

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CIV-OTP-P-0500

(Open Session)

ICC-02/11-01/15

1 International Criminal Court
2 Trial Chamber I
3 Situation: Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé
5 ICC-02/11-01/15
6 Presiding Judge Cuno Tarfusser, Judge Geoffrey Henderson and
7 Judge Olga Herrera Carbuccion
8 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 1
9 Tuesday, 29 August 2017
10 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.32 a.m.)
11 THE COURT USHER: [9:32:17] All rise.
12 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
13 Please be seated.
14 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [9:32:49] Good morning. Good morning to
15 you, Mr Witness. We start immediately today and we continue with the questioning
16 by the Defence for Mr Gbagbo and to that effect I give immediately the floor to
17 Maître Altit.
18 MR ALTIT: [9:33:38] (Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour.
19 WITNESS: CIV-OTP-P-0500 (On former oath)
20 (The witness speaks French)
21 QUESTIONED BY MR ALTIT: (Continuing)(Interpretation)
22 Q. [9:33:48] Good morning, Mr Witness.
23 A. [9:33:52] Good morning.
24 Q. [9:33:55] Witness, I'd like to continue where we left off yesterday and you'll
25 recall that we were talking about the events that took place at the presidential

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1 residence.

2 A. [9:34:09] Yes.

3 Q. [9:34:11] Yesterday, you explained to us that you and a number of other young
4 people spent the night on the tarps just outside the residence.

5 A. [9:34:23] Yes.

6 Q. [9:34:24] I'd like to know the following: You told us that there were
7 between 100 and 200 young people that had mobilised to go to the residence roughly
8 at the same time as you yourself, and that they were between 100 and 200; do you
9 remember saying that?

10 A. [9:34:47] Yes.

11 Q. [9:34:48] My question is, did all of those young people spend the night on the
12 tarps near where you yourself spent the night; in other words, were you all grouped
13 together?

14 A. [9:34:58] No, those young people came because there was music at one point
15 and so some of them went home and some of them stayed, but the majority went
16 home.

17 Q. [9:35:20] Very well. And amongst those who remained before the attack you
18 referred to, in particular the helicopter attacks --

19 A. [9:35:35] Yes.

20 Q. [9:35:35] -- were they armed or not? I'm referring to the period before the
21 helicopter attack.

22 A. [9:35:43] No, they were not armed.

23 Q. [9:35:45] Very well. You spoke about your -- the chief, the leader, the
24 so-called Tchang, and you said he was in charge of the group of young people you
25 were a part of; is that correct?

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1 A. [9:36:14] Yes, that's correct.

2 Q. [9:36:17] Did I understand correctly that you told us he wasn't a soldier, he
3 wasn't a part of the military but he was a security guard. Did I understand your
4 testimony correctly?

5 A. [9:36:31] Yes.

6 Q. [9:36:31] Very well. So, Tchang and the group that he was the head of, what
7 was their mission exactly? Am I to understand from your testimony that since you
8 spent the night outside of the residence, the mission was to protect the entry to the
9 residence; was that the purpose of the mission?

10 A. [9:37:07] Well, first of all, all of the young people who came there, who arrived
11 for the music, et cetera, but when I came from Lauriers I was with three of my friends.
12 I left Lauriers and I became part of a group because all of the cities around
13 Côte d'Ivoire were being taken over. I was a former combatant so I couldn't just stay
14 put. I had to go somewhere to contribute to the security. And when I got to the
15 residence there was music playing, and I saw young people, and that's where I saw
16 Tchang. And Tchang accepted to take me into his group because I told him I was a
17 former combatant. And so he took me into his group with some other young people
18 who were there.

19 I stayed with Tchang there for quite some time, about three days, before I left to go to
20 the gendarmerie academy. And there, at the academy, when I was there, I was no
21 longer with Tchang at that point.

22 Q. [9:38:38] Okay. Now, as regards Tchang when you were with him -- and I'm
23 only asking you to tell us if you know. What was his idea, what was his intention?
24 Was it to stay close to the entry of the residence, to protect it, or did he have some
25 other mission? Do you know?

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1 A. [9:39:06] I believe that the mission was to be able to defend the entire
2 perimeter, that is, the residence and all the tarps. The entire area, the entire
3 perimeter.

4 Q. [9:39:27] Okay. Is it fair to say -- and here I'm referring to the period before
5 you went to the gendarmerie academy, a few days before. Is it correct to say that
6 during that period of a few days when you were with Tchang, you did not enter the
7 actual perimeter of the residence?

8 A. [9:39:53] Indeed, I did not enter into the perimeter of the residence.

9 Q. [9:40:00] Very well. Before you went to the gendarmerie academy did you
10 have a fire weapon?

11 A. [9:40:08] No, I didn't.

12 Q. [9:40:09] Did the other members of the group have fire weapons?

13 A. [9:40:13] No, they didn't.

14 Q. [9:40:15] Very well. Afterwards, you told us you went to the gendarme
15 academy in a military cargo.

16 A. [9:40:36] Yes.

17 Q. [9:40:37] Do you remember you told us this was a few days after you got to the
18 perimeter of the residence, but do you remember exactly or roughly the day when
19 you went to the gendarmerie academy?

20 A. [9:40:54] I think it was around the 4th or the 5th. I'm not sure.

21 Q. [9:41:00] You're referring to the 4th or 5th of April?

22 A. [9:41:04] Yes, 4th or 5th of April.

23 Q. [9:41:07] Very well. If I understood correctly what you've told us, and correct
24 me if I'm wrong, as soon as you got to the gendarme academy there was a rebel attack;
25 is that correct?

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1 A. [9:41:22] Yes, there was an attack.

2 Q. [9:41:24] Okay. Who were those rebels, if you know?

3 A. [9:41:31] They were the FRCI members. They were the ones who were
4 attacking many places around Côte d'Ivoire, including the gendarme academy.

5 Q. [9:41:43] Very well. Do you know who attacked those -- who commanded,
6 rather, those rebels, the ones who attacked the academy?

7 A. [9:42:01] No, I don't.

8 Q. [9:42:03] Do you know whether the rebels who were attacking both the
9 residence and the academy, and perhaps other places in the area, do you know if they
10 committed any crimes? Do you know whether they had committed any crimes?

11 A. [9:42:18] Yes, they did commit crimes; they did indeed commit crimes.

12 Q. [9:42:23] What kind of crimes?

13 A. [9:42:31] At the gendarme academy we lost a friend.

14 Q. [9:42:40] Were other crimes committed by them, maybe other days? Not
15 necessarily the day of the attack, but during that period, did they commit other crimes
16 that you know about?

17 A. [9:42:58] There were other crimes, but I don't have specific knowledge of those
18 other crimes. What I told you is what I know of.

19 Q. [9:43:08] Very well. You told us that at the academy you went into a room
20 and you saw -- you found a weapon that you took.

21 A. [9:43:27] Yes.

22 Q. [9:43:29] And you said it was a MARS-36; is that correct?

23 A. [9:43:41] No, the MARS-36 was given to me by someone, but afterwards, when
24 I went into a room and I looked around and I found an AK-47, an AK-47.

25 Q. [9:44:03] Very well. So you got to the gendarme academy; there was a first

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1 attack, a rebel attack. How many days did you stay there?

2 A. [9:44:30] Well, we spent a day. We got there in the morning and
3 around 5 o'clock the attack began and the FRCI was supported by a helicopter. And
4 the fighting lasted until 7 o'clock in the morning. And at 7 o'clock everything
5 stopped. And we waited till about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and then we went back.

6 Q. [9:45:10] Okay. You said they were supported by helicopters?

7 A. [9:45:15] One helicopter.

8 Q. [9:45:22] What nationality was the helicopter?

9 A. [9:45:25] A French helicopter.

10 Q. [9:45:27] And the helicopter was shooting -- was shooting at the government
11 forces on the FDS; is that correct?

12 A. [9:45:41] Yes.

13 Q. [9:45:44] This was at the academy, the gendarme academy. Can you describe
14 it?

15 A. [9:45:51] The gendarme academy is in Cocody, in Abidjan, and it's -- it's on the
16 road. Well, it's near Carrefour de la Vie and it's right near the Sodefor. I think it's a
17 Shell gas station, right there.

18 Q. [9:46:24] Very well. Then you said you went back to the residence.

19 A. [9:46:34] Yes.

20 Q. [9:46:34] And that you left on April 13th; is that correct?

21 A. [9:46:38] Yes.

22 Q. [9:46:40] After you left the residence, the days following the 13th, the 14th,
23 15th or 16th, were you arrested at any point in time either by the rebels or by any
24 other group?

25 A. [9:47:03] No, I was not arrested.

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1 Q. [9:47:11] Very well. You've never been in prison?

2 A. [9:47:21] Well, it was some time around 1992 when there was a student strike
3 and they took us to the Agban gendarme station and they -- that was
4 February 13th, 1992, and they took me to the courthouse.

5 Q. [9:47:55] Very well. In 2010, 2011, during the crisis, can you tell us what this
6 situation was, according to your knowledge, to the western part of country?

7 A. [9:48:10] In 2010?

8 Q. [9:48:12] Yes, 2010, 2011. Perhaps I can rephrase my question. Had the
9 rebels attacked the western part of the country?

10 A. [9:48:20] In 2010 I was no longer in the west; I was in Abidjan. I was at
11 Lauriers.

12 Q. [9:48:35] So you don't know and you didn't know at the time what was going
13 on in the western part of the country?

14 A. [9:48:42] That's correct, I didn't know.

15 Q. [9:48:50] Very well. I'd like to try to clarify something you said yesterday,
16 because you told us a lot of things. When you got back in contact with
17 Maho Glofiéhi in 2006, if I understood correctly, was that the first time that you tried
18 to restore contact with him since 2003, that is, since you left the western part of the
19 country? Do you understand my question or do you want me to rephrase it?

20 A. [9:49:23] Yes, please, rephrase it.

21 Q. [9:49:25] Yesterday you said you got in contact with Maho Glofiéhi in 2006; is
22 that correct?

23 A. [9:49:30] Yes.

24 Q. [9:49:32] In addition, yesterday, you said you'd left the western part of the
25 country and, therefore, you left Maho Glofiéhi in September of 2003. So my question

1 is, between September 2003 and June 2006 were you in contact with Maho Glofiéhi at
2 all?

3 A. [9:49:50] No.

4 Q. [9:49:56] Very well. Yesterday you also stated that in September of 2003 you
5 left Guiglo because you had forced Maho to take you back to Abidjan. So my
6 question is, how did you go about forcing him?

7 A. [9:50:28] Well, in the beginning we talked to him to find out because based on
8 what we were told if everything goes well we will be able to join the army. And so
9 we went to see Maho, and it's true that we hadn't been fighting, but we had -- Maho
10 had trained us a bit with weapons. And then there was the ceasefire. So we began
11 to wonder what was going to happen. We'd been trained with Maho and then
12 nothing happened. So we wanted to go back to Abidjan because things had calmed
13 down and Maho had -- wasn't saying anything to us. So we decided we would go
14 on a strike and march through the town so that Maho would really understand that
15 we wanted to go home. And that coincided with the arrival of the gendarme
16 Sans-Manquer, and he came and there was fighting near the station at night. And
17 the young people -- one young fellow was shot in his thigh.
18 And so we were angry that night. It was dark. And so we decided to calm things
19 down until the next morning, and the next morning we went to the gendarmerie.
20 Again, we demonstrated. And that's when Maho came and we said, okay, enough is
21 enough; we have to go back to Abidjan. We can't continue staying here and -- with
22 people shooting at us.
23 And somebody said that this young person was hit in Duékoué, and somebody said,
24 well, we have to distract them. We had gotten angry during the night because some
25 people wanted to take over Guiglo. Basically, they were trying to make us angry.

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1 And once we rebelled, others would come and join the demonstration and take over
2 Guiglo. But thank God it didn't happen like that.
3 So that's basically how we put pressure on him. We said we can't stay here. We
4 said we have to go back to Abidjan. That's why he accepted and we were able to go
5 back to Abidjan.

6 Q. [9:53:19] Was there any violence against Maho?

7 A. [9:53:22] No.

8 Q. [9:53:28] I'd like to read out a portion of your statement given to the Office of
9 the Prosecutor. It is CIV-OTP-0085-1801, page 1815, lines 1474 to 47 --

10 THE INTERPRETER: The numbers were given rather rapidly. Perhaps they could
11 be repeated to be absolutely certain.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [9:54:13] Can you repeat, please?

13 MR ALTIT: [9:54:16] (Interpretation) The document is CIV-OTP-0085-1801,
14 page 1815, line 474 to 493. And page 1816, from line 494 to 499.

15 I'm quoting from the statement. I'm going to quote the entire passage, and we'll
16 come back over it to clarify various points.

17 Interviewer 2 asks you the following, and I quote:

18 But you said earlier that Maho didn't tell us anything.

19 Your answer: Nothing at all.

20 Interviewer 2: So does that mean that at that time you no longer had any contact
21 with Maho?

22 Your answer: "We didn't have any contact because -- well, there was a time -- I don't
23 remember which month it was. It might have even been early July, in July, early
24 July."

25 Interviewer 1 asks: "What year?"

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1 And you respond: "Well, 2006."

2 Interview 1 says: "Mm-hmm."

3 And you respond: "Yeah, at the beginning of July, maybe even between the end of
4 June and early July."

5 Interviewer 1 says: "Mm-hmm."

6 And you respond: "Maho came to Abidjan because he -- Maho said to people, well,
7 when you're -- when we were at the transmission centre, Maho said that the soldiers
8 who were in Abidjan were not members of the FLGO because when Samaké came
9 and was shooting and another fellow was hit by bullet fire, that's when we started to
10 go on strike, and we didn't want to listen to anybody. So we went back to Abidjan
11 because it was a problem. And even Maho -- even Maho was being criticised. And
12 at that time he'd been beaten. The colonel -- someone told us they were saying bad
13 things about everybody.

14 So just to confirm, you were talking about your departure from Guiglo?"

15 That was the end of the page, end of 493.

16 So, witness, it would appear you were saying that Maho had been beaten at the point
17 in time -- at the point in time when you wanted to leave?

18 A. [9:58:18] No, it was Yao Yao Jules who was beaten. There's a mistake here.
19 It was Yao Yao Jules who was beaten, not Maho.

20 Q. [9:58:32] Very well. So, I want things to be perfectly clear. You went back to
21 Abidjan September of 2003, you were no longer in contact with Maho -- you told us
22 that a moment ago -- until June or July of 2006; is that correct?

23 A. [9:58:51] Yes.

24 Q. [9:58:53] But in June or July 2006 you tried to get back in touch with him. So
25 my question is, was the purpose of your contacting him, was it to be on a list of

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1 veterans or former combatants so that you would be able to receive compensation?

2 A. [9:59:13] Yes, that was the purpose.

3 Q. [9:59:18] So if I understand correctly, if you hadn't been on that list, you
4 wouldn't be able to receive any money?

5 A. [9:59:25] Yes.

6 Q. [9:59:27] And, therefore, at that point in time Maho did not respond to you, so
7 you went to his hotel; is that correct?

8 A. [9:59:34] Yes.

9 Q. [9:59:34] Very well. And at that point in time, if I understood what you said
10 yesterday, he pretended to -- he didn't respond to you and you went to his hotel; is
11 that correct?

12 A. [9:59:55] Yes.

13 Q. [9:59:58] He pretended to invite you into the hotel, but he disappeared
14 immediately; is that correct?

15 A. [10:00:03] Yes, that's correct.

16 Q. [10:00:05] So if I understand correctly the incident that took place in the hotel,
17 can you tell us when it occurred? Was it June or was it July or some other point in
18 time; when was it exactly?

19 A. [10:00:21] July.

20 Q. [10:00:23] July 2006?

21 A. [10:00:25] 2006.

22 Q. [10:00:26] Very well. And the next day, if I've understood correctly, since he
23 disappeared, you went and tried to find Maho; is that right?

24 A. [10:00:45] Yes, because we were with Nonzi and Gammi, and I think they were
25 the ones who got the phone call. Apparently, they were told that he was at the

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1 prime minister's office.

2 Q. [10:00:59] Very well. But you, you didn't go into the building of the prime
3 minister's office?

4 A. [10:01:04] No, I didn't go in there.

5 Q. [10:01:07] Very well. And you still didn't have any money, so that's --

6 THE INTERPRETER: [10:01:22] Inaudible.

7 MR ALTIT: [10:01:24] (Interpretation)

8 Q. [10:01:24] And you went back to Guiglo. Was that a few days later, a few
9 weeks later? Can you give us a timeline when you went back to Guiglo?

10 A. [10:01:34] I think it was a few days after.

11 Q. [10:01:44] And Maho himself went back to Guiglo?

12 A. [10:01:47] Maho had already gone back to Guiglo.

13 Q. [10:01:51] Very well. So when you were in Guiglo did you still continue
14 looking for Maho so he would put your name on the list?

15 A. [10:02:01] When we got there with -- what happened in Abidjan, you see,
16 Maho was kind of angry. He didn't want to meet with us, so we tried to speak to
17 Yao Yao Jules. We were thinking that he could be the go-between between us and
18 Yao. So we formed a group and went to go and see him. And ultimately he agreed,
19 but when he agreed to do this, the events had started to slow down, and then there
20 was an interruption. He had agreed, but, but ultimately there was an interruption.

21 Q. [10:02:53] Let's try to sort this out. So you're saying ultimately you never
22 were able to receive any money as a former combatant as -- or as a veteran. Well, I'll
23 put it into two questions. You never were able to get any money as a former
24 combatant?

25 A. [10:03:13] Yes.

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1 Q. [10:03:14] Okay. And the second part of my question is this: You were
2 never deemed or recognised to be a former combatant?

3 A. [10:03:22] I was on the list, but -- but then there was this interruption.

4 Q. [10:03:30] The list? List drawn up by whom?

5 A. [10:03:33] By Maho. He agreed. He drew up a list. And those of us from
6 Abidjan, he agreed -- he took our list, he accepted it, but -- but you see -- but then the
7 disarmament was interrupted.

8 Q. [10:03:49] This list, did you see it yourself? This list that Maho took or agreed
9 to take? Did you see him actually taking it, accepting it?

10 A. [10:04:07] I am the one who wrote it. I gave it to one of our guys who had
11 been chosen as spokesperson. I gave it to him and he gave it to Maho.

12 Q. [10:04:30] So you don't know what Maho did with the list?

13 A. [10:04:33] No, I don't know.

14 Q. [10:04:34] Very well. Thus, once again just to clear things up, you told us that
15 you went back to Abidjan 7 December 2008?

16 A. [10:04:50] Yes.

17 Q. [10:04:52] Now, between late 2006, or in the middle of 2006, in Guiglo, and 7
18 December 2008, you spent the whole time in Guiglo?

19 A. [10:05:04] Yes.

20 Q. [10:05:04] Very well. The 7th December 2008 you went back to Abidjan, and
21 you're working on construction sites as a bricklayer?

22 A. [10:05:21] Yes.

23 Q. [10:05:24] Very well. You told us that during that entire period of time you
24 were living at the Lauriers site?

25 A. [10:05:40] Yes, that's right.

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1 Q. [10:05:41] And where did you live? In a house of some kind, in a building?

2 In buildings that were being constructed? Where did you actually live?

3 A. [10:05:54] When I got there -- in a container, a container. So that's where I
4 stayed. We were able to stay in a container. I was on somebody's ground or yard,
5 and there was a container there and that's where I was. My friend Aubin was in a
6 container.

7 Q. [10:06:30] Very well. So you stayed there right till the very end, during the
8 crisis as well?

9 A. [10:06:43] Yes.

10 Q. [10:06:44] Very well. Would it be fair to say that from time to time you
11 would live in houses that had been abandoned or houses that were being built?

12 A. [10:07:04] That was in 2003 when we got back from Guiglo. But when I went
13 back 7 December 2008, all that time then, that was in the container.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:07:20] Can you explain to me the relevance
15 of where the witness lived vis-à-vis the charges?

16 MR ALTIT: [10:07:34] (Interpretation) Your Honour, I do need to point out that
17 the OTP spent considerable amounts of time asking questions about the period
18 pre-2008, trying to determine what the person was doing. And I'm sure you recall
19 that yesterday the OTP asked the witness what the role of one of the generals was, or
20 one of the higher-ranking officers within the Ivorian army, and that person's place in
21 the org chart and so on and so forth. And, so you see, I believe the question was,
22 was this person a general, and now we are turning our attention to a bricklayer living
23 in a container.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:08:29] Yes, but I -- the general and -- I know
25 what yesterday was said. I just asked what is the relevance of questions about

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1 where the witness lived. So I don't see this relevance. Please.

2 MR ALTIT: [10:08:52] (Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour.

3 Q. [10:08:58] Now, sir, was Maho telling people that the people in Abidjan were
4 not members of the FLGO?

5 A. [10:09:30] Yes, that's what our friends who had remained in Guiglo were
6 reporting back to us because he was angry about what had happened in 2003.

7 Q. [10:09:46] Well, my question to you is this. He didn't recognise you as a
8 member of the FLGO. So how could you say that you were a member of the FLGO,
9 particularly after 2003?

10 A. [10:10:00] Maho recognised us as members of the FLGO. I'm saying that he
11 was angry, he was angry, and that is why he said that. Otherwise, I think in 2006 he
12 did not agree to take the list that we had drawn up. He was angry. That is why he
13 said that. He always recognised us as part of the organisation.

14 Q. [10:10:32] Very well. Would it be fair to say that after 2008 you dropped the
15 whole thing about demobilisation and compensation and you moved on to something
16 else?

17 A. [10:10:55] Yes.

18 Q. [10:10:56] Very well. And so since that time, since your attempt in Guiglo
19 between 2006 and 2008, since that time you've had no further contact with Maho?

20 A. [10:11:19] No further contact.

21 Q. [10:11:20] Very well. Yesterday you told us that you yourself had some
22 FLGO combatant cards made.

23 A. [10:11:54] Yes, that was the idea of one of my guys. Because we got to
24 Abidjan and we had a pass. We had a kind of pass, and the pass -- well, when you
25 ask for permission to go to Abidjan, they give you the pass. So we got to Abidjan

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1 and we tried to go into the bus with the pass, but you see it is not a proper bus ticket,
2 so there would be quarrels. And this young guy and his girlfriend -- well, the
3 girlfriend's name was Nadia, and we were thinking, and so instead of having these
4 problems with the bus drivers all the time, it would be better for us to have a card so
5 that we would be recognised. So that's what happened. And so it was agreed to
6 and these cards were made.

7 Q. [10:13:00] When was that? You said -- when was that, 2003?

8 A. [10:13:06] 2004.

9 THE INTERPRETER: [10:13:08] Interpreter correction: In the previous reply the
10 witness said it was Nonzi who agreed.

11 MR ALTIT: [10:13:16] (Interpretation)

12 Q. [10:13:16] These cards weren't official?

13 A. [10:13:21] No, they weren't official.

14 Q. [10:13:23] And not everyone took these cards or accepted them.

15 A. [10:13:29] Honestly, some people recognised the cards -- well, when they saw
16 the card, they would know that the card belonged to a combatant from the west. So,
17 there you have it. Otherwise, to say that they were recognised, some people
18 recognised the cards.

19 Q. [10:13:54] Very well. And yesterday you mentioned a hospital; do you
20 remember?

21 A. [10:14:03] Yes.

22 Q. [10:14:04] Same thing? You tried to use this card at the hospital to get
23 medical care?

24 A. [10:14:08] Yes.

25 Q. [10:14:11] And did you know a doctor? Was there a doctor who was

1 sympathetic to your cause?

2 A. [10:14:19] Yes. There was one doctor who was.

3 Q. [10:14:24] Very well. Now, yesterday you told us that you agreed to leave
4 in 2003 and to go to the west because there was war and people were being killed.

5 A. [10:14:51] Yes.

6 Q. [10:14:52] So my question to you, sir, is this: Who was killing the people or
7 the population?

8 A. [10:15:00] MPIGO men. Members of the MPIGO.

9 Q. [10:15:08] And what is this group, the MPIGO?

10 A. [10:15:11] It is a rebel movement. I think it was close to the MPCl. It was a
11 rebel movement.

12 Q. [10:15:19] Very well. Who made up this movement?

13 A. [10:15:34] Maho's brother said that they were Liberians, some Liberians.

14 Q. [10:15:42] Very well. So basically you're telling us that some Liberians from
15 Yacouba were attacking part of Côte d'Ivoire in the west and they were beginning to
16 kill people and that is why you went there; is that what you're telling us?

17 A. [10:16:01] Yes.

18 Q. [10:16:04] Who is the leader of this movement, MPIGO?

19 A. [10:16:11] I don't know, but I heard Doh Félix, the name of Doh Félix. I don't
20 know who he was, but that is what I was hearing about. I don't know who he was
21 exactly.

22 Q. [10:16:26] Okay. And what was the purpose of the MPIGO?

23 A. [10:16:35] To exterminate the entire population of the west. They wanted to
24 exterminate the entire population in the west.

25 Q. [10:16:43] Very well. To your knowledge, did they commit crimes?

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1 A. [10:16:54] Yes. I heard many things about them committing crimes.

2 Q. [10:16:59] Very well. Did they attack civilians?

3 A. [10:17:21] I think so.

4 Q. [10:17:22] Very well. A few moments ago you say that they -- I'm not quite
5 sure how you phrased it, but in any event you said they were part of another -- they
6 were part of another movement, MP-- no, no, no, sorry. Let me quote you. This is
7 page 20, today's French transcript, line 24, and I quote. I will try to quote, but I think
8 it's disappeared off the screen.

9 And I quote: "This is a rebel movement. It must be related to the MPCCI."

10 Can you tell us more about the links between the MPIGO and the MPCCI?

11 A. [10:18:26] To my knowledge, in September, at night, one night, Côte d'Ivoire
12 was attacked. They killed people from Côte d'Ivoire all the way to Bouaké, and then
13 they set up operations in Bouaké. And I said to myself, "They're spreading their
14 influence all the way to the west and they shouldn't be killing the people." They had
15 got all the way to Bouaké. So, you see, another group was set up to block these
16 people. And that is why --

17 THE INTERPRETER: [10:19:09] Inaudible.

18 MR ALTIT: [10:19:12] (Interpretation)

19 Q. [10:19:12] Very well. So the MPCCI also attacked members of the population?

20 A. [10:19:18] Yes, of course.

21 Q. [10:19:21] Did they commit acts of abuse, violence?

22 A. [10:19:25] Yes.

23 Q. [10:19:25] Very well. And who led the MPCCI?

24 A. [10:19:31] The MPCCI was led by Soro.

25 Q. [10:19:41] This MPIGO, was that supported by Charles Taylor?

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1 A. [10:19:45] Honestly, I don't know.

2 Q. [10:19:47] Very well. Now, in 2003 when this happened, these rebels you've
3 mentioned, the Liberians, did they occupy a number of towns in Côte d'Ivoire?

4 A. [10:20:06] When we got there, already Bloléquin had already been freed and
5 already people were saying there were problems in Bangolo, in Man, problems there
6 as well.

7 Q. [10:20:27] Very well. So before, given that the rebels were advancing, did the
8 local people flee?

9 A. [10:20:38] Yes. Once we had got to Guiglo, Guiglo was empty. Only a few
10 people remained. Guiglo was truly empty.

11 Q. [10:20:47] Very well. And there were no FDS staff, no army, no police officers
12 to defend the local people?

13 A. [10:20:58] There were some, but very few, not many.

14 Q. [10:21:05] They fled as well or did they stay?

15 A. [10:21:08] Some fled, some left the area.

16 Q. [10:21:14] Very well. So very briefly, I'm going to mention what you said to
17 the OTP Prosecutors. CIV-OTP-0085-1449, page 1481, lines 1083 to 1093. I'll quote
18 what you told the investigators.

19 Interviewee, that is to say you, you said this: "Yeah, the west was under attack and
20 most of the policemen and the others had left.

21 Uh-huh.

22 And you said: Yes, so the west was -- how can I put it? The word escapes me. It's
23 like the west was just left to its own devices. Yeah.

24 Interviewer 1: Mm-mm.

25 Interviewee: Because there were no policemen or other people with the uniforms

1 even to defend."

2 Thus, sir, can you confirm that this is what you said?

3 A. [10:23:08] Yes, I said that, but can I keep on going?

4 Q. [10:23:15] Of course.

5 A. [10:23:15] I said that because, you see, if one group is made up of 12 and then
6 only four remain, most have gone, well, that's what I said -- that's why I said what I
7 said. There still were some police officers and the like but not many.

8 Q. [10:23:37] Very well. And you said yesterday, and I'll quote just to make
9 everything crystal clear. French transcript of yesterday, page 27, line 19 to 23. I'll
10 quote what you said. You were answering a question -- well, first here's the
11 question:

12 "At the time, was the second deputy or the mayor in Guiglo?"

13 And you said, "Maho alone was there; he was the only one who stayed. The mayor
14 and the first deputy, the second deputy, all those people, I don't know where they
15 were."

16 So my question, sir, what did you mean when you said, "Maho was the only one who
17 had stayed"? Did that mean that all the other leaders had left?

18 A. [10:24:50] Maho -- you see, the mayor who's the top-ranking official, and then
19 there was the first deputy, the second deputy, all those people, they were not there.
20 So Maho was the only one who had stayed as someone who represented the
21 municipality or the city hall. He remained, he was the only one. That's what I
22 meant.

23 Q. [10:25:25] Okay. Do you mean that Maho alone took responsibility for
24 running the town and facing this rebel attack; he had taken on the responsibility?

25 A. [10:25:38] Well, he had to. It was his district. It's true that the others had left.

1 So he took -- well, he was the one who stayed behind and assumed responsibility for
2 the area, for the commune.

3 Q. [10:25:55] Very well. So was Maho a traditional chief?

4 A. [10:26:03] Yes, he was.

5 Q. [10:26:08] Very well. Would it be fair to say that at that time, at the time of
6 the rebel attack, when that attack began, Maho had become the person in charge of
7 everything that had to do with the town, defence of the town, et cetera?

8 A. [10:26:33] There was Colonel Yedess as well who was in charge of defending
9 the town.

10 Q. [10:26:40] Very well. So what you're telling us is very clear. Would it be fair
11 to say that the FLGO was a local self-defence group that had been set up in response
12 to the rebel attack; would that be fair?

13 A. [10:27:10] Yes, that's fair to say.

14 Q. [10:27:11] Very well. Very well. Just a moment.

15 Now, a quick question, yesterday you say that you left on the 27th.

16 A. [10:27:42] Yes.

17 Q. [10:27:43] Amongst the 27, were there people from all different ethnic groups,
18 all different religions?

19 A. [10:27:52] Yes.

20 Q. [10:27:52] Very well. Now, you also mentioned that there were some
21 Liberians in Guiglo in 2003. These Liberians that you've mentioned to us, you
22 remember saying?

23 A. [10:28:26] Yes.

24 Q. [10:28:27] These Liberians, how long had they been in the region for?

25 A. [10:28:35] We got there in 2003 and they were there already.

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1 Q. [10:28:41] Let me rephrase my question. Were they refugees from Liberia,
2 these Liberians you came across? Had they fled Liberia for one reason? If you
3 know so, why? What was the reason?

4 A. [10:29:00] I believe that they were Liberian refugees who had fled during that
5 time when Samuel had left power. That's what we were told.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:29:20] Why do you believe? Why do you
7 believe? And by whom were you told?

8 THE WITNESS: [10:29:31](Interpretation) Well, sometimes we would sit down with
9 Maho and we would talk with him, chat. And he liked -- sometimes he would tell us
10 how the FLGO had been set up, that sort of thing. So that's how I heard about it.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:29:51] So you heard about it from Maho that
12 the Liberians were refugees?

13 THE WITNESS: [10:30:05](Interpretation) They were Liberian refugees who had
14 come when Samuel Doe fell from power. They came and took refuge in
15 Côte d'Ivoire. And when Côte d'Ivoire was attacked, they tried to cross with them.
16 And, well, it was they were protecting the west. So that is -- he was able to get
17 those guys.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:30:31] Yes. And this you know from Maho,
19 or did you speak with the Liberians yourself?

20 THE WITNESS: [10:30:41](Interpretation) No, I didn't talk to the Liberians. I said
21 that sometimes we would sit down with Maho and chat to him when he had spare
22 time. He would talk to us about this.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:30:55] Okay. Thank you.
24 Maître Altit.

25 MR ALTIT: [10:30:58] (Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour. If I may,

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1 your Honour, I think there's a slight difference between the French and English
2 transcript. In the French version the witness says, page 26, line 13, of today's
3 transcript obviously, in answering my question, "I think that there were Liberian
4 refugees who had fled when Samuel Doe fell from power. That's what Maho told us
5 sometimes."

6 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:31:40] Well, that is more or less the English
7 version.

8 MR ALTIT: [10:32:03] In fact, your Honour, you're quite right. But when you put
9 the question, it wasn't transcribed, what I just read out. It is because you put the
10 question that there was a further answer that was the same, and now it is on the
11 transcript.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:32:21] Okay. Thank you.

13 MR ALTIT: [10:32:27] (Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour.

14 Q. [10:32:39] Sir, do you know when Samuel Doe fell from power, when did he
15 lose power, in which year?

16 A. [10:32:48] No, I don't remember.

17 Q. [10:32:51] Very well. These Liberians who had fled and who were in
18 Côte d'Ivoire and they'd been there for a long time since Samuel Doe fell from power,
19 they were in Côte d'Ivoire, what was their ethnic group, do you know that?

20 A. [10:33:23] I don't know. I don't know which ethnic group they belonged to.

21 THE INTERPRETER: And part of the witness's answer was inaudible.

22 MR ALTIT: [10:33:35] (Interpretation)

23 Q. [10:33:35] Let me put a question to you. Were they worried about the arrival
24 of Liberian Yacouba? Did they fear for their lives if this were to happen?

25 A. [10:33:46] Yes, they could have ground to fear for their lives.

1 Q. [10:33:49] Very well. Let me move on to something else now. You said
2 yesterday, you were telling us about the instant at the cathedral.

3 A. [10:34:06] Yes.

4 Q. [10:34:07] And you said that you and others had tried to occupy the cathedral
5 a second time; is that correct? And you said, and I'll quote page 66 of the French
6 transcript of yesterday, lines 23 to 25:

7 "We intended to organise a hunger strike," I'm quoting you, "So we planned to have a
8 hunger strike. There were CRS police who had asked us to move on." End of
9 quotation.

10 So you moved on, and my question is, what happened as regards this evacuation?
11 How did it come about?

12 A. [10:35:01] They forced us to leave.

13 Q. [10:35:05] Forced you how?

14 A. [10:35:15] With chicote.

15 Q. [10:35:22] Sorry, to interrupt. Let me ask this question. Chicote, I think we
16 know what this was, it is an Ivorian term, but can you come up with a synonym for
17 it?

18 A. [10:35:36] Belts, for instance, accessories that could be used in the context of
19 riots, belts or whip-like belts, bludgeons.

20 Q. [10:35:57] Did they hit you with bludgeons?

21 A. [10:36:00] Some were hit by bludgeons, some were not.

22 Q. [10:36:08] What about the use of tear gas, was that used?

23 A. [10:36:12] Yes.

24 Q. [10:36:16] Very well. I'm going to move on to something else. One moment,
25 please.

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- 1 I apologise. You referred to a list that you had typed up.
- 2 A. [10:37:00] Yes.
- 3 Q. [10:37:02] Very well. My first question then, did you write this yourself?
- 4 A. [10:37:14] Yes, I wrote it myself.
- 5 Q. [10:37:18] You didn't work with anybody else in writing it?
- 6 A. [10:37:21] I wrote it on my own and then somebody helped me have it
- 7 published.
- 8 THE INTERPRETER: [10:37:28] Interpreter's correction: Book, not list.
- 9 MR ALTIT: [10:37:32] (Interpretation)
- 10 Q. [10:37:33] Very well. Who's that person?
- 11 A. [10:37:35] It's Arnaut Karel.
- 12 Q. [10:37:42] And who is Karel Arnaut?
- 13 A. [10:37:44] Karel Arnaut is Belgian. I think he's a university professor.
- 14 Q. [10:37:51] Very well. Where did you meet Karel Arnaut?
- 15 A. [10:38:00] I met him at the Lauriers.
- 16 Q. [10:38:02] What was he doing at the Lauriers?
- 17 A. [10:38:07] He told me that he'd heard that there were veterans, formal
- 18 combatants in one of the unfinished houses at the Lauriers. So he got a young
- 19 student to go with him and they arrived there, and he asked what we were doing
- 20 there, how did we live and I tried to explain it to him.
- 21 One of my friends said, "But what you're talking about to him there, it's not what you
- 22 wrote in your book."
- 23 And I said, "This man came to find out what is happening, not to hear about my
- 24 book."
- 25 So we explained to him what happened, how we were in the west, how we came here,

1 how it is that we come to be living in these unfinished houses here. And he didn't
2 mention anything about the book. So I explained pretty much everything to him.
3 And afterwards, on the next day, he called up and said he wanted to take a look at
4 what I had written. And that's how we met.
5 I showed him, it was a piece of paper on which I'd taken notes over time, and I
6 showed it to him, and he liked it. And he asked me what I wanted to do. And I
7 said, "I'd like to have it published because it's important for it to be published. It's
8 because of what happened that parents denied their children, people lost their jobs,
9 women left their husbands, and he didn't know why it was that people -- are passing,
10 people going to the west. It was because something was happening there. So with
11 the book, maybe parents could forgive their children, maybe people could come back
12 to each other. And it's in this way that he helped me in having the book published.

13 Q. [10:40:26] Very well. Did he give you any money, Karel Arnaut?

14 A. [10:40:42] Karel gave me money. And once at the start when we were
15 beginning I said this book is very important to me. And he said to me, "You're not
16 working, you don't have anything. What I can do is to help." So it's in that way
17 that he sent me some money over time so that I could carry on.

18 Q. [10:41:20] Fine. Did Karel Arnaut play a role in your contacts with the OTP?

19 A. [10:41:26] Yes. Karel said that he'd been in touch with the Office of the
20 Prosecutor and that they would call me. And I said I was available. And then there
21 were the first investigators who contacted me for the preliminary discussions, and
22 then it led through to now.

23 Q. [10:41:54] Very well. Do you know whether Karel Arnaut ever worked for
24 the Office of the Prosecutor?

25 A. [10:42:03] Karel Arnaut, I don't know if he worked for the OTP. What I know

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1 about him is that he's a university professor, he's a researcher, he loves Côte d'Ivoire.

2 Q. [10:42:23] Very well. Did you speak to Karel Arnaut about your testimony to
3 the ICC?

4 A. [10:42:29] Yes, I spoke to him.

5 Q. [10:42:40] When did you first meet the investigators from the OTP?

6 A. [10:42:44] In 2015.

7 Q. [10:42:47] Okay. So if I understand what you said earlier, Karel Arnaut was
8 the middleman, between you and the OTP Prosecutor?

9 A. Karel said to me that he'd contacted the people from the office and they would
10 get in touch with me. And he was no longer there. And I was called up and I was
11 told they wanted to meet me.

12 Q. [10:43:22] Very well. So what was the subject matter at the first meeting that
13 you had with the investigators of the OTP?

14 A. [10:43:30] It was preliminary, a few questions were put.

15 Q. [10:43:34] Okay. Did you sign a document following that first meeting?

16 A. [10:43:42] Every time we met I signed a document.

17 Q. [10:43:48] Okay. When did you see the OTP investigators after that?

18 A. [10:44:00] I think it was last month before I came here.

19 Q. [10:44:03] Very well. So you're saying July 2017; is that right?

20 A. [10:44:08] Yes. Yes, July. Late June, early July, something like that.

21 Q. [10:44:18] I'd like to ask you who was present, but I don't want you to give the
22 names. You can say a first investigator from the OTP, a second one and if there was
23 anyone else, tell me, for instance, an interpreter, Karel Arnaut. Tell me but don't
24 give me the names, okay?

25 A. [10:44:44] Karel wasn't there. I met two young individuals, and then a man

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1 and a woman, and then a man and a woman. More recently, a man and a woman.

2 Q. [10:45:10] If I understand, that means then that you saw six different
3 investigators from the OTP; is that correct?

4 A. [10:45:17] No.

5 Q. [10:45:18] I'm talking about the different meetings?

6 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:45:21] Excuse me.

7 MR MACDONALD: Can we go in private session --

8 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:45:27] Yes, that's what I was going to do.
9 That is what I was going to do.

10 Do you know the names?

11 THE WITNESS: [10:45:36](Interpretation) There are some I know the names.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:45:38] Okay. Let's go in private session for
13 the names.

14 (Private session at 10.45 a.m.)

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 (Open session at 10.48 a.m.)

19 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:48:37] We're back in open session, Mr President.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:48:44] Thank you.

21 Maître Altit.

22 MR ALTIT: [10:48:52] (Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour.

23 Q. [10:48:53] Witness, did you give the names of any other potential witnesses to
24 the OTP on the occasions when you met?

25 A. [10:49:03] No.

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1 Q. [10:49:04] Very well. Did the representatives of the OTP make any promises
2 to you to encourage you to cooperate with the OTP?

3 A. [10:49:16] No.

4 Q. [10:49:17] Fine. Did you sign an agreement in which there was a promise that
5 you wouldn't be prosecuted if you were to cooperate with the Prosecutor?

6 A. [10:49:30] No.

7 Q. [10:49:32] Very well.

8 MR ALTIT: [10:49:55] (Interpretation) Your Honours, I think this brings me to
9 the end of my cross-examination.

10 Q. I'd like to thank the witness for having been so good as to give such precise
11 answers to my questions.

12 A. [10:50:08] Thank you.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [10:50:09] Thank you, Maître Altit. You see, I
14 was right yesterday giving you the floor for the 20 minutes, otherwise we would have
15 gone further. Thank you very much.

16 I think we can break now. I will not use the 10 minutes left until 11. We can break
17 now and come back at 11.30 for the questioning by the Defence for Mr Gbagbo -- for
18 Mr Blé Goudé, sorry.

19 And therefore the hearing is adjourned until 11.30.

20 THE COURT USHER: All rise.

21 (Recess taken at 10.50 a.m.)

22 (Upon resuming in open session at 11.36 a.m.)

23 THE COURT USHER: [11:36:11] All rise.

24 Please be seated.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [11:36:34] Good morning once again,

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1 Mr Witness.

2 I give immediately the floor to the defence of Mr Blé Goudé. Mr Knoops, it is your
3 turn.

4 MR KNOOPS: [11:36:47] Mr President, the examination on behalf of the team of
5 Mr Blé will be conducted by Mr Zokou, and after his examination I have some
6 questions for the witness. In totality, our examination will probably last 45 minutes.
7 So I'll inform the Chamber in advance in light of the time and the next witness.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [11:37:08] Thank you very much for this. I
9 would, when after, when your examination of the witness is over, and obviously also
10 seeing what the OTP is, if they're requesting re-examination, but we should finish
11 before the end of the second session.

12 And therefore, I would ask the court officer to alert the VWU that the next witness
13 will come in half an hour earlier, at 2 o'clock. So we have half an hour -- if we gain a
14 half an hour here we will have a shorter -- well, not a shorter lunch break, but the
15 same lunch break, but we start at 2 o'clock instead of 2.30, so we finish earlier in the
16 afternoon.

17 Is this agreeable for all of you? Okay.

18 So Maître Zokou.

19 MR ZOKOU: [11:38:25] (Interpretation) Good morning, your Honours.

20 QUESTIONED BY MR ZOKOU: (Interpretation)

21 Q. [11:38:29] Good morning, witness.

22 A. [11:38:33] Good morning.

23 Q. [11:38:34] As you've just heard, my name is Maître Zokou. I'm a lawyer in
24 the Brussels Bar and I represent Minister Charles Blé Goudé.

25 A. And my name is Mathias Foua.

1 Q. [11:38:54] Nice to meet you, sir. I'm going to be asking you for some precise
2 details, and that's why we will be relatively brief. The first aspect refers to the
3 situation in the west.

4 A. [11:39:11] Okay.

5 Q. [11:39:13] You mentioned that in the west, when you were answering
6 Maître Altit's questions, you said that there were Yacouba people from Liberia but
7 also Yacouba people from Côte d'Ivoire. And similarly, did you have Liberian
8 Guéré people?

9 A. [11:39:37] No.

10 Q. [11:39:41] On the other side of the border, that is, on the Liberian side, there
11 weren't any Guéré who spoke the same language as the Ivorian Guéré?

12 A. [11:39:56] Yes, yes. There were, yes.

13 Q. [11:40:00] So those Guéré people that are on both sides of the border, we might
14 consider that they are family members, so to speak. They speak the same language,
15 they share the same culture.

16 A. [11:40:18] Yes, of course.

17 Q. [11:40:24] Given this relationship, when events take place on the other side of
18 the border, such as what you describe, that is the Liberian Yacouba people attacked
19 the Guéré in Côte d'Ivoire, the Liberian Guéré, and you said that there were Guéré
20 people in Liberia, that many of them had taken refuge in Côte d'Ivoire, what was
21 their reaction?

22 A. [11:40:55] Their reaction, what do you mean?

23 Q. [11:40:57] Well, regarding the attacks that had taken place against themselves
24 and against the Yacouba?

25 A. [11:41:12] Are you talking about the Guéré in Côte d'Ivoire or what?

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1 Q. [11:41:16] Yes. The Guéré in Côte d'Ivoire vis-à-vis the Guéré, their family
2 members, in Liberia. Did they defend themselves?

3 A. [11:41:26] Yes, I think they defended themselves.

4 Q. [11:41:38] In the region of the western part of the country you referred to the
5 MPIGO.

6 A. [11:41:44] Yes.

7 Q. As a rebel group.

8 A. [11:41:47] Yes.

9 Q. [11:41:48] Have you heard about the MJP as another rebel group?

10 A. [11:41:54] Yes, I've heard about the MJP.

11 Q. [11:41:56] And if I understand you correctly, that's also a rebel movement, the
12 MJP?

13 A. [11:42:03] Yes.

14 Q. [11:42:04] And who were they fighting?

15 A. [11:42:08] There was someone who was also in the MPIGO.

16 Q. [11:42:18] During that period, since you were in the west, you said that you
17 talked to Maho quite a lot and that during that period -- or, rather, during that period,
18 did you hear about massacres against civilians that had taken place against those
19 groups?

20 A. [11:42:38] Once you asked if I heard about it. We talked about justice. And
21 the soldiers who came from Bloléquin, there was a little girl, I think a ten-year-old girl,
22 and she'd more or less had her throat slashed. She was still alive. In fact, they had
23 slashed the back of her neck and she was taken to the command post. And she
24 spoke Guéré.

25 THE INTERPRETER: [11:43:17] The witness corrects himself.

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1 THE WITNESS: [11:43:20](Interpretation) No, she spoke Baoulé. So I found
2 someone who could translate and the translator, said that this little girl had seen her
3 parents killed and they had slashed her neck. So I think a group was sent to that
4 camp. And they went and they found the dead bodies. I think it was a small camp
5 with three or four huts. That's what they told us. And they found the corpses
6 there.

7 MR ZOKOU: [11:44:08] (Interpretation)

8 Q. [11:44:08] Along the same lines, did you hear about the massacre of Guitrozon
9 or Duékoué that took place in those years around 2005?

10 A. [11:44:28] Yes, I heard about that.

11 Q. [11:44:30] Did you hear about certain individuals who had committed crimes,
12 atrocities, against Ivorian people, someone named Bockarie who was said to have
13 fought Taylor; did you hear about that?

14 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [11:44:53] Mr MacDonald.

15 MR MACDONALD: [11:44:54] Can we ask questions instead of pleading while
16 asking the questions? Do we know about this person? What did he do? If he did
17 anything? What my colleague is doing is providing evidence on the record instead
18 of having the evidence elicited from the witness himself. Thank you.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [11:45:38] Do you want to respond to this,
20 Maître Zokou?

21 MR ZOKOU: [11:45:51] (Interpretation) Well, I'll continue my cross-examination,
22 your Honour. I don't think it is of use or not necessary to respond.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [11:45:59] I think that they are questions
24 because if you, the question is, did you hear about individuals or did you come along
25 certain facts, are questions, but please go ahead, more finalising the question. Thank

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1 you.

2 MR ZOKOU: [11:46:36] (Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour.

3 Q. [11:46:39] Witness, as regards Maho Glofiéhi, you stated, when you told us
4 who he was, and what his role was -- let me remind you of what you stated and then
5 I'll ask you a question. For the purposes of the transcript, I'm referring to the
6 witness's statement, which is CIV-OTP -- well, it's on page 595 of the statement and
7 lines 1141 to 1151 well, in fact, I actually start reading on 1147.

8 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:47:43] (Overlapping speakers) I'm sorry. May I
9 kindly ask counsel to repeat the ERN number. Thank you. To provide the
10 complete ERN number. Thank you.

11 MR ZOKOU: [11:47:51] (Interpretation) This is page 1595 -- 595 of the witness
12 statement, in particular, line 1147 to 1152.

13 Q. [11:48:20] Witness, the interviewer asked you:

14 "So Maho Glofiéhi was a member of those authorities?"

15 And your response was: "Yes, he was the traditional chief, yes. He was the third
16 deputy to the mayor."

17 Interviewer 2: "Okay."

18 And you answered: "As I said, he was the traditional chief."

19 Interviewer 2: "Okay."

20 So you remember having stated that?

21 A. [11:48:54] Yes.

22 Q. [11:49:03] The region of Moyen-Cavally that you referred to, can you tell us
23 where that is situated for the purposes of the Chamber? Can you tell us a little bit
24 about it?

25 A. [11:49:20] Well, the region of Moyen-Cavally, there is Duékoué, Bangolo,

1 Guiglo, Bloléquin, Zagne, Taï, Toulépleu, and others. Those are the names that I am
2 familiar with.

3 Q. [11:49:48] So basically it's the grand west, the western area?

4 A. [11:49:53] Yes, it's the west.

5 Q. [11:49:55] So Maho was the traditional chief of that larger western area?

6 A. [11:50:02] Yes.

7 Q. [11:50:04] So he was number one chief of his region and then chief of all of the
8 chiefs of those other -- of the region.

9 A. [11:50:15] Yes, of the region.

10 Q. [11:50:24] It was the region of Wê; is that correct?

11 A. [11:50:30] Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. [11:50:38] As chief of that region and the people, what were his activities?

13 A. [11:50:50] Well, sometimes he would invite his peers to discuss matters
14 involving the region.

15 Q. [11:51:04] If I look at your name, you're from the west, aren't you?

16 A. [11:51:09] Yes, I'm a Gouro.

17 Q. [11:51:13] The traditional chief, what exactly are the functions and missions of
18 the traditional chief?

19 A. [11:51:24] The traditional chief has a number of functions. Well, when
20 authorities come to visit, he's the one who meets with them. He convenes his peers
21 when decisions need to be made. Occasionally, he's in contact with the young
22 people. That's, that's it basically.

23 Q. [11:52:01] And what about settling disputes, would the traditional chief be
24 involved in that?

25 A. [11:52:13] Yes, yes, he would indeed.

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1 Q. [11:52:16] Can members of the population, can ordinary people, go see the
2 traditional chief to settle issues without having to go through the State authorities; in
3 other words, can they decide to go see the traditional chief to settle a problem, for
4 mediation, for example?

5 A. [11:52:36] Yes.

6 Q. [11:52:39] If I understand you correctly, could we say that the traditional chief
7 protects the population under his authority?

8 A. [11:53:02] Yes, yes.

9 Q. [11:53:15] Regarding Mr Maho, you said that he was the third deputy to the
10 mayor, and you explained his role in detail earlier. I'm not going to go back over
11 that, but as part of that function, that is, third deputy of the mayor, did Mr Maho, was
12 he involved in certain activities that you were involved with or that you had
13 knowledge of at a certain period of time, in particular, with the RTI?

14 A. [11:54:07] Well, he would organise seminars and invite people to debate.

15 Q. [11:54:18] So Maho played the role of the traditional chief and was involved
16 with relations with the general public; is that correct?

17 A. [11:54:28] Yes.

18 Q. [11:54:52] Mr Witness, I'd like to show you a photograph that you've already
19 seen that was shown to you yesterday.

20 For the purposes of the transcript, this is CIV-OTP-0044-0101. Actually, it's not a
21 photograph as such, it's a screenshot. And it's number -- it's at minute 1.38 -- no,
22 33.58. It's at minute 33.58. We can see it without the sound. And we'd like to
23 control the computer if that's possible.

24 (Viewing of the video excerpt)

25 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:56:20] The evidence is on evidence 2.

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- 1 MR ZOKOU: [11:56:31] (Interpretation) Thank you, court officer.
- 2 Q. [11:56:33] Witness, can you see the picture?
- 3 A. [11:56:35] Yes, I can see it.
- 4 Q. [11:56:39] According to your knowledge, was this taken in a private place or in
5 public?
- 6 A. [11:56:47] It was in public.
- 7 Q. [11:56:55] The fact that Mr Maho was in a public place next to
8 Mr Charles Blé Goudé and other individuals, does this correspond to the kind of
9 activities you described for Mr Maho, that is, public activities as a politician?
- 10 A. [11:57:39] Well, Maho, those were his activities. And sometimes he would
11 actually appeal to the population, publicly; he would talk to the people.
- 12 Q. [11:57:53] Thank you. I'd like to deal with something else, something
13 different, regarding to the -- regarding disarmament and demobilisation.
- 14 A. [11:58:29] Yes.
- 15 Q. [11:58:29] And the fact that you were to receive an amount of money once you
16 were demobilised.
- 17 A. [11:58:35] Yes.
- 18 Q. [11:58:36] Have you ever heard of the DDR?
- 19 A. [11:58:40] Yes, it was the DDR programme.
- 20 Q. [11:58:43] That's what I wanted to know. So it was the DDR programme; in
21 other words, if you were demobilised, you would receive an amount of money, is that
22 it?
- 23 A. [11:58:52] Yes, that's correct.
- 24 Q. [11:58:55] This amount of money corresponded to your demobilisation under
25 the DDR. Where was the money to come from, from the State?

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1 A. [11:59:09] I think it was the UN. It came from the UN because it was the
2 United Nations that organised the programme. So the money came from the United
3 Nations.

4 Q. [11:59:27] And did this process only involve the former combatants that you
5 were with, but other groups as well, the rebel forces, for example, that were
6 demobilised?

7 A. [11:59:47] It -- it involved everyone.

8 Q. [11:59:57] Now, you mentioned that the process did not apply to you. Did
9 you ever learn why?

10 A. [12:00:10] Well, all I can say is that the process was interrupted. That's the
11 first thing. And I was told to be patient, that it was going to resume. And so up
12 to 2008, I waited, and I was waiting there and I was hoping to receive some money
13 before going back to Abidjan.

14 Q. [12:00:38] Now at that time or at other times, did you ever hear anything,
15 anything about financial difficulties that blocked the process and that's why the
16 process didn't end?

17 A. [12:00:56] No. The process was interrupted, but I was told that it would
18 resume.

19 Q. [12:01:13] Thank you, Mr Witness.

20 Now, after you ended your activities, and you were responding to a question from
21 Mr Altit, and you resumed some activities later on, could you tell us what you did
22 actually?

23 A. [12:01:37] Well, I was working as a bricklayer, I was working at the Lauriers
24 construction site as a bricklayer.

25 Q. [12:01:49] And as a bricklayer -- now, you said that you were just trying to get

1 by and then later you ended up on the campus?

2 A. [12:02:01] First of all, I went there to have my book typed. My friend Karel
3 had me working with one of his students and that person was typing the manuscript
4 for me. So that's how it came to be that I ended up at the university.

5 Q. [12:02:37] And so this person was helping you, this person was helping you
6 when you were painting?

7 A. [12:02:48] No, no. You see, one day I went and I was working on my book,
8 and I came across a friend on the construction site who is doing painting. And, you
9 see, he was there working as a painter. So we went together and we were given a
10 particular building to paint, and that's how it came to be that I started working as a
11 painter.

12 Q. [12:03:21] Now, the witness mentioned gombo, gombo, what do you mean by
13 that? Could you explain that expression to us?

14 A. [12:03:33] Well, just a side job, a little bit of work on the side. And so that's,
15 that's what we did.

16 Q. (No interpretation)

17 A. (No interpretation)

18 Q. (No interpretation)

19 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:04:18] No microphone.

20 MR ZOKOU: [12:04:22] My microphone is open.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:04:25] The microphone of the interpreters
22 wasn't on.

23 THE INTERPRETER: [12:04:29] Apologies from the interpreters.

24 MR ZOKOU: [12:04:41] (Interpretation)

25 Q. [12:04:43] Did you understand? Now, when you were recruited on this site,

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1 you were not recruited through the FLGO?

2 A. [12:04:51] No, no, no, I was not recruited as an FLGO person.

3 Q. [12:05:06] And the person who was the head of the site, Dosso, he didn't have
4 anything to do with the FLGO either?

5 A. [12:05:14] No. I met him on the site.

6 Q. [12:05:32] On this work site you mentioned that Mr Charles Blé Goudé came
7 and visited?

8 A. [12:05:39] Yes.

9 Q. [12:05:41] And so a picture was taken?

10 A. [12:05:43] Yes.

11 Q. [12:05:47] When Mr Charles Blé Goudé got there, did he come to see you
12 personally, you people working there, or was it just by happenstance?

13 A. [12:06:01] Well, I've already said, Charles Blé Goudé is a former student of the
14 university and he still has friends there, so that's why. So he came to see his friends,
15 and he came across us working on that site, and so the photograph -- well, if someone
16 like Charles Blé Goudé comes, you mustn't miss the chance to take a photograph,
17 because that's a big opportunity. So that's why I took the photograph with him.

18 Q. [12:06:48] And do you hold Mr Charles Blé Goudé in high esteem as a person?

19 A. [12:06:57] I admire him. Yes, I admire him.

20 Q. [12:07:06] Now, Mr Witness, I'd like to thank you for answering my questions.

21 I have no further questions for you. Thank you very much for helping us in our
22 quest to establish the truth. And I will now turn it over to Mr Knoops.

23 Your Honours, I have concluded.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:07:28] Thank you very much.

25 Mr Knoops.

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1 QUESTIONED BY MR KNOOPS:

2 Q. [12:07:32] Good afternoon, Mr Witness. My name is Alexander Knoops. I'm
3 a member of the bar of the Kingdom of The Netherlands and counsel for
4 Mr Blé Goudé. I have some additional questions for you.

5 My first question relates to today's testimony you gave on page 26, lines 21, 24 of the
6 English transcript. You remember that the Presiding Judge asked you how you
7 knew that the Liberians you referred to were refugees, and your answer was, I quote
8 from the transcript, page 26:

9 "Sometimes we would sit down with Mr Maho Glofiéhi and we would talk with him,
10 chat. Sometimes he would tell us how the FLGO had been set up."

11 My question to you is did Mr Maho Glofiéhi at any point during those conversations
12 ever mention to you that Mr Blé Goudé had any relation with the FLGO?

13 A. [12:09:06] No, he never said that.

14 Q. [12:09:09] When Mr Maho Glofiéhi spoke about setting up the FLGO, did he
15 during the conversations you had with him ever mention that Mr Charles Blé Goudé
16 had a role in setting up the FLGO?

17 A. [12:09:41] I hear the word "trap", the word "trap".

18 (Counsel confer)

19 MR KNOOPS:

20 Q. [12:09:53] The word "create." I'll repeat my question.

21 You told us this morning that when you spoke to Mr Maho Glofiéhi, he explained to
22 you how the FLGO was established, was created. Did he, Mr Maho Glofiéhi, in those
23 conversations ever mention that Mr Blé Goudé had a role in the creation of the FLGO?

24 A. [12:10:37] Never.

25 Q. [12:10:37] Now my second topic, Mr Witness, relates to the questions you were

- 1 asked by the investigators of the Office of the Prosecution in May 2015.
- 2 You were asked about the meeting in August 2010 on the university campus of
- 3 Cocody. The Prosecution investigators asked you how you came to meet Mr Socrate.
- 4 Can you tell the Court what you told the investigators about how you came to know
- 5 Mr Socrate, how you were introduced to him?
- 6 A. [12:11:40] He was my friend Adjallou. He was helping me type my
- 7 manuscript. He was at the university. So gradually he -- well, Socrate came to do a
- 8 paper because -- well, he's at the university, photo copies and stuff like that. So he
- 9 came one day to do a paper. He was taking care of something and Adjallou said to
- 10 me, "Oh, do you see him over there? That's Socrate, the secretary general of the
- 11 FESCI, the old campus, former campus." That's how. That's what he said to me.
- 12 Q. [12:12:26] Right. Mr Adjallou, who you just mentioned, was he a student?
- 13 Was he a member of the university?
- 14 A. [12:12:37] Yes, Adjallou, Adjallou was a student. He was at the university.
- 15 He stayed there. He lived there at the university.
- 16 Q. [12:12:47] Right. You told us also, Mr Witness, that Mr Socrate was at that
- 17 time the secretary general of the FESCI.
- 18 A. [12:13:02] Yes, the old campus, yes, the secretary general FESCI, old campus.
- 19 That's what he told me.
- 20 Q. [12:13:10] How did you address him? How did you address him, with his
- 21 first name, his name, or with a certain title?
- 22 A. [12:13:26] Which person, Socrate or Adjallou?
- 23 Q. [12:13:29] Socrate, Socrate.
- 24 A. [12:13:33] I never spoke to Socrate.
- 25 Q. [12:13:36] Clear. Mr Witness, can you remember whether your friend,

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1 Mr Adjallou, ever mentioned to you since when Mr Socrate was the secretary general
2 of the FESCI?

3 A. [12:13:55] No.

4 Q. [12:13:57] He didn't mention it.

5 In 2015 you were asked by investigators of the Prosecution's team whether
6 Mr Blé Goudé came with other people to this meeting in August 2010. Can you
7 remember, Mr Witness, what your answer was?

8 A. [12:14:26] Yes, I remember. Mr Blé Goudé got --

9 Q. [12:14:30] (Overlapping speakers)

10 A. [12:14:34] He arrived alone.

11 Q. [12:14:36] Mr Witness, my last question relates to a question you were asked in
12 May 2015 by the investigators of the Office of the Prosecutor, what the activities were
13 at that time, August 2010, of the FESCI. Can you remember what your answer was?
14 What did you answer to this question?

15 A. [12:15:17] No, I don't remember that reply.

16 Q. [12:15:19] Okay. Then I will refresh your memory. I refer to
17 CIV-OTP-0085-1770, lines 302 till 306. And it's the reference 1761, sorry. So it is
18 CIV-OTP-0085-1761, page 1770, lines 203 -- 302, sorry, till 306.

19 Mr Witness, the investigators of the Office of the Prosecution asked you the following:
20 (Interpretation) "And what were the activities of the FESCI at that time?"

21 (Speaks English) Your answer was: (Interpretation) "Oh, the FESCI. I believe
22 that they were defending school rights, the rights of the school."

23 (Speaks English) The question of the investigator: (Interpretation) "Okay, that
24 means" --

25 (Speaks English) Answer from you, Mr Witness: "Voila."

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1 (Interpretation) Interviewee: "Exactly. If the school has a problem, they tried to
2 reveal the problem or show the problem to the government. It stands for the Student
3 Federation of Côte d'Ivoire."

4 (Speaks English) You can, Mr Witness, remember giving this answer to the
5 investigators in May 2015?

6 A. [12:17:56] Yes.

7 Q. [12:17:58] My follow-up question is: How did you know this? How did you
8 know that the purpose of the FESCI in August 2010 was to defend the rights of the
9 school?

10 A. [12:18:18] Well, that was why FESCI was set up, to defend the rights of
11 students in Côte d'Ivoire. That is why it was established.

12 Q. [12:18:29] Did the FESCI comprise all ethnicities of Côte d'Ivoire?

13 A. [12:18:43] All the students, all the students of Côte d'Ivoire, so all the ethnic
14 groups of Côte d'Ivoire.

15 Q. [12:18:50] Thank you, Mr Witness.

16 That concludes our examination, Mr President. It's 48 minutes.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:18:59] I think it's 46, but that's okay.

18 Thank you, Mr Knoops.

19 I now ask the Office of the Prosecutor if they need to re-question.

20 MR GARCIA: [12:19:10] No questions from the Prosecution, your Honour.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:19:12] Thank you very much.

22 Mr Witness, this concludes your testimony here in front of the International Criminal
23 Court. You can go back to your country, back home to your occupation. Thank you
24 for having been here and thank you for having answered all the questions.

25 (Witness confers with duty counsel)

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- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:19:45] Oui. You can.
- 2 THE WITNESS: [12:19:49](Interpretation) Well, it's not a question, it's not a question.
- 3 It's something I would like to ask you. I sent a few examples, a few copies of my
- 4 book, and I would like to offer a copy to Mr Altit, my elder brother, so to speak, and
- 5 to Mr Garcia, if that is possible, if you allow that.
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:20:12] Well, it's not me that I have to allow
- 7 this, but if you do and they accept it, I think -- maybe they've already read it, you
- 8 never know. But you're free to do whatever you think. And Mr Garcia and
- 9 Mr Altit are free to do what they think, okay? Is this fine with you?
- 10 THE WITNESS: [12:20:42](Interpretation) Okay.
- 11 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:20:43] Okay. Thank you very much again
- 12 for having been here. I wish you a safe trip back home.
- 13 Thank you to Mr Wagemakers for his assistance.
- 14 And the hearing is adjourned to 2 o'clock.
- 15 Yes, please, Mr MacDonald.
- 16 MR MACDONALD: [12:21:06] We can excuse the witness, your Honour.
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:21:08] Yes, yes.
- 18 MR MACDONALD: [12:21:09] It is not related to this.
- 19 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:21:12] You can leave the courtroom,
- 20 Mr Witness.
- 21 (The witness is excused)
- 22 MR MACDONALD: [12:21:22] Upon further thinking, your Honour, it is fine. I'll
- 23 limit my intervention at this time. Thank you.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:21:28] Okay. Thank you very much.
- 25 MR ZOKOU: [12:21:31] Mr President.

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- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:21:32] Mr Zokou.
- 2 MR ZOKOU: [12:21:34] (Interpretation) Just to accept the gift offered by the
3 witness, if he could leave it with the Registry staff.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:21:42] I could now respond that he didn't
5 offer it to you, only to Mr Altit and Mr Garcia, but okay.
- 6 MR MACDONALD: [12:21:52] He can give it during the thank you meeting.
- 7 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: Yes, yes, of course. No problem.
- 8 MR MACDONALD: The book can be given in the thank you meeting.
- 9 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [12:21:59] Thank you very much. The hearing
10 is adjourned to 2 o'clock with the following witness. Thank you very much.
- 11 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:22:05] All rise.
- 12 (Recess taken at 12.22 p.m.)
- 13 (Upon resuming in open session at 2.00 p.m.)
- 14 THE COURT USHER: [14:00:51] All rise.
- 15 Please be seated.
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:01:12] Good afternoon.
- 17 We will now introduce Witness 316. And I ask the court usher to introduce the
18 witness for the first session.
- 19 (The witness enters the courtroom)
- 20 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:02:29] (Interpretation) Good day, Witness.
- 21 WITNESS: CIV-OTP-P-0316
- 22 (The witness speaks French)
- 23 THE WITNESS: [14:02:40] (Interpretation) Good day, your Honour.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:02:42] (Speaks English) Before we will start
25 with your questioning as a witness, I would like to ask you to declare your name,

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1 your full name and to give all your identification details, meaning the day and the
2 place of birth and the nationality, your nationality.

3 THE WITNESS: [14:03:05] (Interpretation) Yes. My name is staff sergeant Boli Bi
4 Balo Ferdinand. I was born on 1 May 1968 at Sinfra.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:03:20] You are an Ivorian citizen, I suppose?

6 THE WITNESS: [14:03:25] (Interpretation) Yes, I'm Ivorian.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:03:28] And could you also tell us your
8 ethnicity and your faith?

9 THE WITNESS: [14:03:35] (Interpretation) I'm Catholic and I am Gouro.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:03:51] Thank you. And you said you are a
11 staff sergeant. Can you detail a bit more about your occupation now and about your
12 occupation during the crisis in 2010, beginning of 2011.

13 THE WITNESS: [14:04:14] (Interpretation) Currently I'm in charge of the
14 omni-sport section of the army, in the boxing section. But in 2010-2011 I was in the
15 parachutist as a platoon leader.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:04:30] Within the FDS?

17 THE WITNESS: [14:04:33] (Interpretation) Yes, FDS.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:04:39] Thank you very much. Now I give
19 you some preliminary information.

20 First of all, the first is regarding the language. You may have noticed that I'm
21 speaking slowly, and I do so to give the opportunity to the parties, to our interpreters
22 and court reporters to write, to interpret properly and correctly what we are saying.
23 We have to understand each other and to write down properly on the record what we
24 are saying. So please, speak slowly when you speak. And if I give you a sign, just
25 slow down. That means only that you are going too fast and it's a request to slow

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1 down for the benefit of the people who are helping us to do our job.

2 The second is do not overlap with the other speakers. So wait a few seconds, couple
3 of seconds before responding to the question.

4 Is that clear?

5 THE WITNESS: [14:06:01] (Interpretation) Yes.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:06:09] So now we come to your testimony.

7 You are obviously aware that this Chamber has been established to try the case of the
8 Prosecutor against Mr Gbagbo and Mr Blé Goudé. And you, yourself, are called to
9 assist us, to assist the Chamber in the search of the truth.

10 If at any point you have concerns, if you have some problems, if you are not at ease,
11 just tell me and I will try to take care of it.

12 So as I said, your duty here is to answer the questions which will be put to you first
13 by the Office of the Prosecutor and then by the Defence teams of Mr Gbagbo and
14 Mr Blé Goudé.

15 And to that effect, the law wants you to give a solemn undertaking, which I would
16 ask you to read out on the formula you have in front of you.

17 THE WITNESS: [14:07:35] (Interpretation) I solemnly declare that I will speak the
18 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:07:46] Thank you very much. Now, again,
20 this is your only obligation. And giving false testimony, this is the last information I
21 give you, giving false testimony is an offence before the Court and, therefore,
22 punishable.

23 So if you have understood everything I said and you are ready, I will give the floor to
24 the Office of the Prosecutor.

25 THE WITNESS: [14:08:23] (Interpretation) I am ready.

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:08:25] Madam Pack, I suppose.

2 MS PACK: [14:08:28] Yes, indeed. Thank you, Mr President. Good afternoon, Mr
3 President, your Honours and my colleagues in the courtroom.

4 QUESTIONED BY MS PACK:

5 Q. [14:08:36] Good afternoon to you, Mr Witness. My name is Ms Pack. My
6 colleague Ms Rodriguez sits next to me. We met you both last Friday very briefly.
7 And I will be asking you questions on behalf of the Prosecution.
8 I'm going to address you as "Mr Witness." And by that I mean no disrespect, it is
9 simply a practice in this courtroom, okay?

10 A. [14:09:09] No problem.

11 Q. [14:09:10] Now, I wanted to start with some of your assignments and
12 appointments before the 2010-2011 period. So just we'll go briefly through them.
13 You enlisted in the army in what year?

14 A. [14:09:35] I joined the Côte d'Ivoire national army on 4 January 1989 in Daloa.

15 Q. [14:09:43] And what was your first assignment?

16 A. [14:09:48] I trained in the 2nd infantry battalion in Daloa, and then I joined
17 platoon 1 at the national officers' school in Bouaké. That was from 8 January to 7
18 April 1990. And after going through that training, I was transferred to the CCAS at
19 the Camp Gallieni. I remained a member of the battalion until 1996 and it was
20 then -- there that I learnt to box, in 1991. I remained in the unit until 1996. And in
21 October '96, I was sent to the 3rd infantry battalion in Bouaké.
22 That made it possible for me to follow very closely the events on the border with
23 Liberia. I went there on mission on a regular basis.
24 In 2000, I was transferred to the ground to air artillery battalion after the coup d'état
25 in '99. And in 2001 I was transferred to the UCS, it was still at the former camp in

1 Akouédo. In November 2004, I was transferred to the parachutists battalion
2 command. And I remained there until 2013, at which point I came back to the BCS
3 in charge of the boxing section.

4 Q. [14:11:45] Thank you, Mr Witness. And you've referred to the parachutists
5 battalion command. Can you tell us, please, the short name for that, is that the 1st
6 BCP?

7 A. [14:12:01] Yes, that's correct, it's the 1st BCP.

8 Q. [14:12:05] And the unit that you were in, I think you haven't told us that. The
9 first unit that you were in when serving in that battalion, was that -- can you tell us
10 which unit that was, which company you served in?

11 A. [14:12:29] It was the 1st company, the BCP, and then the support company, the
12 CCAS.

13 Q. [14:12:38] And just briefly, you told us you served at the UCS at the former
14 camp in Akouédo. Firstly, you mean the former camp, the old camp as opposed to
15 the new camp at Akouédo, I take it?

16 A. [14:12:58] Both units UCS and BCP are at the former camp in Akouédo, the
17 Ancien Camp. Geographically they're at the same site.

18 Q. [14:13:10] And the UCS is that, in French, the Unité de Commandement et de
19 Soutien?

20 A. [14:13:17] Yes, that is correct.

21 Q. [14:13:20] And your rank, you've told us at the very outset, you're now staff
22 sergeant. And during 2010-2011, can you tell us what rank you were at that point?

23 A. [14:13:31] From 2010-2011 I was sergeant and I was appointed staff sergeant in
24 October 2012.

25 Q. [14:13:43] And just briefly, apart from your service in and most recently your

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1 service in the para-commando battalion, or the 1st BCP, before the 2010 elections, did
2 you work in any private capacity?

3 A. [14:14:17] Before 2010 we were contacted by Ellingan Etche, who was the mayor
4 of Aboisso. God rest his soul. We were a group of friends. And the leaders of the
5 PDCI, when they were in difficulty, they called upon us to reassure them, or we
6 accompanied them often when they were moving around.

7 Q. [14:14:56] And just to make sure that we have the right wording here on the
8 transcript, was that -- the leaders of which group was that? Can you just repeat the
9 initials you referred to?

10 A. [14:15:11] I don't understand.

11 Q. [14:15:17] Well, who was it that you were reassuring or accompanying when
12 they were moving around? Can you just repeat who it was just to make sure I have
13 it right?

14 A. [14:15:27] I said the PDCI. For example, Mr Maurice Kakou Guikahué and
15 others, Aka Aoulé, Bodi Théodore. These are the names of the people that I marched
16 alongside.

17 Q. [14:15:48] And you talk about we were, we were accompanying these people.
18 Was that other colleagues from your unit or who was that as well as you?

19 A. [14:15:59] No. We were in the same unit. My friend, rest his soul, is Kouadio
20 Yao Théodore, but there was Yao Kouassi Dieudonné, who is from the armoured
21 battalion, the BB; Affo N'Dri, who is retired now; Bolou Bi Dje, who is also retired.
22 We made up that group so that we could assist these gentlemen.

23 Q. [14:16:42] And was this work that you continued after the 2010 elections or did
24 you stop doing this work then?

25 A. [14:16:48] For example, the first and second round of the elections I was there

1 with Maurice Kakou Guikahué, we even were in his village with him. And there
2 was a roadblock. There were young people, Young Patriots, Jeunes Patriotes. And
3 I got out of the vehicle to explain to them that the minister just wanted to move
4 through, that was all. Fortunately, they understood and they lifted the roadblock.
5 But then after the elections, once the results came out, once they were published,
6 everyone shifted to the Golf, so we went then back home.

7 Q. [14:17:45] And did you carry out this sort of work again or at that point did you
8 stop doing these sorts of duties?

9 A. [14:18:01] There were no longer such difficulties facing these gentlemen, so there
10 were no problems. So I am just carrying out my activity of a boxer.

11 Q. [14:18:11] And one more question. Just looking at -- I have a transcript of what
12 you've said in front of me, so sometimes I need to clarify some names. The name of
13 the minister, could you repeat his name, please?

14 A. [14:18:26] Yes. I said Maurice Kakou Guikahué. He was minister of health at
15 the time when Mr Bédié was president of the republic.

16 Q. [14:18:42] Thank you, Mr Witness. Now, so far as your service in the 1st BCP,
17 the para-commando battalion was concerned, did you stay in service with this unit
18 throughout the crisis, the 2010-2011 crisis?

19 A. [14:19:06] Yes. I was in the 1st BCP for the duration of the crisis. It was just
20 in 2013 that I shifted to being in charge of the boxing section. Other than that,
21 from 2010 to 2012 I was in the 1st BCP the whole time.

22 Q. [14:19:26] And did you stay active or were you at one point -- did you go on
23 leave?

24 A. [14:19:33] At the time, I did take rest, I went to the doctor so that I could go on
25 rest leave. In fact, in 2002, I can go back to then if you want? In 2002 I was

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1 following training at the national schools, ENSOA at Bouaké. It began in May 2002
2 and it was to run through until the month of October of that year. And that allows
3 you to reach the rank of sergeant.

4 So there was the training session and we have to say we were surprised on the 19th of
5 September by gunshots. We came out and --

6 Q. [14:20:22] Would you mind holding on a moment there. We can -- if necessary,
7 we can go back to that a little later. What I wanted to ask you about now was just to
8 focus on 2010 and 2011. So just that period for now. If we can just focus on then.
9 So I asked you just a moment ago whether you had been active or had gone on leave
10 at some point, and you told us that you had medical -- you had gone on rest leave.
11 Can you tell us when it was that you went on rest leave? And that's focusing on
12 2010-2011, when it was in that period you went on rest leave.

13 A. [14:21:06] Yes, I can tell you. I went on medical rest in the month of
14 August 2010. And that was medical leave, rest leave, whenever it came to an end,
15 that I had it renewed.

16 Q. [14:21:31] And was there anything that happened in around January 2011 that
17 you could tell us about?

18 A. [14:21:35] January 2011, after the proclamation of the results?

19 Q. [14:21:59] Let me take you to your statement that you gave to the investigators
20 from the Office of the Prosecutor, and that is CIV-OTP-0043-0461. And I'm just
21 going to refer to refresh the witness's memory hopefully. I will refer, please, to
22 paragraph 116.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:22:26] Maître Gbougnon.

24 MR GBOUGNON: [14:22:29] (Interpretation) Your Honour, I don't know whether
25 this is a confrontation. It's certainly not to refresh the memory of the witness

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1 because he never said that he had forgotten anything. I think that the Prosecutor
2 should put questions rather than looking for information in the statement.

3 The witness is here to testify. This is not a confrontation. No mention has been
4 made of any confrontation. So I don't know why the Prosecutor is taking us to the
5 witness statement.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [14:23:02] Well, I think one could make another
7 question in order, because the question was, was there anything that happened in and
8 around January 2011 that you can tell us about? And the answer was "January 2011,
9 after the proclamation of the results" -- then there was a question put to you. So I
10 think we could go a little bit further before refreshing the memory.

11 MS PACK: [14:23:27] Of course, of course.

12 Q. [14:23:29] Do you recall visiting the infirmary in mid -- in January, in or around
13 some point in January 2011?

14 A. [14:23:39] Yes, I was saying that any time my rest leave came to its end, I went to
15 the infirmary so that it could be renewed. So doubtless in January 2011, I had come
16 close to the end of my rest leave and I went to have it renewed.

17 Q. [14:24:11] Just so I understand you correctly, you told us earlier that you were
18 on rest leave in August 2010. Was that when you first went on rest leave then?

19 A. [14:24:23] Yes.

20 Q. [14:24:24] And did you go back to work after that?

21 A. [14:24:30] I returned to work when everything settled down in Côte d'Ivoire, in
22 other words, when Mr Gbagbo was arrested and everything returned to normal.
23 That's when I went back to work.

24 Q. [14:24:53] Can you tell us briefly what was the medical issue for which you went
25 on medical rest?

1 A. [14:25:03] In March '99, my Achilles heel ruptured. That was in Bouaké. I
2 often have pains in that tendon, and I went to report this to this doctor who put me
3 on leave.

4 Q. [14:25:42] And from March '99, were you on leave for how long? Were you on
5 leave a long time or was it a short time? Tell us, please, the situation from March '99,
6 briefly.

7 A. [14:25:56] Yes. I was injured on 20 March 1999. I was operated on and I was
8 put on medical rest leave as a result. I was in Bouaké, but my family was in
9 Yopougon, in Abidjan.
10 So at the end of the operation, I couldn't work and the doctor put me on leave and I
11 went to Abidjan. I remained in Abidjan until 2000 because I had to go through
12 reeducation exercise on my foot, because I had had this problem since '99 and I didn't
13 work in that period.

14 Q. [14:26:48] Now, going back, please, to 2010-2011, can you tell us, you told us
15 that you had your medical rest renewed at one point. Before that time, were you
16 working at all as part of your -- undertaking any of your duties as a member of the
17 paracommando battalion?

18 A. [14:27:30] You're asking whether I was active. Well, it was when I didn't feel
19 well that I was resting. But if I was fine, I worked like everybody else. I was
20 involved in all of the missions. I followed all of the training exercises. I did
21 everything that everyone else did.

22 Q. [14:28:02] Now, you've told us earlier that -- where the paracommando battalion
23 was based. You said at the former Akouédo camp. And it may seem an obvious
24 question, but was that where you were working from as well?

25 A. [14:28:20] Yes, at the old camp in Akouédo. I lived in old Akouédo village.

1 Q. [14:28:36] And let me just clarify with you. During the period of the crisis,
2 the 2010-2011 crisis, were you, during that period, were you working at the old camp
3 in Akouédo?

4 A. [14:28:52] Yes, that's where I was, but I wasn't active because I was on rest leave.
5 But I did go there because you can't -- I couldn't be prevented from going to the camp.
6 Even if I wasn't working, I could still go from time to time.

7 But other than that, I was no longer working full time like everybody else.

8 Q. [14:29:22] Do you recall when it was that you stopped working there full time?

9 A. [14:29:28] Well, I said earlier on, I think it must have been August 2010.

10 Q. [14:29:43] During the period of the crisis again, 2010-2011, apart from working at
11 the old Akouédo camp, did you go on any deployments? Were you deployed
12 anywhere as part of your work?

13 A. [14:30:02] Could you repeat the question, please?

14 Q. [14:30:12] When you were in service during the post-electoral crisis, were you
15 deployed to any particular locations during that time?

16 A. [14:30:23] At the first para battalion, we, well, the main entrance to our unit is
17 called the EPAC, the entrée principale ancien camp. Well, it's there. And there are
18 three posts in the commune of Abobo at the roundabout opposite the town hall,
19 UNICAFE, and then there is another post close to Abobo-Baoulé. That is called
20 monastère, monastery. And it's at those posts that every evening we have to go on
21 duty.

22 But in turn, an individual couldn't go every day. He might go one day.

23 And then there was another post on the road to Anyama. The Anyama corridor has
24 been extended to Azadié (phon). And at Azadié (phon), it takes you to Yakasémé, 5
25 to 10 kilometres from Azadié (phon). So those were the locations of the different

1 duty posts, the duty stations, for the first BCP.

2 So when I was working, when I am working, if I'm not on rest leave, then I'm
3 involved in those duty rounds.

4 Q. [14:31:59] And focusing specifically on the period of the crisis, 2010-2011, did
5 you yourself personally, were you involved in any of those duty rounds at any of
6 those duty stations that you've referred to just now?

7 A. [14:32:19] Yes. I told you a moment ago I participated. Well, when I wasn't
8 on medical leave, there was no reason for my not participating. So when I was not
9 on medical leave, I participated.

10 Q. [14:32:46] And do you recall if there were any posts established at the RTI?

11 A. [14:33:01] Yes, yes. I forgot that one. RTI was also one of our duty posts, yes,
12 the RTI, the television station. We had a duty station there.

13 Q. [14:33:18] Now I want to just ask you a little bit, please, about your unit, about
14 the first BCP. Firstly, during the period of the crisis, let's say from 2010, the elections,
15 to 2011, when Mr Gbagbo was arrested, that period, who was the commander of the
16 first BCP?

17 A. [14:33:48] During the period of the elections, it was commander Mel Brice. But
18 when he discovered the situation that we were in -- because indeed all of the cities in
19 Côte d'Ivoire had been taken over, and there were only a few communes in Abidjan
20 that weren't. So when commander Mel Brice saw that, he told the first BCP that
21 everyone should stay home.

22 And then there was a former soldier, Commander Akapia Fulgence, he was called in
23 as the chief of the first BCP with a whole group of militiamen. That's it. And there
24 were also some soldiers who wanted to defend the right cause, and they stayed in the
25 camp.

1 So up until the arrest of Mr Gbagbo, it was Akapia Fulgence who was the man in
2 charge of the first BCP because Commander Mel, he gave the order to each soldier to
3 stay home.

4 Q. [14:35:26] We'll come to Akapia Fulgence in a moment. Let me just ask you, in
5 relation to Commander Mel Brice, do you recall who he replaced as the commander
6 of the 1st BCP?

7 A. [14:35:43] Of course. He replaced Commander Toaly Bai Williams. He was
8 the deputy for Toaly Bai. When Toaly was there, Brice was his deputy. But there
9 was another officer who was lieutenant colonel at the time he was a captain. His
10 name is Brou. And there was a problem that commander Toaly couldn't deal with,
11 and he was given a kick in the stomach. And that wasn't really a very nice situation,
12 so Toaly was removed from his post and that was when Commander Brice took over.

13 Q. [14:36:39] Do you recall roughly when this was, what month, what year it was
14 that Mel took over from the previous commander, Toaly?

15 A. [14:36:56] I beg your pardon, but I don't want to say something that's not
16 accurate. I really, I really don't; I don't remember.

17 Q. [14:37:10] And would it help you if I showed you, if I read out your statement
18 where you talked about this in your statement? Would that refresh your memory?

19 A. [14:37:20] I don't know whether or not I gave that date in my statement or not.
20 I don't know if I did.

21 Q. [14:37:36] Can I just refer to the statement, please. It's the same ERN as
22 previously, 0043-0461. And it's at page 0486 of the statement, and it's at
23 paragraph 99. And I'm just going to read out for you the very last sentence of
24 paragraph 99.

25 (Interpretation) "In fact, Toaly Williams was replaced during the month of

1 November 2010 because he had kicked an officer." End of quote.

2 (Speaks English) Now, does that help refresh your memory as to when it was that
3 Commander Toaly Bai was replaced?

4 A. [14:38:47] Well, yes, it does mention November 2010. It must be that. Well,
5 you know, this statement was given in 2013. That's some four years ago, so I beg
6 your pardon.

7 Q. [14:39:14] Thank you, thank you. Let me just continue. We can leave the
8 statement for now.

9 Do you recall -- and if you don't, don't worry. Do you recall, at the time when Brice
10 Mel was the commander of the 1st BCP, who was his deputy, his second in
11 command?

12 A. [14:39:43] Yes. Mel Brice's deputy was Captain Tindé Gabin.

13 Q. [14:39:55] And I think I can probably spell that. T-I-N-D-É, G-A-B-I-N.
14 When you were still, again, when you are at the -- thinking again about 2010-2011, can
15 you identify for us the different units of the 1st BCP? You've told us that you were a
16 member -- well, just remind us, the unit you were a member of during the crisis was
17 which one?

18 A. [14:40:44] During the crisis I was in the 1st BCP. But that was part of the
19 ground forces command, which is composed of the 1st infantry battalion, the 2nd
20 infantry battalion, the 3rd infantry battalion and the CTK in Gourou Gourou, the
21 BASA, the BAS, the BB, armoured battalion, and the other battalion.
22 So I was a member of the 1st BCP.

23 Q. [14:41:37] And your company -- I think you referred to it previously, but not
24 the full name, the company that you were part of, the particular company of the 1st
25 BCP, what was the name of that?

1 A. [14:41:47] Yes. When I was sent to the first BCP, I was in the 1st company and
2 then I was in the CCAS and then I was in the 4th company. But it's basically the
3 same thing, the 4th company and the CCAS.

4 Q. [14:42:15] When you were in the CCAS, who was your commander? Who was
5 your first commander in the CCAS when you first were assigned there?

6 A. [14:42:26] My commander was Captain Ouande Zadi Clément. Later, when
7 Colonel Détoh was appointed commander of the ground forces in place of Adou
8 Akafou, who is since deceased, there was Captain Zadi, who was appointed to
9 command a special unit under the direct command of the ground forces unit, which
10 was called the tactical group. So Zadi worked with Colonel Détoh Letho to
11 command that unit.

12 Q. [14:43:23] Just a note for the transcript, the witness has been saying "Détoh" not
13 "ghetto".

14 So far as the -- this is for the English transcript, clearly.

15 So far as your commander in the CCAS, just repeat the name slowly, please. Before
16 he was appointed to command the special unit, the tactical group, tell us, the name of
17 your commander in the CCAS was who?

18 A. [14:43:54] Ouande Zadi Clément, Zadi Clément.

19 Q. [14:44:12] When he was appointed to command the tactical group, can you tell
20 us whom he replaced at the command of the tactical group?

21 A. [14:44:24] At the time when General Adou Akafou set up this subgroup, it was
22 Atsin Aké Thierry who was appointed, so it was Atsin Aké Thierry that Zadi
23 replaced.

24 Q. [14:44:52] Now, the tactical group, tell us please, where was that physically
25 based?

1 A. [14:45:10] The tactical subgroup was within the old camp, near the command of
2 the ground forces.

3 Q. [14:45:21] That's old Akouédo camp?

4 A. [14:45:27] Yes, the old Akouédo camp.

5 Q. [14:45:32] And Zadi, when he was commander of the tactical group, do you
6 know to whom he reported?

7 A. [14:45:45] Well, Zadi was detached in charge of the sub, the tactical subgroup.
8 He didn't report to Commander Brice; he reported to Commander Détoh. He's a
9 general today.

10 Q. [14:46:11] When you -- Zadi was assigned as commander of the tactical group,
11 who replaced him as commander of your unit, CCAS?

12 A. [14:46:29] When Zadi left, there was a young officer. It was a young officer.
13 He had just arrived. I didn't know him very well. I think it was Yébou (phon).
14 I'm not sure. I'm not sure of the name.

15 Q. [14:47:14] Don't worry if you don't know.

16 A. [14:47:17] I'm sorry. I'm sorry, I can't remember the name exactly.

17 Q. [14:47:22] To your knowledge, what was Zadi's specialty in terms of weaponry,
18 to your knowledge?

19 A. [14:47:37] Zadi was specialised in mortars. And he even went for training in
20 Morocco. He was really the specialist in mortar fire. Nobody can deny that. He
21 was really the specialist in mortars. He was really excellent in shooting those
22 weapons. He was really the specialist.

23 Q. [14:48:10] Now, I want to ask you about another person whom you've
24 mentioned, and this was Atsin Aké, who you said Zadi replaced as commander of the
25 tactical group, Thierry. Do you recall what position he held after he was replaced as

1 commander of the tactical group? What position did he then take up?

2 A. [14:48:45] Yes. He went back to Akandje, Akandje, our training centre. That's
3 where Captain Atsin went. He went back there. But he was in regular contact with
4 the commander of the ground forces. But otherwise, yes, he returned officially. He
5 returned and he was in charge of the national training centre for parachute -- paras in
6 Akandje.

7 Q. [14:49:35] Tell us, please, where is Akandje situated?

8 A. [14:49:38] Akandje is in Bingerville. It's the former building of the Governor
9 Binger. And it was that building that they used as their command post. And
10 that's -- well, the village itself, Akandje, is about three kilometres from the actual
11 training centre, but they use that name for the training centre because the land itself
12 belongs to the village of a Akandje.

13 Q. [14:50:29] And were you aware of to whom he reported as commander of this
14 training centre, as the person in charge of this training centre?

15 A. [14:50:46] Well, the training centre of Akandje was under the 1st command of
16 BCP. So whoever was there would be under the first command of the BCP. That's
17 it. The commander of the BCP is in charge of the training centre in Akandje. So
18 anybody who works there would have to report to the commander of the 1st BCP; in
19 other words, Commander Brice.

20 Q. [14:51:25] Are you aware if Atsin Aké, whether he was assigned to any other
21 appointments during the 2010-2011 crisis?

22 A. [14:51:45] Yes, because he was the commander at the training centre for the
23 parachute commando. When the last government of Mr Gbagbo was set up and the
24 prime minister was appointed, Atsin was appointed as aide de camp of the Prime
25 Minister Aké N'Gbo.

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1 Q. [14:52:24] And I believe I can just spell A-K-E, Aké, N'Gbo, N-G-B-O, for the
2 record.

3 Were you aware during the crisis, again, of any particular activities by Aké Atsin or
4 any men under him?

5 A. [14:52:54] When he was detached, when he went to work at the residence, there
6 was a young fellow who was killed. We still don't know to this day what happened.
7 He was the aide de camp for Mr Aké N'Gbo, and so he was working in the residence
8 of that person and they were all grouped together at the Golf. So there was a lot of
9 movement.

10 And the young fellow who died, it's been a long time, and I don't remember the name
11 just now, he was also from the 1st BCP, and he also was faithful to Captain Atsin,
12 Atsin.

13 And Colonel Atsin had a four-by-four vehicle, and in the evening he came
14 between -- it happened between the weapons warehouse and the cafeteria, and there
15 were two people I saw, a certain Blaise, who is in the special forces today --

16 THE INTERPRETER: The rest of the name was inaudible.

17 THE WITNESS: -- and another individual who were regularly with him in the
18 evening. They would go out with him in the vehicle.

19 And the next morning they came. That's it.

20 MS PACK: [14:54:46]

21 Q. [14:54:46] And just to be clear, when you talk about people who were grouped
22 together at the Golf, who are you talking about?

23 A. [14:54:58] Well, the ones who were at the Golf, the present command, the
24 present president of the Côte d'Ivoire and his allies, they were the ones at the Golf.

25 Q. [14:55:18] Okay. And during the crisis, where was Atsin Aké based?

1 A. [14:55:22] Well, he lived in the old camp. That was his place of residence. But
2 he worked at the residence of Mr Aké N'Gbo. And he would come in the evening
3 with his four-by-four, and he would park it between the weapons warehouse and the
4 cafeteria. And the two men I mentioned earlier would go with him and they would
5 go out, and then the next day we would see them. But to say where they were
6 parked or whatever --

7 Q. [14:56:08] Okay. I'll ask you, we'll move on to a slightly different topic, staying
8 at Akouédo, the old camp. Now, I just wanted to ask you a little bit about the
9 various units that were there. And you've told us that you and the UCS, you
10 worked at the UCS that was based there, and of course the 1st BCP was based there,
11 and the tactical group was based there. And you mentioned also the command of
12 the forces terrestres, that was based there, too. Does that summarise it correctly?

13 A. [14:56:56] Yes, that's a good summary.

14 Q. [14:57:00] And were there any officers of whether it's the 1st BCP or any other
15 officers from any other unit who lived inside the camp that you recall? You've told
16 us -- let me just ask you then, so do you recall the names of any officers who lived
17 there from any unit?

18 A. [14:57:32] Yes. Well, because the housing in the old camp were where the men
19 from the 1st battalion, the air-ground battalion and the armoured division, they were
20 all housed there.

21 They lived in the old camp because there were -- there was housing there for the
22 officers and non-commissioned officers. So there were officers from other units who
23 actually resided in the old camp of Akouédo.
24 For example, the captain who was talking with Toaly, Captain Brou, he lived in the
25 old camp of Akouédo.

1 Q. [14:58:32] You've mentioned the 1st battalion and the air-ground battalion and
2 the armoured division, three units. Were there any other units you can think of
3 whose officers lived at old Akouédo camp during the crisis?

4 A. [14:58:57] Yes. The officers who lived in the old camp of Akouédo, yes. Is
5 that what you are asking me? Perhaps you could rephrase your question.

6 Q. [14:59:10] I'll come back to it a little later. Just let me finish up with this on the
7 camp.

8 You've mentioned Akouédo village earlier. About how far away was the village
9 from the old camp?

10 A. [14:59:25] Well, if you go through the main gate, it's at least 2 kilometres. But if
11 you go out a different exit, it's 500 metres from the village of Akouédo. Because we
12 can no longer use the back exit, we have to go out the main gate, so it's a bit further,
13 but in the old days we could go out the back door, and just 500 metres away we were
14 in the village of Akouédo.

15 Q. [15:00:07] I'm going to shift topics now completely and ask you about
16 recruitments, recruitments to the ground forces.

17 Can you describe briefly what would be the normal procedure for recruitment, for
18 military recruitment?

19 A. [15:00:35] Yes. Well, the army was originally set up by the former prime
20 minister. And we knew what the best method was, indeed. In November and
21 December of each year, the young people of Côte d'Ivoire aged 18 or over must
22 register at the city hall or the local office. You have to give your name in March.
23 You have a medical exam. And that's called by the conseil de révision.
24 After that, in July of the year, a group of young people is called up, the A-1 contingent.
25 In the following January a second group, the second contingent, contingent 2-A is

1 called up. So you are called up, you see. And this, this comes from the national
2 service of the ministry of defence. That is how, that is how our soldiers are recruited,
3 and that is how we were recruited.

4 THE INTERPRETER: [15:01:55] Interpreter correction, line 14, the witness made
5 mention of former President Félix Houphouët-Boigny.

6 MS PACK: [15:02:05]

7 Q. [15:02:05] And this process of recruitment that you've described, does that apply
8 to the forces terrestres?

9 A. [15:02:10] Yes, indeed.

10 Q. [15:02:20] And to other units as well or just to the forces terrestres?

11 A. [15:02:27] The process applies to the land forces, to the national navy, to the
12 military firefighters and to the air force, because all of us are recruited together. We
13 do our basic training together, and then after that people are assigned, some to the
14 firefighting units, some to the land forces and so on and so forth.

15 Q. [15:03:03] And how long is the normal procedure for basic training under a
16 normal procedure?

17 A. [15:03:12] Well, I can give you my own example. We got to the 2nd infantry
18 battalion on 4 January '89. We concluded our training on 6 June '89. Well, the same
19 year, six months later, six months of training, six months.

20 Q. [15:03:41] Do you recall during your career in the ground forces, do you recall
21 any recruitments that did not follow the normal procedure that you've described?

22 A. [15:03:59] Yes, yes. For example, after, after 19 September 2002, after 19
23 September 2002, indeed, it must have been January or February 2003, I believe in
24 October 2003, January or February 2003, yes, Doué Mathias, the general, was on
25 television, and he was saying, "You want to be a soldier? Yes. You want to be a

1 soldier? Yes" and then recruitment began.

2 Q. [15:04:53] And just tell us, how were you yourself personally aware of
3 recruitment at this time?

4 A. [15:05:01] Well, knowing about that kind of recruitment, I can backtrack a bit
5 and tell you this. After the 1987-88 recruitment contingent, there was a mutiny.
6 And that meant that the president of the day had to halt recruitment for a while.
7 After that General Guéï Robert was appointed chief of general staff. And by 1993,
8 you see, well, many of the young military athletes were civilians, and so as not to
9 demoralise them, he would ask each section, each sports section, there were 14 of
10 them, he would ask each one to provide five or six, maybe ten men for training and
11 then they would be included.

12 So before that, you see, I believe it was General Guéï Robert, but after, by 1995, the
13 situation returned to normal.

14 Q. [15:06:21] One moment, please. I wondered if we could just focus please very
15 much on just the particular recruitment that you have just described 2003, if we could
16 just focus on that one and how you became aware of that particular recruitment
17 in 2003.

18 A. [15:06:45] In 2003, that kind of recruitment, well, the argument that our
19 authorities of the day gave was that they wanted to beef up the number of combatants
20 on the front lines and so that is why they carried out that recruitment. I'm not so
21 sure.

22 Q. [15:07:14] Do you know yourself personally whether the recruits at this time
23 received any training?

24 A. [15:07:26] That training, well, you can't really call it training because, you see,
25 serving as a soldier, that is a noble occupation, and the proof of that is, well, look

1 where it has taken us. To my mind, it was not proper training. It was very sketchy.
2 It wasn't proper training, because, you see, to fire a shot or to take an enemy line and
3 reach an objective, those are different things. You can fire a shot, anyone can do that.
4 But to take a particular line, reach a particular target, that's the kind of work that a
5 trained soldier does.

6 Q. [15:08:24] And just if you could focus on this particular training that you've
7 described, how were you aware that this is the type of training that was being given
8 in at this time 2003? How were you personally aware of this training?

9 A. [15:08:44] I don't understand your question.

10 Q. [15:08:53] Let me put it another way. At this time you were in the UCS based
11 at Akouédo old camp; is that right?

12 A. [15:09:02] Yes.

13 Q. [15:09:05] Were any of the recruits received at that location to your knowledge?

14 A. [15:09:14] The recruits at that time, many of them were received and, you see,
15 that's where the land forces command is. But then after that they were taken to
16 training. The 1st BCP, the 1st battalion and so on and so forth, that is where they
17 were trained.

18 Q. [15:09:44] And do you recall whether how many approximately recruits were
19 received at the land forces command?

20 A. [15:10:00] Well, no. Well, I don't know. I don't really understand your
21 question. What are you driving at? I don't quite get it.

22 Q. [15:10:39] Back to this group, the recruits received at this time. Let me just ask
23 you first, were you aware if they were known by any particular name?

24 A. [15:10:56] Of course, of course, yes. They were referred to as the Blé Goudé
25 contingent, yes.

1 Q. [15:11:08] And are you able to say roughly how many of these recruits you
2 personally saw at Akouédo old camp?

3 A. [15:11:30] No. Now, the ones who were assigned to the unit or the ones that I
4 saw in the Akouédo camp?

5 Q. [15:11:41] Do go on.

6 A. [15:11:51] I'm asking you. The recruits that I saw at the Akouédo camp?

7 Q. [15:11:58] Yes. If it's easier for you, were there any assigned in particular to
8 units at the old Akouédo camp?

9 A. [15:12:08] Yes, of course. After their training, after their brief training, they
10 were transferred. Some were sent to the 1st BCP, others were sent to other units
11 within the army of Côte d'Ivoire.

12 But what was somewhat disturbing was that some of them were frankly disabled.
13 Some had one foot longer than another. And really, quite frankly, some of them
14 were disabled and they were not fit to be recruited into the army. Some of them
15 were assigned to the 1st BCP and I knew them, I worked with them; others were sent
16 to other units.

17 Q. [15:13:01] Now, you've said that some were assigned to the 1st BCP and you
18 knew them, you worked with them. Did you have any who were subordinate to you
19 in the hierarchy?

20 A. [15:13:15] Yes, in relation to the hierarchy, many of them were junior to me, yes.

21 Q. [15:13:27] And was there anything in particular that you observed in terms of
22 their behaviour towards you as their superior in the hierarchy?

23 A. [15:13:44] Yes. Those people had no respect for anyone or anything. The way
24 they saw it, they had come to wrestle power away from us. So they had no respect
25 for their senior officers. They had no respect for anyone or anything. That's what I

1 would say. They might even say what they wanted whenever they wanted,
2 whatever. They had a shield, so to speak, and that was Blé Goudé.

3 Q. [15:14:25] What do you mean they had a shield that was Blé Goudé? What do
4 you mean by that?

5 A. [15:14:32] Well, they said, well, they were untouchable. We couldn't do
6 anything. And that's how they behaved in relation to military authority. The old
7 timers would say, well -- hmm, how should I put this? They were untouchable.
8 That's what I meant.

9 Q. [15:15:02] And when you said just now that they had come to wrestle power
10 away from you, what did you mean by that?

11 A. [15:15:09] Yes, but it was to say in the year 2000, before Mr Gbagbo took power,
12 power was held by the national committee under Guéi Robert. And that meant
13 beneath the surface, once Mr Gbagbo said that he had won and all the people came
14 out, all the mutineers left that forum, so to speak, that space.
15 So when they came in, we were nothing in their eyes. That's what they were trying
16 to tell us.

17 Q. [15:15:51] And were you aware of where the recruits at least that were
18 subordinate to you, where they came from in Côte d'Ivoire, what areas?

19 A. [15:16:02] Well, in actual fact, the recruits of 2003 and the recruits of 2010,
20 they're not the same, not the same thing. In 2010, indeed, there was a sort of
21 underground recruitment. The Young Patriots found young people in their areas,
22 gave them a little bit of training in Akakro and then included them. I got that
23 information because a young fellow called Zambi from my area, he came with eight
24 young people from my village, and amongst them was my nephew.
25 Once they got to Akouédo at night, he just left them there, dropped them off there,

1 and my nephew took them to my place. And he referred to them as Kpado.

2 He took them all the way to my place. And so that was that recruitment, young

3 people who had come from areas that were favourable to Mr Gbagbo. Otherwise

4 the 2003 recruitment, really, I can't say that it was one particular region that was

5 recruited because there were all kinds of people within their ranks.

6 Q. [15:17:27] And last few questions on the 2003 recruitment then. You described

7 this, the training, and let me just go back to that. You said that the training was brief

8 and you described it as sketchy. You used that word. And then you said this, and

9 I'll quote it, "The proof of that is, well, look where it has taken us." So that's what

10 you said.

11 Can you explain what you mean by that, "look where it has taken us" in relation to the

12 training received by these particular recruits?

13 A. [15:18:23] Indeed, now if those recruits have had proper military training, they

14 would have -- you see, a soldier is like an angel, an angel, and when God wants to

15 send someone or a message, he sends an angel. And the same thing holds true for

16 soldiers. A soldier is sent to carry out a mission. But that doesn't make that person

17 a militiaman.

18 If those young people had truly had proper military training, they would have

19 realised that, no, what we were doing there was false.

20 So let's go back to military service. Unfortunately, there are soldiers who have

21 deserted who are now in Togo or Ghana for whatever reason. And if you are a

22 soldier, you do your work.

23 And if you are punished, you are punished, and then things go on. But now some

24 soldiers have deserted and gone to Togo or Ghana. Why? Just because they stayed.

25 Because, you see, they didn't remain soldiers, they became militiamen. That's what I

1 meant when I said that "look at what that has led us to."

2 Q. [15:19:50] Now, I've been asked to ask that you slow down a bit, because there
3 are interpreters who are trying to translate and to write things down. So we could
4 both do with slowing down a bit. That's the first thing.

5 Now, let me just ask you a question in relation to what you just said. You said these
6 soldiers became militiamen. What do you mean to say by that?

7 A. [15:20:12] Well, what I mean is this, a soldier is a soldier and he represents the
8 entire country, the entire surface area. He's not an individual. That's what I mean.
9 Of course you can serve an individual. That's the role of a soldier. But at one
10 particular point if the people is no longer in favour of the person, well, the soldier
11 aligns himself with the will of the people. That is what I mean.

12 Q. [15:21:00] Now, I'd like to just go back. You were describing -- and we'll move
13 away from this 2003 recruitment, you talked about a recruitment in 2010 as well.
14 And you talked about your own nephew in relation to that. So let's just start with
15 that. How did you learn of recruitment in 2010?

16 A. [15:21:42] If my nephew and the other young people from the village had not
17 come to my place, I wouldn't have known about that recruitment. Indeed, one
18 evening, I think it was December, in December, December 2010, I was there one
19 evening and I saw my nephew coming in with a group of young people. I gave
20 them something and I asked them what they were up to, any news. And they said
21 no, they had come for military training.

22 The first question was: Well, show me your calling up papers.

23 And none of them had any sort of papers saying that they had been called up.

24 I said to my nephew: Well, you haven't been called up. How do you think you're
25 going to do military training?

1 He said: No, a brother in the village who is a student, Zambi, and he was the one
2 who took their names and came with them.

3 But once he got to Akouédo in his vehicle, there were weapons. And before, you see,
4 you see, before going within the perimeter of the old camp, there was a roadblock.
5 And you see, they were stopped there at night. And when they searched the vehicle,
6 they found weapons in the vehicle.

7 So the soldiers thought it was best to keep the vehicles, and they said, okay, fine, find
8 us -- well, no. They took them to the camp. They took them to the camp, and after,
9 my nephew called me. He called me, and when I came, I said, well, no; that's my
10 nephew, let him go. But the next, you know, let them go with me and I'll bring them
11 back tomorrow. That's what happened. And we left.

12 And I said to them: Okay. Show me your papers that you've been called up. But
13 none of them had papers. So I tried to discourage them. And I said go back to the
14 village because this kind of recruitment, this is going to create problems. You don't
15 even know whether the country, the state of Côte d'Ivoire has recruited you. Go
16 back home. Some of them understood and they went back. But three or four of
17 them were stubborn. And amongst them, well, there were two who actually did
18 ultimately join the army, and they even came to my house a few weeks later with a
19 rank, corporal, and weapons, and a uniform. And I said how did you -- how did
20 that happen? And he just had got the rank like that, corporal.

21 Q. [15:24:47] Okay. Let me just ask you a few questions about your nephew and
22 his friends. Now, did you learn anything about how they had come to be recruited?

23 A. [15:25:02] Yes. Zambi, he had gone to the village. You see, the young people
24 in the village, they're looking for a job. And when someone comes and says, well,
25 you can become a soldier, it's a dream for them.

1 So they seized the opportunity and they followed him. But this Zambini guy, he was a
2 student, he was part of the Patriotic Galaxy, he was one of the Young Patriots.

3 Q. [15:25:33] Let's just -- the village that you're referring to is which village?
4 Where?

5 A. [15:25:43] *Progonié is the name of the village, Kouétié.

6 Q. [15:25:55] Which region?

7 A. [15:25:56] Sintra department.

8 Q. [15:25:57] And the individual you've identified, Zambini, who you say is a
9 member of the Patriotic Galaxy, he was a Young Patriot, how were you aware of that?
10 How did you know that?

11 A. [15:26:13] Well, I know that because the uncle, my -- you see, the proof is the
12 weapons that were found in the vehicle he was driving. When he was brought
13 before the commander of the land forces, the commander of the land forces had
14 received some telephone calls and he said to Commander Brice to let him go.
15 He didn't have any problems, any hassle. But usually if weapons are found on an
16 ordinary citizen, that's a problem. But in his case there was no problem. He didn't
17 have any problems.

18 Q. [15:26:57] Okay. So let's just take this in stages. You say that the Zambini and
19 your nephew and the friends, they were stopped and they had weapons in a vehicle.
20 Can you describe which -- what weapons that -- were you aware of what weapons
21 they had with them?

22 A. [15:27:17] Yes, the weapons, they had were Kalashnikovs.

23 Q. [15:27:32] You yourself, how were you personally aware of what happened?
24 Apart from the phone call, did you yourself go down to the roadblock yourself?

25 A. [15:27:55] To look at the weapons or -- well, it was in the camp. The nephew

1 called, my nephew called me in the camp. The roadblock, you see, it was at night.
2 That's when they were detained. They were kept until the early morning, and then
3 my nephew called me.

4 Q. [15:28:10] Now, you've told us about a conversation with the -- you say that
5 there was, that Zambi was brought before the commander of the land forces, and that
6 he had received some telephone calls, and he said to Commander Brice to let him go.
7 Now, how was it that you became aware of the instruction from the commander of
8 the land forces to Brice to let Zambi go? How were you made aware of that?

9 A. [15:28:46] I was there when Commander Brice said to the ones who had stopped
10 the vehicle to let the vehicle go and that the general had said to let them go, because
11 he had called the Presidency about the Young Patriots. So there was no -- it was not
12 a secret by any means.

13 Q. [15:29:09] And did you hear about -- you say the commander of the land forces
14 had called the Presidency. Did you hear what was said during that conversation?
15 Were you told what was said to the commander in that conversation?

16 A. [15:29:31] It was Commander Brice who came. And he said: Let the young
17 fellows go with the vehicle. The general has said to let them go.

18 Now, out of curiosity, we asked why. And we were told, well, they're Young
19 Patriots. We have to let them go.

20 At that time, you see, the Young Patriots, truly, they were above everyone. The
21 Young Patriots, well, soldiers were nothing in comparison to them. They were
22 above everyone. I'm telling you this loud and clear, the Young Patriots, they had no
23 reason to be concerned about anything at all, nothing at all. So officially the
24 commander said, okay, no, they're Young Patriots, let them go. And who could
25 contradict that instruction?

1 I wasn't actually there where the conversation -- but the commander came and said,
2 well, I've been told to let them go. They're Young Patriots. There was no secret. It
3 was not a secret to anyone.

4 Q. [15:30:55] And did you learn where the weapons had come from, the weapons
5 that these -- the nephew -- your nephew and his friends had with them, where these
6 weapons came from?

7 A. [15:31:11] No, I didn't even try to find out where the weapons came from.

8 Q. [15:31:22] Did you subsequently see Zambi again?

9 A. [15:31:28] To this very day I've never seen him again.

10 Q. [15:31:34] And did you receive any further information during the exchange you
11 had when you -- when Mel instructed his men to release your nephew and his friends,
12 was there anything else said about Zambi in particular?

13 A. [15:32:01] Well, I think it was -- what was said was that Zambi was a Young
14 Patriots. That's what it was, a Young Patriots.

15 MS PACK: [15:32:19] Mr President, I notice that it's 3.30 and I don't know if we were
16 continuing until 4 or stopping now.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE TARFUSSER: [15:32:25] No, no. We said we begin earlier the
18 third session and so we finish it earlier.

19 If it's a good moment, I would now stop here and go tomorrow morning at 9.30 with
20 the continuation of the examination by the Office of the Prosecutor.

21 Mr Witness, thank you for today. Mr Witness, I'm speaking, yes. Thank you for
22 today. You can go and rest and we see each other tomorrow morning at 9.30, where
23 the questioning by the Office of the Prosecutor continues and finishes sometimes, and
24 the questioning by the Defence of Mr Gbagbo and Mr Blé Goudé starts. Okay?

25 Thank you very much. The hearing is adjourned to tomorrow morning, 9.30.

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CIV-OTP-P-0316

(Open Session)

ICC-02/11-01/15

- 1 THE COURT USHER: [15:33:22] All rise.
- 2 (The hearing ends in open session at 3.33 p.m.)