

Statement of

**[01/18] PRV**

## WITNESS STATEMENT

### WITNESS INFORMATION:

Last Name: **[01/18] PRV**

Gender: **[01/18] PRV**

First Name: **[01/18] PRV**

Father's Name: **[01/18] PRV**  
**[01/18] PRV**

Other names used: n/a

Mother's Name: **[01/18] PRV**

Place of Birth: BANGUI, CAR

Passport No: **[01/18] PRV**

Date of Birth: **[01/18] PRV**

Nationality(s): Central African

Ethnicity: **[01/18] PRV**

Religion: Muslim

Language(s) Spoken: **[01/18] PRV**

Language(s) Written: **[01/18] PRV**

Language(s) Used in Interview: French and English

Occupation: **[01/18] PRV**

Place of Interview: BANGUI, CAR

Date(s) and Time(s) of Interview:

30.01.2019 – 09:35/12:30 & 14:10/16:20

31.01.2019 – 8:30/11:50 & 14:10/16:10

01.02.2019 – 8:00/11:00

02.02.2019 – 10:00/14:00 & 14:30/16:40

03.02.2019 – 8:30/13:30

Names of all persons present during interview:

Associate Investigator **[01/18] PRV** Assistant Legal Officer **[01/18] PRV**

Interpreter **[01/18] PRV** on 30 and 31 January 2019, Interpreter **[01/18] PRV**

**[01/18] PRV**

**[01/18] PRV**

**[01/18] PRV**

**[01/18] PRV**

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Statement of [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV from 01 to 03 February 2019, and witness [01/18] PRV  
[01/18] PRV

Signature(s):

[01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV  
[01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV  
[01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV  
[01/18] PRV  
[01/18] PRV

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Procedure

1. I was introduced to [01/18] PRV and [01/18] PRV and I was told that they are Investigator and Assistant Legal Officer with the Office of The Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC). I was introduced to [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV and I was told that she is an interpreter for the ICC. I was also introduced to [01/18] PRV and told that he is also an interpreter for the ICC.
2. The OTP representatives explained to me what the ICC is and described its mandate. They explained the role and mandate of the OTP within the ICC.
3. The OTP representatives explained to me that they are investigating events that took place in Central African Republic from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 until present. I was informed that the OTP is contacting me because they believe I may have information relevant for establishing the truth.
4. I agreed that the interview would be conducted in English and interpreted into French. I fully understand and speak French.
5. The OTP representatives explained to me that I do not have to answer to their questions. The OTP representatives explained to me that they are seeking to find out the truth. I agree to tell the truth and that my answers to their questions are as complete as possible and reflect the best of my knowledge and recollection.
6. I was informed that any information I give to the OTP, including my identity, may be shared with the parties of the proceedings at the ICC; in particular the Judges,

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Accused persons, the Counsel of the Accused and the legal representatives of the victims.

7. The OTP representatives have explained to me the reasons and importance of keeping my contacts with the OTP confidential, which I fully understand.
8. Having understood all the above issues, I confirmed my willingness to answer the OTP representatives' questions.
9. The OTP representatives explained to me how the interview was going to be conducted. I was told that I needed to be as accurate as possible in my account and that I should state when I do not know the answer to or do not understand the question. I understand that I need to distinguish between what I have experienced or seen myself and what I have heard or learned about from someone else.
10. I was told that at the conclusion of the interview, I would be asked to sign a written statement after having had the opportunity to review it, make any corrections, or add additional information.

**Motivation**

11. I have been involved in the fight against impunity and human rights violations for a long time, so I am glad to be able to provide a statement in the scope of the ICC investigation. During the conflict I warned both the SELEKA and the Anti-Balaka elements that justice would come for them if they continued their exactions. As a result I suffered a lot during the conflict, I usually do not like to talk about it much but justice is important to me, that is why I am here to talk to the OTP representatives.

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**Personal Information and Educational Background**

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**BERBERATI before the conflict**

13. Before the conflict, I was [01/18] PRV I was more involved with the [01/18] PRV I cannot say how many Muslims lived in BERBERATI at that time. Most of the Muslims lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> arrondissements; some neighbourhoods there were actually created by the Muslims themselves, like BABANANI, BABAPATOU, and BABASSALAO. Muslims also lived in DJAMBALA 1, DJAMBALA 2, LOMI, BATALI and POTO-POTO. The name POTO-POTO is often used to refer to the whole Muslim area in BERBERATI, composed of these neighbourhoods. There is also the ARAB neighbourhood which is mainly occupied by Muslims of Chadian origin.
14. In BERBERATI there were two main mosques where we had the Friday prayers and the Imam's preach; the Central mosque is in BABANANI and the other is in the ARAB neighbourhood. There were also about 14 smaller mosques that were used for daily prayers. Not all the small mosques have recognizable Muslim symbols, but they all have speakers to call for prayer and the people know these are mosques. There were two small mosques in SAMBANDA, five in the whole DJAMBALA district, and one in each of the following neighbourhoods, BABAPATOU, LOMI, BABASSALAO, BATALI, and POTO-POTO.
15. Before the conflict the relations between Christians and Muslims were good; there were even inter-religious marriages. The only issue was some differences in the treatment of Christians and Muslims by the national authorities; for instance to renew an ID card, the authorities would ask for more documents from a Muslim than from a Christian, they still considered the Muslims as foreigners. I believe it is because a lot of Muslims in our area have foreign roots, for instance my grandparents were Nigerian, they arrived in CAR before the independence and my father was born in CAR.

**The SELEKA in BERBERATI**

16. Before the conflict started, most of the people were already fed up with President BOZIZE's regime; I heard some politicians even called and supported the SELEKA to overthrow him.
17. When the conflict started, the first group to arrive in BERBERATI were the soldiers from the regular army who had fled BANGUI after the SELEKA took power there.

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The cohabitation with them was not easy, especially for [01/18] PRV we were scared that they might be influenced by some bandits and [01/18] PRV That is why when the SELEKA arrived in April 2013 we were glad, many people went 5km ahead to welcome them. I did not go, I stayed in BERBERATI and saw the SELEKA elements and this huge crowd enter the town. After their arrival, the SELEKA went to the Prefect's house and set up their base there; I heard a Muslim delegation went to visit them to bring them food and water. This is a common tradition in the Muslim culture to welcome those who arrive from a long journey with food. I do not know anyone who went in this delegation. At that time [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

18. People were happy with the arrival of the SELEKA because for generations, the high positions in the government were reserved for the people of the Gbaya ethnic group, because it is President BOZIZE's ethnicity. This is why a lot of people did not want BOZIZE as President anymore. This has nothing to do with religion, lots of Christians felt that way too because they were not of Gbaya ethnicity.

19. However soon after their arrival, the SELEKA started to threaten [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

that day to demand the money, I asked him why they needed that much money, he told me that I would not argue if he was a customs or tax officer, but I told him he was neither a customs or tax officer, so I did not have to give him money. That is when he threatened me with his weapon. [01/18] PRV intervened and encouraged me to give the money; but I refused since I had already given them some money that same morning. [01/18] PRV that I should give something more to avoid trouble, so I ended up giving him [01/18] PRV XAF more.

20. People got angry because the SELEKA were constantly pillaging the administration buildings, the traders and the population. One day the SELEKA publicly killed a young Muslim called "BACHEGUE" who they claimed had stolen a motorbike. On 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013, in reaction to these exactions and the killing of the young man, people gathered in a crowd near the TOTAL fuel station to protest against the SELEKA and started singing the national anthem. At that time I was [01/18] PRV from the TOTAL fuel station. Amongst the protesters there were some of the authorities, including the former Company commander named [01/18] PRV who was leading the movement. Allegedly, the crowd started to throw stones and the



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SELEKA opened fire in the air or to the ground to disperse the crowd. People went running and screaming, I panicked; I fled and even forgot to [01/18] PRV I was really traumatised on that day, it was the first time I heard the whistling sound of bullets. Many people got injured; I visited two of them, including a friend of mine, at the BERBERATI hospital. One of them had [01/18] PRV Another one of my friends received a bullet, and to this day he still has the bullet in his chest; his name is [01/18] PRV he now lives near the border in CAMEROON. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV to see how he is doing, he told me that sometimes he gets fever due to the bullet in his body. I heard that two persons were killed but I did not learn about their names. The next day, on 7<sup>th</sup> April, Abdoulrazak [01/18] PRV on his BG75 vehicle, he was clapping his hands. Abdoulrazak was away the previous day, when the protests happened; later on I heard by [01/18] PRV a SELEKA that he had gone towards GAMBOULA with AL KHATIM, looking for Abdoulaye MISKINE who had left the SELEKA. He said we were lucky that he was not around during the protest or more people would have died; I was really mad at him. He told me it is insane to dare protesting against rebels. Apart from this incident on 6<sup>th</sup> April, I have not heard of other killings by the SELEKA in BERBERATI.

21. At some point after the 6<sup>th</sup> April incident, General Nourredine ADAM came to BERBERATI and had a meeting at the town hall. I did not attend the meeting and I do not know what was discussed. I know he was there because he arrived on a plane and everyone was talking about it.
22. From what I heard there were people tortured in the SELEKA base. This was because people started bringing their issues to the SELEKA instead of the authorities so the SELEKA played a role of judges. I heard that their only way of interrogating people was through torture. I heard this later during a [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV One of the neighbours of the SELEKA base, named [01/18] PRV that he heard people screaming of pain inside the SELEKA base.
23. The SELEKA spent nine months in BERBERATI; slowly we got used to them. AL KHATIM left the area of BERBERATI, I do not know where he went. Abdoulrazak went to BANIA, about 70 km from BERBERATI. Abdoulrazak became the SELEKA commander in BANIA, his team was dangerous and violent. I don't know much about Abdoulrazak, he is not from BERBERATI but I [01/18] PRV where he tied up and beat one of his SELEKA colleagues as punishment for not being at his duty post. Once in BANIA I heard he accused a diamond collector named [01/18] PRV of going after his wife, so he made him pay 1 million XAF; I heard this incident from [01/18] PRV
24. After AL KHATIM left BERBERATI, it was General SAAD who took over, his group was more structured and moderate, although there were still a few bad elements

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amongst them who stole and looted from the population. A young SELEKA element of General SAAD used to walk around carrying a whip, [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV several times and [01/18] PRV with him; in the end he stopped carrying that whip. Upon his arrival in town, General SAAD went to the mosque to reassure people that nobody would get hurt. I also know he regularly went to discuss with the Bishop at his house. He decided to place SELEKA elements to guard the companies including the bakery and SEFCA, but this service was not for free. From that time, things calmed down a little.

25. Following the events of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013, the situation was bad in BANGUI, we started seeing helicopters flying above BERBERATI; I believe it was the Sangaris. It is only later on that they physically arrived in town and participated in meetings with the communities and the authorities about the situation. About two months after the 5<sup>th</sup> December events, all the SELEKA groups from many different towns gathered in BERBERATI before leaving on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014. I know that because the SELEKA commander of BAGANDOU [01/18] PRV he also advised me to leave. Once the SELEKA left, the situation went back to normal in BERBERATI, people started to go back to their usual activities.
26. I heard that before the SELEKA left BERBERATI, General SAAD had a meeting with the senior Muslim figures to warn them that they were leaving and that the Muslims will be in danger; he encouraged them to leave. I did not attend this meeting and do not know who attended. I heard that some Muslims asked SAAD to give them some weapons but SAAD refused; I do not know if this was during the same meeting. I am not aware that SAAD sold weapons to anyone before he left BERBERATI.

**Anti-Balaka attacks in the surrounding areas of BERBERATI**

27. Soon after the SELEKA left, we started hearing rumours about the Anti-Balaka carrying out attacks in the area, we especially heard about an attack in CARNOT. At first we all heard rumours, but then my friend [01/18] PRV who is from CARNOT came to warn me about what happened in CARNOT and advised me to leave town. According to him, the Anti-Balaka carried out a massive attack against the Peulh community at a house of a diamond collector called Abo PANGA. We heard Muslims were massively fleeing from CARNOT. We also heard that Anti-Balaka groups from YALOKÉ and BAORO had come to reinforce the Anti-Balaka of CARNOT. There is a man from CARNOT who sought shelter at my house, his name is [01/18] PRV I do not have his phone number but we are "friends" on Facebook and he currently lives in Cameroon [01/18] PRV He had left town because he had seen the youth of CARNOT organising and arming themselves in town. I have another friend who was in CARNOT throughout the conflict and still is, he witnessed everything that happened; his name is [01/18] PRV

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[01/18] PRV I did not know him at the time of the conflict, I met him afterwards so we did not discuss much about what happened then, but he keeps me updated on the current situation in CARNOT.

28. In BAORO, we heard that there were fights between some Muslims and the Anti-Balaka. At first the Muslims defeated the Anti-Balaka but when they run out of ammunition, they fled.

29. In BODA, I heard it was a critical situation, even worse than PK5 in BANGUI. I know the town well because I have [01/18] PRV there and [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV after the conflict. What happened there was a massive clash between the Anti-Balaka and the Muslim community. I believe as of the 5<sup>th</sup> December events in BANGUI, the situation worsened everywhere in the country, the clash in BODA must have started at some point after that. Many people died, the central market and the Christian neighbourhood were completely destroyed. It was a particular situation there because the Muslim community was very strong and I heard that some SELEKA were disguised as civilians; but I do not have further information about this. I heard from [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV and [01/18] PRV that the city was divided into two; the Muslim community in a neighbourhood called ALI on one side of a bridge and the Christian community on the other side of the bridge. [01/18] PRV lived in [01/18] PRV he had to flee; he lived in the bush for months [01/18] PRV The Muslims fleeing from BODA were mostly women and children. At first [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV refused to leave BODA but eventually her son forced her; she is now in [01/18] PRV I do not have her phone number now. At [01/18] PRV I discussed with a man from BODA, [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV who said it all started when the Anti-Balaka attacked the Muslim neighbourhood but some Muslims resisted and retaliated, in doing so they went even further, they burnt Christian houses and markets. I also met another man, [01/18] PRV I do not have his contact details now, who lived in BODA throughout the conflict; he moved to BERBERATI later on for his diamond business. He told me he fought the Anti-Balaka himself and asked why in BERBERATI the Muslims did not fight.

30. About YALOKÉ, the information I heard was from the media. In retaliation for what the SELEKA had done in the area, the Anti-Balaka came from BOSSANGO and killed many Muslim civilians. I believe at the time the Anti-Balaka went to all the places that the SELEKA had left.

31. Before the Anti-Balaka came to BERBERATI, I heard that a young man, of Gbaya ethnicity and originally from BOSSANGO, went to CARNOT to call the Anti-Balaka and encourage them to come to BERBERATI; his nickname is [01/18] PRV he used to be the [01/18] PRV Once he returned, he was arrested by the gendarmerie for that, [01/18] PRV in the market. He was

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released the same day in the evening, and once the Anti-Balaka arrived in BERBERATI, he joined them.

32. Some Muslim figures of BERBERATI went to the gendarmerie, the police and the FACA in town to enquire about these Anti-Balaka attacks; we were afraid the same thing would happen in BERBERATI. They explained that the Muslims did not have weapons but could offer some money to buy fuel for them to patrol in order to protect the town. I heard about 500 000 XAF was collected; [01/18] PRV XAF. One of the Muslims who contributed more and who collected the money was [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV and [01/18] PRV he currently lives in [01/18] PRV. The authorities accepted the deal. The Bishop of BERBERATI offered his personal vehicle, a BG75, for the patrols; as a result we started seeing patrols around town. The head of the gendarmerie patrol was named [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV. There were still about 15 FACA soldiers at the time; but once the Anti-Balaka arrived, most FACA retreated and some joined the Anti-Balaka and only a few stayed and condemned the Anti-Balaka exactions. [01/18] PRV young FACA who even became the bodyguard of the Anti-Balaka leader Rocca MOKOM.
33. Only the Muslims contributed money for those patrols. At that time, the rest of the population was happy to hear about the Anti-Balaka. One of the Christian Gbaya [01/18] PRV that he was glad the Anti-Balaka were coming because it meant that [01/18] PRV he died in an road accident a few years ago.
34. Despite the patrols, some members of our community were scared because of the rumours we heard and also because we saw Muslims from BODA, BAORO and CARNOT fleeing the violence in large groups and passing through BERBERATI on their way to CAMEROON. Some groups stopped in BERBERATI to spend a night or a few days at the Bishop's place. People also saw that the SELEKA were leaving so they thought nobody would protect them. Personally, I had already prepared my mind and decided to leave everything in the hands of God; I encouraged the Muslim community during my preaching at the mosque, to do the same. Some took my advice and decided to stay, however, out of fear, a large part of the Muslim population decided to leave BERBERATI to go to CAMEROON.

#### Arrival of the Anti-Balaka in BERBERATI

##### *1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Balaka group to arrive in BERBERATI*

35. On 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014, the first group of Anti-Balaka arrived in BERBERATI. They came from the road of GAMBOULA and were led by Rocca MOKOM.

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36. Rocca is the son of the former sub-Prefect of GAMBOULA and his older brother is one of the Anti-Balaka leaders in BANGUI, he is even attending the current peace talks in KHARTOUM. Rocca is from the Gbaya ethnic group and his family is close to President BOZIZE. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV relations with President BOZIZE; his father had helped BOZIZE to take power. Rocca had a complicated relationship with his father; I know that one time he stole money from him and his father reported him to the police. Rocca was a bit arrogant and demanding, for instance [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV After passing his *baccalauréat* he disappeared from BERBERATI [01/18] PRV the arrival of the Anti-Balaka. He was someone who liked gathering people around him but he did not talk much. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV

I do not know if they are related or if it is because they are from the same ethnic group. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV also close to BOZIZE; [01/18] PRV especially about the BOZIZE regime. I recently came to know that [01/18] PRV was an

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV Rocca died, with a French journalist named Camille LAPAGE, shortly after leading the Anti-Balaka in BERBERATI.

37. Upon their arrival, the Anti-Balaka were welcomed by a religious delegation made of Bishop Dennis Koffi AGBEYADZI, Pastor ELI and Pastor NDAI, among others, 8km away from BERBERATI in WAPO. There, the Bishop advised Rocca not to harm the population; Rocca said he was not planning to harm the population. I was not present but later that day, the Bishop came to the market to announce the arrival of the Anti-Balaka and reported the discussion he had with them. I remember it was a Friday, I was on my way from the mosque to the market, I was wearing a large "boubou" and a friend told me it was not a good idea to wear a "boubou" that day because the Anti-Balaka had entered the town, but I did not take off my *boubou*. Thinking back about that day, I do not know where I got that courage from, I was not scared at that time.

38. The morning after their arrival, on 8<sup>th</sup> February, Rocca MOKOM and his elements [01/18] PRV MOKOM had many elements on the pick-up vehicle; I recognised one of them as [01/18] PRV a former [01/18] PRV BERBERATI. The FACA in his group had Kalashnikovs, [01/18] PRV had an automatic weapon ("*mitrailleuse*"), others had artisanal weapons and machetes. The FACA among them had their military uniforms and the rest were dressed as regular civilians; they all had gris-gris on

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them, some wore wigs. Rocca was wearing a military uniform although he is not from the military. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV That night, some people went to the house of my brothers to attack them. They tied up the guard in front of their house but my brothers managed to escape and [01/18] PRV

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39. The afternoon of 8<sup>th</sup> February

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called by the gendarmerie to summon the [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV of the city for a meeting.

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40. [01/18] PRV

because the Muslim

community had been involved with the SELEKA and that he knew that upon their departure, the SELEKA had given their weapons to the Muslims. [01/18] PRV

now "our children" the Anti-Balaka had arrived to save the town. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV that we were all his brothers there and that he had no interest in harming the people. [01/18] PRV

their goal was to go after the SELEKA and [01/18] PRV that General SAAD had given us weapons; he

[01/18] PRV to hand over these weapons because weapons are meant for the military. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV everyone knows where the SELEKA came from and that there was no single child from BERBERATI in their ranks. [01/18] PRV

any weapon left by the SELEKA and [01/18] PRV for these weapons, it

should be the gendarmerie. [01/18] PRV most people had fled and locked their house, the gendarmes should not break in the houses but find keys and enter in

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a lawful way. [01/18] PRV  
SELEKA after having suffered under the SELEKA. [01/18] PRV  
to have weapons because we have no reason to fight. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

41. [01/18] PRV

search the houses with the authorisation of the gendarmerie. The gendarmerie gave the Anti-Balaka the authorisation to proceed with the searches; they said they would accompany them. At that time the state authority was still enforced; the Anti-Balaka did not have that much power over the gendarmes. The searches started the next day.

42. On 9<sup>th</sup> February, in the morning, Rocca MOKOM [01/18] PRV I noticed he was carrying [01/18] PRV weapon. He wanted to send phone credit, 20 000 XAF, to his brother Kévin. As Kévin used to be the Company commander in BERBERATI, [01/18] PRV The searches of the houses in the Muslim neighbourhoods started later that day [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV how the Anti-Balaka proceeded with the searches; the Anti-Balaka had a fetish-man who would enter the house and if there were any weapons inside, the fetish-man would start shivering and they would search the house. When the Anti-Balaka arrived at my [01/18] PRV house to search, some Anti-Balaka elements tried to kill him, probably because he is a wealthy and public Muslim figure; he managed to escape with the help of the lady, [01/18] PRV Later on, during the [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV the Anti-Balaka claimed having found weapons in [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV during the searches. None of them was present during the search, [01/18] PRV

43. I do not know about other crimes committed by this first Anti-Balaka group in BERBERATI.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Balaka group to arrive in BERBERATI

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44. On 9<sup>th</sup> February, we noticed that a second group of Anti-Balaka had arrived in BERBERATI; I do not know if they arrived during the night or early in the morning. At that time Rocca and his group were searching the houses in the Muslim neighbourhoods; and that 2<sup>nd</sup> group seemed to be only walking around town with their weapons. I do not know why they did not attack the Muslims at that time. That 2<sup>nd</sup> group was led by General Chrysostome YAPELE alias "Chiki-Chiki". When I got [01/18] PRV I saw "Chiki-Chiki" in the market, he was carrying a weapon; I reckoned he was an Anti-Balaka but I did not know yet he was their leader. At that time I did not know his name nor his nickname, I just knew him by face because he sold bread [01/18] PRV It is only afterwards, when I heard about the Anti-Balaka leader named "Chiki-Chiki" and saw pictures that I made the link. People at the IDP site talked about him, someone showed me his Facebook profile. Before the conflict "Chiki-Chiki" had a small business at the market and when his business collapsed, he started selling bread at the market. I do not know much about him. It is only afterwards that I saw they were part of a large group that had arrived from CARNOT.

45. Later that day I recognised someone among this 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Balaka group, his nickname is "MOPAO"; I saw him in front of the office of Orange company, he had a weapon and was wearing a wig. "MOPAO" is not from BERBERATI; [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV he had [01/18] PRV but he stayed in BERBERATI and started working as a DJ in the bar [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV Currently he is an Anti-Balaka leader in BERBERATI, he also does business with Lebanese diamond traders.

46. [01/18] PRV neighbourhood. Someone [01/18] PRV told me here were also many FACA in that 2<sup>nd</sup> group; he saw them in uniform and with their red berets. One of them, [01/18] PRV

47. On 10<sup>th</sup> February, the two Anti-Balaka groups met near the town hall and had an argument. The group of "Chiki-Chiki" told Rocca and his group that the task they were given was to kill and chase the Muslims, which was not what Rocca's group had been doing. Rocca disagreed and there was a clash that ended up with exchange of fire between the two groups. This argument happened at the town hall which is located behind my shop. I heard the gunshots so I enquired about it and someone explained to me what happened; I do not remember who told me. I also heard that "Chiki-Chiki" felt stronger and more legitimate than Rocca to be the leader in



Statement of [01/18] PRV

BERBERATI. Because his group was larger and better armed, with Kalashnikovs, they defeated Rocca's group who retreated to an area located between the LONGOTE and the CITE GERARD neighbourhoods, Rocca lived in a rented house in CITE GERARD when he arrived. I saw only one FACA in Rocca's group who had a Kalashnikov, the others had traditional weapons. I do not know what happened to Rocca's group from then on because soon after that [01/18] PRV

The attack on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Balaka group

48. On 10<sup>th</sup> February, the group of "Chiki-Chiki" officially took control of the town; that was a terrible day for BERBERATI: the Anti-Balaka killed, destroyed, pillaged and we all fled. "Chiki-Chiki" and his group went to the Muslim neighbourhoods: POTO-POTO, DJAMBALA and BABANANI. Most of the crimes occurred in POTO-POTO and BABANANI. That's when everybody panicked and fled; Muslims could not stay there or they would be attacked. The events that happened there were [01/18] PRV

49. [01/18] PRV when the attack started [01/18] PRV at 7:00am; in the morning I did not know what was happening in the [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV home to rest and come back at [01/18] PRV a Christian neighbour advised me not to go, he said it was not safe in town so I understood it must have been related to the Anti-Balaka. I went to the [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV After the prayer, I went home and put on my [01/18] PRV At the time I had no idea the situation was so bad in town. [01/18] PRV and on my way I saw many young Anti-Balaka drinking palm wine; I recognised they were Anti-Balaka because of their weapons and gris-gris. I do not know if they recognised me but I just [01/18] PRV After I went back home, I brought a [01/18] PRV prepare it for me; someone there told me it was not safe for me to stay there. Around 6:00pm, I went back to the mosque for the evening prayer. While we were waiting with eight Muslim brothers, a Red-Cross officer came to us and said it was not safe to stay there because the Anti-Balaka were killing people in the Muslim neighbourhoods; so we prayed quickly and merged the two evening prayers. After prayer I went back home with my friend [01/18] PRV and my [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV who I lived with me. We had dinner, but because I did not know how the situation was exactly, I told them we should go to the [01/18] PRV and that we would only come back at the house to sleep. [01/18] PRV did not want to leave the house so I locked him inside and went with my friend to the [01/18] PRV

50. When we got there, we heard noise and later learnt that it was from the destruction of the mosque in our neighbourhood. That is when we realised the Anti-Balaka must have arrived in our neighbourhood. My friend and I decided to flee and hide in a

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[01/18] PRV

Statement of [01/18] PRV

safe place but I had to go back home to get [01/18] PRV we had to sneak in a very large group of youngsters who were attacking the houses of Muslims; there were hundreds of them. I saw a crowd at the [01/18] PRV I could not tell if there were Anti-Balaka or not. They were destroying the walls and leaving with mattresses and furniture. At some point some people noticed us and started following us but luckily it was dark and I know the town well, we used the way [01/18] PRV reach my house. Once there I panicked, I wanted to go fast so I climbed the fence to get into my compound and told my friend to remain outside and guard the house. I [01/18] PRV and told him we had to flee. My plan was to climb the fence again on the side my friend was standing outside but he said I should climb over from opposite side since the Anti-Balaka elements were approaching. We managed to get out and we wanted to go to the [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV but the main road was blocked. I started to seek advice from my neighbours about another road to [01/18] PRV but nobody knew. Eventually I met a builder I know named [01/18] PRV I explained the situation to him and he [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV through another road. On the way we got lost and met a teacher who helped us. He went ahead to check if it was safe but there were the Anti-Balaka at the [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

51 [01/18] PRV we met two Cameroonian MISCA soldiers. They asked who we were, I told them we were Muslims fleeing the Anti-Balaka. They asked me where my belongings were, I explained that I had left everything behind and [01/18] PRV the situation in my neighbourhood. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

Muslims who fled went to the St Basile church in LOMI [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

displaced were only Muslims, there were men, women, children and elderly but no Christians. It is the next day that the MISCA started evacuating Muslims from the St Basile church and other hiding places. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

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[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

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Statement of [01/18] PRV

52. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

53. I also met an injured MISCA, [01/18] PRV who had been shot, by the Anti-Balaka, [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV told me that several Anti-Balaka elements were also wounded in that clash. The Cameroonian MISCA had arrived in BERBERATI that evening of 10<sup>th</sup> February. At the time the MISCA did not have a base [01/18] PRV There were not many and only had two vehicles.

54. The next day, on 11<sup>th</sup> February, [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

drove me to my house to collect a few belongings and we went to pick up my friend [01/18] PRV who took refuge at the former [01/18] PRV I called him to tell him I was coming to pick him up, at first he refused but I insisted. After getting [01/18] PRV we went to SODIAM to pick up [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV Near the gendarmerie we saw an Anti-Balaka driving a Mercedes car; [01/18] PRV went to talk to him, he told him that the Anti-Balaka had to stop destroying houses. The Anti-Balaka told [01/18] PRV some elements were behaving like children and did not listen. The [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV From then on I stayed [01/18] PRV and the events that occurred in town after that day were reported to me.

[01/18] PRV within the IDP site

55. At the Bishop's compound where we were displaced, I saw many terrible things; I witnessed the massive arrivals of entire families and injured people. Displaced people were arriving on a daily basis, not only from BERBERATI but from many different places. People there were suffering and they did not have anyone to help them, [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

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Statement of [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

56. We received phone calls from people who were still in town and wanted to flee, as [01/18] PRV the MISCA and the Bishop who would go and pick them up. Several priests also used their own vehicles to go pick up these people. Some people arrived severely injured, burnt or amputated; the delegates would send them to the MSF team for treatment.

57. [01/18] PRV "Comité des sages" (Wise men committee), which was made of senior Muslims figures; people would go and seek advice from them. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

displaced, we went to the "Comité des sages" for help. For example one of the issues was for the Peulhs who had abandoned their cattle in WAPO and were worrying what would happen to it. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV At that point we realised there was some sort of complicity between the MISCA and the Anti-Balaka, because soon after, the MISCA arrived [01/18] PRV in a hurry and told everyone to get inside. Everyone got scared, we thought the Anti-Balaka were approaching. But some people stayed outside and saw the Anti-Balaka escorting some cattle from the WAPO direction towards the city centre. It was the Peulhs' cattle; they were the only ones who had cows in town at that time. Some Peulh herders managed to get some of their cows back and built a small enclosure at the Bishop's place.

58. Some of the delegates and the wise men left at some point, they were evacuated to CAMEROON. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

#### Security conditions

59. At the Bishop's, we received phone calls from Anti-Balaka to threaten us that if we did not leave the town, they would come to attack the IDP site. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV received one of these phone calls and put his phone [01/18] PRV The person on the phone introduced himself as an Anti-Balaka fighter. he asked why the Muslims were

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[01/18] PRV



Statement of [01/18] PRV

still in the city, he said we had to understand that nobody in the country wanted us there; he claimed CAR was not our country. [01/18] PRV to the MISCA and their commander called the number back; he told them to stop threatening the Muslims. I

[01/18] PRV  
[01/18] PRV to call a Muslim who was denouncing the Anti-Balaka on social media Facebook from KENTZOU and tell him to stop. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV if the Anti-Balaka stopped their exactions, there would be nothing to denounce. The Anti-Balaka behind this message was SEREGAZA.

60. The Bishop's place was guarded by the international forces, first it was the Cameroonian MISCA contingent and then the MINUSCA Congolese contingent. At first we were not allowed to go out of the compound. Later on, we were allowed to walk outside the compound on specific hours and within a few meters reach; this was still on the Bishop's land. I have made a sketch of the Bishop's compound, it is attached to my statement as annex A. On the sketch I have indicated the position guarded by the MISCA/MINUSCA as well as the tents set up by the NGOs.
61. There were several incidents where displaced Muslims tried to leave the site and got assaulted by the Anti-Balaka. For instance [01/18] PRV he went out to see his girlfriend in town; he was caught and beaten up by the Anti-Balaka. Two young Muslims from the IDP site were also arrested by the Anti-Balaka group of ZOUKOUÉ when they went out of the Bishop's compound. They were detained at their base behind SODIAM. They were threatened and told to leave the town. When they were released they came to join us at the Bishop's place. One of them is named [01/18] PRV he told me it was ZOUKOUÉ who arrested them. Soon after that, [01/18] PRV left to CAMEROON; to this day he refuses to come back. I was myself a victim of an assault by the Anti-Balaka on [01/18] PRV when I went out of the site. I will discuss this assault later in my statement.
62. Two other Muslims [01/18] PRV were attacked when they went to meet a friend who lived behind the BERBREATI hospital. The Anti-Balaka based in BABASSALAO heard about it and caught them near the hospital, it is a place called "Barakouda's hole". I heard and saw on their bodies that they were tortured: [01/18] PRV was stabbed on the [01/18] PRV and [01/18] PRV was stabbed on the [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV They told us about it when they returned to the Bishop's; they said it was Nestor NGOUMBOU who was responsible. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV
63. The OTP representatives showed me a video registered under CAR-OTP-2079-0808 and asked me if I recognised anyone in the video. I know the man in the video, he is named [01/18] PRV In the video he explains he was attacked by the Anti-Balaka, he says they hit him a lot and left him for dead. He [01/18] PRV he still has scars on his arms and he has trouble with his memory sometimes.

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[01/18] PRV

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*Living conditions*

64. There was not enough space in the rooms for all the displaced to sleep, some people were sleeping on the ground on the grass so when MSF and the Red Cross arrived, they set up tents outside, either individual or collective ones.
65. In the morning we would have porridge and later on we would receive rice or manioc with a sauce for lunch. There was no food in the evening. At some point we had a visit from Cameroonian nuns who brought some Cameroonian food but people were not used to it. When MSF arrived they started distributing food from the WFP. However they did not provide manioc or meat so after we asked, the Bishop sometimes sent one of his priests to buy some. MSF suggested distributing the food and letting people prepare it their way; our committee was not in favour of that because we feared that some people would be left out. At some point there were too many people so we received less food.
66. We had clean water to drink, but the sanitation was a real issue at first. When we arrived we had to dig our own latrines, but some people did not use toilets to relieve themselves. At some point the RRM NGO helped us, they built bathrooms and toilets; some were specifically for women. Then *Premiere Urgence* arrived with their team and hired some youth at the site to dig pit latrines and built some sinks for laundry.
67. At first MSF was coming once a week but soon they increased their visits; they would come on Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon. Amongst the Cameroonian nuns, [01/18] PRV was a nurse, she helped several women giving birth in the camp. MSF took good care of us, if someone's condition was too serious, they brought that person to the hospital; there were two rooms at the hospital that were specifically for us and they were secured.
68. However, eleven persons died of sickness at the Bishop's place, including two children and two youngsters. They were buried on the Bishop's land near the church cemetery; we could not bury them in our Muslim cemetery because it was too risky, even with a MISCA escort. The Anti-Balaka were everywhere in town and still targeting the Muslims. At some point [01/18] PRV from the hospital called the Bishop to tell him that a Muslim patient, not from BERBERATI, had died and they did not know what to do with the body; so she brought the body at the Bishop's and

[01/18] PRV

*Evacuation towards CAMEROON*

[01/18] PRV

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[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV



Statement of [01/18] PRV

69. There were evacuations towards CAMEROON on a daily basis; sometimes a few persons, sometimes large convoys. It is difficult to assess how many people left in total, but there were thousands. The MISCA and MINUSCA escorts during the evacuation were free of charge; however they used private vehicles so they had to pay for it and the Bishop paid for those who did not have money. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV the people who were leaving to CAMEROON. The [01/18] PRV around the compound to ask who wanted to leave and once [01/18] PRV the Bishop and he organised the convoys. [01/18] PRV

70. I have provided the following pictures to the OTP representatives, they were taken at the IDP site [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV there. [01/18] PRV before he left for [01/18] PRV he sent me these pictures through *What's App* in December 2018. They are attached to my statement as annex B.

| Picture reference                          | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IMG-20181209-WA0062 to IMG-20181209-WA0070 | These pictures were taken the day we received an Italian journalist. The journalist worked for the Catholic Church, he was interested in the situation in BERBERATI because there were Muslims being sheltered by a Catholic Bishop. On IMG-20181209-WA0062 we see the two Cameroonian nuns; the one holding the camera is [01/18] PRV |
| IMG-20181209-WA0071 to IMG-20181209-WA0072 | These pictures depict the Muslim men during prayer; [01/18] PRV We used to pray outside on the ground within the compound.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| IMG-20181209-WA0075 to IMG-20181209-WA0079 | These pictures were taken upon the arrival of an old man who had been burnt by the Anti-Balaka. He is from BALEGO, his wife and daughter had arrived at the Bishop's before. He explained that he was attacked by the Anti-Balaka, he said they wanted to kill him. He currently lives [01/18] PRV                                     |
| IMG-20181209-WA0081                        | It depicts Muslims fleeing the city being brought at the Bishop's place by a MISCA truck from the Saint Basile church where they had been hiding.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| IMG-20181209-WA0082 to IMG-20181209-WA0094 | These pictures show a food distribution. As the pictures show, there were many                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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|                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                           | families on the IDP site, with many children. These children did not attend school nor any educational care for one year until PLAN International set up a space for children, including two classes.              |
| IMG-20181209-WA0097 and IMG-20181209-WA0098                                               | These pictures depict the Muslim women during prayer. It was located just behind where the men prayed.                                                                                                             |
| IMG-20181209-WA0095 to IMG-20181209-WA0096 and IMG-20181209-WA0099 to IMG-20181209-WA0102 | On these pictures we see the large collective tents that were set up by MSF because there was not enough space for everyone to have a shelter to sleep. One was for women and children, the other one was for men. |
| IMG-20181209-WA0103                                                                       | It depicts one of the Cameroonian nuns with the Cameroonian MISCA soldiers. They had rooms in the Bishop's compound where they could rest.                                                                         |

**Arrival of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Balaka group in BERBERATI**

71. At some point, a Muslim Anti-Balaka named Mahamat Hissene ZOUKOUÉ came to [01/18] PRV at the IDP site. He came to the Bishop's on a white prado vehicle, escorted by the MISCA, to chat with people, he wanted [01/18] PRV. He knew people because he used to live in BERBERATI and was driver for SEFCA Company. We realised that a 3<sup>rd</sup> group of Anti-Balaka had arrived in BERBERATI. At some point ZOUKOUÉ came back to the Bishop's compound because he heard that some of the youth amongst the IDPs were going out to their neighbourhoods. ZOUKOUÉ came at the Bishop's place to tell us that nobody should go out because it was not safe. The truth was that they did not want us to see what was happening in town. I know he was not from the first and second group because I had seen those Anti-Balaka in the first and second group before I fled to the Bishop's place. Besides, we were receiving information from our Christian friends who stayed in town. When ZOUKOUÉ came to the Bishop's there were new elements on his vehicles and he was with a FACA named SEREGAZA. I did not know SEREGAZA from before, I heard he was a FACA. [01/18] PRV  
[01/18] PRV FACA Corporal.
72. I heard that the group led by ZOUKOUÉ were responsible for stealing the cattle from the Peulhs.
73. At some point "Chiki-Chiki" and SEREGAZA merged their groups. SEREGAZA became the chief of operations; [01/18] PRV The overall leader was

Statement of [01/18] PRV

"Chiki-Chiki" until he was wounded in the leg by the MISCA and he later left to BANGUI. Nestor NGOUMBOU took over; I know that because in the [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV as the coordinator in BERBERATI. NGOUMBOU was arrested by the MISCA after assaulting a diamond collector. Once NGOUMBOU was sent to prison in BANGUI, "MOPAO" took over. "MOPAO" represented the BERBERATI Anti-Balaka at the BANGUI Forum; he is still the Anti-Balaka commander in BERBERATI today.

**Killings by the Anti-Balaka in BERBERATI**

74. I do not know how many people were killed by the Anti-Balaka on the day of the attack. I know that [01/18] PRV nephew were killed by "Chiki-Chiki" allegedly on that day; I do not know why they were killed, I think it was only because they were Muslims. There were not involved with the SELEKA, I do not know if they were armed but I do not see why they would have been. [01/18] PRV was a very friendly man, everybody liked him, I do not know how to describe how sweet he was. I did not know much about [01/18] PRV nephew but he was just a student.

75. While displaced at the Bishop's place, [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV information about 16 killings in total, including [01/18] PRV nephew and a Peulh the Anti-Balaka killed by cutting his throat. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV I gave a copy of this document to the OTP representatives, they made a copy and attached it to my statement as annex C.

**Pillages and destructions of the Muslims' houses and mosques**

*The Muslims' houses*

76. On 11<sup>th</sup> February, as I mentioned earlier in my statement, [01/18] PRV drove me to my house so that I could collect a few belongings. When I got there I noticed the fence around my house had been destroyed. I saw my friend [01/18] PRV inside my house, he was there to guard the rest of my belongings. By that time, my house had already been looted, the looters had taken [01/18] PRV and all the furniture, but they had left my documents and a few things. I asked [01/18] PRV to collect all the rest and keep them at his house; as a result we managed to save my bed and a cupboard. [01/18] PRV at some point during the conflict he got a job [01/18] PRV so he had opportunities to visit me at the Bishop's compound. He would bring some of my belongings and would update me on the situation in town. My neighbour on the left and his wife also protected my belongings, for example [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV that some of my neighbours had participated in the looting of my house. In my house they only broke the door. [01/18] PRV the looters took everything and I had to start all over.

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[01/18] PRV

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Statement of [01/18] PRV

77. In POTO-POTO, all the houses were pillaged, completely emptied; some were destroyed, some only had the roof or windows removed. The goal of the Anti-Balaka was to destroy everything so that the Muslims would leave and never come back. They said so themselves publicly, and it was confirmed by the Anti-Balaka [01/18] PRV I do not have the number of houses that were destroyed. However, in the scope of the IDPs' return, [01/18] PRV an NGO, the Norwegian Refugee Council to assess the number of Muslims' houses that were occupied; the government also investigated on this issue. [01/18] PRV should have more details on this issue.
78. When we left the Bishop's compound after [01/18] PRV we went back to our neighbourhoods for the [01/18] PRV and saw that everything had been destroyed; I took pictures that I describe later in my statement.

*The mosques*

79. All the mosques were destroyed except for one in DJAMBALA that was turned into a church they named "*Eglise évangélique internationale pour la foi*". I was at the IDP site at the time the mosques were destroyed so I cannot say who was responsible. One of the IDPs [01/18] PRV saw a crowd destroying the main mosque in the ARAB neighbourhood.
80. When I was on my way to the Mayor's house I heard the Anti-Balaka destroying the mosque in SAMBANDA. I did not see it myself, but the [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV He was present when the Anti-Balaka arrived and asked to see the owner of the compound in which the mosque was. They arrived on three motorbikes and were armed. The guard saw one of them go on the roof and remove the speakers from the wall. They went inside to look for the owner but he escaped by climbing over a fence; the guard ran away while they were inside. The name of the guard is [01/18] PRV he currently [01/18] PRV Later, I also heard that "AWILO" (a local bandit, not the Anti-Balaka) came to loot and remove the roof of the mosque.
81. At first the central mosque was not completely attacked, it was only the doors and windows that had been removed. It was destroyed after a reconciliation meeting organised by the Bishop between the Anti-Balaka, the Muslim community and the rest of the population. [01/18] PRV the Anti-Balaka Captain SEREGAZA and other commanders were receiving phone calls. The next day, on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014, some people [01/18] PRV to warn us that the Anti-Balaka were about to destroy the central mosque. [01/18] PRV the Congolese MINUSCA but when they got there the mosque had already been destroyed. We

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[01/18] PRV

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[01/18] PRV

Statement of [01/18] PRV

heard the destruction was ordered by the Anti-Balaka Louis BALENDJI alias "AWILO" [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV "Tout couleur" an Anti-Balaka, [01/18] PRV the doors of the central mosque were stored at his house but that recently some Anti-Balaka had come to loot him and took them.

82. I have provided the following pictures to the OTP representatives. [01/18] PRV  
[01/18] PRV Muslim neighbourhoods [01/18] PRV They show destroyed houses and mosques. They are attached to my statement as annex D.

| Picture reference                                                                                                                                                                           | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IMG_20150706_115826 and<br>IMG_20150706_115913                                                                                                                                              | These pictures show the destroyed BABAPATOU mosque.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| IMG_20150706_124143,<br>IMG_20150706_124308,<br>IMG_20150706_124356                                                                                                                         | These pictures show the central mosque after it was emptied and damaged by the Anti-Balaka.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| IMG_20150706_124133,<br>IMG_20150706_124330,<br>IMG_20150706_125430,<br>IMG_20150706_125520,<br>IMG_20150706_125543,<br>IMG_20150706_125613,<br>IMG_20150707_130135,<br>IMG_20150707_133910 | These pictures show destroyed houses of Muslims in several neighbours in BERBERATI. These are the houses of<br><br><b>[01/18] PRV</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| IMG_20150707_095858                                                                                                                                                                         | It depicts the TAKWA mosque in the ARAB neighbourhood; it was one of the main mosques of BERBERATI where [01/18] PRV used to have the Friday prayers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| IMG_20150724_144457                                                                                                                                                                         | It depicts the POTO-POTO market. All these shops belonged to Muslims, they were all destroyed. It is clear the Anti-Balaka targeted the Muslims' shops because in the other markets they went to, they only destroyed the Muslims' shops and spared the Christians'; for instance my shop in the ONAF market was pillaged and damaged but my Christian neighbours' were not. |

83. The OTP representatives showed me a video registered under CAR-OTP-2079-0693 and asked me if I identified anyone in the video. I confirm this is me talking in this video. The footages show the POTO-POTO neighbourhood after it had been destroyed and the inside of the Bishop's compound. I confirm that I compared our

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[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

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Statement of [01/18] PRV

situation at the IDP site with a prison because we were deprived of any freedom of movement in our own city.

[01/18] PRV

84. In the Anti-Balaka there are the soldiers who fight on the ground and the administrators who are in BANGUI making the decisions. Two events gave me reasons to believe that the Anti-Balaka in BERBERATI received their orders and instructions from the Anti-Balaka administration in BANGUI.

85. The first event was when we received in BERBERATI a visit from an Anti-Balaka delegation from BANGUI. At first they spent some time in the Bishop's office, they shared food and beer together. At some point the Bishop [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

The delegation from Bangui was led by Jean-Louis NGAIDJOUNOU. In the [01/18] PRV Freddy NGUENGO, and the Anti-Balaka secretary in BERBERATI. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV I did not know he was involved with the Anti-Balaka. [01/18] PRV an Anti-Balaka delegation coming from BANGUI. NGAIDJOUNOU [01/18] PRV

behalf of their coordinator Patrice Edouard NGAISSONA. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV communiqué signed by NGAISSONA; the document granted the Muslims free movement during the Ramadan and called the Anti-Balaka to not go after the Muslims. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV the OTP representatives showed me registered under CAR-OTP-2084-0157.

86. Freddy NGUENGO [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV or the fault of some people among us. [01/18] PRV Sango saying that says in the nuts you eat, even if there is only one that is bad, you throw up all of it. [01/18] PRV maybe they could try to accept everybody back except the Chadians. [01/18] PRV angry about this distinction because in our Muslim community there are many Chadian descendants; I think they just assimilated Chadians with the SELEKA. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV have the authority to decide this. NGAIDJOUNOU [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV

NGAIDJOUNOU also [01/18] PRV on behalf of "Chiki-Chiki" for what he had done; he [01/18] PRV specifically for what "Chiki-Chiki" apologised. At that time "Chiki-Chiki" was still wounded so he [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

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[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV



Statement of [01/18] PRV

87. The second event was the Eid celebration of 2014; to celebrate the end of Ramadan, the Muslim community hold a ceremony at the Sainte Marie school, located near the Bishop's compound. [01/18] PRV representatives of all communities and even Anti-Balaka representatives; at that time it was Captain SEREGAZA who represented the Anti-Balaka. Within our community we argued a lot on whether or not [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV the Anti-Balaka; I was in favour because I [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV Some youngsters had strong feelings against it.

88. During his speech, [01/18] PRV talked about our rights and requested the freedom of movement, we asked to be allowed to move around town freely and go back to our neighbourhoods. He stated again that we were not SELEKA and it was unfair that the entire Muslim community was locked in this compound. Captain SEREGAZA took the floor, he explained that he was not in a position to take this decision and that, so far, this was not the instruction he had received from his superiors in BANGUI. I do not know from whom specifically he received his orders, but at that time they had a "coordination" in BANGUI; NGAIDJOUNOU had explained this during his visit. Then the Bishop told him that SEREGAZA had to take his responsibility because he was the one in BERBERATI and the things were happening in BERBERATI not BANGUI. The Bishop pleaded that we were all CAR citizens and no one should be kept like prisoner. The sub-Prefect also made a speech, he recognised us all as CAR citizens and that we had to be patient until the authorities find a solution.

[01/18] PRV

89. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV Because it seemed quiet in town, we decided to walk back to the Bishop's. We were glad to be able to walk in our town again. On our way back we passed near the [01/18] PRV I went to [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV Suddenly, a motorbike stopped in front of us and the driver asked us where we came from and what we were doing there. He was rapidly joined by another man who came running. They were Anti-Balaka elements, at that time they were in control of the town and everybody was afraid of them. Besides, this happened [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV said we were Central Africans and were allowed to walk freely. The man on the motorbike slapped [01/18] PRV and the other one took his phone; [01/18] PRV fled and went to hide inside the [01/18] PRV One of them also tried to take my phones but I fought back; they put me down and took my phones, they hit [01/18] PRV ripped off my clothes. I was

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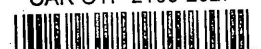
[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

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[01/18] PRV

Statement of [01/18] PRV

dressed with my usual Muslim outfit and was wearing my [01/18] PRV One of them shouted that they should lynch me; I got scared and fought back. At that moment the gendarmes arrived [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

90. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV We were interrogated, they asked what happened, what they took from us and if we recognised the perpetrators. I knew the attackers by face but I did not know their names; they were elements of SEREGAZA including [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV MISCA asked the gendarmerie to tell SEREGAZA to leave. The MISCA promised they would bring back my stolen belongings. [01/18] PRV us back to the Bishop's compound; people there had heard about the incident already, they all came to greet us. Some youngsters were very angry, they started to protest, some of them looked for sticks and wanted to march to the centre but the MISCA stopped them. The MISCA soldiers asked me to talk to the people to calm them down. I believe that if the MISCA had not been there that day, there would have been a slaughter in BERBERATI. I remember it was a

[01/18] PRV

that if the Anti-Balaka SEREGAZA and "Chiki-Chiki" did not leave the town, we would protest in the centre. Following the assault, I was treated by MSF but did not receive a medical record; they gave me medicine to ease the pain.

91. It was a serious attack, [01/18] PRV Afterwards, I went to the Bishop and [01/18] PRV Jean-Louis said they were not responsible and explained that some elements were out of control. I gave a [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV and attached is attached to my statement as annex E.

92. After several similar attacks, with other Muslim figures [01/18] PRV Mayor to ask the authorities to act upon it; [01/18] PRV some of these assaults. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV regarding "Chiki-Chiki"; instead of "YAPENDE Symphorien" it should read "YAPELE Chrysostome".

11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 meeting (CAR-OTP-2003-1654, page 1736)

93. The OTP representatives showed me a document registered under CAR-OTP-2003-1654 at page 1736. This document is about a meeting which the Bishop called to talk

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[01/18] PRV

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[01/18] PRV

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about the issue of nationality which seemed to be an issue for the Anti-Balaka. When [01/18] PRV the Catholic cultural centre, the topic of the meeting changed to the dialogue towards the return of the displaced Muslims. Some people opposed to this topic, like [01/18] PRV he thought that if Muslims came back they might want to seek revenge. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV none of the Muslims in BERBERATI were involved with the SELEKA, and that in fact [01/18] PRV a lot under the SELEKA regime too. [01/18] PRV only wish was to go back to our lives. "Chiki-Chiki" gave a speech for about half an hour. He explained that he had joined the Anti-Balaka because the SELEKA had killed his father and he had lost everything because of them. He also mentioned that even though he is not from the Prefecture, he fought hard for the MAMBERE KADEI even to the point that he got injured. He claimed it was not a good time for the Muslims to come back because there were still many bandits in town and the MINUSCA would not be able to protect them; he suggested we leave that issue for later. He did not say if he was in favour or not, but actually the bandits he referred to were only the Anti-Balaka.

94. At the end of the meeting we found out that there had been rumours of attacks by the SELEKA during the meeting, as a result the town and the markets were empty. Such rumours were common at the time.
95. In this document I recognise the names, some I mentioned before, as Anti-Balaka like "Chiki-Chiki", SEREGAZA, "MOPAO", Nestor NGOUMBOU et "ETO".

### Working towards peace

#### *Dialogue process*

96. After numerous meetings and negotiations between the authorities and the Anti-Balaka and between the authorities and the displaced Muslim community, the Prefect set up a "social platform for peace" supported by an NGO called the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). This platform was made of the Muslim community, civil servants, the police and gendarmerie, the women's association named OFCA, the representative of the NGOs, representatives of the youth and representatives of the armed groups but in BERBERATI it was only the Anti-Balaka at that time. The platform, the authorities and the MINUSCA all tried to raise awareness in favour of the return of the displaced Muslims. The NGOs also provided training in peaceful conflict resolution.
97. At some point the Anti-Balaka came to the Bishop's place to present their conditions for the return of the Muslims. They said they would agree to the return of the displaced Muslims from the IDP site but not the return of those who had fled abroad. They also demanded that from then on only CAR citizens could become



Statement of [01/18] PRV

Imams in the mosques of BERBERATI. They insisted that the Chadians were not welcomed in town, and for the Anti-Balaka, anyone who spoke Arabic was a Chadian. I was not present when they presented these conditions. The Muslim community decided to ignore these conditions and wait upon the authorities to do something about their plight.

[01/18] PRV

98. In preparation for the BANGUI Forum, "consultation" meetings were organised across the country. In BERBERATI it was led by the resident Minister of MAMBERE-KADEI, the Mayor Albert Eustache NAKOMBO and the Prefect Marthe Lydie YANGBA. From the Anti-Balaka there was the ComZone at the time Nestor NGOUMBOU, Louis BALENDJI "AWILO", SEREGAZA (he was chief of the operations at the time), "MOPAO" (current ComZone). "Chiki-Chiki" was not present because he had been arrested at that time. [01/18] PRV the Anti-Balaka apologized for what they did to the city and the whole MAMBERE-KADEI and they asked the Muslim community to apologize for what the SELEKA had done; we refused to do so because we were not involved with the SELEKA.

99. The Anti-Balaka also justified their actions by explaining that it was in retaliation to what the SELEKA had done. [01/18] PRV those who love the CAR cannot destroy it like the Anti-Balaka did. "AWILO" [01/18] PRV explained that they wanted to chase the Muslims away because it was unfair that the Muslims were the wealthiest even though they were not part real autochthones of the CAR. It is true that before the conflict we, the Muslims, had the monopoly in some trade including the diamond business for instance; we also had the nicest and biggest houses. I think all this created some jealousy and contributed to the commission of these crimes by the Anti-Balaka.

100. One of the Anti-Balaka's demands [01/18] PRV was that if the Muslims returned, they could not go back to their former market and only stay in their neighbourhood for whole sale. [01/18] PRV The authorities also said they disagreed but in reality it felt like they applied the Anti-Balaka's request. For instance [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV I also understood that the Mayor supported the Anti-Balaka because when the issue of justice was raised [01/18] PRV he was amongst those who were against the idea of bringing the perpetrators to justice. The name of the Mayor is Roger GBANDIBA, he took that position after Albert NAKOMBO.

[01/18] PRV

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[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

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Statement of [01/18] PRV

10 [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV They are attached to my statement as annex G.

| Picture reference                                                                                                                                        | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IMG_0130 to IMG_0132; IMG_0163 to IMG_0174; IMG_0181 to IMG_0184; IMG_0254 to IMG_0257; IMG_0270 to IMG_0276; IMG_0317 to IMG_0336; IMG_0889 to IMG_0896 | [01/18] PRV                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| IMG_0178 and IMG_0179                                                                                                                                    | This is Louis BALENDJI alias "AWILO", from the Anti-Balaka.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| IMG_0904                                                                                                                                                 | This is "MOPAO" from the Anti-Balaka.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| IMG_0880                                                                                                                                                 | This is Nestor NGOUMBOU from the Anti-Balaka.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| IMG_0905                                                                                                                                                 | This is Nestor NGOUMBOU and some of his elements behind.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| IMG_0198                                                                                                                                                 | The man wearing a black tee shirt is Mahamat Hissene ZOUKOUÉ from the Anti-Balaka.                                                                                                                                                     |
| IMG_0087                                                                                                                                                 | The first man claimed to be the Anti-Balaka secretary in BERBERATI, I do not remember his name. Then there is "MOPAO" looking at the camera, Captain SEREGAZA holding his head in his hand and "AWILO" turning his face the other way. |
| IMG_0857, IMG_0291, IMG_0279, IMG_0234                                                                                                                   | These pictures show the Anti-Balaka group present during the consultation meeting.                                                                                                                                                     |
| IMG_0679                                                                                                                                                 | It shows members of the Anti-Balaka attending the dialogue meeting organised by DRC on 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2015. I do not know their names. Their leaders [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV but do not appear on this picture.              |

**BERBERATI today**

102 [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV the places in the Muslim neighbourhoods where the displaced could return to. The UNHCR provided vehicles to transport people there and provided kits composed of two mats, a tarpaulin, a bucket and cooking utensils. A first group of 72 displaced Muslims left the Bishop's compound during

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[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

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Statement of [01/18] PRV

the 2015 Ramadan. I was in the [01/18] PRV that left the Bishop's compound a [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV However some houses were occupied and the occupants asked for money in exchange. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV a Muslim from BERBERATI, sent money from CAMEROON to the Prefect to pay the occupants of these houses for them to leave the houses. The UNHCR also provided food.

103. Two mosques have been rebuilt since, including the Central mosque and the mosque that was occupied as a church has also been turned back into a mosque.

104. It was not easy to go back to our neighbourhoods, it was not completely safe yet. The Anti-Balaka provoked us a lot and tried to get us to fight. There were several attacks in 2016, including the attack of the [01/18] PRV and the killing of [01/18] PRV group of Muslim associations in BANGUI; [01/18] PRV they drafted a memorandum to denounce these crimes. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV the OTP representatives, it is attached to my statement as annex H.

105. Some Anti-Balaka are still in BERBERATI, for example Méthode MERCIER and his lieutenant named "Vega"; they are present in the POTO-POTO neighbourhood. These Anti-Balaka continue to carry weapons and are still active in the city although they changed their mode of operations, now they intimidate people more discretely. There are also several groups which are very active in the area in MAMBERE-KADEI.

#### Annexes

- Annex A: A sketch of the Bishop's compound.
- Annex B (on SD card): [01/18] PRV IDP site on the Bishop's compound.
- Annex C: Copy of the memorandum addressed to the CAR President by the Muslim community of BERBERATI, dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014.
- Annex D (on SD card): [01/18] PRV showing destroyed houses and mosques in the Muslim neighbourhoods of BERBERATI.
- Annex E: [01/18] PRV by the Anti-Balaka.
- Annex F: Copy of the petition sent to the Mayor of BERBERATI by the Muslim community, dated 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014.
- Annex G (on SD card): [01/18] PRV BERBERATI in 2015.
- Annex H: Copy of the memorandum addressed to the CAR President by several Muslim NGOs, dated 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

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[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

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**Closing Procedure**

106. I was informed that individuals, who according to the judges, qualify as victims will be entitled to participate in future Court proceedings and potentially to receive reparations. I was informed of the existence of the Victims' Participation and Reparation Section and its function, as well as of the procedure for applications. I do consent to my personal data being shared with the Victims' Participation and Reparation Section.
107. I was informed that I may be called to testify before the Court. It was brought to my attention that ICC trials are held in public and explained to me that, as an exception to the principle of public hearings, the judges may apply protective measures to those testifying if circumstances require.
108. The OTP representatives informed me of the protective measures that may apply during and after the investigation and/or trial proceedings.
109. I have nothing to add to the above statement nor do I have anything to clarify. I am available to be contacted in the future for clarifications or questions on topics not covered during this interview.
110. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.
111. There has not been any form of coercion, duress, threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my account.
112. I have no complaints about the way I was treated during this interview.

**[01/18] PRV**

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**[01/18] PRV**

**[01/18] PRV**





Statement of [01/18] PRV

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### WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This statement has been read over to me in French with interpretation in English and (it) is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have given this statement voluntarily and I am aware that it may be used in legal proceedings before the International Criminal Court and that I may be called to give evidence in public before the International Criminal Court.

[01/18] PRV

Signed: [01/18] PRV  
Dated: [01/18] PRV

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### INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

1. I, [01/18] PRV, certify that:
2. I am duly qualified to interpret from the English language into the French language and from the French language into the English language.
3. I have been informed by [01/18] PRV that he speaks and understands the French language.
4. I have orally translated the above statement from the English language to the French language in the presence of [01/18] PRV who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this statement.
5. [01/18] PRV has acknowledged that the facts and matters set out in his statement, as translated by me, are true to the best of his knowledge and recollection and has accordingly signed his signature where indicated.

Signed:

Dated:

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

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[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

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