

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 International Criminal Court
2 Trial Chamber VI
3 Situation: Central African Republic II
4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Mahamat Said Abdel Kani - ICC-01/14-01/21
5 Presiding Judge Miatta Maria Samba, Judge María del Socorro Flores Liera and
6 Judge Sergio Gerardo Ugalde Godínez
7 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 2
8 Thursday, 29 February 2024
9 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.32 a.m.)
10 THE COURT USHER: [9:32:38] All rise.
11 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
12 Please be seated.
13 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:33:03] Good morning, everyone.
14 Madam Court Officer, can you kindly mention the case.
15 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:33:11] Good morning, Madam President. Good
16 morning, your Honours.
17 This is the situation in the Central African Republic II, in the case of The Prosecutor
18 versus Mahamat Said Abdel Kani, case reference ICC-01/14-01/21.
19 And for the record, we are in open session.
20 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:33:33] Thank you very much, Madam Court Officer.
21 Can I have representation, starting with the Prosecution, please.
22 MS MAKWAIA: [9:33:43] Good morning, Madam President, your Honours. For
23 the Prosecution, myself, Holo Makwaia, senior trial lawyer; Thomas Bifwoli, trial
24 lawyer; and Ms Alessia Vitiello, analysis assistant. Thank you.
25 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:34:00] Thank you very much, Ms Holo.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Ms Pellet for the victims, please.

2 MS PELLET: [9:34:03](Interpretation) Thank you very much, your Honour. The
3 victims are represented by Caroline Walter and myself, Sarah Pellet, counsel at the
4 Office of Public Counsel for Victims. Thank you.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:34:15] Thank you very much.

6 Ms Naouri for the Defence, please.

7 MS NAOURI: [9:34:20](Interpretation) Thank you. Good morning, your Honour.

8 *Next to me, François-Jacquemin Florian; next to him, Elina Legat; behind me, we
9 have Dov Jacobs; as for myself, I am Jennifer Naouri, lead counsel for Mr Said. Thank
10 you.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:34:38] Thank you very much, Ms Naouri.

12 And for the record, I note that Mr Said is in court with us.

13 Mr Said, a very good morning to you. I hope I see you well.

14 MR SAID: [9:34:56](Interpretation) Good morning, your Honour.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:34:57] Good.

16 Now, the Prosecution, I note, is calling its 22nd witness, not 23rd, P-1524.

17 The Chamber previously rejected an application by the Prosecution to introduce
18 P-1524's prior recorded testimony pursuant to Rule 68(2)(b). But we did grant
19 authorisation for it to come under Rule 68(3) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.
20 Our decision rejecting the application or request for a 68(2)(b) was decision
21 number 507.

22 It is the Chamber's understanding that this witness will be testifying in Sango via
23 video link, so I remind everyone of the importance of the need to speak slowly and to
24 observe the five-second rule between questions and answers.

25 Now, the Chamber notes that the Prosecution has submitted a request to introduce

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 the annex of P-1524's witness preparation log pursuant to Rule 68(3) of the Rules, so
2 I have an oral decision to read out on the Prosecution's request to introduce the prior
3 recorded testimony of P-1524 as contained in the annex to the witness's preparation
4 log. For the record, this request is filing number 703.

5 The annex contains a number of corrections and clarifications to P-1524's prior
6 recorded testimony, whose introduction via Rule 68(3) the Chamber already granted,
7 as said. This decision is decision number 507.

8 The Prosecution submits that the annex contains additional information that was not
9 included in P-1524's original prior recorded testimony. According to the Prosecution,
10 the new information bears sufficient indicia of reliability, it is relevant and probative,
11 and that its introduction would expedite the proceedings.

12 In its response to the Prosecution's request, the Defence submits that it would be -- it
13 must be -- it should be rejected and reiterates its general objections to the introduction
14 of annexes to witnesses' preparation logs.

15 The Defence further points out that the Prosecution did not provide a French
16 translation of the witness preparation log and argues that the Prosecution has shown
17 the witness a document that was new to the witness. In particular, the Defence
18 allege that P-1524's prior recorded testimony does not indicate that the Prosecution
19 ever showed the Prosecution's screening notes of P-1524 to the witness. For the
20 record, this is filing number 711.

21 The Chamber recalls that its oral ruling of 2 November 2022 only requires the parties
22 to make a request pursuant to Rule 68(3) of the Rules if the annex to the witness
23 preparation log contains additional information that was not included in the prior
24 recorded testimony previously ruled on by the Chamber or when certain corrections
25 or clarifications change the substance of the testimony. When the witness only

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 makes minor corrections or clarifications to his or her prior recorded testimony
2 during the witness preparation session, there is no need to make a request pursuant
3 to Rule 68(3) of the Rules. Moreover, not every bit of new information that is
4 provided during the witness preparation session necessitates a Rule 68(3) request.
5 This is only required when the new information changes the substance of the prior
6 recorded testimony.
7 The Chamber notes that since it gave its recent direction regarding the calling party's
8 conduct during witness preparation, the annexes to recent witnesses' preparation logs
9 have been much more streamlined. In this particular instance, the Chamber finds
10 that the annex does not contain any new information which changes the substance of
11 P-1524's prior recorded testimony. The witness did apparently mention a shooting
12 incident that is missing from his prior recorded testimony, but the annex does not
13 record any details. The Chamber infers that this -- that the Prosecution does not
14 intend to rely on this additional information.
15 None of the other corrections or clarifications significantly change P-1524's prior
16 recorded testimony. In particular, the fact that the witness corrected paragraph 96 of
17 his prior recorded testimony, indicating that a particular person was not present
18 when certain weapons were buried, does not change the substance of this paragraph.
19 Similarly, the fact that P-1524 corrected paragraph 77 of his prior recorded testimony,
20 indicating that a list was not compiled by the witness personally, but rather by a
21 person assisting him, does not change the substance of this paragraph.
22 Finally, while it may be true that the above-mentioned screening may have been
23 shown to the witness for the first time during the witness preparation session, the
24 Chamber notes that the witness was unable to read it and only speculated that he
25 might have been shown the document in a meeting with the Prosecution before he

Trial Hearing

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 gave his statement. This information clearly does not change the substance of
2 P-1524's testimony either.

3 Under these circumstances, the corrections and clarifications provided by P-1524 does
4 not rise to the level so as to render the annex to this witness preparation log a new
5 witness statement. Accordingly, there was thus no need for the Prosecution to make
6 a request pursuant to Rule 68(3) of the Rules.

7 In terms of procedure, therefore, the Chamber finds that the Prosecution merely
8 needs to confirm with the witness that he made such corrections and clarifications
9 and seek its introduction as part of the original prior recorded testimony.

10 This concludes the Chamber's oral decision.

11 Before commencing, the Chambers notes briefly that protective measures are
12 confirmed for this witness by virtue of decision number 605 and that the VWU
13 recommends that the witness be offered a break every 40 minutes.

14 Madam Court Officer, can I ask that you connect us with the witness, please.

15 (The witness enters the video-link room)

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:43:50] Good morning, Mr Witness. Can you see
17 me? Can you hear me?

18 WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

19 (The witness speaks Sango)

20 (The witness gives evidence via video link)

21 THE WITNESS: [9:44:12](Interpretation) Yes, I can hear you very clearly.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:44:14] Very well.

23 Now you're going to testify before the International Criminal Court. On behalf of
24 the Chamber, I would like to welcome you to this courtroom.

25 THE WITNESS: [9:44:32](Interpretation) Thank you very much.

Trial Hearing

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:44:35] Now, Mr Witness, you have before you the
2 solemn declaration to tell the truth to this Court, the whole truth and nothing but the
3 truth, which every witness who appears before us is supposed to agree to. I'm going
4 to read it out to you now.

5 I solemnly declare that I will speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
6 truth.

7 Do you understand and agree to what I have just read to you, Mr Witness?

8 THE WITNESS: [9:45:28](Interpretation) Yes, I agree.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:45:30] Thank you very much. We will continue.
10 Now, Mr Witness, let me explain to you the protective measures that the Chamber
11 has put in place for your testimony. We have in place for you voice and face
12 distortion for the duration of your testimony. Now, this means that no one outside
13 the courtroom can see your face or hear your real voice during your testimony.
14 There is also in place for you the use of pseudonym. And in accordance with that,
15 we all will only refer to you as "Mr Witness", to make sure that the public does not
16 know your name. When you answer questions that will not give away who you are,
17 we will do so in open session, which means that the public can hear what is being
18 said in the courtroom.

19 When you are asked to describe anything that relates specifically to you or you are
20 asked to mention facts that might reveal your identity, we will do this in private
21 session.

22 And lastly, Mr Witness, I also have a few practical matters that you should have in
23 mind when giving your testimony. Everything we say here is written down and
24 interpreted. It is therefore important to speak clearly and at a slow pace. Please
25 speak into the microphone and only start speaking when the person asking the

Trial Hearing

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 question has finished. To allow for the interpretation, everyone has to wait a few
2 seconds before starting to speak.

3 If you have any question yourself or if you need a break, raise your hand so that we
4 know that you want to say something to us.

5 We will offer you the possibility to have a short break every 40 minutes. It is up to
6 you to decide whether you want to use that option. If you don't want to use it, we
7 will continue with your testimony. And in any event, we will have a break after
8 90 minutes.

9 So furthermore, Mr Witness, we hope that there are no issues with the video link.

10 However, if there are any issues with the technology, rest assured that we will do our
11 best to have it sorted out as quickly as possible.

12 Now, do you understand all that I have said, Mr Witness?

13 THE WITNESS: [9:49:28](Interpretation) Yes, I have fully understood.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:49:31] Thank you very much.

15 So we are going to start with your testimony and I'm going to invite the Prosecution
16 to put questions to you.

17 And I'll remind the Prosecution that we're in open session, please. Your witness.

18 MR BIFWOLI: [9:49:54] Thank you, Madam President, your Honours.

19 QUESTIONED BY MR BIFWOLI:

20 Q. [9:50:03] Good morning, Mr Witness. My name is Thomas Bifwoli. I am a
21 trial lawyer --

22 A. [9:50:16] Good morning.

23 Q. [9:50:17] My names are Thomas Bifwoli. I am a trial lawyer on the Prosecution
24 team.

25 A. [9:50:36] (No interpretation)

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

- 1 Q. [9:50:36] And today I'll be asking you a few questions on behalf of the
2 Prosecution.
- 3 MR BIFWOLI: [09:50:47] Madam President, may we go into private session, please.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:50:53] Can we go briefly into private session,
5 Madam Court Officer. Thank you.
- 6 (Private session at 9.51 a.m.)
- 7 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:51:10] We are in private session, Madam President.
- 8 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:51:13] Thank you very much.
- 9 Mr Prosecutor, carry on, please.
- 10 MR BIFWOLI: [9:51:19]
- 11 Q. [9:51:20] Mr Witness, we are now in private session and I will ask a few
12 questions about your identity.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:51:37] Carry on, Mr Prosecutor, please.
- 14 MR BIFWOLI: [9:51:39]
- 15 Q. [9:51:41] Can you tell the Court your full names, please.
- 16 A. [9:51:53] Yes, I can give you my full name.
- 17 Q. [9:51:57] Please go ahead.
- 18 A. [9:52:03] My name is (Redacted)
19 (Redacted).
- 20 Q. [9:52:25] In which country were you born?
- 21 A. [9:52:35] I was born in Bangui.
- 22 Q. [9:52:41] That is in which country?
- 23 A. [9:52:54] I was born in the (Redacted) in Bangui.
- 24 Q. [9:53:07] Thank you, Mr Witness.
- 25 Bangui is located in which country?

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:53:10] Mr Prosecutor, can you carry on, please.
- 2 MR BIFWOLI: [9:53:18]
- 3 Q. [9:53:19] What is your current occupation?
- 4 A. [9:53:25] I work in the (Redacted).
- 5 Q. [9:53:43] What was your occupation in the year 2013?
- 6 A. [9:53:56] 2013, I was (Redacted).
- 7 Q. [9:54:07] Can you tell the Court you are (Redacted)?
- 8 A. [9:54:24] I was (Redacted).
- 9 Q. [9:54:38] Where did you live in the year 2013?
- 10 A. [9:54:53] In 2013 I lived in (Redacted). And after the events in question that
- 11 ultimately arose, I moved house into (Redacted).
- 12 MR BIFWOLI: [9:55:14] Madam President, can we turn back to open session, please.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:55:18] Thank you very much.
- 14 Madam Court Officer, can we go back into open session, please.
- 15 (Open session at 9.55 a.m.)
- 16 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:55:35] We are back in open session, Madam President.
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:55:38] Thank you.
- 18 Mr Prosecutor, carry on, please.
- 19 MR BIFWOLI: [9:55:42]
- 20 Q. [9:55:46] Mr Witness, I will now ask you questions about your witness statement.
- 21 Do you recall being interviewed by investigators from the Office of the Prosecutor?
- 22 A. [9:56:07] Yes, I do remember.
- 23 Q. [9:56:11] Do you recall when you were interviewed?
- 24 A. [9:56:25] I don't remember anymore. I don't remember the date. If you can
- 25 jog my memory, I might be able to confirm.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Q. [9:56:38] That's fine, Mr Witness.

2 Was a statement taken when you were interviewed?

3 A. [9:57:03] Yes. My statement was recorded.

4 Q. [9:57:11] At the end of the interview, was your statement read back to you in a
5 language that you understand?

6 A. [9:57:22] Yes, exactly. Yes, it was read back to me.

7 Q. [9:57:37] Was it true to the best of your knowledge and recollection?

8 A. [9:57:56] Yes, my statement was truthful.

9 Q. [9:58:05] Do you recall if you signed your witness statement?

10 A. [9:58:24] I signed it.

11 MR BIFWOLI: [9:58:30] Court officer, please display tab 1, that is

12 CAR-OTP-2062-0468.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:59:06] Just a moment, Mr Prosecutor.

14 Let me know what's happening back there.

15 Mr Jacobs, please, is there any problem?

16 MS NAOURI: [9:59:36](Interpretation) Madam President, we do apologise, the

17 transcript for Mr Said is not working. It's stopped at page 10:1, if I have understood

18 correctly. Could we please send somebody to go and check the transcript situation

19 for Mr Said, please.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:00:00] Thank you.

21 The court officer will take care of that.

22 Just a moment, Mr Prosecutor.

23 Can you confirm it's working now, Ms Naouri.

24 MS NAOURI: [10:00:17](Interpretation) I've just been told that it's working again,

25 Madam President.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:00:23] Thank you very much.

2 Mr Prosecutor, carry on, please.

3 MR BIFWOLI: [10:00:29] Thank you, Madam President.

4 Court officer, the document is classified "confidential". Do not display in the gallery,
5 please.

6 Q. [10:00:45] Mr Witness, can you see the document displayed on your screen?

7 A. [10:01:01] Yes, I can see it, but could you shed some light on it, please. I can't
8 see it very well.

9 Now I can see it well. Thank you very much. I can see the document.

10 MR BIFWOLI: [10:01:18] Court officer, can you display the bottom part with names
11 and signatures.

12 Q. [10:01:35] Mr Witness, can you see the names and signatures appearing on that
13 document?

14 A. [10:01:47] Yes, I can.

15 Q. [10:02:04] Do you recognise any of the names appearing on that document?

16 A. [10:02:21] (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:02:37] Mr Prosecutor, you ought to have prepped
19 him not to mention names.

20 Madam Court Officer, can we have a redaction, please.

21 Mr Witness, can you avoid naming names, please, except if we're in private session.

22 THE WITNESS: [10:03:00](Interpretation) I have understood.

23 MR BIFWOLI: [10:03:05] Most obliged, Madam President.

24 Q. [10:03:11] Mr Witness, do you recognise any of the signatures appearing on that
25 document?

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

- 1 A. [10:03:32] I do remember.
- 2 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:03:40] Madam Court Officer, can we go briefly
- 3 into private session, please.
- 4 (Private session at 10.03 a.m.)
- 5 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:03:59] We are in private session, Madam President.
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:04:02] Mr Witness, we are now in private session
- 7 so you can name the names that you see or any name that you see at the bottom of
- 8 that document.
- 9 Mr Prosecutor, please take the question again.
- 10 MR BIFWOLI: [10:04:15]
- 11 Q. [10:04:15] Mr Witness, do you recognise any of the names appearing on the
- 12 document?
- 13 A. [10:04:31] Yes, I can see it. Yes, I can see them.
- 14 Q. [10:04:38] Can you name the name that you can recognise.
- 15 A. [10:04:57] I do recognise what comes under the two names that I can see.
- 16 Q. [10:05:07] Mr Witness, we are now in private session and so you can name, you
- 17 can state what -- which name that you are able to recognise because we are now in
- 18 private session and it will only be heard by people in this court. Do you
- 19 understand?
- 20 A. [10:05:32] (Overlapping speakers)
- 21 Q. [10:05:34] So whose name do you recognise?
- 22 A. [10:05:43] The name at the bottom, "(Redacted)", and I also know the second
- 23 name, I also know the second name.
- 24 Q. [10:05:59] Let's talk about the first name. Can you see it?
- 25 A. [10:06:10] Yes, I can see it.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Q. [10:06:23] Do you know whose name it is, who is it?

2 A. [10:06:32] The first name is "(Redacted)".

3 Q. [10:06:45] And whose name is that?

4 A. [10:06:53] It is my name.

5 Q. [10:07:01] And, Mr Witness, do you recognise any of the signatures appearing
6 on that document?

7 A. [10:07:20] Yes, I do recognise my signature. What I did is to the right-hand
8 side.

9 MR BIFWOLI: [10:07:44] Court officer, can we display page 24 of the document,
10 please. Again, the document is confidential, not to be displayed in the gallery.

11 Q. [10:08:19] Mr Witness, can you see the document appearing on your screen
12 now?

13 A. [10:08:31] Yes, I can see it.

14 Q. [10:08:37] Can you see a signature appearing on that document?

15 A. [10:08:53] This is my signature. And you can even see the date at which I
16 signed this document.

17 Q. [10:09:13] Thank you.

18 MR BIFWOLI: [10:09:15] Madam President, we can now turn into open session.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:09:19] Madam Court Officer, can we go back into
20 open session, please.

21 (Open session at 10.09 a.m.)

22 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:09:37] We are back in open session, Madam President.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:09:40] Thank you very much.

24 Mr Prosecutor, please continue with your questions.

25 MR BIFWOLI: [10:09:45]

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Q. [10:09:46] Mr Witness, I will now ask you questions about your meeting with
2 members of the Prosecution team.

3 Do you recall meeting with members of the Prosecution team last week?

4 A. [10:10:14] Yes, we did meet.

5 Q. [10:10:20] On that occasion, did you have an opportunity to go through your
6 witness statement?

7 A. [10:10:45] Yes, they explained the process to me and I said I needed an
8 interpreter because I couldn't see it properly in order to be able to complete the
9 process.

10 Q. [10:11:04] But eventually did you have an opportunity to go through your
11 witness statement together with the interpreter?

12 A. [10:11:23] Yes, indeed. The interpreter informed me and clarification was
13 made, and then I was informed on the subsequent stages of the process.

14 Q. [10:11:45] So, Mr Witness, let's go step by step. During that occasion, did you
15 make any clarifications or corrections to your witness statement?

16 A. [10:12:10] Yes, indeed.

17 Q. [10:12:16] Were the said corrections and clarifications noted down in a
18 document?

19 A. [10:12:35] Yes. Some information was not correct and I brought corrections to
20 this information.

21 Q. [10:12:48] Were the said corrections and clarifications that you made read back
22 to you in a language you understand?

23 A. [10:13:09] Yes. The document was read back to me in Sango.

24 Q. [10:13:20] Was the document that was read back to you in Sango true to the best
25 of your knowledge and recollection?

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

- 1 A. [10:13:41] Yes, I agree.
- 2 Q. [10:13:48] Did you sign the document containing the said clarifications and
3 corrections?
- 4 A. [10:14:09] Yes, I did sign the document.
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:14:14] Mr Witness, are you okay seated, do you
6 need a break at all or shall we continue?
- 7 THE WITNESS: [10:14:29](Interpretation) Yes, I would like to take a break.
- 8 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:14:36] I rise the Court for 10 minutes, please.
9 Thank you.
- 10 THE COURT USHER: [10:14:42] All rise.
- 11 THE WITNESS: [10:14:43] (Interpretation) Thank you.
- 12 (Recess taken at 10.14 a.m.)
- 13 (Upon resuming in open session at 10.30 a.m.)
- 14 THE COURT USHER: [10:30:10] All rise.
15 Please be seated.
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:30:36] Good morning again.
17 So, Mr Witness, we'll continue with your testimony in-chief.
18 Mr Prosecutor, please carry on with your questions.
- 19 MR BIFWOLI: [10:30:48] Thank you, Madam President.
- 20 Court officer, please display tab 9, CAR-OTP-00036108. The document is
21 confidential and should not be displayed in the gallery, please.
22 Can you display the last page, please. The bottom part. Thank you.
- 23 Q. [10:31:48] Mr Witness, can you see the document displayed on your screen?
- 24 A. [10:31:59] Yes, I do.
- 25 Q. [10:32:02] Now, I am going to ask you questions about that signature. And if

Trial Hearing

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 you know to whom it belongs, don't mention the name. You understand?

2 A. [10:32:23] This is my signature.

3 Q. [10:32:36] Mr Witness, do you agree to the judges using your witness statement
4 and annexes in this case?

5 A. [10:33:03] Yes, I do agree.

6 MR BIFWOLI: [10:33:07] Madam President, your Honours, the Prosecution requests
7 that Witness P-1524's prior recorded testimony be introduced into evidence since the
8 requirements of Rule 68(3) are met. Thank you.

9 MS NAOURI: [10:33:28](Interpretation) I apologise, Madam President, I just wanted
10 to tell you that once again the transcript is not working for Mr Said. So maybe we
11 should have a look at what's going on technically speaking.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:33:46] Certainly. Just a moment, please.

13 A moment, Mr Prosecutor, also.

14 (Pause in proceedings)

15 MS NAOURI: [10:35:53](Interpretation) It's working again. There is a part of the
16 transcript that was missing. We can communicate them to him at a later stage, but
17 it's working again. So we can continue. Thank you.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:36:10] Thank you very much, Ms Naouri.

19 Mr Prosecutor, again, please.

20 MR BIFWOLI: [10:36:15] Madam President, the Prosecution requests that
21 Witness P-1524's prior recorded testimony be introduced into evidence since the
22 requirements of Rule 68(3) are met. I have no further questions for this witness.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:36:33] Thank you very much.

24 The witness being present before us and him having agreed to submission of his prior
25 recorded testimony and annex, and you having -- the Prosecution having questioned

Trial Hearing

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 him, the Defence and the Chamber will have an opportunity to question this witness.

2 It is therefore our decision that the requirements of Rule 68(3) of the Rules of

3 Procedure and Evidence have been fulfilled.

4 Ms Naouri for the Defence.

5 MS NAOURI: [10:37:11](Interpretation) Thank you, Madam President. I'm sorry,

6 I was listening to the end of the interpretation.

7 Now, before I hand over to Maître Jacquemin, who will be leading the

8 cross-examination, we have a little question with regard to the log subsequent to your

9 decision this morning. This is the French transcript, page 5, lines 7 to 14, and

10 I would not hide from you that the French -- or the French interpretation is not very

11 clear for us. So I have looked at the English wording in order not to change anything

12 from what was said, and I do apologise, one moment, please. I have the reference

13 here in the English version that I'm looking for. Just one moment, please, with your

14 leave.

15 So it's page 6, lines 1 to -- (Speaks English) "the Chamber finds that the Prosecution

16 merely needs to confirm with the witness that he made such corrections and

17 clarifications and seek its introduction as part of the original prior recorded

18 testimony."

19 (Interpretation) So with regard to that part, we do not know precisely what procedure

20 to follow, but as the OTP did not come back to the log and the changes that were

21 brought, we do not know what procedure to follow with regard to the various

22 changes that the witness brought, even if they are not particularly substantive in

23 nature, during the preparation session.

24 Now, as the OTP did not put any questions with regard to these changes, are they or

25 are they not part of his prior recorded testimony? We'd like to shed light on this

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 matter before we start our cross-examination, please.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:39:19] Prosecution, can you clarify your position,
3 please.

4 MS MAKWAIA: [10:39:22] Madam President, I think there's an additional
5 paragraph, I just don't have the correct citation, where it says "the Chamber finds that
6 the Prosecution merely needs to confirm with the witness that he made such
7 corrections and clarifications", which is exactly what we did.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:40:06] What's the concern, Ms Naouri? Do you
9 mean what counsel is saying is not interpreted in French?

10 MS NAOURI: [10:40:17](Interpretation) It wasn't with regard to the interpretation,
11 but the French interpreter has just told us that the OTP was speaking too far away
12 from the microphone so she could not interpret what was being said. There we are.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:40:33] Yes, Ms Makwaia.

14 MS MAKWAIA: [10:40:36] I'll take it up again, Madam President, your Honours,
15 with your leave. I was saying that in your ruling this morning at line 4 to 6, the
16 Chamber also emphasised that "the Prosecution merely needs to confirm with the
17 witness that he made such corrections and clarifications and seek its introduction as
18 part of the original prior recorded testimony."

19 And we did exactly that in questioning the witness. It was put to him that he was
20 afforded the opportunity to make clarifications and corrections reflected in the log.
21 So I don't see any ambiguity in your ruling, your Honours, but we are at your
22 discretion if you want to give further instructions.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:41:24] No, I think, Ms Naouri, what the
24 Prosecution just stated is quite clear. I think that was the last sentence of our ruling,
25 that in terms of the procedure, in fact, as I started that particular sentence, "the

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Chamber finds that the Prosecution merely needs to confirm with the witness that he
2 made such corrections and clarifications and seek its introduction as part of the
3 original prior recorded testimony."

4 So as far as we see it, the Prosecution complied with what we just said, they asked the
5 witness to confirm the corrections and clarifications, so they complied with the
6 procedure. There is no need for them to go over each correction individually.

7 Thank you very much.

8 Ms Naouri, you may start your cross-examination of this -- or, Mr Jacquemin, you
9 may start your cross-examination of this witness, please.

10 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [10:42:40](Interpretation) Thank you very much,
11 Madam President.

12 QUESTIONED BY MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: (Interpretation)

13 Q. [10:42:52] Good morning, Mr Witness. My name is Florian François-Jacquemin
14 and I'm going to be putting a number of questions to you today on behalf of the
15 Defence team for Mr Said.

16 As the OTP did, I will be addressing you as "Mr Witness, and I shall be putting my
17 questions to you in the most precautionary manner possible under the control of the
18 Chamber in order not to reveal your identity.

19 I'm going to try and not speak too fast and as -- so that the interpreters can interpret
20 everything that I say, just as was done with the OTP. And as Madam President said
21 at an earlier stage today, I would call upon you to mark a pause of five seconds after
22 you speak in order for interpretation to take place.

23 Madam President, could we please move into private session.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:43:47] Madam Court Officer, can we go briefly
25 into private session, please.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 (Private session at 10.44 a.m.)

2 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:44:05] We are in private session, Madam President.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:44:07] Thank you very much.

4 Mr Jacquemin, your witness, please.

5 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [10:44:12](Interpretation) Thank you,

6 Madam President.

7 Thank you, Madam Court Officer.

8 Q. [10:44:17] Mr Witness, what was your father's trade?

9 Did you hear?

10 A. [10:44:45] Yes, thank you, I can hear you perfectly.

11 Q. [10:44:59] Well, it's 29 February. You know, the Sango was coming out on the
12 French channel. Lots of things are going on on 29 February. But everything will be
13 fine.

14 Now, Mr Witness, can you please tell us what your father's trade was?

15 A. [10:45:23] He worked (Redacted) before he ultimately retired.

16 Q. [10:45:30] Thank you, Mr Witness. Was he himself a (Redacted)
17 (Redacted)?

18 A. [10:45:41] No, he wasn't. He wasn't (Redacted).

19 Q. [10:45:50] Thank you, Mr Witness.

20 And your mother's occupation, please.

21 A. [10:46:04] She is (Redacted).

22 Q. [10:46:15] Thank you, Mr Witness.

23 And how long did your school studies last? How long did you remain at school?

24 A. [10:46:29] I left school when I was in the (Redacted).

25 Q. [10:46:45] Thank you.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 On today's transcript T-56 in the French version, page 9 at lines 20 through 23, this is
2 what you said: "I work at (Redacted)."

3 For how long have you done that particular job, Mr Witness?

4 A. [10:47:18] I have worked a lot, I'm almost going to retire. I will have worked
5 (Redacted) before I ultimately retire.

6 Q. [10:47:41] So you've done this particular job all your life?

7 A. [10:47:53] Would you mind rephrasing your question. I'm having difficulties
8 with the technical side of things.

9 Q. [10:48:05] Yes, I'll put my question again, Mr Witness.

10 Earlier on you told the Court that you worked at (Redacted)

11 (Redacted). So for how long have you (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)?

13 A. [10:48:28] In 2023.

14 Q. [10:48:40] Thank you, Mr Witness. And what are your duties within the
15 (Redacted)?

16 A. [10:48:53] I am the person responsible (Redacted) at the particular establishment
17 that I work at.

18 Q. [10:49:11] And how many people do you have under your command,
19 Mr Witness?

20 A. [10:49:24] The first ones, well, there (Redacted). After my (Redacted), I was
21 given one person and I work with that person at the (Redacted), which is next door to
22 the (Redacted).

23 Q. [10:49:53] Thank you. And to the best of your knowledge, in 2013, was there a
24 (Redacted)?

25 A. [10:50:11] I didn't hear your question properly.

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 Q. [10:50:14] To the best of your knowledge, Mr Witness, did there exist a

2 (Redacted)?

3 A. [10:50:31] Well, I didn't quite understand your question. Could you tell me

4 what you want to know? I didn't understand the question. It wasn't clear for me.

5 Q. [10:50:43] In 2013, was there a (Redacted)?

6 A. [10:51:00] During the upheavals, the (Redacted) couldn't operate. They were in

7 their quarters.

8 Q. [10:51:13] Thank you, Mr Witness. And how were you recruited within the

9 ranks of the (Redacted)?

10 A. [10:51:34] It was through a competitive examination that I took at the (Redacted).

11 So I sat a competitive examination to join the (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 Q. [10:51:50] And did you receive a diploma following that competitive process,

14 Mr Witness?

15 A. [10:52:04] After the competitive examination and I fulfilled the criteria, I joined

16 the (Redacted), but through other competitive examinations that occurred

17 subsequently, I received a certificate.

18 Q. [10:52:22] Thank you, Mr Witness. Would you be willing to make that

19 certificate, that certificate available to the Court?

20 A. [10:52:40] I didn't know that I had to give you my certificates. All that

21 documentation is at home. I came here today without that -- without those

22 documents.

23 Q. [10:52:59] Thank you, Mr Witness. No, no, I have no doubt that you didn't

24 know. I'm just asking you would you be able to offer them, would you be able to

25 give them to the Court?

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 A. [10:53:19] Yes. I am at your avail.

2 Q. [10:53:22] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

3 And do you (Redacted) in the course of your duties within the (Redacted)
4 (Redacted)?

5 A. [10:53:43] Never did the (Redacted). We worked

6 (Redacted). And when we

7 went home, we (Redacted) on our professional premises. I have never

8 (Redacted).

9 Q. [10:54:14] Thank you very much, Mr Witness. I have a final question to you on
10 the matter (Redacted) the face of it. Basically, can you tell us what
11 (Redacted) does exactly, what are its duties ?

12 A. [10:54:31] Thank you. (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 Q. [10:54:57] Thank you, Mr Witness. To the best of your knowledge, who was
16 the mayor of Bangui in 2013?

17 A. [10:55:18] (Redacted)

18 Jean-Barkes Ngombe-Kette.

19 Q. [10:55:31] My apologies, I didn't understand. You were recruited in the year
20 (Redacted)?

21 A. [10:55:47] (Redacted).

22 Q. [10:56:03] Thank you very much, Mr Witness. And you've been in the
23 (Redacted); is that right? You haven't (Redacted)

24 (Redacted); have I got that right?

25 A. [10:56:24] Yes, I am still a part of the (Redacted).

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Q. [10:56:35] Thank you, Mr Witness.

2 In 2013, if you remember, who was the mayor of Bangui?

3 A. [10:57:03] Well, after (Redacted), I can't really remember, but if there are
4 documents that could jog my memory, then I could -- I could -- I could confirm it.

5 Q. [10:57:17] Well, that's -- we'll leave that to one side, the mayor who was the
6 sitting mayor in 2013. But who is the sitting mayor now in Bangui?

7 A. [10:57:39] Emile Gros Nakombo.

8 Q. [10:57:48] Thank you, Mr Witness. I have some questions about your duties as
9 (Redacted). You were indeed, were you not, (Redacted)
10 (Redacted)?

11 A. [10:58:13] Yes, I was. I was elected (Redacted) to that position. (Redacted), I
12 became (Redacted). And that was (Redacted).

13 Q. [10:58:33] Thank you, Mr Witness. Now, can you tell us, Bangui is subdivided
14 in what way from an administrative perspective? What is its administrative
15 make-up?

16 A. [10:58:55] You want to talk about the arrondissements or the neighbourhoods?
17 Sorry, I didn't understand your question. You're talking about the arrondissements
18 or the neighbourhoods? Could you just tell me so I can offer an answer to your
19 question.

20 Q. [10:59:17] You've perfectly understood an answer to my question. From the
21 way I understood, there were arrondissements, groupings and neighbourhoods. I
22 want to understand how that hangs together. What is the administrative
23 organisational make-up of the city of Bangui, please. Can you lay that out for me,
24 please, how it -- how it works?

25 A. [10:59:42] Thank you. In a particular arrondissement, (Redacted)

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 (Redacted).

2 THE INTERPRETER: [11:00:09] Comment off mic from Defence counsel.

3 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:00:13](Interpretation) Your Honour, I think
4 technology is requiring us to take a break.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:00:19] Can we go into open session.

6 (Open session at 11.00 a.m.)

7 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:00:25] We are back in open session, Madam President.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:00:38] So I'm going to rise the Court, counsel, and
9 ask that we come back at 11:30. Thank you.

10 THE COURT USHER: [11:00:46] All rise.

11 (Recess taken at 11.00 a.m.)

12 (Upon resuming in open session at 11.32 a.m.)

13 THE COURT USHER: [11:32:54] All rise.

14 Please be seated.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:33:23] Good morning again, everyone.

16 Mr Witness, we are going to continue with your cross-examination. Can you hear
17 me? Can you see me?

18 THE WITNESS: [11:33:42](Interpretation) Yes, I can hear you and I can see you well.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:33:46] Thank you very much.

20 Mr Jacquemin, just to say that we are in open session, please. Thank you.

21 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:33:59](Interpretation) Thank you very much,
22 Madam President.

23 Q. [11:34:08] Good morning again, Mr Witness.

24 So, if I have understood you correctly, you were explaining at an earlier stage that the
25 city of Bangui is made up of arrondissements and (Redacted), for

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 (Redacted)

2 Now, are these neighbourhoods grouped together in any way, are they a part of
3 *groupements*, French word?

4 A. [11:34:41] Yes, there are also *groupements* or groupings.

5 Q. [11:34:47] And how many arrondissement are there by *groupement*? How does
6 this work (Redacted)?

7 A. [11:35:03] *There are five *groupements* in the
8 (Redacted).

9 THE INTERPRETER: [11:35:12] Correction.

10 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN:

11 Q. [11:35:14](Interpretation) Thank you, Mr Witness.

12 Now, the person in charge of an arrondissement, what name are they known by and
13 what is their status?

14 A. [11:35:39] Are you talking about the mayor of our arrondissement? I don't
15 really grasp the thrust of your question.

16 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:35:50](Interpretation) Madam President, could
17 we please go into private session.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:35:56] Certainly.

19 Madam Court Officer, can you go briefly into private session, please.

20 (Private session at 11.36 a.m.)

21 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:36:11] We are in private session, Madam President.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:36:14] Thank you very much.

23 Mr Jacquemin, put your question, please.

24 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:36:20](Interpretation) Thank you,

25 Madam President.

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 Thank you, Madam Courtroom Officer.

2 Q. [11:36:25] Now, I wasn't specifically talking, Mr Witness, about your
3 arrondissement, but you answered to my question that the chief of an arrondissement
4 is in fact the mayor of the arrondissement. Now, are there councils within this
5 arrondissement or is it the mayor who makes decisions alone? How does this work?

6 A. [11:36:51] Thank you very much too.
7 (Redacted), a council revolves around a leader or –
8 (Redacted) the mayor also has councillors.

9 Q. [11:37:19] Thank you, Mr Witness.
10 Now, I'm going to be staying at the level of the arrondissement for the time being.
11 Who is part of this council within the arrondissement? Who does it comprise?

12 A. [11:37:41] The team comprises the mayor of the arrondissement, a deputy mayor,
13 some councillors, and they are all part of the office of each arrondissement.

14 Q. [11:38:05] And if we take as an example (Redacted), how many people are there
15 in this council, if you know?

16 A. [11:38:33] There are four or five, if I'm not mistaken. There might be four or
17 five individuals.

18 Q. [11:38:45] Thank you, Mr Witness.
19 Now, how are they appointed?

20 A. [11:39:03] (Redacted), well, you have the mayor, you have the first councillor,
21 the second councillor, and the third councillor. So, as I said, you have the mayor,
22 the first, the second and the third councillors.

23 Q. [11:39:28] I do apologise, I believe that my question was not clear. How are
24 these individuals chosen, these individuals that form part of the arrondissement
25 council?

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 A. [11:39:55] In the Central African Republic, we have never organised municipal
2 elections. These councillors are appointed by a decision and this is how the mayor
3 of Bangui and the mayor of each arrondissement, in fact, are appointed, by a decision
4 signed by the president of the republic.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:40:34] You want us to still be in private session,
6 Mr Jacquemin?

7 (Counsel confers)

8 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:40:55](Interpretation) I'm going to try. As long
9 as the witness does not respond to the questions with regard to his own personal
10 experience.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:41:07] So shall we stay in private session or do you
12 want us to go into public session and you caution yourself on questions put?

13 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:41:25](Interpretation) Could we please move into
14 open session, Madam President, and I shall be mindful that the responses provided to
15 my general questions be also general in nature.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:41:40] Thank you very much.

17 Mr Witness, when you answer questions, don't name names. If you want to do that,
18 we will go into private session.

19 Madam Court Officer, can we go into open session, please.

20 (Open session at 11.42 a.m.)

21 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:42:12] We are back in open session, Madam President.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:42:15] Thank you very much.

23 Mr Jacquemin, please continue with your questions.

24 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:42:22](Interpretation) Thank you very much,
25 indeed, Madam President.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Q. [11:42:27] Mr Witness, I'm going to put a question to you again.

2 The mayor of the arrondissement and the councillors of the arrondissement, how are
3 they appointed, how are they chosen?

4 A. [11:42:53] Thank you for the question.

5 Their appointment is the remit of the president of the republic. It falls within his
6 remit. They are not elected via any elections, as such.

7 Q. [11:43:19] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

8 Was this already the case in 2013? Was this how things worked?

9 A. [11:43:44] Under the regime of the former president in the year 2003, it was
10 the same procedure that is still in force today. No municipal elections were held in
11 Bangui.

12 Q. [11:44:05] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

13 I'm going to be putting a number of questions to you with regard to the manner in
14 which the *chef de quartier* or the neighbourhood leader is chosen. How is this
15 individual selected?

16 A. [11:44:28] Thank you very much for this question. The neighbourhood leader is
17 chosen in the following manner: The candidate is requested to furnish a document
18 describing him or herself, and send it to the mayor of the arrondissement of
19 the candidate. And after these dossiers have been validated they are then
20 transferred to the minister or ministry of the interior, subsequent to which an
21 investigation into their good character is carried out. *And if the investigation finds
22 that the candidate does not have a criminal record, an election will be organised
23 where there are several candidates. At the end of the election, a leader will be voted in
24 and will take up the position of chef de quartier or neighbourhood leader.

25 Q. [11:45:43] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

Trial Hearing

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 How are these elections organised, these elections for the neighbourhood leader?

2 A. [11:46:05] Thank you.

3 When elections are held, there is the mayor and other individuals from the commune
4 who are present. There is a ballot box and a question is put to the population as to
5 whom they would like to vote for as neighbourhood leader. So, would they like to
6 vote this individual to vote via ballot box or via another means. This is how
7 the voting or the selection process unfolds for a neighbourhood leader.

8 Q. [11:47:04] And when there is an election that is conducted in such a manner, is
9 there a campaign that is held before this?

10 A. [11:47:22] When the date of the election is on the horizon they are given
11 the opportunity of leading campaigns, election campaigns, and they are requested to
12 respect the limits of their neighbourhood during -- or within which they can conduct
13 a leader campaign.

14 Q. [11:47:51] Thank you, Mr Witness.

15 Now, these campaigns, when they do exist, are they financed directly by
16 the candidates or by political parties? How does it work?

17 A. [11:48:08] Thank you.

18 In order to become a neighbourhood leader, the duties will not be political, as such.
19 You will hand in your file, your candidate file to the mayor of the arrondissement and
20 then you have to prepare yourself on a personal level for the campaign. You're not
21 supported by anybody at all. Under your own steam you will then go out on
22 the campaign trail, so there's no nexus with politics in any way.

23 Q. [11:48:59] Thank you, Mr Witness. I have understood how these elections
24 unfold.

25 Now, the neighbourhood leader, does he have a neighbourhood council, as such?

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 A. [11:49:18] Thank you. Yes, the neighbourhood leader does have
2 a councillor -- or a council, correction, a council. He needs to choose or select wise
3 individuals within the neighbourhood and when you find yourself up against any
4 issues, then you will turn to those wise individuals seeking help with regard to your
5 duties as neighbourhood leader.

6 Q. [11:49:50] Thank you, Mr Witness.

7 So, the neighbourhood leader is free to set up this council as he or she sees fit?

8 A. [11:50:11] With regard to the neighbourhood council, it is the neighbourhood
9 leader who convenes the wise individuals to a meeting and the neighbourhood leader
10 will introduce those individuals, saying that he would like them to become
11 councillors. And if in the future an issue raises its head, then he can ask these wise
12 individuals for their advice and they will be able to support him or her in their duties.

13 Q. [11:50:53] Thank you, Mr Witness. That is very clear indeed.

14 Now, in 2013 the neighbourhoods were part of a *groupements*; is that correct?

15 A. [11:51:20] {ICR: (Redacted).

16 (Redacted)}

17 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:51:46](Interpretation) Madam President, could
18 we very briefly go into private session, please.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:51:51] Certainly.

20 Madam Courtroom Officer, can we go into private session, please.

21 (Private session at 11.52 a.m.)

22 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:52:10] We are in private session, Madam President.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:52:12] Thank you very much.

24 Mr Jacquemin, please continue with your questions.

25 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:52:19](Interpretation) Thank you very much,

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Madam President. Thank you, Madam Courtroom Officer.

2 Q. [11:52:25] Now, I'm just going to broach an issue in private session, Mr Witness.

3 I'm going to be asking you questions on the subject of (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted), I'm asking you very general questions about how

6 Bangui worked in 2013.

7 I'm trying to put these questions to you in open session, and I would call upon you,

8 Mr Witness, to not say in answer to my questions in open session, not to mention

9 a specific (Redacted). You did very well when you were talking about

10 the neighbourhood leaders, but would it be all right with you if we go back into open

11 session, that we go back and that I put general questions to you and that had you

12 respond in a general manner; is that all right with you?

13 A. [11:53:34] Yes, that's fine. I have understood.

14 Q. [11:53:40] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

15 Madam President, could we please go back into open session.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:53:45] Madam Court Officer, can we go back into

17 open session, please.

18 (Open session at 11.54 a.m.)

19 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:54:03] We are back in open session, Madam President.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:54:05] Thank you very much.

21 Mr Jacquemin, your witness, please.

22 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:54:10](Interpretation) Thank you very much,

23 Madam President.

24 Thank you very much, Madam Court Officer.

25 Q. [11:54:16] Now, Mr Witness, if I have understood correctly, within

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 the arrondissement of Bangui there are neighbourhoods and you explained to us how
2 the neighbourhood leader was appointed.

3 Were these neighbourhoods brought together in *groupements*, Mr Witness?

4 A. [11:54:42] Thank you. Indeed, the neighbourhoods are assembled as part of
5 a *groupement*.

6 Q. [11:54:56] Thank you, Mr Witness.

7 Who is in charge of this *groupement*? What are the names known by?

8 A. [11:55:15] {ICR: (Redacted)}.

9 In my neighbourhood, the *groupement* leader is appointed in accordance with the law.

10 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:55:33] (Interpretation) Madam President, could
11 we please go into private session.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:55:39] Madam Court Officer, can we go back into
13 private session, briefly, please.

14 (Private session at 11.56 a.m.)

15 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:56:01] We are in private session, Madam President.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:56:04] Thank you very much.

17 Do we need a redaction there for his reference (Redacted)?

18 Mr Jacquemin, continue with your questions, please.

19 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:56:23](Interpretation) Oh, I do apologise, we will
20 make requests with regard to the excerpts that could be identified as the -- as to
21 the responses provided.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:56:39] Thank you.

23 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [11:56:42](Interpretation) Thank you,
24 Madam President.

25 Thank you, Madam Courtroom Officer.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Q. [11:56:47] Now, Mr Witness, we are going to proceed in private session. You
2 can speak freely, all right?

3 So, the -- how is the *groupement* leader chosen, Mr Witness, or how is he selected?

4 A. [11:57:11] Thank you. After having provided the geographical limitations or
5 limits to the *groupement* -- (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 Q. [11:58:05] Thank you, Mr Witness.

12 Have I understood you correctly that it is the neighbourhood leaders who appoint
13 the *groupement* leaders; is that correct, Mr Witness?

14 A. [11:58:20] That is correct.

15 Q. [11:58:23] Thank you, Mr Witness.

16 And this *groupement* leader, does he have a councillor?

17 A. [11:58:36] No. (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted). If the need arises for meetings to be convened, this *groupement* leader
20 will convene a meeting at his residence.

21 Q. [11:59:16] Thank you, Mr Witness.

22 (Redacted)?

23 A. [11:59:32] (Redacted).

24 (Redacted).

25 Q. [11:59:40] Thank you, Mr Witness.

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 At an earlier stage you described to us how one could become a candidate for
2 the position of neighbourhood leader and you talked about a -- an investigation into
3 the character of -- or good character of the person. How was this conducted?

4 A. [12:00:04] Now, this investigation into the person's character depends. Either
5 one requests such information from the -- from -- from the judicial police or
6 the national police of the country. Before, it used to be the town hall who would
7 choose the chief of the municipal police who would conduct an investigation into
8 the person's character. And if you have favourable results in this investigation, then
9 you will -- your dossier, your candidacy will be validated. If that is not the case,
10 then you will be disqualified subsequently.

11 Q. [12:00:57] Thank you, Mr Witness.

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 A. [12:01:12] Thank you.

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 Q. [12:01:49] Thank you, Mr Witness.

21 Now, earlier on in your evidence you said that you (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)?

23 A. [12:01:59] Yes, that's right. (Redacted).

24 Q. [12:02:06] (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

- 1 A. [12:02:18] That's right.
- 2 Q. [12:02:21] (Redacted)
- 3 (Redacted); that's right, isn't it?
- 4 A. [12:02:37] (Redacted)
- 5 (Redacted)
- 6 (Redacted)
- 7 (Redacted)
- 8 Q. [12:03:09] (Redacted)
- 9 (Redacted)
- 10 A. [12:03:21] I can't remember the date, but if I could refer to the records of
- 11 (Redacted) I could give you an answer. But I haven't consulted my documents,
- 12 I didn't consult them before I took the stand here.
- 13 Q. [12:03:38] Well, I don't have the (Redacted).
- 14 If you have them. Do you have them, the records of your -- the official records of
- 15 (Redacted), Mr Witness?
- 16 A. [12:03:50] Yes, I do. I do have those documents. They're at home.
- 17 Q. [12:03:58] Thank you, Mr Witness.
- 18 If you are asked to provide them, would you be willing to do so?
- 19 A. [12:04:10] Yes, I can give you those documents.
- 20 Q. [12:04:14] Thank you, Mr Witness.
- 21 Now, Boy-Rabe, from an administrative perspective in Bangui, what is it, what is it,
- 22 exactly?
- 23 A. [12:04:35](Overlapping speakers)
- 24 Q. [12:04:35] Did you hear my question, Mr Witness?
- 25 Boy-Rabe is located in the 4th arrondissement; is that right?

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 A. [12:04:50] Yes, that's right. That's right.

2 Q. [12:04:57] Thank you, Mr Witness.

3 So tell us, please, which *quartier* or neighbourhoods make up Boy-Rabe? Boy-Rabe is
4 constituted of which neighbourhoods?

5 A. [12:05:12] Well, I just said that within Boy-Rabe we have groupings. There are
6 29 chiefs and there are 29 neighbourhoods. Now, in each neighbourhood or *quartier*,
7 we have one individual.

8 THE INTERPRETER: [12:05:45] Corrects the interpreter: Each neighbourhood or
9 *quartier* has its own specific name.

10 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [12:05:52](Interpretation)

11 Q. [12:05:55] All right. So would I be right in saying that Boy-Rabe corresponds to
12 the 4th arrondissement?

13 A. [12:06:03] Yes, generally speaking.

14 Q. [12:06:13] What do you mean exactly by "generally speaking"? Is it a fraction
15 of the 4th, or is it all the 4th, or is it the 4th and something else? I'm trying to get an
16 exact idea of what Boy-Rabe actually constitutes.

17 A. [12:06:31] Thank you.

18 Boy-Rabe is in the *lycée* Boganda area. There is the Kagamangoulou district, *quartier*,
19 within it. There are a number of subdivided areas. I'm talking to you about where
20 (Redacted).

21 Q. [12:07:06] Very well. Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

22 Now, according to you, under Bozizé's presidency, which influential people lived
23 within Boy-Rabe?

24 A. [12:07:31] You are talking about what exactly? Can you specify the meaning of
25 your question. I haven't followed what you're driving at.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Q. [12:07:40] Were there ministers living in Boy-Rabe under François Bozize's
2 presidency?

3 A. [12:07:51] Ministers? Some ministers, two or three.

4 Q. [12:07:58] Now, if you recall, can you name them?

5 A. [12:08:07] Yes, I can give you some names, but others I've forgotten.

6 Wafio is an example. Wafio lived in Boy-Rabe.

7 And there was also -- well, they lived in Boy-Rabe, but I can't remember their names.

8 Q. [12:08:36] All right. What about administrative chiefs, did they live in
9 Boy-Rabe?

10 A. [12:08:45](Overlapping speakers)

11 Q. [12:08:45] Do you know?

12 Important people who held important positions in ministries, do you know whether
13 important people lived at the time in Boy-Rabe?

14 A. [12:09:14] The people who worked within the administration, military
15 personnel -- could you please specify your question -- clarify your question.

16 Q. [12:09:25] Well, I'm trying to be as catch-all and broad brushstrokes as possible
17 in the way I'm phrasing my question.

18 I want to know what type of person lived in Boy-Rabe. People who held important
19 positions in the administration, administrative leaders, ministers, MPs, and what
20 have you. I don't know, so it's difficult to narrow down my question.

21 A. [12:09:53] Your question is now clear. We had MPs representing
22 the 4th arrondissement at the time. There was another minister. And I have just
23 given you that person's names. *That Minister whose name I just gave, his wife was
24 an MP. In Boy-Rabe there were some Ministers, Directors-General, there were other
25 individuals as well.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Q. [12:10:33] Thank you.

2 You talked about director generals. Can you tell me which ones lived in Boy-Rabe or
3 can you name the administrations for which they worked?

4 A. [12:10:54] Some also worked at the SODECA. Some people worked in various
5 ministries, such as waters and forests. And other ministers lived in that particular
6 *quartier* or neighbourhood.

7 Q. [12:11:16] Thank you, Witness.

8 What about big corporate leaders? Did they live in Boy-Rabe as well?

9 A. [12:11:30] Yes, they were living there. Those that you mentioned, yes, they
10 lived there, they lived there.

11 Q. [12:11:42] And can you tell us what major corporate leader, big business leader
12 lived there?

13 A. [12:11:57] Thank you.

14 There was a CEO who lived in the 4th arrondissement. Ngaïssona, to name names.

15 There was Ngaïssona.

16 Q. [12:12:13] Thank you.

17 Were there any other CEOs of major companies that lived in Boy-Rabe, to the best of
18 your recollection?

19 A. [12:12:29] Sorry, I didn't quite catch the meaning of your question. Would you
20 mind putting it to me again.

21 Q. [12:12:37] Yes, of course, Mr Witness. I was asking you whether, to the best of
22 your recollection, were there other mayor CEOs, CEOs of major companies, that lived
23 in Boy-Rabe at the time?

24 A. [12:13:01] Well, there was the director general -- sorry, are you talking about
25 general directors of ministries? Sorry, I'm not really understanding what you're

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 saying.

2 Q. [12:13:14] Well, I think you've -- you've asked -- answered me partially. I just
3 wanted to know whether rich people of power and influence lived in Boy-Rabe.

4 And you've been offering answers for the last few minutes.

5 Madam President, I have been told that I am on my feet for the last 40 minutes, but I
6 receive instructions from the VWU, so I don't know where we stand in respect of that.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:13:41] Yes, I was about to ask you to allow me to
8 ask the witness.

9 Mr Witness, would you want for us to continue or do you want to take a break,
10 a short break?

11 THE WITNESS: [12:13:59](Interpretation) I would like to have a break.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:14:01] Okay.

13 I will stand the Court down for 10 minutes. Please let us know when he comes back
14 in. Thanks.

15 THE COURT USHER: [12:14:10] All rise.

16 (Recess taken at 12.14 p.m.)

17 (Upon resuming in open session at 12.25 p.m.)

18 THE COURT USHER: [12:25:42] All rise.

19 Please be seated.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:26:10] Good afternoon, everyone.

21 Mr Witness, we'll continue with your cross-examination.

22 Mr Jacquemin, I'm informed that we are in open session, please. So continue with
23 your questions to the witness.

24 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [12:26:29](Interpretation) Thank you very much,

25 Madam President. I have a few questions in private session before I move back into

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 open session for more general questions.

2 Could we please move into private session.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:26:42] Certainly.

4 Madam Court Officer, can we go back into private session, briefly, please.

5 (Private session at 12.27 p.m.)

6 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:27:00] We are in private session, Madam President.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:27:03] Thank you very much.

8 Mr Jacquemin, your witness, please.

9 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [12:27:09](Interpretation) Thank you very much,

10 Madam President. Thank you very much, Madam Courtroom Officer.

11 Q. [12:27:17] (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 A. [12:27:35] Thank you. (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 Q. [12:27:56] Thank you, Mr Witness.

16 (Redacted)

17 A. [12:28:12] Thank you. (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 Q. [12:28:47] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

22 Now, had you already (Redacted)?

23 A. [12:29:11] (Redacted) are you talking about? Could you please be a little bit

24 clearer so that I can understand.

25 Q. [12:29:21] I shall try to be clearer, Mr Witness.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Now, I have just asked you whether -- or how, in fact, (Redacted)

2 (Redacted) and you told me that it was by

3 (Redacted)?

4 A. [12:29:48] That is correct.

5 Q. [12:29:50] Thank you, Mr Witness.

6 I am asking you whether before that (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)?

8 A. [12:30:13] I have explained everything to you here. I explained to you in detail

9 and I'm wondering whether you haven't understood. Maybe you should read

10 the transcripts, because I have already explained everything to you.

11 Q. [12:30:37] Was this the first time that (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)?

13 A. [12:30:55] (Redacted)

14 Q. [12:31:02] Thank you, Mr Witness. That is far clearer.

15 Now, on the occasion that you were (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)?

17 A. [12:31:20] (Redacted).

18 Q. [12:31:25] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

19 (Redacted)?

20 A. [12:31:37] Thank you. (Redacted).

21 Q. [12:31:43] (Redacted)?

22 A. [12:32:00] (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted).

25 Q. [12:32:31] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)?

3 A. [12:32:56] It was after work. (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 the precise date.

6 Q. [12:33:13] Thank you, Mr Witness.

7 Do you remember the year?

8 A. [12:33:26] That's what I've just said. The dates are on the document that was

9 issued by the hospital. Were I to have this document before me, I would be in

10 a position to provide you with the date, but I am not.

11 Q. [12:33:44] Very well, Mr Witness. I shall come back to that. Thank you.

12 Now, for the parties, I'm going to be relying on tab 2, for the English version.

13 CAR-OTP-2130-1902, page 1915, paragraph 59.

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted); is that correct?

16 A. [12:34:32] I didn't hear the question very well.

17 Q. [12:34:37] In 2013, Mr Witness, when you (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)?

19 A. [12:34:57] Yes, I did have staff. (Redacted)

20 (Redacted).

21 These were the members of my office.

22 Q. [12:35:21] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

23 (Redacted)?

24 A. [12:35:33] I thank you for that question.

25 (Redacted)

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 (Redacted)

2 Q. [12:35:59] At an earlier stage you talked to us about (Redacted)
3 individuals. Are these the same people who are one and the same person, that is to
4 (Redacted)?

5 A. [12:36:23] I have heard your question. I told you that (Redacted)
6 (Redacted), both women and men, and they are not part of
7 the office. They are the ones who (Redacted)
8 (Redacted). The members of my office are
9 other individuals.

10 Q. [12:36:53] Thank you, Mr Witness, that is very clear.
11 (Redacted)?

12 A. [12:37:09] Thank you.
13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted). And we keep these
15 records in the archives, to which we refer when an event occurs.

16 Q. [12:37:47] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.
17 (Redacted), does he receive any form of remuneration for his mission
18 or work?

19 A. [12:38:04] No. He works on a voluntary basis and is not paid. We are
20 working for the country. We are working for the country. And if people who come
21 to attend meetings give some money, then I can take part of that sum and give it to
22 (Redacted).

23 Q. [12:38:45] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

24 Now, is it frequent for people to give money under such circumstances?

25 A. [12:39:03] I have not understood your question. Could you please put it again.

Trial Hearing (Private Session)
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 Q. [12:39:09] Yes, of course, Mr Witness.

2 (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted). I'm asking you whether people give

5 money frequently?

6 A. [12:39:42] Thank you.

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 Q. [12:40:47] Thank you, Mr Witness.

15 Now, you mention (Redacted). Do people on occasion give more

16 than that?

17 A. [12:41:02] No. No.

18 Q. [12:41:06] Thank you, Mr Witness.

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 A. [12:41:48] As I said to you, (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 (Redacted)

2 Q. [12:42:15] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

3 Now, could you explain to us what the difference is between (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)?

5 A. [12:42:39] Thank you. (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 We are somewhat limited in our scope of work. That's what I'm trying to explain to
8 you.

9 Q. [12:43:14] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

10 How long do (Redacted)? For what duration are you

11 (Redacted)?

12 A. [12:43:35] I thank you. (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 Q. [12:43:54] Thank you, Mr Witness.

16 (Redacted)?

17 A. [12:44:06] (Redacted)

18 (Redacted).

19 When, for example, (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted).

22 Q. [12:44:30] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 I'm going to ask Madam President for us to move into open session and I would ask

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 A. [12:45:06] I have understood.

6 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [12:45:13](Interpretation) Madam President, could
7 we please go into open session.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:45:16] Thank you.

9 Madam Court Officer, can we go into open session, please. Thank you.

10 (Open session at 12.45 p.m.)

11 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:45:39] We are back in open session, Madam President.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:45:42] Thank you very much.

13 Mr Jacquemin, continue your questions, please.

14 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [12:45:47](Interpretation) Thank you very much,
15 Madam President.

16 And thank you very much, Madam Courtroom officer.

17 Q. [12:45:48] Now, Mr Witness, what does a neighbourhood leader do when an
18 individual deceases in the neighbourhood?

19 When an individual passes away in the neighbourhood, does the neighbourhood
20 leader have to draw up any documents?

21 A. [12:46:15] Thank you.

22 The neighbourhood leader does indeed draw up certain documents.

23 Q. [12:46:24] And what documents does the neighbourhood leader draw up on
24 the occasion of a decease, or death?

25 A. [12:46:34] For example, in the case of a death, a death certificate is drawn up.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 This is a death certificate.

2 Q. [12:46:46] Thank you, Mr Witness.

3 It is -- is it the neighbourhood leader who actually takes note of the fact that
4 the person has deceased or is it a doctor who does that?

5 A. [12:47:07] When somebody passes away in the neighbourhood, then
6 the neighbourhood leader draw up -- draws up the death certificate. But if it
7 happens at the hospital, this is done at the hospital before the body is buried.

8 Q. [12:47:30] Thank you, Mr Witness.

9 Now, in terms of procedure, does the neighbourhood leader have to ask himself
10 the question whether the death is suspicious in any way?

11 A. [12:47:49] When somebody passes away in your neighbourhood, in order
12 to draw up a death certificate, you must know how the person died before issuing
13 the document. You ask whether that person was ill, whether they were in an
14 accident. You need to put a number of questions before you issue the
15 document.

16 Q. [12:48:17] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

17 Now, what does the neighbourhood leader do when the death occurred under
18 suspicious circumstances and the death was not a natural death, what does
19 the neighbourhood leader do under such circumstances?

20 A. [12:48:39] Thank you. If the person did not die of natural causes, then one
21 cannot -- one must make efforts to bury this individual in a dignified manner, because
22 we know that we are all going to die one day.

23 Q. [12:49:04] Thank you, Mr Witness.

24 This death certificate that is issued by the neighbourhood leader, is it signed by him
25 alone or does somebody else sign that document?

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 A. [12:49:31] The leader can sign the document, but in his absence, if he has to go
2 on mission somewhere, he can order his secretary general or judge to sign
3 the document by proxy so that the family can bury the body or complete other
4 administrative procedures.

5 Q. [12:50:00] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

6 Is this death certificate necessary in order for the body to be buried?

7 A. [12:50:19] Previously, when you needed to bury bodies in the cemetery, staff
8 from the mayor's office or from the cemetery needed to present this document before
9 the grave was dug.

10 Q. [12:50:39] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

11 And is this document or certificate necessary in order for inheritance matters to be
12 dealt with?

13 A. [12:51:01] {ICR: (Redacted)}

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)}

17 Q. [12:51:32] Thank you, Mr Witness.

18 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: Madam President, could we please move into
19 private session.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:51:40] Madam Court Officer, can we move briefly
21 into private session, please.

22 (Private session at 12.51 p.m.)

23 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:51:58] We are in private session, Madam President.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:52:02] Thank you very much.

25 Mr Jacquemin, continue, please.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [12:52:07](Interpretation) Thank you very much,
2 Madam President, Madam Courtroom Officer.

3 Q. [12:52:14] (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 Does the neighbourhood leader have a civilian status register?

7 A. [12:52:42] Thank you very much.

8 With regard to the question that you are putting to me, a neighbourhood leader has
9 an event log in which he notes down everything that has occurred in
10 the neighbourhood and preserves or conserves all documents thereby.

11 Q. [12:53:12] Thank you, Mr Witness.

12 Now, does the mayor's office have a civil status register or are there merely these
13 documents, or is there merely the document issued by the neighbourhood leader?

14 A. [12:53:27] I thank you for your question.

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 Q. [12:53:55] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 A. [12:54:18] (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 Q. [12:55:27] Thank you, Mr Witness.

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 A. [12:55:46] The -- a thousand francs are paid in that location for the death
11 certificate to be issued. If the individual works in state administration, then that will
12 be done at the Bangui mayor's office. Every year the mayor's office issues a number
13 of deceased individuals within the Bangui mayor's limits.

14 Q. [12:56:34] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

15 Now, Mr Witness, I have finished questioning you on the subject of civil status.

16 Now, when somebody wants to sell their land or their house, what is the role of
17 the neighbourhood chief therein?

18 A. [12:56:59] Thank you.

19 If somebody wants to sell their plot of land, they go to the neighbourhood leader.

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 Q. [12:57:41] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

25 (Redacted)

Trial Hearing

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

1 A. [12:57:58] (Redacted)

2 a property or not, if that person has documents associated with that plot of land

3 furnished by the ministry of urban planning, or urban areas, and if he or she is in

4 possession of said document (Redacted)

5 (Redacted). But if it is not the plot of land

6 and that they -- they bought it under customary law, then it goes through the leader

7 and then the leader can ascertain whether that person -- whether that plot of land

8 belongs to that individual and whether the sale can take place.

9 Q. [12:59:05] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

10 And to finish on this point, Madam Courtroom Officer, could we please show to

11 the witness tab 1. And for the English version, that's tab 2. CAR-OTP-2130-1902,

12 page 1905. It's paragraph 13, please.

13 And I'm going to be reading to you an excerpt from your witness statement,

14 Mr Witness, paragraph 13, where you said: "(Redacted)

15 (Redacted)." End of quote.

16 Does that refresh your memory?

17 A. [13:00:01] Thank you.

18 As I said at as earlier stage, the plot of land that was bought before the person built

19 the house, (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted). If it is

24 the ministry of urban affairs that has given -- handed over the plot and given them all

25 the documents, (Redacted). But if the documents do not show

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-1524

(Private Session)

ICC-01/14-01/21

1 this, (Redacted).

2 Q. [13:01:01] Thank you, Mr Witness.

3 Madam President, that was my last question for today.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [13:01:09] Okay, for today.

5 May I ask how much more time you want with this witness, Mr Jacquemin?

6 Mr Jacquemin, please.

7 MR FRANÇOIS-JACQUEMIN: [13:01:26](Interpretation) I do apologise,

8 Madam President. One session, I believe. I hardly dare promise you anything

9 anymore, but I do believe that I will need a session. And were I to dare to promise
10 to you, then I would say that no more than one and a half sessions, but one session
11 being my aim.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [13:01:52] Now that is noted.

13 Can we go back into open session, please.

14 (Open session at 1.02 p.m.)

15 THE COURT OFFICER: [13:02:12] We are back in open session, Madam President.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [13:02:15] Thank you very much.

17 Mr Witness, we are going to stop your testimony here for today. We'll meet again
18 tomorrow at 9.30, but I want to remind you that you should not discuss your
19 testimony that you've given here today with anybody when you leave that location
20 where you are at; is that understood?

21 THE WITNESS: [13:02:48](Overlapping speakers)

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [13:02:50] Good.

23 So this matter stands adjourned until tomorrow, 9.30, please.

24 THE COURT USHER: [13:02:56] All rise.

25 (The hearing ends in open session at 1.02 p.m.)