Trial Hearing (Open Session) ICC-02/04-01/15

- 1 International Criminal Court
- 2 Trial Chamber IX

filed in the case

- 3 Situation: Republic of Uganda
- 4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen ICC-02/04-01/15
- 5 Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt, Judge Péter Kovács and Judge Raul Cano
- 6 Pangalangan
- 7 Trial Hearing Courtroom 3
- 8 Thursday, 31 January 2019
- 9 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.28 a.m.)
- 10 THE COURT USHER: [9:28:46] All rise.
- 11 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
- 12 Please be seated.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:29:09] Good morning, everyone.
- 14 Could the court officer please call the case.
- 15 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:29:14] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
- 16 Situation in the Republic of Uganda, in the case of The Prosecutor versus Dominic
- 17 Ongwen, case reference ICC-02/04-01/15.
- 18 And for the record, we're in open session.
- 19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:29:28] Thank you.
- 20 Could the parties and participants please state their presence for the record.
- 21 Mr Gumpert for the Prosecution first.
- 22 MR GUMPERT: [9:29:36] May it please your Honours, my name is Ben Gumpert.
- 23 With me today, Beti Hohler, Julian Elderfield, Adesola Adeboyejo, Yulia Nuzban,
- 24 Pubudu Sachithanandan, Grace Goh, Sanyu Ndagire, Hai Do Duc, Laura de Leeuw,

25 my apologies to her, and Natasha Barigye.

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-02/04-01/15

- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:30:03] Thank you very much.
- 2 And for the Legal Representatives of the victims.
- 3 MS SEHMI: [9:30:07] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. On behalf of
- 4 the Legal Representatives for Victims my name is Anushka Sehmi and I am joined by
- 5 Mr James Mawira.
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:30:16] Ms Massidda.
- 7 MS MASSIDDA: [9:30:17] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. For the
- 8 second group of victims appearing today, Ms Caroline Walter and I am Paolina
- 9 Massidda.

filed in the case

- 10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:30:25] Thank you.
- 11 And finally for the Defence, Mr Obhof.
- 12 MR OBHOF: [9:30:29] Good morning, your Honour and Judges. Happy New Year
- 13 to all. My name is Thomas Obhof, assistant to counsel for Dominic Ongwen. With
- 14 us today is Mr Gordon Kifudde, assistant to counsel; co-counsel, Chief Charles
- 15 Achaleke Taku; co-counsel, Beth Lyons; case manager, Roy Titus Ayena; and our new
- 16 intern, Hagop Mouradian.
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:30:51] And your client.
- 18 MR OBHOF: [9:30:54] Oh, yes. I'm sorry, Dominic. And our client, Dominic
- 19 Ongwen.
- 20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:30:57] I see your client too. Good morning,
- 21 Mr Ongwen.
- We go shortly to private session.
- 23 (Private session at 9.31 a.m.)
- 24 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:31:11] We're in private session, Mr President.

25 (Redacted)

Trial Hearing

ICC-02/04-01/15

ICC-02/04-01/15-T-198-Red2-ENG WT 31-01-2019 3/35 SZ T

Pursuant to the Trial Chamber' IX's instructions, ICC-02/04-01/15-497, dated 13 July 2016, the public reclassified and lesser redacted version of this transcript is filed in the case

(Private Session)

ICC-02/04-01/15

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(Private Session)

1 (Redacted)

Trial Hearing

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- 18 (Redacted)
- 19 (Redacted)
- 20 (Open session at 9.35 a.m.)
- 21 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:35:54] We are back in open session, Mr President.
- 22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:56] Thank you.
- We can now bring in the next witness, please.
- 24 (The witness enters the courtroom)
- 25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:37:04] Good morning, Mr Witness. You are

- 1 going to testify before the International Criminal Court. On behalf of the Chamber,
- 2 I would like to welcome you in the courtroom.
- 3 Mr Witness, there should be a card in front of you with a solemn undertaking to tell
- 4 the truth. Could you please make this undertaking by reading the card out aloud.
- 5 WITNESS: UGA-D26-P-0130
- 6 (The witness speaks Acholi)
- 7 THE WITNESS: [9:37:38] (Interpretation) Thank you. I solemnly swear that I will
- 8 speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.
- 9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:37:47] Thank you very much. You are now
- 10 sworn in.
- 11 Next I will explain to you some measures that we have put in place for your
- 12 testimony to protect you. We have put face distortion in place, which means that no
- one outside the courtroom can see your face during your testimony. We will also
- 14 use what we call a pseudonym. In accordance with that, we will refer to you all, like
- 15 I do at the moment, only as "Mr Witness" to not reveal your identity.
- 16 When you answer questions that will not give away your identity, we do this in open
- 17 session. Open session, like in the moment, means that the outside world, that the
- 18 public can hear what is being said.
- 19 On the other side, when you are being asked to describe anything that might reveal
- 20 your identity, we do this in private session and in private session nobody can, outside
- 21 of this courtroom, can hear what you say.
- 22 Before we start with your testimony, I would like to explain some practical matters.
- 23 In this courtroom here everything is written down and interpreted and because -- and
- 24 to allow for the interpretation, it is important to speak clearly and at a slow pace.
- 25 If you have any questions yourself, please raise your hand, then we realise that you

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-02/04-01/15

WITNESS: UGA-D26-P-0130

- 1 want to address the Court or the Chamber and we will give you the floor.
- 2 For an additional thing, we would go shortly to private session, shortly.
- 3 (Private session at 9.39 a.m.)
- 4 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:39:37] We're in private session, Mr President.
- 5 (Redacted)

filed in the case

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- 14 (Redacted)
- 15 (Open session at 9.40 a.m.)
- 16 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:40:35] We're back in open session, Mr President.
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:40:41] Thank you.
- 18 We can then start with your testimony, and I give the Defence the floor. I assume
- 19 Mr Obhof will be the one who is questioning you.
- 20 Mr Obhof, please.
- 21 MR OBHOF: [9:41:03] Thank you, your Honour.
- 22 QUESTIONED BY MR OBHOF:
- 23 Q. [9:41:06] Good morning, Mr Witness.
- 24 A. [9:41:09] Good morning.
- 25 MR OBHOF: [9:41:12] Your Honour, we're going to be doing some background

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-02/04-01/15

WITNESS: UGA-D26-P-0130

filed in the case

1 material for the witness at first and so would request a private session, maybe about

- 2 10 minutes, 15 at the most.
- 3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:41:26] Yes. For the public that's not satisfying,
- 4 but we can't help it. We have to protect the identity of this witness. And I can
- 5 assure everyone that especially Mr Obhof is known to the Chamber to really group
- 6 his questions in a manner that we have as much as possible in open session, of course.
- 7 So when he says we have to go to private session, then we have to.
- 8 Private session.
- 9 (Private session at 9.41 a.m.) *Reclassified partially in public
- 10 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:42:04] We're in private session, Mr President.
- 11 (Redacted)
- 12 (Redacted)
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ICC-02/04-01/15-T-198-Red2-ENG WT 31-01-2019 8/35 SZ T

Pursuant to the Trial Chamber' IX's instructions, ICC-02/04-01/15-497, dated 13 July 2016, the public reclassified and lesser redacted version of this transcript is filed in the case

ICC-02/04-01/15-T-198-Red2-ENG WT 31-01-2019 9/35 SZ T

Pursuant to the Trial Chamber' IX's instructions, ICC-02/04-01/15-497, dated 13 July 2016, the public reclassified and lesser redacted version of this transcript is filed in the case

1 (Redacted)

filed in the case

- 2 (Redacted)
- 3 (Redacted)
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:50:53] Perhaps I also have one or two questions.
- 5 What are you doing at the moment for a living, or what are you doing? Can you tell
- 6 the Court?
- 7 THE WITNESS: [9:51:05] (Interpretation) Right now I'm a student. During
- 8 holidays I -- well, I don't do anything during holidays, but I'm a student.
- 9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:51:18] But student is of course not bad. Do you
- 10 have contact to your mother? Or do you live together with your mother,
- 11 whatsoever?
- 12 THE WITNESS: [9:51:33] (Interpretation) Well, I do contact my mother, but most
- of the time I'm in school. Not all the time, but most of the time I'm in school. I
- 14 come home during holidays, spend two or three months with her and then I go back
- 15 to school.
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:51:52] Thank you.
- 17 Yes, Mr Obhof.
- 18 (Redacted)
- 19 (Redacted)
- 20 (Redacted)
- 21 (Redacted)
- 22 (Redacted)
- 23 (Redacted)
- 24 (Redacted)
- 25 (Redacted)

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-02/04-01/15

WITNESS: UGA-D26-P-0130

- 1 (Redacted)
- 2 (Redacted)
- 3 (Redacted)
- 4 (Redacted)
- 5 (Redacted)
- 6 (Redacted)
- 7 (Redacted)
- 8 (Open session at 9.53 a.m.)
- 9 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:53:08] We're back in open session, Mr President.
- 10 MR OBHOF: [9:53:16]
- 11 Q. [9:53:17] Now, again, Mr Witness, without saying any names, we discussed very
- 12 briefly where you lived before you returned to Uganda. What was life like there?
- 13 How was your life before you were brought to Uganda?
- 14 A. [9:53:38] Before I was brought to Uganda, life was absolutely brilliant. Most of
- 15 the people there loved me, especially my father. I used to spend the nights in the
- same house with him. Some of the other children did not actually sleep in the same
- 17 house with him, but I spent time in his house. I used to eat with him. I used to
- play with my sisters. I did not play with other children, but most times I played
- 19 with my father's children and I also played with the children of some of the army
- 20 commanders. Those are the ones that I played with. Once in a while I would go
- 21 and play with my uncle because my uncle also absolutely loved me. I loved my
- 22 mother.
- Well, let me put it this way, life was a breeze, life was absolutely brilliant.
- 24 Q. [9:54:41] And just so you know too, we take pauses in between speaking
- 25 because of the interpretation, so if I'm silent for about five seconds, please know that's

- 1 the reason.
- 2 And when you lived with your father, did some of the children go to school?
- 3 A. [9:55:06] When I was with my father, my older brothers did go to the school.
- 4 But not me, I was not yet of school age. But my older brothers would go to school.
- 5 They would go to school with the Arabs.
- 6 Q. [9:55:28] Do you know where they went to school? Maybe not the name of the
- 7 school, but at least the town or city?
- 8 A. [9:55:42] They went to school in a town called Juba.
- 9 Q. [9:55:57] Now, this education, did children, did all children receive this when
- 10 they reached school-going age?
- 11 A. [9:56:15] Based on my observation, I saw my older brothers going to school.
- 12 Because when we were in the bush we did not associate with the children of the other
- 13 commanders, but I saw my father's children, two of them, (Redacted), those are the
- ones who I saw going to school. But me and my sisters stayed at home.
- 15 MR TAKU: He just mentioned the names.
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:56:47] It's okay. I think we recognise that, it's
- 17 not a problem.
- 18 MR OBHOF: [9:56:53]
- 19 Q. [9:57:02] Now, this place where you lived before, before being brought back to
- 20 Uganda, now why did you leave this place?
- 21 A. [9:57:25] Based on my understanding, I believe it was because of a war. The
- 22 gunships came and attacked people.
- 23 Q. [9:57:42] Now, when the gunships came, who was flying the gunships, which
- 24 institution?
- 25 A. [9:58:00] It was the Ugandan army. They are the ones who attacked us from

- our bases. And that's when people scattered, people started running.
- 2 Q. [9:58:16] Now, to use your language, these bases, what type of people lived
- 3 there?
- 4 A. [9:58:31] Could you please repeat your question?
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:58:34] It was a little bit too generic now, I think,
- 6 what types of people.
- 7 Did there live whole families? You know, did there live men, women, children,
- 8 elders?
- 9 I think you mean that, Mr Obhof.
- 10 THE WITNESS: [9:58:59] (Interpretation) Where we were based was like a
- 11 homestead, it was a proper big homestead. And people used to stay there, families
- 12 used to stay there. Life was easy. There was farming. There were children, there
- 13 were adults. It was a whole homestead. It was like a place where a whole clan
- 14 would live. They started shooting the area and people scattered. They shot all the
- 15 houses. That's what happened.
- 16 MR OBHOF: [9:59:34]
- 17 Q. [9:59:36] Now, when these gunships arrive, how did you feel? What were your
- 18 feelings at that point when they started firing at the base?
- 19 A. [9:59:52] Personally I had never heard such kind of gunfire before. It was the
- 20 first time. Yes, I did live there, but I had never heard such gunfire before.
- 21 On that day I knew that there was war. It was extremely intense. I ran and wanted
- 22 to go to my father, but my father told me that he was -- I should run to my mother
- and not in his direction, because all the army would run there.
- 24 When I ran to my mother, my mother told me to run with my younger brothers.
- 25 When I ran to my younger brothers, the fighting was already intense, very intense.

- 1 And me, as a young child, I also found that the war was extremely intense.
- 2 There were three of us. I was running with my brother and other people, so there
- 3 were three of us. We went and we hid in a particular place. When the gunships
- 4 were firing, it was very intense.
- 5 Luckily or unluckily, we saw somebody, somebody who used to protect my father.
- 6 And we asked this person, we were kind of confused, we asked this person, "Are you
- 7 still our father's soldier?" and he said "Yes, I am." He told us that he was our father's
- 8 soldier. He knew me very well, because I was in the bush, and most of the people
- 9 who were (Redacted) while I was in the bush knew me.
- 10 He did not tell me that he was part of the Ugandan army or whether he was part of
- my (Redacted), but he told me that he still worked for my father. And then later
- on he told us that he was taking us to the Ugandan soldiers.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:01:44] I think this was a lot of what you perhaps
- 14 would have asked later on. So you can move forward, I would say. It was
- 15 anticipated by Mr Witness.
- 16 MR OBHOF: [10:01:57] Well, it's actually four of my next five questions have been
- 17 answered.
- 18 Q. [10:02:02] Now, when the government came and attacked, when they were
- 19 firing from the gunships, in your opinion, were they differentiating between fighter,
- 20 woman, child or were --
- 21 A. [10:02:25] No. That gunfire did not -- it was not discriminating between the
- 22 old, the young. It was there to kill.
- 23 Q. [10:02:47] Now, you talked about how you were found. What happened to you?
- 24 Where did this person take you that found you hiding with your siblings?
- 25 A. [10:03:08] Based on my recollection, he picked me up, carried me, he held my

- 1 brothers', two brothers' hands. He took us where people had been collected or
- 2 people had been gathered, and he took us and he left us there. That's where people
- 3 had been captured.
- 4 Q. [10:03:34] Do you remember how long you stayed at this location before being
- 5 brought back to Uganda?
- 6 A. [10:03:54] I do recall that when we were taken, first of all, when we were being
- 7 attacked, they took us, they picked us up from the place where we were and took us
- 8 to this other location, and then they took us back to the homesteads later.
- 9 So we left from that place, the place where my father's homestead was. They took us
- 10 from there and then they took us to Juba. I believe I was there for about a year, if
- 11 I can recall. I'm not very sure, but I think maybe a year.
- 12 Q. [10:04:35] And after this year in Juba, do you remember specifically where the
- 13 government brought you back to in Uganda?
- 14 A. [10:04:44] I do recall that when we left Juba, I was taken to a centre known as
- 15 GUSCO and I stayed at GUSCO for a year.
- 16 Q. [10:05:10] Now, remember, without saying any names, which one of your
- 17 brothers or sisters or siblings came with you to GUSCO?
- 18 A. [10:05:29] My brothers, the ones we went with were boys, there were two boys
- 19 and myself. There were three of us.
- 20 Q. [10:05:46] So the two other boys, they came with you to GUSCO?
- 21 A. [10:05:56] You know, it's extremely confusing, because when I went to GUSCO,
- 22 when I was taken to GUSCO, I realised that I was on my own. But I recall that I was
- 23 with one of my stepmothers and she was taking care of me. But when she left, I was
- 24 on my own. I do not know the exact location where my brothers were taken.
- 25 MR OBHOF: [10:06:29] Your Honour, I will need about three minutes, two to three

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-02/04-01/15

WITNESS: UGA-D26-P-0130

1 minutes for a private session here, please.

- 2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:06:38] Private session.
- 3 (Private session at 10.06 a.m.)
- 4 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:06:48] We're in private session, Mr President.
- 5 (Redacted)

filed in the case

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- 23 (Open session at 10.09 a.m.)
- 24 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:09:15] We're back in open session, Mr President.
- 25 MR OBHOF: [10:09:24]

- 1 Q. [10:09:25] Mr Witness, do you remember about how long you stayed at
- 2 GUSCO?
- 3 A. [10:09:35] To my recollection, perhaps a year. But I was probably one of the
- 4 last people there.
- 5 Q. [10:09:54] Now, without saying any names, who eventually picked you from
- 6 GUSCO?
- 7 A. [10:10:13] My mother's brother, he came and picked me up from GUSCO. I call
- 8 him my uncle.
- 9 Q. [10:10:31] Now, again, without saying the name of the location, where did your
- 10 uncle take you?
- 11 A. [10:10:44] My uncle took me to his home. That's where he took me.
- 12 Q. [10:10:54] And how long did you live at the home with your uncle?
- 13 A. [10:11:03] I was there till my mother came home, came back from the bush.
- 14 Perhaps a year. Yeah, perhaps a year.
- 15 Q. [10:11:17] Again, without saying any names or any names of locations, your
- uncle's home, was it in a normal Acholi style homestead or where was it located?
- 17 A. [10:11:43] It was in, it was in a camp. That's where the home is located.
- 18 Q. [10:11:52] Now, while you were in this camp for about a year, what type of
- 19 education did you receive?
- 20 A. [10:12:09] While I was in the camp, I did not receive any kind of education.
- 21 When they collected me from GUSCO, I did not go to school. I just, well, I just spent
- time in the bush.
- 23 Q. [10:12:28] Now, because "bush" in this Court tends to have a specific meaning,
- 24 what do you mean right now by saying that when you were at the camp you would

25 spend time in the bush?

- 1 A. [10:12:44] Well, that means during the day, for example, when people wake up
- 2 in the morning and other children are going to school, I would go hunting for birds,
- 3 shooting for birds and I would go eating mangos, looking for mangos. In the
- 4 evening I would come back home and sleep.
- 5 Q. [10:13:06] Now, why wouldn't you play with the -- with your age mates, with
- 6 the other children at the camp who were around your age?
- 7 A. [10:13:27] You know, when my uncle picked me up and took me to his home,
- 8 most of the people knew who my father was and they did not play with me. I did
- 9 not have any friend. The only friend I had was my uncle's son. When we are
- 10 together, that's usually on Saturdays when we go hunting for birds, shooting birds in
- 11 the bushes. When he goes to school during the week, I am on my own. But other
- than that, I did not have any other friends.
- 13 Q. [10:14:07] Now, you mentioned that the people -- some people knew who your
- 14 father is. What would these people say about, first about your father?
- 15 A. [10:14:24] All right. They would insult me. They would tell me "you are
- so-and-so's father" and they would call my father's name. So when they started
- speaking to me in such derogatory matters, I would leave, I would go and stay by
- 18 myself because I was also afraid for my own life. But they used to refer to me using
- 19 derogatory terms referring to my father.
- 20 Q. [10:15:00] Now, do you know if the adults gave any instructions to their
- 21 children about you?
- 22 A. [10:15:30] I suppose so because children are innocent. I believe the adults in
- 23 the lives of these children were instructing the children not to play with me. When I
- 24 just arrived a ritual was performed, a traditional ritual was performed. I suppose

25 that people asked why this ritual was performed.

- 1 Q. [10:16:00] Now, you mentioned that your uncle lived there and you had -- your
- 2 uncle had a son that you would play with on Saturdays. Did you have any other
- 3 relatives at the camp before your mother returned to Uganda?
- 4 A. [10:16:24] As far as I know, my mother's relations were many, but not all of
- 5 them liked me. It was only my uncle who sacrificed and collected me and decided to
- 6 stay with me. No one reached to see me other than my uncle.
- 7 Q. [10:16:56] Now, while you were at the IDP camp, could you describe the type of
- 8 education you received?
- 9 A. [10:17:12] While at the IDP camp there was no formal education that I
- 10 underwent except going to hunt for birds. I actually did not go to any formal school
- when I was living with my uncle. That is all that I went through.
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:17:39] And, Mr Witness, when did you finally
- 13 start your education?
- 14 THE WITNESS: [10:17:50] (Interpretation) I enrolled for formal education when
- my mother returned from the bush. That same year when she returned, she found
- me home, not going to school. Actually, on the day she returned I was in the, in the
- 17 thicket hunting for birds. She took me to Gulu town and some reverend sister
- started to pay for my education in a nursery school.
- 19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:18:26] I think we can imagine the situation. Do
- 20 you recall how old you were at the time?
- 21 THE WITNESS: [10:18:32] (Interpretation) When I had just returned from the bush
- 22 I was 4 years old. But when I started school I must have been 7 years old. That is
- as far as I can remember.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:18:46] Thank you.
- 25 Mr Obhof, I think so we have -- we can move forward now in time, I would say.

Pursuant to the Trial Chamber' IX's instructions, ICC-02/04-01/15-497, dated 13 July 2016, the public reclassified and lesser redacted version of this transcript is filed in the case

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-02/04-01/15

WITNESS: UGA-D26-P-0130

1 MR OBHOF: [10:19:11] Could we go to private session briefly, please.

- 2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:19:20] Yes, private session.
- 3 (Private session at 10.19 a.m.)
- 4 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:19:29] We're in private session, Mr President.
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- 3 (Open session at 10.21 a.m.)
- 4 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:21:17] We're back in open session, Mr President.
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:21:19] Thank you.
- 6 And I have to announce that we have a break until 11 o'clock and then resume at that
- 7 time.
- 8 THE COURT USHER: [10:21:24] All rise.
- 9 (Recess taken at 10.21 a.m.)
- 10 (Upon resuming in open session at 11.03 a.m.)
- 11 THE COURT USHER: [11:03:51] All rise.
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:04:15] Mr Obhof, you still have the floor.
- 13 MR OBHOF: [11:04:20] Thank you, your Honour.
- 14 And for the record, we have our other intern, Mr Scott Davidson, in with us today.
- 15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:04:30] Morning.
- 16 MR OBHOF: [11:04:35]
- 17 Q. [11:04:35] Still good morning, Mr Witness, I hope you had a good break.
- Now, right before we took our break, you talked about beginning school.
- 19 When you began school, were you the average age of the students in your class?
- 20 A. [11:05:08] When I started school, I was not of the same age as the other students
- 21 because I had stayed home for longer. I was looking bigger than the rest of the
- 22 pupils.
- 23 Q. [11:05:37] Now, without going into a lot of detail, because we will go into the
- 24 detail in a few minutes, when you started school, did you go to school, kindergarten,
- 25 P1, P2, P3, P4, did you go uninterrupted? Did you go to school every year in a new

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1 grade?

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- 2 A. [11:06:05] When I started kindergarten, I was supposed to have studied for three
- 3 years, but the teacher said I was a bit sharp and bright; so I studied for only one year
- 4 at kindergarten and then I went straight to my primary education. I, from primary, I
- 5 went through the steps systematically, though I skipped P2 and I went from P1 to P3.
- 6 That was what happened, but after that I followed the grades systematically.
- 7 MR OBHOF: [11:06:44] Now, unfortunately, your Honour, to everyone watching the
- 8 next two questions based upon school and following that, it will be about 15 minutes
- 9 inside of a private session.
- 10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:06:55] That can happen.
- 11 Private session.
- 12 (Private session at 11.07 a.m.)
- 13 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:07:06] We're in private session, Mr President.
- 14 (Redacted)
- 15 (Redacted)
- 16 (Redacted)
- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 (Redacted)
- 19 (Redacted)
- 20 (Redacted)
- 21 (Redacted)
- 22 (Redacted)
- 23 (Redacted)
- 24 (Redacted)
- 25 (Redacted)

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Pursuant to the Trial Chamber' IX's instructions, ICC-02/04-01/15-497, dated 13 July 2016, the public reclassified and lesser redacted version of this transcript is filed in the case

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- 1 (Redacted)
- 2 (Open session at 11.26 a.m.)
- 3 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:26:51] We are back in open session, Mr President.
- 4 MR OBHOF: [11:27:08]
- 5 Q. [11:27:08] Mr Witness, I know you can possibly never know, but how many
- 6 children would you estimate that your father has?
- 7 A. [11:27:24] Well, my father could start his own clan. He could be having over
- 8 a hundred children. I would say we are so many that I cannot tell you the number.
- 9 I don't know the number. But I also know he is still fathering more children.
- 10 Q. [11:27:47] Now, without saying the names, without saying any of their names,
- do you have any type of relationship with any of these, any of these siblings?
- 12 A. [11:28:05] I know just a handful of my siblings. I think there should be about
- seven who are living within the town. Some of them, they would show to me that
- 14 that's your brother, this is your sister, but I don't know some of them. I only know
- 15 the few who are living within the town. I don't know the rest of them.
- 16 Q. [11:28:41] Now thinking about this, would you ever date an Acholi girl?
- 17 A. [11:28:55] I cannot even think about it because I fear -- you know, what I know
- 18 was that my father had so many wives and I think he has, he has children with so
- 19 many women. My fear is if I begin dating an Acholi girl I would risk dating my own
- 20 sister. So I wouldn't do that.
- 21 Q. [11:29:22] Now if we could, we could turn to tab 2, it's UGA-OTP-0150-0059.
- 22 Mr Witness, there should be a Manila covered envelope on your desk, or a Manila
- 23 covered folder, and you should see a document with a little tab number on it with the
- 24 number 2.
- 25 And this is not for the public.

- 1 Now, Mr Witness, do you remember me showing you this document in early
- 2 December 2018?
- 3 A. [11:30:28] Yes, these are the names of my sisters and my brothers. Well, I think
- 4 I know all of them.
- 5 MR OBHOF: [11:30:46] Your Honour, I am just going to point a few, just for him to
- 6 verify if he knows them. It will be very quick.
- 7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:30:52] I think we would really need only a few
- 8 because he has already said he has given this to you or you have discussed it at least
- 9 and he knows who is on the list.
- 10 But please continue.
- 11 MR OBHOF: [11:31:04]
- 12 Q. [11:31:04] Now, Mr Witness, do you -- without saying the name, do you
- 13 recognise number 15?
- 14 A. [11:31:23] This is the one I am very close with. We study at the same level, the
- 15 same class.
- 16 Q. [11:31:33] And is that you down there towards the bottom of the page at
- 17 number 23?
- 18 A. [11:31:43] According to my father my name is (Redacted)
- 19 Q. [11:31:56] If you turn to the very --
- 20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:31:58] I think one more name --
- 21 MR OBHOF: One more name. It's the last one.
- 22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: -- will suffice and then it's okay.
- 23 MR OBHOF: [11:32:03] Yes.
- Q. [11:32:03] And if you turn to the next page, 0060, there should be one more

25 page there. And if you look down, again, without saying the name, do you

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- 1 recognise number 48?
- 2 A. [11:32:23] No, I don't. I don't know this one.
- 3 MR OBHOF: [11:32:31] That's all for that document.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:32:33] Thank you.
- 5 MR OBHOF: [11:32:49]
- 6 Q. [11:32:49] Mr Witness, you have talked a little bit about, a little bit about your
- 7 father today. If given a chance to meet him, what would you tell him?
- 8 A. [11:33:05] (Redacted)
- 9 (Redacted)
- 10 (Redacted)
- 11 (Redacted)
- 12 (Redacted)
- 13 (Redacted)
- 14 (Redacted)
- 15 (Redacted)
- 16 (Redacted) him.
- 17 MR OBHOF: [11:34:04] And that is it, your Honour.
- 18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:34:06] Okay. Thank you very much. That's
- 19 for the Defence.
- 20 For the Prosecution, any questions, Mr Gumpert?
- 21 MR GUMPERT: [11:34:12] Just a few, your Honour.
- 22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:34:15] Yes. Please proceed.
- 23 QUESTIONED BY MR GUMPERT:
- 24 Q. [11:34:22] Mr Witness, your mother came back to Uganda after you did, didn't

25 she?

- 1 A. [11:34:34] Yes, she came back after I returned. I was the first person to return
- 2 from my mother's household.
- 3 Q. [11:34:41] And she came back in 2005; that's right, isn't it?
- 4 A. [11:34:51] Just like I said, I returned when I was still young and I don't know
- 5 which year exactly I returned. What I know was how old I was. I think I was about
- 6 four years. But possibly it was in 2005. I cannot confirm that.
- 7 Q. [11:35:08] There is a misunderstanding, Mr Witness. I'm suggesting that the
- 8 year your mother came back was 2005.
- 9 A. [11:35:25] Truthfully, I don't know which year exactly she returned.
- 10 Q. [11:35:30] If we just work back from that year, whatever it was, before that you
- 11 had been for about a year with your uncle in the camp. Yes?
- 12 A. [11:35:50] Yes, I stayed with my uncle for a year.
- 13 Q. [11:35:55] And before that you had been in GUSCO for about a year?
- 14 A. [11:36:08] I stayed in GUSCO for about a year, yes, one year.
- 15 Q. [11:36:17] And before that in Juba for about a year?
- 16 A. [11:36:27] Well, for Juba, I am not very clear whether it was for a year or not,
- because we were captured from a place I don't recall the name very well. But where
- my father was stationed, we were captured from there and taken to Juba. From Juba,
- 19 we stayed for some period, possibly close to a year, but I cannot clearly confirm how
- 20 long it was. What I can confirm was I stayed in GUSCO for a year. I stayed with
- 21 my uncle for a year. These are the periods I can clearly recall.
- Q. [11:37:02] And before Juba, that's when you were captured, and that was at the
- 23 time of Operation Iron Fist.
- 24 A. [11:37:21] Yes, I was captured from there and I was taken to Juba.
- 25 Q. [11:37:27] You have told us that you were born on (Redacted). So if

- 1 Operation Fist was in the year 2002, you left the bush when you were about three
- 2 years old?
- 3 A. [11:37:56] Just I have mentioned -- just like I have mentioned, my mother told
- 4 me that she gave birth to me on (Redacted). That was what she told me. And
- 5 then when I returned to GUSCO, I was told that I was four years old. My mother
- 6 came and confirmed that to me that I was four years of age.
- 7 Q. [11:38:25] So the recollections you have told the judges about, for example,
- 8 whether the UPDF gunships were discriminating in their machine-gun fire, these are
- 9 the recollections of a child no more than three years old; that's right, isn't it?
- 10 A. [11:38:56] I saw these things with my two eyes, I was physically present, and
- 11 they were firing at us.
- 12 MR GUMPERT: [11:39:02] Thank you. No further questions.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:39:03] Thank you very much.
- 14 From the representatives of the victims, any questions?
- 15 MS SEHMI: [11:39:10] We have no questions, your Honour.
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:39:12] Ms Massidda.
- 17 MS MASSIDDA: [11:39:14] We have no question, your Honour. Thank you very
- 18 much.
- 19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:39:18] Thank you very much.
- 20 This concludes your examination, Mr Witness.
- 21 On behalf of the Chamber I would like to thank you that you came to this Court, that
- 22 you left your country and helped us to establish the truth.
- 23 The next scheduled hearing will be on 18 February, 9.30, as scheduled, I underline
- 24 that, it is simply like that. And we continue with I think Defence Witness 32.
- 25 Actually I think I'm right. So till then.

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- 1 THE COURT USHER: [11:39:53] All rise.
- 2 (The hearing ends in open session at 11.39 a.m.)
- 3 RECLASSIFICATION REPORT
- 4 Pursuant to the Trial Chamber' IX's instructions, ICC-02/04-01/15-497, dated 13 July
- 5 2016, the public reclassified and lesser redacted version of this transcript is filed in the

6 case.