

**ANNEX**

**Public**

Confirmation of Charges Hearing

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/22

1 And with that, Mr Mokom can now start.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE AITALA: [11:36:42] Mr Mokom, the floor is yours.

3 MR MOKOM: [11:36:43](Interpretation) Thank you, your Honours.

4 Mr President, your Honours, please allow me to thank you for having given  
5 me the opportunity to address myself to you, as well as for the work that you  
6 have done to carry on this process to this point.

7 I would also like to salute all my Central African brothers and sisters. As you  
8 have seen in the publicity boards in the country, on 22 August 2023 you have to  
9 listen to Radio 24 as well as other radio stations to listen to the reality on the  
10 events of -- on the crisis.

11 The Anti-Balaka movement was created following massive violation of the  
12 constitutional situation of the CAR, as it happened in Ukraine recently.

13 Then painful occurrences happened, and everybody is aware of it. This was  
14 related by international and local media.

15 This established our inability to defend our own rights and to protect our own  
16 children, to save the honour of our own spouses or wives, our mothers and  
17 sisters, who were raped before our own eyes, and to protect our parents from  
18 humiliation. We could no longer bear the pillaging, the burnings, the beatings  
19 and everything. No town, no village, no parties were spared by the atrocities  
20 perpetrated by the Seleka.

21 We lost our dignity. We lost our honour. We lost our pride and we lost our  
22 sovereignty in the face of this armed attack. The political leaders stayed quiet  
23 and others disappeared. The soldiers disappeared. Human rights were  
24 trampled upon and there was widespread chaos. There was a vacuum in the  
25 area of justice. So this was -- the country was transformed from a country of

1 law to a jungle.

2 So the people of the Central African Republic had to organise its own defence

3 in order to ensure its survival in the face of the horrors perpetrated by the

4 Seleka.

5 The state of need created for the Central African people compelled them to

6 engage in acts of personal and collective protection, hence the emergence of

7 this organisation called the Anti-Balaka. Why would not the Central Africans

8 take up arms to fight against aggression, just like France did against Germany

9 during the Second World War?

10 During that entire period, I was not in the country, I was a refugee in the

11 Democratic Republic of Congo. I returned on 15 February 2014 in the country

12 to join the Anti-Balaka movement. I dedicated my return to the search for

13 peace rather than to engage in war. The Anti-Balaka were demonised by

14 certain people because of their political calculations and for the interests of

15 other people.

16 The facts were falsified and politicised. On 24 March 2013, a Sunday, when a

17 group of soldiers or elements, the Seleka coalition, made up of Chadians,

18 Sudanese, Nigeriens invaded the CAR and occupied sub-prefectures,

19 prefectures and others.

20 On 24 March to September 2013, there were 3,000 dead and many people were

21 unable to find the bodies of their relatives. More than 200,000 people became

22 refugees into -- in following -- in neighbouring countries.

23 One million -- 1.5 million were displaced internally.

24 And as if that did not suffice, they started bringing out sick people from

25 hospitals and shooting them. Like in 2013, at the CDR, they started killing

1 people at ENERCA.

2 They started launching shells. And during a worship session there was an

3 attack that everyone saw. They burned down churches and murdered priests

4 and pastors.

5 There is a village of 1,700 people near the road to Mbre which has totally

6 disappeared from the map. The village was known as Zaire. All the

7 administrative buildings were destroyed. All the police posts were taken over

8 by Seleka mercenaries.

9 And in the face of this, the sons and daughters of the country rose as a single

10 person to launch the Anti-Balaka movement in September 2013. Some of

11 them died and some of them are still alive. It is not this small person known

12 as Mokom who was at the origin of all that. They knew they had *fétiches* and

13 traditional weapons which they used to face rockets and modern weapons.

14 And thanks to traditional means, that is how people went to Gobere, which is a

15 place high up in the mountains from where people can see things.

16 I am being accused today of crimes committed in Bangui and Bossangoa from 5

17 December 2013 to April 2014 and this is supposed to engage my responsibility

18 as part of an effort to recover power. I absolutely refuse -- I absolutely deny

19 having participated in any plan that involved the crimes that have been

20 charged.

21 Thank you very much, Mr President, for granting me the opportunity to give

22 you my point of view. I am convinced that you are going to assess these

23 accusations and allegations in this case and I thank you for your commitment.

24 I also thank my entire team in the Defence for their effective work. May God

25 bless you. Thank you very much.