

1 International Criminal Court
2 Trial Chamber III - Courtroom 2
3 Presiding Judge Sylvia Steiner, Judge Joyce Aluoch and
4 Judge Kuniko Ozaki
5 Situation in the Central African Republic - ICC-01/05-01/08
6 In the case of the Prosecutor versus Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo
7 Trial Hearing
8 Wednesday, 25 May 2011
9 The hearing starts at 2.35 p.m.
10 *(Closed session) Reclassified as Open session
11 COURT USHER: All rise. Please be seated.
12 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Good afternoon. Welcome back.
13 Could please Court Usher bring the witness into the courtroom.
14 (The witness takes the stand)
15 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Court Officer, please, could we turn
16 into open session.
17 (Open session at 2.37 p.m.)
18 COURT OFFICER: We are in open session, Madam President.
19 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Thank you very much.
20 Mr. Witness, good afternoon.
21 THE WITNESS: (Interpretation) Good afternoon, Madam President.
22 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Did you manage to rest a little bit?
23 THE WITNESS: (Interpretation) Yes, Madam President.
24 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Can we continue with your questioning?
25 THE WITNESS: (Interpretation) I have no problem with that,

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Questioned by Mr. Haynes (Continued)

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1 Madam President.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: I am giving the floor to Mr. Haynes.

3 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, your Honour, and good afternoon to you.

4 WITNESS: WITNESS CAR-OTP-PPPP-0063 (Resumed)

5 (Witness answered through interpreter)

6 Questioned by Mr. Haynes: (Continued)

7 Q. Good afternoon to you, sir. I hope it's the last time I will be
8 saying that here.

9 A. Thank you. Good afternoon, counsel.

10 Q. Take care, please, how you answer this question, but over what
11 period of time did you follow the Banyamulenge?

12 A. Thank you. I am not in a position to give you an exact answer
13 because I do not know the date nor the day specifically.

14 Q. Sir, I wouldn't expect you to give an exact answer, but was it a
15 period of more or less than one month?

16 A. Thank you. Are you saying that my answer is not good enough?
17 No, that is not the case. What I have said is that I do not know the
18 exact date on which I began to follow them. I do not have that specific
19 date.

20 Q. That's -- fair enough. That's not important. What I want you to
21 try and estimate for us is how long you conducted the activity of
22 following them, was it for a month or two months or three months? Can
23 you give us an approximation as to that?

24 A. Maybe two months, if not more.

25 Q. Thank you very much. And which was the furthest point from

Witness: Witness CAR-OTP-PPPP-0063 (Resumed) (Open Session)
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1 Bangui that you went to?

2 A. Thank you. The furthest point from Bangui which I went to is
3 Bossémbélé. I went there on a Thursday, and the next day, which was a
4 Friday, I went to Damara; and then on Saturday, that was the end of all
5 the events.

6 Q. Thank you, sir, that's very helpful. Did you during the period
7 that you were following the Banyamulenge go to Sibut?

8 A. I did not go right to Sibut because the events in Sibut did not
9 concern me.

10 Q. How close did you go to Sibut?

11 A. Thank you very much. I did not go to Sibut.

12 Q. Do you know where the Banyamulenge forces went after they left
13 Damara?

14 A. Thank you very much. I don't know. If I knew anything about it,
15 I would have provided you with an answer, but I do not know.

16 Q. Do you not know even the direction they went in, towards which
17 town?

18 A. There is only one road to Damara. We don't have two roads
19 leading to Damara.

20 Q. I want to ask you about your description of the arrival of a
21 helicopter. Was that towards the end of the period of time that you were
22 following the Banyamulenge?

23 A. Thank you very much. I started to go to Damara well before that.
24 It was three weeks after that the helicopter landed in Damara.

25 Q. Thank you. That's very helpful of you. And for how many weeks

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1 in total did you go to Damara, do you remember?

2 A. Thank you very much. I did not calculate, but you are
3 questioning me about the duration of my stay there. I am not in a
4 position to answer you because I do not know.

5 Q. Very well. What time of the day did the helicopter arrive?

6 A. Probably around 11.00 a.m. or noon.

7 Q. And could you see it descend from the sky?

8 A. Thank you very much. The helicopter is a craft that flies in the
9 sky. Now, if I tell you that it landed, this must mean that it landed
10 indeed. And when it took off on its return to where it came from, I was
11 present and I saw it. So I was there when the helicopter landed and I
12 was there when it took off, and I left after it had taken off.

13 Q. And how long was it there for?

14 A. It was on the ground for some 30 minutes before taking off.

15 Q. And from what you knew, what was the purpose of its going there?

16 A. I do not know. Although you are asking me the question, what I
17 can tell you is that I don't know. All I know is that a helicopter
18 landed in Damara.

19 Q. Well, I wonder if you could just clarify something for me if we
20 have a look at your interviews. This I think is document number 4 on the
21 Defence list and the ERN number is CAR-OTP-0034-0364. I'm going to read
22 just one question and answer to you and I'm going to see if you can
23 clarify for us something you've just said. You were asked:

24 "You told us that the house that Mustapha was staying in belonged
25 to Mr. Sorongope. Can you please tell us how you know that?"

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1 And you said:

2 "I knew it because I used to take the way to go to Damara, Sibut,
3 and Bandoro."

4 Did you or did you not go to Sibut during this period?

5 A. Thank you. You asked me whether I went to Sibut when the
6 Banyamulenge were on the ground, and my answer was no. When the
7 Banyamulenge were still in Central Africa, I did not go to Bandoro. Now
8 you have put a question to me about Sorongope's house. It is true that
9 they occupied Sorongope's house and that was my testimony and it is the
10 truth.

11 MR. HAYNES: Can we go --

12 JUDGE ALUOCH: Sorry, I just want to find out -- to establish
13 that there is no confusion. The question that you posed was - I'm just
14 looking for it - Mr. Haynes, I rather have the impression that when the
15 witness gave this answer, "I knew it because I used to take the way to go
16 to Damara, Sibut, and Bandoro," I have the feeling that this is not
17 necessarily during that period. I don't know, but it's not restricted to
18 that period when the MLPC troops were on the ground. That's the feeling
19 I have, but I may be wrong.

20 MR. HAYNES: Can we go into private session, please.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Court Officer, please, let's go into
22 private session.

23 *(Private session at 2.56 p.m.) Reclassified as Open session

24 COURT OFFICER: We are in private session, Madam President.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Mr. Haynes.

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1 MR. HAYNES: Thank you.

2 Q. (Redacted) Mustapha and his family?

3 (Redacted) Mustapha in Damara, in

4 Sorongope's house which is located in Damara.

5 Q. (Redacted) Mr. Sorongope's farm (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 A. What are you talking about, counsel? Are you talking about the

8 (Redacted) Sorongope's father's farm? Or are you talking about the

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted) Sorongope's house? I am somewhat confused, Counsel, as to the
11 nature of your question.

12 Q. I quite understand and that is my fault, sir. What you said in
13 your interview was:

14 "Before the coming of the Banyamulenge, Mr. Sorongope's farm was
15 destroyed (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 When before the coming of the Banyamulenge was Mr. Sorongope's
18 farm destroyed?

19 A. Thank you. The events overlapped. Several things happened. I

20 (Redacted) Sorongope's father's farm

21 when the Banyamulenge were in Damara and not before they arrived there.

22 Q. Thank you. And was Mr. Sorongope's father a member of the MLPC?

23 A. Sorongope is a member of the MLPC. Where it concerns the father

24 of Sorongope, I know nothing. That person is still alive, so you can ask

25 him.

Witness: Witness CAR-OTP-PPPP-0063 (Resumed) (Private Session)
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1 Q. Do you know who destroyed his farm?

2 A. The destruction took place before (Redacted)

3 (Redacted). I wasn't there at present, I wasn't an eye-witness when the
4 farm was being destroyed.

5 Q. But do you know Mr. Sorongope?

6 A. At the start of my testimony I said that Mr. Sorongope was a
7 Central African minister. I knew him and his residence, his house.

8 Q. (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted) the police station, to the gendarmerie, to

15 (Redacted) I didn't have the time or the opportunity to talk to

16 him with regards to the details. (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 Q. Is that a gendarmerie in the centre of Bangui?

19 A. The gendarmerie brigade is not in the centre -- is not in the
20 town centre. It is towards the river, going towards the Sofitel hotel.

21 Q. Thank you. (Redacted)

22 (Redacted) the helicopter; that's right, isn't it?

23 A. Yes, that's correct.

24 Q. Why not?

25 A. Thank you very much, counsel. (Redacted)

Witness: Witness CAR-OTP-PPPP-0063 (Resumed) (Private Session)
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1 helicopters, today I wouldn't be before you testifying. Do you
2 understand the situation like that?

3 Q. But you were very far away from it and you could see it
4 descending from the sky; is that correct?

5 A. You know, a helicopter flies in the sky. Even if I'm far away, I
6 can hear the noise of the motor and I can see it. The kilometre was
7 about 3 kilometres away from where I was. The helicopter descended and
8 arrived at a place 1 kilometre from where I was.

9 MR. HAYNES: Could we have a look, please, at document 24 in the
10 Defence list, and that's a photograph, the last four numbers of the ERN
11 are 0223.

12 Q. I think we know what that is a photograph of, but it's not
13 terribly clear on the screen. That's a photograph of a piece of
14 artillery, isn't it?

15 Did you hear my last question?

16 A. You didn't ask me a question. You said that what was on the
17 screen was a piece of artillery, but as you're stating yourself that it's
18 a piece of artillery, what am I supposed to say? That's not a question,
19 is it?

20 Q. Fine. Can you give us some idea how large the wheels are that we
21 see in the photograph that the artillery is supported by?

22 A. Thank you very much, counsel. The piece which is on the screen
23 which you call piece of artillery - that's not something I said - well, I
24 can't tell you what the size of the wheels is. I don't know what the use
25 of it is. I don't know if in your country you go hunting with this type

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1 of weapon. In my opinion, in my country this is something that's used
2 for war, it's for killing. I find it difficult to imagine a hunter using
3 a piece of machinery such as this to hunt animals. If you have any more
4 questions to put to me, please go ahead.

5 Q. When the helicopter was descending, could you see that piece of
6 machinery?

7 A. Thank you very much. I didn't get close to it. I think I
8 answered one of your questions. (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 Q. (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted). When the helicopter landed there were Banyamulenge
16 who were next to me and we were pushed back. And I saw that around me
17 there were some Banyamulenge, that all the people who came from Bangui
18 were put somewhere; and it was only afterwards that they authorised for
19 people to come through. I don't know what answer I can give you more
20 than that.

21 Q. The gun which we see in that picture wasn't, as it were, hanging
22 from the bottom of the helicopter that you saw, was it?

23 A. Thank you very much. When the helicopter had not yet landed, I
24 didn't have the opportunity to see this piece of artillery. It was only
25 afterwards that the helicopter did land and I was able to see this piece.

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1 Q. But that is what I've been asking you. Did you see the
2 helicopter coming down out of the sky?

3 A. I saw the helicopter landing. What I said to you was that it
4 landed in the field which was left of the house of Sorongope.

5 Q. And was there anything suspended from it as it was coming down?

6 A. Thank you very much. I think I wasn't very far from this
7 helicopter. It was a large helicopter, but to say that there was an
8 object suspended from it, well, I didn't see anything like that. And I
9 think I said that the upper part of the helicopter was white and the
10 lower part was blue.

11 JUDGE ALUOCH: Mr. Haynes.

12 MR. HAYNES: Your Honour.

13 JUDGE ALUOCH: I have a feeling that this question has not been
14 understood, "Did you see anything suspended from it coming from down."
15 Why do I think it's not been understood by the witness? Do you want to
16 rephrase it, please?

17 MR. HAYNES: Certainly.

18 JUDGE ALUOCH: Yeah.

19 MR. HAYNES: I'll do my best.

20 Q. Was something like that, a big gun, hanging down underneath the
21 helicopter as it came out of the sky?

22 A. Thank you very much. I think I answered this question. Perhaps
23 you didn't understand my answer. I think I said that when the helicopter
24 landed, I saw it. It had the lower part which was white and the upper
25 part which was blue. And after the landing the start of the

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1 helicopter -- well, the next day I saw this piece of artillery. And in
2 this place there wasn't just this piece of artillery, there were other
3 pieces of artillery as well. And in front of it there were 12 guns, 6 of
4 the others, and they were facing the other way. If you hadn't seen them,
5 I would ask you to pay attention because there wasn't just this piece of
6 artillery. There were others as well.

7 Q. And the place where the helicopter came down you told us was
8 1 kilometre away from where you were standing; is that right?

9 A. I didn't speak about a kilometre. What I said was that the
10 helicopter landed in a field next to the house of Sorongope and the
11 distance was not a kilometre, not even 500 metres.

12 Q. Well, forgive me, Mr. Witness, we can go back in the transcript
13 and find it, but I think you did tell us that the helicopter came down a
14 kilometre away from where you were standing. Was that a misunderstanding
15 or a mistranslation of what you said?

16 Did you hear my last question?

17 A. I'm waiting for your question.

18 Q. Do you recall telling us earlier this afternoon that the
19 helicopter came down a kilometre away from where you were standing?

20 A. Thank you. I didn't say that it was 1 kilometre away. I said it
21 wasn't very far from the house of Sorongope.

22 Q. (Previous translation continues) ... realtime transcript today
23 page 8, lines 5 to 6:

24 "The helicopter descended and arrived at a place 1 kilometre from
25 where I was."

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1 Did you or did you not say that earlier today?

2 A. I don't know. Do you want me to lie to you? You are forcing me
3 to lie.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Mr. Haynes, why don't you ask the
5 question again. Maybe there has been a misunderstanding. Now he just
6 said that it was close to the Sorongope's house. I think there is some
7 confusing from the place he was or whether you are talking about the
8 helicopter landing close to him. Instead of checking with the previous
9 ones, please put the question again. Otherwise, the Chamber can put on
10 your behalf.

11 MR. HAYNES: I think I'll move on in the circumstances.

12 Q. The weaponry which we see in this photograph you believed arrived
13 in that helicopter, didn't you?

14 A. Thank you very much. I think that I'm confused with regards to
15 the question you're asking. When the helicopter's on the screen, I could
16 answer or repeat what I said. (Redacted)
17 (Redacted) And when
18 I asked the question to a Banyamulenge to find out if they had had a
19 provision of weapons, they said yes. Their supreme leader was there and
20 with regards to whether the helicopter or not -- whether it was the
21 helicopter or not which had brought these weapons, I don't know. (Redacted)
22 (Redacted) If you have other
23 questions, please ask them.

24 Q. Yes. Just confirm, would you, that the helicopter was on the
25 ground for 30 minutes before it took off again.

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1 A. I don't know because I think I made this statement a long time
2 ago, but if all that is transcribed I would like to be able to read it.
3 I would like to be able to read what I said; that will make it possible
4 for me to confirm or to reject that.

5 Q. Let's leave the helicopter.

6 I want you, please, to summarise for us all of the various
7 nationalities which, according to your definition, comprised the
8 Banyamulenge. What countries in your view do Banyamulenge come from?

9 A. Thank you very much. I think that I mentioned the Ugandans. I
10 saw Rwandans. I saw Zairians, I spoke about them. (Redacted)
11 (Redacted). I saw them with my own eyes. And the nationalities
12 that I mentioned, the ones that I did see and they are of different
13 origins, and to Bossémbélé I saw them. That was not something that
14 somebody told me. From when I said that I saw them with
15 their (* as interpreted) own eyes, I met them, I don't know what other
16 question you want to ask me concerning this subject.

17 Q. And what languages do they speak?

18 A. Thank you very much. If you don't know what your client had done
19 to defend him today, if you don't know that, well, that's fine. I don't
20 know what the languages are. I don't know what you're speaking about. I
21 didn't put them into the world to know what languages they spoke.

22 Q. Well, did you meet people who you call Banyamulenge who spoke
23 Sango?

24 A. Thank you very much. I didn't meet them -- or rather, I met them
25 in the Central African Republic (Redacted) And you can

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1 (Redacted) I didn't meet them before that. I met them in the
2 Central African Republic. (Redacted) in the
3 Central African Republic, but I didn't know them before that.

4 Q. I'm going to put the questions very simply. Do some of the
5 people you call Banyamulenge speak Sango?

6 A. Thank you very much. I told you that among them some of them
7 spoke Sango. I gave the example of (Redacted). I also gave the example
8 of shoe shiners who were amongst them, as well as all the others who were
9 close; for example, people who lived on the neighbouring part to the
10 Central African Republic, those people who lived close on the borders
11 also spoke Sango.

12 Q. And did some of them speak Mandja?

13 A. Thank you very much, Counsel.

14 If you don't have any other questions for me, I think you can
15 stop there. Some of them spoke Mandja, but I'm sorry a short while ago
16 you asked me about the origins of the Mandja and I think that the Mandja
17 people -- some of them at least came from Zaire, if this can be useful to
18 you. I would rather not have to answer any further questions on this
19 topic.

20 Q. Did some of them speak Swahili?

21 A. I said so and I acknowledge that I have already stated that some
22 of them spoke Swahili.

23 Q. Did you meet Banyamulenge who spoke Sango in PK 12?

24 A. Yes. They were speaking Sango at PK 12 and even at Damara.

25 Q. And did you meet Rwandans in PK 12?

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1 A. Thank you very much. PK 12 after Damara or after Bossémbélé?

2 Where is it located? It is well after -- or it is well ahead of Damara.

3 You cannot get to Damara without going through PK 12. So they went by PK

4 12.

5 Q. Were there any Rwandans amongst the soldiers you met in PK 12?

6 A. Thank you very much. I think I have already answered that

7 question.

8 Madam President, Counsel appears to me to feel or have the

9 impression that I am angry or annoyed. Maybe he doesn't have any other

10 questions for me. So, Madam President, I don't know what answers to

11 provide.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Mr. Witness, I think it's visible that

13 you are tired. I got the impression that Defence counsel just wants to

14 summarise what you have already said.

15 Am I correct, Mr. Haynes?

16 MR. HAYNES: Your Honour, yes. And perhaps I can shorten it a

17 little bit.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: The witness is visibly tired.

19 So it will be, Mr. Witness, only to finalise, summarising what

20 you have already said. Please don't be upset. It's just a final

21 summary. So you can answer the questions if you know the answers, of

22 course.

23 Mr. Haynes.

24 MR. HAYNES: Your Honour, in fact what I will do is I will skip

25 the summary and just ask some questions which I don't believe the witness

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1 has answered.

2 Q. Who are the Mono and where do they come from?

3 A. Thank you very much. You said "they." Which "they" are you
4 referring to? I don't know how to answer your question. Who is the
5 "they" you are referring to?

6 Q. The Mono, a group of people you have mentioned in your evidence.

7 A. Thank you, counsel. That is a beautiful question. If I
8 backtrack I would recall that at the beginning of my testimony I took the
9 oath to tell the truth, and I believe that if you want to defend somebody
10 whom you have known from your childhood days, if you know that person's
11 background we will not be spinning in circles as we are doing here. You
12 see, in our country, Mono, Mono is a word that is used to refer to all
13 people from Zaire. Then you have the Mono Touangande (* phon) which is
14 an ethnic group on the other side of the river. That is my answer to
15 your question.

16 Q. Thank you. What language did the Rwandan soldiers speak?

17 A. Thank you. You see, I have come here and in this courtroom you
18 are speaking English, someone is interpreting into Sango, and I am able
19 to understand. The same happened for the Ugandans, the Congolese, and
20 the Rwandans.

21 Q. Well, I was coming on to the Ugandans. What language did they
22 speak?

23 A. Thank you, Counsel. I refer you to my previous answer. In this
24 courtroom I am speaking in Sango and my testimony is being interpreted to
25 you in English and you can understand clearly. This is the same

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1 procedure that was used for the Rwandans and the Banyamulenge who were
2 operating in Damara, PK 12, Bossémbélé, 4th Arrondissement Crossroads,
3 and this is exactly the procedure that was used during communication.

4 Q. Very well. So, for example, were you able to observe how
5 soldiers from Uganda communicated with people who spoke Mandja?

6 A. Thank you, counsel. The Central African Republic shares borders
7 with Zaire and there were Zairian people who speak Sango. Uganda also
8 shares border with the Central African Republic and there are Ugandans
9 who speak Zairian languages. The Ugandans went through Zaire before
10 coming to our country, the Central African Republic, so they were able to
11 understand each other and that is how they were able to work together
12 with that kind of understanding.

13 Q. And how were you able to communicate with Ugandans?

14 A. Thank you. I am here in this courtroom. How am I able to
15 communicate with you? How is it that you are able to understand me and
16 answer me? How are things unfolding, Counsel, between you and I?

17 Q. Very well. I just want your help about one issue that we have
18 touched on before and I think we can go into open session for this, and
19 can we look at a Defence document 4, CAR-OTP-0034-0382?

20 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: You say you want to go into open
21 session, Mr. Haynes?

22 MR. HAYNES: Your Honour, yes.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Court Officer, please.

24 (Open session at 3.43 p.m.)

25 COURT OFFICER: We are in open session, Madam President.

Witness: Witness CAR-OTP-PPPP-0063 (Resumed) (Open Session)
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1 MR. HAYNES:

2 Q. Sir, I'm going to read just one reply that you gave in your
3 interview and then ask you for two or three comments on it. Will you use
4 the usual system we have of indicating when the translation has finished.
5 You said:

6 "My sister-in-law, the younger sister of my wife, was living in
7 Damara. That was one case of a girl who was freely going out with the
8 Banyamulenge. Even now, some of the Banyamulenge are still living with
9 the girls they found in Damara. They crossed the river, the Oubangui
10 river, to Zongo, and are living with them."

11 Was your sister-in-law a citizen of the Central African Republic?

12 A. Thank you. In the white people's country, they would have been
13 referring to her as cousin, but my cousin is my wife's sister and she
14 lived in Damara. When the Banyamulenge got there, they found her there
15 and the Banyamulenge started going out with the girls in that area and
16 became their women or their wives. Some of the women who went with the
17 Banyamulenge at that time crossed over and have not returned home to this
18 day. You see, I cannot lie to you. Some of those Banyamulenge
19 misbehaved and they forcibly took the women, but I cannot lie about these
20 things. I did not come here to lie. So you see, when soldiers take over
21 an area, their behaviour is such that people can testify as to whether
22 they misbehaved or whether they behaved properly.

23 Q. Were other women who went out freely with the Banyamulenge
24 citizens of the Central African Republic?

25 A. I believe that during that period when there was gun-fire, there

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1 was a slogan in the country which called on the men to flee and on the
2 women to stay back. That is how the men fled. I don't know whether you
3 listened to the news, but currently in *Côte d'Ivoire* most of the dead
4 bodies that we saw on television were dead bodies of men. So men were
5 the ones who fled. Now, when you get to an area as a soldier where the
6 men have fled, what happens? You take over the women. Is that not the
7 case?

8 Q. Did some of these women come from PK 5 to go to Damara and go out
9 freely with the Banyamulenge?

10 A. Thank you, Counsel. If you are referring to women from PK 5,
11 then that would be the Zairian women who were the women of Bemba's
12 soldiers who crossed over the river. Those women crossed the river to
13 live in PK 5 in order to be with their husbands and to collect property
14 that was looted from stores and from private homes and to take them back
15 across the river. So those women were not Central African women; they
16 were women from Zaire.

17 Q. But girls like your sister-in-law were, weren't they, Central
18 African women?

19 A. Thank you. You have just talked about women from PK 5 and now
20 you're talking about Damara. I have already answered the question on my
21 sister-in-law, but when a -- when soldiers take over houses and forcibly
22 take these women, what do you expect me to say? Those soldiers had
23 already taken those women before I got to Damara, and when I got there
24 the soldiers were in the houses with the soldiers (* as interpreted).
25 And all I could do was joke and say, "Oh, so now you are living with the

1 Banyamulenge?" And move on. I had nothing else to say.

2 Q. So did you see your sister-in-law in Damara?

3 A. Thank you. So this is the same question you're asking again, to
4 which I have already provided an answer.

5 Q. Does your sister-in-law still live in the
6 Central African Republic?

7 A. Thank you. I do not know anything about her now.

8 Q. Sir, thank you very much. I'm not going to ask you any further
9 questions.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Thank you, Mr. Haynes.

11 Mr. Witness, that now concludes your evidence -- I'm really
12 sorry.

13 First I have to ask whether Prosecution intends to re-direct.

14 MR. IVERSON: Madam President, you must have read my mind because
15 we don't have any questions for re-direct.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: In any case, I apologise.

17 We finish now with your testimony, sir, and you are now
18 completely free to leave the court and to go back to your country.

19 Before you leave, however, I want, as with all of the witnesses that come
20 to this Court, I want to express the thanks of the Judges for the time
21 and trouble you had to come to this country and to give evidence in this
22 trial.

23 In order for the Judges to find the truth, it is critical that
24 witnesses such as yourself are prepared and willing to give evidence to
25 assist us on the relevant issues of the case. We are aware that this

1 would certainly have been inconvenient for you. You stayed here for
2 almost three weeks and we know how difficult for you it must have been.
3 You therefore leave us in order to go home with our thanks. But before
4 you go, Mr. Witness, I would like to ask you whether there is anything
5 that you would like to say to the Chamber. We are here to listen from
6 you.

7 THE WITNESS: (Interpretation) Thank you, Madam President. I
8 would like to thank all parties here present. I would like to thank
9 particularly the lawyers, the Judges, the journalists, and all other
10 media. I also want to thank and appreciate international justice. I did
11 not know or think that distinguished persons like Bemba and other
12 deceased persons could one day have to appear before the Courts because
13 they are extremely rich people. These very rich people tend to minimise
14 others -- other human beings and take them for deadwood, so to speak.
15 And I want to say thank God for justice.

16 You, Madam President, are the ones who are able to make those
17 judicial decisions on people like Mr. Bemba and Mr. Patasse. All I ask
18 is that God would bless justice and bless you so that you may fully
19 discharge your duties. Thank you.

20 THE INTERPRETER: (Microphone activated)

21 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: (Previous translation continues) ... is
22 being broadcast to the whole court.

23 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, we just wanted to add Patasse, your
24 Honour.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE STEINER: Thank you very much.

1 Mr. Witness, again, thank you very much and we wish you have a
2 very nice, calm trip back to your home country. And for sure VWU will
3 continue assisting you in case you need any kind of assistance.

4 Before we go into closed session, I just wanted to thank very
5 much the Prosecution team, the Legal Representatives of Victims, the
6 Defence team, Mr. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, our Court Officer,
7 Court Usher, our interpreters and court reporters. We are going to
8 adjourn for today. I am informed by VWU that Witness 209 is ready to
9 start tomorrow morning, so we will resume tomorrow at 9.30 in the
10 morning, but since now I would like to inform the parties and
11 participants that we'll have only the morning session. The witness has a
12 medical appointment in the afternoon.

13 Mr. Witness, again, thank you very much and good-bye.

14 Court Officer, please turn into closed session for the witness to
15 be taken outside the courtroom. In the meantime we are going to adjourn
16 and resume tomorrow morning at 9.30 in this same courtroom.

17 *(Closed session at 4.01 p.m.) Reclassified as Open session

18 COURT OFFICER: We are in closed session, Madam President.

19 (The witness withdrew)

20 COURT OFFICER: All rise.

21 The hearing ends at 4.01 p.m.

22 RECLASSIFICATION REPORT

23 Pursuant to Trial Chamber III 's Orders, ICC-01/05-01/08-2223 and
24 ICC-01/05-01/08-3038 and the instructions in the email dated 24 October 2014, the
25 version of the transcript with its redactions becomes Public