

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-D29-P-5013

(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
5 Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona - ICC-01/14-01/18
6 Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt, Judge Péter Kovács and
7 Judge Chang-ho Chung
8 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 1
9 Monday, 13 May 2024
10 (The hearing starts in open session at 10.01 a.m.)
11 THE COURT USHER: [10:01:54] All rise.
12 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
13 Please be seated.
14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:02:17] Good morning, everyone.
15 Court officer, please call the case.
16 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:02:23] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
17 Situation in the Central African Republic II, in the case of The Prosecutor versus
18 Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona, case reference ICC-01/14-01/18.
19 And for the record, we are in open session.
20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:02:38] Thank you very much.
21 I ask for the appearances of the party.
22 Prosecution first, Mr Garcia.
23 MR GARCIA: [10:02:46] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
24 The Prosecution is represented today by Mr Pierre Belbenoit-Avich,
25 Mr Kweku Vanderpuye, Mr Yassin Mostfa and myself Lucio Garcia. Thank you.

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- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:02:58] Ms Rabesandratana for the victims.
- 2 MS RABESANDRATANA: [10:03:00](Interpretation) Good morning, your Honours.
- 3 Good morning, everyone. Today, the representatives of the victims are represented
- 4 by Mr -- Ms Massidda, Mr Enrique Carnero Rojo and myself.
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:03:23] Thank you.
- 6 Mr Suprun.
- 7 MR SUPRUN: [10:03:29] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. The former
- 8 child soldiers are represented by myself, Dmytro Suprun. Thank you.
- 9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:03:32] Thank you very much.
- 10 I turn to the Defence, Ms Dimitri next.
- 11 MS DIMITRI: [10:03:39] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning,
- 12 your Honours. Good morning, everyone. And good morning, Madam Witness.
- 13 Mr Yekatom is present in the courtroom this morning. He is represented by
- 14 Ms Sabine Bayssat, Ms Alexandra Baer, Ms Anta Guissé, Mr Gyo Suzuki,
- 15 Ms Maider Cordova, Ms Sarah Bafadhel, we have Mr Régis Tiangaye following
- 16 remotely, and myself Mylène Dimitri.
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:04:02] Thank you very much.
- 18 Mr Knoops.
- 19 MR KNOOPS: [10:04:06] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. Good
- 20 morning, everyone in the courtroom. The Defence team of Mr Ngaïssona comprised
- 21 today just of Justine Crête and myself. Thank you.
- 22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:04:18] Thank you very much.
- 23 And, of course, most importantly we have a witness in the courtroom. We will now
- 24 start with the testimony of Witness D29-5013.
- 25 Madam Witness, good morning, I hope you are well and motivated to testify in this

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1 courtroom.

2 WITNESS: CAR-D29-P-5013

3 (The witness speaks French)

4 THE WITNESS: [10:04:37](Interpretation) Good morning.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:04:38] You are called to testify in the case of
6 the Prosecutor v Mr Yekatom and Mr Ngaïssona. There should be a card in front of
7 you with a solemn undertaking to tell the truth.

8 Madam Witness, please be so kind and read this cards out aloud.

9 THE WITNESS: [10:04:57](Interpretation) I solemnly declare that I shall tell the truth,
10 the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:05:12] Thank you, Madam Witness. You are
12 now under oath.

13 You also know that there are protective measures in place for you. I don't have to
14 explain them to you by myself. We can then start immediately, I think, with your
15 testimony.

16 Just one thing for everyone. We still have the -- we suggest to still have the three
17 sessions, meaning the first session until half past 11, then a half-hour break, then until
18 half past 1, a shortened lunch break, and from 2.30 to 4 o'clock.

19 I give you the floor.

20 MS BAYSSAT: [10:05:42] Thank you, Mr President.

21 QUESTIONED BY MS BAYSSAT: (Interpretation)

22 Q. [10:05:46] Good morning, Madam Witness. We've already had an opportunity
23 to meet one another, but I'll introduce myself for the purposes of the records:
24 Sabrina Bayssat, and I'm a member of the Yekatom Defence team, and I am the one
25 who will be putting some questions to you on behalf of the Defence.

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1 Now, before we get going, I do have a few reminders for you. First of all, as you
2 must realise, we're both speaking French and everything that we say is being
3 interpreted into Sango and English, and it's also being transcribed. So, to allow the
4 court reporters and the interpreters to do their work properly, I'd like to ask you to
5 speak slowly - and this is a reminder I should apply to myself as well - and please
6 pause before answering my questions. And I'll do the same before I put my
7 following questions, so don't be surprised if there's a little bit of a pause between
8 question and answer.

9 As you also know, you benefit from protective measures and I'd like to ask you to be
10 careful when we're in open session. Please don't give any information that could
11 reveal your identity. Don't worry, each time I will specify whether we're in open
12 session or private session. If you have the slightest doubt, don't hesitate to ask me
13 for clarification.

14 If a question is not clear, please say so, don't hesitate, and I will reformulate my
15 question. If you don't know the answer to one of my questions, don't hesitate to say
16 that you don't know.

17 Is everything clear so far?

18 A. [10:07:24] Yes, thank you.

19 Q. [10:07:26] Before beginning my questioning I would like to begin with a few
20 questions about your professional path and then after that I will turn to the events
21 that occurred in the CAR in 2013, 2014 and I'll try to follow chronological order as
22 much as possible.

23 MS BAYSSAT: [10:07:50] Mr President --

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:07:52] Private session for that, and also for
25 the biographical details.

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- 1 MS BAYSSAT: [10:07:56] Yes.
- 2 (Private session at 10.08 a.m.)
- 3 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:08:08] We are in private session, Mr President.
- 4 MS BAYSSAT: [10:08:14](Interpretation)
- 5 Q. [10:08:17] (Redacted)
- 6 (Redacted)
- 7 A. [10:08:23] (Redacted)
- 8 Q. [10:08:28] (Redacted)
- 9 A. [10:08:30] (Redacted)
- 10 Q. [10:08:38] (Redacted)
- 11 A. [10:08:40] (Redacted)
- 12 Q. [10:08:48] (Redacted)
- 13 A. [10:08:54] (Redacted)
- 14 (Redacted)
- 15 Q. [10:09:11] (Redacted)
- 16 A. [10:09:15] (Redacted)
- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 Q. [10:09:25] (Redacted)
- 19 (Redacted)
- 20 A. [10:09:36] (Redacted)
- 21 (Redacted)
- 22 THE INTERPRETER: [10:10:00] (Redacted)
- 23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:10:03] (Redacted)
- 24 (Redacted)
- 25 THE WITNESS: [10:10:13](Interpretation) (Redacted)

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:42:26] (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 (Open session at 10.42 a.m.)

4 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:42:47] We're in open session, Mr President.

5 MS BAYSSAT: [10:42:52](Interpretation)

6 Q. [10:42:54] *Madam, during the Seleka period, did your field agents who worked
7 at the same agency as you, inform you of any incidents in the various regions in the
8 Central African Republic?

9 A. [10:43:07] Yes, I can confirm that.

10 Q. [10:43:18] During the Seleka period, did you have any field missions?

11 A. [10:43:21] Yes.

12 Q. [10:43:29] Which regions in CAR did you visit?

13 A. [10:43:33] Well, with my head of mission we decided to go right up to the north
14 and also the northwest. In Batangafo, up to Batangafo, we went by car and we
15 stopped as often as we could in all the villages which we passed, from Bangui
16 onwards. So it was a very long journey. Even when we left Bangui, in all
17 the villages where we stopped -- would you like me to tell you? Shall I tell you
18 the details?

19 Q. [10:44:31] Yes, please.

20 A. [10:44:33] So, in all the villages where we stopped, firstly, we always had
21 the impression that we were arriving in an empty village, deserted village. And,
22 when we got out of the car, we walked towards the village and, there, slowly, slowly
23 individuals emerged from the bush. *And, we asked to speak to the chief of the
24 village. The chief of the village was often alone because the young people remained in
25 hiding, told us about exactions, acts of violence that had been committed against the

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1 people of that village, the deaths, he told us about the deaths, he told us about the
2 wounded, the acts of torture, the women who had been raped, kidnappings, and each
3 time they heard the noise of a car which was approaching, everybody fled into
4 the bush. That's what was explained to us and that's why when we arrived, we
5 never found anyone in the village.
6 There was also very few animals, generally speaking. When you go into one of these
7 villages, we had to drive slowly because there were animals who were crossing the
8 road, pigs, chickens, et cetera, and we had to willingly reduce our speed, but here
9 there were very few animals, so we asked them, "What's happened to your animals?
10 Where are they?" And they said, because the Seleka had stopped in all the villages
11 when they went somewhere, they systematically stopped in all the villages in order to
12 steal money and, when they couldn't steal money, they took the animals. And even
13 when they stole the money, they also stole the animals, or they killed them on
14 the spot. So, if you like -- how shall I put it? It was as if -- as if they wanted to leave
15 the people behind die of famine.
16 There were some villages where we met chiefs who had been tortured and still had
17 the scars from the torture that they had to endure. So these were all stories that were
18 told to us by the chief or by certain victims throughout our entire journey up to
19 Batangafo. It was extremely difficult, very, very difficult indeed.

20 Q. [10:47:30] Thank you, Madam.

21 Can you tell us a little bit more about the situation of the elderly in those villages?

22 A. [10:47:38] Yes. Because whenever they heard our car, they fled into the bush,
23 after two or three months, elderly people couldn't do this anymore and simply
24 refused to budge. So they often remained either in their home -- I remember one
25 village where we arrived, it was completely deserted, there was only one elderly

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1 gentleman who was sitting on his chair, he was really well dressed. I would say he
2 was very dignified, a lot of dignity surrounded him. He looked at me and he said,
3 "You know, Madam, I am tired, I am tired, I can't run away anymore. People can
4 run. I can't run anymore. I am tired. So, right now, if they arrive, well, they'll just
5 kill me. I am ready to die."

6 Q. [10:48:51] Did the situation have also an impact on the young girls of the -- in
7 the villages?

8 A. [10:49:00] Yes, because the women who were pregnant and fled into the bushes
9 were forced either to deliver in the bush or had a miscarriage. Often, the women
10 who fled lost their children, sometimes. I remember there were lots of children who
11 were gathered in Paoua once we were there and we found 10 children or 12 who were
12 without their parents and who didn't belong to be anyone there. They weren't from
13 the same family. So they were gathered by an organisation and that organisation
14 tried to find their parents, which wasn't very easy. Often, there were parents that we
15 simply couldn't find. And, indeed, we never were able to find their parents.
16 Probably their parents had been killed in the bush or abducted, but we never found
17 the bodies either.

18 So, there were women who lost their babies, and who also were victims of rape.
19 When the women, when the youth -- when the people who fled in the bush, if they
20 couldn't run fast enough and didn't leave early enough for the bush, the Seleka ran
21 after them.

22 So, it was really a race into the bush.

23 Q. [10:50:37] Did the population have access to health care?

24 A. [10:50:46] No. In the beginning yes, but, afterwards, all the health centres had
25 nothing to look after anybody. The health agents who weren't from that area, often

1 they preferred to flee, to go back to their own areas or to go to Bangui, where they
2 thought they would be more safe.

3 Bearing in mind, they also ran the risk that they would be apprehended during their
4 voyage back to wherever they thought they would be safe so that they -- everything
5 was a risk.

6 Q. [10:51:39] Did the police or the gendarmerie intervene to protect the population?

7 A. [10:51:44] No, no, the police and the gendarmerie, they themselves were chased,
8 and if, unfortunately, they were recognised, or even suspected of belonging to
9 a defence and security force, they were either tortured, abducted.

10 In any case, if they were abducted, it was to be killed or to be left as dead. It was
11 torture. And, when they died, they were generally thrown into the river. It was
12 really terrible. They couldn't do anything. They were completely helpless.
13 The population was -- really had to rely on their own resources, there was no
14 protection.

15 Q. [10:52:45] And the situation that you described, was that specific in the villages
16 of Bangui and Batangafo?

17 A. [10:52:54] This situation existed everywhere, in all the villages. It was
18 everywhere. It was general. We had this information, as I said previously.
19 The facts were reported back to us by the agents of the other organisations who were
20 present in the zone, but we also had telephone contact and I stressed on several
21 occasions, because I wasn't directly responsible for this project of the telephone
22 contacts which we call the green line, but sometimes the technicians who were
23 working on this telephone line called me, because they felt helpless, and see what I
24 could do in order to help them.

25 So, we had victims, either the authorities or the population, who called us on this

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1 particular line.

2 Q. [10:54:07] *And what was your purpose in the context of your role for the DRC?

3 A. [10:54:14] My objective was to protect the population and do everything I could
4 to save them.

5 Q. [10:54:27] And how did you feel, given all the suffering of the population that
6 you saw?

7 A. [10:54:35] You know, when in several months you are confronted and you see
8 this day in, day out, you get calls for help by women through -- by men in the most
9 remote areas that are -- have to rely on themselves without protection, and you can do
10 absolutely nothing for that population, *you end up by being appalled by what is
11 happening, appalled. And it wasn't only me who felt this.

12 Q. [10:55:28] Madam, as far as you know, Madam, were there any Chadian soldiers
13 in CAR who worked together with the Seleka?

14 A. [10:55:37] Of course. At that time, I had a contact who worked -- it was
15 a young man, he sold cigarettes and drinks along the roadside, and, one day, he
16 called me. He also sold telephone cards, and that's how I got to know him. Once
17 he called me and said, "Madam, can I come and see you?" And he told me, "Listen,
18 there's a huge problem, a very serious problem, the Chadian soldiers who have come
19 here within the BINUCA mission, in inverted commas, to protect the civilian
20 population, well, they *lend their uniforms and give them to the Seleka elements."
21 So this was information that I was given. And, one day, we received urgent help
22 calls through the telephone communication of individuals in different
23 neighbourhoods of Bangui. We got these calls saying, "Madam, Madam, they
24 are -- they are coming here to kill us. They're killing us. They're coming to kill us.
25 They are Seleka. They are disguised, they have put on the uniforms of the Chadian

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1 soldiers who work for BINUCA." The uniform -- because they -- that -- with that
2 uniform you could enter into the neighbourhood because you thought they belonged
3 to the mission to maintain peace. It wasn't yet completely official. And there you
4 have it, so that confirmed what we thought and what that young man had told me.

5 Q. [10:58:09] *As far as you know, is that the first time that in the history of the
6 Central African Republic Chadian soldiers were involved in a conflict?

7 A. [10:58:16] No, I already heard that this has happened before. I heard of things
8 like that that had happened before. I would like to add that, in fact, the young man
9 who came to see me to tell me that they were swapping uniforms, I asked him
10 whether he could have more information, give us further information so that I could
11 report it to the relevant forces so that they could take steps, and I wanted to have
12 proof.

13 He told me the actual place, the house, it was an abandoned house where they came
14 at the end of the afternoon to drop off their uniforms, and then later they were picked
15 up by the Seleka elements *who got changed in that abandoned house.

16 Q. [10:59:25] Thank you, Ma'am.

17 And going by your conversations with the civilians, could you say whether that had
18 an impact on the perception by the Central African Republic people on -- in relation
19 to the Chadian soldiers?

20 A. [10:59:48] It was very --

21 THE INTERPRETER: [10:59:51] Correction: The Chadian community.

22 THE WITNESS: [10:59:55](Interpretation) Yes, of course. It was very difficult for
23 the people of the Central African Republic, because in the past they had already had
24 many troubles with Chadians, so, so yes, yes, of course, the Chadians were not -- were
25 not highly thought of. They did not enjoy a good reputation with the population.

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- 1 MS BAYSSAT: [11:00:34](Interpretation)
- 2 Q. [11:00:35] Do you know whether the Seleka was present in Lobaye?
- 3 A. [11:00:39] Yes.
- 4 Q. [11:00:42] And where were they within the Lobaye area?
- 5 A. [11:00:48] They were in Mbaïki since I was -- I had occasion to meet with
- 6 a colonel who was working there in Mbaïki.
- 7 Q. [11:01:06] I'll return to that matter of the colonel later.
- 8 Now, after the Seleka arrived in the Lobaye area, was your protection *agent still
- 9 based in Lobaye?
- 10 A. [11:01:21] Yes.
- 11 Q. [11:01:22] And still based in Mbaïki?
- 12 A. [11:01:24] Yes.
- 13 Q. [11:01:40] And is your agency still telling you about the situation there in
- 14 the Lobaye area?
- 15 A. [11:01:49] Yes.
- 16 Q. [11:01:57] And have they told you whether the situation has changed?
- 17 A. [11:02:05] What do you mean by that? You're asking me whether the situation
- 18 has changed since the presence of the Seleka?
- 19 Q. [11:02:15] Yes.
- 20 A. [11:02:17] Yes, yes, of course.
- 21 Q. [11:02:20] Could you tell us how the situation has changed.
- 22 A. [11:02:25] Many acts of violence and abuse have been committed against
- 23 the population. In all the villages, they would go by, there has been violence upon
- 24 the population. I no longer have the actual numbers. I no longer have access to
- 25 the database. It's been quite a while. But, acts of violence and abuse in all

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1 the villages, people were tortured, killed.

2 Q. [11:03:10] Were there any surprise attacks by the Seleka in the villages of
3 the Lobaye area?

4 A. [11:03:18] Yes. But I don't really recall specifically anymore.

5 Q. [11:03:31] Did the Seleka engage in looting in the villages?

6 A. [11:03:36] Yes.

7 Q. [11:03:44] Do you have any examples you can give us of acts of violence and
8 abuse? Anything that particularly struck you?

9 A. [11:03:55] There was one example that I was told about and it really did shock
10 me, even though all the acts of violence and abuse were terrible. Perhaps -- well, I
11 won't give specifics, but, generally speaking, it was -- there was a Muslim burial,
12 someone from the Muslim community was being buried, and so at the time of
13 the burial all the young people were escorting the group with motorcycles and,
14 during the burial, Seleka elements came and they took all the motorbikes. At the
15 end of the burial, the person who was in charge from the Muslim community in that
16 village, I forget the name of the village, that Muslim person went to see them and
17 protested, saying that what they had done was not right and that they had always
18 lived on very good terms with the Christians in that village and there was no reason
19 to confiscate motorbikes like that. And because he had dared to advocate on behalf
20 of the young people without mentioning any religious belonging, he was held by
21 the Seleka elements and tortured until he actually died. He was an elderly man*And,
22 contrary to what you might think, even at the time we could say to ourselves, that the
23 Seleka, who were for the most part of Muslim confession, would be more conciliatory
24 with the Muslim community." But that wasn't always the case. It wasn't always
25 the case. And that was one proof of that.

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1 They then threw his body onto the road once he was dead and they asked the family
2 to come and get the body. But to go and get the body, and get the body so that they
3 could give the person a decent burial, they actually had to pay some money to be able
4 to do that. The family had to pay some money.

5 MS BAYSSAT: [11:06:42] Mr President, I would like to go to private session, please.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:06:46] Private session.

7 (Private session at 11.07 a.m.)

8 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:07:01] We are in private session, Mr President.

9 MS BAYSSAT: [11:07:11](Interpretation)

10 Q. [11:07:14] (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 A. [11:07:27] (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 Q. [11:08:21] (Redacted)

19 A. [11:08:25] (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 Q. [11:08:47] (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 A. [11:08:54] (Redacted)

25 Q. [11:08:59] (Redacted)

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- 1 (Redacted)
- 2 Q. [11:15:53] (Redacted)
- 3 (Redacted)
- 4 A. [11:16:01] (Redacted)
- 5 (Redacted)
- 6 (Redacted)
- 7 (Redacted)
- 8 Q. [11:16:38] (Redacted)
- 9 MS BAYSSAT: [11:16:40] (Redacted)
- 10 (Redacted)
- 11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:16:46] (Redacted)
- 12 (Open session at 11.17 a.m.)
- 13 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:17:00] We are in open session, Mr President.
- 14 MS BAYSSAT: [11:17:06](Interpretation)
- 15 Q. [11:17:10] Ma'am, now, when you met Colonel Anour, did you go back and
- 16 forth to the Lobaye area more often?
- 17 A. [11:17:19] Yes. I went back and forth more often, because, because he was
- 18 committing more and more acts of violence and abuse and you could feel the tension
- 19 in the area. Things were becoming more and more tense within the area.
- 20 Q. [11:17:50] How often would you travel to the Lobaye area, if you remember?
- 21 A. [11:17:54] *I don't remember. I don't remember. I would be talking nonsense
- 22 if... yes.
- 23 Q. [11:18:05] No problem. Now, you mentioned tension, could you explain what
- 24 kind of tension?
- 25 A. [11:18:16] Well, I could feel that the colonel was becoming more and more

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1 nervous. He would say more and more things about my officer who was there,
2 there, and more about the acts of violence and abuse that he had committed, so it
3 created a kind of tension. We said to ourselves, "This isn't right. What's going on?
4 What's going on? We have to do something."

5 Q. [11:19:00] I realise that you're talking about Mbaiki?

6 A. [11:19:03] Yes.

7 Q. [11:19:04] Did you hear about tension within the Lobaye area?

8 A. [11:19:08] Generally speaking, no.

9 Q. [11:19:20] And did *your agent who was there talk to the Muslim population?

10 A. [11:19:25] Yes. You must realise that *this agent talked to everyone. There
11 was no -- our work is not to distinguish between groups within the population.

12 Q. [11:19:47] Did you hear any talk or did your officer tell you about tension
13 between religious communities?

14 A. [11:19:58] It wasn't tension between religious communities, it was just
15 that -- well, of course, in the villages where there were both Christians and Muslims
16 who were there, living there, who had lived together for a long time, distrust began to
17 grow between the two communities. Why? Because the Seleka, who were mostly
18 of the Muslim faith, had a tendency to approach Muslims who were there in
19 the village. And so, thus, that caused the Christian people to become distrustful.
20 So there was some distrust emerging.

21 Q. [11:21:19] Ma'am, and this distrust, what form did it take, this distrust by
22 the Christian population?

23 A. [11:21:31] In actual fact, it didn't take the form of violence, but in some villages
24 people began to give others reason to believe that the Muslim community was not
25 necessarily welcome and it was better for them to leave. We had that information

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1 because, regularly, for example, when I would go to Mbaïki I would stop at a number
2 of villages to talk to the leaders there, particularly in villages where there were
3 Muslim communities, and I would speak to officials from each community and I
4 sensed that trust had broken down and it had gone from a loss of trust to
5 a breakdown in trust and the Muslim community who were in the minority in
6 the village in question would say, "We would rather leave."

7 Q. [11:22:57] Ma'am, do you remember whether President Djotodia was still in
8 power at that time?

9 A. [11:23:07] I know that when -- actually, I really didn't make a connection
10 between what was going on in the world of politics and what was going on in
11 the field, but, in actual fact, once he left power, at one point all the Seleka left
12 the Lobaye area and I believe that corresponded to the point in time when Djotodia
13 left. I'm not so sure. I didn't really pay all that much attention. I was much more
14 focused on the field.

15 Q. [11:23:51] That's not a problem, Ma'am.
16 You told us that the Muslim people in these villages wanted to leave?

17 A. [11:24:16] Yes.

18 Q. [11:24:16] Did they leave?

19 A. [11:24:18] Yes.

20 Q. [11:24:23] So the Muslim people were travelling along the road between Mbaïki
21 and Bangui. Where did they go?

22 A. [11:24:34] The ones who were in the villages closest, well, the villages closer to
23 Bangui, those people would leave and they would head towards Bangui. And then
24 after that I don't know.

25 Now, in villages that were further afield, *beyond Mbaïki, the Muslim people would

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1 leave the villages and they would -- and they would gather in Mbaïki.

2 Q. [11:25:12] And when these people gathered in Mbaïki, did you still go back and
3 forth more and more often?

4 A. [11:25:19] Yes.

5 Q. [11:25:27] Could you describe the situation to us in Mbaïki at that time when
6 the Muslim population gathered there?

7 A. [11:25:38] People were pouring into the area from all different kinds of places.
8 More and more people were coming in as the days went by. And there was more
9 and more tension in Mbaïki. People were really tense. The young people in Mbaïki,
10 the young people in Mbaïki wanted to begin fighting. But the Muslim population
11 gathered there because they wanted to leave together. Their way of seeing things
12 was that they decided to leave and they had thought to themselves they could no
13 longer stay. That's what they said. They said, "We can't stay here anymore. We'll
14 come back, but right now we need to leave." That was their way of saying -- seeing
15 things.

16 Q. [11:26:58] You said that the young people in Mbaïki wanted to fight. Fight
17 whom?

18 A. [11:27:04] They wanted to fight the Muslims. They wanted to have it out with
19 them, often out of the desire for revenge.

20 Q. [11:27:20] And when the Muslim people left their villages and headed towards
21 Mbaïki, what kind of comments were being made by the Christian population?

22 A. [11:27:34] They were saying "They have to leave. In any event, they have to
23 go."

24 MR GARCIA: [11:27:43] I object, your Honour.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:27:45] Why?

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1 MR GARCIA: [11:27:45] I'm coming in a bit late, but it's just -- the question is
2 formulated, and there's been a couple of those already, in such a general way I have
3 no idea what -- who are we speaking about, the community where exactly was
4 thinking, and what is the witness's basis of knowledge?

5 The question is: (Interpretation) "Did you hear about comments from
6 the Christians?"

7 (Speaks English) Now, I understand -- I understand they're preliminary questions,
8 but I have no idea of what -- where exactly this population is, what time frame --

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: Madam Witness, you --

10 MR GARCIA: [11:28:14] -- the foundation for this --

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:28:20] Madam Witness, you have heard it, so
12 let's start first: About what time are we speaking, if you recall it?

13 THE WITNESS: [11:28:41](Interpretation) That was in February. February 2013.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:28:45] February 2013, are you sure?

15 THE WITNESS: [11:28:54](Interpretation) Yes. (Redacted). It had
16 already started in January. It was something that -- well, it gradually emerged or
17 happened. I can't give you an exact date. But, today as my time frame,
18 (Redacted) because at that time there was

19 something else. There was another problem in the same area that affected me
20 personally quite a bit and that's my particular reference point in time.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:29:39] And could you tell us what the basis
22 for -- for this comment is? So did you speak with the population and with what kind
23 of people did you speak and where did this happen?

24 MR GARCIA: [11:29:52] Just one thing, your Honour, I do notice that we are still in
25 open session.

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:29:57] That doesn't matter, I think. If she -- if
2 the witness does not mention her name and simply answers she was spoken with
3 people and this is in a more general way, I think we can do it in open session. If
4 the witness tells us now, Madam Witness, you want to go into detail that would
5 reveal your identity, we would go to private session.

6 But, Madam Witness, you have heard my question, where did you get
7 the information from?

8 THE WITNESS: [11:30:30](Interpretation) The information? I'm a bit lost, sorry.
9 I was listening to you.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:30:39] Well, the -- we were talking about -- you
11 were talking about, in one of your last answers, that the Christian population wanted
12 to take out -- wanted to take revenge on the Muslim population. Where did you
13 have this information from?

14 THE WITNESS: [11:30:58](Interpretation) Because we -- we talked to each other. I
15 explained to you that regularly when we went to Mbaïki, we stopped in the various
16 villages and we spoke to the different communities, to the heads of those
17 communities, the Muslim ones, and in villages where they were present, we also
18 talked to the Christian communities. We spoke to them to try and assess the degree
19 of tension so that we could understand and that we could prepare our activities to
20 prevent more serious actions in the future. And based on what they said and based
21 on what we heard and the comments made, sometimes we could say, "Ouf, they are
22 telling lies, they want to take revenge." Now, obviously this is a comment of one or
23 two or three young person which they shared with us, if they leave or don't leave, it's
24 going to end badly.

25 So the head said, yes, it's better that they leave, because otherwise things will turn out

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1 badly in the future. We were trying to test the temperature.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:32:22] Thank you. I think this explains it.

3 Actually, there was already an assumption that it worked this way.

4 But nevertheless, let's have now a break until 12 o'clock.

5 THE COURT USHER: [11:32:34] All rise.

6 (Recess taken at 11.32 a.m.)

7 (Upon resuming in open session at 12.01 p.m.)

8 THE COURT USHER: [12:01:38] All rise.

9 Please be seated.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:01:56] Please continue.

11 MS BAYSSAT: [12:02:00](Interpretation)

12 Q. [12:02:16] Madam, before continuing, I just want to ask you a small question.

13 You said that you had regular discussions with the population. Now, the mere fact
14 that you are a woman, did it have an impact on the way the discussions unfolded?

15 A. [12:02:39] Can you hear me now?

16 Q. [12:02:42] Yes. As I was saying, you spoke to the population regularly. Now,
17 the mere fact that you were a woman, did that have any impact on the approach
18 which the population had vis-à-vis you?

19 A. [12:02:55] Perhaps, yes. In any case, it all went very well, always. People
20 talked to me easily, openly, yes.

21 Q. [12:03:22] I'm going to go back to where we stopped before the break. You said
22 that the Muslim population regrouped itself in Mbaïki. Why did they choose Mbaïki
23 as the place where they all gathered?

24 A. [12:03:40] Well, it's because it's already a town, a larger town and perhaps also
25 because the authorities were based there. Well, there you go. Perhaps also because,

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1 at least I think so, that they were aware that we came regularly to Mbaïki.
2 Mbaïki -- when you come there for the first time, you went to the different leaders of
3 the various neighbourhoods to find out about the various acts of violence to find out
4 what was going on, and, as they regrouped themselves - because they were going to
5 leave from there - it became easier for them to be able do it like that.

6 As regards logistics and the fact that they were all together, in any case they had to
7 gather somewhere at the best place, I think.

8 Q. [12:05:05] Do you know whether amongst the Muslims who were in Mbaïki,
9 some had contact with Chad?

10 A. [12:05:13] Yes, no doubt.

11 Q. [12:05:31] Madam, have you ever met Mr Yekatom?

12 A. [12:05:34] Yes.

13 Q. [12:05:38] Where did you meet him for the first time?

14 A. [12:05:42] The first time I met him was in Pissa.

15 Q. [12:05:51] Do you remember this first meeting? Did it take place before or after
16 the resignation of President Djotodia?

17 A. [12:06:02] As I said, I don't really remember the timeline of the political situation
18 and in the field, but I think it was after. I think after.

19 Q. [12:06:25] And after this first meeting, did you see Mr Yekatom again?

20 A. [12:06:30] Yes.

21 Q. [12:06:36] When -- when did you have the opportunity of seeing him again?

22 A. [12:06:41] I saw him again in order to ask him -- I think I saw him to ask him if
23 he was prepared to participate in a meeting.

24 Q. [12:07:01] Excuse me, I think we have to go into private session. I'm going to
25 stop you there.

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- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:07:06] Indeed, private session.
- 2 (Private session at 12.07 p.m.)
- 3 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:07:14] We are in private session, Mr President.
- 4 MS BAYSSAT: [12:07:27](Interpretation)
- 5 Q. [12:07:33] (Redacted)
- 6 A. [12:07:38] (Redacted)
- 7 Q. [12:07:45] (Redacted)
- 8 A. [12:07:52] (Redacted)
- 9 (Redacted)
- 10 (Redacted)
- 11 (Redacted)
- 12 (Redacted)
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- 15 (Redacted)
- 16 (Redacted)
- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 Q. [12:09:34] (Redacted)
- 19 (Redacted)
- 20 A. [12:09:57] (Redacted)
- 21 (Redacted)
- 22 Q. [12:10:33] (Redacted)
- 23 (Redacted)
- 24 A. [12:10:45] (Redacted)
- 25 (Redacted)

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- 9 (Redacted)
- 10 Q. [12:33:26] (Redacted)
- 11 (Redacted)
- 12 A. [12:33:34] (Redacted)
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:33:39] (Redacted)
- 14 (Redacted)
- 15 THE WITNESS: [12:33:50](Interpretation) (Redacted)
- 16 (Redacted)
- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:34:12] (Redacted)
- 19 MS BAYSSAT: [12:34:21] (Redacted)
- 20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:34:29] (Redacted)
- 21 (Open session at 12.34 p.m.)
- 22 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:34:33] We are in open session, Mr President.
- 23 MS BAYSSAT: [12:34:40](Interpretation)
- 24 Q. [12:34:42] Do you know whether Yekatom elements had a base in Mbaïki?
- 25 A. [12:35:04] I don't believe so. I don't believe so, but I can't confirm that either.

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1 MS BAYSSAT: [12:35:42](Interpretation) Your Honour, could I have one moment,
2 please.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:35:46] Yes.

4 (Counsel confers)

5 MS BAYSSAT: [12:35:58](Interpretation)

6 Q. [12:36:05] Ma'am, now between the time of that meeting and the departure of
7 the Muslims, did you step up your coming and going along the road from Mbaïki and
8 Bangui?

9 A. [12:36:19] Yes. Yes. I believe we went back two or three times.

10 Q. [12:36:30] And did you or your officer who was there hear about any incidents
11 between the time of that meeting and the departure of the Muslims?

12 A. [12:36:40] No. Afterwards there was no incidents in Mbaïki, but I can't
13 guarantee. I can't say here whether there were incidents in that time frame in the
14 surrounding villages. I don't know about that, I don't remember that. I can't say
15 one way or another. I can't make a commitment.

16 Q. [12:37:21] Do you know Abbé Antarese?

17 A. [12:37:29] Yes.

18 Q. [12:37:29] Was he there during that meeting?

19 A. [12:37:30] Yes, he was.

20 THE INTERPRETER: [12:37:33] Abbé Antarese.

21 MS BAYSSAT: [12:37:37](Interpretation)

22 Q. [12:37:39] I'd like to show you several photographs now and we will look at
23 them one by one and if you could tell me whether you recognise people on these
24 photographs, all right?

25 Could we please have tab 5 from the Defence binder, CAR-D29-0010-0167, tab 5,

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1 Defence binder.

2 Can you see the photograph?

3 A. [12:38:26] Yes.

4 Q. [12:38:29] Could you tell us where this was taken?

5 A. [12:38:30] It was taken during our meeting at the Catholic mission.

6 Q. [12:38:38] Do you recognise anyone?

7 A. [12:38:39] Yes, I can recognise Mr Yekatom, and I recognise the mayor and the
8 commander of the gendarmerie, the prefect.

9 Q. [12:38:55] And if we go from left to right, could you tell us who is who?

10 A. [12:39:03] Well, there's Mr Yekatom, the commander of the gendarmerie, I don't
11 remember his name, and then the prefect, Kouroupe-Awo, and the mayor. The man
12 wearing the white shirt, Mayor Mongbandji. I don't recognise the person -- well, I
13 don't know the person who is standing wearing a white shirt. I don't recognise that
14 person. I can't make out his face, it's not clear enough.

15 Q. [12:39:45] Could we zoom into --

16 A. [12:39:50] It's not -- it's not Father Antarese.

17 MS BAYSSAT: [12:40:22](Interpretation) Your Honour, if we could please go into
18 private session.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:40:29] Private session.

20 (Private session at 12.40 p.m.)

21 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:40:34] We are in private session, Mr President.

22 MS BAYSSAT: [12:40:44](Interpretation)

23 Q. [12:40:48] (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

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- 1 Q. [12:52:27] (Redacted)
- 2 (Redacted)
- 3 A. [12:52:40] (Redacted)
- 4 MS BAYSSAT: [12:52:57](Interpretation) (Redacted)
- 5 (Redacted)
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:53:03] (Redacted)
- 7 MS BAYSSAT: [12:53:07](Interpretation) (Redacted)
- 8 (Counsel confers)
- 9 MS BAYSSAT: [12:53:24](Interpretation)
- 10 Q. [12:53:30] (Redacted)
- 11 (Redacted)
- 12 A. [12:53:45] (Redacted)
- 13 Q. [12:53:46] (Redacted)
- 14 MS BAYSSAT: [12:54:00] (Redacted)
- 15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:54:02] (Redacted)
- 16 (Redacted)
- 17 (Open session at 12.54 p.m.)
- 18 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:54:14] We are in open session, Mr President.
- 19 MS BAYSSAT: [12:54:26] Thank you.
- 20 Q. [12:54:30](Interpretation) Ma'am, were you there when the Muslims left Mbaïki?
- 21 A. [12:54:37] *Unfortunately, no. We saw them along the way. We couldn't be
- 22 there on time. They left very early in the day because we were travelling in a convoy
- 23 with the people from the UNHCR. So if one person was late, that made everyone late,
- 24 unfortunately, but we did see them along the way. We had our officer who was
- 25 there and he was keeping an eye on things to make sure that everything was

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1 happening smoothly, and then he debriefed us on how the situation had unfolded.

2 Photographs were also taken.

3 Q. [12:55:22] And when you got to Mbaïki, had all the convoys already left?

4 A. [12:55:27] Yes.

5 Q. [12:55:34] And your officer who was on location, what did he report about the
6 departure of the Muslims?

7 A. [12:55:42] He said that there was relief. He also said it was somewhat of
8 a difficult departure because everyone wanted to be sure that they could leave,
9 everyone wanted to take their possessions. So there were 17 trucks, large trucks.
10 And in actual fact, there were more than 3,000 people who wanted to leave and, if
11 everyone who wanted to leave had -- had to get on, they would have to leave their
12 possessions behind. And what my co-worker noticed was he saw how people threw
13 themselves upon the possessions that had been left behind and took them, took these
14 possessions for their own.

15 Q. [12:56:38] And when you got there, did you see that for yourself?

16 A. [12:56:48] *Yes. When we got there on location, we saw some people who were
17 still talking and discussing. They were divvying up the few items that had been left
18 behind by the people who had left. And as well, along the road, there were a lot of
19 personal items, personal possessions that were just left there.

20 Q. [12:57:28] You told us that your co-worker was really affected by that scene.
21 What really affected him in particular?

22 A. [12:57:41] It was the arguing, the people arguing amongst themselves. They
23 were divvying up the items, the possessions, mattresses, kitchenware, that sort of
24 thing.

25 Q. [12:57:59] And how did he describe the situation to you?

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1 A. [12:58:04] It was quite -- quite violent, really. People -- the young people were
2 arguing about possessions. It was quite violent and it was a shock to him. He saw
3 the people leave and having to leave their possessions behind and it was -- it was
4 quite hard on them. *They were leaving and they didn't know where they were
5 going. And the minimum they could take with them was important. But for most of
6 them, it was not possible to take the minimum, and so they did not know what they
7 would find afterwards. So, to see other people tearing each other apart to take these
8 possessions, it was difficult for him. There we are. So to see other people arguing
9 and quarrelling and pushing and shoving to divvy up the possessions, it was difficult
10 for him.

11 Q. [12:59:11] Now, I understand that when you were leaving Mbaïki you saw some
12 convoys?

13 A. [12:59:23] Yes, yes.

14 Q. [12:59:29] And what did you feel when you saw these Chadian convoys along
15 the road?

16 A. [12:59:37] I was crying.

17 Q. [12:59:52] Do you need a break?

18 A. [12:59:53] No, that's all right.

19 Q. [13:00:09] Do you know who asked for the Chadian convoys to go to Mbaïki?

20 A. [13:00:22] No, I don't know. I think it was the officials from the community
21 who had been in touch with politicians, I'm sure, who were still in Bangui who had
22 passed on the message. I also learned much later, about a year ago, or even maybe
23 a few months ago, that most likely the sister of Idriss Déby -- or,
24 the sister -- the sister-in-law who was within the community, the sister of Idriss Déby,
25 and that is what made it possible to have these trucks come with Chadian soldiers to

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1 serve as escorts.

2 Q. [13:01:32] Can you tell us where you got this information?

3 A. [13:01:34] I had this during some talks with my colleague who learnt about this
4 during a conversation he had just like that, completely banal. But of course we have
5 no proof of that. It's just like that.

6 Q. [13:02:01] My question might seem a bit direct. Are you talking about the
7 president of Chad, Déby, when you talk about that?

8 A. [13:02:09] Yes.

9 Q. [13:02:14] Madam, during the convoy of the Chadians, did you hear about any
10 particular incident?

11 A. [13:02:22] No. May I add that this was part of our request during the meeting.
12 We said that when the convoy moves on, that everybody can guarantee their safety
13 until they left the Lobaye zone.

14 Q. [13:02:57] And did you have the opportunity to talk about -- to talk with the
15 Chadian soldiers?

16 A. [13:03:01] *No. But they did thank us. I think it was a thank you, because
17 they motioned to us when our paths crossed.

18 Q. [13:03:26] And, Madam, you told us that during the meeting it was one of your
19 requests that the convoy move ahead in safety.

20 What do you mean when you talk about these Chadian convoys? Did you speak
21 about them during the meeting?

22 A. [13:03:45] Yes.

23 Q. [13:03:57] Madam, you recognised the deputy mayor, Saleh, on one of the photos.
24 Now we know that Djido Saleh died on the 28 February 2014, just two days after your
25 departure. Did you learn about his death -- or when did you learn about his death?

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1 A. [13:04:26] (Redacted) because there were still problems in the zone that hadn't
2 been resolved, I left, and when I left my mission in the Central African Republic, there
3 was no one to replace me, so I remained in contact with my former colleague who
4 told me about this, yes.

5 Q. [13:05:05] Djido Saleh was sent from -- from Central Africa. Do you know
6 which region he came from?

7 A. [13:05:13] According to me, he was originally from Chad.

8 Q. [13:05:19] Is it the -- your colleague who said it to you, that he was Chadian?

9 A. [13:05:26] I think it was him or someone else, but in any case that's what I heard
10 because that's what I was told.

11 Q. [13:05:39] Besides the meeting which we just talked about, did you have another
12 opportunity to meet Djido Saleh?

13 A. [13:05:54] Yes. I met him before the meeting, but already -- yes, before the
14 meeting I met him because I thought I could have more of an exchange with him so
15 that he could speak to the colonel, but in fact it didn't lead to anything. It was
16 somebody who was very nervous -- agitated.

17 Q. [13:06:46] What do you mean, he wasn't very useful?

18 A. [13:06:51] I felt when I put this to him, I felt that he wouldn't do anything.

19 Q. [13:07:01] And your agent who was present in Mbaïki, did they provide you any
20 information on the reputation of Djido Saleh?

21 A. [13:07:14] Yes, he gave me some information. In fact, the information that I got
22 is that he wasn't really appreciated by the community because he wasn't very straight.

23 Q. [13:07:36] Did you learn at some point that Djido Saleh was threatened?

24 A. [13:07:46] We learnt this, but at the same time even if we hadn't learned it, it was
25 fairly logical to us, because if he stayed in the zone despite the departure of all the

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1 community -- of all the people of Muslim faith, there were high risks for him,

2 *especially since he wasn't much liked. .

3 Q. [13:08:17] During your discussions with Saleh, did you give him any advice?

4 A. [13:08:21] Yes. Personally, I told him to leave. I advised him to leave as well
5 for his own safety.

6 Q. [13:08:51] Madam, I'm going to change topics.

7 At any point in time did you notice the Congolese MISCA contingent in Mbaïki?

8 A. [13:09:05] Yes. The Congolese contingent of MISCA set themselves up in
9 Mbaïki, but I'm not in a position to tell you which time period it was.

10 Q. [13:09:25] Did you meet them before?

11 A. [13:09:26] Yes, I had met them before.

12 Q. [13:09:33] And did they collaborate with your agent who was present in Mbaïki?

13 A. [13:09:38] Yes.

14 Q. [13:09:43] And what was their role -- the Congolese contingent of MISCA?

15 A. [13:09:50] Their role was to protect the civilian population.

16 Q. [13:09:58] Did they manage to fulfil their role efficiently?

17 A. [13:10:07] They did so -- they did it with the means available to them, as much
18 as they could. What I mean is that they had the good intentions.

19 They tried as much as possible to do what was asked of them, and when they couldn't,
20 they said so.

21 MS BAYSSAT: [13:10:56] Mr President, can we go back to private session, please.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [13:11:01] Private session.

23 (Private session at 1.11 p.m.)

24 THE COURT OFFICER: [13:11:14] We are in private session, Mr President.

25 MS BAYSSAT: [13:11:18](Interpretation)

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(Open session at 2.45 p.m.)

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- 1 THE COURT OFFICER: [14:45:32] We are in open session, Mr President.
- 2 MS BAYSSAT: [14:45:54](Interpretation)
- 3 Q. [14:45:55] Madam, until your departure from the Central African Republic, to
- 4 the best of your knowledge were there mosques that had been destroyed by
- 5 Mr Yekatom's elements in Mbaïki?
- 6 A. [14:46:04] No. No mosque was destroyed.
- 7 Q. [14:46:10] I'd like to change subject again, Madam, now.
- 8 Previously we mentioned the Sangaris operation. And do you remember the date
- 9 when the Sangaris operation arrived in the Central African Republic?
- 10 A. [14:46:29] I think it was 5 December, but I wasn't in Bangui.
- 11 Q. [14:46:38] Madam, do you know if before the Sangaris operation there were
- 12 French soldiers in the Central African Republic?
- 13 A. [14:46:50] Yes. Yes, indeed.
- 14 Q. [14:47:00] Did they have a base there?
- 15 A. [14:47:01] There was always a military base, a French military base.
- 16 Q. [14:47:05] And did you see the presence of military French vehicles in Bangui?
- 17 A. [14:47:13] They were driving around Bangui.
- 18 Q. [14:47:20] And how were they moving around?
- 19 A. [14:47:25] Well, they were driving around normally, but they were quite discreet,
- 20 I would say, because -- they were discreet, however, they were discreet.
- 21 Q. [14:47:44] What can you tell us about the type of vehicles that the Sangaris
- 22 operative were using?
- 23 A. [14:47:55] They had 4x4s, they had armoured cars. That's it.
- 24 Q. [14:48:07] And the soldiers who were present before the Sangaris operation, do
- 25 you remember what type of vehicle they used?

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1 A. [14:48:20] Well, when they were driving around they generally used vehicles,
2 normal 4x4s. I didn't really pay too much attention to that. Perhaps they also had
3 4x4s. There were normal 4x4s in which I would come across people dressed in
4 military uniforms and visibly they were French soldiers, because sometimes they had
5 their -- the flag and I'm not sure if there were others who went on off-road vehicles,
6 the open vehicles, they call them P4s. I can't confirm that. A sort of off-road vehicle
7 called P4s.

8 Q. [14:49:23] Do you remember the name of the operation of these French soldiers
9 who were present in the Central African Republic before the Sangaris operation?

10 A. [14:49:30] No, no.

11 Q. [14:49:34] Operation Bouali, does that mean anything to you?

12 A. [14:49:36] Yes, yes, that means something to me, yes.

13 Q. [14:49:41] One last question on this subject. Do you remember if the vehicles
14 that you saw had a French flag?

15 A. [14:49:59] When I saw a French vehicle, yes. Not always necessarily, but
16 sometimes, yes.

17 MS BAYSSAT: [14:50:33] Sorry, Mr President, but we have to go to private session
18 for the next subject.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:50:37] Go to private session.

20 And for the audience, you have obviously already recognised that we have a
21 protected witness in the courtroom. That means when issues are discussed that
22 could reveal the identity of the witness, we have to do that in private session. That's
23 the reason why we go now to a private session.

24 MS BAYSSAT: [14:51:08](Interpretation)

25 Q. [14:51:05] Madam, we are in closed session.

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- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:51:10] Not yet. Not yet.
- 2 (Private session at 2.51 p.m.)
- 3 THE COURT OFFICER: [14:51:19] We are in private session, Mr President.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:51:20] (Redacted)
- 5 MS BAYSSAT: [14:51:24](Interpretation)
- 6 Q. [14:51:26] (Redacted)
- 7 (Redacted)
- 8 (Redacted)
- 9 (Redacted)
- 10 A. [14:52:15] (Redacted)
- 11 Q. [14:52:16] (Redacted)
- 12 A. [14:52:19] (Redacted)
- 13 Q. [14:52:22] (Redacted)
- 14 (Redacted)
- 15 A. [14:52:37] (Redacted)
- 16 Q. [14:52:42] (Redacted)
- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 A. [14:52:58] (Redacted)
- 19 Q. [14:52:59] (Redacted)
- 20 A. [14:53:01] (Redacted)
- 21 (Redacted)
- 22 (Redacted)
- 23 Q. [14:53:32] (Redacted)
- 24 A. [14:53:46] (Redacted)
- 25 Q. [14:53:59] (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 MS BAYSSAT: [15:09:06] (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:09:11] (Redacted)

6 (Open session at 3.09 p.m.)

7 THE COURT OFFICER: [15:09:17] We are in open session, Mr President.

8 MS BAYSSAT: [15:09:51](Interpretation)

9 Q. [15:09:56] Madam, talking about your meetings with Mr Yekatom, did you ever
10 hear him talk -- have any hateful speech against Muslims?

11 A. [15:10:12] No. He had even told me, "Madam, I was *raised by Muslims, I
12 grew up with Muslims and I have nothing against them. I was raised by Muslims
13 and I grew up with them".

14 Q. [15:10:45] And have you ever heard of a mission to save Muslims in Lobaye by
15 Mr Yekatom?

16 MR GARCIA: [15:10:58] I object, your Honour.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:10:59] Well --

18 MR GARCIA: [15:11:00] I think the question's already been asked.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:11:01] I don't think so, but sometimes we repeat
20 things. I'm sure that it was not -- at least not asked in the same wording.

21 Have you ever heard of such a mission, Madam Witness? You can answer the
22 question.

23 THE WITNESS: [15:11:15](Interpretation) No, no. No, I never heard about it. As
24 you know, I was receiving applications for assistance, rather.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:11:35] It's absolutely -- if you haven't heard, and

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1 actually I -- well, nobody has asked me before. If you would have asked me what
2 the witness would answer, I would have given the correct answer. Please continue.
3 MS BAYSSAT: [15:12:08](Interpretation)
4 Q. [15:12:11] Madam Witness, that was my last question. I thank you very much
5 for your answer. I have no further questions for you. Thank you.
6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:12:20] Thank you very much, and, Madam
7 Witness.
8 First of all, Mr Garcia, we already said before the break that it makes sense that we
9 start with your examination tomorrow morning at 9.30, so you have also a little bit of
10 time to prepare yourself and perhaps revise what has been said today.
11 This means we finish for today, Madam Witness. Thank you very much for the
12 moment, but, as you have just heard, we continue tomorrow at 9.30.
13 Thank you, everyone.
14 THE COURT USHER: [15:12:49] All rise.
15 (The hearing ends in open session at 3.12 p.m.)