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Situation Case	Central African Republic 01/05-01/08 The Prosecutor vs. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo	<i>Mouvement pour la libération du Congo</i> (Movement for the Liberation of the Congo) (MLC).
Hearing Chamber	Trial Proceedings Trial Chamber III: Judge Sylvia Steiner (Presiding Judge), Judge Joyce Aluoch and Judge Kuniko Ozaki	Participants: 1713 victims represented by Legal Representatives for Victims: Ms. Marie Edith Douzima-Lawson and Mr. Assingambi Zarambaud
Parties:	OTP: Ms. Bensouda, Ms. Kneuer and team Defence: Mr. Nkwebe Richard Liriss, Mr. Aimé Kilolo-Musamba and team	Alleged crimes: <u>Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo</u> is allegedly responsible, as military commander, of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Crimes against humanity: Murder and rape.○ War crimes: Murder, rape and pillaging.

Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo: born in 1962 in Bokada, Equateur Province; National of the DRC; Alleged President and Commander-in-chief of the

Start of Trial: 22 November 2010

This week one witnesses testified:
Witness 65 is a witness testifying under protective measures. The identity of the witness remains unknown.

03 October 2011

The Prosecution began its examination-in-chief of witness 65

During examination-in-chief by the Prosecution, the witness provided testimony on:

- **Structure of the Army for the Liberation of the Congo [ALC]¹:** The witness testified that the ALC was comprised of five brigades. A specific commander headed each brigade.

The remainder of the testimony was conducted in private session.

04 October 2011

The Prosecution and the Legal Representative for Victims (LRVs) concluded their examination of Witness 65

During examination-in-chief by the Prosecution, witness 65 provided testimony on:

- **MLC² Communications sent to Mr. Bemba:** When provided with Prosecution evidence in the form of logbooks of messages and communiqués between

¹ Subsidiary body of the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo

² Movement for the Liberation of the Congo

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various MLC entities, the witness alleged that all messages transferred were carbon copied and sent to Mr Bemba, for informational purposes.

The remainder of the testimony was conducted in closed session. During these sessions, the witness was provided with several excerpts of logbooks, and asked to provide further information with regards to the contents of the transferred messages and communication.

The examination-in-chief of the Legal Representative for Victims was conducted entirely in private session.

05 October 2011

The Defence commenced its cross-examination of Witness 65

During cross-examination by the Defence, witness 65 provided testimony on:

- **Military Code of Conduct:** The witness alleged that there not only existed a code of conduct, but Mr Bemba himself on several occasions stressed the importance of this code, calling for its implementation and enforcement.
- **MLC Communications:** The witness provided insight on the methods by which communication was carried out between the troops and the leaders. When using radio communication it was forbidden to mention individuals and items, and all messages were encoded, and then later decoded at the recipient base or centre and then transmitted to the recipient.
- **Mr. Bemba worked in private:** The witness testified that Mr Bemba preferred to work in isolation, and all communications with him were carried out in private.

The rest of the examination was conducted in private session.

06 October 2011

The Defence concluded its cross-examination of Witness 65

During cross-examination by the Defence, witness 65 provided testimony on:

- **Briefings by Mr Bemba:** The witness alleged that Mr Bemba, President of the MLC, did not brief the troops before their deployment with regards to the nature of civilians and status of enemies.
- **Troops deployed in stages:** Troops were deployed in stages to Bangui, thus making any sort of briefing impossible.
- **Preparations for Mr. Bemba's visits:** The witness testified that bases were informed of any impending visit by Mr Bemba, in order to take the necessary security measures.³

After the Defence concluded their cross-examination, the Prosecution re-addressed certain issues, followed once more by the Defence. However, these questioning periods were carried out in private session.

07 October 2011

No hearing - Trial to be resumed on the 17th October 2011

³ In this instance, 'base' refers to any of the command centres or bases from which the MLC carried out its operations.

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