this.

18 We have no questions for re-examination.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [13:09:58] Thank you very much.

20 This means, Mr Madongagba, that this concludes your testimony.

21 On behalf of the Chamber, we would like to thank you that you have taken it upon
22 you to come to The Hague, to this Court, to testify for nearly three days and ask so
23 many questions patiently. We appreciate that a lot. We need witnesses that come
24 forward and testify and try and assist us to help to find the truth. We wish you a
25 safe trip back home.

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- 1 THE WITNESS: [13:10:32](Interpretation) Thank you, Mr President. Thank you to
- 2 everyone. Thank you very much.
- 3 (The witness is excused)
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [13:10:42] So this concludes also the hearing for
- 5 today, but we continue already tomorrow at 9.30 with D30-4848.
- 6 THE COURT USHER: [13:10:52] All rise.
- 7 (The hearing ends in open session at 1.10 p.m.)