

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR- D29-P-6025

(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 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 Thursday, 25 January 2024
9 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.31 a.m.)
10 THE COURT USHER: [9:31:35] All rise.
11 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
12 Please be seated.
13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:55] Good morning, everyone. Court officer,
14 please call the case.
15 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:32:04] Good morning, Mr President, and Your Honours.
16 Situation in the Central African Republic II in the case of the Prosecutor versus Alfred
17 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: [9:32:21] For the appearances of the parties, the
20 Prosecution first, please.
21 MS BERDENNIKOVA: [9:32:27] Good morning, Your Honours. Good morning,
22 everyone. This morning the Prosecution is represented by Sylvie Wakchom, by
23 Kweku Vanderpuye, Louis Rugambage and myself, Maria Berdennikova.
24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:37] Thank you.
25 Representatives of the victims next, please.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR- D29-P-6025

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ICC-01/14-01/18

1 MS ASSO: [9:32:42] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your Honours.

2 Good morning, everyone in the courtroom. The victims of other crimes are today
3 represented by myself, Mouhia Asso.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:53] Mr Suprun.

5 MR SUPRUN: [09:32:55] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. The former
6 child soldiers are represented today by Anne Grabowski and myself, Dmytro Suprun.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:58] Thank you.

8 I turn to the Defence of Mr Yekatom. Ms Dimitri.

9 MS DIMITRI: [9:33:02] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your
10 Honours. Good morning, everyone.

11 Mr Yekatom is present in the courtroom. He is represented today by Ms Sarah
12 Bafadhel, Alexandra Baer, Anta Guissé, Charlotte Floquet, Sabine Bayssat, Lionel
13 Messi Tikpa and myself, Mylène Dimitri.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:20] Okay. Thank you. Lionel Messi again,
15 in the room. No, I (indiscernible).

16 Mr Knoops.

17 Mr Knoops, you know I'm a little bit football and soccer affiliated, so at some point in
18 time, I had to mention this wonderful name.

19 So, please, Mr Knoops. Your composition --

20 MR KNOOPS: [9:33:50] Yes, Mr President. Mr President, good morning; your
21 Honours. Good morning, everyone. Good morning. We are in the same the
22 composition as yesterday, Mr President. Thank you.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:00] Thank you very much.

24 And most importantly, good morning, Mr Witness. I hope you are feeling well
25 today and you understand and hear us well.

Trial Hearing
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ICC-01/14-01/18

1 WITNESS: CAR-D29-P-6025 (On former oath)
2 (The witness speaks Sango)
3 (The witness gives evidence via video link)
4 THE WITNESS: [09:34:10] (No interpretation)
5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [09:34:21] Well, the witness has said something but
6 we didn't have interpretation, so it would be good to have one.
7 Do we have sound?
8 Mr Witness, do you hear and understand me, because we didn't hear your answers;
9 so there might be a technical problem.
10 THE INTERPRETER: [09:34:54] The Sango interpreters wishes to report that they are
11 not hearing the witness -- but now the sound has just come in and the witness has
12 said, "Yes, now I can hear you."
13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:11] Well, that's good. That's good news.
14 And having taken notice of that, we turn to the examination by the Prosecution.
15 Ms Berdennikova, you have the floor.
16 MS BERDENNIKOVA: [9:35:25] Your Honours, the Prosecution will be very, very
17 brief this morning because we don't have any questions for this witness.
18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:31] This is, well, the briefest thinkable.
19 Then I turn already to Mr Suprun.
20 Again, Mr Suprun, what you can, of course, do is, there is information in these
21 documents that would suggest, at least in these documents, another date of birth.
22 And you can put -- of course, you can put that to the witness, that's no problem, and
23 we decide on the potential submission later, yeah?
24 So you have the floor, Mr Suprun.
25 MR SUPRUN: [9:36:03] Thank you, Mr President; well noted. And I want to

Trial Hearing
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(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/18

1 inform the Chamber that the entirety of my examination should be done in private
2 session, please.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:36:12] We already thought so, yeah.

4 You can already start, Mr Suprun, and you can remain seated, obviously.

5 Are we in -- we are in open session, then we have to go in private session. For the
6 one person in the audience, this is also about protected witnesses and then,
7 unfortunately, you can only watch but not hear.

8 (Private session at 9.37 a.m.)

9 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:37:00] We are in private session, Mr President.

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Trial Hearing
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(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/18

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13 Pages 5-20 redacted – private session

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Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR- D29-P-6025

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ICC-01/14-01/18

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- 18 (The hearing ends in private session at 10.20 a.m.)