

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2232

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/18

1 International Criminal Court
2 Trial Chamber V
3 Situation: Central African Republic II
4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Alfred Rombhot Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard
5 Ngaïssona - ICC-01/14-01/18
6 Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt, Judge Péter Kovács and Judge Chang-ho Chung
7 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 1
8 Thursday, 11 November 2021
9 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.31 a.m.)
10 THE COURT USHER: [9:31:08] All rise.
11 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
12 Please be seated.
13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:36] Good morning, everyone.
14 Could the court officer please call the case.
15 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:31:48] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
16 The situation in the Central African Republic II, in the case of The Prosecutor versus
17 Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona, case reference ICC-01/14-01/18.
18 And for the record, we are in open session.
19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:04] Thank you.
20 Ms Struyven for the Prosecution.
21 MS STRUYVEN: [9:32:09] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. For the
22 Prosecution today, we have
23 Kweku Vanderpuye, Pierre Belbenoit Avich, Yassin Mostfa and myself,
24 Olivia Struyven.
25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:19] Thank you.

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- 1 And the representatives of the victims, please.
- 2 MR DANGABO MOUSSA: [9:32:23](Interpretation) Good morning, Mr President.
- 3 Good morning everyone. The LRVs is represented by Enrique Carnero;
- 4 Evelyne Ombeni, legal officer; and myself, Dangabo Moussa. Thank you.
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:45] Thank you.
- 6 MR SUPRUN: [9:32:47](Interpretation) Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
- 7 The former child soldiers are represented by myself, Dmytro Suprun, counsel at the
- 8 Office of Public Counsel for Victims. Thank you.
- 9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:52] I turn to the Defence.
- 10 Ms Dimitri.
- 11 MS DIMITRI: [9:32:55] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning,
- 12 your Honours. Good morning everyone. This morning Mr Yekatom, who is
- 13 present in the courtroom, is represented by Mr Thomas Hannis, Mr Gyo Suzuki,
- 14 Ms Yasmeen Hajjali, Mr Jean-Michel Kola is just about to step in the courtroom, and
- 15 myself, Mylène Dimitri.
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:15] So we assume he will be present. Thank
- 17 you.
- 18 Mr Knoops, please. Good morning.
- 19 MR KNOOPS: [9:33:20] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. Good
- 20 morning everyone in the courtroom. The Defence team of Mr Ngaïssona appears
- 21 today before you with Madam Lauriane Vandeler, Ms Phoebe Oyugi and
- 22 Barbara Szmatala and myself.
- 23 Thank you.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:36] Thank you very much.
- 25 And also a welcome to our witness.

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1 Good morning, Mr Witness. Do you hear me and understand me well?

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3 (The witness speaks Sango)

4 THE WITNESS: [9:33:50](Interpretation) Yes, I can understand you. I can hear you
5 loud and clear.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:54] Thank you.

7 On behalf of the Chamber I would like to welcome you to the courtroom. You are
8 called to testify to assist this Chamber and this Court in the case of Mr Yekatom and
9 Mr Ngaïssona. You have been informed that there are protective measures in place
10 to provide for not revealing your identity, this is, face and voice distortion, and we
11 are also using a pseudonym and that is the reason why I don't address you with your
12 real name but as "Mr Witness" only.

13 Mr Witness, there should be a card in front of you with a solemn undertaking to tell
14 the truth. Could you please read out loud the content of this card.

15 THE WITNESS: [9:34:59](Interpretation) I solemnly declare that I shall speak the
16 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:06] Thank you, Mr Witness. You are now
18 under oath. That means that you have to speak the truth. You know the
19 importance of speaking the truth before a court and before this Court and it is an
20 offence within the jurisdiction of this Court to give false testimony.

21 Do you understand that, Mr Witness?

22 THE WITNESS: [9:35:39](Interpretation) Yes, well understood.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:41] Thank you. Mr Witness, before we start
24 with the questioning, some practical matters. Everything we say here in this
25 courtroom is written down and it is interpreted. And to allow for the interpreters to

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1 follow what is being said, we all have to speak at a relatively slow pace so that they
2 can follow and also please start only speaking when the person that has asked you
3 something or talked to you has finished and perhaps wait two or three seconds.
4 These are practical matters I only wanted to tell you so that your questioning can run
5 smoothly, so to speak. Thank you.

6 I give now the floor to Ms Struyven.

7 QUESTIONED BY MS STRUYVEN:

8 Q. [9:36:36] Good morning, Mr Witness. My name is Olivia Struyven. I'm a
9 member of the Office of the Prosecutor and we've met before and I am going to ask
10 you questions today and tomorrow.
11 Before we start, I have one more remark in addition to the remark of the judge, which
12 is simply that if my question is not clear, don't hesitate to just tell me and I will try to
13 reformulate the question.
14 Sometimes you will see me look at the screen and it's exactly to check whether the
15 transcription is following our discussion to make sure that everything is properly
16 recorded on the record.

17 Now, regarding your questioning -- the questioning today, I will first ask you some
18 questions about the statements that you gave to the Office of the Prosecutor. I will
19 then ask you some questions about your identity and your background, and I will
20 only then ask you questions about the content of your statement.

21 Mr Witness, is it correct that you gave two statements to the Office of the Prosecutor,
22 a first statement in September 2018 and a second statement in February 2019?

23 A. [9:38:20] Yes, that is correct.

24 Q. [9:38:23] And for the record, it concerns CAR-OTP-2090-0561 at tab 14, which I
25 will refer to as the first statement. And CAR-OTP-2100-2569 at tab 21, which I will

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1 refer to as the second statement.

2 Mr Witness, were you able to read those two statements this week?

3 A. [9:39:13] Yes, I had the opportunity to go through the statements.

4 Q. [9:39:20] And I understand that you made two corrections to the statement in
5 respect of paragraph 206 of your first statement at page 0590 and on the same page to
6 the name mentioned in paragraph 211.

7 And for the record, the corrections have been registered and disclosed under
8 CAR-OTP-2134-1693.

9 So, Mr Witness, is it true that you made those corrections?

10 A. [9:40:12] Yes, that is correct.

11 Q. [9:40:16] Now, in respect of the statements that you made to the Office of the
12 Prosecutor, did you make these statements voluntarily?

13 A. [9:40:39] Yes. I gave those statements voluntarily.

14 Q. [9:40:51] And with those two corrections that you made, can you confirm that
15 the two statements are true and accurate?

16 A. [9:41:21] Yes, they are true.

17 MS STRUYVEN: [9:41:28] Your Honours, I now have a few questions in closed
18 session about his (Overlapping speakers)

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:41:34] I understand.

20 We go to private session.

21 MS STRUYVEN: [9:41:38] One day I'll remember it's private -- closed -- private
22 instead of closed.

23 (Private session at 9.41 a.m.)

24 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:41:58] We are in private session, Mr President.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:42:01] Thank you.

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1 Just shortly I would like to address the witness. This means, Mr Witness, that the
2 public cannot hear us. This is the reason why we go to private session.

3 And I also wanted to tell you from the side of the Chamber that - I think you have
4 been informed about that - you don't have to stand up when the Chamber enters. So
5 you can remain seated.

6 Please, Ms Struyven.

7 MS STRUYVEN: [9:42:30]

8 Q. [9:42:31] Mr Witness, for the record, can you give us your full name.

9 (Redacted)

10 Q. [9:43:02] And can you give us your date of birth?

11 (Redacted)

12 Q. [9:43:24] And what is your ethnicity?

13 (Redacted)

14 Q. [9:43:46] I will now ask you a few questions about your background.

15 Is it correct that after (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 A. [9:44:22] Yes, that is true.

18 Q. [9:44:31] And what was your function in this respect?

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 Q. [9:45:33] And in this function, (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 THE INTERPRETER: [09:48:51] Repeats the witness.

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 MS STRUYVEN:

18 Q. [9:49:10] For the record, I think it's spelled slightly different. (Redacted), but

19 we will make the necessary corrections at a later stage.

20 Until -- (Redacted)

21 A. [9:49:49] Well before the Seleka came and drove us away and took over power.

22 Q. [9:50:04] So I will now ask you about the events that occurred in 2013, and I'm

23 going to try to ask my questions chronologically for as far as I can. And I will start

24 with the period before the Seleka took over on 24 March 2013. And I think that for

25 the first part we can go into open session, but, Mr Witness, if there's anything that you

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1 want to say that -- that you think could reveal your identity, just mention that. Don't
2 answer the question, just mention that you cannot answer the question without
3 revealing your identity and then I will ask the judges to go back in private session.

4 But I think for the following questions we can temporarily go into open session.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:51:01] Yeah, open session.

6 (Open session at 9.51 a.m.)

7 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:51:14] We are back in open session, Mr President.

8 MS STRUYVEN: [9:51:21]

9 Q. [9:51:21] My first question, Mr Witness, is about Mr Ngaïssona. Can you
10 explain to the Chamber what Ngaïssona's role was in the Central African Republic
11 before the Seleka takeover in March 2013?

12 A. [9:51:57] Yes. Before everything else, Ngaïssona was a businessman, a trader.
13 He was carrying out his activities. Thereafter, he became the president of the SCAF
14 football club. Then he was promoted to the position of president of the Central
15 African Football Federation. Then after that he was appointed Minister of Youth and
16 Sports. These are the positions that he occupied in the Central African Republic.

17 Q. [9:52:47] Now, as a president of the football federation, who would he typically
18 have contact with?

19 MR KNOOPS: [9:53:12] Mr President, this is quite a generic question.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:53:16] Yeah, I also thought. It could be
21 anybody --

22 MR KNOOPS: [9:53:20] (Overlapping speakers).

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:53:21] You're right, you're right. So please
24 specify a little bit more. I think it's difficult for the witness to figure out what you're
25 heading at.

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1 MS STRUYVEN: [9:53:30]

2 Q. [9:53:31] So in his position as the president of the -- of the football federation,

3 would he have contacts with youth or individuals organising youth? Can you tell us

4 a bit more about that, if you know.

5 A. [9:54:05] Well, you know, Ngaïssona is someone who has served the country.

6 He was even a member of parliament, a deputy. I had forgotten to mention that.

7 He started his business activities when he was still young. So he has always been at

8 the heart of the Central African youth. That is what propelled him right up to the

9 position of minister. He was someone who knew the Central African youth very

10 well. He was also a friend of footballers and footballers were part of the Central

11 African youth.

12 Now, regarding his other contacts, I cannot tell you any further thing about that.

13 Q. [9:55:07] You explained he was at the heart of the Central African youth. What

14 was his relationship to the youth coordinators?

15 MR KNOOPS: [9:55:32] Mr President, it has not been established that there were

16 youth coordinators.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:55:37] Okay. So first question, were there youth

18 coordinators. Secondly, if so, was there any contact.

19 MS STRUYVEN: [9:55:48]

20 Q. [9:55:53] Mr Witness, do you know if at the time in Bangui and elsewhere

21 whether there were youth coordinators?

22 A. [9:56:18] Yes. He was the president of the football federation. So he managed

23 football activities and they were sub-federations in the various localities of the

24 country.

25 When he was promoted to the position of minister of sport, I would like to point out

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1 that in all the provincial towns there were youth teams, youth associations.

2 Regarding his contacts, I cannot tell you more, but I know that it is somebody who
3 knew a lot about the youth and he was well integrated in the youth environment.

4 Q. [9:57:24] You referred to youth associations. Can you explain to the Chamber
5 what the role was of these youth associations.

6 A. [9:57:47] Yes. You know that in the Central African Republic, as I have already
7 said, the presidents of neighbourhood youth groups, you had them, you had those
8 presidents of the youth groups of neighbourhoods, presidents of youth groups in the
9 arrondissements and in the prefectures. So each time they would organise youth
10 movements, bringing together young people around artistic, football and cultural
11 activities.

12 Q. [9:58:30] And at the time before the Seleka coup, were these youth associations
13 linked to a particular political party?

14 A. [9:59:10] As you know, in Africa, where we come from, most youth associations
15 support the party in power. Young people usually support the authorities in power
16 so as to be able to benefit from assistance and subsidies.

17 Q. [9:59:57] You mentioned cultural events, support events. Could these youth
18 associations also mobilise the youth for other purposes?

19 A. [10:00:31] Within the framework of association activities related to football or
20 folk dances, I have never heard that young people were mobilised to create
21 disturbances in the country. They were simply going about their business in order
22 to bring about peace and calm in the country.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:01:35] So I think this would be the time to move
24 to another issue.

25 MS STRUYVEN: [10:01:39]

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1 Q. [10:01:40] Mr Witness, I will now ask you questions about the end of
2 December 2012.

3 In your statements, in both of them, you refer to a speech given by Bozize. Can you
4 tell us more about the speech held at PK0?

5 A. [10:02:18] Yes. It was a speech of President Bozize in PK0. This is when he
6 went to Gabon for a dialogue. And when he returned from this forum he went to
7 PK0 directly and addressed the people of his country. He asked everyone to be
8 vigilant. He asked the population to be careful and look at what's happening in the
9 fenced houses because there were individuals with bad intentions who were hiding in
10 fenced houses with arms in order to harm the people. Mr Levy Yakete was the
11 person himself who organised this gathering. He supervised the activities of youth.
12 He organised the young people so that they could ensure the security of the country.
13 So that is what Bozize said in his speech.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:03:52] If you want to continue in that regard,
15 I think it would be perhaps -- make sense to look at paragraph 7 of the second
16 statement. I don't know if you have it on your list, so I ...

17 MS STRUYVEN: [10:04:13]

18 Q. [10:04:13] So when you say the people in fenced houses, who did you
19 understand that to be a reference to?

20 A. [10:04:33] Well, you know, when the Seleka coalition came and took power, the
21 majority of the Seleka were Muslims. And by saying that, he wanted to target the
22 Muslims. It's true that when the Seleka took power, weapons appeared from these
23 fenced houses and from mosques. And that's why those who had arms used them in
24 order to take over power.

25 Q. [10:05:32] And in his speech, do you remember if he referred to foreigners?

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1 A. [10:05:47] Yes. He did speak about foreigners. He talked about Janjaweed
2 and the Tora Bora who had the intention of taking power. He said they were
3 strangers, foreigners who wanted to take over power.

4 Q. [10:06:21] Now, you already mentioned Levy Yakete. Can you explain to the
5 Judges what happened after the speech of Mr Bozize.

6 A. [10:06:39] As far as I know, after that speech, Mr Levy Yakete created a
7 movement responsible to mobilise and to be vigilant, and the association was called
8 COCORA. They organised groups per sector, per neighbourhood, per
9 arrondissement. The youth had to help the forces of order by erecting checkpoints.
10 Their mission was to stop anyone with bad intentions. People who didn't have ID,
11 they had -- was a reason to stop them and to hand them over to the police or
12 gendarmerie.

13 MS STRUYVEN: [10:08:03] I have one question in private session, your Honours.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:08:08] Private session.

15 (Private session at 10.08 a.m.)

16 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:08:18] We are in private session, Mr President.

17 MS STRUYVEN: [10:08:26]

18 Q. [10:08:27] Mr Witness, in your statement you talk about these checkpoints and
19 you refer to an individual who is the little brother of Mahamat Taib. Can you
20 explain to the Chamber what happened to him.

21 A. [10:08:48] Yes. The young brother of Mahamat Taib went out for a walk, as
22 everyone did. When he returned, he met the people who were on the checkpoints
23 who asked for his papers. He didn't have his papers on him and they asked for the
24 documents and he tried to flee. They pounced upon him and they assaulted him.
25 So when these young people asked you for your documents and they said, explain

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1 yourself, if you don't have documents, they should have called the gendarmerie or
2 the police. During this period everybody was frightened of the advancing Seleka.
3 The Seleka was made up of foreigners coming from Chad and Sudan. They were
4 attacking our country.

5 And so people were scared. We were frightened of our Muslim brothers who were
6 in our country. And therefore everybody was suspicious of our Muslim brothers.
7 So the youth increased their vigilance as regards their Muslim brothers because it is
8 through them that the Seleka elements were able to enter the town of Bangui.

9 Q. [10:10:59] And to return to the brother of Mahamat Taib, was he of Central
10 African nationality?

11 A. [10:11:20] Yes. He was of Central African nationality. As far as I know, he
12 was a candidate for the legislative elections. As regards his brother, I don't know
13 anything. When I spoke to him, he told me that he was born in Paoua. He only
14 said that he was the brother of Taib. If he's Central African or if he's not, I don't
15 really know. The person whom I'm sure of is Taib.

16 Q. [10:12:12] And when you say that he -- so Mahamat Taib was a Central African
17 national, you don't know if his brother was a Central African national. You said that
18 the brother was assaulted. How was he assaulted or what were the consequences of
19 that assault? Or what do you mean by "assaulted"?

20 A. [10:12:40] I wasn't present when the incident occurred. It is only afterwards
21 that we had some information about the situation and after that we learnt that he died.
22 I wasn't present during this assault. It is only afterwards that I heard about it.

23 Q. [10:13:26] Maybe one last question on the -- on the issue.

24 Do you know if the brother of Mahamat Taib, whether he was living in the Central
25 African Republic? So you explained that you don't know his nationality, but was he

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1 residing or living in the Central African Republic?

2 A. [10:13:58] Yes. He was living in the Central African Republic.

3 MS STRUYVEN: [10:14:07] I think we can go back to open session.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:14:11] Yeah, I think -- yeah, one could argue that
5 we could have elicited this information in open session, but okay.

6 Open session.

7 (Open session at 10.14 a.m.)

8 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:14:31] We are in open session, Mr President.

9 MS STRUYVEN: [10:14:39]

10 Q. [10:14:40] Mr Witness, you just gave the example about a Muslim who was
11 assaulted at the checkpoints. Did you -- was this frequent? Did you hear about
12 that at the time that that would happen frequently?

13 A. [10:15:14] Yes. Bangui is a large town. There were incidents that could
14 happen in certain areas. I can't know everything that's happening. Today I'm
15 trying to tell you what I know, what I saw myself.

16 Q. [10:15:45] Of course. You refer to Levy Yakete setting up COCORA. Was
17 there any other similar group that you heard of that was set up at the time?

18 A. [10:16:08] There is COAC. It was Steve Yambete who managed that at the time.
19 He was the -- part of the ministry of youth at that time. He was a soldier. He was a
20 lieutenant. If I remember correctly, he was responsible for -- responsible within the
21 ministry of youth and sport. He was the one who set up the COAC or COAC
22 movement. It was a movement very similar to COCORA. It was started up to
23 work together with COCORA.

24 Q. [10:17:28] And what was their role concretely, of Yambete and Yakete? What
25 was their role in terms of the organisation of these groups, COCORA and COAC?

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1 A. [10:17:53] They were coordinators. Yakete was an adviser within the ministry.
2 As regards Steve Yambete, he was a military person, but he was appointed as adviser
3 in the ministry of youth and sport. Yambete was coordinator for COAC and Yakete
4 was also coordinator of COCORA. The two movements were dealing with vigilance
5 and security.

6 Q. [10:18:56] And what would their role entail concretely, if you know?

7 A. [10:19:21] I've just told you that. All I know is Yakete was responsible for
8 missions as regards youth for the Central African Republic. He set up COCORA,
9 which was a movement of vigilance. His work was to mobilise young people to
10 make sure that they looked at the security of the country.

11 In the same vein, Yambete created his movement. It's true the movements were
12 different movements, but their objective was the same. Yambete was an officer
13 before he became part of the ministry of youth and sport. It was at the time when
14 Mr Ngaïssona was minister of youth and sport. And it was then that he was
15 appointed, Steve Yambete.

16 Q. [10:20:49] You explained that they mobilised the youth. How would they
17 mobilise the youth?

18 A. [10:21:15] He was adviser at the presidency. The other was responsible under
19 the ministry of youth and of sport. Perhaps their function allowed them to have
20 access to all the young people, which allowed them to organise themselves. I wasn't
21 there when they started their movement, so I can't tell you details. I cannot know
22 how they proceeded in order to mobilise everybody. All I know is that I noticed that
23 the youth in the neighbourhoods became more mobilised gradually, before the Seleka
24 arrived in the capital.

25 Q. [10:22:14] And did you hear about Yambete or Yakete visiting the checkpoints?

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1 A. [10:22:45] I never saw Yakete at a checkpoint. However, he had his elements
2 which did the rounds in order to see what was happening in the different points and
3 also to provide coffee with sugar. The person who I saw on the ground was -- was
4 Yambete, Steve Yambete. Sometimes I saw him. But the other person I didn't see,
5 no.

6 Q. [10:23:37] In your statement you referred to Ngaïssona in relation to COCORA
7 and COAC. Can you explain to the Chamber what Ngaïssona's role was, if any, in
8 COCORA or COAC?

9 A. [10:24:01] At that time Ngaïssona was the minister of youth and sport. It
10 wasn't he who created the group. The founder of those movements was there. All
11 the activities relating to the youth was carried out under the minister of the youth.
12 But Mr Ngaïssona, I never saw him go on the ground and fund any activities or any
13 part of the movement. It was, rather, Yambete and Levy Yakete who were advisers
14 at the prime ministers who were more involved in the movement. But as regards the
15 country, this was done under the aegis of the minister of youth and sport. That is
16 what I do know.

17 Q. [10:25:29] I would like to show you one document. It's at tab 24,
18 CAR-OTP-2100-2668. So tab 24.

19 It cannot be shown to the public.

20 And the question is do you recognise this document? So it's tab 24.

21 A. [10:26:50] Yes. That is the document comes from the 3rd arrondissement
22 dealing with COCORA.

23 Q. [10:27:13] And do you know what the purpose was of the document?

24 A. [10:27:27] As I've said, coordination of COCORA was under the authority of
25 Yakete. This movement had small groups in the different arrondissements, which

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1 was supervised by leaders of those groups. And this document was drawn up by
2 the different leaders of the groups of the arrondissements. So it was important that
3 we had a small bureau so that there would be general coordination, we would be able
4 to identify them and be able to work with them. And that's why in this document
5 you can see the different elements who made up this bureau. Each arrondissement
6 had its own bureau.

7 Q. [10:28:40] Now, if I -- if I ask you to look at the first name, the president, Guy
8 Francis Baya, do you know this person?

9 A. [10:29:04] Yes, Guy Francis Baya was part of the political bureau of the KNK
10 party. He was in the group which dealt with mobilisation of youth of the KNK. He
11 lived in the 4th arrondissement.

12 Q. [10:29:50] (Microphone not activated)

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:29:55] Microphone, please.

14 MS STRUYVEN: [10:29:57]

15 Q. [10:29:58] I would like to show you another document. It is at tab 13, it's
16 CAR-OTP-2097-9014. And I would like you to go to the second paragraph, it's a
17 document that lists the (Interpretation) "The network of Anti-Balaka in the town of
18 Bangui". (Speaks English) And there is a reference to a certain Guy Baya and it says:
19 (Interpretation) "Working at the presidency *tailing Demafouth."
20 (Speaks English) Does that seem to be the same --

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:30:53] Mr Knoops.

22 MR KNOOPS: [10:30:56] Yes, we have an objection with the use of document
23 because this is a document which is not signed nor dated. It has no link to the
24 witness. And it's presented by a witness which was not willing to testify before this
25 Court as the Court knows. Therefore, the authenticity of this document is at the least

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1 problematic.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:31:30] So -- but this would refer to the document
3 as such and the value of the document. But nevertheless, the Prosecution is allowed
4 to draw out a question here. But you rightly point out that we -- let's say if there
5 were at any point of time a so-called bar table motion, this would perhaps be a
6 document that would not have a lot of probative value or is not even proven to be
7 authentic. But nevertheless you can ask -- you can ask the witness, of course, if these
8 names tell him something.

9 MS STRUYVEN: [10:32:11]

10 Q. [10:32:12] So, Mr Witness, just with the description in French: (Interpretation)
11 "Works at the presidency and he is responsible for monitoring or tailing Demafouth."
12 (Speaks English) Would that seem to be the same person to you? Does that function
13 correspond?

14 A. [10:32:49] I knew that he was working at the presidency, but when it comes to
15 tailing or monitoring Demafouth, I was not aware of that. It is just now that I am
16 seeing it in this document.

17 Q. [10:33:12] And that is not a problem, Mr Witness, at all.

18 So my next question would be: Was there any link between members of the
19 COCORA or COAC and the Anti-Balaka later on?

20 A. [10:33:49] You know, when COAC and COCORA were operational, the
21 Anti-Balaka were not in existence. The objective of COAC and COCORA was to
22 monitor and protect the various neighbourhoods so as to prevent ill-intentioned
23 people from infiltrating the town. It was only after the Seleka took over power that
24 the leaders of those movements fled. There were no longer any leaders to organise
25 the young people and so this vacuum was filled by the Anti-Balaka, which emerged.

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1 This is how come these young people joined the Anti-Balaka while others continued
2 going about their business.

3 So I don't know whether there is a causal relationship or whether COAC or COCORA
4 were used to create the Anti-Balaka movement. I was not aware of that.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:35:27] Just shortly for the record, the ERN of the
6 item on tab 13 is CAR-OTP-2087-9014.

7 MS STRUYVEN: [10:35:47]

8 Q. [10:35:47] While we're on the subject, I just want to show you one more
9 document just for recognition. And it is tab 23, and it is CAR-OTP-2100-2667.
10 And the simple question will be if you recognise the document.

11 A. [10:36:48] Yes. That is a document from the COCORA group signed by
12 Levy Yakete, the coordinator of the COCORA movement. And in that document he
13 was giving a mandate to some people to supervise the COCORA groups.

14 Q. [10:37:23] And when you say "COCORA groups", do you have an idea of how
15 many groups we're talking about or how many elements we're talking about, if you
16 have an idea?

17 A. [10:38:01] I was not the coordinator of COCORA, so it was not possible for me to
18 know the number of COCORA groups. I would like to point out that there were
19 many youth groups in the Central African Republic and the majority of the Central
20 African population was and is even currently made up of young people.

21 Q. [10:38:40] I will move to my next subject and it's about - you already mentioned
22 it - it's about Ngaïssona becoming the Minister of Youth and Sports.

23 In your statement you explained why you believe he became the minister. Can you
24 explain this to the judges, why you believe he became the Minister of Sports -- Youth
25 and Sports?

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1 MR KNOOPS: [10:39:33] Mr President, is this a question for the witness to speculate
2 or does he have facts to tell the Court why Mr Ngaïssona became the president?
3 Because yesterday I was also intervened by the Prosecution that the Defence should
4 not ask questions the witness to speculate.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:39:54] The day before yesterday.

6 MR KNOOPS: [10:39:58] The day before yesterday, sorry.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:40:01] This is not -- this is not the most
8 important factor -- (Overlapping speakers)

9 MR KNOOPS: [10:40:04] So the word believe, the word believe
10 suggests -- (Overlapping speakers)

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:40:07] Yes, believe indeed, is -- so what we can
12 ask the witness is if to his knowledge -- if he has any knowledge -- let me ask you,
13 Mr Witness.

14 Do you have any knowledge, any facts or any talk that you heard people saying why
15 Mr Ngaïssona was appointed Minister of Youth and Sports?

16 THE WITNESS: [10:40:39](Interpretation) Yes. I have already said that Ngaïssona
17 is someone who was quite active amongst the Central African Republic young people.
18 He helped the young people a lot in football activities, in business activities and in
19 agricultural activities. He began as a businessman, as a trader and he carried out his
20 activities amongst the youth before being promoted to the position of president of the
21 SCAF football club. And these were young people.

22 Subsequently, he was promoted to the position of president of the Central African
23 Football Federation, so he is someone who is very familiar or who was very familiar
24 with the Central African Youth. He was in the SCAF football club, and as the
25 president of the football federation he was the one supervising the football teams.

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1 And that is how come he was finally promoted to the rank of Minister of Youth and
2 Sport. He was someone who knew young people and who was very familiar with
3 the activities of young people because he had always been active amongst the youth.
4 And I will like to point out that young people like to refer to him as big brother, big
5 brother. He was usually considered as the big brother of young people because he
6 was the one who usually assisted the youth.

7 Q. [10:43:04] Mr Witness, I'll move now to -- chronologically to the Seleka coup.

8 On 24 March, I believe it was a Sunday, the Seleka arrived in Bangui. And I'm going
9 to ask you a few questions about where you were and what you were doing, but
10 I think the first questions need to be in private session.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:43:28] We go to private session.

12 (Private session at 10.43 a.m.)

13 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:43:41] We are in private session, Mr President.

14 MS STRUYVEN: [10:43:46]

15 Q. [10:43:51] I have one question from my colleague before I move on. At the -- at
16 the checkpoints of COCORA or COAC, did you see if the youth that was manning the
17 checkpoints, whether they were armed?

18 MR KNOOPS: [10:44:11] I believe the witness answered that he wasn't present
19 during those events.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:44:16] Then he can repeat it that he did not see
21 it.

22 THE WITNESS: [10:44:49](Interpretation) I have said that COCORA was an
23 unarmed organisation. What I know is that COCORA members carried machetes,
24 sticks and spears, but I did not see them bearing any firearms.

25 When the Seleka was about to take over power, the young people went and contacted

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1 Levy Yakete and requested weapons. But Bozize refused on the grounds that
2 firearms were not meant for civilians, but for soldiers who were supposed to fight any
3 war. This is what I observed with my own eyes at the roundabout at the 4th
4 arrondissement. Even if at -- even at his party headquarters, that is the KNK
5 headquarters, many young people mobilised themselves to ask for weapons, but
6 Bozize said, "No, I'm not going to give you weapons because weapons are for soldiers
7 to fight wars. Weapons are not for civilians."

8 I would like to point out that certain soldiers who were living in certain
9 neighbourhoods and who carried their service weapons could reinforce those
10 weapons at the roadblocks or checkpoints, but the civilians as such did not have any
11 war weapons. They only had sticks, machetes and spears. That is what I know.

12 MS STRUYVEN: [10:47:05]

13 Q. [10:47:05] So now I would like to ask you about the evening before the Seleka
14 coup, if you remember, it was on 24 March. Do you remember where you were and
15 what you were doing and what you saw? So I'm talking about the night before the
16 Seleka coup. And we're in private session so the public cannot hear you.

17 A. [10:47:51] (Redacted)

18 (Redacted). I saw the convoy of former president Francois Bozize. He was coming
19 from the monument of des Martyrs and he was going to the -- towards the Marabena
20 square. He was inside a brown vehicle and there was a tank at the front as well as
21 armed vehicles full of soldiers behind. I followed them and I stopped at the
22 Marabena roundabout. He went in the direction of the 4th arrondissement and
23 towards PK12.

24 At one point he returned and he wanted to enter into the compound of the South
25 Africans. The South Africans refused to open the gate for him because the

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1 South Africans had come to assist him to stop the Seleka, but then he continued on his
2 way and he went to the house of his wife, Mado Bafatoro. I realised that they started
3 taking out the personal items of Mado Bafatoro and taking them away. They took
4 out suitcases. I did not know what those suitcases contained. The suitcases were
5 taken away in the vehicles and thereafter Bozize returned to the presidency.

6 It was the following morning that Seleka took over power. Ngaïssona was not in
7 Bangui. He was on mission. I do remember that during the last events he was on
8 mission abroad.

9 So the people who were in Bangui and who were mobilising or organising the young
10 people were Levy Yakete and Steve Yambete, amongst others. Ngaïssona was not
11 there. He was abroad. So when the Seleka took over power in Bangui, Ngaïssona
12 was not in Bangui. He was on mission abroad.

13 We saw soldiers get rid of their weapons and fled, and (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 and it was at that time that Seleka took over power.

18 Q. [10:52:12] So you said that Bozize left. Do you remember who Bozize left with,
19 the individuals, the specific individuals?

20 A. [10:52:46] I said Bozize -- I saw Bozize and one of his children. Then there was
21 Danboy. I think it was Danboy. I think that the aircraft at that time was very small,
22 too small to take many people. He went with one of his children and now I
23 remember it was Franklin. So there was Franklin and then there was Danboy and
24 they took the helicopter to leave. It's only when we went out that we learned that
25 they had passed through Bayanga before going to Cameroon. And Bayanga is a

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1 park which is beyond the Lobaye region. He was in the habit of going there. He
2 usually went there for the weekends.

3 We do not know why he made a stopover in Bayanga before going on his way.

4 Were there any precious items or documents there? I have no idea, but I know that
5 he made a stopover in Bayanga before going on his way.

6 Q. [10:54:34] And the Danboy that you referred to, what was his role or function?

7 A. [10:54:53] He was a member of the presidential security unit. He was a soldier.
8 If I remember correctly, he was the director of security of Mr Bozize.

9 Q. [10:55:22] Do you know his first name?

10 A. [10:55:38] Eric.

11 Q. [10:55:46] Do you know someone by the name of Wapounaba?

12 A. [10:56:04] Yes. Wapounaba was or is the aide-de-camp of Mr Bozize.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:56:17] A short second, please.

14 MS DIMITRI: [10:56:20] Mr President, sorry for the interruption, but if we're going
15 on Bozize, his fleeing to wherever he's fleeing and his entourage, perhaps we could
16 do that in public session.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:56:28] Yes. When it started of course, the
18 situation described, there was a -- there was a risk, but now I think it's true.

19 What about, Ms Struyven, do you -- do you continue in that way or can -- shall we
20 have the break now and then we --

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:56:58] But you will not finish --

25 MS STRUYVEN: [10:57:02] No.

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:57:04] -- that in two or three minutes. So then
2 we have a break now I would suggest. Yeah. Okay.

3 THE COURT USHER: [10:57:13] All rise.

4 (Recess taken at 10.57 a.m.)

5 (Upon resuming in private session at 11.31 a.m.)

6 THE COURT USHER: [11:31:24] All rise.

7 Please be seated.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:31:51] We are in private session. You have still
9 the floor, Ms Struyven.

10 A remark, and I will say it once. It is -- it is a possibility to conduct an examination
11 chronologically and that might make sense in a certain way, but one could also think
12 of grouping questions according to relevance.

13 Please, Ms Struyven, you can continue.

14 MS STRUYVEN: [11:32:17] Thank you, Mr President.

15 Q. [11:32:23] So, Mr Witness, before the break -- so we're still in private session so
16 the public cannot hear us at this moment. Before the break you explained that you
17 know Wapounaba.

18 Was he there leaving with Bozize, do you know?

19 A. [11:32:52] I knew Wapounaba when Bozize was still working. He was an
20 aide-de-camp of Bozize. Whether he resumed his functions, whether he followed
21 Bozize, I don't know.

22 Q. [11:33:27] And one more question about that: Do you know someone by the
23 name Landry Touaboy? I may be pronouncing it wrongly.

24 A. [11:33:51] Yes. Landry Touaboy is a aide-de-camp of Bozize. He too, he left
25 in exile. He went I believe to Europe. Whether he came back to Bangui, I don't

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1 know. There was a moment where I heard that he had come back to Bangui, but
2 where -- whether he's continuing to live in France or not, I don't know.

3 Q. [11:34:27] Do you know if at the time he left with Bozize?

4 A. [11:34:51] No. No, they didn't go -- leave together.

5 Q. [11:34:56] And, Mr Witness, can you explain to the Chamber (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

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 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:42:25] May I ask something. The presence of
22 all these people at that time, what kind of relevance does that have? The mere -- the
23 mere presence I mean, the presence of people there.

24 MS STRUYVEN: [11:42:36] Your Honour, I hope from the next questions you will
25 see the relevance, but this was a starting point of something.

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:42:48] Yeah, okay.

2 MS STRUYVEN: [11:42:49] And so these individuals then show up later on in
3 documents --

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:42:55] Okay.

5 MS STRUYVEN: [11:42:55] -- in videos, in --

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:42:59] So we will -- we will see. Okay, good.

7 MS STRUYVEN: [11:43:02] Yes.

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 A. [11:43:41] Yes. Some went to Libenge, others went to Mobaye, others went to
12 Congo, *Cameroon, Brazzaville. Those who were in Brazzaville *would be Semdiro
13 and the former DG of security Betibangui, they crossed over to seek refuge in Betou.

14 Q. [11:44:30] I think you mentioned Semdiri or Semdiro. Do you know if it's the
15 first name of this or these individuals?

16 A. [11:44:48] (Overlapping speakers)

17 Q. [11:44:48] In this case, we know of a Bruno Semdiro and we know of a Vianney
18 Semdiro. Do you know which one it was?

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 Q. [11:45:54] And do you know who he joined in Cameroon?

23 A. [11:46:06] When he left for Cameroon, I don't know. It's Bruno who was on our
24 side. I don't know why he went to Cameroon because the head of state, Bozize, also
25 fled and went to Cameroon as well as several other officers. He was the former

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1 driver of President Bozize and it's perhaps for that reason that he went to Cameroon.

2 But I don't know what his aim was, what his purpose was.

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 Q. [11:50:12] And maybe just a side question about Eugene Ngaikosset, do you
18 know what happened to him afterwards? You said he left at some point. Do you
19 know what happened to him?

20 A. [11:50:40] Eugene Ngaikosset, at a certain point, he saw -- we saw the soldiers
21 and they said that the power of Bangui was scared because Ngaikosset was in Zongo.
22 So then he was transferred to Kinshasa. We learnt that in Kinshasa he stayed in the
23 military bases.

24 I don't know what happened after that. It is only after the political changes that he
25 came back to Bangui.

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1 Q. [11:51:26] I would like to show you just one document. It's at tab 9 and for the
2 record it's CAR-OTP-2039-0063 and it's at the second page, 0064, and if you could
3 have a look at the third row. So it's tab 9. If you can look at the third row, there is a
4 reference to a *caporal* who is called Satan Rodrigue.

5 The Satan who was staying in that other house, was he called Rodrigue?

6 A. [11:52:31] Yes, Rodrigue Satan.

7 Q. [11:52:42] Did he end up joining Yekatom's group, do you know?

8 A. [11:52:57] Yes. He joined Yekatom's group.

9 MS STRUYVEN: [11:53:05] I think for the next questions, we can go into open
10 session.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:53:09] Yeah, open session.

12 (Open session at 11.53 a.m.)

13 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:53:23] We are in open session, Mr President.

14 MS STRUYVEN: [11:53:32]

15 Q. [11:53:32] Mr Witness, in the weeks that followed, President Djotodia was sworn
16 in. Do you know if anything in particular happened during the ceremony, the
17 swearing-in ceremony?

18 A. [11:54:19] Yes, yes. I remember that incident.

19 Q. [11:54:29] (Overlapping speakers) Without giving any -- because we are in
20 public session right now, so without giving any details as to where you were, can you
21 tell the Chamber what happened? (Overlapping speakers)

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:54:36] (Overlapping speakers) Microphone.
23 Microphone, please.

24 MS STRUYVEN: [11:55:05]

25 Q. [11:55:06] Did you understand my question? Maybe the microphone was off.

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1 So the question is, can you explain to the judges what happened during the swearing
2 in of president -- new President Djotodia? I think it was April 2013.

3 A. [11:55:28] I would like to go into private session.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:55:50] Yes, then we go to private session,
5 Mr Witness, yeah.

6 (Private session at 11.55 a.m.)

7 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:55:58] We are in private session, Mr President.

8 MS STRUYVEN: [11:56:20]

9 Q. [11:56:21] So now the public cannot hear us any more.

10 A. [11:56:40] During the swearing-in ceremony of Djotodia, there was Claude
11 Ngaikosset and there was Maxime Mokom. Maxime called Hervé Ganazoui. So
12 the lieutenant with Ganazoui, they had five mortars. The aim was to disrupt the
13 swearing-in ceremony of Djotodia.

14 At 3 o'clock in the morning, they laid the mortars in the Boy-Rabe market and they
15 fired. Unfortunately, three of them -- there were three mortars who did not -- which
16 did not go off. So there were only two who went off, so they missed their objective.
17 That's what happened. There was detonations going on throughout the night.

18 Q. [11:58:42] You mentioned Hervé Ganazoui and another lieutenant. Earlier you
19 referred to a lieutenant, Dokabona. Was this the other lieutenant?

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 Q. [12:00:26] Mr Witness, just so that you know, so everything is translated into

4 multiple languages -- so sometimes I don't hear the full answer or the full answer

5 doesn't come on our screens because it's also written down as we are speaking. So

6 sometimes if I ask the same question again or if I ask for a clarification, it may

7 sometimes be because I don't -- didn't hear the full answer.

8 So it has nothing do with your testimony. So you just said Hervé Ganazoui then

9 (Redacted). What happened after he returned? Can you explain to the judges, yeah,

10 what happened after (Redacted).

11 A. [12:01:27] Returning where? I just told you he wanted to disrupt the

12 swearing-in ceremony of Djotodia. After that, the Seleka attacked Boy-Rabe and at

13 that moment (Redacted).

14 Q. [12:02:03] And so can you explain how Maxime Mokom and Claude Ngaikosset

15 and Hervé Ganazoui, how did they react when -- when the attempt had failed and the

16 Seleka had attacked Boy-Rabe?

17 A. [12:02:27] I have told you that the person who had the mortar was Kossi. He

18 was one of the elements of Eugene Ngaikosset. They had used the mortars to try to

19 disrupt the swearing-in ceremony of President Djotodia. It had to take place at the

20 national assembly. So the objective was to shell the national assembly and the Camp

21 de Roux. So there were three mortar shells that were not working, so they used two

22 mortars which did not reach their targets. None of them even struck the Camp de

23 Roux, and that is why after that the Seleka came and attacked Boy-Rabe. They

24 invaded Boy-Rabe and started causing destruction. Hervé and the others fled to

25 Zongo.

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1 That is what happened.

2 Q. [12:04:26] Before I ask more questions about that, the soldier Kossi that you
3 referred to, was his first name Lucien Kossi?

4 A. [12:04:45] Yes. He's a soldier. I do not know his first name. I am in the habit
5 of calling him by his name Kossi. I heard that he just died.

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 A. [12:05:43] It was only afterwards that this -- that the Anti-Balaka movement
9 started its activities in the bushes. (Redacted) Hervé Ganazoui returned to Zongo,
10 Maxime Mokom and Claude Ngaikosset were both in Zongo. Thereafter, after the
11 arrival of Rambo in Zongo, there was Habib. (Redacted) Ngaikosset was taken to
12 Kinshasa. (Redacted) Mokom, Dokabona, there was
13 Sami Pawa (sic) and others.

14 THE INTERPRETER: [12:06:59] And the witness mentioned Rombhot Yekatom at
15 Zongo.

16 MS STRUYVEN:

17 Q. [12:07:10] I will have further questions about this, but just for the record, did
18 you refer to Sami Bawa? Because the record said Sami Pawa, I think.

19 A. [12:07:46] Bawa, Bawa.

20 Q. [12:07:53] And you also referred to Habib. Is this Habib Beïna?

21 A. [12:08:13] Habib Deina, Deina.

22 Q. [12:08:19] I'm sorry, sometimes I have to ask the question again just for the
23 transcript.

24 Is it Habib Beïna, so B-E-Ï-N-A?

25 A. [12:08:40] B-E-Ï -- trema on top of the "I" -- N-A.

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1 Q. [12:08:55] And so you said that that is when the Anti-Balaka movement started.

2 Can you explain -- one clarification for the transcript. The Rombhot you referred to,
3 because I heard Yekatom Rombhot, but is that what you meant?

4 A. [12:09:40] Yes, Yekatom Rambo.

5 Q. [12:09:47] So you explained the movement started. Can you explain --

6 MS DIMITRI: [12:09:52] I'm sorry, Mr President. I -- I do not believe the -- unless
7 I'm wrong, I do not believe the witness said that's when the Anti-Balaka movement
8 started.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:10:01] Can we please have a reference exactly
10 what has been said and then we can ask it again.

11 MS STRUYVEN: [12:10:07] It's page 41, lines 4. "It was only afterwards that
12 this -- that the Anti-Balaka movement started its activities in the bushes."

13 It's page 41, lines 4 to 5, and then it goes further.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:10:39] Yeah, but then I think to clarify we ask
15 the witness again.

16 So, Mr Witness, perhaps in a more general manner, when did you come to know first
17 of a person named Rombhot?

18 THE WITNESS: [12:11:13](Interpretation) After the Seleka took over power, Rambo
19 was still in Bangui and he was a soldier. He was working with the chief of military
20 staff. Later on, I do not know what had happened in Bangui. The Seleka were
21 looking for the soldiers to kill them. I don't know why. And that is why he also
22 crossed over. He was arrested by the DGM and the DGM agents called Claude
23 Ngaikosset to inform him that Rambo had been arrested.

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:13:55] And, Mr Witness, the Rambo you're
15 speaking of is Mr Yekatom, is this a correct understanding?

16 THE WITNESS: [12:14:10](Interpretation) Yes, I was talking about Yekatom.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:14:15] And about -- perhaps one
18 additional -- what time are we speaking now or are you speaking of, if you recall it?
19 If you perhaps have as a reference the taking over of power of the Seleka, how much
20 time later has this happened?

21 THE WITNESS: [12:15:03](Interpretation) It was after the swearing-in ceremony of
22 Djotodia. So he had first worked in Bangui, but after that, we do not know the
23 reason why he crossed over to Zongo. I do not know which problem he had in
24 Bangui. I heard it said that he was working at the general staff headquarters.

25 (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 MS STRUYVEN: [12:16:10]

5 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 THE INTERPRETER: [12:16:35] And the witness has added that his father was very
8 generous and everyone knew him.

9 THE WITNESS: [12:16:45](Interpretation) After his release from prison, he was with
10 Mokom. (Redacted)

11 (Redacted). He was with Mokom. They used to meet with Mokom as well as with
12 the other soldiers there, Dokabona and others. (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 Afterwards, he left, at least he crossed over.

15 MS STRUYVEN: [12:17:31]

16 Q. [12:17:32] Did you know if Mokom, Ngaïssona and Claude Ngaikosset knew
17 each other from beforehand?

18 A. [12:17:54] Yes. They knew each other before in Bangui because they both work
19 under the former president Bozize, Ngaïssona -- Ngaikosset lived in the 4th
20 arrondissement and Ngaïssona lived in the 4th, so they knew each other before they
21 fled. I have told you, when the war took place, that is at the time of the coup d'état,
22 he was on mission. So the coup d'état took place in his absence. We learned that he
23 had returned and that he was in Cameroon.

24 Q. [12:18:48] I think your last answer may have been mistranscribed. You just
25 explained the relationship I think between Ngaïssona and Yekatom; is that correct?

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1 MS DIMITRI: [12:19:12] Sorry, just to clarify, your question was about Ngaïssona.

2 You didn't mention Yekatom in your question, so he specifically answered the
3 question (Overlapping speakers)

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:19:21] Indeed. You're right. You're right.
5 You didn't mention in your question Yekatom. That's correct.

6 MS STRUYVEN: [12:19:34]

7 Q. [12:19:34] I'll start all over again. And I'm terribly sorry for these interpretation.
8 The question was whether Claude Ngaikosset, Mokom and Yekatom knew each other,
9 if you know?

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:19:50] That is a new question then, so to speak.

11 MS STRUYVEN: [12:20:07]

12 Q. [12:20:08] So it was if there is any link between Yekatom, Mokom and
13 Claude Ngaikosset.

14 A. [12:20:30] As far as I know, and based on what I heard but which I did not see,
15 Yekatom, Claude Ngaikosset and Maxime Mokom were liberators. They supported
16 Bozize when he took over power. So they were liberators. That is what I know.
17 But the link or relationship between them before that, I am not aware. (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 Q. [12:21:56] And I'm sorry sometimes for the clarifications. It's nothing to do

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1 with you. It has to do with me because I did mention the wrong name.
2 Another question about Yekatom. Do you know who Yekatom was with when
3 (Redacted)
4 A. [12:22:35] I have told you that Yekatom is a soldier. He was a soldier in Bangui.
5 I did not know him in Bangui. He was a corporal in rank. He served in the army.
6 And when Seleka chased out Bozize, we all fled to Zongo. After the swearing-in
7 ceremony of Djotodia and with the appointment of the new chief of staff, I heard that
8 he worked at the general staff headquarters, then he crossed over to Zongo and he
9 was taken in by the DGM, because if it is soldiers who cross over, they are taken
10 charge of by other soldiers. If it is civilians, they are taken charge of by civilians.
11 So he was taken in by soldiers and (Redacted). They wanted to know how -- why he
12 might have come over, whether it was for an action or whether it was to spy.
13 (Redacted).
14 (Redacted)
15 I knew that someone was called Yekatom, but I had never seen him.
16 (Redacted)
17 (Redacted)
18 (Redacted)
19 (Redacted)
20 (Redacted)
21 (Redacted). He was taken to prison and then they carried out their verifications and
22 then he was released.
23 (Redacted)
24 (Redacted)
25 (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted)

2 Q. [12:25:35] I'll ask the question a different way. Have you heard of an
3 individual called Ouandjio, also known as *Coeur de Lion*?

4 A. [12:26:00] Yes. Ouandjio also found himself in Zongo. Ouandjio and Satan
5 (Redacted). So Ouandjio crossed over to Zongo.

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 A. [12:27:23] I have told you that I did not know him. I did not know Yekatom.

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 Q. [12:28:06] You explained today that at some point then Yekatom leaves. Do
14 you know if he stayed in contact with Mokom?

15 A. [12:28:20] You know, all those who found themselves in Zongo, well, Mokom
16 was in a way their leader. After the departure of Ngaikosset to Kinshasa, Mokom
17 was like the supervisor, the leaders of everyone. (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 I cannot say anything further.

23 Q. [12:29:45] I'll ask a question again. So you explained that at some point
24 Yekatom then leaves Zongo. Do you know if he maintained contact with Mokom?

25 Were you aware of that?

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1 A. [12:30:30] Yes. After his departure from Zongo with Ouandjio *Coeur de Lion*
2 and Satan, (Redacted)

3 I -- that I heard that they had left Zongo through Libenge to Mongoumba.
4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 Afterwards, I heard that they found themselves in Mongoumba, and from there, they
7 went to Boeing behind the airport.

8 Q. [12:31:49] (Redacted)

9 what Yekatom's group was doing in Mongoumba?

10 A. [12:32:23] As regards Yekatom, (Redacted) they crossed over and then the
11 Yekatom group detached itself from Mokom. They installed their bases in the south.
12 And the others were in the north. So they separated. That was the moment when
13 that happened. They didn't agree with each other anymore. Mokom set up a
14 coordination, and in that coordination, you had Wenezoui. Sebastien was a
15 coordinator in one way or another of that group. Mokom was with Ouandjio on the
16 other side and they set up their own group.
17 Oh, yes, there was Kamezolari. I remember now.

18 Q. [12:33:34] I'm still -- I will ask you questions about that later, but I'm still trying
19 to follow the chronology. So we're still before the 5 December attack.
20 Maybe I can ask you in a more direct way.

21 You said that Yekatom ended up in Boeing or -- which is in Bangui, I suppose. Did
22 he participate in the 5 December attack?

23 A. [12:34:15] I just explained that to you. Yekatom crossed the river, but he didn't,
24 didn't start on 5 December. He started to fight in the smaller villages before reaching
25 Bangui. In Bangui, he set himself up in the Yamwara school in particular, behind the

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1 airport in the Boeing neighbourhood. Those who came from the other side set
2 themselves up and coordinated their actions so that they could organise an attack on
3 5 December.

4 During that time, Dedane was in the bush. They came back and coordinated the
5 attacks of 5 December.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:35:33] And also perhaps we -- it's not always
7 easy to -- to figure out when we should be in private session or open session, but
8 there -- it seems to be that some areas have been covered in the recent minutes that
9 could have perhaps been covered in open session.

10 MS STRUYVEN: [12:35:54] Yes, Mr President. It's a difficult exercise because
11 I -- (Overlapping speakers)

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:35:59] No, we understand that, but when it is
13 about, let's say, asking the witness about certain individuals, it's always of course a
14 risk if the witness elaborates where he knows the person's from. If not, it could be
15 said in open session. If he says, "I know him from", then of course this might reveal
16 his identity. I know it's not easy, but I simply want to flag it so that you keep it in
17 mind.

18 MS STRUYVEN: [12:36:32]

19 Q. [12:36:33] Mr Witness, I want to go back in time. You just mentioned a certain
20 Dedane, and you also explained that Mokom was the leader and you said that he
21 delegated some of the authorities to Dokabona.

22 Can -- can you explain to us or to the Chamber what -- how that unfolded, like
23 what -- after the swearing-in ceremony of Djotodia that we discussed earlier, what
24 was the plan? Or what do you mean by Mokom became the leader?

25 A. [12:37:38] After the swearing in of Djotodia, the elements, people, started

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1 distributing leaflets outlining the crimes committed by the Seleka. DGM discovered
2 this and they took Ngaikosset, took him to Kinshasa. It was Ngaikosset who was the
3 beginning or the originator of those leaflets. He wanted to denounce the crimes
4 committed by the Seleka because he was killing -- the Seleka was killing people and
5 throwing them into the river. But he didn't actually cross the river. He is a soldier.
6 And I told you that it's because of the crimes committed by the Seleka that we saw the
7 birth of the Anti-Balaka movement. It's because of the crimes committed in Central
8 African Republic. Youth mobilised, were angry and mobilised themselves. They
9 were the first to go into the bush so that they could set up this movement.
10 He took up contact with Mokom and then Ngaikosset contacted Mokom from there.
11 The movement started to grow. Villages, one village to the other group, because the
12 Seleka at that time took everything that belonged to the villagers, took their cattle.
13 They were very nervous. They didn't have any arms and weapons to defend
14 themselves. They only had spears, machetes. So the Seleka advanced. And as
15 they moved, they could retrieve some arms. They also had some hunting weapons.
16 So they used those to protect themselves, but they were in the bush.
17 Mokom at that time was coordinator of operations. Dedane was at that time still in
18 the town. He was the core or the beginning, if I could put it that way, and
19 sometimes they communicated with each other. He supervised them. Particularly
20 he provided them with tactics of what they should do. Rambo also carried out
21 manoeuvres from his side until and up to 5 December.
22 I would like to say that the Seleka -- because of the exactions committed by Seleka,
23 this gave rise and birth to the Anti-Balaka.
24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:41:05] Ms Dimitri.
25 MS DIMITRI: [12:41:05] Mr President, I'm sorry to ask for the same thing over and

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1 over again, but I'm sure we can go in public session. I can take it upon me not to
2 oppose any redaction requests if there's a slip from the witness.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:41:19] Yeah, so I think in the last 15 minutes we
4 could have been in open session, that's true.

5 Mr Vanderpuye, I cannot hear you if you don't have the microphone on.

6 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:41:28] I'm sorry, Mr President. What I -- what I was
7 mumbling - and I apologise for that - is that it's -- it's not the question. It's the -- it's
8 the answer.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:41:33] That's also true.

10 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:41:35] (Overlapping speakers) much more expansive and
11 could have been elicited in open session, but not -- the question wasn't necessarily to
12 (Overlapping speakers)

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:41:41] So we don't --

14 MR VANDERPUYE: [12:41:41](Overlapping speakers)

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:41:42] -- we don't -- we don't make a big
16 fight out of that, but -- and I said already that we are sensible to -- to the need to be in
17 public session, if it is possible. But we have also to protect the witness of course.

18 MS STRUYVEN: [12:42:04]

19 Q. [12:42:05] Just as a clarification before I will ask you much more follow-up
20 questions, I think I heard you say the name Kossi, but I'm not sure. Did you mention
21 the name Kossi?

22 A. [12:42:26] Yes. I mentioned Kossi.

23 Q. [12:42:33] So I will -- I will ask you so -- because we were not there at the time,
24 could you walk us through, if you can, step by step how this was organised and who
25 was playing which role. How -- how did it actually unfold, the mobilisation,

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- 1 Dedane's role, Kossi's role if you mentioned him. Can you explain to the judges
- 2 as -- as clearly as possible how this unfolded, this organisation.
- 3 Mr Witness, maybe we can try to do this in public session. (Redacted)
- 4 (Redacted)
- 5 (Redacted)
- 6 (Redacted)
- 7 (Redacted)
- 8 (Redacted)
- 9 (Redacted)
- 10 (Redacted)
- 11 (Redacted)
- 12 (Redacted)
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- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 (Redacted)
- 19 (Redacted)
- 20 (Redacted)
- 21 (Redacted)
- 22 (Redacted)
- 23 (Redacted)
- 24 THE WITNESS: [12:45:31](Interpretation) Thank you very much.
- 25 I'm going to explain things in detail so that the Chamber can have proper

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1 information.

2 The Anti-Balaka movement, as I've already said, after the swearing in of Djotodia,

3 leaflets were produced. So from those leaflets, Dedane took to the bush in the north.

4 He went to maquis in the north. * He is a soldier and he was Kossi's classmate.

5 Dedane is corporal and he has the same ranking as Kossi, so he went to maquis in the

6 north. He started fights in Bozoum together with Richard Bejouane.

7 Gradually the numbers grew. There was General Mauri, there was Hippolyte Côme

8 Azounou, and there was also Corporal Inga who has died, unfortunately. They

9 joined the movement and fought against the Seleka.

10 The first action, when I heard talk of them, was in Ndjo. According to what I know,

11 Dedane and Mokom were in contact and Mokom coordinated all the actions in Ndjo.

12 He coordinated all the actions in Ndjo. He supervised the actions and the

13 manoeuvres in Ndjo. The victims were transferred to Bangui and presented to the

14 Prime Minister Tiangaye. That was really the first important fight.

15 Ndjo, then the movement started to grow in strength. In each villages there was a

16 group that was created. They only had hunting weapons and machetes in the

17 beginning. The weapons they had were only those, and then they retrieved some

18 from the Seleka during their attacks. And this is how they provided themselves with

19 arms, until Andjilo joined the movement and Thierry 12 Puissances joined the

20 movement as well. All of them together went to Bangui.

21 The aim of the Anti-Balaka, why did they go to Bangui? Why did they go to Bangui

22 around 5 December? In Boeing it was the first entrance into the bush on the Lobaye

23 axis. There was Satan, there was Beïna as well, and there was also another Satan, but

24 he was a gendarme and he unfortunately has passed away. They were the ones who

25 started the movement in Lobaye. They based themselves in Yamwara.

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1 Over there, there was Lieutenant Donoh. There was Ngoyace who was the
2 coordinator, the local coordinator. There was also another coordinator, but I have
3 forgotten the name. He has passed away. They stayed in Boeing. And there was
4 Captain Kamezolari. He was an officer. He was the highest ranking officer in
5 Boeing. And there was Wenezere (phon) as well in this group, Corporal Wenezere,
6 they were based in Boeing.
7 As regards Boy-Rabe and the northern neighbourhood, there was Hervé Ganazoui,
8 there was Sami Bawa, there was Tchokolat, Lieutenant Konate who was a
9 spokesperson, and Feissona, chief of staff. There was Andjilo, there was
10 Papa Djie (phon). There was Djie, the younger brother of Andjilo, he was also there.
11 There was Mazimbele.
12 So there were many individuals and there were also officers. I can't mention all of
13 them. I can only mention the ones I remember. (Redacted)
14 (Redacted)
15 (Redacted)
16 (Redacted)
17 (Redacted)
18 (Redacted)
19 (Redacted)
20 In the Anti-Balaka movement, there were quite a lot of civilians. So the intention
21 was to coordinate the attack of 5 December.
22 After the attack of 5 December, I learnt that Ngaïssona and Bernard Mokom left
23 Cameroon and landed in Bangui. They regrouped all the Anti-Balaka in Boeing.
24 And from there, Ngaïssona claimed himself as coordinator of the movement for the
25 Anti-Balaka, the Anti-Balaka movement. He started to coordinate everything with

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- 1 Mokom when Mokom was still in Zongo.
- 2 (Redacted)
- 3 (Redacted)
- 4 (Redacted)
- 5 (Redacted)
- 6 (Redacted)
- 7 (Redacted)
- 8 (Redacted)
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5 (Redacted)
6 (Redacted)
7 (Redacted)
8 (Redacted)
9 (Redacted)
10 (Redacted)
11 (Redacted), and that's really what happened. Maxime -- or Ngaïssona, first of all, he
12 introduced Maxime. Everybody introduced themselves. And he said that each one
13 must take stock of all the number of staff they had, those who were ill,
14 those who were wounded, so that we could -- so that they could take stock of who
15 was there.
16 Maxime got up and said that everyone must take stock of their effective, of their
17 elements, and also arms and ammunitions, and that the next day they would meet
18 again in order to give all the information to Feissona and Konate so that they could
19 see what they could do with the movement because there was still a lot to do.
20 (Redacted)
21 (Redacted)
22 (Redacted)
23 (Redacted)
24 (Redacted)
25 (Redacted)

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- 1 (Redacted)
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- 13 (Redacted)
- 14 (Redacted)
- 15 MS STRUYVEN: [13:00:59] Mr President, it's 1 o'clock (Overlapping speakers)
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [13:01:03] Yes, I think it would be time to have the
- 17 lunch break indeed.
- 18 Lunch break until 2.30.
- 19 THE COURT USHER: [13:01:12] All rise.
- 20 (Recess taken at 1.01 p.m.)
- 21 (Upon resuming in private session at 2.36 p.m.)
- 22 THE COURT USHER: [14:36:12] All rise.
- 23 Please be seated.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:36:35] We are in private session. Do we have
- 25 to continue in private session?

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1 MS STRUYVEN: [14:36:40] Yes, I think so, for the same reasons.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:36:42] Then you have the floor, Ms Struyven.

3 MS STRUYVEN:

4 Q. [14:36:52] Good afternoon, Mr Witness. You gave a -- quite a long answer
5 before the break. And so what I'm now going to do is go back and I'm going to ask
6 you specific questions about the different periods that you have described.

7 And I will first start with what I think is the beginning. So I'm now in a period still
8 really before the 5 December attack. Long before the 5 December attack. You said
9 at some point: "Dedane went to the north." And that is going to be my starting point
10 for my questions.

11 Could you explain to the Chamber where exactly he go to -- he went to?

12 A. [14:38:22] Dedane went to the north, to Bozoum, to be specific. Which is on the
13 Bozoum road. Richard Leroi, Marabout Leroi and himself, they started the attack.
14 And Hippolyte was also there.

15 The first attack that took place was the attack on Ndjo. But let me hop back a little
16 bit. I had forgotten to provide some details which I remembered during the break.
17 Do you want me to provide those details?

18 Q. [14:39:26] Yes, please.

19 A. [14:39:26] (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted), I never heard mention of Mr Ngaïssona. When the movements started,
24 whether he and Mokom were the joint coordinators I do not know. Now, when the
25 attacks began, I didn't hear mention of Ngaïssona's name. I heard mention of

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1 Sebastien Wenezoui, Mokom, and others. But Mr Ngaïssona and Mokom father
2 were in Cameroon at that time.

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 And I must say that during that entire period I never heard the name of

20 Mr Ngaïssona. I only heard mention of his name after the 5 December when he

21 introduced himself as the coordinator of the Anti-Balaka. It is at that time that I

22 heard his name.

23 But when it comes to anything that happened before 5 December, I never heard

24 mention of his name during all those events that took place before 5 December.

25 (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 Hopping back now to Dedane. Dedane launched his first attack from Ndjo and it
4 was Maxime who was coordinating it. When they finished the attack on Ndjo, they
5 then attacked Gaga, and Maxime succeeded in pushing them all the way back to
6 Bangui. And then when they got to Bangui, they planned the attack of 5 December.

7 (Redacted),

8 a few days later, I learnt that Mokom father and Mr Ngaïssona had returned. They
9 introduced themselves to Boeing -- I mean, at Boeing. Mr Ngaïssona presenting or
10 introducing himself as the general coordinator of the Anti-Balaka movement at that
11 time.

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted)

2 Q. [14:46:46] Thank you very much, Witness. I'm going to try to break in down in
3 smaller periods so that we can follow each period more clearly. And I will have
4 follow-up questions for each period.

5 So as I, as I mentioned earlier, you -- you explained that Dedane went to Bozoum and
6 he went to the village of Ndjo. And you mentioned a certain Hippolyte. Is that
7 Hippolyte Azounou?

8 A. [14:47:40] Yes. And the name is Hippolyte Côme Azounou, Côme Azounou.
9 He was the deputy chief of staff of the Anti-Balaka.

10 Q. [14:48:02] Now, you -- this morning you explained that the groups, for example,
11 of Andjilo, or the groups of Lebene, 12 Puissances, that they joined the movement.
12 Very specifically, can you explain to the Judges how that was organised. How did
13 they join the movement? What happened for them to join the movement concretely?

14 A. [14:48:45] As I already told you, it is the advent of the Seleka that led to the birth
15 of the Anti-Balaka.

16 The Seleka had committed abuses in all villages and when the villagers learned of the
17 creation or the birth of the Anti-Balaka, they began to get together. Now, when
18 Andjilo and the others got together, they made Mr Maxime Mokom the coordinator.
19 And this was also -- it was -- it was also through Dedane that some people got to
20 know Maxime.

21 I've already told you that some of the combatants only saw Mr Maxime at
22 Mr Ngaïssona's residence.

23 Now, thereafter, it is Mokom who organised everything. But I was not with him so I
24 don't have any details as to what he was doing.

25 Q. [14:50:07] But what I'm trying to understand is, very concretely, how were these

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1 groups, for example, of Andjilo, integrated. Were there phone calls made to them?

2 Was someone sent to them? Was there communications with them? How did they

3 become part of the Anti-Balaka? What made them one day become Anti-Balaka?

4 A. [14:50:50] Yes. As I have already told you, Dedane started fighting at Ndjo.

5 And people heard about it. And whenever information went around that a group

6 had been formed at a certain level, people wanted to find out. So at the beginning,

7 the various groups were known as self-defence groups. Now, whenever they learnt

8 that a self-defence group had been set up, they tried to contact the leader, and that is

9 how a chain or a network developed. It is only after 5 December that we heard

10 mention of Ngaïssona. But before 5 December, it was only Maxime, General Mauri,

11 and Hippolyte Côme Azounou who were being referred to as the leaders of the

12 Anti-Balaka.

13 You see, he is a native of Boali, and that's where he used to live.

14 Q. [14:52:22] And -- and when you say they would contact the leader, so when they

15 knew that there was a self-defence group that already existed or that had formed,

16 they would contact the leader. Who would contact -- who would contact the leader?

17 For you this may be obvious, but for the Chamber, it may not always be obvious who

18 was doing what.

19 So who would contact the leader to ask them, I suppose, to integrate the Anti-Balaka?

20 A. [14:53:09] What I've said is that after Dedane contacted the -- the leader, he

21 handed things over to Mokom. And whenever he heard that a group had been

22 formed in a village, he would try to contact their leader to organise the members and

23 then link them up with Mokom. That is what he did in connection with each group.

24 Q. [14:53:48] Thank you. Sometimes it's very clear for you, but it's not clear

25 from -- at least not what we -- what we get from the translation.

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1 So now I move to the attack on Ndjo. So do you remember roughly how long before
2 the 5 December attack the village of Ndjo was attacked?

3 MS DIMITRI: [14:54:16] Mr President, I'm sorry for insisting again. If this is a new
4 subject and there's no risk, could we perhaps go in public session? Otherwise, we're
5 going to do the entirety of this witness in private session.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:54:29] Yeah.

7 MS STRUYVEN: [14:54:30] The (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted) (Overlapping speakers)

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:54:45] Yeah, then move on, please.

11 MS STRUYVEN: [14:54:47]

12 Q. [14:54:48] So going back to the attack. So do you know -- roughly in terms of
13 the timing of the attack, do you know how long before the 5 December attack this
14 attack occurred?

15 A. [14:55:26] The attack on Ndjo, as I told you, was the biggest combat or fight of
16 the Anti-Balaka before the Yaloke attack. But these things happened a long time ago
17 and I do not have a clear recollection.

18 Djotodia came to power on 13 March, I think. And I believe that the movement had
19 started -- or the movement started two to three months after he came to power. And
20 the attack on Ndjo took place slightly before the attack of 5 December. It was the
21 first major attack, and the Seleka had victims at Camp de Roux and that is when
22 he -- they called the minister and told him what -- the prime minister, Tiangaye,
23 rather, and told him what the Christians had done to the Muslims. But I don't have
24 a clear recollection of the date since these things happened a very long time ago.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:57:03] May I shortly.

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1 I come back to what you said several times, that you did not ever hear of
2 Mr Ngaïssona before 5 December. I have here paragraph 13 of your second
3 statement - that is CAR-OTP-2100-2569 on page 4 - and it says here, and I read it to
4 you, what you said to the Office of the Prosecutor at the; time:
5 "... after the March 2013 Seleka coup, Bernard Mokom and Ngaïssona went to
6 Cameroon. They are related and lived there together. Bernard Mokom, Ngaïssona,
7 and others such as Levy Yakete, reunited in Cameroon where they set up a 'Crisis
8 Office' to plan how to return to power."

9 This looks like as -- is this simply were you something an assumption? Or where did
10 you have this information from?

11 A. [14:58:34] When the Seleka took over power, Bernard Mokom, father of
12 Maxime Mokom, was a sub-prefect in a location or locality that bordered Cameroon.
13 After Seleka came to power, he fled and found refuge in Cameroon, along with Levy
14 Yakete -- as well as Levy Yakete and Bozize. Many other officers also sought refuge
15 in Cameroon.

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted). This was organised with Steve Yambete, but the attack did not take
19 place because of misunderstanding between the various teams. That is how
20 Maxime Mokom was given the responsibility. And at that time, Levy Yakete had
21 gone to France. It is only later that Maxime started his own operations. And it is
22 after 5 December that Ngaïssona and Bernard Mokom, the father, came back. And
23 that is the time at which I heard mention of Ngaïssona.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:00:22] So this is not correct, so because it could
25 give the impression, what I read to you, what you said at the Office of the Prosecutor,

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1 that at an earlier stage, you heard something of Mr Ngaïssona.

2 So this was not correct what I read out to you because it clearly says: "Bernard

3 Mokom, Ngaïssona, and others reunited in Cameroon where they set up a 'Crisis

4 Office.'" So this is -- you say this is not correct. Then we have to take this as your

5 evidence.

6 And please answer simply the question, if this -- if this information that you gave to

7 the Office of the Prosecutor at the time is correct or not.

8 THE WITNESS: [15:01:20](Interpretation) Yes. The information that I gave to the

9 Office of the Prosecutor is correct. I told them that Bernard Mokom and certain

10 officers were in Cameroon and that is how come Ngaïssona -- and I would like to

11 point out that Ngaïssona was on mission when Seleka took over power. So he joined

12 them in Cameroon.

13 (Redacted) they set up a coordination office in Cameroon and since it was not

14 functioning very well in Cameroon, they handed over responsibility to

15 Maxime Mokom in Zongo. There was Gbangouma in Cameroon as well as certain

16 officers there.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:02:32] Yeah. Okay.

18 MS STRUYVEN: [15:02:34]

19 Q. [15:02:35] And just on that last name, Gbangouma, is that Olivier Gbangouma

20 also known as Koudemon?

21 A. [15:02:52] Olivier Koudemon, Koudemon Olivier.

22 Q. [15:03:02] So if I bring you back to the Ndjo attack and I -- again, this may be a

23 translation issue. I think you tried to explain that some of the victims of that attack

24 were put in a truck and driven to Bangui and shown to the prime minister.

25 Is that what you tried to explain?

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1 A. [15:03:38] Yes. When the attack took place, the injured were taken to Camp de
2 Roux, women and children. And they were presented to President Djotodia, and he
3 called Prime Minister Tiangaye to tell him, look at what the Christians have done.
4 That is what he told Prime Minister Tiangaye. He showed the injured to Prime
5 Minister Tiangaye.

6 Q. [15:04:15] And so --

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:04:16] Did we have already the information
8 what injuries they had? It might have escaped my -- perhaps you can ask it then,
9 please.

10 MS STRUYVEN: [15:04:25]

11 Q. [15:04:26] As -- as the President just asked, so you referred to wounded women
12 and children.

13 Can you explain to the Judges what kind of -- how they were injured.

14 A. [15:04:50] These were injuries using coupe-coupes or machetes, as well as
15 hunting weapons. These were serious injuries. How do you expect me to explain
16 to you the nature of those injuries.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:05:13] I think, Mr Witness, although it might be
18 painful, but the Judges do not know and cannot picture it for themselves, and it
19 would be important. What has been, as far as you know and as far as you've seen,
20 what has been done to these people? Please, please try to be as specific as you can.

21 MS STRUYVEN: [15:05:40]

22 Q. [15:05:41] (Redacted)

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:05:46] And I have asked him a question I think.

24 MS STRUYVEN: [15:05:48] Oh.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:05:50] Didn't I ask a question?

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1 MS STRUYVEN: [15:05:54] I thought he answered it.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:05:57] No. I haven't heard translation. So I
3 asked what kind of injuries, please, Mr Witness. As I explained to you, we have not
4 been there. We -- we don't know what really happened. But if you have
5 information, please provide us, as specific as possible, with what has been done to
6 these women and children, as you have said.

7 THE WITNESS: [15:06:29](Interpretation) The attack on Ndjo was coordinated by
8 Maxime Mokom and Dedane. They attacked the base of the Peuhls in the camp, and
9 inside that camp, there were women and children. During the attack, the women
10 and children also received serious injuries.

11 There were also people who were killed, but I did not see the dead bodies. I only
12 saw the injured people who were brought to President Djotodia. They were shown
13 on Central African television. I saw injured people who were wounded. I saw
14 women and children on stretchers. I was not present to give you an account of what
15 happened.

16 After the attacks, I saw the images of the injured people. And President Djotodia
17 called the prime minister and told him to see what the Christians had done to these
18 poor women and men -- and children.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:08:05] Thank you.
20 Please continue.

21 MS STRUYVEN:

22 Q. [15:08:12] (Redacted) were you informed that, indeed, women and children had
23 been injured?

24 A. [15:08:47] Yes. We received the information. Everyone saw. He himself saw.
25 He did not make any comment. He only talked about war reprisals, and he had no

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1 other comment to make about that. That was it. He was the one who had
2 coordinated the fighting.

3 After the fighting, after the attack, a report was made to him, such and such a locality
4 has been attacked with such and such a number of victims and injured, as well as the
5 quantities of equipment seized. So, as coordinator of the operations, he received
6 reports on the various attacks.

7 Q. [15:09:46] And did he say anything about when he would receive reports about
8 the victims such as these women and children? Did he say anything to the effect that
9 that should not happen in the future, that children -- women and children should not
10 be attacked?

11 A. [15:10:33] (Redacted)
12 (Redacted)

13 He could not speak just any how so as not to be subjected to what had happened to
14 Ngaïssona and the others. But he had seen the images, but he could not do anything.
15 It was the elements on the ground who had done all that. The essential thing was to
16 achieve the objective.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:11:26] And what was the objective?

18 THE WITNESS: [15:11:38](Interpretation) The objective was to chase the Seleka from
19 power. That was the main objective.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:11:49] Thank you.

21 THE WITNESS: [15:11:51](Interpretation) All their attacks were aimed at chasing
22 Seleka out of power so as to take their place.

23 MS STRUYVEN:

24 Q. [15:12:08] So am I right to conclude that it was acceptable that there would be
25 civilian casualties so long as the objective would be achieved?

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1 A. [15:12:26] It is true that there were many civilian victims. Not everyone was a
2 member of the Seleka. It is true that they were women who were fighters in the
3 Seleka.

4 You know, the Seleka were together with civilians. And whenever there was an
5 attack, the civilians could also be victims of that attack. The Seleka did not have a
6 separate base. They were all living together.

7 Even young Muslim civilians who were armed spent the nights at their places. And
8 when they were attacked by the Anti-Balaka, they suffered the same fate because the
9 combatants did not have a separate base. This is the reason why there were many
10 civilian victims.

11 As you know, the Seleka did the same thing. They attacked the Anti-Balaka in the
12 same way. And since the Anti-Balaka lived together with civilians, the civilians
13 suffered the same fate.

14 Q. [15:14:22] So can I conclude that everyone knew this, that everyone knew that
15 civilian victims were going to be made?

16 MS DIMITRI: [15:14:34] Mr President, calls for speculation, I think, and it's --

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:14:39] Yes, I think so. Yeah, we can make our
18 own conclusions. And also the question is really if we can go back every once in a
19 while to open session. Otherwise we have here a constant private session mode.
20 And I envision - but that is, of course, something that the Office of the Prosecutor
21 would have to assess - that the questioning of the Office of the Prosecutor will be to
22 90 per cent in private session, and the Defence will -- will carefully think what they
23 can do in open session. And there will be much more in open session. But that is
24 something that each party has to consider for themselves.

25 MS STRUYVEN:

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1 Q. [15:15:31] Now, about the Ndjo attack, do you know if Maxime Mokom
2 communicated the attack -- did he talk about the attack with his father, Bernard
3 Mokom?

4 A. [15:16:04] I was not with them when they were speaking with each other, the
5 two Mokoms. All I know is that he planned the attack on Ndjo. But was he
6 reporting on the operations to his father? I have no idea.

7 Q. [15:16:36] At the time, did you have a sense of how frequently they would
8 communicate with each other, Bernard Mokom and Maxime Mokom?

9 A. [15:17:04] You know, a father and his son can only communicate frequently, but
10 I cannot know the frequency of their communication. (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 Q. [15:17:54] Now, I would like to talk about weapons, ammunition and money in
16 that period. We can try to go into public session, (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 We can give it a try.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:18:20] I think that is -- that is possible, I would
20 say. We can at least give it a try.

21 We go to public session.

22 (Open session at 3.18 p.m.)

23 THE COURT OFFICER: [15:18:32] We are in open session, Mr President.

24 MS STRUYVEN:

25 Q. [15:18:45] So, Mr Witness, my question is really specific to a very specific time

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1 period, and it's the time period around this attack on Ndjo that you've already
2 explained and before the 5 December attack.

3 Now, you've mentioned hunting weapons. You've mentioned other weapons. Can
4 you explain to the Chamber how weapons at that time -- so not after the 5 December
5 attack, but before the 5 December attack, how weapons were organised,
6 how -- how -- how were weapons provided or how were they received. You've
7 described this at length in your statement, but if you can explain to the judges what
8 happened.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:19:39] Which is not a Rule 68(3) statement, by
10 the way.

11 MS STRUYVEN: [15:19:44] No.

12 Q. [15:19:44] So what the judge is trying to say, so your statement is not in evidence
13 as such. So it's not because you already said it in your statement that it is part of this
14 case. So it's your testimony who -- that is going to be part of the case. So that's
15 sometimes also why I ask you things that are already said in your statement is
16 because your statement will not be part of the record. It's going to be your testimony
17 that is part of the record.

18 A. [15:20:44] I have told you that in the beginning they did not have real military
19 equipment. They only had hunting weapons manufactured by themselves. Each
20 villager tried to procure their own weapon, an artisanal weapon. Otherwise,
21 Richard provided only ammunition to them.

22 And when they won battles, they succeeded in recovering war weapons. They
23 would report it to Richard and then keep them to continue with their operations.

24 You know, in Bangui, there were people who could purchase ammunition. In
25 Bangui, there was a woman who was provided that ammunition to them. They sent

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1 an emissary who would take the ammunition from the lady and then they would take
2 it to the front. That is how it happened.

3 Q. [15:22:33] And you earlier mentioned that money was also sent from Cameroon.
4 Can you explain to us how that happened concretely? Where was the money sent to,
5 and what happened with the money when it arrived?

6 A. [15:23:09] Yes. The money would enter Richard's hands and he was
7 responsible for distributing it. He also used some of that money to procure
8 ammunition and medicines to send to the front. He also bought food for the
9 combatants. That is how he used the money.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:23:44] I would like to come back to -- because
11 only seeing it now, Mr Witness, what you said about this attack on Ndjo village and
12 that many civilians there were injured and killed and then brought to Djotodia who
13 called Mr Tiangaye. You will recall that? You said that a couple of minutes ago.
14 I'm referring here to paragraph 91 of your first statement, CAR-OTP-2090-0561 at 0575,
15 paragraph 91. And the Office of the Prosecutor asked you at the time why they
16 killed the civilians, that was a question.

17 Do you recall what you answered to the Office of the Prosecutor?

18 THE WITNESS: [15:24:49](Interpretation) I have told you that the Anti-Balaka had
19 their base. I can tell you that when the Anti-Balaka started their actions, young
20 Muslims also took up arms because in their minds they thought that the Anti-Balaka
21 was fighting against all Muslims. And when they heard rumours according to
22 which the Anti-Balaka were in the neighbourhood, they would take the initiative to
23 launch operations. These were really not -- or, rather, these were really coordinated
24 battles.

25 THE INTERPRETER: [15:26:00] Says the witness.

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1 THE WITNESS: [15:26:02](Interpretation) And in this fighting, in these battles there
2 were civilian victims, including women and children.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:26:09] Mr Witness, please allow me to try to
4 refresh your memory. I'm reading from this paragraph and the page that I've
5 already mentioned. This was your answer at the time: "For the Anti-Balaka, it was
6 revenge for what happened to the Christians before. They wanted to clear the area
7 from all Muslims. At some stage, all Muslims were armed and they were just like
8 the Seleka. All the Muslims supported the Seleka to overthrow Bozize. Most of the
9 Anti-Balaka are from the Bozize family, means Mbaya tribe and they did not want to
10 have any Muslims already".

11 So this was your question at the time. Do you recall this as correct, or do you have a
12 different answer today?

13 THE WITNESS: [15:27:20](Interpretation) I did not change my statements. I told
14 you that all the young Muslims in our country took up arms and joined the Seleka.
15 When you talk about a Muslim against an Anti-Balaka, the instinct of the Anti-Balaka
16 is to kill the Muslim. At one point, the Seleka did not also want to meet with a
17 Christian and allow them to leave. This is why during operations when an
18 Anti-Balaka met a Muslim, they always wanted to try and neutralise or kill them.
19 And the Seleka did the same against the Christians. It was like two teams fighting
20 against each other. As you know, it was the Seleka that chased Bozize from power.
21 After that the Seleka perpetrated violence against the population. Many people
22 joined the Anti-Balaka movement in order to exact revenge and so whenever they met
23 a Muslim, even a child, their reflex action was to kill that Muslim.

24 It is for that reason that there were many civilian deaths.

25 MS STRUYVEN: [15:28:56]

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1 Q. [15:28:57] Now, going back to the money - so I'm still talking about the same
2 period, meaning before the 5 December attack - you said that money was sent from
3 Cameroon. Do you know how it was sent? Was it to a bank? Was it transferred?
4 Can you explain to the judges how that money was sent to Richard?

5 A. [15:29:30] The money was transferred via Western Union. It was through
6 Western Union.

7 Q. [15:29:45] And do you know whether these were big amounts or whether there
8 were several small amounts? Can you explain to the judges or can you give more
9 information about that?

10 A. [15:30:12] As you know, we were in a foreign country. It was not possible to
11 send large amounts of money. Sometimes it was

12 {ICR: (Redacted)}

13 They were abroad as refugees so they could not be sent huge sums of money.

14 Sometimes the money would come through Western Union and sometimes it was
15 individuals who brought the money. In any case, they used all possible means to
16 send money.

17 Q. [15:31:01] By the first part of your answer, do I understand you correctly that the
18 money would be split up in smaller amounts so that you would not be seen to receive
19 large amounts of money?

20 A. [15:31:35] The greatest amount we received {ICR: (Redacted)}

21 And then, later on we would

22 {ICR: (Redacted)}

23 Q. [15:32:14] And you also said that -- maybe one more question. Who would
24 pick up the money? Because Western Union, as you know, you need to show an
25 identity card to pick up the money. Do you remember who would pick up the

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1 money on your side?

2 A. [15:32:45] It was Richard who collected the money. The money was sent in
3 Richard's name. And sometimes {ICR: (Redacted)}

4 Q. [15:33:04] Yeah, you don't have to mention the last name. I think it's clear in
5 the record which {ICR: (Redacted)} referring to.

6 Then you also said that some people were bringing money. Do I understand you
7 correctly that you mean they would bring the money in cash? Is that how I
8 understood you or I should have understood you?

9 A. [15:33:36] Yes. Sometimes Richard would send
10 {ICR: (Redacted)}

11 Q. [15:34:00] And do you know or did you get to know who in
12 {ICR: (Redacted)}.

13 A. [15:34:29] From what I know, she collected the money from Ecobank in Bangui.
14 But I do not know the source of the money. Richard would send {ICR: (Redacted)} to
15 collect money from there, but I was never told about the origin of the money or the
16 source of the money. So you see, we were not aware of everything that Richard did.
17 Sometimes he would commit some actions and we would only become aware of them
18 later on. There were times when he would organise fighting in certain areas and we
19 would not be aware of it and only find out later on that he is the one who organised
20 the fighting in this and that location. And he would confirm it to us, but that would
21 be after the fact.

22 Q. [15:35:41] Now, going back to the actual ammunition, you explained that
23 ammunition was bought in Bangui and then brought to the field. Again, very
24 concretely, do you know how that was done? Who would buy the money and who
25 would bring -- who would buy the ammunition and who would bring the

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1 ammunition to the field?

2 A. [15:36:14] I have already told you that Richard {ICR: (Redacted)}

3 and he was in contact with a woman who could take the ammunitions to them and

4 also was able to arrange for medication to be taken across the river. So what I know

5 is that the intermediary was a woman.

6 Because during that time, women were not being checked or searched.

7 It was men who were quite minutiously searched at the time and checked or

8 controlled.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:37:37] I think it would perhaps make sense to go

10 back to private session. Yeah, yeah, no, no. You see, we had -- we go to private

11 session and then I explain.

12 (Private session at 3.38 p.m.)

13 THE COURT OFFICER: [15:38:03] We are in private session, Mr President.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:38:05] Thank you.

15 I think we had - and especially Ms Dimitri always points it rightly out - we had

16 several instances where we could have been in open session today. But now we are

17 again into matters where somebody who might want to combine, could, from the

18 content of the answers perhaps -- it's not sure, but there is a slight risk, and this is the

19 reason why I said we go back to private session.

20 And that's better for the witness. He can speak more freely and then we don't have a

21 problem here, yeah?

22 MS STRUYVEN: [15:38:42] And it's really -- on our part, it's not bad faith. It's very

23 difficult to know what he's going to answer, especially because his answers are

24 sometimes quite long. So (Overlapping speakers)

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:38:50] No, it -- yeah, yeah, it's okay.

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1 Everything is okay. Please continue.

2 MS STRUYVEN: [15:38:54]

3 Q. [15:38:54] So Mr Witness, about the ammunition and the medication, so you
4 explained that it was going through an intermediary and that that was a woman. Do
5 you know how the ammunition and the medication would end up in the field and
6 where it was sent to? Specific villages or specific regions? Or if you can give us a
7 few examples of where the ammunition would be sent to?

8 A. [15:39:45] Yes. When the Anti-Balaka were preparing the attack of 5 December,
9 it is during that time that they bought ammunition as part of their preparation of the
10 5 December attack. They sent some of the ammunitions to the field. For example,
11 in order to send somebody ammunition in Bozoum, he would send the ammunition
12 to Yaloke in a parcel, and then from Yaloke, the parcel would be taken to Bossangoa.
13 And the person who is in Yaloke could deliver that parcel to the addressee travelling
14 by a motorbike.

15 So on the ground, the ComZones used the money which they were able to get
16 as -- cows and any other war benefits that they gathered in order to buy the
17 ammunition themselves. So I do remember that during a meeting, some ComZones
18 put forth their list of expenses and claimed to be reimbursed because they had spent
19 such and such an amount for such and such a thing.

20 And it is at that time that Mokom father told them that they had to wait until they got
21 to power before they would be compensated. That is, they would get a reward only
22 after the target had been -- or the goal had been reached.

23 So most of the time the money that Mokom received was used in preparing the attack
24 of 5 December by buying ammunition and medication, and their goal was to capture
25 Bangui.

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1 You see, if that was not the goal, they would not have displaced all the elements from
2 all villages and converged them on Bangui. So their goal was to capture Bangui and
3 drive out Djotodia from power.

4 Now, after Djotodia resigned, people began to take vengeance on others and the idea
5 of an attack on Bangui was dead and everything now converged into acts of
6 vengeance on the civilian population.

7 Q. [15:43:45] I will ask you for sure questions about what happens after the
8 5 December attack. But I'm still in this period before the 5 December attack, so
9 that -- the time of the preparations, the planning of the 5 December attack.

10 And I have another question. (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 Was there any military personnel also going to the field, so to speak, or sent to the
13 field?

14 A. [15:44:33] Yes. I told you that Lieutenant Abel crossed the river. Lieutenant
15 Emtenou Euzebe also crossed river. Emtenou's junior brother, who was called Edya,
16 also crossed the river. Some soldiers who were based in Zongo also crossed the
17 river.

18 So these people who crossed over, linked up with the teams that were on the hill.

19 And these were career soldiers, so they were there to link up with civilians and train
20 them with a view to winning the battle. So they were able to provide that guidance
21 sector by sector.

22 What I know is that Lieutenant Dokabona, Lieutenant Tribunal, those two did not
23 cross over. Even *Batchimandji did not cross over. Lieutenant Hervé,
24 Donan (phon) and all the others crossed the river.

25 Q. [15:46:20] Just for the record, when you say Abdel, do you have his last name?

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1 A. [15:46:41] I think it's Dinganani (phon), Abel Dinganani (phon).

2 Q. [15:46:50] Could it be spelled Denamganai?

3 A. [15:47:00] (Overlapping speakers)

4 Q. [15:47:01] And the other name you mentioned Emtenu, Emtenu Euzebe. Is
5 that the person you were referring to?

6 A. [15:47:16] Yes. He's the one I'm talking about. Emtenu Euzebe. He died
7 recently.

8 Q. [15:47:34] So you -- you -- you explained to us how before the 5 December attack
9 some of the FACA crossed the river from Zongo to Bangui. But my question was
10 even a little bit earlier. In the period before the -- so in the weeks or months before the
11 5 December attack, were there members of the FACA who joined the self-defence
12 groups in Bossangoa? Or in the region of Bossangoa or in the region of Bozoum or
13 in the region -- in the other regions further away from Bangui?

14 A. [15:48:34] Yes. Corporal Inga, for example, would be one. He never went to
15 Zongo, but he joined the movement. Dedane was never in Zongo, but he joined the
16 movement.

17 I can also mention soldiers like Andjizékané (phon) Tchakpa Blaise, he was never in
18 Zongo but he joined the movement. So there were a number of soldiers who joined
19 the movement on the ground before coming to Bangui.

20 Q. [15:49:30] And when you mention "on the ground", very concretely, for example,
21 Bossangoa, did some of these soldiers really go up to Bossangoa? Or other villages?

22 A. [15:49:52] Yes. At some point in time, it was actually a manhunt. You see, the
23 Seleka were patrolling and looking for soldiers and they fled. The soldiers fled to
24 join the movement in Damara and wherever else it was possible. That's what
25 happened. Some of the soldiers crossed the river and then later on returned to

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1 Bangui to join the movement.

2 Q. [15:50:39] And so returning back to the weapons, would they also have their
3 own weapons with them? Do you have any information about that?

4 A. [15:51:04] You see, when the Seleka took power, the soldiers each had their
5 weapon. And as the soldiers fled, they took their weapons with them. Those who
6 did not have weapons were able to obtain some on the ground.

7 Q. [15:51:36] And how would they obtain them on the ground?

8 A. [15:51:55] You know, these were soldiers. When they came to join the
9 movement, they would immediately be taken in as leaders. And when the
10 Anti-Balaka were able to capture any weapons from the Seleka, they will take the
11 weapons back to the soldiers because it is the soldiers who were professionals and
12 who were able to use weapons of war.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:52:25] Open session possible? Or not?

14 MS STRUYVEN: [15:52:40] Yeah, we can try.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:52:43] Open session.

16 (Open session at 3.52 p.m.)

17 THE COURT OFFICER: [15:52:48] We are in open session, Mr President.

18 MS STRUYVEN: [15:53:12]

19 Q. [15:53:16] So, Mr Witness, you explained -- so in preparation of the 5 December
20 attack, you had -- so FACA soldiers who had gone to the villages - and you gave the
21 example of Damara, you gave the example of Bossangoa and other villages - you had
22 FACA who had gone to Zongo. My question now is about the FACA who stayed in
23 Bangui.

24 Do you know if Richard had contact with the FACA who stayed in Bangui at the time?

25 I'm still talking about the period before the 5 December attack.

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1 A. [15:54:27] Yes. He had contact with people in Bangui, as well as with those
2 who were outside the country. That is the manner in which he led or directed the
3 operations.
4 Those who were in the bush or who were able to join the movements in the provinces
5 were also fleeing from Seleka acts of violence, abuses that were being committed in
6 Bangui.

7 So during the preparatory phase for the attack of 5 December, he sent for those who
8 were on the other side of the river to come in order to coordinate the activities. He
9 brought in the officers from the other side of the river to come in and lead those who
10 were on ground and who were not soldiers. So these people worked as leaders or
11 chiefs.

12 Q. [15:55:46] I have a few follow-up questions about that, but you first said he also
13 coordinated with people outside of the country.

14 Can you give us examples of who -- who you're talking about.

15 A. [15:56:28] Well, you see, each group had a ComZone, and he worked in
16 collaboration with the ComZones in order to coordinate the operations all the way to
17 the suburbs of Bangui. It is at that time that those from the other side of the river
18 joined them in order to carry out the attack of the 5 December.

19 So he was coordinating operations -- or, rather, coordinating the teams that were on
20 the spot in Bangui and those who were further on or in the hinterland of the country.

21 Q. [15:57:17] And would you be able to give us examples of -- of soldiers, for
22 example, who were -- who had stayed in Bangui throughout the period from the
23 moment of the Seleka coup up until the 5 December attack?

24 So do you have any examples of FACA soldiers that Richard would have been in
25 contact with who had stayed mainly in -- in Bangui throughout this period, maybe

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1 with a few exceptions here, but who were stationed -- who kept on being stationed in
2 Bangui at the time?

3 Do you have examples of individuals he was in contact with?

4 A. [15:58:13] Yes. I already provided you with a few examples. Tchakpa Blaise,
5 for example, was one of the last to leave. It is when the troops got to periphery of
6 Bangui that he joined them. He joined the various groups in the suburbs or
7 periphery of Bangui. So you see, there were many soldiers, and it is not possible to
8 know all the names of all the soldiers. The soldiers who were able to join the
9 movement were many, many in number. It was a high number of soldiers.
10 And so when the Anti-Balaka arrived, many other persons joined. And even after
11 the 5 December, many of them withdrew from the group. Even Corporal Bagaza, he
12 joined the movement on the spot in Bangui. It is when they got to the suburbs of
13 Bangui that he joined them -- he joined them.

14 Q. [15:59:52] I just have -- does the -- at the time, so before the 5 December attack,
15 did you get to know an individual or did you hear about an individual called
16 Lieutenant Prince Lakouetene?

17 A. [16:00:22] No. I don't know him. Maybe if you mentioned his nickname, I
18 might be able to know him because, you know, many persons preferred to go by a
19 nickname.

20 Q. [16:00:44] Maybe Prince was his nickname.

21 Would you know anyone by the name Prince, a lieutenant?

22 A. [16:01:02] There were many Princes. So I am not able to know which Prince
23 you are talking about.

24 Q. [16:01:13] Did you hear about a Prince who was in contact with Richard?

25 A. [16:01:39] Yes, but maybe if you give me another nickname, I will be able to

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1 recall. If somebody introduced themselves as God has left Africa, *Dieu a quitté l'Afrique*,
2 you would be able to recognise such a name, but you might not be able to know that
3 it is someone whom you already knew. It's not possible.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [16:02:09] So, Ms Struyven, I think you are going on
5 a search for a nickname overnight so to speak.

6 MS STRUYVEN: [16:02:17] To see if I can find one.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [16:02:20] And then we conclude the hearing for
8 today and continue tomorrow morning at 9.30.

9 Mr Witness, I would like to remind you that you please do not talk to anybody about
10 your testimony, yeah?

11 So we meet together at 9.30 tomorrow.

12 THE COURT USHER: [16:02:38] All rise.

13 (The hearing ends in open session at 4.02 p.m.)