

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-D29-P-5015

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/18

1 International Criminal Court
2 Trial Chamber V
3 Situation: Central African Republic II
4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Alfred Rombhot Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard
5 Ngaïssona - ICC-01/14-01/18
6 Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt, Judge Péter Kovács and Judge Chang-ho Chung
7 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 1
8 Tuesday, 12 December 2023
9 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.30 a.m.)
10 THE COURT USHER: [9:30:55] All rise.
11 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
12 Please be seated.
13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:21] Good morning, everyone.
14 Court officer, please call the case.
15 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:31:26] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
16 Situation in the Central African Republic II, in the case of The Prosecutor versus
17 Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona, case reference ICC-01/14-01/18.
18 And for the record, we are in open session.
19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:42] Thank you very much.
20 I turn to the appearances of the parties, Mr Vanderpuye first.
21 MR VANDERPUYE: [9:31:47] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning,
22 your Honours. Good morning, Mr Perin. The Prosecution is in the same
23 configuration as yesterday.
24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:55] Thank you.
25 Now the victims representatives.

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1 MS MASSIDDA: [9:32:00] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. For the
2 victims of the other crimes appearing today Ms Marie-Edith Douzima,
3 Mr Alexis Larivière and *moi-même*, Paolina Massidda.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:12] Thank you. For the second team, please,
5 there's a new face.

6 MS MARCHESI: [9:32:17] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your
7 Honours and Mr Witness. So today the former child soldiers are represented by
8 Tayssir Othmani and myself, Ms Diletta Marchesi. Thank you so much.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:35] Thank you.

10 We turn to the Defence. Ms Dimitri first, please.

11 MS DIMITRI: [9:32:35] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your
12 Honours. Good morning, everyone. *Bonjour*, Monsignor. The composition is
13 slightly changed. Ms Casiez had to go back to France, but we have Mr Hannis who
14 joined us this morning.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:51] Thank you very much.

16 Mr Knoops next.

17 MR KNOOPS: [9:32:53] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your
18 Honours. Good morning everyone in the courtroom. We are in same composition
19 as yesterday. Mr Ngaïssona is present in the courtroom. Thank you.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:02] Thank you very much.

21 We have a slight adjustment to the scheduling today. It turned out that we can go a
22 little bit longer in the morning and finish a little bit earlier in the afternoon. Meaning
23 exactly the following: We have the normal session until 11 o'clock, perhaps 5 minutes
24 to 11, and then we have 5 or 10 minutes pause and we can go until 12 o'clock then,
25 roughly an hour. As said yesterday, 2:30 we continue and I'm sure or I'm confident

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1 we finish until 4 o'clock. 4 o'clock is the maximum that we have.

2 Good morning, Mr Perin. Did you have a good rest?

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4 (The witness speaks French)

5 THE WITNESS: [9:33:51](Interpretation) Good morning. Yes, of course I did.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:53] That's nice to hear. You have heard that

7 we try at least to finish your testimony today. I think that would also be in your

8 interest. So without further ado, I give the floor to Ms Dimitri.

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

10 Q. [9:34:21] Good morning, Monsignor Perin.

11 A. [9:34:25] Good morning.

12 Q. [9:34:26] I won't take much of your time. I've reviewed the statement of

13 yesterday and I'm going to come back to some points which aren't very clear to me

14 and sometimes I need some clarification, and then I have two or three other topics

15 which we haven't touched upon yet. And then it will be the victims' team and the

16 Prosecution that will put questions to you.

17 Let me remind you of the rule to make quite sure that our colleagues, the interpreters,

18 don't find it difficult to follow, please pause for three seconds before answering.

19 I would like to go back, Monsignor, to the Muslims of Mbaiki. But let me position

20 you in time, because my question is very specific. Before the population of Mbaiki is

21 filled by Muslims coming from elsewhere who gathered there and who came to

22 Mbaiki, so before that period, could you let me know or could you estimate the

23 proportion of the different communities, the different religious communities,

24 Muslims and non-Muslims?

25 A. [9:36:04] No, I can't tell you that.

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1 Q. [9:36:08] You don't have any idea of percentages? What was the Muslims
2 Mbaiki population vis-à-vis the non-Muslim population?

3 A. [9:36:20] No, I can't tell you that.

4 Q. [9:36:25] No problem. Another question. This is a question of clarification.
5 Yesterday you said about 15:15 hours that the Seleka left the small villages and the
6 Muslims no longer felt safe, they were scared of reprisals and started to gather and go
7 to Mbaiki. I simply want to clarify, am I correct in understanding that in the various
8 areas of Lobaye, when the Seleka left those villages, left those areas and when they
9 understood the Seleka were leaving, the Seleka moved towards Mbaiki and then left
10 Mbaiki with the trucks coming from Chad. Is that correct?

11 A. [9:37:25] I think they were aware in one way or another that they were there.
12 So they hurried to have a better situation, a safer situation than they would have in
13 their actual villages.

14 Q. [9:37:51] Thank you. Another question. I asked you a question yesterday at
15 about 11:45 and you didn't answer so I'm going to repeat that question.
16 What do you understand on the reaction of the Muslims -- what do you understand of
17 the Muslims' reaction who are in Mbaiki when the Seleka left Mbaiki? You know,
18 you explained that the Seleka quickly left during the night. What do you
19 understand of the reaction that caused with the Muslims?

20 A. [9:38:38] You know, we made -- we set up that platform, so in the platform there
21 were Muslims, everybody was there. Wait. Yes, yes, yes, we did that before. So it
22 was just before the meeting which we were going to hold with everybody, so I don't
23 really see, it was just a -- really a feeling being aware that some members of the
24 population might have received some information about the situation. I don't know.
25 Something like that. Or there might have been some thefts or intimidation amongst

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1 some members of the population, and they were maybe waiting for the moment to
2 take action for that, but it wasn't at that point in time that there was a feeling where
3 everybody said, well, here right now the Muslims are scared. I repeat, we did have
4 this platform so that we could talk.

5 The Seleka is something different. Before the Seleka, we were living together and we
6 didn't have any problems. Now the Seleka arrived and we, the Catholics, we didn't
7 know the Seleka. They also didn't know much about the Seleka, the mere fact that
8 they came to the mission to be protected, to sleep there in the evening, but once the
9 Seleka left, what was their situation? I think, generally speaking, how should I put it,
10 they understood a little the -- they resumed the atmosphere that existed before. But I
11 repeat, we were scared that there were weapons, that people would be armed in order
12 to defend themselves. Things like that. I'm sure that's what happened in Boda, for
13 example, before they left, because in Boda the Muslims were worried who would
14 defend them once the Seleka left. And I think that was the general feeling. I don't
15 know if I've answered your question.

16 Q. [9:41:33] Yes, but in two places you didn't finish your sentence and, you know, I
17 love clarifications, so I want you to be really specific.

18 You said -- well, you know, when we spoke about the Muslims who were aware in
19 one way or another that the Chadians -- and you didn't finish your sentence -- that the
20 Chadians would come and fetch them.

21 A. [9:42:00] Yes, of course, when they would come and fetch them.

22 Q. [9:42:18] And you said -- you just said they took arms and you took the example
23 Boda. They gave weapons to whom?

24 A. [9:42:32] The Muslims.

25 Q. [9:42:39] I'm going to go back to the subject of yesterday where I need a further

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1 clarification. I asked you during the visit of President Samba-Panza in Mbaiki
2 with the minister, Le Drian, do you remember if a Muslim was killed, and you said
3 "not at all". And you also added that would have made a lot of upset. What do you
4 mean that would have made a lot of noise?

5 A. [9:43:20] A fact like that would have been common knowledge, with all the
6 security that they had, the president and all the soldiers, et cetera, for protection. If
7 somebody had been killed, I think everybody would have known about it, I suppose.
8 I assume. I don't recall that there was an incident of that nature.

9 Q. [9:43:53] Another question of clarification on what you said yesterday.

10 The day of the meeting in the training centre in Mbaiki where Mr Rombhot came, can
11 you give an idea, when Mr Yekatom Rombhot came, he arrived with how many
12 elements?

13 A. [9:44:21] It was a small group. It wasn't a troop. I don't know. When he
14 arrived with a vehicle there were some who surrounded -- were surrounding him and
15 sort of went -- went here and there. Maybe there were five or six of them. I can't
16 say. I wasn't interested in that. I wasn't interested in finding out how many people
17 there were. We accepted him. He came, he gave his statement. I can also say, as
18 regards the platform, my deputy, they -- the platform acknowledged the good will of
19 Mr Yekatom. He was deputy of his town, of Pissa. So deputy means that the
20 population had elected him. So there was good will for him and also the deputation
21 the Seleka, Adam, so that we could try at all cost that there would be no clashes
22 between the communities. That was recognised and acknowledged by the platform
23 because it's because of the good will that there was an agreement. They didn't want
24 any intercommunity clashes.

25 MS DIMITRI: [9:46:14] Sorry, I'm guiding myself with your light.

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1 Q. [9:46:21](Interpretation) Mr Yekatom and his elements were where? Where
2 were his elements? Were they in Mbaiki before the meeting or after the meeting?

3 A. [9:46:37] I think he came with them. You must understand it wasn't of any
4 interest to me whether they came before, afterwards, whether they stayed or not. I
5 just have the impression that he came with his elements. That's normal. And
6 where they stationed themselves, it's their strategy. It wasn't of interest to me.

7 Q. [9:47:06] Yesterday -- I'm still seeking clarification. Yesterday you said -- my
8 apologies, I have made a note for myself.
9 Yesterday, when talking about the thugs, the bandits that were everywhere, you said
10 something which challenged me, you said, "And if, if in their minds they thought that
11 Rambo is responsible for everything that happened, it's not possible" and you didn't
12 finish your sentence. That everything they'd done --

13 A. [9:48:26] Those who carried out banditry actions. I repeat, the platform
14 confirmed, even my deputy who confirmed this, and you also heard about the
15 platform from the *préfet*, they confirmed the goodwill, there was the goodwill to avoid
16 all intercommunity clashes. How am I supposed to see into the minds of others? *
17 Because he tried to sow fear, in inverted commas, so that these troubles would not
18 happen, so there was in the back of their mind the fear that they could be punished.
19 They were not on one side or the other. At least that's what he said in the meeting
20 and that's what he said later on in his statement.

21 Q. [9:49:49] Yesterday you said, around 10:27, you said that those who were
22 interested in the interreligious platform was the abbot Antaresse, and you said you
23 worked through intermediaries. Am I to understand that within the frame of the
24 interreligious platform that it's the abbe -- abbot Antaresse who looked for contacts,
25 who sent out the invitation, who was responsible for the organisation of the meetings,

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1 et cetera, was that the role of the abbot Antaresse?

2 A. [9:50:35] Absolutely.

3 Q. [9:50:48] I'm going to change topics once again. I want to go back to Boguere.

4 A. [9:50:57] There are two rivers there that were called like that.

5 Q. [9:51:05] You talked about a Seleka commander who lived in Boguere. I can't
6 pronounce that in Sango.

7 I want to show you an article, a press article which mentions Boguere and which talks
8 about an attack one week before the Mbaiki meeting. The article is from
9 18 February 2014. I'm going to show you the article and then I'll put some questions
10 to you to see whether this reflects what you heard about this Seleka at Boguere.
11 It is 37, tab 37 of the Defence binder, CAR-OTP-2001-2248. And if we can go to
12 page 2249.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:52:45] I think we have to enlarge it a bit.

14 MS DIMITRI: [9:52:52] It's the other -- yes, thank you. The first paragraph. I'll
15 read it anyway.

16 Q. [9:52:56](Interpretation) I'm going to read it out, Monsignor, it's in English, and
17 then you can hear the French translation.

18 (Speaks English) "It was one of those places where something tragic was expected to
19 happen but somehow, the international forces, sent to protect civilians were nowhere
20 to be seen.

21 Boguere is a mining town, known for its gold and diamond trading, making it
22 particularly attractive to looters. But these are revenge attacks. Previously, a
23 notorious Seleka commander had made the town his home base, carrying out
24 widespread human rights abuses against the local population and neighbouring
25 villages and towns.

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1 Christian residents recounted the abuses of the Seleka commander, saying that he
2 once killed an entire family because the father had protected two men whom the
3 commander didn't like. It was the entire region's fear and hatred of the commander,
4 they said, that stoked the anger and thirst for revenge that lead to the recent attacks
5 against the town's Muslim population.

6 He is believed to have been killed in the massacre on 24 January."

7 (Interpretation) Reading this article, does that correspond to what you heard about
8 this, about this commander, the Seleka commander and this town of ill -- notorious
9 town?

10 A. [9:55:16] What I can say to you, I heard it said that he was killed, that he was
11 killed, and therefore I suppose that he did things that were disliked. I have no idea
12 what he did, I have no idea about that. All I heard, because I've never seen him, I
13 always stayed in Boganangone, and that's 24 kilometres from Boguere. I wasn't
14 really interested to go to Boguere because we had catechist meetings for the people
15 who came and that's why I went there, to see what the atmosphere was like. It's
16 afterwards that I heard that he was killed, but I don't have any information I can give
17 you on this.

18 I don't know if that's clear.

19 Q. [9:56:21] It's very clear and thank you for -- I appreciate it when you say that
20 you -- when you do know, when you don't know, I appreciate that a lot. I'm going
21 to change the topic, but patience, I have a technical problem.

22 I would like to go to Boboua now. Yesterday afternoon you spoke about the
23 Muslims who were hiding in the bush whom you saw when you were going towards
24 Boda. Now --

25 A. [9:57:11] We -- we were in the car.

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1 Q. [9:57:13] You were going to Boda, they recognised your car, the Muslims were
2 hidden, they came to the car and you had a discussion with them.

3 A. [9:57:31] They were asking for help. They asked me to help them.

4 Q. [9:57:35] What I would like to know, did you find out what was happening in
5 Boboua? I'm not asking you what you saw. I understand that you were in the car.
6 But they were asking for help, you had some discussion with them. Can you tell us
7 more what they told you, what did you learn at that moment, or even later, about the
8 incidents which happened in Boboua?

9 A. [9:58:10] It was later, it wasn't then. But later I heard that they had killed the
10 mayor. I heard that later. It was later. At that point in time they just asked me for
11 help. Afterwards I said I'm going to Boda, I as told you yesterday, I'm going to Boda
12 and see what I can do. I can't organise a truck here. They talked about a car, a
13 truck and possibly maybe even go to Bangui, I suppose.

14 Q. [9:58:47] You heard that the mayor of Boboua was killed?

15 A. [9:58:55] Yes, I heard that.

16 Q. [9:58:57] Do you remember that the coffee producer of Boboua who was the
17 brother of the mayor, the mayor that was killed?

18 A. [9:59:11] I have no idea. You know, those who have coffee plantations, there
19 are lots of them in that area at the time. I think they just abandoned everything.
20 And it was a way of trying to get some income to produce coffee.

21 Q. [9:59:42] When you were in the car and they came to you to ask for help, did
22 they say anything or did you learn how many were hidden in the bush? I'm not
23 asking for a precise figure, a rough idea. How many people were hidden in the
24 bush?

25 A. [10:00:06] I can't give you any idea because we didn't expect that. We didn't

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1 expect people who would approach the car. I knew that this was the first car that
2 left. I told you that we couldn't move from Mbaiki and then I decided -- for two
3 months, and then I decided we would go there to see what we could have -- there
4 would have been an ambush. But already I told you, everybody recognised my car.
5 If they attacked me, they attacked me. That's how it is.

6 So no idea how many there were here and there. All I know is that in a particular
7 zone it was easy to hide because it's not in the major axes, but I have no idea how
8 many there were.

9 Q. [10:01:13] And when you had that discussion and they ask you for help, I
10 understood that they were asking you for a lorry and during that discussion they
11 want to have a lorry. Should I understand that there are several of them and that is
12 why they want a lorry to transport them?

13 A. [10:01:37] Well, that's what I gleaned, either a lorry or a truck or a car with cabin,
14 if you like. Sometimes people use that term to describe a four-by-four with a cabin
15 at the rear. I can't really say. But we didn't really have a discussion as such. We
16 didn't talk about certain issues. I didn't expect them. They came and they said,
17 "Father, father, can you help us please?" And I said, "Well, how can I do that? I'm
18 on my way to Boda." And they said, "Can you organise something for us?"
19 So I was under the impression that they wanted to go to Mbaiki, maybe in search of
20 more security, or maybe they had heard that the Chadians were going to come and
21 get them in Mbaiki from Bangui. Maybe that was it.

22 Q. [10:02:41] Well, I'm going to be presenting a video to you.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:02:44] Okay, that's fine, because I wanted to say
24 you have exhausted that subject, and so on. That's our impression. So you can
25 move on. Okay. Thank you.

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1 MS DIMITRI: [10:02:57](Interpretation)

2 Q. [10:02:59] I'm going to be presenting a video to you, Monsignor. It is to be
3 found at tab 29, CAR-OTP-2058-0573. I'm going to be playing an excerpt of
4 approximately 2 minutes to you, from 23:58 to 25:34.

5 And for the interpreters, generally speaking, you should have a file, and it is at tab 30,
6 CAR-OTP-2118-0420.

7 MS DIMITRI: [10:04:14] If I can have a moment, please.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:04:17] Yes.

9 (Counsel confers)

10 MS DIMITRI: [10:04:53](No interpretation)

11 THE INTERPRETER: [10:05:06] Message from the English booth: I can see, counsel,
12 that it is in English.

13 MS DIMITRI: [10:05:13](Interpretation)

14 Q. [10:05:16] So I would invite you to look at the video and then I'll have a few
15 questions to put to you.

16 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

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

19 "JM: [Voice-over] [...] forests thousands of people are hiding for their lives. Their
20 houses have been destroyed. Family members killed. In some areas, small teams of
21 UN workers are trying to help them. We followed one team to a church near the town
22 of MBAÏKI.

23 *[00:24:18. Cut to view of Tammi SHARPE talking to the camera]*

24 TS: We heard about this recent group that had come under danger. What we know is
25 about 277 people, today, a group of Muslims, from what we understand. We didn't

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1 have a long conversation with the individuals because we were fearful that we were
2 putting them more at risk by drawing attention to where they were because they were
3 hiding in the bush, essentially. They were attacked this morning ... We knew ...

4 JM: By who?

5 TS: We believe it's ANTI-BALAKA. And they fled into the bush. And so they're right
6 now in hiding. And so we're trying to find a way to be able to evacuate them and
7 relocate them to a place where they can be safer and where their security can be
8 guaranteed. We actually even crossed one big camion on the way down and we were
9 even wondering, could this possibly be where everybody just kind of looted
10 everything.

11 JM: *[Voice-over]* Tammi is trying to persuade the priest to look after the people in his
12 church. That's if they can even get them there. Without protection from peacekeepers,
13 any Muslims caught passing through Christian areas will most likely be massacred.

14 JM: Is this case unique?

15 TS: No. We believe there may now be an estimated 22 000 people that are at risk, that
16 are spread throughout that whole western

17 JM: And these are Muslims...

18 TS: ... part of the country ... Primarily, yeah.

19 JM: *[Voice-over]* We drove for hours through the forest to the town of BODA."

20 MS DIMITRI: [10:07:05](Interpretation)

21 Q. [10:07:07] Monsignor Perin, I presume that you recognised yourself in the
22 video?

23 A. [10:07:14] I also saw Sister Marie-Claire who is of Belgian origin.

24 Q. [10:07:24] I apologise to the interpreters.

25 The lady is talking about -- the lady who is being interviewed, she's talking about

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1 approximately 200 refugees hiding in the bush and she said that she had a discussion
2 with you. Now, is she talking about the refugees from Boboua, about that group
3 that is hiding in the bush subsequent to the attack of -- upon the mayor of Boboua
4 who was unfortunately killed?

5 A. [10:08:01] I do not know. I know that we are here at the Mbaiki presbytery, so,
6 you know, with all the events that were unfolding, I don't know whether we were
7 really talking about Boboua. Maybe. The situation was such that it could be
8 somewhere else too.

9 I have never seen the images that you showed here about, you know, the villages
10 destroyed and everything. I haven't seen that.

11 Q. [10:08:37] Once again, I am calling upon your recollection. What we have just
12 seen on this video, was it before the meeting or was there Mr Yekatom?

13 A. [10:08:51] No. This was just afterwards. I have no idea that it was before, no,
14 no.

15 Q. [10:09:02] And during your discussions on the road -- this is the last question
16 I'm going to put to you on this subject. During the discussions on the road, when
17 they approached the car, did they tell you that they had attempted to ask for help
18 from MINUSCA or MISCA?

19 A. [10:09:29] No, I do not recall.

20 MS DIMITRI: [10:09:46] If I can have a moment, please.

21 (Counsel confers)

22 MS DIMITRI: [10:10:25](Interpretation)

23 Q. [10:10:29] Last question on the subject of Boboua. I'm going to show you the
24 article again on Boguere, but there's an excerpt here on Boboua that I am going to try
25 and locate things in time. I know it's very difficult because it's more than 10 years

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1 ago, but the excerpt, the following excerpt indicates that, and I quote in English:

2 "The following day," --

3 (Interpretation) So that's 25 January, so before the meeting. So I read:

4 (Speaks English) "The following day, as we drove south to the village of Boboua, we
5 found three bodies lying in front of a mosque. They were the village's Muslim
6 mayor, Adamou Dewa, his son Abu Bakr and another Muslim resident named
7 Abdou.

8 As we left, a frantic group of Muslim residents emerged from their hideouts out in the
9 bush and flagged down our vehicle. They told us that anti-balaka fighters had
10 attacked their village three hours earlier and killed the three men. They said that
11 there were only 200 Muslims left and they were under serious threat.

12 [...]

13 It was only then that African Union peacekeepers were arriving to ascertain what had
14 happened. Too late for the dead, and they were not going to stay."

15 (Interpretation) And this is my last attempt, Monsignor. Does this refresh your
16 memory -- because the woman was talking about approximately 200 refugees in the
17 bush and you spoke about the fact that Muslim refugees in the bush approached your
18 vehicle and that they came from near Boboua. You talked about the mayor who was
19 killed. That's what we just read about in the article. Does this refresh your memory
20 with regard to the date before the meeting and the circumstances of their seeking
21 refuge and that they tried to take them towards Mbaiki?

22 A. [10:13:35] I am not under the impression that I was in Boda before that date
23 because I went to Boda when the Sangaris were already in Boda. I heard things. So
24 we were concerned, wanting to find solutions in order to save people.

25 When the Seleka left, I know that there were thefts of car. Even in Boda at the

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1 mission there were theft of cars in Ngotto. So who were the thieves? We didn't
2 really have control of the situation. The Anti-Balaka were supposed to be defending
3 the population, so you imagine that in order, well, to defend the population, you have
4 to kill people? I can't say anything else.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:14:47] Please move on.

6 MS DIMITRI: [10:14:49] I am. I'm changing subject.

7 Q. [10:14:54](Interpretation) I'd like to talk about Mbata. I'm going to be showing
8 a video to you to be found at tab 16, CAR-OTP- -- of the OTP binder,
9 CAR-OTP-0002244, from 2:15 to 2:34, and it is a video dated 27 January 2014, that is to
10 say, three days before the meeting. I'm going to be presenting an excerpt to you and
11 I will have questions to put to you.

12 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:16:09] I think we don't have interpretation at the
14 moment. Perhaps we have to start this thing anew and please give us a sign when
15 you're ready.

16 THE INTERPRETER: [10:16:18] Message from the English booth: We were not told
17 about any transcript, your Honour.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:16:26] Perhaps we -- do we have a transcript for
19 that?

20 MS DIMITRI: [10:16:31] Ah, that's the question. No, no. I'm sorry.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:16:36] No. So can you try a sight translation,
22 please?

23 THE INTERPRETER: [10:16:40] Message from the English booth: A sight
24 translation of the video on the screen you mean?

25 MS DIMITRI: [10:16:48] I'm sorry, it's because I don't hear the interpreter speaking,

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1 so I don't know what she's asking. I can --

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:16:52] The question is there was no -- I thought
3 there was no interpretation here for the video so ...

4 MS DIMITRI: [10:17:01] I can start over, Mr President. Unfortunately, there is no
5 transcript because it was recently disclosed. So if we could do -- I apologise. If we
6 could do with a sight -- it's not very long, and if we need to do it again just to make
7 sure we capture everything.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:17:26] Then simply -- no problem. Simply let's
9 start anew and let's hear what they are going to say. I assume that there will be a
10 translation into French and that's enough. Thank you.

11 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

12 THE INTERPRETER: [10:17:48] (Interpretation of the video excerpt)

13 "Yes, these are the people that are displaced from Mbata, the Muslims. Everyone
14 wants to go back to Chad because they don't want to stay here."

15 MS DIMITRI: [10:18:07] (Interpretation)

16 Q. [10:18:09] Did you recognise your car at the beginning of the video?

17 A. [10:18:13] Mm-hmm.

18 Q. [10:18:15] So we're talking about the refugees from Mbata here. We are
19 27 January, that's three days before the meeting, and before the departure of the
20 Seleka. Do you have any recollection of these refugees from Mbata in Mbaiki?

21 A. [10:18:47] I told you that the Muslims did not feel safe so they sought refuge
22 often at the mission because they didn't know where to go. They knew that the
23 mission was not against the Muslims. So as to whether it was a day before, a day
24 after, et cetera, well, I was everywhere. Why were we holding the meeting?

25 Because we realised that we had to come together in order to understand who wants

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1 what and what people want. So we felt that there were difficulties here and there
2 and that people needed to talk to the Seleka and to Mr Rombhot. He was the person
3 who represented the others. I believe that I have already said that the Anti-Balaka
4 wanted to come, even Mr Rombhot or his group wanted to come to Mbaiki. I
5 forbade him -- he should stay in Pissa. We don't want -- he listened to me and,
6 through my friend, I told him to stay in Pissa. Why come to Mbaiki in order for
7 there to be conflict and for the situation to worsen? So I said no.
8 So whether there were other situations that were difficult in Mbata, of course, that's
9 why we wanted to try and bring everyone who had responsibility together. So if
10 there are exactions here and there, we can't have control over that. There wasn't an
11 organisation against the Muslims. These were groups that were scattered and they
12 were -- without realising that killing a person is the worst thing. But put yourself in
13 the heads of those people, those young people. Maybe it was enough just to give
14 them something and then they would go and kill. Imagine when Bozize -- just to
15 understand how things -- you want to go back to Bangui, they went via la Lobaye in
16 order to go to Bangui. We would ask the young people, well, you're running after,
17 but you don't have everything. And he would say, "No, when somebody dies, I'll
18 take his Kalashnikov". That's just to explain to you how the young people can be
19 manipulated, you know.

20 Q. [10:21:50] Just with regard once again to the video that we have just viewed,
21 were these *gris-gris* that the Muslim babies were wearing?

22 A. [10:22:04] These were amulets, you know, these are respected.

23 Q. [10:22:09] Last question on the subject: Do you know or do you recall whether
24 somebody from your mission, one of your coworkers, one of your intermediaries,
25 went to Mbata?

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1 A. [10:22:24] Well, there were the nuns in Mbata. Marie-Claire came from Mbata.
2 I saw her there at the Mbaiki presbytery, but she lived in Mbata. So not particularly,
3 now ...

4 Q. [10:22:43] I'm going to be changing topic again.

5 A. [10:22:52] In Mbata there is a parish, so there's a father there. I don't know who
6 it was at the time because they change, obviously. I might need to think about that,
7 but it wasn't necessary for somebody -- we could communicate in some way or
8 another, you know, to find out what was going on in the various locations.

9 Q. [10:23:17] I'm changing topics and I'm coming to the end.
10 During your journeys to Boda, I understood that you were the first person to go to
11 Boda and then you asked the Sangaris, who went to Boda. You went to Boda -- you
12 went back to Boda with the *préfet*. Now, on your various journeys to Boda and
13 coming back to Mbaiki, did you transport anyone to Mbaiki?

14 A. [10:23:50] Yes. When we got to Boboua, I believe he was waiting for me.
15 Those who had seen me before, asking me for help, it was normal that a few days
16 later they were still there. They wanted me -- wanted to contact me without me
17 going by. So they came out once again and there were people, the Chadians had
18 already -- well, it was an established fact, the people were going to Mbaiki with a
19 view to leaving. So what had happened, I believe that they had already gone to
20 Mbaiki, the Muslims. So I was told that there is a Muslim who was in Mbaiki, he left
21 his wife and children, his family, and he went to Boboua in order to pick up
22 something that he had forgotten. So he found himself there and how can he get back
23 to his family? I knew that it was difficult. * There was an anti-Muslim sentiment
24 generally, because it wasn't under control. You know, with every roadblock, that's
25 how the road was being cut off and that's how -- so the car could be searched. He

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1 asked me for help and he said there's a gentleman here, wants to go back to Mbaiki to
2 join his family. I said, "Don't say anything" and I took him in my car, and as my car
3 was known to others, at the roadblock there were children running to open the
4 roadblock and I drove through. And I took him to Mbaiki. I took him. He knew
5 the family of Djido, of the deputy mayor, and he told me this. I didn't have any idea
6 where he was wanting to go. He said "I want to go to that very house."

7 So I was next to the mosque, and if you leave from the mission, from the cathedral,
8 the first mosque that you come to - there's another one at the market - I left him there.
9 And that's it. I, you know, did him that favour because he was running the risk of
10 being recognised as a Muslim. So there was that, that fear.

11 I don't know if I've answered your question.

12 Q. [10:26:53] Indeed. So you left him at deputy mayor's house, Djido Saleh?

13 A. [10:27:03] He didn't go into the house. You know, he just said "I want to go
14 there" and this was something that I needed to do in a discreet manner.

15 Q. [10:27:18] Now, you talked to us about the fact that Lobaye and Mbaiki did not
16 suffer the same fate as other locations. I would like to know about the death of
17 Djido Saleh.

18 A. [10:28:16] Well, what I can say about that is that when he was killed, I heard
19 about it. It's a shame because he was killed in front of the gendarmerie and no one
20 moved. I believe he was trying to alert the *préfet* because there were these
21 Anti-Balaka louts around. I can't imagine that it was something that was organised
22 because -- on the part of Rombhot because it's absurd. They had kept their word, the
23 Anti-Balaka officials, if you like. So the others were people who wouldn't listen to
24 anyone at all, who had their plans in their head. They wanted to wreak revenge.
25 I don't know quite how.

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1 So what I can say is that the wife of Djido, as soon as he was killed, was taken to the
2 mission by this gentleman. They must have known each other or he was at the
3 house. So they managed to flee with his children to the mission. So at the mission
4 we gave them shelter, and then after that, there were groups that came and passed
5 themselves off as people who wanted to help, but we were -- we were suspicious of
6 them. We thought they might want to carrying on massacring the family so we said,
7 "Oh, they might have fled down that way". And down the hill there is a convent and
8 I said maybe they might have fled down that way. So we, you know, gave them
9 false directions. And afterwards, the next day, we told the MISCA to come and get
10 them and to take them to Bangui. And that's how we saved them. But as to the
11 details of how it happened, we just heard what had happened. * I believe that even
12 his wife, she ran away because when her husband was killed, the head had been cut
13 off So, you know, of course they were going to carry on killing the family. But
14 happily we were able to save them and the MISCA came the next day to pick them up
15 at the mission.

16 Q. [10:31:12] When you say - this is a clarification - you were warned by this
17 gentleman, are you talking about the gentleman that you took when you returned
18 from Boda to Mbaiki?

19 A. [10:31:28] This gentleman came and protected the woman of Djido and took
20 them to the mission. They slept at the mission. But it was in complete secrecy
21 because we didn't know who was doing what and when. So that's why a group
22 came, I don't know, some people came, they were looking in order, in inverted
23 commas, to help them. And I said, "they haven't come this way."

24 Q. [10:32:18] You said they passed by the gendarmerie and that no one in the
25 gendarmerie did anything. Why? Why did the gendarmerie not defend them?

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1 A. [10:32:43] You have to ask them. I don't know. They didn't pass by. They
2 came and they were killed there. That's what I was told. I didn't see it myself. I
3 can't -- I can't be a witness to that.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:33:01] Well, I understand, Ms Dimitri, that you
5 ask these questions, but the witness is not an eyewitness, so I think you can move on.

6 MS DIMITRI: [10:33:18](Interpretation)

7 Q. [10:33:19] Monsignor, you talk about the people in Mbaiki who say *lawwa lawwa*,
8 who wanted revenge, you talked about that yesterday. People -- was there a feeling
9 or a desire for revenge as you understand the situation?

10 A. [10:33:42] I said that because it was in the air, but it wasn't a particular person
11 who said *lawwa lawwa*, no. It was just like that. It was an expression we used a bit like
12 that. And even before.

13 Q. [10:34:02] And do you know the expression "*popolo bue*".

14 A. [10:34:08] That's an Italian expression. Of course. "*Popolo bue*" means the
15 mass. It's the general meaning of that. I don't know how they could use that
16 expression. It's an expression we use in Italy, not necessarily in Africa.

17 Q. [10:34:32] And when you talk about this feeling --

18 A. [10:34:45] It's the same story again. What happened, I don't know.

19 Q. [10:34:54] Thank you very much. It's my last question. You will now move
20 on to the Prosecution and then the counsel for the victims. But as far as I'm
21 concerned, I've finished. I'd like to thank you on behalf of the entire team for your
22 time, for having come here and also for your understanding.

23 A. [10:35:18] Yes, I have to come because I was there directly and indirectly.

24 We -- we're trying to be -- I'm trying to be the voice of those who were there and have
25 no voice.

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:35:39] Thank you, Ms Dimitri.

2 But first of course the question, Mr Knoops, do you have questions for the witness?

3 MR KNOOPS: [10:35:45] Mr President, upon reviewing the transcript of yesterday
4 we don't have questions for the witness. Thank you.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:35:51] Thank you.

6 Then it's the turn of the Prosecution. We could also have now a 10-minute break, if
7 you prefer that, or you can also start and -- you know, and perhaps continue at a
8 quarter to 11 and then until 12 o'clock, or how long it takes.

9 MR VANDERPUYE: [10:36:09] I'm at your disposal, Mr President. As you wish.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:36:14] Well, then we do it this way. Let's have
11 a 10-minute break and then we have a -- let's say, a 75-minute session.

12 THE COURT USHER: [10:36:21] All rise.

13 (Recess taken at 10.36 a.m.)

14 (Upon resuming in open session at 10.46 a.m.)

15 THE COURT USHER: [10:46:49] All rise.

16 Please be seated.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:47:10] So I give Mr Vanderpuye the floor for the
18 Prosecution.

19 MR VANDERPUYE: [10:47:17] Thank you, Mr President. Good morning again.
20 Good morning, everyone.

21 QUESTIONED BY MR VANDERPUYE:

22 Q. [10:47:29] Good morning, Mr Guerrino.

23 As you can tell, I speak English, so we're going through an interpreter. So just a
24 reminder to speak a little bit more slowly than you might normally. And also to give
25 some pauses between the questions that I ask and the answers that you give. On

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1 occasion I will try to follow you in French so that I can understand more clearly what
2 you're saying. And as everyone knows, I'm one of the biggest offenders in here in
3 failing to observe the pause, but I'll do my best and I'll ask you to try as well.

4 If there's anything that I ask you that's not clear to you, please do not hesitate to let
5 me know and I'll do my best to try and rephrase it in a way that we can better
6 understand one another.

7 And I plan to show you a certain number of videos and also some documents and ask
8 you questions about your views on these things and obviously your experience. If
9 there's anything that I ask you that's particularly emotionally difficult or causes you
10 concern, just let me know and I will ask the Presiding Judge if we need to take a break
11 for that permission. Is that okay?

12 A. [10:49:14] That's fine.

13 Q. [10:49:19] All right. Well, I'll just get started then.

14 As you've testified already, you've lived in the Central African Republic for a very
15 long time and in particular you lived in Mbaiki since around 1995; is that right?

16 A. [10:49:43] Yes. Before, I was in Boda. So I was already in the region, in
17 Lobaye.

18 Q. [10:49:57] And just so that I'm clear, how long did you live in Boda before
19 you -- before you started to live in Mbaiki?

20 A. [10:50:08] Less than two years. Less than two years.

21 Q. [10:50:20] And I think you mentioned that because of your position in the
22 church, you have known a fair number of significant people in the country, including
23 political leaders, politicians, deputies and so on; is that right?

24 A. [10:50:47] That's correct. I knew, what does that mean exactly? Met, perhaps.

25 Q. [10:51:02] I believe you mentioned Ange-Félix Patasse yesterday during your

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1 testimony; is that right?

2 A. [10:51:14] That is correct. I can explain it better to you, if you like. The
3 episcopal conference of Central Africa meets the president of the country two times
4 per year. No. Let me correct myself. Two times a year we have a general session,
5 we have that conference. And afterwards, the permanent council, which is held
6 between the two general sessions.

7 In January, the conference wishes the president a happy New Year and at the same
8 time meets the president in a private session where there are no journalists or others.
9 So all the presidents, I've met them all since I came to the Central African Republic
10 since 1975, 8 May 1975. In particular, since 1995 when I was elected as a bishop. So
11 from that moment onwards, we contacted more prominent figures more frequently
12 than I did previously.

13 I hope you've understood. I hope I've answered your question.

14 Q. [10:53:08] You most certainly have answered my question.

15 I take it that in that capacity you also have met president -- former president Bozize?

16 A. [10:53:26] Of course.

17 Q. [10:53:26] And having lived in the Central African Republic for as long as you
18 did, you are aware that President Bozize came to power in a coup d'état which ousted
19 President Ange-Félix Patasse in 2003, March 15, I believe; is that right?

20 A. [10:53:52] That's correct.

21 Q. [10:53:55] And I think when you were describing the circumstances of the Seleka
22 coup, you distinguished it from the coup that ushered in Bozize in saying that the
23 Seleka coup, after the coup, the Seleka went everywhere, whereas in Bozize's case he
24 took Bangui and that was it; is that right?

25 A. [10:54:31] I think there were two days of trouble in Bangui and then it was over.

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1 He took power, and afterwards the administration sorted out the country. But there
2 wasn't these militia who went throughout the entire country.

3 Q. [10:54:55] Okay. And are you aware that Bozize took power with the
4 assistance of fighters coming from Chad and Sudan?

5 A. [10:55:18] I can't confirm that.

6 Q. [10:55:20] Are you aware that the coup d'état which brought Bozize into power
7 was the subject matter of a case here at the ICC?

8 A. [10:55:38] It wasn't something that interested me, that type of thing.

9 Q. [10:55:52] Are you aware that Bozize's Kwa Na Kwa party was inaugurated in
10 Mbaiki in 2009?

11 A. [10:56:04] That's possible, yes.

12 Q. [10:56:17] Were you invited to the announcement of Bozize's Kwa Na Kwa party
13 in Mbaiki in 2009 as a person of some import in that community?

14 A. [10:56:46] I don't remember exactly. It might have been the case. Because in
15 cases like that, there are always invitations which you give to prominent individuals.
16 The headquarters were in Mbaiki, or it was. I don't know if it still exists, the
17 Kwa Na Kwa, as a political party.

18 Q. [10:57:20] Do you know if the political officials in Mbaiki with whom you had
19 relation or relationships were members of the Kwa Na Kwa party?

20 A. [10:57:37] These are questions of no interest to me. You know, you are -- you're
21 entitled to ask me these questions, but it wasn't something that was of interest to me.
22 I wanted to try and help and sort out injustices. I -- if I saw that something was
23 wrong, I tried with my authority to try and sort that out. According to me, they
24 might have been accused of witchcraft or whatever, but I wanted, for example, to
25 release prisoners, but that type of thing wasn't of interest to me.

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1 Now, if you would like to know, just to talk about Bozize, when Bozize came to
2 Mbaiki, he asked if he could stay with me at the secretariat. It was because of
3 reasons of security. Everybody thought that he was at SCAD or at the forestry, but
4 he was with me. But those were things that just happened like that. I tried to help.
5 I always tried to work with the authorities. But to say this party, that party, where
6 was -- who was what, no. He was the president. The president represents the
7 nation. Me, as a bishop, I had no alternative but to receive him as I ought to.
8 Is that what you wanted to know? I don't know.

9 Q. [10:59:44] It's a bit what I wanted to know, but I think what I really wanted to
10 know was -- now, obviously you have your domain, which is in the church, but you
11 were also dealing with people that were in the community, that had positions of
12 authority in the community, such as the gendarmerie, the *mairie*, the prefect,
13 *sous-préfet*, and those are political positions. So I guess what I wanted to know is
14 what is your understanding of the political positions of the people that you were
15 dealing with in the context of this crisis? But if you don't know, then that's -- that's
16 obviously fine. There's no problem with that.

17 Do you know if the *préfet* was a member of the KNK?

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:00:35] Ms Dimitri, you have a problem with
19 that.

20 MS DIMITRI: [11:00:39] No, no. It's just that at first I didn't know if we were still in
21 2003 or if we were the crisis 2013. But now I guess we're back --

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:00:51] Now -- now it's clear.

23 So, Mr Perin, you have heard the question. Do you have any knowledge about the
24 political affiliations of these, let's say, authorities you have dealt with and their
25 opinions, perhaps? Can you tell us something about that? But, as Mr Vanderpuye

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1 has put it, if you cannot do that, it's also fine.

2 THE WITNESS: [11:01:25](Interpretation) Well, specifically, it wasn't my problem.

3 I was working with people on site. Whether they be from one side or another, that

4 was not my concern. So I have nothing to say in this regard.

5 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:01:45]

6 Q. [11:01:46] Okay, that's no problem.

7 I think you mentioned a little bit earlier today that Mr Yekatom was elected at some

8 point. Did I hear you right?

9 A. [11:02:00] Yes, of course, of course. He was an MP. Is that anything new, the

10 fact that he was an MP? Of his location in Pissa, in the region of Pissa, with the

11 mayor Roger. I saw him.

12 Q. [11:02:20] The mayor Roger you're referring to is Roger Okoa-Penguia?

13 A. [11:02:28] The mayor of Pissa, the mayor of Pissa, yes.

14 Q. [11:02:32] Do you know when Mr Yekatom was elected?

15 A. [11:02:41] I have no idea.

16 Q. [11:02:46] When did you learn that he had been elected?

17 A. [11:02:54] Well, when people speak about MPs, I know that he was an MP.

18 There was a billboard coming into Lobaye with Yekatom on it.

19 So I shall repeat again, politics and such things was not of interest to me. It was

20 people that were of interest to me. So I might hear things, but then I forgot it quickly

21 because it wasn't my subject, if you like.

22 Q. [11:03:35] Okay. You mentioned yesterday that you only met Yekatom in

23 person for the first time in the meeting that you organised in January 2014. That's

24 right, is it?

25 A. [11:03:56] At the end of January, end of January, yes.

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1 Q. [11:04:03] And you hadn't met him in person before that at any point; is that
2 right?

3 A. [11:04:13] In order to prepare the meeting, it was my deputy Abbot Antaresé
4 with the *préfet*, because everyone had -- everyone with a position of responsibility was
5 concerned with this.

6 Q. [11:04:37] Had you heard of Mr Yekatom before your collaborators had contact
7 with him?

8 A. [11:04:59] I can't make that claim.

9 Q. [11:05:04] And you'd never spoken to him? Aside from not meeting to him
10 personally, you'd never actually spoken to him either before that meeting; is that
11 right?

12 A. [11:05:18] That is correct.

13 Q. [11:05:24] Do you know if Mr Yekatom had any connection to Mbaiki before you
14 met with him in January 2014? Family there, house there, property there, anything
15 like that, as far as you know?

16 A. [11:05:58] I know nothing about that.

17 Q. [11:06:00] Were you of the opinion that he could assist in the affairs of Mbaiki
18 when your collaborators contacted him and when you arranged to have him come?

19 A. [11:06:14] The problem was that we were talking about Anti-Balaka, so we knew
20 that he would know about this reality, about a reaction to the Seleka. So that's why
21 we thought, well, we'll get hold of the person who can explain this to us and see how
22 we can reach an agreement between the two sides.

23 I don't know if I'm answering the questions. Shall I repeat?

24 Q. [11:06:58] No, no. I will -- I'll ask you some follow-ups. Maybe that will make
25 it clearer for me. It's not you. It's me.

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1 You said the problem was about the Anti-Balaka. What was that problem?

2 A. [11:07:20] Well, as soon as the Seleka came, and came from Bria in the north, in
3 the north of Central Africa, that's in the Bambari diocese nowadays, there was a
4 self-defence situation that was called the Anti-Balaka, with a view to defending
5 themselves from those people who were coming, Seleka being an alliance with
6 Chadians, Sudanese and all of those that they met on the way. So it was
7 self-defence.

8 As I said yesterday, why did we set up the platform? Because we heard that they
9 were destroying things, they were burning down villages and schools, and they were
10 coming down to Bangui to take power. They were against those who were in power,
11 the power of Bozize. So "Anti-Balaka" was a name that was given -- "balaka" is a
12 machete, that was a name that was given to those who were the self-defence,
13 generally speaking.

14 Q. [11:08:53] Okay. That's helpful. But in your previous answer you said the
15 problem was the Anti-Balaka, we wanted to speak to somebody who could deal with
16 that problem.

17 So my question to you was, when you said the problem was there was the
18 Anti-Balaka, what problem were you talking about?

19 A. [11:09:18] That's not what I meant. The Anti-Balaka were not the problem.
20 But I just said that there were two sides. There were the Seleka on one side and the
21 others who were the self-defence. If we want to bring them together, well, you need
22 to see who is going to represent self-defence. And it was on that basis that I
23 discovered Rombhot. I didn't even know where he lived. He lived in Pissa, but I
24 didn't ever go to his house, I don't know it. I did not have any relations with him.
25 And when we said, well, let us put ourselves between those who want to defend the

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1 country and the Seleka who are people who hail from elsewhere and who want to
2 impose themselves, let us see how we can bring these people together. So we had to
3 target somebody for that person to be able to represent the possibility of dialogue and
4 reaching an agreement. You see?

5 Q. [11:10:31] I think I've got it now.

6 Let me ask this question: Why him? Why not somebody from Mbaiki? Why not
7 somebody from Boda? Why not somebody from any other place or someone else
8 besides him?

9 A. [11:11:00] I told you that I heard people speak about Mr Yekatom - what was his
10 name? Rombhot - as somebody who could represent this self-defence in some
11 manner. He had introduced himself as FACA or presented himself as FACA, as
12 FACA, as a corporal of the FACA who wanted to restore order, and he wanted for
13 there to be order.

14 So the defence was either defending the Seleka or the Muslims or the non-Muslims.
15 That was a known fact. He -- as soon as he spoke, as soon as he introduced
16 himself -- and I thought to myself, well, we can't count on you against the Muslims.
17 That's the sense. I don't know if that can be any clearer than that.

18 Q. [11:12:18] You mention -- and I'll come to the meeting in a little while, but you
19 mentioned, and I think Ms Dimitri asked you just recently, the expression "*lawwa lawwa*".
20 And I think you said yesterday that that was the expectation of the population when
21 they thought Mr Yekatom was going to come down to Mbaiki, and they were
22 disappointed because at the meeting you said he said that he would punish people
23 equally. Do I have that right?

24 A. [11:12:54] Yes. So, *lawwa lawwa* is something in language. We can't say that
25 everyone in the population was waiting for the moment to wreak revenge. That

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1 would be false. But this was an expression that we would hear from time to time.

2 The youth were either disappointed because they thought that in Yekatom they

3 would find a leader against the Muslims. Well, that's -- that's clear. Many people

4 can testify to that. Muslims can testify to that.

5 Have I answered?

6 Q. [11:13:59] You have.

7 Do you know why people believe that they could find a leader like him against the

8 Muslims and why they would expect that to be the case? Did you discuss that with

9 anyone?

10 A. [11:14:26] My aim was to avoid confrontation, so on that basis, and for the good

11 of the population, for the poor, for people who had nothing, so we thought how can

12 we bring these two sides together? And we thought that that was it. If people

13 thought that somebody could be their chief against the Muslims, no, we didn't talk

14 about that.

15 I understand that you want answers to your issues, but I don't see any -- we wanted

16 to work for people's good. We didn't want there to be war in Mbaiki, with people

17 coming to kill others. That was not a solution.

18 Q. [11:15:29] You mentioned not too long ago that Mr Yekatom wanted to come to

19 Mbaiki before, but you told him no.

20 A. [11:15:49] Yes, that is true. Not directly. But through what I heard that he

21 wanted to come, I said no.

22 Q. [11:16:01] Was that before the meeting in January?

23 A. [11:16:06] Of course.

24 Q. [11:16:10] And how long before the meeting in January was it?

25 A. [11:16:23] I can't be specific about that. It was from then that we thought that

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1 we could organise the meeting, because we thought that if one moment in time they
2 decide to come, what are they going to do? So we thought we need to prepare a
3 possibility for people to come together and talk and maybe that was the last reason
4 that gave us the impetus to prepare the meeting.

5 I live in Mbaiki, you know, I didn't want war to come to Mbaiki.

6 I don't know whether you understand me. I wanted there to be peace in Mbaiki, and
7 Mbaiki and in the rest of Lobaye, in the diocese.

8 Q. [11:17:32] So you told Mr Yekatom no because you were concerned that he was
9 going to bring war to Mbaiki; is that right?

10 A. [11:17:43] That might have been the fear. They're on the other side with those
11 in favour of self-defence, I imagined that that might be a possibility.

12 Well, can I put a question to you?

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:18:07] No, that is -- Mr Perin, you know, we
14 have in our systems where we were working in now, we have our roles, you know
15 that from the church. Well, in the courtroom there are witnesses who answer
16 questions and parties and judges who ask questions. So please bear with us.

17 THE WITNESS: (Overlapping speakers)

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:18:30] So you are in the uncomfortable role not
19 to ask the questions but to have to answer them, to put it this way.

20 Mr Vanderpuye, please continue.

21 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:18:45] Thank you, Mr President.

22 THE INTERPRETER: [11:18:47] The witness says: "Very well. I do apologise."

23 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:18:49]

24 Q. [11:18:50] No, there's no need to apologise. It's just how our system works, as
25 Mr President says.

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1 But you said that it might have been a concern that he might bring war to Mbaiki.

2 But you're the one who said no, indirectly as it may be. So what was your reason for
3 saying no? In fact, was it the concern that he would bring war to Mbaiki?

4 A. [11:19:28] My preoccupation was to avoid war and confrontation amongst the
5 Muslim and non-Muslim communities. We were making sure that this wouldn't
6 happen. It was preventative. So when we heard that in the hinterland that there
7 were Anti-Balakas here, there and everywhere, we thought no, we want to prevent
8 that.

9 We thought to ourselves at the time that we would convene a meeting with those who
10 were allegedly on the other side from the Seleka. And then, as you heard, the Seleka
11 left the day before, so we weren't able to meet them. But we could hear what the
12 others had to say, what their intentions were, and we understood that their intentions
13 were not to wreak revenge but to also reach an agreement.
14 That's what I think.

15 Q. [11:20:46] Okay. That's very helpful.

16 Now you mentioned that you had some people get in contact with Mr Yekatom in
17 Pissa and that's before the meeting, in order to arrange the meeting for him to come at
18 the end of January. And did they brief you on what that discussion was that they
19 had with him in Pissa at that time?

20 Do you know what they -- what they exchanged?

21 A. [11:21:37] I had sent Abbot Antaresse and I believe that he went with the *préfet*,
22 but it was just with a view to saying we need to find a location to gather, come
23 together and see what we can do in order to avoid being taken short by events, and
24 then it would be too late. So I said we wanted to organise the meeting in
25 Oubangui -- in Bangui, in Bangui with President Boganda.

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1 But then I thought, no, I don't want everyone to have to travel there, so it would be
2 better -- and we also needed to be careful and not let ourselves get into a situation that
3 was no longer in our control. So I thought that if people came to a neutral location,
4 which would be the mission, then we would be able also to have more representatives;
5 otherwise, they would have had to travel, and by what means?

6 I don't know whether I've answered your question or not.

7 They went, and the aim was to decide upon convening the meeting. There was no
8 other reason for going.

9 Q. [11:23:16] Aside from knowing that Mr Yekatom was in Pissa at that time, were
10 you aware of how it is that he came to be there, how is it that he got to Pissa, where he
11 was before he arrived in Pissa?

12 A. [11:23:38] I told you that I saw Mr Yekatom for the first time in Mbaiki, so I
13 never followed what he did before or even afterwards. That was not my concern.

14 Q. [11:23:56] That may be, but you knew that he was in Pissa before you saw him
15 in Mbaiki, right?

16 A. [11:24:07] Well, yes, I was told and what is more, he must hail from somewhere
17 around there. I don't know. As I said to you yesterday, if you listened carefully, I
18 saw him on one occasion subsequently and I didn't recognise him. He had a beard.
19 I didn't recognise him. Really, that was at the time when he was also already an MP.
20 I asked the mayor, Roger, "That gentleman next to you" in a ceremony, in a religious
21 ceremony - we were at mass for somebody's birthday, and then afterwards we went
22 to have a meal together after mass - and he -- he virtually said nothing at all.

23 But Mr Roger said to me, "You know who it is, that's him, that's Rombhot." And
24 afterwards we had dinner. It was lunchtime, and that's it. And then after that,
25 I was no longer in any way interested in that gentleman. He is not of interest to me.

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1 Q. [11:25:31] All right. What I'm getting at is, I'd like to know what you knew
2 about him before you asked him to come to Mbaiki. So let me put it this way: You
3 don't know about him being in Boeing, in Bangui, in Cattin, PK9, in Zila, Bimon, Sekia,
4 Ndagala, Kapou, Kalangoi, you don't know any of that before you contacted him
5 indirectly in Pissa; is that right?

6 A. [11:26:21] I know all of those locations, but as to making a nexus with him, well,
7 that was of no concern to me. Maybe listening -- maybe we targeted Rambo for him
8 to come and attend the meeting, but as to what he did, how he behaved, that was of
9 no concern to me.

10 Q. [11:26:54] And let me just ask one other thing since you might know. Do you
11 know if there were Muslims living in those areas and if those Muslims travelled down
12 to Mbaiki to be safe, like some of the other ones you mentioned during your
13 testimony yesterday and today?
14 Did they end up in Mbaiki?

15 A. [11:27:20] All of those areas are in Bangui, so do you think that they're going to
16 come from Bangui to be in Mbaiki -- to Mbaiki in search of safety?

17 Q. [11:27:32] Let me -- let me, let me just stop you right there.

18 A. [11:27:33] Answer me.

19 Q. [11:27:36] Do you know where Kapou is?

20 A. [11:27:41] *Oui*.

21 Q. [11:27:42] It's in Lobaye, right?

22 A. [11:27:47] Yes, yes.

23 Q. [11:27:48] Do you know where Sekia is?

24 A. [11:27:49] Yes.

25 Q. [11:27:50] That's in Lobaye too, isn't it?

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1 A. [11:27:51] Yes.

2 Q. [11:27:51] Ndagala?

3 A. [11:27:52] Ndala, Ndala.

4 Q. [11:27:53] That's in Lobaye?

5 A. [11:27:54] *Oui*.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:27:55] Mr Vanderpuye, may I.

7 So there are obviously, Mr Perin, some of the locations Mr Vanderpuye mentioned are
8 in the Lobaye region and Mr Vanderpuye wants to know if Muslims from these
9 locations in the Lobaye also fled to Mbaiki, if you have knowledge about that. That
10 is the question and perhaps you can provide us with an answer.

11 THE WITNESS: [11:28:34](Interpretation) I know that there were mosques that were
12 vandalised, that was between Mbaiki and Bangui. That's on the tarmac road. But
13 under what circumstances, how, who was there, I have no idea. No idea about that.
14 I know people would talk and we would hear what people said, but to give you
15 specific information as to how things unfolded, who was doing what, I -- I can't tell
16 you. I do apologise.

17 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:29:17]

18 Q. [11:29:17] There's no need to apologise. That's just how things are in the
19 courtroom. So don't worry about that.

20 You mentioned a little bit earlier today that when you saw Mr Yekatom he was with a
21 handful of people. Did you have any idea before you met him about the number of
22 elements there were in his group or under his control, whether in Mbaiki or any place
23 else? Did you have any idea about that number?

24 A. [11:29:53] Before meeting him, no, not at all.

25 Q. [11:29:59] What about after meeting him, did he ever tell you how many men he

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1 had under his control or at his disposal?

2 A. [11:30:10] I never heard how many they were. And if my memory serves me
3 correctly, he didn't introduce himself as an Anti-Balaka, as somebody on the side of
4 the Anti-Balaka. So, well, it was of no interest to me to know who did what. We
5 just needed to bring people together for the general interest to be greater than the
6 personal interest.

7 Q. [11:30:56] Did you ever hear -- or rather -- yeah, did you ever hear that he had
8 said that he had over 3,000 elements at his disposal?

9 A. [11:31:18] I have no idea about that.

10 Q. [11:31:22] And seeing as you were living in Mbaiki before Mr Yekatom arrived,
11 how many Seleka would you say were in Mbaiki?

12 A. [11:31:41] I can't tell you. It was really nothing to do with me and therefore I
13 wasn't really interested in finding out. I wanted to bring about an agreement, an
14 understanding. I didn't want reprisal and revenge and possible clashes, so how
15 many there were wasn't something that concerned me. And on top of that, on top of
16 that, I was always working with others. I was never the first one to find out what
17 actions -- I was concerned about what actions we as a church could do for the
18 well-being of everyone. How many there were, et cetera, wasn't something that
19 concerned me.

20 Q. [11:32:40] After you had organised the meeting and Mr Yekatom had agreed to
21 come down to Mbaiki, if I've understood you correctly, the Seleka left before he could
22 get there in the middle of the night; is that right?

23 A. [11:33:04] Yes, they left. They received their orders, I don't know who gave it
24 to them, the commanders, the organisation, and Mr Adam, the colonel, during the
25 night contacted my deputy Abbot Antaresse to say that he thanked us and he said we

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1 had a good understanding, and they knew that we were trying to do the best for
2 everyone. And, again, the platform recognised the two parties, the Seleka, Adam,
3 and Mr Rambo - that's how we called him - in order to avoid possible clashes. That
4 was acknowledged. So we contacted those who were part of the platform. If you
5 want to know more.

6 Q. [11:34:13] No, I just wanted to know what you know about the Seleka leaving in
7 the middle of the night before an event that you had organised in order to bring peace
8 to Mbaiki. But I understand from what your testimony is, that other than a call to
9 the abbé, you really don't know why they left, you don't know what the order was; is
10 that right?

11 MS DIMITRI: [11:34:38] Mr President.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:34:40] Ms Dimitri.

13 MS DIMITRI: [11:34:42] Counsel is mischaracterising the evidence. There
14 was -- Mr Witness testified on the specificity of what was said during that phone
15 conversation and the reason why he left and why he received an order from whom to
16 go where regarding --

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:35:03] Yeah, but, but -- yes, but the question
18 still -- still, I think, the question is absolutely not objectionable.

19 You don't have further details, further knowledge on why the Seleka left during that
20 might, what these orders were?

21 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:35:31]

22 Q. [11:35:32] No, I take it?

23 A. [11:35:34] So those who had to go, had to gather in the north. But I don't know
24 anything more than that. But also I want to say it was in order to avoid war. The
25 meeting that we carried out was to avoid, to prevent, so that there would be peace,

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1 because there was peace before. We didn't want any confrontation. That was what
2 was different.

3 Q. [11:36:07] No, that's very clear, and I appreciate your elaboration on that.

4 Now, you said that when Mr Yekatom arrived for the purposes of the meeting, he
5 came with a handful of people that you said before.

6 Do you know if there were other people that he came with that didn't come to the
7 meeting? In other words, do you know if his men deployed to other parts of
8 Mbaiki?

9 A. [11:36:46] I have no idea.

10 Q. [11:36:50] You don't know on that day or the subsequent days whether other of
11 Mr Yekatom's men arrived to Mbaiki; should I understand that correctly?

12 A. [11:37:08] That is correct. In order to be a mediator, you mustn't side with one
13 party or another. And I wasn't interested in that and that's why I wanted to have the
14 trust of both sides.

15 It was -- my life was also in danger if I would side with one side or another, to a
16 certain extent.

17 In these situations of total insecurity, and I repeat, we stayed two months in the
18 mission because there was no safety. We didn't know who was doing what. They
19 stole the cars from the mission. So we were inside. For me, I was there to try and
20 bring about commonsense and defend everybody's interests.

21 Q. [11:38:21] Okay, Mr Perin. So, just so that I'm clear, you don't know if
22 Mr Yekatom arrived with other people than the six or seven people that you saw him
23 with at the church on that day and you don't know whether any other members of his
24 group arrived to Mbaiki at any point after that; is that right?

25 A. [11:38:49] That is correct.

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1 Q. [11:38:58] Okay. Do you know if the Anti-Balaka were billeted anywhere near
2 the town hall at Mbaiki after that meeting?

3 A. [11:39:16] No idea.

4 Q. [11:39:20] Do you know if they had a base at the Socatel building?

5 A. [11:39:32] I've told you, for all this type of question, it wasn't something I was
6 interested in. It was of no concern to me, so it's pointless in asking me if I know this
7 or that.

8 I respect your questions, but it was of no concern to me. I wasn't interested to find
9 out. All I wanted is that the two parties come together, otherwise, we couldn't have
10 peace. There was revenge and clashes, et cetera. What I was interested in -- the
11 details, how many et cetera, wasn't something that was of interest to me.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:40:27] Mr Perin, well, you have explained that
13 you think that these type of questions don't make sense, but you have to understand
14 also Prosecutor. You were there, you know the region, so this is the background of
15 his questions. So, I don't know, but there might be others where you give the same
16 answer, but, still, Mr Vanderpuye is absolutely entitled to ask these questions.

17 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:40:57] Thank you, Mr President.

18 Q. [11:41:00] Mr Perin, where is the Socatel -- how far is the Socatel building from
19 the St Jeanne d'Arc church, if you know?

20 A. [11:41:20] Socatel is about 3 kilometres down from the centre of Mbaiki.

21 Q. [11:41:32] Maybe it's a translation issue. How far is it from the church?

22 A. [11:41:51] Perhaps 5 kilometres. If I think about it, it is in the centre of Mbaiki.

23 Q. [11:41:59] It's not you, it's the translation. What was said was that you said that
24 it was 3 kilometres from the centre of Mbaiki, which is not what you said, it
25 was -- you said it was 3 kilometres from the church?

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1 A. [11:42:13] From the cathedral where I was living, where I was living.

2 Q. [11:42:19] Yes. So that's the reason why I asked the question again. You
3 know, as I said, we're speaking different languages and we're going through
4 interpreters.

5 So, can you tell us how far is the neighbourhood of Baguirmi from the church?

6 A. [11:42:39] Baguirmi, if you say the church, the cathedral where I live, Baguirmi
7 is perhaps 2 kilometres away. I don't know. It is one of the first neighbourhoods
8 before reaching the centre of Mbaiki.

9 Q. [11:43:12] And what about the neighbourhood of Demo, how far is that from the
10 cathedral?

11 A. [11:43:27] I don't know. I think it's before -- Demo, et cetera. But here as
12 regards the names, the neighbourhoods, it's something that I wasn't particularly
13 interested in. Now, to ask me -- I respect your questions. As the Presiding Judge
14 has said, I respect that you ask me these questions, but I don't know how I can assist
15 you in this matter, you know, the distance, et cetera.

16 Q. [11:44:13] No, that is of assistance. It is of assistance to know how far things
17 are apart, where the cathedral is compared to the centre of the town and where these
18 locations are. So you're being very helpful. It may not feel like it, but you are, so
19 don't worry about that.

20 There's a video I'd like to show you now. I have it at tab 10, CAR-OTP-2118-0415.

21 The transcript is at CAR-OTP-21 -- I'm sorry, tab 12, CAR-OTP-2127-4357. The
22 transcript reference should be at page 4376 for the interpreters, lines 684 through 699,
23 and the timestamp of the video should play from 53:30 to 54:43. So if you can let me
24 know in the booth when we can play it, that would be helpful.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:45:28] And perhaps, Mr Vanderpuye, you can

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1 tell us when this video footage was taken, if you have the information.

2 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:45:36] I don't have it to hand, but I believe it's from 2016.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:45:43] 2016, okay.

4 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:45:43] Yes.

5 THE INTERPRETER: [11:45:44] The booth has it on screen.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:45:46] I think you can play it now.

7 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

8 THE INTERPRETER: [11:45:54] (Interpretation of the video excerpt)

9 "Again underway, this time we're heading to Mbaiki, about 120 kilometre from
10 Bangui. We're going to meet one of the Anti-Balaka leaders who is most well known,
11 Alfred Yekatom Rambo, better known as General Rambo.

12 Yes, I am *Caporal-chef* Yekatom Rambo Alfred, head of the Anti-Balaka movement of
13 the south. I think we've come because the Seleka have come to build a country and
14 they are mercenaries, and they have killed the people. There's been a lot of pillages
15 everywhere. I left to Zongo and there I had the idea -- yes, what are we going to do
16 there, what are they going to do in our country? That's when I created the
17 Anti-Balaka movement in order to chase out these mercenaries who've come to
18 destroy our country.

19 These men leave to kill the Muslim mercenaries, as they are called. However, today
20 they explained to me, today they have decided not to show their weapons because
21 they want to show themselves as people of peace for the public opinion."

22 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:47:12]

23 Q. [11:47:13] Okay. We've stopped the video now at 54:43.

24 Obviously you can see that this is Mr Yekatom on the screen and who was speaking
25 in this video. First of all, do you recognise the building that he's standing in front of?

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1 If you don't, that's okay.

2 A. [11:47:44] I don't remember this location. I can't tell you exactly.

3 Q. [11:47:54] In this video, he represents himself as the (Interpretation) head of the
4 Anti-Balaka movement of the south.

5 (Speaks English) During the course of the meeting that you had with him in
6 January 2014, did he ever represent himself as the *chef de mouvement Anti-Balaka de*
7 *zone sud*?

8 A. [11:48:29] You heard me say that I do not know and I can only repeat what he
9 said when he introduced himself: "I am FACA. I am *caporal* of FACA and I am here
10 to try and establish order, to restore peace, et cetera".

11 Q. [11:48:55] Did anyone else that took part in setting up the meeting or
12 participating in the meeting ever tell you that he had represented himself as an
13 Anti-Balaka leader?

14 A. [11:49:23] I can only tell you what he said at the meeting himself. That's what
15 he said in the meeting. He didn't say anything to me in private. He said that before
16 everyone. As far as the rest is concerned, I wasn't interested. The mere fact that we
17 invited him shows that in one way or another we knew that he could represent the
18 Anti-Balaka, the self-proclaimed defence that were against, just like the Seleka.
19 That's what I've already said. I've repeated this on several occasions already. As
20 far as the rest is concerned, I can't say much.

21 Q. [11:50:03] Okay. So you understood when you invited him for the meeting that
22 he was a leader in the Anti-Balaka movement?

23 A. [11:50:16] I understood that he could represent the side against the Seleka so
24 that we -- so that -- we wanted to have them come together. We needed to have
25 someone and that name came up, and we said okay, I told my deputy, the *préfet*

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1 knows better than I do, go and find out who he is, meet him. And the mere fact that
2 he mustn't come to Mbaiki presupposed that I saw him because of what I had heard,
3 that he could represent, he had a certain degree of authority representing the
4 Anti-Balaka.

5 Q. [11:51:06] I understand that, but what I'm asking -- and the reason why I'm
6 asking you is because when you were asked during direct examination you said that
7 he said that he was a FACA and you said that that suggested to you that he was
8 neither for one side or the other. So I'm asking you now if he said during the
9 meeting that he was a chief of the Anti-Balaka movement, if he said those words?
10 Do you remember?

11 MS DIMITRI: [11:51:41] Mr President.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:51:44] Ms Dimitri, the witness has answered this
13 question, indeed, so -- I understand you don't remember that these words have been
14 spoken, that's our understanding from your testimony. Is that understanding
15 correct?

16 THE WITNESS: [11:52:01](Interpretation) Absolutely. He said "I am FACA. I'm
17 *caporal* of FACA". That's what I understood.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:52:11] Mr Vanderpuye, I think you can move on.

19 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:52:14] Yes, thank you, Mr President.

20 Q. [11:52:19] Let me ask you about this meeting then at the church. Now, you did
21 mention that Mr Yekatom got up and spoke and talked about what he said. Do you
22 remember if you spoke?

23 A. [11:52:44] I'm sure I spoke. Now, the crux of my intervention is that what
24 you've said there, that you say this to all the people so that they know, and it was
25 important to stress that he wasn't on one side rather than the other. That was what

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1 was behind it. After the meeting, he spoke to the crowd who were in front of the
2 town hall, "So if somebody attacks a Muslim, I'll kill them, and if it's the other way
3 around, I'll kill him". What does that mean? What does that tell you, if I ask that
4 question? It means he came to avoid any potential confrontation.

5 Q. [11:53:41] But he didn't mention that he was the Anti-Balaka chief and nor did
6 you during that meeting?

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:53:48] Mr Vanderpuye, this -- the witness has
8 answered that. So --

9 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:53:53]

10 Q. [11:53:54] Let me ask you this, sir. Do you remember what you said,
11 not *le sens que*, but what you said, the words you spoke?

12 A. [11:54:06] No, I don't have a particular idea. I presided, I chaired. The abbot
13 Antaresse who was there as well, I sort of gave people the floor. The aim of the
14 meeting was to talk to find an agreement so that we could take a joint decision.

15 Q. [11:54:28] Did any of the -- did any other participants speak?

16 A. [11:54:40] I'm sure there must have been others who spoke, yes. If you're going
17 to ask me what they said, I can't answer that, I'm sorry, no, I can't.

18 Q. [11:54:51] Do you remember who spoke, irrespective of what they said?

19 A. [11:54:59] I think there must have been an imam who spoke. I mean, I wasn't
20 concentrated on that. I don't know. Everybody could speak and what they said,
21 et cetera --

22 Q. [11:55:17] It was a long time ago, so don't worry. If you don't remember, you
23 don't remember.

24 How long was the meeting?

25 A. [11:55:27] It didn't last very long. It wasn't so long.

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1 Q. [11:55:31] Certainly shorter than your testimony. So can you estimate an hour,
2 two hours? 15 minutes? 20 minutes? Anything like that?

3 A. [11:55:49] Perhaps an hour, maybe not even that.

4 Q. [11:55:55] Okay. I'd like to show you some photographs.

5 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:55:58] We're okay for time, aren't we, Mr President?

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:56:09] We have two or three minutes because we
7 really have to stop exactly at 12. I don't know. If this is a new line of questioning, I
8 would suggest that we --

9 MR VANDERPUYE: [11:56:17] It's still on the meeting, but there are a number of
10 photographs I want to show.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:56:22] Exactly, I think so, so you won't be able to
12 do that in two or three minutes, I would say. I simply assume.

13 So because of that, we have now, for the reasons I have explained, extended lunch
14 break until 2:30.

15 THE COURT USHER: [11:56:38] All rise.

16 (Recess taken at 11.56 a.m.)

17 (Upon resuming in open session at 2.33 p.m.)

18 THE COURT USHER: [14:33:07] All rise.

19 Please be seated.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:33:29] Mr Vanderpuye, you still have the floor.

21 MR VANDERPUYE: [14:33:33] Thank you, Mr President.

22 Just to let you know, I'm not going as fast as I had hoped I would go. But I'll
23 still -- I'll still make my best effort to --

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:33:44] Well, we don't force anything. We have
25 to stop at 4 o'clock and, if need be, we need the first session tomorrow.

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- 1 MR VANDERPUYE: [14:33:52] Thanks, Mr President.
- 2 Q. [14:33:53] Good afternoon, Mr Perin.
- 3 A. [14:33:54] (Overlapping speakers)
- 4 Q. [14:33:55] Just when we left off, I was about to show you a series of photographs
- 5 from the meeting in January, I believe they were. So I'd just like you to take
- 6 a few -- look at a few and I'll ask you some questions about them if I can.
- 7 The first one is at Defence tab 6, CAR-OTP -- sorry, CAR-D29-0010-0165.
- 8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:34:37] It's already on the screen.
- 9 MR VANDERPUYE: [14:34:39] Oh, sorry. Okay. Thank you, Mr President.
- 10 Q. [14:34:41] Can you see the photograph okay, Mr Perin?
- 11 A. [14:34:50] Yes, I see the photo.
- 12 Q. [14:34:53] Very good. You saw this one I think a little bit earlier, and you can
- 13 see Mr Yekatom standing up in the middle of the screen there. I wanted to ask you
- 14 about the three men dressed in a -- looks like a Muslim attire in the foreground. Do
- 15 you recognise them? Do you know their names?
- 16 A. [14:35:25] No. No, no.
- 17 Q. [14:35:33] These were people that were invited to the meeting, I take it, to
- 18 represent the Muslim community?
- 19 A. [14:35:43] Yes, that's it. That's true.
- 20 Q. [14:35:49] But you don't recall their names, is that it?
- 21 A. [14:35:58] I can't say. Perhaps my collaborators, but not me.
- 22 Q. [14:36:06] And I notice in this photograph there are a number of people with
- 23 paper and pen on the desks. Do you know why they -- why they had these papers
- 24 and pens on the desk during the course of this meeting?
- 25 A. [14:36:29] I suppose it was to take notes.

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1 Q. [14:36:33] Did you see people taking notes? Do you have that recollection?

2 A. [14:36:46] Not particularly.

3 Q. [14:36:57] Okay. Let me show you Defence tab 9, CAR-D29-0010-0168.

4 I see it's on the screen already.

5 Are you able to see that, Mr Perin?

6 A. [14:37:22] Yes, I see it.

7 Q. [14:37:26] And these two men in military uniform in the front, are these -- to
8 your recollection, are these men that were -- that came together with Mr Yekatom?

9 A. [14:37:45] I believe so.

10 Q. [14:37:50] The individual on the left I believe is an individual named
11 Habib Beina. Did anybody by that name introduce themselves to you or was that
12 such a person introduced to you on that day, if you can recall?

13 A. [14:38:20] I have no recollection about that. I do not remember.

14 Q. [14:38:23] Do you recall the name of any of the -- any of the people that came
15 with Mr Yekatom to the meeting among his group, any of the deputies or bodyguards
16 I think you referred to previously?

17 A. [14:38:47] I did not contact anyone, apart from Yekatom.

18 Q. [14:38:57] Okay, that -- I just want to make sure I've understood properly
19 the translation. You say you did not contact anyone or you did not come into
20 contact with anyone, except for Mr Yekatom?

21 A. [14:39:16] I am talking about those around him. He came with people, those
22 who do not have any paper to write on. When you hold a meeting, everyone gets
23 paper so that people can take notes. That's what we usually do. So they came in,
24 but I didn't take care of his bodyguards. So I did not talk to any of them when I
25 asked something, no. We had invited Mr Yekatom, and he is the one we wanted to

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1 listen to and we wanted to say things to him.

2 Q. [14:40:12] Okay. So what I mean by that is he didn't say, for example, "This is
3 my deputy X, this is my deputy Y" or anything like that when he came into
4 the meeting? He just walked in and they sat down where they sat down; is that it?

5 A. [14:40:27] Yes. I think that those who were invited are the ones who
6 introduced themselves, but I do not especially remember that.

7 Q. [14:40:38] Okay. Thank you very much for that clarification.

8 Let me show you tab number 10, Defence tab 10, I'm sorry. CAR-D29-0010-0169.

9 Just before I ask you about this, on the last photograph, Mr Yekatom's men, you could
10 see them in the front, did they speak during the course of the meeting, if you have
11 any recollection of that?

12 A. [14:41:13] I do not believe so.

13 Q. [14:41:17] Okay, that's helpful. And now in this photograph we see two men in
14 white shirts in the foreground and they appear to be taking notes as well. Do you
15 know who they are?

16 A. [14:41:36] I do not remember. I could not say.

17 Q. [14:41:44] Okay. Let me show you Defence tab number 19. That's
18 CAR-D29-0010-0178.

19 Are you able to see the photograph, Mr Perin?

20 A. [14:42:20] Yes.

21 Q. [14:42:22] So that's you on the left, right?

22 A. [14:42:27] Yes, with my vicar beside me.

23 Q. [14:42:34] Okay. And that's Mr Mozanga?

24 A. [14:42:40] Yes, Maximin.

25 Q. [14:42:50] Maximin.

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1 And the individual on the right, that is closest by the window on the right, is that
2 Mayor Roger?

3 A. [14:43:03] I believe so.

4 Q. [14:43:11] Roger Okoa-Penguia, that we discussed before, right?

5 A. [14:43:25] Yes, I think so.

6 Q. [14:43:26] And the individual in the foreground is one of the individuals that
7 came with Mr Yekatom, right?

8 A. [14:43:41] I think this is Mr Yekatom, no?

9 Q. [14:43:45] It's close. It's Habib Beina. But, indeed, it's one of the people that is
10 at least associated with Mr Yekatom.

11 A. [14:43:57] (Overlapping speakers)

12 Q. [14:43:58] Yeah, It's not very clear for you. I understand.

13 A. [14:43:59] The photo was a bit like this.

14 Q. [14:44:05] Understood.

15 Do you remember if Mayor Roger Okoa-Penguia spoke during this meeting?

16 A. [14:44:17] In general, I can say that I do not remember the interventions, what
17 they would have said. So, I suppose that he did say something. He came, as
18 the others did. What was important was to know what Mr Yekatom was thinking,
19 because there was a meeting that had been planned with the Seleka, that is a very
20 important element, and they were not there.

21 So, we were there, because the idea was that Yekatom should meet with them. So
22 they were not there. We wanted to know what the feelings were of those we had
23 invited. As we had said earlier, we thought that they were the representatives of
24 the Anti-Balaka, because we had invited the Anti-Balaka and the Seleka, and being in
25 the presence of only one of the parties, but the idea was to hear everyone and

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1 everyone wanted to know how the Anti-Balaka felt about the fact that the Seleka had
2 left, so how did they see the situation so that we could re-establish security.

3 Q. [14:45:51] I draw from that that everyone in the meeting then was aware that
4 the Seleka had left already. Were they aware when the Seleka left, to your
5 knowledge, did anyone talk about that during the meeting?

6 A. [14:46:16] I think it's obvious. Even before coming to the meeting they were
7 not there, they had left. So I don't think especially that we would have talked about
8 this. It was obvious to everyone.

9 Q. [14:46:30] Let me show you one other photograph. It's at -- or the next
10 photograph. It's at Defence tab 20, CAR-D29-0010-0179.

11 Great, that's on the screen already.

12 There's a person in uniform on the left of the -- of the screen -- of the photo there?

13 A. [14:46:59] Yes.

14 Q. [14:47:02] Do you recognise to which force or which -- yeah, which force did this
15 particular, looks like a soldier belongs?

16 A. [14:47:20] I cannot say. I see him there, yes. Right now I see him, but I don't
17 know. I cannot say. I cannot specify.

18 Q. [14:47:35] Were there members of the Sangaris at the meeting?

19 A. [14:47:48] That's a good question. I think perhaps that was them. But, again,
20 I don't know -- I don't even know if they were invited. I don't know. Perhaps they
21 were there for security purposes. I don't know. I don't have any idea about that.
22 Perhaps that is the case.

23 Q. [14:48:19] Okay. Well, aside from the meeting, do you know if they were in
24 the area around that time?

25 A. [14:48:34] Who?

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1 Q. [14:48:36] The Sangaris.

2 A. [14:48:36] The Sangaris, they came to Mbaïki and they set up their base at the
3 primary school. Why did they come? Well, that was not on my agenda. They
4 came and they were living in schools. And they would visit us every day and
5 the head would come and see -- and introduce himself and -- very nicely, that's all.
6 But their programme, their work was not shared with us. It was for security
7 purposes in general, let's say.

8 Q. [14:49:28] Okay, but my question really is were they present in Mbaïki, or
9 around the cathedral, around the time you had that meeting, before you had that
10 meeting, for example? Or did they arrive at some point after you had that meeting?
11 If you know.

12 A. [14:50:02] That, at this point in time I don't have a clear idea of whether I was
13 there or not, because this was not our concern. It happened like that.
14 I cannot say. I have nothing to specify. I would have to think about it, but right
15 now I could not tell you if they were there or not. Looking now, I could say yes, but
16 I cannot say.

17 Q. [14:50:43] Okay, that's -- that's fine. And it's been a long time and that's
18 the reason why I'm asking the questions and the reason why I'm showing you
19 the photos as well, which might help.
20 Sorry, Mr President, you -- okay.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:50:55] I'm listening.

22 MR VANDERPUYE: [14:50:57] Thank you, Mr President.

23 Q. [14:50:59] If I can now show you a photograph at tab 22 of the Defence binder.
24 It's CAR-D29-0010-0181. Oh, it's there already, okay.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:51:18] We have a very quick court officer and

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1 court usher today.

2 MR VANDERPUYE: [14:51:25] Thank you very much for that.

3 Q. [14:51:28] Do you recognise the individuals in this photograph? I'll zoom in
4 a little bit if you need to take a look, a closer look at anybody.

5 A. [14:51:45] It's Abbot Alain Patrick, right there. The others, I know their faces,
6 but I do not recall their names. The first one with the blue shirt is one of my priests.

7 Q. [14:52:08] Okay, that's very helpful.

8 And what about in the second row? There seems to be somebody sitting there in a, I
9 would describe it as a gendarme uniform.

10 Can we blow that person up. He's in the middle of the second row -- or, rather,
11 the -- just under the window in the second row?

12 A. [14:52:27] That's possible.

13 Q. [14:52:29] Let's see if we can get a closer look at him. There we go.

14 Can you see that better?

15 A. [14:52:37] It's possible. He was invited. All the authorities had been invited.
16 Their representatives, of course, were invited.

17 Q. [14:52:53] If we could go over to the right of this photograph -- other, yes, other
18 direction. There we --

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:53:09] It always depends on from where you
20 look at it.

21 MR VANDERPUYE: [14:53:13] I'd like to focus on the man in the middle of these
22 three here. Could we blow that up, please. There we go.

23 Q. [14:53:26] Do you recognise that person?

24 A. [14:53:35] Well, looking at his face like that, no, I cannot say who it is.

25 Q. [14:53:41] Do you know if the second deputy mayor, Djido Saleh, was present at

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1 that meeting?

2 A. [14:53:59] Mr Djido, I don't know. I repeat, everyone had been invited to hear
3 what Mr Yekatom could tell us about how to create an atmosphere of security. So in
4 the room there were many people, perhaps, that I did not know. The idea was not
5 that I know everyone there.

6 So it's been a long time, faces have changed, so I cannot help you to know who was
7 present or not there. Perhaps it was the abbot who was the head one who was
8 keeping track, but it was not my goal to know who all would have attended
9 the meeting and discussed what was going on. My role was to put the authorities in
10 contact with those who were supposed to be on the Anti-Balaka side and with their
11 representatives. That is why we had called them, to hear him, not so much
12 the others, but him.

13 Q. [14:55:28] Okay. I'd like to show you a videotape and I'll ask you some
14 questions about it.

15 Mr President, this is one of these videos that doesn't have a translation ready, but I
16 think the speech is relatively limited so I'll ask for a sight translation. And I believe
17 it's all in French. I think so.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:55:56] So --

19 MR VANDERPUYE: [14:55:57](Overlapping speakers)

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:55:57] -- I see Ms Berdennikova nodding, but
21 with a little bit of uncertainty. So we will see if it is indeed in French.

22 But, well, to the interpreters, give it a try, if you can make a sight translation. Yeah.

23 THE INTERPRETER: [14:56:11] Yes.

24 MR VANDERPUYE: [14:56:12] All right. Thank you very much.

25 I think the witness can listen to the floor, if that's possible, he should be able to follow

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1 it.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:56:19] Yeah, yeah, when it is in French, no -- no
3 problem.

4 MR VANDERPUYE: [14:56:29] Let me give the ERN number.
5 Tab 17, CAR-OTP-00002245, we'll play from 1:04 to 2:24.

6 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

7 THE INTERPRETER: [14:56:47](Interpretation of the video excerpt)

8 "I told them that we are uncertain. This is scaring us, this is scaring us, because
9 we're in total risk, total risk. As we are authorities, I am the second deputy mayor
10 and we are the foot soldiers of this country, to go where? Here in my country,
11 I cannot. I'm a Muslim. I'm a Muslim, so I'm calling upon the international
12 community to protect, protect Muslims and Christians without distinction.
13 We're -- we're tired of what we don't know, you know, things are coming at us from
14 all angles. We're tired."

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:58:05] Thank you very much to the interpreter.
16 That worked very well.

17 MR VANDERPUYE: [14:58:08] Thank you, indeed.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:58:10] Mr Vanderpuye.

19 MR VANDERPUYE: [14:58:12]

20 Q. [14:58:13] Mr Perin, were you able to, I hope, were you able to hear and see
21 the video?

22 A. [14:58:20] Of course.

23 Q. [14:58:22] And did you recognise Djido Saleh?

24 A. [14:58:29] I cannot say what this man's name is. I do not know what it is.

25 Even Mr Djido, I did not know him. He's not someone I contacted every day. So

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1 especially if he was a deputy. If there were some underofficers, faces like that, well, I
2 had no specific interest in knowing who they were, where they lived, what they were
3 doing, et cetera.

4 So he said that he was the second deputy mayor. To say I have an idea about him,
5 no, I don't.

6 Q. [14:59:25] Okay. You talked about him this morning.

7 A. [14:59:34] (No interpretation)

8 Q. [14:59:35] You said he was killed in front of the gendarmerie.

9 A. [14:59:35] What did I say? He was not killed -- he was killed. So I did not see
10 his name. I don't know, I don't -- I would not recognise his face.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:59:58] Mr Vanderpuye, when the witness speaks
12 about what he heard about the killing of Djido Saleh, it does not necessarily entail that
13 he exactly knows who the person is and had had contact with him and could describe
14 him, could recognise him. I think you can continue from there.

15 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:00:15] I do agree.

16 Q. [15:00:16] My question is, the person that you said you had heard had been
17 killed in front of the gendarmerie, what position -- did he have a post? What did
18 you know about this person? Was he the second deputy mayor? Was he just some
19 passerby, what did you know about this person?

20 A. [15:00:37] No, he was a deputy mayor. That I know. But, apart from that,
21 knowing exactly, for example, recognising him, he's not someone I contacted on
22 a daily basis. Perhaps I've seen him once, but I cannot say that I can recognise him,
23 no.

24 Q. [15:01:00] That's no problem. I'm not asking if you recognise him, I'm just
25 showing you the person that was at your meeting and I'm showing you a person who

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1 says they were the second deputy mayor in a video at some other point.

2 But if you don't recognise him, that's not a problem. It's not a problem.

3 Let me ask you about what he said.

4 He said in the video, and I think you heard, that it was important for --

5 A. [15:01:28] Very well.

6 Q. [15:01:29] -- the international community to protect Muslims and to protect

7 Christians. He said that he was a Muslim and that he was a Central African, like you,

8 and that he had no place to go. He said to go where?

9 In your dealings with other Muslims in Mbaïki, whether in the course of this meeting

10 or in other circumstances, did you hear similar views expressed by them about not

11 having anywhere to go or that the Central African Republic was their home?

12 A. [15:02:15] Well, in general, I can say, yes, generally that was the feeling that we

13 had. We knew that. People had lost their houses, where were they going to go?

14 That was the problem. The problem of the prefect as well, to know what to do.

15 It was also the problem when they had to come back, because in the meantime there

16 had been destruction here, there, everywhere. I can only speak generally. I can't

17 speak about precise cases. I don't know.

18 Q. [15:03:02] Did you ever have occasion to deal with the wife of Djido Saleh?

19 A. [15:03:13] If I saw her, I couldn't recognise her. But I did shelter her when they

20 escaped with this man who I didn't know and I wouldn't be able to recognise, surely

21 not, even by the name and not even the name of his wife. It wasn't my concern.

22 My concern was to help people and not to know if they were Christian or not

23 Christian and what religion they were. It was urgent cases and you had to intervene

24 urgently. So I didn't ask people.

25 I knew that they had children, for example, because I went to see them in the room, to

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1 greet them, to encourage them a bit, to give them a bit of courage, but the fact of
2 saying, "who are you?" et cetera, that wasn't what I was doing.

3 What I was doing was providing charity, love, saving somebody. That's it. You
4 couldn't recognise the person who I just saw once, like that. I spoke with her to
5 encourage her, to give her courage and to calm her a bit, because she had just lost her
6 husband, and the children. That's it.

7 If -- now, if you imagine the situation, I can't say if it's one or the other, that's certain.
8 If you showed me a picture.

9 Q. [15:04:54] No, that's very helpful and I appreciate your candour. It's important
10 for us to know what you remember and what you don't remember. So it's very
11 appreciated.

12 Let me show you another video.

13 This one is at tab 16.

14 A. [15:05:13] Yes.

15 Q. [15:05:14] This is another victim of the lack of translation, so I apologise to
16 the interpreters.

17 It's about the same length. It's at tab 16, CAR-OTP-00002244, and we'll play it from
18 about 2:41 to 3:30.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:05:36] And, again, we appreciate the sight
20 translation, or the attempt to do so. Thank you very much.

21 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:05:44] Yes. Thank you.

22 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

23 THE INTERPRETER: [15:05:45](Interpretation of the video excerpt)

24 "Is it normal? We have needs and fear. United Nations, the international forces to
25 support the Sangaris, and the MISCA as well, which has become a UN force, then I

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1 think that with the Central Africans, so with the people who have goodwill and who
2 are prepared as well, then we can really bring this country to find a certain degree of
3 normality."

4 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:06:38] That was great. Thank you very much up in
5 the booth.

6 Q. [15:06:43] Mr Perin, you were able to see and hear the video, you recognise
7 yourself in it?

8 A. [15:06:50] (Overlapping speakers)

9 Q. [15:06:51] And in that video you're calling for help from the international
10 community to help find a path forward to achieve a certain normality in the Central
11 African Republic. That's not something you said on the one occasion?

12 A. [15:07:06] Yes.

13 Q. [15:07:08] You said it on many occasions; isn't that right?

14 A. [15:07:12] Of course. That was the feeling that we had, of helping people.
15 How could one not be moved by all these children, et cetera?

16 Q. [15:07:32] You said it because it was a dire situation, right?

17 A. [15:07:42] It was difficult to control the situation. We didn't know who was
18 doing what on what side with regard to the authorities. The authorities normally, I
19 said even yesterday, that when there were difficult times, you hardly saw them.
20 That was the problem. People would come towards the mission, and if they felt
21 insecure they would come to the mission to try and find shelter somewhere.
22 So, in a certain sense, I was their voice, in a certain sense. That's what I said
23 a moment ago. I was the voice of the voiceless. But the -- we were looking for
24 the authorities to see how together we could find solutions. And that's what I say
25 furthermore, I repeat what I said on that occasion.

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:08:45] Ms Dimitri.

2 MS DIMITRI: [15:08:46] Yes. I think I missed the date of the video.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:08:53] I think you didn't miss it. I think it
4 wasn't said. But you can surely (Overlapping speakers)

5 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:09:01] I will ask the witness.

6 Q. [15:09:03] Do you recall when this video, when you made this -- when you
7 spoke about this?

8 A. [15:09:17] My concern was constantly that of helping, so telling me when I said
9 that, when didn't I say that, it's very difficult for me to remember that.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:09:26] Perhaps Ms Berdennikova can find it out
11 or has already found it out. I think this would really expect too much from a witness
12 after 10 years.

13 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:09:37] Yes. Well, the indication is that it's on
14 27 January 2014.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:09:41] Yeah, thank you.

16 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:09:43] But, as the witness mentioned, he said it several
17 occasions.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:09:48] Well, yes, but the question was this
19 specific video. And we always want to know, if we can know it, on what date such
20 footage was taken, because it might be important for the overall assessment --

21 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:10:04] Indeed.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:10:05] -- of the whole thing.

23 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:10:06] Thank you, Mr President.

24 Q. [15:10:14] You would have said it before the meeting, according to that date; is
25 that right?

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1 A. [15:10:29] Of course.

2 Q. [15:10:29] And also after?

3 A. [15:10:36] After what? I haven't understood.

4 Q. [15:10:39] What you said in the video, you would have said before the meeting
5 with Mr Yekatom and all of those at the church; is that right?

6 A. [15:10:55] I'm sorry, I haven't fully understood what you want to know from me.

7 Q. [15:11:02] Do you recall saying what you just saw yourself say in the video --

8 A. [15:11:13] Mr Perin. I'm Mr Perin. My name is Perin.

9 Q. [15:11:15] Mr Perin, we're speaking through an interpreter, so if you hear
10 somebody refer to you as "Mister" or "Mr Witness", it's not necessarily what I'm
11 saying, right?

12 That's the reason why I told you at the beginning that we're going through
13 interpreters, so sometimes what you hear isn't what I say and sometimes what you
14 say isn't what's in the record of the case.

15 Is that okay?

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:11:52] Yes, but -- yeah.

17 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:11:54]

18 Q. [15:11:55] So my question is --

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:11:57] However, it is perfectly clear and, you
20 know, the witness has obviously seen himself in the video and he obviously has said
21 that, he would not deny that. So we can be a little bit quicker and can ask him.

22 Do you recall, Mr Witness, that after the day when this video footage was taken,
23 supposedly 27 January, meaning before the meeting, that you used similar language?
24 Do you recall that?

25 THE WITNESS: [15:12:36](Interpretation) When I was asking for international help,

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1 it's possible that I said that on several occasions to have representatives, to have
2 leaders. Now, to see if I said it before or after, you can't imagine the situation that it
3 was at the time. You have to put yourself in the situation at the time. How could
4 we know in such a situation which was completely abandoned by everyone if it was
5 before or after?

6 The fact that we wanted to have the meeting, that was precisely because we wanted to
7 find a solution to the situation which had been created, if that can give an
8 explanation.

9 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:13:30]

10 Q. [15:13:30] It does, and there is no problem. If -- like I said before, if -- we only
11 want to -- interested to know what you can recall and what you remember and what
12 you know. If you don't, it's not a problem.

13 I'd like to show you a video because you also mentioned that you lived in Boda for
14 some time and this video concerns part of what was going on over there.

15 It's at tab 5, CAR-OTP-2058-0573. We'll play this part from 00:27:51 through 00:29:17.

16 The transcript is located at tab 11, CAR-OTP-2118-0420, and the ERN pages for that
17 are 0434, line 542, through 0435, line 581.

18 So if the interpreters are ready in the booth, just let me know.

19 THE INTERPRETER: [15:14:43] Could it also be shown on the screen. Thank you.

20 Thanks, we're ready.

21 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:15:12] Okay, I think we're ready.

22 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

23 THE INTERPRETER: [15:15:16](Interpretation of the video excerpt)

24 "It's impossible, not like this, we can't.

25 That's for me. That's to kill Muslims. You take them and cut here.

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1 I'm sorry, if the Muslims want to leave, we don't have any problems with them. But
2 if they don't want to leave, then we're going to kill them. Even the women, they are
3 all bad, like their husbands. A Muslim baby? A Muslim baby. There are a lot of
4 people who would hear that and they would say it's a bit aggressive, wouldn't they?
5 If the Muslims don't leave, you'll kill them, it's very strong, isn't it?

6 No, it's not strong. You see what they did, for the moment, the family, we all had
7 escape into the bush, even with the small babies, because of them. They burnt our
8 houses because of the Muslims. If you have a problem with somebody, they fight.
9 Why do they do that?"

10 "[Voice-over] When the largely Muslim Seleka left the town, they burnt most of the
11 Christian houses. The Anti-Balaka don't just blame the Seleka but the entire Muslim
12 population. This used to be a bustling ..."

13 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:16:52]

14 Q. [15:16:53] Mr Perin, you had an opportunity to see and hear this video. You
15 had an opportunity to go to Boda at some point. Did you have an opportunity to
16 speak to Anti-Balaka members in Boda when you went?

17 A. [15:17:23] I don't remember that. It wasn't that. That wasn't my aim.

18 Q. [15:17:29] Did you hear language like this being spoken in the area when you
19 went up to Boda, by whoever?

20 A. [15:17:46] It might be possible. But when I was in Boda I was trying to have
21 a meeting, and we had a meeting at the town hall precisely to come to an agreement
22 and so that there wouldn't be such hatred as this. But in the situation in which we
23 were, I didn't go to find things like that. It was -- my concern was to bring
24 everybody together and we went into the enclave to speak to people - I said yesterday
25 I had notes, but I've forgotten the name - to bring people together.

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1 And afterwards, later, I tried to get the minister of the interior to come. He came to
2 speak. That was our concern. My concern was to bring peace. Because you
3 understand somebody whose house has been burnt, et cetera, what do they do?
4 They don't pardon them or forgive them first. That's the first thing that comes to
5 mind. It's vengeance, to get vengeance, and that's what they want to do. I wasn't
6 behind this situation to look at these occasional incidents. I wanted to see how to
7 create the conditions so that these facts did not or these acts did not occur.

8 Q. [15:19:18] Thank you. That's very helpful. And I completely understand your
9 point.

10 What you heard this particular individual describe, and just for the record this is
11 a person that has been indicated as someone by the name of Brice Wakambo who was
12 a member of the Anti-Balaka in Boda. But what you heard him talking about, in
13 terms of killing babies or taking revenge and killing Muslims, is this something that
14 you heard in other areas? You mentioned that you were in Boguere, in Mbaïki and
15 other areas. Did you hear Anti-Balaka in particular speaking like this?

16 A. [15:20:19] It has to be said that the Anti-Balaka came from elsewhere to Boda,
17 they weren't from Boda. In general, perhaps they had friends or whatever, but
18 the Anti-Balaka came from elsewhere. Now, the problem was that when the town
19 was set alight, because of the Muslims who thought they were being attacked so they
20 got in first to do so, of course that created -- well, houses were burnt and people had
21 to save themselves at the mission. We created a site, which lasted for a long time, at
22 the mission in order to shelter people who no longer had a house. And so you can
23 understand that they were against the Muslims. But the Muslims did that thinking
24 that it was the Christians who had come, *lawwa lawwa*, that their moment had come and
25 they said "They're going to kill us and we have to take action." But the Anti-Balaka,

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1 as such, they came from elsewhere. That's what I remember at least. That's what
2 I can say in general.

3 And perhaps on place they found people who were in agreement with them and they
4 organised them. I don't know. But if we look at the history as to how it came to
5 the situation that Boda was set alight, that can explain it, the hatred, or the fact of
6 saying they all have to leave. That happened quite simply after the acts. There
7 wasn't a feeling, in my opinion, of disagreement in Boda. In Boda, when I was in
8 Boda, as a priest, we didn't have this feeling.

9 We went also into neighbourhoods. We had a basic community in their enclave,
10 which is next to the major market Mbala. When you go into Boda, when you come,
11 the first neighbourhood is that, the neighbourhood which was later called Enclave,
12 and you had the big market there and they were behind there. But it was quite
13 simply -- it wasn't an enclave before. I'm speaking about before. That was just
14 the place where they were, that was their neighbourhood. As you could say, there
15 were other neighbourhoods as well. There wasn't this feeling that there was some
16 against others or one against the other. It wasn't that feeling. It was after
17 the burning of Boda, I would suppose, that they started to say, "Well, these people
18 have to go."

19 But my concern was with the authorities. I wasn't alone -- with the prefect of Mbaïki,
20 et cetera. Our concern, the fact that he stayed several days because he understood
21 that without the authorities it would be chaos so you had to stay and mark a presence.
22 And there were already the Sangaris, you saw on the photographs, the Sangaris were
23 already there. They didn't go into these actions. There was MISCA, which was
24 where the small market was.

25 Q. [15:24:04] All right. Thank you.

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1 A. [15:24:06] I think so. But time has passed.

2 Q. [15:24:10] You were shown a video a little bit earlier by Ms Dimitri. Let me see
3 if I can find the reference for it.

4 I have it actually as this same tab, tab 5, CAR-OTP-2058-0573. And she played, I
5 think, about the same part that I intended to, which is 25:29 through 27:44. And this
6 is an interview -- well, not an interview, but, rather, a report where you are featured
7 in the background, in the church and they're talking about Muslims that had fled into
8 the field. And the reporter is asked whether or not this was a one-off situation and
9 she said that it wasn't and there were some 20,000 Muslims in a similar situation in
10 the -- in the province, in the country.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:25:29] I'm not sure if it was 20,000. I think it
12 was 200, if I recall it correctly. But it doesn't matter. It was quite some people
13 hiding in the bushes, I think. At least it was translated -- normally I have a very
14 good recollection, it was translated as 200.

15 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:25:44] It's 20,000.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:25:45] Okay, then that's different. Actually, I
17 would like to hear it again, frankly speaking.

18 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:25:50] Yes, Mr President.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:25:51] Because I'm quite sure that my
20 recollection is -- but, okay, you should never say that.

21 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:25:56] You might be right. It could be the same.

22 MS DIMITRI: [15:25:59] It's --

23 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:26:02] 25 --

24 MS DIMITRI: [15:26:02] It's line 487.

25 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:26:05] 25 --

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- 1 MS DIMITRI: [15:26:07] She was talking about the whole western --
- 2 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:26:09] I'm sorry, I was -- I didn't hear it.
- 3 MS DIMITRI: [15:26:12] No, I was giving the line.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:26:14] And what does the line say?
- 5 MS DIMITRI: [15:26:18] The line says: "We believe there may now be an estimated
- 6 22,000 people -- 22,000 people that are at risk that are spread throughout
- 7 that -- throughout that whole western part of the country."
- 8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:26:36] Okay. Well, I -- yeah, okay then ...
- 9 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:26:38] And she's further asked, "Are these Muslims?" And
- 10 she said "mostly", to be fair.
- 11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:26:45] Yeah, yeah, okay.
- 12 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:26:50]
- 13 Q. [15:26:50] So, Mr Perin, that was a video that was played earlier. You may not
- 14 recall it.
- 15 But based on what this reporter said, that there were 20-some-odd thousand mostly
- 16 Muslims in a situation of danger, insecurity throughout the provinces in the country,
- 17 is that something you were aware of at that time?
- 18 A. [15:27:21] It's possible. I don't know.
- 19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:27:25] Well, it's exactly why you referred to
- 20 those in the bush. So if she -- she said two figures, 200 close in the bush, and
- 21 the whole region, that was the 22,000. So we have it exactly now. Thank you very
- 22 much.
- 23 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:27:41] Thank you, Mr President.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:27:43] No, no.
- 25 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:27:44]

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1 Q. [15:27:44] There was another document that was shown to you. I don't have
2 the tab, but I was the ERN number. It was CAR-OTP-2001-2248. And I noted
3 a portion of it that was read to you by Ms Dimitri at page 2249. But the part of it that
4 was read to you did not include a reference to 10,000 Muslims formally being in
5 Yaloké which had been reduced to 742.

6 My question then is: Were you aware of, let's say, the flight of Muslims from Yaloké
7 at such a scale?

8 A. [15:28:48] You know, Yaloké isn't in Lobaye. Perhaps somebody told me that.
9 I can't say if I was aware or not. But people were fighting everywhere. It was
10 catastrophic everywhere. But the situation was -- it wasn't controllable as a whole in
11 the country. The Anti-Balaka came down from the north, from the east -- from
12 the west, if you like. And they started from Bouar, that area there. So how to know
13 what was happening?

14 Q. [15:29:34] Well, that's fair enough.

15 Let me come back then to Mbaïki, where you were. After you had the meeting at the
16 cathedral, how long after the meeting were the Muslims evacuated from the town, if
17 you can remember?

18 A. [15:30:14] That's difficult for me. I don't have a clear idea about this. I know
19 that I insisted on helping them, because I said these are not objects, these are people
20 who need their -- people, children, babies, mothers, my concern was to ensure that
21 they were assisted with their vital needs.

22 Now, with regard to evacuation, that wasn't part of my project, that came from
23 elsewhere, so I don't know. I know that when I went to Boda, as you explained
24 earlier, if I brought that man, it's that he had already left. He was all by himself and
25 he no longer knew how to get back to his family. He was asking to be able to get

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1 back to Mbaïki, and that's what I did. I brought him to Mbaïki. But then, to know
2 what the others programme was, that's not something I had in mind. So, to know
3 whether it was before or after, how long, it's a bit difficult for me to remember.

4 Q. [15:31:52] Okay, that's no problem.

5 Do you know about how many Muslims were evacuated from Mbaïki?

6 A. [15:32:06] I have no idea. I know that the trucks passed by because, from
7 the centre of town leaving, you have to go past the mission, there's the presbytery,
8 there's the cathedral, so when they went by, they would use handkerchiefs to wave to
9 us as a sign of recognition, gratitude, because we had helped them. We did our
10 utmost that we could do to help them.

11 Now, with regard to the decision how many there were, how many trucks, no,
12 I cannot tell you.

13 Q. [15:32:58] Do you recall -- no, go ahead. Please go ahead.

14 A. [15:32:59] I think -- I think that there were quite a few of them, because they had
15 come from all the villages. They, I think, were all evacuated, so we could find out
16 more or less how many there were. But I did not stay there waiting and counting
17 them, counting how many trucks there were, especially because it really saddened
18 me.

19 Q. [15:33:35] Do you recall about how long the evacuation lasted?

20 A. [15:33:40] I think -- well, within a day. I cannot say. I know there were some
21 difficulties, perhaps, in Bangui, because -- with the authorities, but that was not my
22 problem. It was not my problem. We were sad. So ...

23 Q. [15:34:10] You said that these trucks, they left from the centre of Mbaïki, from
24 the town proper?

25 A. [15:34:21] Yes. Yes.

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1 Q. [15:34:24] And then they travel up the road past the cathedral, the presbytery
2 and to continue northbound towards PK9 eventually and --

3 A. [15:34:41] In the direction heading toward Bangui. And then PK9 is before
4 Bangui and then there's PK12, et cetera. But their programme was not my project.
5 We were -- we accepted the situation because we did not know how to try to find
6 solutions to these human problems. Because these were people. I repeat, these
7 were not packages.

8 Q. [15:35:25] And they lived in Mbaïki and around Mbaïki before they were
9 evacuated, right?

10 A. [15:35:39] The refugees? The Muslims?

11 Q. [15:35:44] Yeah.

12 A. [15:35:45] The Muslims of Mbaïki and the surrounding area were the ones who
13 were evacuated.

14 I'm sorry, the question is not something I have quite grasped.

15 Q. [15:36:03] Well, maybe I can phrase it in a different way.

16 The Muslims that lived in Mbaïki lived there for a long time; is that fair to say?

17 A. [15:36:18] Of course. There are some who were born in Mbaïki, I think. At
18 least in the Central African Republic. Yes, yes. In general, trade was held by
19 the Muslims and then they were replaced, but especially for -- with regard to supplies,
20 they were well-organised and even others understood that this was the situation. It
21 was more difficult to get new supplies because trade had really dropped off
22 drastically because the Muslims had left.

23 Q. [15:37:02] Okay. But before they left they were part of the community there,
24 social community, economic community, religious community of Mbaïki, where you
25 live, right?

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1 A. [15:37:14] Ah.

2 THE INTERPRETER: [15:37:21] As in "yes".

3 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:37:24]

4 Q. [15:37:25] And in the areas around?

5 A. [15:37:26] I was taking care of the Catholics. I wasn't in the programme
6 of -- but I know that they were there before I got to Mbaïki, the Muslims had always
7 been there.

8 I'm not quite getting the question. The Muslims had been there and we had
9 always -- we could say that there was always a good understanding --

10 Q. [15:37:51] Well, that's -- that's the question --

11 A. [15:37:54] -- traditionally.

12 Q. [15:37:54] -- and you've answered it.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:37:56] But this -- Mr Vanderpuye, you can try to
14 get more to the point. And it's relatively -- well, it was bordering a -- let's say, a
15 statement instead of a question. It's -- now it's clear that --

16 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:38:10] I can -- I can rephrase it.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:38:11] Yeah, please, yeah.

18 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:38:13]

19 Q. [15:38:13] You said that it was -- you said it was a very sad and difficult thing
20 that they were evacuated?

21 A. [15:38:19] For me.

22 Q. [15:38:19] What about for them?

23 A. [15:38:20] For me.

24 Well, for them, I'm sure they were crying, they were leaving their homes, they were
25 leaving the place they had been born in. In the Central African Republic as I had

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1 known it, there had never been any major confrontation, so this began with the Seleka
2 coming.

3 Even in Bangui, when there were the events in May, I don't remember which years, in
4 Fatima where I had been, where I was a parish priest and someone was killed. And
5 then there was fear at PK5. All that was created because of the Seleka. And now
6 I can say I never understood how we could put the Seleka and Anti-Balaka together.
7 These are things that are hard to understand.

8 Q. [15:39:28] I understand that. I'm just focusing right now on what the people
9 who were evacuated from Mbaïki in February 2014 went through, that's all I am
10 asking about.

11 You were in Mbaïki in February 2014, you saw the evacuation of those people, you
12 interacted with those people in the community, the wider community before they
13 were evacuated. You said that they had left their home, that was my question, and
14 they did. You said they'd left their community, and they did, right?
15 They'd left people behind that they had come to be with, Christians that they knew,
16 their neighbours, right? Is that right?

17 A. [15:40:18] Yes, yes.

18 Q. [15:40:21] They left their stuff behind, goods, items, clothes; is that right?

19 A. [15:40:30] Yes.

20 Q. [15:40:30] They couldn't bring those things with them on those trucks from
21 the centre of Mbaïki all the way up to Bangui and beyond; is that right?

22 A. [15:40:43] Yes.

23 Q. [15:40:43] And we're not talking about a handful of people, are we?

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:40:47] Ms Dimitri.

25 MS DIMITRI: [15:40:49] I'm going to steal an expression from your Honours, if

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1 counsel could tone it down a little bit, it's not as if the witness was hostile to the
2 questions that are put.

3 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:40:58] I don't think the witness is hearing me in English,
4 Ms Dimitri.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:41:03] On the other hand --

6 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:41:04] Unless the interpreter is -- unless the interpreter is
7 interpreting the tone, I don't believe that's what he's hearing.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:41:12] No, no, but -- well, let me put it this way.
9 We have a witness here who I think we can say with all neutrality who has tried to
10 help people, has helped people.

11 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:41:24] Indeed.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:41:25] Yeah. And I think the witness was
13 aware what happened to these fellow citizens of Muslim religion, and you can I think
14 take it that the witness was aware and that it still pains him today, so he was fully
15 aware of that. So when you perhaps come to the point -- and it has a little bit
16 something of a statement. I understand that you want -- you want also to -- to make
17 a point what these people went through, but specifically this witness is fully aware of
18 that, I think, from his position and -- and how he acted at the time. So -- and with
19 toning down, you are right, he gets the translation, but, on the other hand, also we
20 would also appreciate it, because we hear you, we hear you when you are originally
21 speaking.

22 So, please, Mr Vanderpuye.

23 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:42:26] Thank you, Mr President.

24 Q. [15:42:29] Mr Perin, in light of the events that happened in Mbaïki with respect
25 to the evacuation of the Muslim population, is that something that you discussed with

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1 other members of the church on different occasions in respect of what happened to
2 the Muslims in the areas where some of your -- your colleagues worked, different
3 dioceses, different parishes? Did you discuss that at any point?

4 A. [15:43:06] These were things that were happening in the country, so I'm sure we
5 talked about it. But I do not remember anything specific. We were living there and
6 we were, you know, experiencing what was happening in the country. And we
7 the church, we were looking for solutions, not to have people one against the other,
8 but to see how. And these were things that, let's say, fell into our lap. These were
9 decisions that were not taken at our level. So we saw many things and we had to
10 endure them. But now I know there was of course looting of houses, I'm sure, if
11 that's what you're getting at. But on both sides, and I am telling you this because
12 when it was the time to see how the Muslims could come back home, one of
13 the problems was that, okay, they're going to come back, but where? To what?
14 Because some of the Muslims' homes had been occupied by others, so where will
15 the others go? And they too had lost their homes.

16 I remember that the prefect was seeking to figure out how this could be resolved. It
17 was not easy, because in Bangui, I'm talking about PK5, there were people who had
18 stopped there and they were from Mbaïki and they wanted to find a way to live, to
19 sell things from Bangui at PK -- or from Mbaïki at PK5 and then they wanted to know
20 how they could come back.

21 But, you see, it's a difference between experiencing things like that, relations, and then
22 decisions, organisational decisions. We were not organising things, how and -- it's
23 just what happened, the experience, the relations, with people we knew. So we of
24 course felt compassion for them.

25 Q. [15:45:44] Yes. I understand that, but my question was more whether that's

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1 something you discussed with other members of the church, you know, in different
2 locations. So, for example, someone like Dieudonné Nzapalainga, did you discuss it
3 with him? Or Nongo-Azagbia? Or Kinvi? Or --

4 A. [15:46:08] Yes.

5 Q. [15:46:12] Did you have those discussions?

6 A. [15:46:17] Of course. When we were together, what do you think we were
7 talking about? Things that were happening in the country, you know, what
8 happened at your place, and at mine. That's normal, that's the way it works. I
9 think that's obvious.

10 Q. [15:46:28] Well, maybe not. That's why I asked the question.

11 A. [15:46:32] Well --

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:46:33] Overlapping speakers, I would say.

13 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:46:35]

14 Q. [15:46:35] Did you discuss --

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:46:37] Please slow -- slow down a bit, there were
16 overlapping speakers.

17 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:46:41]

18 Q. [15:46:41] Did you discuss the plight of the Muslims when you had these
19 conversations among yourselves, what was happening to the Muslims in Berberati, or
20 Bossangoa, or Yaloké, or Mbaïki, or Bangui, or Carnot? Did you -- did you have
21 those discussions?

22 A. [15:47:05] Well, we would discuss the situation in the country, we always did
23 that. As I said earlier, when twice a year -- we would have assemblies, general
24 assemblies twice a year and then the permanent council, so that's four a year. And at
25 least once in January, et cetera. It's to look at each other -- it's not to look at each

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1 other in the eye, it's to talk about what's happening in the country.

2 So did you talk about this or that, it seems that this question is a bit -- well, obviously
3 we talked about what was happening in the country, to find a solution, so we wanted
4 to really understand the reality, how are things going, what exactly is going on. And
5 the whole idea of traditionally, and I had always heard of this, well, it was to say,
6 okay, we are the base, we are with the people, to tell them this is our version and it's
7 not an official version, it's ours, so that they know of what's happening, what's truly
8 happening. So it's normal that when we gather, we talk about problems.

9 We cannot not talk about what was happening in the country. And each person
10 would speak of his or her respective area.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:48:51] May I shortly.

12 We have, let's say, 12 minutes to 4, I heard that we can perhaps continue 10,
13 15 minutes longer, perhaps, but I assume that -- and we have also still the victims
14 who want to pose questions.

15 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:49:08] Yes.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:49:09] So I would suggest that you continue
17 now perhaps until 4 o'clock and that we then continue on tomorrow at 9.30.

18 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:49:18] That would be great, Mr President. I have about
19 five pages or something of --

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:49:22] Well, five pages, I don't know how to
21 translate this, so to speak, into time.

22 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:49:29] They are not five pages of questions, but they might
23 as well be.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:49:32] Okay, good, good. So, then, for
25 everybody, then we finish at 4 o'clock and have, I think, have tomorrow one session

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1 will be enough, I would assume.

2 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:49:43] Yeah, yeah.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:49:44] No, no, also together with the question by
4 the victims.

5 Please continue, Mr Vanderpuye.

6 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:49:48] Thank you, Mr President.

7 Q. [15:49:49] Well, thank you very much, Mr Witness. I was trying to be very
8 specific about the plight of the Muslim population, but I take it that that was within
9 the scope of the things that you discussed among other members of the clergy.

10 Let me go back for a moment to Djido Saleh. Do you remember when it was that
11 you learned that Djido Saleh had been killed relative to the evacuation?

12 A. [15:50:30] Is there any link, you mean, between that and the evacuation, no.

13 Q. [15:50:37] No, no, that's not my question.

14 Do you remember when it -- when you found out that he'd been killed? Was it
15 before or after the evacuation? Let's put it that way.

16 A. [15:50:57] He -- I believe he also had to be evacuated. How could he remain?
17 If they evacuated all Muslims, he would have left with them, or am I mistaken?
18 I don't know.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:51:18] Mr Vanderpuye, the witness -- we have
20 had a lot of witnesses on that issue.

21 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:51:22] Yeah.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:51:23] This witness obviously does not know
23 the -- or does not recall the timely sequence, so you can move on, I think.

24 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:51:33]

25 Q. [15:51:33] I mean, our information is that Djido Saleh was killed on 28 February,

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1 which was some weeks after the evacuation. You took care of his family, so you
2 know he wasn't evacuated, I guess.

3 A. [15:51:51] That I know, I made that choice, but was the evacuation before, yes, if
4 you're saying it was before. But, right now I can't situate it, whether it's before or
5 after, but surely the family, yes, okay.

6 But did the Muslims leave after? I know that he and his family, I had asked MISCA
7 to come to the mission to take them to Bangui. Now, had they already left, had all of
8 them left, the other Muslims? There were some who had chosen to remain. As he
9 was a deputy, perhaps it was for that reason.

10 But, again, this is not one of these things that I do not recall because it was not
11 something related to my work. That wasn't it. That is why I don't have this
12 chronological clear picture of every detail.

13 Q. [15:52:58] There is no problem at all with that. I don't want you to worry about
14 that. It's -- it's not an issue. If you don't remember, you don't remember. That's
15 how it is?

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:53:09] And if I may say so, after a long day, that
17 this witness remembers a lot and has a lot of information given and to give, I can say
18 so.

19 Well, it's indeed -- Mr Perin, it's indeed remarkable what you still recall after 10 years,
20 roughly 10 years. And it's clear that you cannot recall everything. And our
21 recollection obviously also depends a little bit on what was mostly of interest for us at
22 the time.

23 Please continue.

24 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:53:45] Absolutely.

25 Q. [15:53:49] One other memory test, before I let you go for the day. Do you recall

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1 if after Djido Saleh was killed there was a meeting at the gendarmerie with the *préfet*,
2 gendarme -- gendarme, MISCA and Mr Yekatom with respect to Mr Yekatom's group
3 being asked to leave Mbaïki?

4 A. [15:54:36] It is possible, but I don't know about it. This meeting did not
5 concern me. So what was happening there in the town, I don't know. It's possible,
6 but we cannot, you know, close our eyes after what had happened. So perhaps they
7 wanted to know what had happened, et cetera, et cetera. But to say whether or not
8 there had been a meeting like that and what the people had said, I cannot say.
9 I cannot say.

10 Q. [15:55:11] That's fair enough. And you never discussed that, nobody ever
11 mentioned it to you, I take it?

12 A. [15:55:19] I do not recall. It is possible that there were meetings among them
13 after this murder. This was an assassination. It's not a minor thing.

14 Q. [15:55:37] Okay.

15 What I'd like to do, I think, is I'll show you a document, if I can, Mr President.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:55:50] Yeah, of course, of course.

17 MR VANDERPUYE: [15:55:51] One second. Bear with me one moment.

18 This is at tab 2, CAR-OTP-2001-4333. Okay. This is an article that was published in
19 *Jeune Afrique*. It's dated 24 February. But, as you can see, there's a photograph
20 there of a visit by the transition president and the French minister of defence --

21 A. [15:56:55] Yes.

22 Q. [15:56:58] -- on 12 February.

23 A. [15:57:02] Le Drian. Yes.

24 Q. [15:57:04] And I believe that you were present during that meeting -- during
25 that visit?

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1 A. [15:57:12] Yes.

2 Q. [15:57:13] Okay. What I'd like to do is to take a look at the bottom over here,
3 the bottom paragraph, and it describes --

4 A. [15:57:23] Yes.

5 Q. [15:57:24] It describes something that the president said. I mean, I'll just read it.

6 It's at the -- it talks about the visit on 12 February, as you can see, to Mbaïki. And

7 then it says, and I'll read it in French: (Interpretation)

8 "Early February, at the departure of the Seleka, the Anti-Balaka wanted to kill

9 the civilian Muslims and a column of Sangaris arrived just in time to prevent

10 the massacre. But some 3,000 Muslims of the city had to flee. Today, there are only

11 several dozens left."

12 (Speaks English) Quote: (Interpretation)

13 "'There is no religious or ethnic cleansing. It is an insecurity problem', said the head

14 of the Central African state. 'We will wage war against the Anti-Balaka. They think

15 that because I am a woman, I am weak. But now, those who will want to kill will be

16 sought after and hunted down.'"

17 (Speaks English) I just wanted to read you that part of this article, first of all, to ask

18 you if you have a recollection of what the transition president said during

19 the meeting -- during the visit that she rendered to Mbaïki on 12 February 2014?

20 Does that comport with your recollection of what she said at that -- when she came to

21 visit?

22 A. [15:59:30] More or less, because I see a lot of things that are approximate,

23 because Mbaïki is not 80 kilometres from Bangui. And elsewhere it's a bit like this,

24 because 80 kilometres and 105 is not the same thing. So it's to say how things can be

25 reported in a very general way. So it's, of course, she had come to Mbaïki with

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1 the French defence minister. That meant there was something to say against those
2 who could be capitalising on that situation, et cetera.

3 Now, from that -- to say what she had said exactly, I intervened yesterday, and I don't
4 remember exactly, but what had I said in this video, to have the content -- you know,
5 what was the expectation that we had?

6 Q. [16:00:42] Well, with that, what I'll do when we come tomorrow is I'll play you
7 what she said during her visit in which she spoke in Sango about the crimes
8 committed by the Anti-Balaka. As you speak Sango, you'll be able to follow it and
9 hopefully that will refresh your recollection, yeah?

10 A. [16:01:06] (No interpretation)

11 Q. [16:01:10] Okay.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [16:01:06] I think, I take it from there that, for today,
13 we conclude.

14 Thank you very much, Mr Perin. Unfortunately, I have to say, you have to come
15 another day, tomorrow, 9.30. And hopefully we finish in the first session, and
16 actually I'm quite optimistic in that regard.

17 So this concludes the hearing for today.

18 THE COURT USHER: [16:01:36] All rise.

19 (The hearing ends in open session at 4.01 p.m.)

20 CORRECTIONS REPORT

21 The following interpretation corrections, marked with an asterisk *, are brought into
22 the transcript.

23 Page 7, lines 17-18

24 "Because there was fear, in inverted commas, and they didn't want these troubles to
25 happen"

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1 Is corrected to

2 "Because he tried to sow fear, in inverted commas, so that these troubles would not
3 happen"

4 Page 19 lines 23-24

5 "There was an anti Muslim sentiment, generally speaking, because it wasn't under
6 control."

7 Is corrected to

8 "There was an anti Muslim sentiment generally, because it wasn't under control.

9 Page 21 lines 11-13

10 "I believe that even his wife, she ran away because as soon as her husband was killed,
11 his head was cut off."

12 Is corrected to

13 "I believe that even his wife, she ran away because when her husband was killed, the
14 head had been cut off."