

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2573

(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 Wednesday, 10 July 2024
- 9 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.32 a.m.)
- 10 THE COURT USHER: [9:32:16] All rise.
- 11 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
- 12 Please be seated.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:32:42] Good morning, everyone.
- 14 Madam Court Officer, can you kindly mention the case.
- 15 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:32:48] Good morning, Madam President, your Honours.
- 16 The situation in the Central African Republic II, in the case the Prosecutor versus
- 17 Mahamat Said Abdel Kani, case reference ICC-01/14-01/21.
- 18 And we are in open session.
- 19 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:33:03] Thank you very much.
- 20 Can I ask for representation by the parties.
- 21 Starting with the Prosecution.
- 22 MS MAKWAIA: [9:33:11] Good morning, Madam President, your Honours.
- 23 For the Prosecution this morning, Mr Kamran Choudhry, trial lawyer. And myself
- 24 Holo Makwaia, senior trial lawyer.
- 25 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:33:19] Thank you very much, Ms Makwaia.

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1 Ms Walter for the victims, please.

2 MS WALTER: [9:33:26] Good morning, Madam President, your Honours. This
3 morning for the victims, Mr Tars Van Litsenborgh, and I am Caroline Walter.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:33:35] Thank you very much, counsel.

5 Ms Naouri for the Defence, please.

6 MS NAOURI: [9:33:40](Interpretation) Thank you, Madam President. Good
7 morning. To my left, Mr Jacobs, to my right, Léa Allix. And behind me,

8 Yael Vias Gvirsman. And I am Jennifer Naouri, lead counsel for Mr Said.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:33:57] Rule 74 counsel, please.

10 MR DESALLIERS: [9:34:00] Good morning, your Honours. Marc Desalliers, legal
11 adviser for today's witness.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:34:07] Thank you very much.

13 And, for the record, we do take note that Mr Said is in court with us here.

14 A very good morning to you, Mr Said. I hope I see you well.

15 MR SAID: [9:34:18](Interpretation) Yes, good morning, Madam President.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:34:27] Good morning, Mr Witness.

17 I hope you rested well and that you do feel better this morning.

18 WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2573 (On former oath)

19 (The witness speaks Sango)

20 THE WITNESS: [9:34:42](Interpretation) Thank you, Madam President. I had
21 a good night, a very good night, and I was able to get some rest.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:34:55] Good.

23 Now we're going to continue with your testimony this morning, and I'm inviting

24 counsel for the Defence to put some questions to you in cross-examination. I wish to

25 remind you that you're still on oath to tell the truth to this Court. And we still assure

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1 you against self-incrimination.

2 I hope you'll cooperate with the Defence, much as you did with the Prosecution, so
3 that we know the truth of what happened in the Central African Republic. I thank
4 you for your cooperation.

5 We are in open session, Mr Jacobs, your witness, or Ms Naouri, your witness?

6 MS NAOURI: [9:35:50](Interpretation) Thank you, Madam President.

7 QUESTIONED BY MS NAOURI: (Interpretation)

8 Q. [9:35:59] Good morning, Mr Witness. As you have heard, my name is
9 Jennifer Naouri and I will be questioning you today on behalf of Mr Said's
10 Defence team.

11 I will try to respect what we refer to here as the five-second rule, meaning that I have
12 to wait five seconds before or shortly after your answer before I say anything. Now I
13 urge you to do the same, so that we can be able to capture everything you say on
14 the transcript.

15 I will also use private sessions, during which nobody can hear us. And at that time
16 we will discuss issues which might identify you, so please be reassured about this.
17 By the way, I'm going to ask that we go into private session for the first line of
18 questioning.

19 Madam President, can we go into private session for that. Thank you.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:37:14] Certainly.

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

22 (Private session at 9.37 a.m.)

23 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:37:29] We are in private session, Madam President.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [9:37:32] Thank you very much.

25 Ms Naouri, please continue.

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1 MS NAOURI: [9:37:39](Interpretation) Thank you, Madam President.

2 Q. [9:37:41] Now, Mr Witness, during your questioning by the representative of
3 the OTP, you said, and I'm referring to the edited French transcript of the hearing of
4 8 July 2024, T-80 -- T-90, rather, page 24, lines 20, to page 25, lines 26.

5 In this segment you explain (Redacted)

6 (Redacted).

7 Mr Witness, can you confirm that date?

8 A. [9:38:35] Thank you for the question.

9 I told you that, after the events of 2013 and 2014, (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 Q. [9:39:08] Very well. But what I'm looking for is just a confirmation of the date,
12 and this is found at what you say at line 24 of page 25, referring to (Redacted).

13 I want you to be as specific as possible when you mention (Redacted).

14 You said, for example, that "After 2014 (Redacted) in 2015."

15 I just want to understand and be clear whether it was in 2015 that you (Redacted)

16 (Redacted); is that the case?

17 A. [9:39:53] Thank you again for the question. It was obviously 2015 that I

18 (Redacted), because I wanted to sit an examination.

19 Q. [9:40:08] Which examination did you want to sit in 2015, Mr Witness?

20 A. [9:40:20] The examination I wanted to sit, or the test, was for training to become

21 (Redacted) so that I could be meet my needs. It is in that context that (Redacted)

22 (Redacted).

23 Q. [9:40:52] Very well. Now, in order to sit that examination to become

24 (Redacted), Mr Witness?

25 A. [9:41:10] I told you yesterday that (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted) and it created a lot of insecurity for me. So I wanted to
2 be safe and secure. So when I was (Redacted)
3 (Redacted). So, in order to have peace of mind and a measure of safety and security,
4 (Redacted). And that would have
5 allowed me to move about freely and in safety. Those are the reasons for which I
6 (Redacted). There you have it. That's the reason.

7 Q. [9:42:15] Very well. So, before you sat that examination, (Redacted)
8 (Redacted); is that correct?

9 A. [9:42:32] (Redacted).

10 Q. [9:42:40] When you registered to write the examination to become (Redacted),
11 did you submit any documents in order to register?

12 A. [9:43:07] The Central African law requires that when applying for training in
13 a trade and when you have to sit an exam, you must present your birth certificate and
14 your certificate of nationality, as well as write an application. That would make up
15 the file that we had to submit to the recruitment office in charge of those who wanted
16 to train in any kind of trade. Without such a file, you would not be admitted.
17 Additionally, one needed to pay the examination fee.

18 Q. [9:44:09] Very well. So, if I understand you properly, in 2015, for the purpose
19 of submitting your file to be trained in a particular trade, you provided a birth
20 certificate and a certificate of nationality; is that correct?

21 A. [9:44:36] I have told you that those are the requirements. Oh, I forgot
22 something. You also need to submit a school certificate. When all that has been put
23 together, your file is then studied and the decision is made whether you can sit
24 the exam or not.

25 Q. [9:45:08] Very well. Thank you for that clarification.

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1 So, in 2015, you submitted all the documents that you have listed. (Redacted)
2 those documents bear, Mr Witness?

3 A. [9:45:30] After (Redacted)
4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)
6 (Redacted). And all of that was for the purpose of getting admission to sit the test.

7 Q. [9:46:15] Very well. So you did all those things in 2015. Do you have any
8 documents to substantiate the fact that you made these moves in 2015, Mr Witness?

9 A. [9:46:37] I can answer your question by saying that, if we were in the Central
10 African Republic, I could have shown you the various options that were available to
11 me regarding (Redacted). When I came, I did not bring much with me. I only came
12 with my national identity card and my certificate of nationality. I was asked to
13 provide my certificate of nationality, my birth certificate, and my national identity
14 card. But I wasn't able to bring with me the other documents.

15 Q. [9:47:30] Very well. The certificate of nationality which you brought and
16 the birth certificate which you brought, are those the only documents that you have
17 (Redacted), Mr Witness?

18 A. [9:47:54] Yes. Those are the documents bearing (Redacted).

19 Q. [9:48:12] Very well. We will come back to this, the documents, shortly,
20 the documents which you provided.

21 Now, let's go back to what you told us today and yesterday and the day before in
22 answer to questions from the Prosecutor.

23 You said that it was for security reasons, and you stated mainly that Rambo was after
24 you. Now, why was Rambo after you, that's my question?

25 A. [9:48:51] Thank you. Yesterday, I tried to provide some explanation to you. I

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1 told you that, after the Seleka left, the Anti-Balaka took power and started to track
2 down all Central African youths who had worked with the Seleka, and they would
3 kill them mercilessly. So, during that time, Mr Rambo went to my mother's house
4 looking for me. He went there to hurt me, to harm me. Fortunately for me, I wasn't
5 at home. I had sought refuge in the farm, in my mother's farm. And as I told you
6 yesterday, (Redacted) was killed in (Redacted) following information that
7 the Anti-Balaka had obtained, so they arrested him and executed him. So in order to
8 protect myself, I fled and I did everything not to present or show my ID to anybody
9 whosoever, and that is how I managed to live clandestinely.

10 Q. [9:50:46] Very well. Mr Witness, there are a number of follow-up questions
11 that I have for you.

12 Mr Rambo, is that a nickname or is that a real name?

13 A. [9:51:00] Thank you. Rambo, that was Mr Yekatom's nickname in the Central
14 African Republic. If you call him Yekatom, nobody would know him. But when
15 you said "Rambo", even children, children would know that name.

16 Q. [9:51:28] Very well. Now, Yekatom or Rambo, he had an important role to play
17 in the Anti-Balaka movement, didn't he?

18 A. [9:51:45] Thank you. After the Seleka fell from power, Rambo was
19 a high-ranking personality. I would even say that he was the leader of
20 the Anti-Balaka, from Gbagba to Gbabo he was in charge, and I would say even as far
21 as Boeing neighbourhood. He was man who was feared and he could have easily
22 become the head of state, just like Colonel Garba. He was one whom I could not
23 confront, and that is why I opted for an underground movement or clandestine
24 lifestyle.

25 Q. [9:52:43] Very well. Thank you, Mr Witness.

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1 I'm sorry, I'm choking, but thank you. Now we have understood that. You placed
2 Mr Yekatom and Garba at the same level.

3 Now, why would somebody of such importance be looking for you, particularly you
4 who bear the name (Redacted)?

5 A. [9:53:14] Thank you. Well, he was after me, he was looking for me. Not only
6 me alone, but all the other youth who had participated in Seleka activities. He was
7 looking for all of us. He wanted to -- he -- he simply wanted to kill us. He was
8 looking for those who had supported or assisted the Seleka. That's -- that's
9 the reason.

10 Q. [9:53:57] You say that he came to your mother's house looking for you. Now,
11 my question is how does he know you personally, (Redacted)? Yes, there are people
12 who may have belonged to the Seleka group. That's one thing, but why was he
13 looking for you? Why did he come to your mother's house? And if I remember
14 correctly, he came three times. That's why I want to find out why he was looking for
15 you particularly, (Redacted).

16 A. [9:54:32] Thank you very much. Well, as you know, after the Seleka left, it was
17 thanks to the inhabitants of my neighbourhood that Rambo got information about me.
18 You see, for more than -- or for about more than 11 years I was going about with
19 a great sense of insecurity.

20 Now, even my friends, you see, whenever there is -- or there was a misunderstanding
21 between us, that is between myself and my friends, they would remind me that once
22 upon a time I used to belong to the Seleka and, therefore, would, in that way,
23 somehow threaten or blackmail me and would say they would hand me over to
24 the -- to be mistreated. And that is why I can repeat to you that it is the inhabitants
25 of my neighbourhood who provided him with a lot of information about me. That

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1 would be my friends, for example, who would show me one face or one side of
2 themselves and would behave differently behind my back.

3 Q. [9:56:16] Thank you, Mr Witness. But there were other persons who belonged
4 to the Seleka group, some of them of a certain level of importance, such as Ousmane,
5 whom you talked about, who joined the FACA and who hold important positions
6 today; isn't that the case, Mr Witness?

7 A. [9:56:42] That is correct. Ousmane and Alkanto continue to work for our
8 national army. Now, when I went about, for example -- or when I go about, maybe,
9 to PK5, from time to time I would meet them, I would see them. Now, if I felt that
10 they wanted to identify me, I would change my path in order to remain safe.

11 Q. [9:57:34] (Redacted)
12 (Redacted). Why did you not want Ousmane to recognise you?

13 A. [9:57:57] As you know, the Seleka are no longer in power. For example, I am
14 here today before the Court and questions are being put to me in order to identify
15 those who were leaders at that time. The Court is asking me questions in order to be
16 able to identify those leaders. So he too, he too could be aware that I may be able to
17 reveal some information when I answer the questions of the judges and that I might
18 provide some information about him. That is why I tried to avoid or -- avoid
19 meeting him or avoid being identified by him. In that way, I would be able to ward
20 off any kind of attacks that may be targeted at me.

21 Q. [9:59:29] Mr Witness, in 2015, when you decide (Redacted)
22 the Court had not yet contacted you, the ICC had not yet contacted you,
23 the Prosecutor had not yet contacted you; is that correct?

24 A. [9:59:56] If I recall correctly, I was contacted towards the end of 2015, or maybe
25 2016. I don't have a clear recollection.

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1 Q. [10:00:20] Who contacted you, Mr Witness?

2 A. [10:00:35] I do not know how they were able to have my phone number. It was
3 on a Sunday, and very suddenly my telephone started ringing. I have absolutely no
4 idea how the person calling was able to have my number. And when I hung up, I
5 heard the voices of white people speaking and I was surprised to realise that
6 the speaker at the other end was calling me directly with my name.

7 Q. [10:01:31] I have other follow-up questions. The first time you were contacted,
8 was it by telephone? And that's what you say. And if I understood well, they
9 already knew your name, that is (Redacted); is that correct?

10 A. [10:01:56] When they contacted me, first of all, the person greeted me and then
11 asked whether I was such-and-such a person. I did not answer their question. I
12 first of all asked them who was the person calling. He told me not to worry about
13 anything, but that there was someone who wanted to speak with you. And then
14 they mentioned my name. It was then that I admitted that I was the one and that
15 I was listening, what did they want to speak to me about.

16 Q. [10:02:50] Very well. How long did that phone conversation last?

17 A. [10:03:15] I do not work for the telephone company, Telecel Mobile. I know
18 that we spent quite some time on the phone. It was quite long.

19 Q. [10:03:34] That is enough for me, Mr Witness.

20 You said it was long. Just answer what you know. Now, you talked about white
21 people speaking. How did you come to know that?

22 A. [10:03:56] Thank you. If it had been a Central African compatriot speaking to
23 me, it would have been possible to know, but when I received that call, I knew
24 automatically that it was a white person. Later on, there was another person who
25 spoke to me on the phone and I know that it was a Central African lady. She

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1 introduced herself as (Redacted). The other one was called Lea (phon), but I do not
2 remember precisely. But I can recognise a person, the race of a person based on their
3 voice.

4 Q. [10:04:54] So the first person that you say was a white person, in which language
5 did that person speak to you?

6 A. [10:05:10] When they called me, I -- I could hear people speaking in English and
7 there was a lady who was interpreting their words into Sango. So I automatically
8 understood that I was dealing with people who were not Central Africans. But
9 the person who was interpreting was indeed a Central African. But I could hear
10 them, when any of them were speaking.

11 Q. [10:05:48] Very well. So if I understand well, the person who was interpreting
12 was (Redacted). Did you know her? Do you know her? Had you already spoken
13 with her?

14 A. [10:06:09] As I said, well before that call I did not know her. Neither did I
15 know the person with whom she was working. It was after her phone call that they
16 asked me to come and meet with them. Prior to that call, I had never known those
17 people.

18 Q. [10:06:37] Very well. And so those people asked you whether you were
19 (Redacted). You trusted them. You were not afraid of anything. You did not
20 correct them. You spoke to them (Redacted); is that correct?

21 A. [10:07:05] I have already told you that the first time they called me and
22 mentioned my name directly, I was reticent, I was afraid, and I did not confirm that it
23 was me. I first of all asked who is that person speaking to me. I wanted the person
24 to introduce themselves before I entered into any conversation. It was after they
25 introduced themselves that I accepted to converse with them. And as I have already

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1 told you, I was afraid for my security and I could not immediately accept that it was
2 me.

3 Q. [10:07:57] Very well. But when you started talking to them, you talked to them
4 for quite a while and you said, regarding the duration of
5 the investigators - CAR-OTP-2115-0371, it is tab 11 of our list.
6 And I would like to go to the first page, 0371.

7 It is a document that is written in English, Mr Witness. It is what is referred to as
8 "screening note", and they took those notes the first time they spoke to you on
9 the phone.

10 You can see the -- the time, 16:06 to 17:04. This means that the call lasted for one hour.
11 Does that correspond with your recollection? They were speaking in English. You
12 can see that at the very beginning of the document.

13 A. [10:09:28] As I have already told you, I no longer remember how long we spent
14 on the phone, because the events took place very -- a very long time ago. I don't
15 know whether what is on the screen is correct. But if that is what is indicated there,
16 it is possible. But all I can tell you is that we spent quite a long time on the phone.

17 Q. [10:09:52] Very well. Thank you, Mr Witness.

18 And during that long time, at no time did you tell them that at that time you
19 (Redacted), correct?

20 A. [10:10:13] No, (Redacted)
21 (Redacted).

22 Q. [10:10:31] Very well.

23 Still on page 0371, scroll down a little bit to the last paragraph.

24 And it is indicated -- and I will give you a translation:

25 "He was informed and understood that his identity, as well as any information he

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1 provides to the OTP staff may eventually be shared with the parties of
2 the proceedings at the ICC; in particular the Judges, Accused persons, the Counsel of
3 the Accused and the legal representatives of the victims."

4 So you remember that they informed you of that; is that correct, Mr Witness?

5 A. [10:11:36] Yes, I remember. That is what they said.

6 Q. [10:11:42] And when you met them, which identity documents did you have at
7 that moment, that is when you had that phone call with them?

8 A. [10:12:04] During that period --

9 Q. [10:12:18] I mean the identity documents that you had available with you. I
10 know that it was by telephone that you were speaking, but what documents were in
11 your possession?

12 A. [10:12:46] All I had was a health document, a health notebook. Shortly
13 afterwards, I went and had new documents issued to me.

14 Q. [10:13:09] Very well. What was that that you referred to as a health or medical
15 document, Mr Witness?

16 A. [10:13:21] That document, I really do not know the document very well. But it
17 was a document that attested that I was a blood donor. After every three months,
18 my blood would be taken to be transfused into people with sickle cell disease in
19 the health centres. It was that document that made it possible for me to be issued
20 a national identity card, because it was really an identity document on which I
21 equally had my photograph.

22 Q. [10:14:23] Very well. (Redacted) document bear, Mr Witness?

23 A. [10:14:40] On that document (Redacted). There
24 was -- (Redacted) on that document. On that document,
25 (Redacted), that health-related document. I had started donating blood as from 2014.

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1 When those people came, it was difficult to find food. And if you accepted to be
2 a blood donor, you were later given three sardine tins and some bread, some
3 condoms, and some bottles of juice to -- to compensate for the blood.
4 And if you donated blood 10 times, you were issued a document that would make it
5 possible for you to move around. And that document made it also possible for
6 the person to benefit from medications freely, and even medications for members of
7 their family. So that is why that document was issued to me by the health centre.

8 Q. [10:16:22] Thank you. You said that it was only afterwards - it is page 15,
9 lines 20 to 22 of the transcript - it was only after the phone call, after the ICC
10 representatives, that you decided to have identity papers issued for you.
11 Did I understand you correctly?

12 A. [10:16:56] As I have already told you, towards the end of 2014, towards 2015,
13 I was preparing to have an identity document issued for me. In 2016,
14 the competitive examination into the gendarmerie and the police had been launched
15 in the CAR. And to have the possibility to sit that examination, it was necessary to
16 be at least 18 years old. It was from that age that someone could apply to sit that
17 exam into the police or the gendarmerie.

18 It was to have the opportunity to compete and become a police or a gendarme that it
19 came to my mind that I should (Redacted)
20 (Redacted)
21 (Redacted).

22 Q. [10:18:22] Very well. Thank you, Mr Witness, for that new explanation. We
23 will come back to that briefly later.

24 I would like to continue with the interactions that you had with the representatives of
25 the OTP. When you met with them in person, do you remember how long that was

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1 after the phone call that you have talked about?

2 A. [10:18:56] Thank you. After the phone contact, I think it was quite a long time
3 before we were able to meet. Around the cathedral, in a house, thereabouts. And it
4 was there that we had the opportunity to meet face to face. One person introduced
5 himself as Mr Locardo (phon).

6 THE INTERPRETER: [10:19:43] If the Sango interpreter heard well.

7 THE WITNESS: [10:19:46](Interpretation) And then there was a lady, as well as
8 (Redacted). That is where we had the discussion or interview.

9 MS NAOURI: [10:19:56](Interpretation)

10 Q. [10:19:57] Very well. It is clear. Thank you, Mr Witness.

11 In the French transcript of 9 July, T-91, page 45, lines 5 to 11, you said in answer to
12 the question:

13 "Mr Witness, do you remember the first time that you were contacted by
14 the investigators of the Office of the Prosecutor? Do you remember?"

15 Answer: "It is a long time ago. I do not remember the precise date. I remember it,
16 I think it must have been in 2016. I no longer remember the month, but it must have
17 been in 2016 when they called me. We started having contact as from 2016."

18 My question is as follows, when you say that you started having conversations, does
19 that mean that before the face-to-face meeting you had several phone conversations
20 with the representatives of the Court?

21 A. [10:21:24] Thank you. The first time that they contacted me, we spent a long
22 time on the phone and I have told you that it was after several months that they
23 contacted me once again. Sometimes I no longer remember that I was in contact
24 with them. So when I no longer expect it, I receive calls, and they were the ones
25 contacting me, calling me.

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1 At one point I even intended to change my phone number because it started looking
2 to me like a nuisance. However, at some point I decided to wait and continue being
3 patient, to see where all this was going. If it was to arrest me, I will end up knowing
4 it.

5 But if this was something that could lead to me recounting my version of the events
6 that had happened, I would -- might -- I would be able to do it, I might be able to do it.
7 It was not regularly that they contacted me.

8 Q. [10:22:54] Very well. Not regularly, but from time to time you received calls,
9 that's what I understood.

10 Now let us come back to the face-to-face meeting, the first face-to-face meeting. At
11 that time, (Redacted), Mr Witness?

12 A. [10:23:20] Thank you. During that time I had eyesight problems, pain with my
13 eyes, but I was compelled to come and I had to come and meet them, but (Redacted)
14 (Redacted) for that meeting.

15 Q. [10:23:49] Very well. So at no time did you tell them that you had (Redacted)
16 (Redacted)? Did I understand you correctly?

17 A. [10:24:06] That is correct. During the first meeting, (Redacted)
18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 Q. [10:24:58] Very well. You told us a short while ago, if I understood you
22 well - and please stop me if I am mistaken - (Redacted)
23 (Redacted). When -- why did you give (Redacted)
24 (Redacted) when you met with the OTP representatives?

25 A. [10:25:44] As you know, (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted)

2 the Seleka, it was to have a job. But given that I had joined the Seleka, (Redacted)

3 (Redacted). And to have the opportunity to correct the errors that I had -- that I had

4 made, (Redacted). And that is why I (Redacted)

5 (Redacted).

6 In the Central African Republic, depending on the various ethnic groups, (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 Q. [10:27:45] Very well.

13 I want to ask the formal submission of tab 11, CAR-OTP-2115-0371.

14 Now, I will show you another item, Mr Witness, tab 9 of our list, CAR-OTP-00036286.

15 Can you see that document, Mr Witness?

16 A. [10:28:26] Yes, I can see it.

17 Q. [10:28:32] It is your national identity card, correct?

18 A. [10:28:37] Yes, that is correct.

19 Q. [10:28:39] Very well. It is seen on that card that you were born from parents

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 Q. [10:30:18] Very well, Mr Witness.

6 You said it was (Redacted)

7 (Redacted).

8 Are you telling us (Redacted)

9 (Redacted); is that what you mean, Mr Witness?

10 A. [10:30:59] Well, let me repeat myself. (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 Q. [10:32:02] (Redacted) on his birth

18 certificate, according to you?

19 A. [10:32:19] I think you're -- you're asking me the same question again. Now, let

20 me repeat myself. (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 Q. [10:33:10] Very well. So (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)? And the answer I want from you is yes or no. (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted); is that the testimony you are giving to the Court today?

2 A. [10:33:38] I have told you that (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted) -- (Overlapping speakers)

9 THE INTERPRETER: Interrupting.

10 MS NAOURI: (Interpretation)

11 Q. [10:34:23] We have understood (Redacted). Now, I just want a very clear

12 answer to a very simple question. (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted); have I understood you properly, yes or no?

15 A. [10:35:05] At this very moment that I am talking to you, let me tell you that after

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 Q. [10:35:46] Very well. So we have taken note of your testimony, Mr Witness.

22 And I want to ask for the submission of this identity card -- or, I'm sorry, it was

23 submitted yesterday already, I'm being overzealous. It's been submitted.

24 Now, let me show you another document, Mr Witness. Are you with me?

25 That would be at tab 10 of our list of materials. CAR-OTP-00036287. I'm interested

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1 in the second page, page 00002. There it is.

2 Do you see that document, Mr Witness?

3 A. [10:36:33] Yes, I can see it.

4 Q. [10:36:37] I would like us to show the witness the entire document from top to
5 bottom. One full page for him, please. Thank you.

6 Are you the one who submitted this document to the Office of the Prosecutor's
7 investigators?

8 A. [10:36:58] Yes, I am indeed the one who handed them this document.

9 Q. [10:37:05] This is your birth certificate and the date of birth here, as you can see
10 with me, (Redacted). Is that your date of birth, Mr Witness?

11 A. [10:37:25] Thank you. I was indeed born on (Redacted).

12 Q. [10:37:39] Very well. Now, here we can read the following. You were born in
13 (Redacted). Can you confirm that?

14 A. [10:37:51] Yes, I was born in (Redacted).

15 Q. [10:37:56] Then it says you are a son (Redacted)
16 (Redacted).

17 And so, on your birth certificate, it is mentioned that you are the son (Redacted), can
18 you confirm that?

19 A. [10:38:16] Yes, I can confirm that.

20 Q. [10:38:17] Very well. I will show you the date of the document.

21 Court officer, please can you scroll to the bottom of the document so we can see
22 the stamp and the date.

23 We see here that this document was issued on (Redacted), a few days after your birth
24 on (Redacted). This is a document of (Redacted), your birth certificate. So,

25 Mr Witness, you were born (Redacted).

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- 1 Can you confirm that?
- 2 A. [10:39:15] Yes, I can confirm that.
- 3 Q. [10:39:23] So you were born in (Redacted).
- 4 Do we agree on that?
- 5 A. [10:39:36] (Redacted).
- 6 Q. [10:39:42] Thank you, Mr Witness.
- 7 Since this document --
- 8 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:40:03] Sorry, Ms Naouri.
- 9 Yes, Mr Witness, can we hear? Do you want to say something?
- 10 THE WITNESS: [10:40:20](Interpretation) I would like a nature call break.
- 11 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:40:26] certainly, Mr Witness.
- 12 I'll ask the court clerk to direct you to where you could go. We'll wait for you.
- 13 Thank you very much.
- 14 (The witness exits the courtroom)
- 15 (Pause in proceedings)
- 16 (The witness enters the courtroom)
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:43:09] Welcome back, Mr Witness.
- 18 Ms Naouri, which tab did you just refer to for the birth certificate you just questioned
- 19 the witness on?
- 20 MS NAOURI: [10:43:21](Interpretation) Tab 10. Tab 10, already submitted. And
- 21 we looked at page 2. That document bears the nationality certificate, and then
- 22 page 2 (Redacted) birth certificate of the witness.
- 23 Q. [10:43:54] Mr Witness, let us continue our questioning, and we will now move
- 24 on to another topic at this time. And that would be something about your
- 25 background.

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1 We understood that you recently underwent training to become (Redacted). But I
2 want to ask you, when and where were you in primary school?

3 A. [10:44:35] I am not sure I have understood your question, counsel.

4 Q. [10:44:43] No problem. I repeat the question. I wasn't listening to you. So
5 now my question is as follows: Where did you attend primary school, if you
6 attended primary school at all?

7 A. [10:45:08] Are you talking about the primary school which starts from nursery
8 school all the way up? Is that the thrust of your question?

9 Q. [10:45:23] Yes, that's the thrust of my question. Absolutely, yes.

10 A. [10:45:34] I started at nursery school, at (Redacted) school.

11 Q. [10:45:47] At what age did you start attending school?

12 A. [10:45:54] I don't know. I don't know. The question you're asking me, huh,
13 should be raised with my parents. I was very small when I went to school for
14 the first time, so I don't remember how old I was. Now that I am grown up, I don't
15 remember all those details.

16 Q. [10:46:27] Mr Witness, I'm not asking you what was the first day you went to
17 school. I'm simply trying to find out at what age you stopped going to school. So
18 we want to understand your educational background. Do you remember at what
19 age you stopped going to school?

20 A. [10:46:50] I stopped going to school in (Redacted).

21 No, I'm sorry, mistake. Not (Redacted). It was after the Seleka had come in that
22 schools stopped functioning, so -- for some time, and that is how I dropped out of
23 school. At that time parents did not want to let their children go to school because of
24 those events, and that is how I also dropped out of school, from *école* (Redacted).

25 Q. [10:47:41] So just to specify, when you were at the *école* (Redacted)

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1 school, what class were you in?

2 A. [10:48:01] Well, it's not -- it was the (Redacted), at that time I was at the *lycée*.

3 Q. [10:48:09] Very well. So you were at the *lycée*. And because you were at the
4 *lycée* or high school, you were able to -- at that time you had never received any
5 military training; is that -- is that correct?

6 A. [10:48:32] When I was in high school I had not received any military training.
7 It is after the Seleka came in that -- well, when they arrived, I was able to join them.
8 And that is how I also dropped out of school.

9 Q. [10:48:58] So you never obtained a diploma or a certificate from your school
10 because you dropped out; is that correct?

11 A. [10:49:21] I do not hold the baccalaureate certificate. Ordinarily, I should have
12 continued my studies, but unfortunately I dropped out.

13 Q. [10:49:39] Very well. Now, if I understand you correctly, you -- your ambition
14 was to join the army; is that correct?

15 A. [10:50:03] You see, when one is a child, one's parents may ask the child what
16 profession they want to pursue in the future. I always told my father that I had
17 always wanted to become a soldier, in order to provide proper protection for my
18 family and also to serve my country. So, from childhood, that was always my
19 ambition. But, unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to do so. But I joined
20 the Seleka and that tarnished my identity. I am deeply hurt by that.

21 Q. [10:50:57] Thank you, Mr Witness.

22 These jobs are well paid jobs, when -- when you join the army, for example, in
23 the CAR, as far as you know; is that correct?

24 A. [10:51:19] Working does not necessarily entail having much money. I think
25 you -- you need to follow your heart. If you love something, regardless of

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1 the remuneration, if you have always dreamt of becoming or working in a particular
2 area, that is what would give them joy. Becoming a soldier has always been my
3 ambition. So, when I see people in uniform, wearing uniforms and bearing arms
4 and respecting their superiors, it is for those reasons that I fell in love with the job of
5 the military. So it's not about money, it's something of -- somewhat of my passion.

6 Q. [10:52:24] Very well. What qualifications are required for one to join the army
7 in the CAR, as far as you know?

8 A. [10:52:43] As far as I know, in the Central African Republic, when one wants to
9 join the army, there are not too many requirements. I don't know what happens in
10 other countries. Maybe one needs to have many diplomas. But in the Central
11 African Republic, in order to join the army, the idea is to first of all be ready to defend
12 your country against external aggression and to serve your country until the very last
13 of your days, and also to respect your hierarchy.

14 These are my observations about what was happening in the Central African
15 Republic.

16 Q. [10:53:34] Very well. Now, when you were answering questions from the OTP
17 yesterday - edited transcript French, edited transcript from the date before yesterday,
18 8 July 2014, T-90, at page 24, lines 20 to page 25, line 5 - and I'm interested particularly
19 in what you say: "At the time of President Bozizé, at that time I tried to join
20 the Central African army under what was known as the 5,000 batch. So I had to put
21 together what was required for my application. Unfortunately, things did not work
22 out."

23 Now, can you tell us what criteria you had to meet for the purpose of the recruitment
24 into the 5,000 batch, otherwise known as *Promotion 5,000*?

25 A. [10:54:42] I tried to provide an answer yesterday. In the Central African

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1 Republic, you need money, you need money to be able to get a job. You need to
2 make contact with the person in charge of recruitment, for them to take your file into
3 account. But, if you don't have anybody who can support you along those lines,
4 then you need money, you need to pay some amount of money to people who have
5 the power to give you employment. That is how I had to sell my bed, in order to get
6 enough money to give to those who were in charge of recruiting. That is what I tried
7 to do. But, unfortunately, in spite all my efforts, there was no positive outcome.

8 Q. [10:55:48] Very well. I have understood your answer. But my question is
9 the following: You sell your bed, you're in high school, you get the money, you give
10 the money, you apply for the position. Do you do anything else? Now, do you
11 have a file? Do you submit a file? Do you provide some documents? Or do you
12 only just make the payment?

13 A. [10:56:23] The requirements include a birth certificate, a certificate of nationality,
14 a legalised certificate of nationality certified by the mayor's office to show that you are
15 indeed a Central African national. Then you also need a certificate of residence.
16 You need to put in the file your primary school certificate, and all those documents
17 have to be certified and then the file can then be submitted. This is how things were
18 done.

19 Q. [10:57:03] Very well. Now, how old must one be to be able to engage in
20 a recruitment into the army, Mr Witness?

21 A. [10:57:15] As I told you, at the time I was already 16 years old. I was 16 years
22 old when I expressed the wish to become a soldier in the Central African Republic.
23 You see, when one is tall, and in good shape or form, one can be allowed to join
24 the army in the Central African Republic. And that is how I applied to become
25 a soldier.

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1 Now, the one who was in charge of recruitment told me not to worry about my age.
2 I just had to put the money together and then he would take care of the rest. And
3 that's what happened.

4 Q. [10:58:34] Very well. So do you remember more or less when this happened?

5 A. [10:58:40] I already told you that it was in 2012, 2012. Or it should have been
6 maybe between 2009-2012, thereabouts. 2009 to 2012. But I really don't have a clear
7 and exact recollection. I don't think it was in 2012, but between 2009 and 2012,
8 thereabouts. Before Bozizé left. I think there was the *Promotion 5,000*, or that's
9 the 5,000 batch, it happened within that period. It was the last time that
10 the recruitment examination was organised under the Bozizé regime.

11 MS NAOURI: [10:59:45](Interpretation) Madam President, I'm looking at the time.
12 This must be a perfect time to take the break.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [10:59:51] Yes, I do agree.

14 Mr Witness, we are going to take a short break. We'll come back for 11.30 to
15 continue with your testimony.

16 I rise the Court for 11.30, please. Thank you.

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

18 (Recess taken at 11.00 a.m.)

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

20 THE COURT USHER: [11:32:36] All rise.

21 Please be seated.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:33:03] Good morning, again, everyone.

23 Mr Witness, we're going to continue with your testimony, so I'm going to ask

24 Ms Naouri to continue putting questions to you in cross-examination.

25 Ms Naouri, please.

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1 MS NAOURI: [11:33:27](Interpretation) Thank you very much, Madam President.

2 I think we are in open session, and to continue I would like to ask to go into private
3 session, please.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:33:37] Certainly.

5 Madam Court Officer, can we go into private session, please.

6 (Private session at 11.33 a.m.)

7 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:33:56] We are back to private session, Madam President.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:33:59] Thank you very much.

9 Ms Naouri, please continue.

10 MS NAOURI: [11:34:05](Interpretation) Thank you very much.

11 Q. [11:34:07] Mr Witness, before the break, you were talking to us about the
12 recruitment of the 5000 batch, or *Promotion 5000*. I want to look at the quote. You
13 said it was the last time that the recruitment was organised under Bozizé -- page 31,
14 lines 21 and 22.

15 I want to show you tab 29 of our list, CAR-D33-0015-0627.

16 It is a press article, Radio Ndeke Luka, 27 June 2012. It is entitled "Recruitment of
17 the FACA in Bangui: The people recruited are not up to par".

18 I'll read the first two paragraphs:

19 "The Central African ministry of defence has been taking part from 25 June in an
20 operation for the recruitment of young people in the 8th arrondissement of Bangui
21 and those of Bimbo (Bégoua). This enrolment has as its objective to readjust the
22 strength of the Central African forces (FACA) to reinforce the territorial security
23 which is now fragile.

24 A team of the ministry high command is carrying out this recruitment since Monday,
25 25 June. According to that commander, recruited persons will undergo a training of

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1 approximately three to six months in various sites."

2 Mr Witness, they are talking of recruitment from 25 June. Does that refresh your
3 memory about the recruitment procedure in which you participated?

4 A. [11:37:03] As I tell you -- well, as I told you quite some time ago, the last
5 recruitment drive before the arrival of the Seleka took place in 2012 and they talk of
6 the *Promotion 5000*. And if you mention that *Promotion 5000*, all Central Africans
7 would remember. This was done in all the arrondissements of Bangui for the
8 candidates to go and apply. There was a physical test and a written test. It was at
9 the end of those tests that the candidates were recruited. So the article talks about
10 that operation, *Promotion 5000*. That was supervised by the son of President Bozizé,
11 Francis Bozizé.

12 Q. [11:38:18] Thank you very much, Mr Witness.

13 Were you part of that test, Mr Witness?

14 A. [11:38:28] Thank you. As you asked me before, I told you that at the time
15 I underwent the physical test at the *stade de 20,000 places*. And after that we were
16 called upon to do a written test. It was organised in the various school institutions
17 in the *lycées* of Bangui. That is where the written tests took place. At the end, the
18 written tests were not conclusive -- they were not positive and we lost hope. The
19 expected results were not obtained and we were not satisfied.

20 Q. [11:39:30] Just a clarification: What did this test concern? Which were the
21 questions put to you?

22 A. [11:39:52] I do not recall the questions because that was a very long time ago.
23 I do not remember some of the questions, but some of them concerned various dates
24 such as the date of the construction of the PK9 bridge and, in fact, also the meaning of
25 the abbreviation FACA - that is, the acronym FACA - what it meant. Some questions

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1 also concerned former presidents of the Central African Republic, such as Barthélemy
2 Boganda. There were also questions in mathematics and others that I do not
3 remember.

4 Q. [11:40:50] Thank you. Very well, Mr Witness.

5 I would like to ask for the formal submission of this item at tab 29 of our list.

6 Mr Witness, if I understood you well, you had to pay 5,000 francs per candidate; is
7 that correct -- or, rather, to become a candidate; is that correct?

8 A. [11:41:24] As I said earlier, I did not say that we had to pay 5,000 francs. The
9 *Promotion 5000* was a pejorative name given to the officials responsible for the
10 recruitment. The amount 5000 represents the class under which the candidates were
11 recruited. But the amount to be paid was not 5,000.

12 Q. [11:42:12] Yes, I will show you a document at tab 30 on our list of evidence,
13 CAR-D33-0015-0612.

14 It is a public item which has not yet been submitted and can be shown to the witness.

15 It is a media article of 2 August 2012 entitled "Young people discontent for not having
16 been accepted, recruited into the army and demonstrating in several strategic sites of
17 Bangui."

18 If you scroll down, I will read -- it is very long:

19 "From 9 o'clock, Bangui is experiencing a series of demonstrations, including certain
20 strategic points of the town. According to our information, everything started from
21 the proclamation of the results of the entry tests into the FACA and the amount for
22 the compilation of files was set at 5,000 francs CFA by the military authorities under
23 the orders of Francis Bozizé in person the officers that did this recruitment, and he
24 made it his affair. And the objective was to try to counterbalance the weight of the
25 various supporters who had been infiltrated by Ndoutingai in the army.

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1 Unfortunately, as one could have expected, this recruitment was clan-based and
2 based essentially on corruption and nepotism. Many idle young people who had
3 sacrificed their modest financial resources in the hope of being recruited and to be
4 able to serve their country were very frustrated and disappointed not to be among the
5 700 retained. More than 10,000 candidacies had been submitted."

6 And I stop there. And the last paragraph is:

7 "Out of the 700 people -- apart from the 700 people called over the radio, the rest of
8 the people had been rejected without reimbursement."

9 You, Mr Witness, you said you sold your bed for that purpose. How much money
10 did you pay for the registration?

11 A. [11:45:37] As you have read a short while ago, the cost of the file was 5,000
12 francs and that is the amount that finally became the name of the batch -- that is the
13 5000 batch. The amount of the money paid for the file -- for the entire file that
14 I gathered together and also the bribes that I paid to the organisers and for the
15 preparation of documents, that amount was 16,000 francs.

16 THE INTERPRETER: [11:46:28] The Sango interpreter repeats:

17 THE WITNESS: [11:46:32](Interpretation) These costs were 16,000 francs plus the
18 5,000 official amount that was asked for. Unfortunately, I did not achieve my
19 objective. I was hopeful of being recruited; but, unfortunately, the recruitment was
20 not carried out well. There was nepotism and tribalism. Those who benefited were
21 from Bossangoa. Those of us from (Redacted) were not privileged.

22 MS NAOURI: [11:47:13](Interpretation)

23 Q. [11:47:13] Thank you for that clarification. And for all the money you paid,
24 you were not reimbursed, is that what I understood; is that correct?

25 A. [11:47:34] This is to tell you that all those who paid sums of money and took

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1 part in the test were not reimbursed, and we did not expect anything from the
2 organisation -- from the organisers.

3 Q. [11:47:56] Let us go to the next page, 0613.

4 Thank you. I will read you two paragraphs of interest to me. The first paragraph:
5 "In that way, these young people found their hope transformed into an illusion, and
6 they revolted and marched in the streets of Bangui. The largest group started from
7 *quartier* Petevo in the 6th arrondissement and travelled around the town, passing
8 through the prime minister's office before reaching the intersection of the 4th where
9 other young people joined them."

10 And I will go to paragraph 3, starting with "*C'est la panique totale*".

11 "It is total panic in Bangui because even the praetorian guards of Bozizé were not able
12 to control the demonstrators. That demonstrates the incapacity of the authorities in
13 Bangui to face up to the certain serious problems in the country." End of quotation.

14 Mr Witness, what is of interest to me is this. Did you or people that you know take
15 part in those demonstrations?

16 A. [11:49:54] Thank you. With regard to that question, in my culture, to begin
17 with, my education does not permit me to take part in demonstrations organised by a
18 crowd. If I remember well, at one time some young people demonstrated their
19 discontent. I think at that time everything was working well. In the country, there
20 was no chaos. Some people were hit by stray bullets and teargas, teargas was
21 thrown at the crowd and there were many people injured. And since that time
22 I remember having decided never to take part in any demonstrations against the
23 authorities of the country.

24 I know that at that time most of the people that had taken part in the test had gone to
25 demonstrate their discontent. Those who were not recruited took part in that

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1 demonstration also. I, I did not take part in that demonstration, and I did not even
2 go to see it.

3 Q. [11:51:35] Thank you.

4 I would like to ask for formal submission of that document in tab 30.

5 Mr Witness, in the French transcript of 8 July 2024, page 80 -- 90, lines -- 34, lines 20 to
6 26, after their departure you talk about the following: After their departure we did
7 not call them, we did not even want to use their number. It is after some time that
8 when we heard that President Djotodia had appealed to young people to join the
9 army.

10 And this was after the reparation of the Seleka vehicle that you described.

11 Now, you said that you heard a message over the radio from Djotodia. Before that
12 appeal, had Garba already come to the (Redacted) neighbourhood to organise or to
13 talk to the authorities of the area such as the mayor to organise the recruitments?

14 A. [11:53:25] Thank you. As I have said before, when this information was
15 circulated concerning the recruitment into the national army, a few weeks afterwards,
16 I believe several weeks afterwards, I remembered the number that Garba had given to
17 (Redacted). I asked him whether he was aware of that recruitment into the army
18 and we -- I told him that we had to give money to those people and then, after, they
19 would chase you away.

20 After what happened, I had not forgotten. But he told me the Bozizé period had
21 passed, this is a new era, and if we are lucky, we can succeed in this test and -- but if it
22 does not work, we have to take other measures because we were not lucky at that
23 time.

24 So a short while afterwards, we had the opportunity to go and see Garba. We asked
25 him questions related to that recruitment. He said that he was aware of the

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1 recruitment, but it was not yet the time. And he said that if the times for the files
2 came, he would inform us because we had helped him.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:55:19] I'm sorry, Ms Naouri, it's not really -- I just
4 want a correction of the transcript, if at all. The document which submission you
5 just sought, I see in line 7, it is written tab 13. Is it tab 13 or tab 30?

6 MS NAOURI: [11:55:47](Interpretation) Thirty, 30. In French I said 30, but I can
7 understand why there would be confusion.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [11:55:56] Thank you. In the English transcript,
9 hopefully it will be corrected, it's 13.

10 Carry on, Ms Naouri.

11 MS NAOURI: [11:56:06](Interpretation) Thank you, Madam President.

12 Q. [11:56:09] I'll show you another document on our list. It is tab 86,

13 CAR-D33-0014-1006. It is an excerpt of a video of your preparation session with the
14 Prosecution.

15 And the court officer, if you want, we will take over control to show the video from
16 time codes 38:10 to 40:15.

17 We do not have the transcript of the video, but we have something displayed.

18 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:57:14] Just for the interpreters' information, the
19 transcript will be displayed in evidence channel 1, and the video on evidence channel
20 2. And the Defence has the floor.

21 MS NAOURI: [11:57:32](Interpretation) Thank you, Madam Court Officer. I had
22 asked for that and you answered.

23 We will listen to that extract, 38:10 to 40:15. And I will have a few questions
24 afterwards.

25 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

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1 The following inserted excerpt is a transcription prepared and provided by the parties
2 of the aforementioned recording, without any modification or alteration:

3 "38:10 once we finished repairing the vehicle, then I have been told that they are
4 making the recruitment of young people because for each of the commanders, the
5 more you have elements, the more you are allowed to go [for] to combat."

6 THE INTERPRETER: [11:58:37] The English interpreters will read out the unofficial
7 translation given by the Defence:

8 "So it was Garba who came (Redacted) and he came to the place of the mayor of this
9 neighborhood, that Mayor was a woman and when Garba entered the Mayor
10 welcomed this Garba. So when the time came for the recruitment of the new Seleka,
11 then Garba went to the place of this Mayor and informed them. The Mayor was
12 affected to work in Samangea, so she left with her husband to Birao."

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:00:32] Yes, Mr Choudhry.

14 MR CHOUDHRY: [12:00:35] Your Honour, just having viewed the video --
15 Your Honours, I just wanted to make sure that, when the interpreter is speaking
16 English, that's being interpreted in Sango also to the witness, and -- because he
17 obviously doesn't speak English. That's all.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:01:09] Mr Witness, was that video that you just
19 watched, was that in Sango? Did you listen to it in Sango?

20 THE WITNESS: [12:01:38](Interpretation) Not yet, Madam President. You see, on
21 the day of the interview --

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:01:44] Mr Witness, I'm talking about now, that
23 you're watching that clip on the screen before you, what you have before you, did you
24 listen to it in Sango here now?

25 THE WITNESS: [12:02:13](Interpretation) Right here, yes. I was provided

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1 interpretation, but I -- I listened to -- I heard my voice in Sango, but this document has
2 not yet been translated for me into Sango.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:02:28] Can I ask, maybe the investigators can -- I'm
4 sorry, the interpreters can help us. Was there any translation of this video now for
5 the witness to understand what was being said on the video clip?

6 THE INTERPRETER: [12:02:57] Message from the Sango booth: Yes. The part of
7 the video was interpreted into Sango.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:03:06] Thank you very much, interpreters.
9 Thank you.

10 Now, Mr Choudhry, I think that rests your concern.

11 MR CHOUDHRY: [12:03:14] Yes, your Honour. The witness can obviously
12 understand his own language, it was only in relation to the English. Thank you.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [12:03:21] Okay.

14 Ms Naouri, please continue your questions.

15 MS NAOURI: [12:03:28](Interpretation) Thank you, Madam President.

16 Q. [12:03:33] All right, Mr Witness, if I understand you, you say in this excerpt that
17 you say that Garba came to the (Redacted) neighbourhood to talk with the mother
18 about recruitment and she helped Mr Garba. Can you confirm that to be what we
19 heard in the video?

20 A. [12:04:05] Thank you. I'm -- I'm not talking about the mayor of the
21 neighbourhood, not -- not the mayor. I'm talking about the mother. Mother, not
22 mayor. Mother, not mayor.

23 So after receiving the information, she was informed, she came to the neighbourhood
24 to see the lady who had hosted her in the province near Birao. That mother had
25 some boys and that is why the mother informed her accordingly, or informed him,

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1 and then he went on to talk about it with that lady. You see, that lady's children, we
2 had gone to PK9 together with them and then we talked about this person with this
3 number in relation to the recruitment issue.

4 Q. [12:05:29] Now I want to come back to what you said. During the preparatory
5 phase the word "*mère*", in French, was translated as "mayor", M-A-Y-O-R.

6 But now you're saying "*mère*", in French, is "mother", "mama". So that's already a
7 different issue there, there's an issue of interpretation there. So, please, if I'm
8 mistaken stop me. But what you are telling us today is that there was a lady, mother,
9 a mama, from (Redacted) who received Garba.

10 Is that correct? Did I understand you well?

11 A. [12:06:17] Yes, that is what I meant. That's what I wanted to say.

12 Q. [12:06:21] Very well. Now, when Garba sees that mother, he talks to her about
13 the recruitment process, the ongoing recruitment process; is that the case? Is that
14 correct?

15 A. [12:06:39] Yes. Thank you. Thank you. After he talked with that lady, it is
16 that lady who told him that she had heard people talking about military recruitment
17 and that she had sons who had taken part in the recruitment but had failed. And so
18 she asked him, "It's a good thing you are here. Please can you help them." And so
19 he said, "It is a good thing that he is now informed and that at the right time he will
20 call on those children." And it is in that way that we got an opportunity to go and
21 see him.

22 Q. [12:07:37] Very well. I think I have understood your -- your -- your answer.
23 But when you say it is because of them that we had an opportunity to go see him, so
24 who is "they" and who is "him" that you went to see?

25 A. [12:08:00] Thank you. Now, when I say "them", I'm talking about the children

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1 of that lady, her boys, (Redacted). Those three boys. And there was
2 another -- there were others, and I have forgotten their names. Two of them. It is
3 because of those children that I got the opportunity, because we had grown up
4 together and we used to play together in (Redacted) neighbourhood. We therefore
5 had that opportunity to go see Garba. And then we reminded him that he had given
6 us his number and then he remembered what had happened when he -- and then he
7 had a discussion with us. That is how it happened.

8 Q. [12:08:55] Very well. So if I understand very well, it was in Garba's interest to
9 recruit as many men as possible because that would earn him some respect; is that
10 correct? Did I understand you well?

11 A. [12:09:26] No, it's not like that. The Seleka functioned in this way: At their
12 respective bases, if you have many elements, then you -- people will fear you, but not
13 that he would have more importance or more force or to work more than others. But
14 when you have more -- the more elements you have, the more dreaded you become.
15 But, you see, they would, however, still be under the command of the person in
16 charge of the country.

17 Q. [12:10:14] Very well. Thank you for that clarification, Mr Witness.

18 I ask for the formal submission of this document in tab 86 of our list of material.

19 I then want to move on to the roadblock at PK9 regarding your recruitment into the
20 army.

21 And I refer to the transcript of 8 July 2024, page 27, lines 1 to 21.

22 Now, you talk about four people. You -- you talked about four people with whom
23 you were present. Can you tell us who those four people are, Mr Witness?

24 A. [12:11:30] I just said a short while ago that those four persons -- well, when we
25 got there, we met up with other people who had already been informed about the

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1 recruitment. Now, the four persons were --

2 Q. [12:11:50] I will interrupt you, but, please, I'm trying to manage time. I don't
3 have -- I cannot be questioning you for days, so please make an effort. If I ask you
4 who were the four persons, please answer just that question, and then things will
5 flow much more naturally and we will be able to gain time.

6 So, please, who were the four persons with whom you went to the roadblock?

7 A. [12:12:23] That is what I was trying to tell you.

8 There was (Redacted), otherwise known as (Redacted); and
9 then (Redacted).

10 Q. [12:13:15] Okay. Hold on. We had a little bit of difficulty getting these on the
11 transcript yesterday and it's still not perfect today. So let us all take it over again
12 today.

13 So now you tell me that there was (Redacted); is that correct?

14 A. [12:13:42] (Redacted), those are the names of one single person, one individual.
15 You see, in our neighbourhood, when you have two first names, your parents might
16 like one and your friends might like the other, so (Redacted) and -- (Redacted) is one
17 and the same person.

18 Q. [12:14:04] Very clear. Thank you very much, Mr Witness. So one person was
19 called (Redacted). Is (Redacted) also known as (Redacted)?

20 A. [12:14:26] His family name is (Redacted).

21 Q. [12:14:37] Mr Witness, I understood that (Redacted) was the family name for
22 (Redacted). Is it (Redacted); is that correct?

23 A. [12:14:56] Thank you. (Redacted) -- well, (Redacted), and (Redacted). But
24 (Redacted) is (Redacted) and then (Redacted).

25 Q. [12:15:30] Thank you. I think the names have been properly recorded on the

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1 transcript now. Thank you.

2 Then there was (Redacted). What are (Redacted) full names; do you know them?

3 *A. [12:15:50] (Redacted) family name is (Redacted).

4 Q. [12:16:06] Very well. Thank you. If I mentioned (Redacted),
5 would that be the same person as (Redacted)?

6 A. [12:16:24] Yes, I can confirm that, his name is (Redacted). Yes, it is the same
7 person.

8 Q. [12:16:35] Then there is (Redacted). What are his full names. You have talked
9 about him already. What are his full names?

10 A. [12:16:52] (Redacted) is an abbreviation for (Redacted).
11 That's his name.

12 Q. [12:17:13] Very well. You have (Redacted), but I have (Redacted). Is it
13 (Redacted)? Is that the spelling? Is it the same person?

14 A. [12:17:35] (Redacted).

15 THE INTERPRETER: [12:17:49] Says the witness.

16 MS NAOURI: [12:17:52](Interpretation)

17 Q. [12:17:52] Thank you very much, Mr Witness. That clarifies a lot of the
18 information in our possession.

19 Now, you are with these four persons at the PK9 roadblock for the recruitment when
20 you go there. You remain there with them at PK9; is that correct?

21 A. [12:18:29] To answer your question, we were altogether at PK9, we were
22 together at the *palais*, at Camp de Roux, and also at the training.

23 Q. [12:18:39] Very well. How old are they when you all were together at the PK9
24 roadblock?

25 A. [12:19:02] I no longer remember each person's age. Everybody knew how old

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1 they were at the time, but I was the youngest of the group of my team.

2 Q. [12:19:25] Very well. Did any of them, or all of them also take part in the
3 *Promotion 5000* recruitment under Bozizé?

4 A. [12:19:45] As I said before, (Redacted), are the ones with whom we participated
5 in the recruitment exercise into the army.
6 Unfortunately, we did not succeed.

7 Q. [12:20:08] Very well. It's very clear now, Mr Witness.

8 So when you get to the roadblock, you've told us - and I'm referring once again to the
9 edited French transcript of 8 July 2024, page 35, lines 1 to 21 - that you -- you were
10 there patiently waiting for Garba on that day.

11 Did you see any other recruitments taking place at the PK9 roadblock, Mr Witness?

12 A. [12:21:10] As I have often told you when we were at Kader's base at the
13 gendarmerie, we met with several youth, and then we also went to our Goula base
14 where there were several youth also waiting for recruitment. Most of the youth
15 there were those who had failed the *Promotion 5000* recruitment, so most of them
16 would come and have discussions with various colonels to see how they can be
17 integrated into the army.

18 Q. [12:21:59] Very well, thank you, Mr Witness.

19 I want to read an excerpt of what someone else - not you - told the investigators of the
20 OTP during their investigations. This person was present at a recruitment exercise
21 at PK9. I will read out to you what he said. And I will give out the reference for
22 the record, tab 22.2 of our list of materials, and 22 for the English version,
23 CAR-OTP-2130-6525.

24 Please do not show the witness this document for reasons of confidentiality because
25 the document is not submitted.

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1 And I'm referring to paragraph 13 at page 6528.

2 I will read the excerpt, being mindful as not to identify anybody. At paragraph 13,
3 this is what the person says:

4 "Two or three days after the arrival of the Seleka in Bangui, I learnt that the Seleka
5 was recruiting people into the army. I tried to join the ranks of the FACA because
6 I had always wanted to be part of the Central African army, to work for my country
7 and to seek protection. I saw a gathering of people around the Seleka base at the
8 PK9 roadblock. Seleka elements were explaining to those present that they should
9 neither fear nor flee. They said they were looking for recruits to be trained. The
10 elements also told me that they knew that some people had been rejected by Bozizé
11 and that Seleka would incorporate them into their ranks." End of quotation.

12 Do you have anything to add to what this witness said? Did you see anything
13 similar to this, Mr Witness, yourself, at the PK9 roadblock?

14 A. [12:24:37] Thank you. Well, I cannot assess this statement by this person
15 because, you see, at the time, each individual had their own way of finding a way to
16 join the Seleka. So when the person says three days after the arrival of the Seleka,
17 I don't think so. I think three days after they arrived, people were very scared of the
18 Seleka and the Seleka did not trust everybody. So it is only much later, later, that
19 people began to contact them to come closer to them.

20 Now, when the Seleka arrived, everybody in Bangui was frightened. After 27 March,
21 this is what I think -- well, I don't -- I don't know, I don't think so. What I learnt was
22 that while the Seleka were at the demarcation line, some people had already linked
23 up with them there in Damara and elsewhere, and then, together, they walked all the
24 way to Bangui.

25 But if you say that they started recruitments three days after they got to Bangui, well,

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1 I don't think I learnt of anything like that. It is only much later after they arrived
2 that they invited people to join them and so that they could be enlisted into the army.

3 Q. [12:26:13] Very well. Thank you, Mr Witness.

4 You have explained to us during the examination-in-chief how you were recruited,
5 and at the end of 2013, Mr Witness, and owing to this recruitment into the so-called
6 Seleka group, you then, thanks to that, officially joined the army; is that not the case?

7 A. [12:26:58] During our discussion with Garba, following the publication by the
8 release from the presidency of the republic for recruitment, Garba said the following:

9 "Let us wait to the very last day" -- that is, the day before the training, before we
10 would go for the training.

11 You see, because we were at his base, we didn't take part in the training, so we were
12 sort of waiting at his base.

13 Q. [12:27:36] Very well. But this is what you told us yesterday, that you received
14 some training, how to sing, how to run and so on and so forth, other types of training.

15 I'm looking for the reference. The reference, I'll get it up for you in a second. I had
16 it a short while ago; I can't find it now.

17 But you talked about training and my question is the following: It is because you
18 were trained that you joined the army at the end of 2013, in October 2013, so it's after
19 the training that you joined the army; is that not the case?

20 A. [12:28:21] Thank you for that question.

21 You see, when we started to learn to become soldiers, a list had already been sent to
22 Camp Kassai and when we got to Camp Kassai that is when we started the military
23 training proper. Unfortunately, things didn't end up well because of the trouble that
24 broke out in the country.

25 Q. [12:28:58] Very well. I'll show you a document, tab 16 of our list of materials,

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1 Mr Witness.

2 It is a document that has already been submitted into evidence and can be shown to
3 the witness, CAR-OTP-2100-0825.

4 I would like us to go to page 0829.

5 Thank you very much.

6 Here we can see a decision -- this is a decision for the integration of recruited youths
7 into the Central African forces. That's the document we'll be talking about. I'll
8 show you the date of the document.

9 And, court officer, please can you go to page 0919.

10 Here you can see perfectly that the date is dated 10 October 2013.

11 Now, I'm interested in this line, it's at page 0864.

12 What is of interest is line 1354, second part of the document -- perfect.

13 You can see, Mr Witness, it is written on that line: (Redacted)

14 (Redacted).

15 So this is a decision of (Redacted) who says that a person called (Redacted) had been
16 incorporated into the Central African army.

17 Did you know that?

18 A. [12:31:53] Thank you.

19 In answer to your question, when we had arrived Camp Kassaï and we received this
20 document, it was after the training, it was upon our return that we were given that
21 document -- that is, when we arrived Camp Kassaï. After 5 December, when we
22 were at the Camp de Roux, we did not have the opportunity to take up service and to
23 keep that document with us, and we kept that document with us.

24 Q. [12:33:00] So you still have a copy of that document, Mr Witness?

25 A. [12:33:05] As I have told you, as I said, I did not have the possibility or the

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1 opportunity to keep a copy of that document.

2 Q. [12:33:20] Very well. Did you receive a military card after that decision,
3 Mr Witness?

4 A. [12:33:33] No. I have never had a military identity card to this day.

5 Q. [12:33:41] Very well. It is written here that you are (Redacted). Can
6 you tell us what that means?

7 A. [12:33:58] I have told you that we did not complete that military training.

8 What I experienced is that when you are a soldier, at the end of the training they put
9 the flag over you and say that you are a soldier. There is a solemn pledge that is
10 done, but that did not happen. This is because we did not complete that training.
11 That is what I know.

12 Q. [12:34:39] Thank you. The same document, page 0886, and the line of interest
13 to me is 2350 -- 0890, line 2350.

14 We can see on that line that (Redacted), that we talked about just
15 before, was also (Redacted). Were you aware that (Redacted) had been integrated
16 into the army?

17 A. [12:35:45] As I said a short while ago, amongst all those who had service
18 number or registration numbers, no one had the opportunity to work as a soldier.

19 *(Redacted) tried to go to military training during the current rule of
20 President Touadera. I think he spent one year in the army. He called me. He said,
21 "How are you doing, (Redacted)?" And he told me, "Now I'm a soldier under
22 Touadera's regime, if you want you can come and join me". And I told him, "No,
23 I no longer want to be a soldier because I have had a lot of bad luck, so I want to do
24 something else". So we had a conversation at that time. He was already a soldier.
25 It was not after the period that we had worked with the Seleka, no.

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1 Q. [12:36:55] Very well. You're telling us that, recently, he joined the army. I will
2 show you another document. I'm done with this one for now.

3 That is tab 17 on our list, CAR-OTP-2111-0213, and I want to go to page 0215, please.

4 It is an item that has already been submitted and that can be shown to the witness.

5 To guide the witness a little bit, I should have started with the page -- the first page.

6 We can see that it is a judgment of 5 September 2013 -- or, I think it's 2018. I'm sorry,

7 I'm beginning to get tired. It is a judgment of 5 September 2018, following a -- a case

8 lodged by the collective of 2nd class soldiers so that the minister should order their

9 integration into the armed forces, national armed forces.

10 As far as you know, (Redacted), were you

11 part of that collective to make known your decision on 2013, which had integrated

12 you into the army?

13 A. [12:39:50] Thank you. I said that after the regime fell, I was no longer

14 interested in anything that concerned soldiers because my image was tarnished in the

15 neighbourhood. To this day, I have been dishonoured. Everyone that I grew up

16 with, in their opinion I no longer had any value with them. Ever since 15 December

17 when I left the Camp de Roux, I'm no longer interested in anything to this day.

18 Q. [12:40:34] Mr Witness, I'm referring to today's transcript, today, T-92, page 17,

19 line 1, and you said in 2016 the test for the gendarmerie and police was launched in

20 the Central African Republic, and to be able to take part you had to be 18 years old,

21 and it was from that age that someone could apply to be a police or a gendarme, and

22 to have that possibility of becoming a police or a gendarme, "I had the idea to

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted) to be able to join and serve my country".

25 So you said that in 2016, after the Seleka "we tried to join the army", Mr Witness.

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1 So how do you explain this contradiction, because you have just said that for a long
2 time you no longer had any interest in the army after the Seleka, but in 2016 you tried
3 to join the army? How do you explain that inconsistency?

4 A. [12:42:29] With anything related to the FACA, I'm no longer interested in that
5 because I don't have any desire to become FACA in the CAR. When you are in the
6 national army you have a lot of values and a lot of weight because for those who are
7 that army -- in the gendarmerie or the police, you have a lot of respect. I tried to join
8 these groups, but I failed and I cannot do anything. And from the 15th, when I left
9 the Camp de Roux, I no longer even think about anything related to the FACA.
10 Now, I came back now and tried to see what was happening in the gendarmerie so
11 that I could join them. So I applied to become a gendarme and, once again, I failed,
12 so I abandoned everything.

13 Q. [12:43:47] Very well. Mr Witness, the gendarmerie is part of the army, it is part
14 of the FACA, so thanks to the decision of the October 2013, validated in 2018, you
15 could have joined the gendarmerie.

16 Do you know that the gendarmerie is part of the FACA, that you could have used that
17 decision of integration to join the gendarmerie?

18 A. [12:44:25] I had answered you a short while ago, after what happened with the
19 FACA, I no longer had the opportunity to converse with those who had those
20 documents. I abandoned everything related to the FACA. I know there are
21 different sectors. They are soldiers, but they work differently. That is why
22 I decided to turn myself towards the police or the gendarmerie. It is not the FACA;
23 I no longer worried about that.

24 Q. [12:45:03] Very well.

25 The other document was already submitted. I will show you another document,

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1 tab 101.

2 It can be shown to the witness.

3 It is also submitted, also, CAR-OTP-2069-0332.

4 And, Madam Court Officer, we will need to take technical control because it is an
5 Excel table. We will go to the second tab of the identification table of the Seleka,
6 published by the commission in charge of the identification and registration of the
7 elements, of the FACA. So the second table. And we'll go to line 1850.

8 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:46:32] The Defence has the floor, evidence channel 2.

9 MS NAOURI: [12:46:40](Interpretation) Thank you very much, court officer. It is
10 there on evidence 2.

11 Q. [12:46:49] We can see line 1850 and under the category, "Palace"; name of the
12 responsible person, "(Redacted)"; name "(Redacted)"; first name, "(Redacted)"; date of
13 birth, (Redacted); place of birth, "(Redacted)"; and level of study, (Redacted).

14 Now, Mr Witness, you were not born in (Redacted); is that correct?

15 A. [12:47:37] I was not born in (Redacted).

16 Q. [12:47:46] And you were not born in (Redacted)?

17 A. [12:47:53] I was not born in (Redacted).

18 Q. [12:48:05] You were not 20 years old in 2013 when Djotodia was in power?

19 A. [12:48:13] No, that is not my date of birth.

20 Q. [12:48:19] So this name (Redacted) that appears on this document, it's not you, is
21 that the case?

22 A. [12:48:31] As I told you a short while ago, there are many people who bear the
23 name (Redacted), but they're not my relatives. We are not from that -- from the same
24 family. There are many people -- several people who have that name (Redacted).

25 I remember on the day that we had to sit the test for the gendarmerie, there was

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1 someone who had the same name and the same first name as myself. I was not birth
2 on the 1st. I was born on (Redacted) -- my date of
3 birth -- (Redacted).

4 Q. [12:49:33] So what you want to do -- to say is that there were several (Redacted)
5 working for (Redacted) at the palace; is that what you mean to say?

6 A. [12:49:52] As I have told you, (Redacted)
7 (Redacted). There

8 were also (Redacted) of them. There were (Redacted). There was Colonel
9 (Redacted) and other people called (Redacted). That is what I observed.

10 In the palace there were people who had the same name. There was Ousmane, for
11 example, there were many Ousmanes. And there were several Moussas in the same
12 base. (Redacted).

13 Q. [12:50:52] Mr Witness, there were not many (Redacted) - family name
14 (Redacted) - because you said there were many (Redacted) working
15 for (Redacted).

16 A. [12:51:17] As I was trying to say, in the presidential palace there were
17 (Redacted). At the CMK there was a (Redacted), and he
18 was thinner. With Kader, (Redacted), and with Colonel Flame there was another one,
19 he was from the (Redacted), but we did not -- he did not have the same first
20 name.

21 Q. [12:52:04] Very well. There were many (Redacted) but with not the same first
22 name.

23 My last question, Mr Witness. You can take -- even today you can make use of the
24 decision of 2018, but you cannot do that because (Redacted)
25 (Redacted); is that not correct?

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1 A. [12:52:40] I will repeat, madam. Anything concerning the army is no longer of
2 any interest to me. Even though this was my vocation at the time, because of the bad
3 experiences that I had, I no longer want to know anything about the soldiers. I want
4 to change my line of work. The shock that I had haunts me at night. I'm not able to
5 sleep so I don't want to attach any importance to this job any longer.

6 Q. [12:53:18] If I understand you correctly, you nevertheless wanted to become a
7 gendarme.

8 A. [12:53:29] As said in the Bible, when you plan to do something and you are not
9 successful, you have to wait for the next opportunity. So what we do is inspired by
10 god, and anyone who forces himself to do something will have problems on the way.
11 So I'm patient. I know that god has a plan and I am waiting for that and I will have a
12 decent job. Thank you.

13 Q. [12:54:11] Thank you, Mr Witness. With a few minutes remaining we will go to
14 a new topic. I'm coming back to the checkpoint at PK9.

15 I will repeat. So we will go back to the PK9 checkpoint. That checkpoint is located
16 in the Bimbo neighbourhood on the road towards Mbaïki; is that correct?

17 A. [12:54:58] Yes, that is correct. After the MOCAF brewery, there is the PK9
18 roadblock.

19 Q. [12:55:16] This is one of the principal or main roads to enter and exit Bangui; is
20 that correct?

21 A. [12:55:25] Yes. It is indeed a national highway from the west, the road leading
22 to Lobaye.

23 Q. [12:55:41] Very well. And this roadblock already existed under Bozizé, that is
24 where there were controls -- it was already existing under Bozizé; is that correct?

25 A. [12:56:09] This roadblock existed well before my birth.

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1 Q. [12:56:15] Very well. And it is still there to this day, correct?

2 A. [12:56:20] Yes, indeed. The checkpoint is still there and it is manned by the
3 presidential guards and customs officers.

4 Q. [12:56:38] Very well. And if I understood your testimony well, Ousmane, who
5 was a former chief *caporal* under Bozizé, continued working at that roadblock after the
6 departure of the Seleka; is that correct?

7 A. [12:57:03] Well before the arrival of the Seleka, Ousmane was already a soldier
8 under Bozizé's regime. Thereafter, he joined the Seleka because, for him, Selekas
9 were relatives.

10 Recently when I was going to see my mother in the farm, I saw him. I was afraid,
11 but I calmed myself down. I pretended not to be looking at him; I looked elsewhere
12 and I left. Today, he is high ranking. He is part of the FACA. I saw him
13 personally with my own eyes. He is part of the Central African armed forces.

14 Q. [12:58:02] Very well. Thank you. Which were the other control points or
15 checkpoints in existence in Bangui, as far as you know, in 2013, Mr Witness?

16 A. [12:58:23] Regarding checkpoints, the first was at Sekia before arriving the PK9
17 checkpoint. The Sekia point was under the control of Alkanto. It was not under
18 our jurisdiction. Those -- those are the two checkpoints that I can remember during
19 our time.

20 Q. [12:58:56] Very well. And when you talked about Alkanto in Sekia, it's which
21 neighbourhood, which arrondissement, Mr Witness?

22 A. [12:59:19] No, Sekia is a small village on the road to Mbaïki. It is about -- it is
23 15 kilometres after PK9. It is a small village on the road to the Lobaye.

24 Q. [12:59:45] Very well. And you considered that as a controlled point.

25 I can look at the time, Madam President. I think it is a good time to break.

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- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SAMBA: [13:00:00] Yes, it is indeed a good time to break.
- 2 Mr Witness, we're going to end your testimony here for today, but we will continue
- 3 tomorrow morning. So I want to remind you that you'd still be on oath when we
- 4 meet tomorrow, and to advise that you do not discuss your testimony with anybody
- 5 when you leave this courtroom until we meet again tomorrow.
- 6 So I rise the Court for tomorrow at 9.30, please.
- 7 THE COURT USHER: [13:00:38] All rise.
- 8 (The hearing ends in private session at 1.00 p.m.)