

Trial Hearing  
WITNESS: CAR-D30-P-4720

(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  
7 Judge Chang-ho Chung  
8 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 1  
9 Monday, 22 April 2024  
10 (The hearing starts in open session at 2.46 p.m.)  
11 THE COURT USHER: [14:46:01] All rise.  
12 The International Criminal Court is now in session.  
13 Please be seated.  
14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:46:27] Good afternoon, everyone.  
15 Court officer, please call the case.  
16 THE COURT OFFICER: [14:46:31] Good afternoon, Mr President, your Honours.  
17 Situation in the Central African Republic II, in the case of The Prosecutor versus  
18 Alfred Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona, case reference ICC-01/14-01/18.  
19 And for the record, we are in open session.  
20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:46:48] Thank you.  
21 Ms Henderson.  
22 MS HENDERSON: [14:46:52] Good afternoon, Mr President, your Honours. Today  
23 the Office of the Prosecutor is represented by Mr Kweku Vanderpuye, Mr Yassin  
24 Mostfa, and myself, Claire Henderson.  
25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:47:02] Thank you.

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- 1 And the representatives of the victims.
- 2 MS DOUZIMA-LAWSON: [14:47:11](Interpretation) Good afternoon, your Honour.
- 3 Good afternoon to the bench. I'm Marie-Edith Douzima-Lawson and I represent the
- 4 victims of other crimes.
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:47:21] Thank you.
- 6 MS VETRUCCHIO: [14:47:32] Good afternoon, your Honours. Today the former
- 7 child soldiers are represented by myself, Ludovica Vetrucchio, Office of Public Counsel
- 8 for Victims. Thank you.
- 9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:47:33] Thank you.
- 10 I turn to the Defence. Ms Guissé for the Defence of Mr Yekatom.
- 11 MS GUISSÉ: [14:47:42](Interpretation) Good afternoon, your Honour and to the
- 12 Chamber. Mr Yekatom is present and he is assisted by Florent Pages-Granier and
- 13 Charlotte Floquet and myself, Anta Guissé.
- 14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:47:56] Thank you.
- 15 Mr Knoops or Ms -- Mr Knoops.
- 16 MR KNOOPS: [14:47:58] Yes, Mr President, I will introduce the team for today. In
- 17 the first row, Ms Barbara Szmatala and Marie-Hélène Proulx; in the second row,
- 18 Mr Mathias Goffe, Ms Melissa Beaulieu and Clémence Fontaine. And Mr Ngaïssona.
- 19 Thank you.
- 20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:48:15] Thank you very much.
- 21 We will now start with the testimony of Witness D30-4720.
- 22 Madam Witness, good afternoon.
- 23 WITNESS: CAR-D30-P-4720
- 24 (The witness speaks French)
- 25 THE WITNESS: [14:48:29](Interpretation) Good afternoon, your Honour; good

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1 afternoon to the bench.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:48:32] I would like to welcome you on behalf of  
3 the Chamber to this courtroom. You are here to assist the Chamber with your  
4 testimony in the case of the Prosecutor against Mr Yekatom and Mr Ngaïssona. And  
5 we appreciate it that you came to The Hague and to testify.

6 Madam Witness, there are protective measures in place to ensure that -- your safety is,  
7 specifically. These are face distortion, meaning nobody can see your face during  
8 your testimony except in this courtroom; this is voice distortion, nobody can hear  
9 your voice, it is distorted except in this courtroom; and we're using a pseudonym, and  
10 that's the reason why I do not address you with your real name but as  
11 "Madam Witness".

12 Madam Witness, there should be a card in front of you with a solemn undertaking to  
13 tell the truth. Please read this card out aloud.

14 THE WITNESS: [14:49:31](Interpretation) I solemnly declare that I will speak the  
15 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:49:51] Thank you very much, Madam Witness.  
17 You are now under oath.

18 And we can start with your testimony. I think how you should speak a little bit  
19 slower and so on and so forth will be explained by Ms Proulx.

20 I give you the floor, Ms Proulx, for the Defence of Mr Ngaïssona.

21 MS PROULX: [14:50:13] Thank you, Mr President.

22 QUESTIONED BY MS PROULX: (Interpretation)

23 Q. [14:50:25] Good afternoon, witness.

24 A. [14:50:27] Good afternoon, counsel.

25 Q. [14:50:29] We have already met, we know each other, but just for the records,

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1 I'm going to introduce myself again. I'm Marie-Hélène Proulx. I am one of  
2 Mr Ngaïssona's counsel and I will be asking questions on his behalf until Wednesday  
3 morning.

4 A. [14:50:47] All right.

5 Q. [14:50:56] The Presiding Judge has just explained the protective measures that  
6 have been granted to you, but I won't be repeating them. But let me add something.  
7 This is a public trial and I will try insofar as possible to ask questions and get your  
8 answers in open session.

9 Now, when we're in open session, please be very careful and do not provide any  
10 identifying information. However, if in your answer, if you wish to make reference  
11 to things that might identify you, please tell us and we will move on to private  
12 session. And there are certain parts of your testimony which will only be conducted  
13 in private session given the nature of the information.

14 So we've already spoken during the courtesy meeting, but I'm going to repeat -- I'm  
15 repeating it to you. We speak French and we understand each other, but everything  
16 we say is interpreted into English and Sango, so it's really important for you to give  
17 interpreters the time to do their work. You have to speak slowly, if possible, and  
18 also pause between questions and answers.

19 A. [14:52:19] Thank you, and I've taken note.

20 Q. [14:52:24] I have many questions for you in the days to come. It is possible that  
21 my questions may not be clear. In that case, please do not hesitate to ask me to  
22 reword the question and I will find a way to reword it for you so that it's clearer. Is  
23 that okay?

24 A. [14:52:42] That's okay.

25 Q. [14:52:45] In this case, I'm going to first of all start off with certain identifying

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- 1 questions and I would like to move on to private session, please.
- 2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:52:55] Obviously -- obviously in private session.
- 3 (Private session at 2.53 p.m.)
- 4 THE COURT OFFICER: [14:53:13] We are in private session, Mr President.
- 5 MS PROULX: [14:53:19](Interpretation)
- 6 (Redacted)
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9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:12:06] Yes. Open session.

10 (Open session at 3.12 p.m.)

11 THE COURT OFFICER: [15:12:24] We are back in open session, Mr President.

12 MS PROULX: [15:12:31](Interpretation)

13 Q. [15:12:31] Madam Witness, I would like to now talk about the creation of KNK.

14 First of all, could you explain the -- what the mobile prospection unit was that was set  
15 up?

16 A. [15:12:48] {ICR: (Redacted)}

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)}

25 So this was the mobile prospection unit.

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1 Q. [15:14:38] This was the first step in the creation of KNK?

2 A. [15:14:42] Yes, this was the first, the very first step. Each team had some  
3 prefectures and regions that they had to cover, that they had to travel within, and  
4 after that, it was a one-month mission and all the three teams then met with their  
5 contributions. And they were -- then they expressed their resolutions, the concerns  
6 of the people of the republic that they met during their travels. And there were  
7 reports made and these reports were basically sent to the three coordinators who  
8 would have to work with the president, François Bozizé.

9 Q. [15:15:46] And then after that, what happened? What was the second stage?

10 A. [15:15:50] The second stage was the establishment of a preparatory committee of  
11 the constitutive assembly for the KNK party.

12 Q. [15:16:10] And when was that? Do you remember exactly when this  
13 preparatory committee or commission was set up?

14 A. [15:16:18] I don't remember the exact date it was set up, but that committee  
15 worked until the constituent assembly was organised in Boali. This is a town  
16 150 kilometres north of Bangui. And that was in August of 2009.

17 (Counsel confers)

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:17:19] Well, so, I understand that your  
19 microphone is not working. We have to fix that obviously.

20 (Discussion between the Chamber and the court officer)

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:18:02] I think we need a short break. The  
22 technician is on his way. Please, as soon as we can continue, we will continue.

23 THE COURT USHER: All rise.

24 (Recess taken at 3.18 p.m.)

25 (Upon resuming in open session at 3.31 p.m.)

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1 THE COURT USHER: [15:31:33] All rise.

2 Please be seated.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:31:50] I heard there were three technicians in the  
4 courtroom, so thank you to the team of technicians, so to speak, and I think to  
5 compensate for this, we can continue until 4:30 if there are no fierce objections by  
6 anybody.

7 Ms Proulx, you may continue.

8 MS PROULX: [15:32:15] Thank you, Mr President.

9 Q. [15:32:25](Interpretation) Madam Witness, I apologise for this interruption.  
10 Sometimes technology betrays us.

11 Right. Before we had stopped, you spoke about the preparatory committee that was  
12 operational until the constitutive assembly.

13 Now, am I right in saying that the constitutive assembly was the third step in the  
14 creation of KNK?

15 A. [15:33:04] The third step was the congress. The constitutive assembly was the  
16 second step.

17 Q. [15:33:25] When did the constitutive assembly take place?

18 A. [15:33:30] This was held in August 29, 2009. I think it was 23 August 2009.

19 Q. [15:33:48] Without talking about yourself, because we're in public session, open  
20 session, could you explain what was decided during this constitutive assembly that  
21 took place on 23 August 2009?

22 A. [15:34:04] The constitutive assembly nominated a restrictive bureau that was in  
23 charge of preparing the first congress of Kwa Na Kwa. They had three months to  
24 prepare this congress, which was held in November 2009 in Mbaïki.

25 Q. [15:34:48] Could you please explain what was KNK's philosophy?

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1 A. [15:34:55] The KNK was the Kwa Na Kwa. In Sango it means work and only  
2 work. So the KNK was the latest party that was before all the parties, and that said  
3 that all these are political parties but the KNK really wants to develop the country  
4 through work. It's important that everyone works irrespective of what you have.  
5 You could be a fisherman, it's a profession. You're a farmer, that's another  
6 profession. You could be sweeping the roads, it's still a profession. It's important  
7 that people work. And this was the very founding philosophy of Kwa Na Kwa.

8 Q. [15:36:16] Was this party reaching out to all people from the Central African  
9 Republic no matter what their ethnicity or religion?

10 A. [15:36:28] Yes, it didn't matter, because, you see, within (Redacted)  
11 (Redacted) the idea was to raise the awareness of the people -- men, women  
12 and youth. The message was this: Those who had not joined other parties, the  
13 leftovers, the KNK would take those people, invite them, ask them to join the party to  
14 turn the country around. That was the goal. So, you see, already, within this  
15 mobile canvassing unit these three things had to be brought together - a central  
16 bureau, a women's bureau and a youth bureau - so that everyone could get involved.  
17 And, as for religion, there were Christians already in the Central African Republic.  
18 Most of the people belonged to the Christian faith and are very devout. Then there's  
19 also a percentage of people, a significant proportion of people, who are Muslim, and  
20 Muslims were also part of the KNK.

21 MS PROULX: [15:38:15] Mr President, I would like to elicit a few limited personal  
22 information in private session, please.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:38:19] Private session.

24 (Private session at 3.38 p.m.)

25 THE COURT OFFICER: [15:38:42] We are in private session, Mr President.

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- 14 (Open session at 3.49 p.m.)
- 15 THE COURT OFFICER: [15:49:54] We are back in open session, Mr President.
- 16 MS PROULX: [15:50:02](Interpretation)
- 17 Q. [15:50:02] Madam Witness, we are back into open session, so I'll be asking you
- 18 some rather general questions. Please be careful not to give any information that
- 19 might reveal your identity.
- 20 A. [15:50:15] Very well.
- 21 Q. [15:50:19] When and how did you come to meet Mr Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona?
- 22 How did that happen?
- 23 A. [15:50:30] Mr Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona is a businessman. I met
- 24 him -- I didn't go up to him and say hello, but I knew what he did. When I would go
- 25 and meet the secretary-general, the -- now, there was the former minister of foreign

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1    affairs, and the former minister.    We would meet in the waiting room.    I knew he  
2    was a businessperson; he worked in the business world.    And he took part in the  
3    constituent assembly as well, and then later on -- I thought he was a member of the  
4    KNK, that he was with us.    But the behaviour of minister -- minister -- one of the  
5    minister's behaviour was such that a number of people left the party.

6    THE INTERPRETER:    [15:51:50] Minister Ndoutingai, corrects the interpreter.

7    MS PROULX:    [15:51:54](Interpretation)

8    Q.    [15:51:54] You said that many senior officials left the KNK party.    Was that the  
9    case of Mr Ngaïssona as well?

10    A.    [15:52:01] He, himself, I would see him at times.    He was not at the meetings  
11    with us, and that was the case for many other people as well.

12    Q.    [15:52:24] Did he pay dues to the party?

13    A.    [15:52:26] I beg your pardon?

14    Q.    [15:52:29] Did he pay some kind of membership dues?

15    A.    [15:52:31] No, not really.    Dues or contributions?    No.

16    Q.    [15:52:48] Now, at any time did Mr Ngaïssona get involved in one way or  
17    another with elections in the 7th arrondissement?

18    A.    [15:53:01] Well, we knew that in our country when there is an election and you  
19    want to take part, you need to have some financial resources.    Without financial  
20    resourcing no one will support you or follow you.    If you have family members or  
21    friends who can help support you during the election and, in particular, if you're  
22    running for a position during the legislative election, you organise various  
23    tournaments -- tournaments to mobilise the young people.    Sports bring people  
24    together.    Sports get people moving, so it's very important to mobilise young people  
25    by way of sports when elections are organised.

1 As for the 7th arrondissement of Bangui, there was a young candidate running for a  
2 legislative position. He asked Mr Ngaïssona, who was the president of the CAR  
3 Football Federation and also a businessman, to help him.  
4 {ICR: (Redacted)}  
5 (Redacted)}. And Mr Ngaïssona would many come along with other  
6 prominent people -- Mr Zingas, who is now minister of state; Mr Abdallah Kadre,  
7 who was a minister as well. Many people, many prominent people came to provide  
8 support to Mr Thierry Maleyombo. And they would make donations. They would  
9 donate equipment or T-shirts or balls or sports uniforms, sport clothing. So that's  
10 how they contributed to the election campaign of Mr Thierry Maleyombo.

11 Q. [15:55:57] And do you know why Mr Ngaïssona supported Thierry?

12 A. [15:56:03] Thierry was a young fellow and -- well, he was from the same  
13 generation as Mr Ngaïssona, and perhaps Thierry asked for the assistance of  
14 Mr Ngaïssona. He would ask for the assistance of Abdallah Kadre and the  
15 assistance of Zingas. They would come and take part in the various rallies. They  
16 would provide financial support. Even the current special adviser,  
17 Mr Ndoutingai, would come and support Thierry during the election.

18 Q. [15:56:52] What year was that?

19 A. [15:57:04] I'm speaking about the elections of 2010 and 2011.

20 Q. [15:57:08] Now, you explained a few moments ago that in the Central African  
21 Republic if you want to get elected to office, you need to have resources.

22 Now, is it normal to donate money to candidates during an election?

23 A. [15:57:24] Absolutely. I beg your pardon. That's how you campaign in the  
24 Central African Republic. When you organise a rally you have your profession of  
25 faith, you have projects, you explain to the people who are in attendance, the people

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1 who have gathered, to listen to you. They say to you -- perhaps they'll say: Well  
2 I don't want those projects, I just want to have some food on the table. Some people  
3 are hungry so they would -- they would talk about how they needed to put food on  
4 the table. And, you see, people would not really see the importance of the projects  
5 that you were suggesting to them, but they would see just what you were able to  
6 provide that very day, and then you would have everyone support you, even if they  
7 didn't know you well. But if you had provided them with some food, if you had  
8 given them some money, they would follow you.

9 Some candidates would offer -- even Thierry, would offer clothing, suits, telephones,  
10 envelopes. It was on a case-by-case business. In the evenings or at night,  
11 he -- they -- they would prepare the envelopes and they would go from house to  
12 house. Sometimes they would give a bar of soap or a package of sugar or 100,000  
13 francs. They would make various contributions so as to get elected.

14 Q. [15:59:37] And is that the case for all political parties?

15 A. [15:59:41] All the parties do that. All the parties do that. Sometimes they  
16 even give pieces of meat. I have seen that with my own eyes; I've experienced that  
17 myself.

18 {ICR: (Redacted)}

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)}. People who had the money got into office. That's how it  
23 worked. So you need -- you need money to get elected.

24 Q. [16:00:48] So this was not just the case with KNK?

25 A. [16:00:52] No, this was the case with all political parties.

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1 Q. [16:01:01] Is it also normal to give money when there's no election so people  
2 who are wealthy actually distribute money to the people around them?

3 A. [16:01:13] You see, we are talking of poverty here. The country is rich, but it's a  
4 virgin land so to speak. There are more unemployed than people in employment.  
5 Now, if in your family or in your acquaintances you have someone who is able to  
6 have more money to do a business, and everyone, not just from the family, but also  
7 the acquaintances, would go to this person with prescriptions. You see, when you're  
8 sick, you would go to the hospital, and it's a medical prescription that you would  
9 present.

10 Now, the person would actually go to everybody and say, "I'll go to this person so  
11 that he can pay for my medicine. I'll go to this person, to that person and ask for  
12 money." He would go to people who had money, and this is quite frequent in the  
13 Central African Republic.

14 Q. [16:02:40] To the best of your knowledge did Mr Ngaïssona have the reputation  
15 of giving money to people around him?

16 A. [16:02:48] I know that Mr Ngaïssona is a man who wears his heart on his sleeve.  
17 Now, I have known him and the entire team, the youth in the party -- women speak  
18 of him because when they have a problem, they would go to him. And he lived in a  
19 very popular district where there are so many people living who do not have  
20 resources. He lived in an underprivileged district. It's where I live, you see. It's  
21 an underprivileged district. He lives in Boy-Rabe,{ICR: (Redacted)} and it's a  
22 well-known fact that these districts are extremely underprivileged. So they do not  
23 close their doors. He doesn't close his door.  
24 People go to him. They would ask for assistance. Moreover, he's also the president  
25 of the Central African Republic Football Federation, which is the hot favourite of the

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1 country.

2 Now, when he was at the head of the federation, there were many changes. Football  
3 made progress. We would talk about the Central African football team that was  
4 participating in tournaments, so there was recognition. He was known and people  
5 would actually go after him a lot.

6 Q. [16:04:43] You -- you said that were you not very close to

7 Ngaïssona -- Mr Ngaïssona? Have you had the opportunity to speak to him or write  
8 to him via email?

9 A. [16:04:56] By telephone never; by email, never. I do not even know his phone  
10 number. But we have talked.

11 Q. [16:05:15] Have you had -- have you ever been in touch with the members of his  
12 family?

13 A. [16:05:19] No, never. I don't even know his wife.

14 Q. [16:05:33] I don't know if you know this, do you know what was the relation  
15 between François Bozizé and Mr Ngaïssona?

16 A. [16:05:42] I wouldn't know that. But I know that they're all from the  
17 Ouham -- they all belong to the Ouham group, but I don't know what were their  
18 relations.

19 Q. [16:06:03] Were they close relatives?

20 A. [16:06:06] No, I don't think so.

21 Q. [16:06:17] Have you heard how Mr Ngaïssona became a minister in the  
22 transitional government in 2013, in February 2013?

23 A. [16:06:32] In 2013, {ICR: (Redacted)}. I wouldn't have known. I  
24 have no idea.

25 Q. [16:06:41] I'm talking about February 2013, before the arrival of the Seleka.

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1 A. [16:06:47] Now, during this period from January 2013 to March 2013 when there  
2 was the change, {ICR: (Redacted)}

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)}

5 Q. [16:07:26] Have you heard a rumour according to which it's the sister of the  
6 president who demanded Ngaïssona's nomination as minister?

7 A. [16:07:38] I did not -- I'm not privy to this information. I'm not privy to this  
8 information.

9 Q. [16:07:49] I'm going to move on to another subject now, and again may I remind  
10 you we're in open session, so please be careful about not revealing your identity.

11 Can you describe the situation of the Muslim community in the Central African  
12 Republic under François Bozizé's presidency?

13 A. [16:08:13] The Muslim community -- I'm the best witness, because, first of all --

14 Q. [16:08:28] Please do not identify yourself, Madam Witness.

15 A. [16:08:34] Muslims at that point of time were well supported, very well  
16 supported by the president, because during the month of Ramadan, he thought of the  
17 community. He would send food, truckloads of food. He would also send food to  
18 Muslim women. He would send delegations with envelopes to be distributed  
19 amongst women.

20 Now, during the organisation of the pilgrimage to Mecca, he would send 20 -- around  
21 20 imams and women who did not have the financial resources to go for the  
22 pilgrimage. So during the festivals, he would wear this boubou and traditional attire  
23 to celebrate festivals in the mosques with the Muslims.

24 And at Kwa Na Kwa, the mothers of farming villages were all members of the -- the

25

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1 community of the wise. They -- he offered them vehicles. They all have a Toyota  
2 double cabin pickup. It was President Bozizé who gave them that.

3 So this is what I know and this is -- this community was actually kept well. The  
4 president would meet with them regularly.

5 Now, until Ndoutingai searched their houses to recover diamonds and jewellery of  
6 their spouses, but -- there was no problem until then. But with respect to Bozizé,  
7 I know and I experienced all this as well and I also benefited from this.

8 Q. [16:11:17] You shortly spoke about the Central African Islamic community and  
9 you were involved in this community, so have you heard any complaints or  
10 grievances from Muslims during this year of 2012?

11 A. [16:11:46] I was living, you know, in this community, I was part of this  
12 community and {ICR: (Redacted)}, and never we thought that  
13 something might happen. {ICR: (Redacted)}  
14 (Redacted)}

15 Q. [16:12:20] Madam, again, we're going to perhaps move in to private session.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [16:12:23] Private session.

17 (Private session at 4.12 p.m.)

18 THE COURT OFFICER: [16:12:37] We are in private session, Mr President.

19 MS PROULX: [16:12:44](Interpretation)

20 Q. [16:12:45] You can continue.

21 A. [16:12:46] Right. With regard to the community, there was absolutely no sign  
22 of any grievances or complaints with respect to -- from Muslims, except in 2010. So  
23 you had this diamond affair, and Ndoutingai sent people to search the houses of  
24 people for diamonds. And the president received these diamond collectors in 2010  
25 and then we had the elections. And after the elections in 2012 there was absolutely

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The in-court redactions are identified with {ICR: text to be redacted}



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1 no sign that showed that the Muslims were displeased. On the contrary. It's my  
2 niece who is a Christian who worked in a bank who told me, "Be careful. Your  
3 vehicle is -- bears the colours of the party so you've got to be careful when you travel  
4 in that vehicle." I said -- well, I did not take it very seriously until when we had the  
5 Seleka events.

6 Q. [16:14:11] Did Muslim -- did the Muslim community have access to schools?

7 A. [16:14:21] I would like to solemnly say to the Chamber that Muslims were in fact  
8 better in the Central African Republic than the Christians -- than the Christian Central  
9 Africans. Why am I saying this? Because in Kilometre 5, they are the ones who had  
10 the money. They were the ones who had beautiful houses. They were actually  
11 eating better, they were eating well, and they had electricity.

12 So you have a Muslim house and the neighbour is Christian, and the Christian would  
13 actually use the Muslim's lamp for light. You see, dirty water would actually flow  
14 through the Christians -- but they would share everything. When they  
15 organised -- when there was a festival we would actually make dishes and give it to  
16 our neighbours.

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted) There are so many

24 ministers I know who have functions and they all have been to school. And

25 Muslims were never prevented from going to school. And since public school does

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1 not have a very good level, the Muslims put most of their children in private schools.  
2 Today and currently, we have young Muslim women who have a high school leaving  
3 certificate, a technical qualification, who have studied medicine and who've got an  
4 excellent level, and that's -- I'm really pleased.

5 In saying that Muslims are prevented from going to school in the Central African  
6 Republic, that is so not true. It does not exist.

7 Q. [16:17:42] Madam Witness, I'd like us to go back into open session for a few  
8 moments, so please be careful not to identify yourself.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [16:17:52] Open session.

10 (Open session at 4.18 p.m.)

11 THE COURT OFFICER: [16:18:06] We are back in open session, Mr President.

12 MS PROULX: [16:18:13](Interpretation)

13 Q. [16:18:14] Madam Witness, we were talking about the fact that the Muslims had  
14 access to schooling in the Central African Republic.

15 What about Muslim people who lived -- I'll take you back to the time of Bozizé.

16 What about people living close to Birao and other close-by areas, more to the north,  
17 the north east, Birao and Ndele. Did they have government services?

18 A. [16:18:50] Well, of course, I did travel through that area at the time, but the  
19 services -- all the government services were represented there. The police, the  
20 gendarmerie, they were all there. But one must acknowledge that these are remote  
21 areas. This is a place where there are wild animals there. Even at the time, 40 years  
22 ago, people would be sent there, deported there. Beggars would be sent there to  
23 Birao because these were dangerous inaccessible areas.

24 Q. [16:19:54] And did the rainy season have anything to do with access to that  
25 region?

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1 A. [16:19:59] Obviously, because the roads were difficult to access. You really  
2 couldn't even pave them or cover them, in Ndele or Birao. But vehicles went there  
3 all the same. Vehicles would go there all the same.

4 Q. [16:20:32] Now, to your knowledge did President Bozizé, to help these citizens  
5 during the development of the country, include these remote people in the  
6 development?

7 A. [16:20:43] In the Central African Republic we have the World Food Day. And  
8 I do remember that he decided to, after Bangassou, he organised in Ndele a number  
9 of initiatives to build roads to Ndele, because when you organise all these various  
10 efforts, it remains within the locality. So he had allowed for that for the year 2013.  
11 That's what I heard. But, unfortunately, it was not possible for that to actually  
12 happen. It was not possible to make it a reality.

13 Q. [16:21:45] Were many Muslims supporters of the KNK or members of the KNK?

14 A. [16:21:52] Yes. There were even officials within the party who were  
15 Muslim -- the heads of prefectorial councils, there were Muslims involved, many  
16 Muslims. And I talked with them quite a bit. We would often, constantly meet. We  
17 would be in contact, many Muslim people. {ICR: (Redacted)  
18 (Redacted)} There were  
19 many people who were members of the various committee of the wise -- the Modibo.

20 Q. [16:22:55] Now, before the Seleka arrived what were the dealings like, or the  
21 relationships like, between Christians and Muslims?

22 A. [16:23:04] The two communities were completely together. They were very  
23 much cohesive. The Muslims need the Christians; the Christians needed the  
24 Muslims. For example, you had to go to Kilometre 5 to buy onions or other products

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1 that weren't available. They had a broader range of businesses, and they also need  
2 vegetables from the Christian farmers who grow vegetables, and they, too, would be  
3 selling their products. So, there was a complete cohesion between those two  
4 communities.

5 Q. [16:23:56] And late 2012, early 2013, did you notice in your dealings with  
6 Muslim people that some people felt threatened by the Christian population?

7 A. [16:24:12] Up until 2012, 2013, absolutely not. There were no threats or  
8 intimidation.

9 Q. [16:24:30] Do you know of a radio show called -- and I apologise in advance --  
10 *Yeso alingbi ti inga*? Does that ring a bell? Sorry about my poor pronunciation in  
11 Sango.

12 A. [16:24:44] Yes; yes, that programme was on the radio and the host was  
13 Abakar Piko and Vele Faimindci. But Vele Faimindci, he's a Muslim but not a  
14 practising one. He's from the north, from Ndele. And on the show they would talk  
15 about the gains that had been made during the times of President Bozizé. They  
16 would talk about that. It was a radio station -- well, it's not really a radio station.  
17 I would say that the three people would be on various programmes on the national  
18 radio. They didn't have their own station, but they would, say, have 20 minutes on  
19 the national radio. They would offer their programme and then they would leave.  
20 So they would talk about the gains made, the progress made. They would say that  
21 things were better. They would talk about wages, because at the time Bozizé ended  
22 the system of ticketing for civil servants. A sort of a ticket person would go and  
23 collect money and say, "No, the salaries haven't been paid, but I'm going to lend you  
24 some money." And that was a form of usury, and Bozizé put an end to that. So  
25 they would talk about that sort of thing. There you have you it. So in a way he put

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1 things on more of a -- he changed the system so it was more like a bank in a manner  
2 of speaking.

3 Q. [16:26:53] Now, this radio show, the three people you mentioned who were on  
4 the radio, did they produce any programmes against Muslims?

5 A. [16:27:01] No, not at all. To my knowledge, I never heard of any such thing.

6 MS PROULX: [16:27:11] Mr President, this is a natural transition in my examination.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [16:27:16] Well, I agree with you. So we conclude  
8 for today.

9 Thank you, Madam Witness. But you're not finished obviously, yet. We continue  
10 tomorrow morning at 9:30.

11 THE COURT USHER: [16:27:24] All rise.

12 (The hearing ends in open session at 4.27 p.m.)