

Case No. SCSL-2004-14-T  
THE PROSECUTOR OF  
THE SPECIAL COURT  
V.  
SAM HINGA NORMAN  
MOININA FOFANA  
ALLIEU KONDEWA

WEDNESDAY, 03 MAY 2006  
9.40 A.M.  
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER I

Before the Judges:	Pierre Boutet, Presiding Bankole Thompson Benjamin Mutanga Itoe
For Chambers:	Ms Elena Martin-Salgado Ms Roza Salibekova
For the Registry:	Ms Maureen Edmonds
For the Prosecution:	Mr Desmond de Silva Mr Joseph Kamara Ms Miatta Samba Ms Bianca Suciu (Case Manager)
For the Principal Defender:	Mr Lansana Dumbuya
For the accused Sam Hinga Norman:	Dr Bu-Buakei Jabbi Mr Aluseine Sesay Mr Kingsley Belle (legal assistant) Ms Claire Da Silva (legal assistant)
For the accused Moinina Fofana:	Mr Arrow Bockarie Mr Victor Koppe Mr Andrew Ianuzzi
For the accused Allieu Kondewa:	Mr Charles Margai Mr Ansu Lansana

1 [CDF03MAY06A - EKD]  
2 Wednesday, 03 May 2006  
3 [Open session]  
4 [The accused present]  
09:35:25 5 [Upon commencing at 9.40 a.m.]  
6 [The witness entered court]  
7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning, counsel. Good morning,  
8 Dr Jabbi.  
9 MR JABBI: Good morning, My Lord.  
09:40:58 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Are you ready to proceed with the  
11 examination-in-chief of your witness? And I take it, based on  
12 your witness list, that this witness is your second witness on  
13 your list, Mr Arthur Koroma.  
14 MR JABBI: Yes, My Lord.  
09:41:16 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: And the witness will give evidence in  
16 which language?  
17 MR JABBI: In English, My Lord.  
18 PRESIDING JUDGE: In English, fine.  
19 JUDGE ITOE: This will be your eighth or your ninth?  
09:41:38 20 MR JABBI: Ninth.  
21 WITNESS: ARTHUR KOROMA [Sworn]  
22 MR JABBI: My Lords, before I start with the witness, I  
23 just want to inform the Court that the first accused is at  
24 present undergoing some medication which may necessitate his  
09:42:26 25 having to go out a few times to attend to the urinary. Just to  
26 inform the Court so that is that --  
27 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's fine. Just let us know at that  
28 time and that should be no problem.  
29 MR JABBI: Thank you very much, My Lord.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Yes, please proceed.

2 EXAMINED BY MR JABBI:

3 Q. Good morning, Mr Witness.

4 A. Good morning, Dr Jabbi.

09:43:06 5 Q. Can you tell the Court your full names?

6 A. My name is Arthur Koroma.

7 Q. Your age?

8 A. I'm 41 years plus.

9 Q. Your marital status?

09:43:31 10 A. I'm married.

11 Q. And number of children?

12 A. Four children.

13 Q. Where do you live?

14 A. I live in Kenema.

09:43:48 15 Q. What is your status in respect of the Kamajor society?

16 A. I was the administrator of Civil Defence Forces in

17 Kenema District.

18 JUDGE ITOE: What does he do for a living? Mr Koroma, what  
19 do you do for a living?

09:44:27 20 THE WITNESS: I'm a principal at a vocational training  
21 centre in Kenema.

22 MR JABBI:

23 Q. How long have you been in that position?

24 A. Since 1999.

09:44:47 25 Q. And what is your status in respect of the Kamajor society?

26 A. I'm an initiate of the Kamajor society.

27 Q. When were you initiated?

28 A. Sometime in October 1996.

29 Q. By what mode of initiation?

1 A. I was initiated in 1996 by Kamoh Brima Bangura and just for  
2 the sake of protection.

3 Q. By that you mean you were not initiated in order to be a  
4 combatant?

09:46:19 5 A. Yes.

6 MR KAMARA: Objection, My Lord.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Sustained.

8 MR JABBI:

9 Q. What do you mean by being just initiated for protection?

09:46:31 10 A. With respect to the Kamajor society, it was possible for  
11 somebody to be initiated --

12 Q. Excuse me, please. I think I should inform you that it is  
13 necessary that you talk as slowly as possible because you are  
14 both being interpreted and also of course being recorded. So  
09:47:04 15 please watch the pace of the pens on the high Bench as you go  
16 along. Thank you. Begin now, please.

17 A. With respect to the Kamajor society it was possible for  
18 someone to be initiated just for the sake of protection and then  
19 to be initiated as a combatant. Both people - by that I mean  
09:47:54 20 someone who wanted to be initiated for protection and someone who  
21 wanted to be initiated as a combatant - will actually going  
22 through the same rights of initiation.

23 Q. Yes, please.

24 A. The differences in the types of initiation actually  
09:48:40 25 occurred after the initiation. For those --

26 Q. Watch your pace, please.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's okay, Dr Jabbi. If we run into  
28 difficulties we'll let you know.

29 MR JABBI: Thank you.

1 THE WITNESS: For those who were initiated for the purpose  
2 of protection only, they were not given a uniform after  
3 initiation. And the number of days of abstinence which they were  
4 given were shorter than those of someone who got initiated to be  
09:50:03 5 a combatant.

6 Q. Abstinence from what?

7 A. And moreover those who initiated to be combatants were also  
8 given uniforms directly. By abstinence I mean after initiation  
9 you were told to abstain from sex, from alcohol, smoking. And  
09:51:01 10 apart from ablution, also bathing. Those are the differences.

11 Q. Thank you. Now, apart from being initiated into the  
12 Kamajor society, can you tell the Court what your political  
13 status was?

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: At what time are we talking about,  
10:08:34 15 Dr Jabbi?

16 MR JABBI: He said he was initiated in October 1996 --

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Your question is directed to 1996?

18 MR JABBI: Yes, My Lord, roughly that time.

19 THE WITNESS: At the time of my initiation I was also a  
10:08:34 20 party activist for the Sierra Leone People' Party. Specifically  
21 I was the public relations officer for the SLPP young generation  
22 in the eastern region.

23 Q. Watch your pace, please.

24 JUDGE ITOE: An activist of the SLPP and what in the  
10:08:34 25 Eastern Province? What else?

26 THE WITNESS: Public relations officer with the SLPP young  
27 generation in the eastern region.

28 MR JABBI:

29 Q. Although you say you got initiated for protection, have you

1 ever experienced combat?

2 A. Yes, indeed and that happened after the May 25 AFRC junta  
3 military coup in 1997. When the coup took --

4 Q. Watch your pace, please. You say that took place after the  
10:08:35 5 May 25, 1997 coup. Before that, what was your state of combat  
6 involvement?

7 A. I hadn't any combat experience.

8 Q. Before May 25, 1997?

9 A. Yes, I hadn't any combat experience. But when the coup  
10:08:36 10 took place --

11 Q. Watch your pace, please. Yes, carry on, please.

12 A. When the coup took place, all of us who were members of the  
13 party naturally were aggrieved and we were angry.

14 Q. Watch your pace, please. Yes, please.

10:08:36 15 A. We held demonstrations, we wrote protest letters.

16 JUDGE ITOE: When you're talking of the party, which party  
17 is it, the SLPP?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, as I have said, My Lord.

19 JUDGE ITOE: We want to be very clear at all stages.

10:08:36 20 THE WITNESS: Okay.

21 MR JABBI:

22 Q. Yes, carry on.

23 A. We held demonstrations, we did a lot of things to express  
24 our dissatisfaction with the coup. But then some of us sat down  
10:08:36 25 who were activists and party members sat down and actually did a  
26 lot of brainstorming on what was happening in the country. And  
27 we arrived at the conclusion that the only way of getting rid of  
28 the AFRC junta was by force of arms. We decided to contact --

29 Q. Watch your pace, please. Yes.

1 A. We decided to establish contact with the group of Kamajors  
2 who had already started resisting the AFRC at Gendema.  
3 Q. Where is Gendema?  
4 A. Gendema is in Pujehun District, in Soro Gbema Chiefdom,  
10:08:37 5 just by the Mano River Union Bridge.  
6 Q. That is by the Bo Waterside bridge?  
7 A. I think it's called the Mano River Union Bridge. Bo  
8 Waterside is on the Liberian side. It's a village on the  
9 Liberian side.  
10:08:37 10 Q. Thank you. Yes?  
11 A. I was assigned the task of actually establishing the  
12 contact, because I was myself a Kamajor, though I had been  
13 initiated into the society for protection only. So I made the  
14 journey.  
10:08:38 15 Q. Watch your pace, please. You were assigned the  
16 responsibility of making the contact and you made the journey;  
17 yes?  
18 A. Through Tolo in Tunkia Chiefdom. It's a border crossing  
19 point. Tolo is where I passed and got to Liberia.  
10:08:38 20 MR JABBI: Tolo, My Lords, T-O-L-O.  
21 Q. How far is that from Gendema?  
22 A. Tolo is in Kenema District, Tunkia Chiefdom. I really  
23 cannot tell the exact distance.  
24 Q. Okay. So you made the journey?  
10:08:38 25 A. Yes, sir and I got to -- because I passed through Liberia,  
26 I got to Bo Waterside and established contact with  
27 Eddie Massallay who was in charge of activities at Gendema.  
28 Q. What activities?  
29 A. The general resistance that was being put up by Kamajors

1 against the AFRC.

2 Q. So you got in touch with Eddie Massallay, who was in charge  
3 of the Kamajor resistance activities in that area?

4 A. Yes, indeed.

10:08:39 5 Q. Yes?

6 A. And I told him I had come to see Chief Norman and I was  
7 from Kenema. So he asked me to wait.

8 Q. Where was Chief Norman, did you know?

9 A. Chief Norman was in Monrovia. It's over 80 miles from Bo  
10:08:39 10 Waterside.

11 Q. Yes?

12 A. It took me -- I waited for nearly two weeks before making  
13 the journey to Monrovia to see Chief Norman.

14 Q. You waited at Bo Waterside?

10:08:39 15 A. Yes, indeed.

16 Q. During your time of waiting what activities, if any, did  
17 you engage in?

18 A. Not much really because by then -- I was there when  
19 Kamajors were finally dislodged from this country, sent across  
10:08:40 20 the bridge into Liberia. So we were all, all of us --

21 Q. Watch your pace, please. Yes, carry on.

22 A. I was saying Kamajors were dislodged from Sierra Leone and  
23 then they went across the bridge and all of us were given a  
24 classroom. There was a primary school nearby in Bo Waterside.  
10:08:40 25 That's where ECOMOG took all the Kamajors to stay temporarily.  
26 That's where I also stayed, really doing nothing.

27 Q. Yes?

28 A. And then after two weeks I made the journey together with  
29 Eddie Massallay to Monrovia where I met Chief Norman.



1 Q. At that time when you were going to Monrovia, what was the  
2 state of play at the bridge?

3 A. The bridge was still being occupied by the junta forces.  
4 It was actually retaken in my absence.

10:08:41 5 Q. Whilst you were in Monrovia?

6 A. Whilst I was in Monrovia, yes.

7 Q. And you obviously got to Monrovia; yes?

8 A. When I got to Monrovia I met Chief. He was residing at one  
9 OAU villa. A series of OAU villas, he was residing in one of  
10:08:42 10 them.

11 Q. Yes?

12 A. Then I told him the purpose of my visit and my journey to  
13 Liberia generally; that members of our party had sat down and  
14 they had decided that the only way to get rid of the junta forces  
10:08:42 15 was by force of arms and they had sent me to come and see if we  
16 could secure some arms to take back to Kenema, and I was well  
17 received and Chief asked me to wait. Whilst I was waiting I  
18 learnt that Kamajors had retaken the bridge, controlling the  
19 bridge.

10:08:43 20 Q. The Mano River Bridge?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Yes?

23 A. So I told Chief I wanted to go back to the Waterside to  
24 help. Since I was myself a Kamajor, I wanted to go back to the  
10:08:43 25 Waterside to help with things there.

26 Q. And did you go back?

27 A. He actually wanted me to stay with him in Monrovia. But  
28 then finally I decided I preferred staying -- I preferred going  
29 to Gendema to help out. So I went back eventually.

1 Q. And at the bridge when you finally returned there?

2 A. When I finally returned to the bridge a decision had  
3 already been taken that the Kamajors should start extending their  
4 operation areas back into the country. A team had already been  
10:08:43 5 made, so I volunteered to join the team, the team of Kamajors  
6 from Kenema District led by one Mohamed Bhonie Koroma had already  
7 volunteered.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: What's the name of the leader of the  
9 team?

10:08:43 10 THE WITNESS: Mohamed Bhonie Koroma.

11 MR JABBI: B-O-N-N-I-E.

12 THE WITNESS: B-H-O-N-I-E.

13 MR JABBI:

14 Q. B-H-O-N-I-E?

10:08:44 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Koroma, K-O-R-O-M-A. Now can you give the Court a rough  
17 idea of the time, the time frame?

18 A. That must have been in July 1997.

19 Q. Yes, so you decided to join this Kamajor group led by  
10:08:44 20 Bhonie Koroma?

21 A. Yes, I did. I joined them, I was given a rifle and then we  
22 proceeded to Fairo without an incident actually.

23 MR JABBI: Fairo, My Lords, F-A-I-R-O.

24 Q. Where is Fairo by the way?

10:08:48 25 A. It is in Soro Gbema Chiefdom, Pujehun District.

26 MR JABBI: Soro Gbema, My Lords, S-O-R-O G-B-E-M-A. Soro  
27 Gbema, usually with a hyphen before the G.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's fine, Dr Jabbi. Let's proceed,  
29 please.

1 MR JABBI: Thank you.

2 Q. Yes, did anything happen at Fairo?

3 A. We deployed and from there we started sending out patrols,  
4 normal combat activities, front line activities.

10:09:36 5 Q. To where?

6 A. To other areas of Soro Gbema Chiefdom and as far as Makpele  
7 Chiefdom, where the junta forces had a garrison at Zimmi.

8 MR JABBI: Makpele Chiefdom, My Lords, M-A-K-P-E-L-L-E  
9 [sic], Makpele Chiefdom.

10:10:09 10 Q. You say as far as Zimmi where the junta forces had a  
11 garrison?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Yes?

14 A. Then when we were there we used to send out patrols and we  
10:10:29 15 would also attack that location, their location at Zimmi.

16 Q. Do you know how long you stayed at that base?

17 A. In Fairo?

18 Q. Yes, please.

19 A. We were in Fairo for about a month.

10:11:24 20 Q. Do you know one honourable Mohamed Kallon?

21 A. Yes, I do.

22 Q. Who is he?

23 A. Honourable Mohamed Kallon is an SLPP member of Parliament.

24 Q. Anything more about him you want to say?

10:11:59 25 A. During the junta interregnum when we were at the Waterside,  
26 when we were at Gendema, he came there.

27 Q. From where, do you know?

28 A. We were told they came from Monrovia.

29 Q. Yes?

1 A. But they had actually come from Conakry to Monrovia and  
2 then to Gendema.  
3 Q. Watch your pace, please.  
4 A. They said they belonged to the Movement for the Restoration  
10:12:46 5 of Democracy, MRD.  
6 Q. Movement for the Restoration of Democracy?  
7 A. Yeah.  
8 Q. What was that?  
9 A. It was one of those support groups fighting, helping to  
10:13:02 10 restore the democratically elected government.  
11 Q. Do you know where it was formed or based?  
12 A. They had their headquarters in Conakry.  
13 Q. What did Honourable Kallon do in the Gendema area?  
14 A. When he came we're now told he was going to be in charge of  
10:13:57 15 the Kamajors who were at Gendema.  
16 Q. Before that who was in charge of the Kamajor activities in  
17 Gendema?  
18 A. Eddie Massallay was.  
19 Q. You said you had arrived at Fairo and stayed there for  
10:15:05 20 about three months, sending out patrols?  
21 A. Not three months, one month.  
22 Q. One month, thank you. What happened after that one month?  
23 A. We then moved our combatant camp forward to another town  
24 called Gofo.  
10:15:45 25 MR JABBI: Gofo, My Lords, G-O-F-O-R [sic].  
26 Q. Where is that?  
27 A. It's in Makpele Chiefdom.  
28 Q. Makpele Chiefdom, Pujehun District. Yes, at Gofo --  
29 A. And Gofo, incidentally, was just about six miles from

1 Zimmi.

2 Q. In what direction?

3 A. It's moving northward.

4 Q. About six miles north from Zimmi?

10:16:26 5 A. South of Zimmi.

6 Q. Gofo was six miles south of Zimmi?

7 A. South of Zimmi. Zimmi is six miles north of Gofo.

8 Q. Thank you very much. Yes, at Gofo any activities?

9 A. We conducted patrols and also we launched attacks against  
10:16:52 10 the junta forces that were defending Zimmi.

11 Q. With what degree of success, if any?

12 A. We made many attempts to capture Zimmi from the AFRC junta  
13 forces but we did not succeed.

14 Q. Were you involved in the combat yourself that time?

10:17:52 15 A. Yes, indeed.

16 Q. Yes?

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, you should ask a question. He has  
18 answered your question. You asked him if he was involved in  
19 combat himself, he has answered yes. So what's next? What's  
10:18:27 20 your next question?

21 MR JABBI: My Lord, my "yes" was in question form to  
22 provoke any other utterance he wanted to make.

23 Q. Did you do anything else?

24 A. We -- I was engaged in a lot of combat activities, in most  
10:18:46 25 of the attacks that were launched against the AFRC junta in  
26 Zimmi, and we also conducted patrols, long distance patrols  
27 around in that general area.

28 Q. Watch your pace, please. Long distance patrols to such  
29 places as what?

1 A. Most of the villages I did not know because I was a  
2 stranger in that area. But I can remember we took long distance  
3 patrols, six miles, seven miles.

4 Q. And after your Gofu experience what next?

10:19:33 5 A. Well, what got us out of Gofu was an attack by a helicopter  
6 gunship belonging to the AFRC junta.

7 Q. Watch your pace, please.

8 A. When the attack took place we had to retreat to Fairo.

9 Q. Yes?

10:20:19 10 A. Whilst we were in Fairo we got the information that plans  
11 were being made for all those Kamajors who had come from various  
12 districts to Pujehun District to go back to their home districts.  
13 And also that Chief Norman was also about to move from Monrovia  
14 to somewhere in Sierra Leone.

10:20:50 15 Q. Did the Kamajors from other districts move out of  
16 Pujehun District?

17 A. Including myself, yes. One day I visited Gendema from  
18 Fairo and I witnessed a helicopter bringing lots and lots of  
19 ammunition and piling them up. We were told that those ones were

10:21:17 20 meant to be taken to the location where Chief Norman was going,  
21 it's in Talia in Yawbeko Chiefdom.

22 Q. Thank you. Did you by chance go to Talia yourself?

23 A. Then, no.

24 Q. At that time?

10:21:38 25 A. No.

26 Q. Thank you. Which district group did you join to leave the  
27 Gendema area?

28 A. I was with the Kenema District group.

29 Q. Now, you spoke of some co-operation between the Kamajors

1 and ECOMOG on the Liberian side of the bridge?

2 MR KAMARA: Objection, Your Honour. I haven't heard this  
3 witness mention ECOMOG at any point, not yet.

4 JUDGE THOMPSON: He did, but not in that context.

10:22:27 5 JUDGE ITOE: He did.

6 MR KAMARA: Not in that context.

7 JUDGE ITOE: Yes.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, but not with such clarity. It wasn't  
9 about cooperation?

10:22:38 10 MR KAMARA: Exactly.

11 MR JABBI:

12 Q. You mentioned some interaction between Kamajors and ECOMOG  
13 troops on the Liberia side of the bridge. Do you remember?

14 A. Yes, I did. I was actually talking about when Kamajors  
10:23:01 15 were beaten out of Sierra Leone and that it was ECOMOG who gave  
16 us --

17 JUDGE ITOE: That was when you were across the bridge and  
18 you were lodged in some classrooms?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10:23:13 20 JUDGE ITOE: Is that not what you said?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 MR JABBI:

23 Q. Now, after you had now crossed the bridge and the  
24 activities you had spoken about up to the time Kamajors from  
10:23:16 25 various districts were being asked to go back to their respective  
26 districts, during that period, was there any involvement with  
27 ECOMOG?

28 A. There was lots of involvement with ECOMOG in the sense that  
29 all of the food, the arms and ammunition we used were provided by

1 ECOMOG. Moreover, our wounded in action were taken to Monrovia  
2 and treated in ECOMOG field hospitals.

3 Q. Anything more?

4 A. Generally ECOMOG provided support. For instance, even when  
10:24:48 5 they came to --

6 Q. Watch your pace, please. Yes?

7 A. Even when it came to general strategy and tactics, there  
8 was a time when we decided to attack Zimmi and, in our  
9 discussions with Eddie Massallay, he told us that at some  
10:25:22 10 appointed time he would talk to ECOMOG to provide fire support,  
11 to shell Zimmi before we entered there. Of course, it never  
12 actually happened, but ECOMOG was mentioned in the general  
13 planning.

14 Q. That is the planning to attack Zimmi?

10:25:42 15 A. Yes, once. On one occasion.

16 Q. On one occasion.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: And on that one occasion it's Massallay  
18 that told you that he was to contact ECOMOG to provide this --

19 THE WITNESS: Eddie Massallay, yes.

10:26:01 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: But you never got that support?

21 THE WITNESS: No, we got there, we waited. The bombs never  
22 fell.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

24 MR JABBI:

10:26:15 25 Q. Now, this move out towards the respective districts --

26 A. Yes, when it got to the time for us to move, because I was  
27 actually in a group of Kamajors who came from  
28 Lower Bambara Chiefdom, Lower Bambara and Dodo Chiefdom. I was  
29 in that group. We were airlifted by a helicopter to Gbaama.



1 That's in Jiama Bongor Chiefdom.  
2 Q. What helicopter was that?  
3 A. It was painted green and it was flown by white people.  
4 Q. To Gbaama?  
10:26:56 5 A. Gbaama.  
6 Q. G-B-A-A-M-A. What chiefdom is that Gbaama?  
7 A. Jiama Bongor.  
8 Q. District?  
9 A. Bo District.  
10:27:16 10 Q. At Gbaama, did anything happen?  
11 A. We passed the night, nothing happened. The only thing is  
12 that I observed that ECOMOG troops were there. They had been  
13 dislodged from Gendema. Nigerian troops had been dislodged from  
14 Gendema.  
10:28:22 15 Q. And they were at Gbaama?  
16 A. They were at Gbaama, yes, and when the helicopter was taken  
17 down they were loaded and taken back to Liberia.  
18 Q. All of them?  
19 A. The ones that were there, yes.  
10:28:22 20 Q. And your group, what happened next?  
21 A. We passed the night and next morning we started trekking,  
22 marching to Dodo in Kenema District.  
23 Q. What chiefdom is Dodo?  
24 A. Dodo is in Kenema. Dodo Chiefdom is in Kenema District.  
10:28:29 25 Q. Dodo is a chiefdom, is it?  
26 A. Chiefdom. It's a town and a chiefdom. There is a town in  
27 Dodo Chiefdom named Dodo. It's a chiefdom headquarter.  
28 Q. You went to Dodo in Dodo Chiefdom in Kenema District.  
29 A. We went to the chiefdom. The specific town to which we

1 went, or village, was called Lumbebu. That's where I stayed.  
2 Q. Lumbebu, L-U-M-B-E-B-U. Yes, and in that area?  
3 A. When we got there, we were there for about a week and then  
4 some other Kamajors arrived. They said they had come from Talia  
10:29:27 5 Yawbeko. They brought ammunition.  
6 Q. At Dodo? Where? Dodo?  
7 A. They met us in Dodo, yes.  
8 Q. Yes, what subsequently --  
9 A. Meetings were held and word was circulated in Dodo and  
10:30:07 10 Lower Bambara Chiefdom that we had come back from Gendema.  
11 Q. Where were such messages sent?  
12 A. Within Dodo Chiefdom and Lower Bambara Chiefdom.  
13 Q. Within Dodo Chiefdom and Lower Bambara Chiefdom?  
14 A. Yes.  
10:30:21 15 Q. Any particular town in those two chiefdoms?  
16 A. There's a lot of villages: Panguma, Loma, Kamboma. All  
17 those villages surrounding Tongo in Lower Bambara Chiefdom, sent  
18 word there.  
19 Q. Is Tongo itself in Lower Bambara Chiefdom?  
10:30:49 20 A. Yes, it is.  
21 Q. Yes, you had sent this word round?  
22 A. After some time we held a meeting in Dodo. It's the  
23 chiefdom headquarter. A meeting was held in which decisions were  
24 taken that we should occupy Panguma, which was the chiefdom  
10:31:22 25 headquarter of Lower Bambara Chiefdom, and start operations in  
26 that area around Tongo.  
27 Q. Did operations in fact go on?  
28 A. Just after the meeting we proceeded to occupy Panguma on  
29 the same day.

1 Q. On the same day?

2 A. Yes, and started deploying in villages nearby?

3 Q. Was Panguma occupied by any group before you went there?

4 A. No, Panguma was empty.

10:32:12 5 Q. So you occupied it and --

6 A. We occupied it, dug in and started deploying people in  
7 nearby villages -- Kamajors in nearby villages, and then we sent  
8 word around for the Kamajors to come and join us. They came and  
9 then --

10:32:33 10 Q. Watch your pace, please. Yes, they came?

11 A. They came and then we started conducting normal operations,  
12 sending out patrols, laying ambushes. But then there was a very  
13 strict instruction that nobody should attack Tongo then.

14 Q. Instruction from who?

10:33:07 15 A. From Musa Junisa.

16 Q. Who was Musa Junisa?

17 A. Musa Junisa was a chief hunter in that area. He was the  
18 one in fact which he had that meeting, the meeting I'm telling  
19 you about that was held in Dodo.

10:33:38 20 Q. Did he have any role in the Kamajor society?

21 A. Musa Junisa was one of those Kamajors who had started  
22 fighting, even in the day of Dr Alpha Lavalie when the Kamajor  
23 society had not even got to Kenema. He was respected. He had  
24 made a name and a mark.

10:34:15 25 Q. How did your activities go in the area generally?

26 A. Generally to our satisfaction, because we actually  
27 succeeded in making sure that the movement of junta forces in and  
28 out of Tongo was very highly restricted. It got to a point where  
29 if they had to move --

1 Q. Watch your pace, please. Watch your pace, please. Got to  
2 a point?  
3 A. Got to a point if they had to move from Tongo to Kenema,  
4 they had to do so in convoy and they had to go shooting.  
10:35:01 5 Q. Did you ever get to Tongo itself?  
6 A. Then, no.  
7 Q. At that time?  
8 A. No.  
9 Q. What is a rough time frame we are talking about?  
10:35:16 10 A. That was in November.  
11 Q. Around November 1997?  
12 A. The period I am talking about now, we are in November 1997.  
13 Q. Thank you. Yes, did anything happen next?  
14 A. When we were in Panguma for about a month, a decision was  
10:35:44 15 taken that we should go to Base Zero.  
16 Q. That who should go to Base Zero?  
17 A. The leading -- those, Musa Junisa, myself, most of the  
18 commanders who were in charge of operations in Panguma.  
19 Q. By Base Zero you mean Talia?  
10:36:19 20 A. Talia Yawbeko.  
21 Q. Did you go?  
22 A. Yes, I did. We went along with some other Kamajors. We  
23 went on foot. We spent about four days walking. We walked all  
24 day, we rested at night. Then arrived in Talia about four days  
10:36:51 25 later.  
26 Q. That's still in November, 1997?  
27 A. That was in early December. We got to Talia early  
28 December. We must have left Panguma late in November and arrived  
29 early in December.

1 Q. In Base Zero how long did you stay?

2 A. When we got to Base Zero I proceeded to meet Chief, then  
3 some other people I knew in Gendema, met some of them there. I  
4 was informed that they had actually been looking for me.

10:37:57 5 Q. Who is "Chief", by the way?

6 A. Chief Norman, Chief Norman.

7 Q. You were informed that they had been looking for you?

8 A. Yes, because ECOMOG, they said, had -- ECOWAS had arranged  
9 for Kamajors and the AFRC to sit together and talk. So they  
10:38:05 10 wanted Kamajors who could be a part of the delegation and I had  
11 been identified as one of those, but they didn't know where I  
12 was. So when I got to Base Zero they now told me I was to be a  
13 part of that delegation. Two days after my arrival in  
14 Base Zero --

10:38:27 15 Q. Watch your pace, please.

16 A. Nobody's writing.

17 Q. Yes?

18 A. Two days after my arrival in Base Zero the same helicopter  
19 again came and I was put on board and flown to Monrovia. I  
10:38:44 20 passed the night in Monrovia. In the morning I was flown to  
21 Lungi.

22 Q. Were you alone?

23 A. I flew together with Eddie Massallay and Mr Lumeh.

24 Q. What Lumeh?

10:38:58 25 A. Mustapha Lumeh. And then we got to Lungi, we were received  
26 by the late -- well, then he was a colonel, Colonel Maxwell  
27 Khobe. Late General Khobe. Received by General Khobe.

28 Q. Who was then a colonel, you said?

29 A. Yes. And then we were taken to the Lungi airport hotel.

1 At the Lungi airport hotel that is where we met the  
2 vice-president, Dr --

3 Q. Watch your pace, please. You have named some people who  
4 went with you from Base Zero to Lungi. Did that number include  
10:40:07 5 Chief Norman?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Chief Norman was not among you?

8 A. Chief Norman was not in that number. Three of us: Myself,  
9 Eddie Massallay and Mr Mustapha Lumeh.

10:40:24 10 Q. Do you in fact know Chief Norman well?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. Would you be able to identify him if you saw him, say, in  
13 this courtroom?

14 A. Surely.

10:40:38 15 Q. Can you look around and see if you can identify anyone you  
16 call Chief Norman?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Yes, please?

19 A. Chief Norman is seated there [Indicated]. He has a white  
10:40:55 20 hat and glasses.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: For the record the witness indicates the  
22 first accused, Chief Norman.

23 MR JABBI:

24 Q. Yes, you are now at the Lungi airport hotel. You say you  
10:41:17 25 were received --

26 A. I want to put something straight.

27 Q. Yes.

28 A. I travelled from Base Zero to Monrovia, myself, Eddie  
29 Massallay and Mr Lumeh. But when travelling from Monrovia to

1 Lungi there was only myself and Eddie Massallay. Mr Lumeh was  
2 not included.

3 Q. Thank you. Yes, you are at Lungi airport hotel?

4 A. When we got there we were taken to the hotel and, like I  
10:41:50 5 said, we met the vice-president, Dr Joe -- former vice-president,  
6 Dr Joe Albert Demby, and there were other ministers of the SLPP  
7 government in exile there Honourable Mohamed Bashiru Daramy.

8 Q. Watch your pace, watch your pace. Other government  
9 ministers like?

10:42:16 10 A. Honourable Mohamed Bashiru Daramy, Pa Maigore Kallon.  
11 There was Dr Kemoh Salia-Gbao.

12 MR JABBI: Maigore, My Lords, M-A-I-G-O-R-E. Maigore  
13 Kallon.

14 Q. Okay?

10:42:37 15 A. There was police officers and members of the SLA, Sierra  
16 Leone Army.

17 Q. At the hotel?

18 A. At the hotel, yes.

19 Q. Yes, did anything transpire there?

10:42:58 20 A. Well, when we got there it was the next day we held a  
21 meeting in which we were briefed about the proposed meeting, and  
22 they sat down to get together a delegation of those of us who  
23 were to take part in the meeting.

24 Q. Which meeting?

10:43:24 25 A. This meeting that was to take place between Kamajors and  
26 the AFRC government representatives.

27 Q. Yes.

28 A. So the delegation was finally formed and Eddie Massallay  
29 was made head of the delegation and I was made the spokesman for

1 the delegation.

2 Q. Eddie Massallay was made leader of that delegation?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you the spokesman?

10:43:53 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you get to the meeting with the AFRC?

7 A. Yes, on the first day we were taken out to Jui. We were  
8 flown out to Jui. There are ECOMOG troops on the ground in Jui.  
9 But unfortunately the junta representatives did not turn up.

10:44:20 10 Q. What happened?

11 A. Then we had to go back to Lungi. Two days later we were  
12 again flown to Jui and indeed the junta representatives arrived  
13 and then we started deliberations.

14 Q. Can you very briefly tell the Court how the deliberations  
10:44:45 15 went? Very briefly, please.

16 A. Some of the junta representatives, I could remember, they  
17 had Mike Lamin, they had Colonel Bashiru Conteh. There were some  
18 other -- they had members of the armed force, they had police  
19 officers, they had a prison officer, and they had some civilians  
10:45:07 20 in their midst. They sat to one side, we sat to another side,  
21 and the ECOMOG commanders who were on the ground sat in the  
22 middle. And then the ECOMOG opened the deliberations, welcomed  
23 us. Then they gave the AFRC representatives an opportunity to  
24 put their case. They did so. And I was also --

10:45:35 25 Q. Watch your pace, please. Yes?

26 A. And I was also given an opportunity put across our own  
27 case.

28 Q. For the Kamajors?

29 A. Yes, and I did so. Briefly I said we were common people,



1 we were only resisting against the AFRC because they had  
2 overthrown a legitimately elected government, and that we were  
3 not prepared to compromise. We'd be happy and it would be to the  
4 good of the country and our people if they would quietly step  
10:46:15 5 down and avoid all the bloodshed that was taking place in the  
6 country. That was my brief contribution. And then the  
7 deliberations continued.

8 Q. Thank you. What was the response of the other side?

9 A. Well, they said they had no intention of holding on to  
10:46:39 10 power forever and ever and that they wanted us to do a tour of  
11 the country together so that we could see places and the people  
12 would see that there was no problem between us. They started  
13 saying things that made us very suspicious of their motives. So  
14 we requested that the meeting should be adjourned till we get  
10:47:04 15 back to Lungi and consult with our own people. So we went back  
16 that day and held small -- held our normal briefings. In that  
17 meeting we had also Colonel Fallah Sewa --

18 Q. That's in Lungi now?

19 A. That's in Lungi, yes. He was there and he was the one who  
10:47:30 20 actually warned that we should be careful about what those guys  
21 were planning, and that in fact they were only resorting to  
22 delaying tactics, that the meetings would actually yield no  
23 fruitful dividend. So we were instructed to go back and  
24 discontinue the deliberations. And that is precisely what we  
10:47:50 25 did. When we went the other day we told them we are not prepared  
26 to continue the talks any longer and it ended there.

27 Q. When the talks broke down did you go back to Base Zero?

28 A. No, I didn't go back to Base Zero, I went back to Lungi.  
29 And from there I -- Chief Norman visited Lungi once.

1 Q. Whilst you were there?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What month was that?

4 A. We are still in December.

10:48:40 5 Q. December 1997?

6 A. 1997, yes. And I told him I wanted to go back. He said  
7 no, I should stay there. And if for any reason somebody wanted  
8 to know about Kamajors and their activities, then I would be a  
9 suitable person to present our case. So I stayed on in Lungi.

10:49:06 10 Q. Lungi. Do you know how long you stayed in Lungi?

11 A. I was in Lungi for all of December, January and part of  
12 February in 1998.

13 Q. Did any activity take place in Lungi?

14 A. There were lots of activities in Lungi while I was there.

10:49:31 15 People visited, people came. That was when I even learnt that it  
16 was in Lungi they had this 98.1D. It's a radio station.

17 Q. 98.1D radio station?

18 A. Yes, democracy. D for democracy.

19 Q. You learned it was in Lungi?

10:49:48 20 A. Yes, I learned that it was in Lungi and, in fact, we  
21 started going to the station to sensitise. We also took part in  
22 some of the broadcasts. And then whilst in Lungi we interacted  
23 with the loyal troops. That is those policemen and members of  
24 the SLA who had joined the side of the government in exile. We  
10:50:13 25 also interacted a lot with the ECOMOG troops, especially  
26 General Khobe, Maxwell Khobe then. I was there when the  
27 President visited Lungi. President Kabbah visited Lungi I was  
28 there.

29 Q. When was that?

1 A. Late December.

2 Q. Late?

3 A. December 1997. He visited Lungi and he addressed those of  
4 us who were there. I was also in Lungi, whilst in Lungi --

10:50:51 5 Q. Do you remember what he said?

6 A. The gist of what he said was just to enthuse of us who had  
7 remained loyal to the government in exile, the SLPP government.  
8 That was the gist of what he said.

9 Q. To enthuse those of you who had remained loyal to the  
10:51:09 10 government?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The legitimately elected government?

13 A. Yes, indeed. And also in Lungi I was there when  
14 General Khobe -- because in some of our conversations he told us  
10:51:31 15 he had planned to visit Base Zero, and I was there when he took  
16 off to go Base Zero. When he came back he told us he had gone to  
17 Base Zero. I was also there --

18 Q. Do you know what he went to do at Base Zero on that  
19 occasion?

10:51:51 20 A. According to what he told us before leaving, it a global  
21 visit just to go and see what was happening there. In fact I was  
22 told when he went there he tested one of those of our devices we  
23 call a controller. He tested one. He came back and told us.

24 Q. What is a controller?

10:52:10 25 A. It's a device that Kamajors normally hold out in front of  
26 them when they're marching. And according to our own belief it  
27 normally deflects bullets or anything that -- any explosive  
28 missile.

29 Q. Targeted at?

1 A. At us.

2 Q. Did you yourself ever see a controller in action?

3 A. Many times.

4 Q. Many times.

10:52:44 5 A. It's part of our rules of engagement that we never march  
6 without it. Every time we want to go on a mission it has to be  
7 in the forefront, to be held by somebody.

8 Q. In your experience was it ever hit by some missile, the  
9 controller?

10:53:04 10 A. No, that's not possible.

11 Q. Right. Any other activities in Lungi whilst you were  
12 there?

13 A. I also observed a lot of troop movement. A lot of ECOMOG  
14 troops would come and then they were again ferried to Jui. A lot  
10:53:36 15 of -- there was just a lot of activity in Lungi.

16 Q. Thank you. You said you stayed in Lungi up to early  
17 February. Is that 1998?

18 A. Not early February, mid-February.

19 Q. Mid-February?

10:53:52 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So did you experience any other activity there up to  
22 mid-February?

23 A. Outside of the ones I've said.

24 Q. Yes, if any more. None?

10:54:11 25 A. Not really. Apart from leaving, no.

26 Q. When did you leave?

27 A. Well, we must have left -- because I left together with  
28 Eddie Massallay. I was there together with him. And we must  
29 have left some time in mid-February. We were again air-lifted by

1 this same helicopter to Gendema.

2 Q. To Gendema?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Straight to Gendema?

10:54:44 5 A. We passed through Base Zero, but we only touched base. We  
6 did not even come down. And then --

7 Q. The helicopter landed there?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And then took off again?

10:54:55 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And then you went to Gendema?

12 A. Yes, we went to Gendema. When we got to Gendema, we met a  
13 lot of ECOMOG troops there in contrast to the previous times when  
14 we were there. Cause then there were lots and lots and lots of  
10:55:21 15 Kamajors there. But when we came back there were more ECOMOG  
16 troops there.

17 Q. Than? There were more ECOMOG troops --

18 A. There than the Kamajors.

19 Q. -- than the Kamajors there at that time?

10:55:32 20 A. Yes, at that time.

21 Q. What happened?

22 A. And then we were taken to Colonel Yayah Abu Bakarr, who was  
23 the commanding officer in charge of the troops who were there.

24 Q. In charge of the ECOMOG troops?

10:55:51 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Colonel Yayah?

27 A. Abu Bakarr.

28 Q. Abu Bakarr?

29 A. Yes. Then we started discussing the movement of ECOMOG

1 into the country as far as Kenema. We also learned then that  
2 Kamajors had already entered Kenema.

3 Q. Watch your pace, please. Yes, you said he started  
4 discussing?

10:56:18 5 A. The movement of ECOMOG troops into the country as far as  
6 Kenema. And we also learnt that Kamajors had entered Kenema.

7 Q. Already by mid-February?

8 A. Already, yes. That they had entered Kenema and that they  
9 had even come under one attack, which they had repelled, and they  
10:56:38 10 were expecting other attacks. So there was need for us to  
11 reinforce them as quickly as possible.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Can you go over that again, please? You  
13 said you learned that the Kamajors were already in Kenema.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10:56:52 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: And they had led an attack.

16 THE WITNESS: They had come under one attack.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: They had come under.

18 THE WITNESS: Which they repelled.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

10:56:59 20 THE WITNESS: And they were suspecting that more attacks  
21 were on the way. So we started discussing about reinforcing  
22 them.

23 MR JABBI:

24 Q. Discussing with whom?

10:57:13 25 A. Myself, Eddie, General Yayah -- Colonel Yayah Abu Bakarr.  
26 Those are the ones with whom these discussions were taking place  
27 in Gendema.

28 Q. Was any action taken pursuant to those discussions?

29 A. Immediately.

1 Q. What happened?

2 A. In fact, from that -- on that same day we proceeded to  
3 Zimmi, where --

4 Q. You who?

10:57:50 5 A. Myself and Eddie, together with other Kamajors commanders  
6 who were there. We proceeded to Zimmi and then formed a team.  
7 When that team was formed Colonel Yayah Abu Bakarr gave us about  
8 a platoon of ECOMOG troops and two personnel carriers, armoured  
9 personnel carriers.

10:58:24 10 Q. Colonel Yayah Abu Bakarr gave your group?

11 A. A platoon of ECOMOG.

12 Q. A platoon of ECOMOG troops?

13 A. A platoon of ECOMOG troops, yes.

14 Q. Plus two?

10:58:36 15 A. Armoured personnel carriers.

16 Q. Under whose command was that group?

17 A. Once we were together with ECOMOG the command was always --  
18 we were just an auxiliary. Always when we were together with  
19 ECOMOG we are always an auxiliary to ECOMOG, ECOMOG was in  
10:59:10 20 command. But then we led the way because we knew the terrain,  
21 knew the people, knew the language of the people.

22 [CDF03MAY06B - RK]

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: I would like to understand better what  
24 you mean by this when you say, "When we were with ECOMOG." Do  
10:59:31 25 you mean to say that at the time you met with Colonel Abu Bakarr  
26 and he assigned to you this platoon of the combat troops and two  
27 APCs at that time?

28 THE WITNESS: Yes.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: There is Colonel Abu Bakarr who is in

1 command of --

2 THE WITNESS: No, he stayed behind. The platoon had --  
3 there was a lieutenant. I can't remember because I didn't know  
4 the fellow but the was a lieutenant in charge of the platoon.

10:59:57 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, and that platoon was given to you,  
6 to your group. I'm trying to understand what you mean by this.  
7 You say, "We remained under the -- the group was under the  
8 command but we led the group to Kenema," so what do you mean by  
9 this? I'm trying to understand what exactly you mean.

11:00:16 10 MR JABBI: My Lord, if I may just intervene there.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, I think he can answer the question.

12 MR JABBI: No, I just want to repeat exactly what he said,  
13 first of all, that they led the group because they knew the  
14 terrain.

11:00:32 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: I know, I heard that.

16 MR JABBI: Thank you, My Lord.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: I'm just trying to understand that, what  
18 it means in the context of the command at the time.

19 MR JABBI:

11:00:40 20 Q. Can you explain, please?

21 A. We had already formed a team to go to Kenema and then when  
22 we got ready to go, Colonel Yayah Abu Bakarr also provided this  
23 platoon and then all of us went together. But in the convoy --  
24 what I mean by "lead," in the convoy, we were in front.

11:01:14 25 Q. His Lordship wants to understand under whose command that  
26 group moved.

27 A. I think I said it was under ECOMOG.

28 Q. Under ECOMOG command?

29 A. Yes. We were only leading, we were the forefront because



1 we knew the way. These were strangers, they didn't know the way.  
2 We knew the way, we knew the people, we knew the language, so we  
3 were in front of the convoy, because we made a convoy of  
4 vehicles. We were in front.

11:01:48 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: But who is commanding this group? Who is  
6 in charge of that group?

7 THE WITNESS: The ECOMOG lieutenant. The ECOMOG  
8 lieutenant.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: So he's the one in charge?

11:01:59 10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Okay.

12 MR JABBI:

13 Q. And the group moved?

14 A. Yes. And we moved and arrived in Kenema on that same day,  
11:02:11 15 but at night.

16 Q. What was the state of affairs in Kenema when you arrived  
17 there?

18 A. At night we just deployed. At night was quiet. We  
19 deployed at the NIC building which is just along the way from  
11:02:33 20 Dama. We were coming from the south and the building where we  
21 deployed was at the edge -- it was along the Dama Road.

22 Q. Watch your pace, please. Can you give us an idea of the  
23 time frame, date, et cetera of that arrival in Kenema?

24 A. That should in the mid of February, mid-February.

11:03:13 25 Q. 1998?

26 A. 1998, yes.

27 Q. You arrived at night. What next?

28 A. And we deployed at the NIC building, passed the night there  
29 and in the morning we went -- we went around town so that the

1 people would know that ECOMOG had arrived in town.

2 MR JABBI: My Lord, the first accused wants to take  
3 advantage of the [overlapping speakers].

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's fine. Yes, you may proceed,  
11:04:05 5 Mr Norman.

6 MR JABBI:

7 Q. Subsequent to that night what happened?

8 A. As I already started saying, in the morning we went around  
9 town so that the people could know that ECOMOG had arrived in  
11:04:44 10 Kenema and generally there was a lot of jubilation.

11 Q. By?

12 A. By the people of the township. And during that day I  
13 observed that there were a lot of Kamajors in the township and  
14 that there was also the shops -- a lot of shops were actually  
11:05:10 15 broken in to and there was no place where you could actually  
16 identify as a place where Kamajors could be contacted, a kind of  
17 office or headquarters. They didn't have that. Everyone was  
18 just roaming about town. So since I knew most of the commanders  
19 who had already -- who had first entered into the township, I  
11:05:39 20 sent a word round that it would be good for us to hold a meeting  
21 and we decided that that meeting should be held in Fama Town  
22 [phon], that's part of Kenema.

23 Q. Fama Town?

24 A. Fama Town, yes.

11:06:00 25 Q. You spoke about shops broken in to; do you know by whom?

26 A. No. I was later to learn that before the AFRC junta troops  
27 left they had launched--

28 Q. Watch your pace, please. Yes?

29 A. They had launched an operation called Operation Pay

1 Yourself. In that operation they broke in to all of the major --  
2 the shops along the major street, Hangha Road, in Kenema. Before  
3 leaving they looted. They also looted vehicles and items in the  
4 shops before leaving.

11:07:05 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Dr Jabbi.

6 MR JABBI:

7 Q. Yes, you said you advised that a meeting be held. Was it  
8 held?

9 A. Yes, it was and when the meeting was convened I told the  
11:07:21 10 commanders who were there that Kenema had now been taken --

11 Q. Watch your pace, please. Yes?

12 A. And that it had been taken by forces who were supporting  
13 the government in exile. So it was good that all efforts be made  
14 to restore normalcy as quickly as possible and the first way to

11:07:51 15 go about that --

16 Q. Watch your pace, please. And the first?

17 A. Way to go about that was to establish an office to wish  
18 people could report and be reported.

19 Q. Yes?

11:08:27 20 A. And the idea was accepted and we identified 27 Kaisamba  
21 Terrace.

22 Q. As?

23 A. The most suitable place to establish such an office.

24 Q. What office was that?

11:08:50 25 A. It was to be an office for Kamajors, for the administration  
26 of -- administration of Kamajor office.

27 Q. That is --

28 A. It's also a place where the commanders who are coming to  
29 town would be contacted. Because in addition to all of the

1 activities that were going on, the people of the township also  
2 got together and formed a committee to receive the Kamajors.  
3 This committee was constantly contacting the commanders who were  
4 coming to town, because they were trying to provide --

11:09:40 5 Q. Watch your pace, please. Yes.

6 A. They were trying to provide for the welfare of the Kamajors  
7 who were coming to town.

8 Q. What sorts of other activities, if any, took place at that  
9 office?

11:10:12 10 A. From that office, we were able to contact people of the  
11 township and contacted the teachers, called them, spoke with  
12 them, contacted other heads of department, called them and talked  
13 to them and, even the police, we also contacted and called. We  
14 talked to them and --

11:10:37 15 Q. What did you tell them?

16 A. In the first place when we got to the town, the police  
17 station was also abandoned. There were no policemen. Some of  
18 them, when ECOMOG came and deployed at NIC building, some of them  
19 came and surrendered themselves. So when we established the

11:11:01 20 office, we talked it over with Colonel Yayah Abu Bakarr. The CPO  
21 who was there then, Mr Issa, he arranged for the policemen to  
22 come to the Kamajor office and, from there, we told them that it  
23 was impossible for the town to function without a law enforcement  
24 agency.

11:11:23 25 Q. Where was Colonel Yayah Abu Bakarr when you spoke to him?

26 A. Colonel Yayah Abu Bakarr came to the office. He even came  
27 to see that -- when we established it he visited us.

28 Q. Do you know when he came to Kenema on that occasion?

29 A. He came to Kenema about a week after we entered.

1 Q. Yes, anything more about operations at the office?

2 A. At that office, also, whilst we were talking to Colonel  
3 Yayah Abu Bakarr, it was also decided we should call a town  
4 meeting, a meeting in which the whole township would be addressed  
11:12:33 5 about the fact that Kamajors and ECOMOG were now in town and that  
6 people should go about their normal business. That meeting was  
7 also arranged and it was held at the police field. But,  
8 unfortunately, whilst the meeting was going on, again, the junta  
9 forces again attacked the town, so we all had to disperse.

11:13:02 10 Q. Watch your pace, please. The junta forces attacked Kenema  
11 whilst the meeting with townspeople was going on, according to  
12 you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How did that attack go?

11:13:19 15 A. The meeting itself never ended. It broke up and everybody  
16 dispersed in haste because the attack came from Combema [phon]  
17 route, came from Combema. Then the Kamajors and ECOMOG  
18 together --

19 Q. Combema, C-O-M-B-E-M-A. Yes?

11:13:59 20 A. Then together we and ECOMOG took on them and beat them back  
21 out of town. They came along with an anti-aircraft gun which was  
22 seized. It was seized with -- it was in a big Nissan truck --  
23 seized together with the truck. We beat them up and chased them  
24 out of town.

11:15:04 25 Q. Did you ever hold that disrupted meeting again?

26 A. After that, no, no. But then after the attack, the junta  
27 troops were never to come into Kenema again until 1999 and then  
28 life returned to normal in the township.

29 Q. When was that junta attack? Was that also in February?

1 A. It was late February.

2 Q. Late February 1998. You said earlier on that you were  
3 district administrator for Kenema District. Can you tell the  
4 Court --

11:16:35 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Did he testify to that?

6 MR JABBI: At the very beginning, My Lord.

7 JUDGE ITOE: He was talking of his positions.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: There was an interjection from the Bench  
9 and I think we lost that.

11:17:02 10 MR JABBI: He said it very clearly at the beginning.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: There was an interjection. It was when  
12 the Honourable Justice Itoe asked what did he do for a living.  
13 And he came with being the principal of a vocational institute.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's right.

11:17:19 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: He virtually did not complete that piece  
16 of evidence about administrator and I don't have the completion  
17 here.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please clarify that.

19 MR JABBI: Yes, I believe that --

11:17:33 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just clarify it. In any event, you can  
21 clarify that. Just ask the question again.

22 JUDGE ITOE: What I remember he said was that he was the  
23 principal or so of a vocational training centre.

24 MR JABBI: That was in response to your own question,  
11:17:58 25 My Lord.

26 JUDGE ITOE: Again, he came very close to his activities in  
27 the SLPP where he was a PR of a youth organisation of the SLPP in  
28 the Eastern Region.

29 MR JABBI: My Lord, in that case I will pose the question

1 again.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please.

3 MR JABBI: I believe the recording will carry much.

4 Q. Apart from your activity within the SLPP and your being  
11:18:28 5 principal of a certain institution, what, if any, other role did  
6 you play in Kenema?

7 A. Sometime in May 1998 I was -- I received a letter  
8 appointed -- from Chief Norman as national co-ordinator of Civil  
9 Defence -- appointing me regional co-ordinator of Civil Defence  
11:19:03 10 Forces in the Eastern Region. Then --

11 Q. Watch your pace, please. So you were appointed?

12 A. Regional co-ordinator sometime in May.

13 Q. In May?

14 A. 1998.

11:19:24 15 Q. 1998.

16 JUDGE ITOE: Regional co-ordinator of what?

17 THE WITNESS: Civil Defence Forces.

18 MR JABBI:

19 Q. For how long?

11:19:45 20 JUDGE ITOE: Civil Defence Forces in the Eastern Region?

21 THE WITNESS: Eastern Region, yes. But before that time  
22 the office had been occupied by someone else, Mr George Jambawai.

23 Q. Before May 1998?

24 A. Yes.

11:20:11 25 Q. From May 1998, how long did you occupy that office?

26 A. I never really quite occupied it, if you will allow me to  
27 explain? What happened was that -- as I said Mr Jambawai was  
28 previously occupying the office but most of the Kamajor  
29 commanders in the Eastern Region grew disgruntled with his

1 administration. They said they didn't want him to be the  
2 co-ordinator any longer. Then they made a delegation -- from  
3 Kenema they made a delegation to Freetown to Chief Norman and  
4 impressed this upon him. They said they preferred somebody who  
11:20:59 5 had combat experience to be their regional co-ordinator and they  
6 said me. They identified me as their choice, so the appointment  
7 was made.

8 Q. But you say you never really occupied it?

9 A. That's what I'm coming to.

11:21:11 10 Q. Yes.

11 A. But then, I think, Mr Jambawai took his complaints to the  
12 vice-president and they told Chief Norman not to do the change,  
13 that Mr Jambawai should remain in the office. But the Kamajor  
14 commanders who were in the Eastern Region said there was no way  
11:21:34 15 they were going to accept Mr Jambawai. So that person continued  
16 for quite a while and there was a sort of vacuum.

17 Q. Yes. What was the result?

18 A. I'm coming to it. Coincidentally, a similar activity was  
19 going on in the Southern Region. Kamajor commanders in the  
11:22:10 20 Southern Region had --

21 Q. Let us deal with the east, please. Was it resolved  
22 ultimately?

23 A. No, it was not resolved.

24 Q. What happened?

11:22:17 25 A. Coincidentally, in the XXXX Region, Kamajor commanders  
26 had also said they did not want the regional co-ordinator who was  
27 in the XXXX, XXXXXXXX. They also said they didn't  
28 want him. And so it was decided -- the vice-president decided  
29 that they should abolish regional offices and that CDF should be



1 administered on the basis of districts.

2 Q. So Vice-President Demby?

3 A. Yes, former vice-president.

4 Q. Former Vice-President Demby decided that the position of

11:22:58 5 regional co-ordinator --

6 A. Should cease to exist and that CDF should be administered  
7 on the basis of districts. They are now to -- every district was  
8 to get a district administrator.

9 Q. So what happened to that appointment as regional

11:23:18 10 co-ordinator? What happened to it in the light of the decision  
11 by the vice-president?

12 A. It was by implication rendered null and void.

13 Q. It was rendered null and void.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Were you appointed district

11:23:41 15 administrator?

16 THE WITNESS: Well, in Kenema District they decided to hold  
17 elections and I went and opposed.

18 MR JABBI:

19 Q. As?

11:23:51 20 A. District administrator of Kenema District. I went and  
21 opposed.

22 Q. When was that?

23 A. It must have been either late May or early June. I was to  
24 remain the administrator of the CDF in Kenema District until the  
11:24:28 25 end of the war in 2002.

26 Q. Now, you have narrated a series of activities, including  
27 actual combat exploits up to end of May 1998. During those  
28 activities, did you ever see Chief Norman in combat?

29 A. No, sir. I never saw Chief Norman in any of those combat

1 activities, and he did not even come close to front lines, as far  
2 as my memory is concerned.

3 Q. Did you, by chance, ever learn of any orders given by  
4 Chief Norman to the Kamajors or to anybody, indeed?

11:25:58 5 A. In relation to combat activities?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. No. When we were at Bo Waterside, in most of my dealings,  
8 we dealt with Eddie Massallay. Most of the matters relating to  
9 combat we discussed with him and only him. And when we moved

11:26:28 10 from Bo Waterside, all of our combat activities and discussions  
11 and tactics and strategy were just locally done within ourselves.  
12 We responded to situations as they came.

13 Q. From your experience, to whom were Kamajor groups  
14 responsible in all these exercises?

11:27:14 15 A. Well, it again depends on the time frame, because when --  
16 between the May 25th coup and all of the time we were at Bo  
17 Waterside, mostly at that time we had dealings with Eddie  
18 Massallay. He was the one to whom we'd refer any problems we had  
19 in terms of the fighting we were doing. When we moved away from  
11:27:46 20 Bo Waterside, like I said, all of our discussions, like when we  
21 were in that Tongo area, if we had any problems, we discussed it  
22 and reference was made to Musa Junisa, who was the most popular  
23 Kamajor and the experienced Kamajor in that area.

24 And when we returned from -- when the government returned  
11:28:07 25 from exile, taking from 10th March now onwards, all matters  
26 relating to combat, to fighting, logistics and everything was  
27 actually done in conjunction with ECOMOG, and it was the ECOMOG  
28 brigade commander or his subordinates who showed us our targets,  
29 what to do and what not to do.

1 Q. Now, in supplies of arms and ammunition and other logistics  
2 to the Kamajors during that period you have narrated so far, that  
3 is up to 10th March 1998, do you know what sources of supply  
4 there were to the Kamajor groups you were involved in?

11:29:28 5 A. Yes. All of the arms we used within that time came from,  
6 as far as my knowledge can go, two sources. The bulk of them  
7 came from ECOMOG. In terms of rifles, ammunition came from  
8 ECOMOG, and that was given to us whilst we were at Gendema.

9 Q. Watch your place, please.

11:30:11 10 A. But then there were another set of Kamajors in the  
11 northeastern corner of Kenema District and the northern part of  
12 Kailahun District who were also battling against the junta  
13 troops, who received supplies --

14 Q. Just a minute, please. You said there was another group of  
11:30:32 15 Kamajors in what areas?

16 A. In the northeastern corner of Kenema District and the  
17 northern parts of Kailahun District. Lower Bambara, Malegohun,  
18 Yawei, Penguia --

19 Q. Please be a bit slow about that. Name the chiefdoms again.

11:30:45 20 A. Lower Bambara, Malegohun Chiefdom, Yawei Chiefdom.

21 MR JABBI: Malegohun, My Lords: M-A-L-E-G-O-H-U-N.

22 Malegohun Chiefdom.

23 Q. Yes?

24 A. Yawei Chiefdom.

11:31:00 25 MR JABBI: Yawei Chiefdom. Y-A-W-E-I, My Lords.

26 THE WITNESS: Penguia Chiefdom.

27 MR JABBI: P-E-N-G-U-I-A, My Lords, Penguia Chiefdom.

28 Q. Yes?

29 A. The Kamajors in that area had established contact --

1 Q. Just a minute, please. I want you to indicate the  
2 districts in which these chiefdoms fell. Lower Bambara?  
3 A. And Malegohun were in Kenema -- are in Kenema District.  
4 Q. Lower Bambara, Malegohun in Kenema District.  
11:31:39 5 A. Yawei and Penguia in Kailahun District.  
6 Q. Yawei and Penguia Chiefdoms in Kailahun District. Yes,  
7 what did you want to say about them?  
8 A. They had established contacted with the government in exile  
9 in Guinea and they received supplies of ammunition directly from  
11:32:17 10 Guinea. In fact, I would want to --  
11 Q. Yes, carry on.  
12 A. In fact, the ammunition which Kamajors used to take Tongo  
13 in January 1998 came from Conakry directly.  
14 Q. Yes?  
11:32:53 15 A. One of the key commanders who took part in taking Tongo  
16 from the AFRC junta forces, Bockarie Lansana, had travelled to  
17 Conakry and he came back through one of the border crossings in  
18 Penguia and he brought the ammunition. That is what they used to  
19 take Tongo.  
11:33:17 20 Q. Watch your pace.  
21 MR JABBI: My Lords.  
22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, this will be a suitable time. We  
23 will pause for the morning recess. Thank you.  
24 [Break taken at 11.35 a.m.]  
11:58:01 25 [Upon resuming at 12.06 p.m.]  
26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Dr Jabbi, your witness. You may proceed,  
27 Dr Jabbi.  
28 MR JABBI: Thank you very much, My Lord.  
29 Q. Welcome back, Mr Witness.

1 A. Thank you.

2 Q. Now, you went up to the point where you had become district  
3 administrator.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: We had been beyond that. You had been  
12:07:01 5 questioning about the supply of resources, ammunitions and so on,  
6 to the Kamajors. That's where we broke off.

7 MR JABBI: Yes.

8 JUDGE ITOE: You took him on a visit to Conakry where some  
9 of these arms were brought.

12:07:14 10 MR JABBI: My Lord, he took us there.

11 JUDGE ITOE: Well, you took him. You took him.

12 MR JABBI: Yes, I think that is where we were when we broke  
13 off.

14 JUDGE ITOE: And that these arms and ammunitions from  
12:07:32 15 Conakry were those which were used to take Tongo.

16 MR JABBI: In January 1998.

17 JUDGE ITOE: That's right.

18 MR JABBI:

19 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you have given quite a graphic account of  
12:08:19 20 the relationship with ECOMOG during the return to Kenema. Do you  
21 know if that relationship was documented?

22 A. I do.

23 Q. You do. Can you tell the Court what nature of  
24 documentation there generally was?

12:09:01 25 JUDGE ITOE: The relationship between ECOMOG and the  
26 Kamajors?

27 MR JABBI: Yes, My Lord.

28 JUDGE ITOE: Okay.

29 THE WITNESS: Once the ECOMOG task force to Sierra Leone

1 headquarters was established here, they wrote letters to us, my  
2 administration in Kenema.

3 Q. Please go as slowly as possible.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: When you say ECOMOG task force was  
12:09:31 5 established here, you mean in Freetown or Sierra Leone?

6 THE WITNESS: The task force headquarters in Freetown was  
7 established.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: In Freetown.

9 MR JABBI:

12:09:41 10 Q. You say they wrote letters?

11 A. Yes, they wrote letters.

12 Q. To your administration, you said?

13 A. Yes. Informing us that we were under the 15th ECOMOG  
14 Brigade, and that 15 ECOMOG Brigade had its headquarters in  
12:10:20 15 Kenema. And for all our operational matters, that we were to  
16 deal with that 15th ECOMOG Brigade.

17 Q. Now, can you have a look at this document.

18 MR JABBI: Can this be taken to him, please.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a document you intend to tender  
12:11:02 20 as an exhibit, Dr Jabbi?

21 MR JABBI: Yes, My Lord.

22 Q. Now, --

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Dr Jabbi.

24 MR JABBI: Sorry, My Lord.

12:12:15 25 Q. Now do you recognise --

26 JUDGE ITOE: Dr Jabbi, did you make enough copies?

27 MR JABBI: Well, My Lord. It was filed, My Lord.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: I know it was filed.

29 JUDGE ITOE: But when it has to be tendered, the protocol

1 of the court is what you know. Please try to conform.

2 MR JABBI: Yes, indeed, My Lord. I thought the filing -- I  
3 will, My Lord, but I really thought --

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is a different issue. What you file  
12:12:40 5 is filed with the Court Management as a document over there, but  
6 when you tender that in Court, you must make sure that sufficient  
7 copies are available to all, including the Bench.

8 MR MARGAI: We will not make an issue of it at this stage.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: At this stage. Where are we, Dr Jabbi,  
12:13:10 10 now?

11 MR JABBI: Yes, My Lord. I'm sorry that additional copies  
12 have not been made. The document however has been disclosed.

13 JUDGE ITOE: So you are tendering the document?

14 MR JABBI: Yes, My Lord.

12:13:29 15 JUDGE ITOE: Can you proceed, please.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Which document are we talking about?

17 It's the issue about 5 June 1998? Is it the one?

18 MR JABBI: 8 October 1998, My Lord.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is the one we had some difficulties  
12:13:47 20 with yesterday, is it, about dates? I'm looking at documents  
21 that you filed. Is it the first one?

22 MR JABBI: It is the page 18215, registry page 18215.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: 215. Yes, 8 October 1998.

24 MR JABBI: Yes, My Lord.

12:14:17 25 Q. Do you recognise that document?

26 A. Yes, I do.

27 Q. Can you tell the Court its date?

28 A. 8 August 1998.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: What does he recognise it as?





1 staff of the SLA then.

2 Q. Can you say the heading of the document, the subject  
3 matter?

4 A. "Re request for Kenema District to be considered an  
12:17:03 5 operational area".

6 Q. To whom is it addressed?

7 A. It was distributed generally: one to our own office, CDF  
8 administrative bureau, Kenema, and then headquarters of the  
9 ECOMOG task force to Sierra Leone was informed -- headquarters  
12:17:27 10 15th ECOMOG brigade was informed and then it was circulated in  
11 turn.

12 Q. Thank you.

13 MR JABBI: My Lord, we wish to tender this document.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Any comment, counsel for second accused?

12:17:51 15 MR KOPPE: No, thank you, Your Honour.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Margai, for the third accused?

17 MR MARGAI: None, My Lord.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Counsel for the Prosecution?

19 MR KAMARA: We object, Your Honour, and the first point is  
12:18:05 20 that it is not yet clear for which purpose this document is being  
21 sought to be tendered. If the purpose is identified, from what I  
22 understand, we will take another objection.

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Is purpose coming under the question of  
24 whether the document -- a proper foundation has been laid?

12:18:21 25 MR KAMARA: Yes, Your Honour.

26 JUDGE THOMPSON: Because purpose could also mean relevance,  
27 which is a general ground of objection. So I don't know what  
28 you're objecting -- is your objection that a proper foundation  
29 has not been laid or are you going straight to the general

1 objection, purpose in the context of relevance?

2 MR KAMARA: My Lord, I will take the first one, purpose in  
3 the context of relevance.

4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Then you are objecting on grounds of  
12:18:49 5 relevance?

6 MR KAMARA: Yes, Your Honour.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: To the admissibility of the document?

8 MR KAMARA: To the admissibility of the document based on  
9 the purpose has not been established.

12:18:58 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: That is irrelevance.

11 MR KAMARA: Yes, My Lord.

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Not purpose in the sense of sufficient  
13 foundation not having been laid?

14 MR KAMARA: That would be the second limb.

12:19:06 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: But then, you see, how can -- you're  
16 putting the cart before the horse.

17 MR KAMARA: Your Honour, I'm objecting on the basis that --

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Because if you're objecting on the grounds  
19 that a proper foundation has not been laid, that would be a  
12:19:18 20 preliminary objection.

21 MR KAMARA: That is the first limb.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: But a substantive objection, as far as I  
23 understand the law, would be relevance to the admissibility of  
24 the document, as such.

12:19:27 25 MR KAMARA: My Lord, I will adopt the cue and object, based  
26 on a proper foundation has not been laid.

27 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Overlapping speakers] the purpose has not  
28 been indicated.

29 MR KAMARA: Yes, My Lord.

1           PRESIDING JUDGE: Your objection is overruled re the policy  
2 that we have followed to the admissibility of documents has been  
3 a fairly liberal approach and this is a clearly a document that  
4 is relevant. It was addressed to this particular person and I  
12:19:51 5 don't see any foundation to your objection. Overruled.

6           MR KAMARA: My Lord, may I just have a --

7           PRESIDING JUDGE: Overruled.

8           MR KAMARA: [Overlapping speakers] because I haven't gone  
9 further. I was waiting for me to elaborate on the objection.  
12:19:59 10 That is, from my understanding of the evidence from the  
11 witness --

12           PRESIDING JUDGE: You can cross-examine the witness in due  
13 course. If you want to expand on the purpose of this document,  
14 I'm saying, on the face of it, it appears to be relevant and  
12:20:09 15 we're prepared to accept it.

16           MR KAMARA: That is what I'm saying, on the face of this  
17 document. Because the purpose, from my understanding, is that to  
18 show that the 15th Brigade was -- to show that the Kamajors in  
19 Kenema were under the operational command of the 15th Brigade,  
12:20:25 20 and this letter does not show that.

21           PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, as I say, you can clarify that in  
22 cross-examination in due course. I mean, this is not a  
23 sufficient ground to object to the admissibility of that  
24 document.

12:20:35 25           MR KAMARA: As the purpose?

26           PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes. If it's relevant, it's relevant.  
27 The purpose, you'll have to establish that later on.

28           JUDGE THOMPSON: To join my colleague, the question of  
29 relevance here is one in which the Court has adopted a flexible

1 policy, not relevance in a restrictive sense because the Court's  
2 approach to the admissibility of documents is a very flexible  
3 approach as against the strict technical common law approach.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: And an approach we have consistently  
12:21:08 5 applied for the admissibility of documents filed by the  
6 Prosecution on numerous occasions, I add at this particular  
7 moment, so it's the same policy and the same approach and the  
8 same philosophy will apply to the Prosecution as we do for the  
9 Defence. So your objection is overruled.

10 JUDGE ITOE: We are very open to admitting these documents.  
11 It's when it comes to assessing the probative value of the  
12 documents that it becomes a different issue and that is when your  
13 comments would become relevant. But from admissibility, I think  
14 I am on board the decision to overrule your objection.

12:21:43 15 MR KAMARA: I'm being bombarded. I'll revisit the matter  
16 in cross-examination. Thank you, My Lords.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: So this document of 8 August 1998 from  
18 the armed forces, defensive quarters to reference -- re request  
19 for Kenema District to be considered an operational area and  
12:22:09 20 addressed in part to the CDF administration bureau, attention of  
21 Mr Arthur Koroma, and signed by Major Omadachi for the CDS,  
22 admitted as 135.

23 [Exhibit No. 135 was admitted]

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Dr Jabbi.

12:22:45 25 MR JABBI: Yes, My Lord. May I submit the original.

26 JUDGE ITOE: Dr Jabbi, he said he made this request that  
27 prompted Exhibit 135 in writing. Do you, perchance, have that  
28 request in your documentation?

29 MR JABBI: No, My Lord. There is reference, of course --

1 JUDGE ITOE: Because I would have been interested in having  
2 the nexus between that request and Exhibit 135.

3 MR JABBI: My Lord, I was just coming to establishing that  
4 nexus to the extent that we have evidence of it here. We do not  
12:23:37 5 have the letter itself, the physical letter.

6 JUDGE ITOE: His letter.

7 MR JABBI: His letter, we do not have it. But the nexus  
8 can be surmised from this exhibit and I was just coming to that,  
9 My Lord.

10 JUDGE ITOE: That again, you know, poses a slight problem  
11 because if what he has to give as evidence is oral to back a  
12 written exhibit, you know, it becomes problematic because the  
13 best evidence in those circumstances would have been --

14 MR JABBI: The thing itself. My Lord, in the  
12:24:15 15 circumstances, it will be understandable that certain materials  
16 or documents might well be misplaced and when required to be  
17 exhibited --

18 JUDGE ITOE: We don't have any evidence as to that as yet.  
19 You may proceed. You may proceed.

12:24:29 20 MR JABBI: Thank you very much, My Lord.

21 Q. Now, Mr Witness, can you read for the Court the first  
22 sentence of paragraph 1 of this letter?

23 A. "Please refer to your letter dated 31st July 1998."

24 Q. Do you know what letter is being referred to there?

12:24:59 25 A. Yes, I do.

26 Q. What letter?

27 A. It was a letter I had written to them in respect of a  
28 request for Kenema District to be considered an operational --

29 JUDGE ITOE: Your letter is dated 31st July 19?

1           PRESIDING JUDGE: '98.  
2           JUDGE ITOE: '98, is it?  
3           THE WITNESS: Yes, My Lord.  
4           MR JABBI:  
12:25:38 5       Q.    Do you have a copy of that letter, your own letter?  
6       A.    Here?  
7       Q.    Or at all - anywhere?  
8       A.    Yes.  
9       Q.    Do you?  
12:25:47 10     A.    Yes. Yes, I do. All such letters would be in our former  
11       CDF office. We still have those documents. They should be  
12       there.  
13     Q.    Can you make this available to the court at some stage?  
14     A.    If they so desire I think it will be available.  
12:26:09 15     Q.    Then can you read the rest of paragraph 1 of the letter?  
16     A.    "I am directed to draw your attention to the fact that  
17       Kenema District is under the operational command of 15 ECOMOG  
18       Brigade. It is expected that you should work alongside troops in  
19       that general area."  
12:26:36 20     Q.    Thank you. Now I would also ask you to have a look at this  
21       other document. Do you recognise that document?  
22     A.    Yes, sir.  
23     Q.    What do you recognise it is?  
24     A.    It's a communication from the 15th ECOMOG Brigade to our  
12:28:46 25       office in Kenema.  
26     Q.    On what subject matter?  
27     A.    Basically to inform us that we were to channel all of our  
28       communication pertaining to requests to their office.  
29     Q.    Can you read the heading of the letter?

1 A. Yes.

2 JUDGE ITOE: Can we have the date of the letter, please?

3 MR JABBI:

4 Q. What is the date?

12:29:20 5 A. 8 October 1998.

6 Q. Yes, can you read the heading of the letter, the subject

7 matter of the letter?

8 A. "CDF Channel of Command and Communication."

9 Q. And by whom is it written?

12:29:42 10 A. Major Nwadiaro.

11 Q. In what capacity?

12 A. As brigade major of 15th ECOMOG Brigade.

13 Q. Now to whom is it addressed?

14 A. Civil Defence Force, Kenema.

12:30:21 15 MR JABBI: My Lords, I wish to tender this document as

16 well.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Any comment from the second accused?

18 MR KOPPE: No, thank you.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Margai?

12:30:34 20 MR MARGAI: No.

21 MR KAMARA: No, Your Honour.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. So this document, a letter

23 dated 8th October 1998 from headquarters 15th ECOMOG Brigade

24 addressed to the Civil Defence Force Kenema, Sierra Leone and

12:31:07 25 subject matter "CDF channel of command and communication" and

26 signed by Major Nwadiaro, major for commander, is marked as

27 Exhibit 136.

28 [Exhibit No. 136 was admitted]

29 MR JABBI: Thank you, My Lord.

1 Q. And, Mr Witness, can you read the whole of the first  
2 paragraph of the letter?

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: I'm not sure we should do that all the  
4 time, Dr Jabbi, if I may. I mean, the letter, presumably you're  
12:31:52 5 tendering that for the purpose of the content of that letter and  
6 it speaks for itself. Unless I misunderstand what you're trying  
7 to do.

8 MR JABBI: As Your Lordship pleases. It is just to make  
9 totally explicit the subject matter of the letter. But, of  
12:32:15 10 course, I take the cue from Your Lordship and will proceed.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Is there technical usage which the Court  
12 would not be familiar with?

13 MR JABBI: No, My Lord.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. So this is Exhibit 136.

12:32:35 15 MR JABBI: Yes, indeed, My Lord.

16 Q. Now, Mr Witness, may I also ask you to look at this other  
17 document. Now, do you recognise it?

18 A. Yes, I do.

19 Q. Do you know the author?

12:33:52 20 A. My very self. It bears my signature.

21 Q. And what do you recognise it as?

22 A. It's a request put in to the 15th ECOMOG Brigade for  
23 ammunition.

24 Q. What's the date?

12:34:12 25 A. 5th December 1998.

26 MR JABBI: My Lords, it is 18217. Registry page 18217.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's fine, thank you.

28 MR JABBI: My Lord, if I may, we wish to tender it,  
29 My Lord.



1           PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes. Counsel for second accused, any  
2 objection?  
3           MR KOPPE: No, Your Honour.  
4           PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Margai?  
12:34:51 5           MR MARGAI: None, My Lord.  
6           PRESIDING JUDGE: Counsel for the Prosecution?  
7           MR KAMARA: No objection, Your Honour.  
8           PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. So this document of  
9 5 December 1998 from the district administrator, Kenema District,  
12:35:02 10 to brigade commander headquarters 15th ECOMOG Brigade Kenema and  
11 signed by one Arthur Koroma is marked as Exhibit 137.  
12                                 [Exhibit No. 137 was admitted]  
13           MR JABBI:  
14 Q. Now, Mr Witness, if you may also look at this other  
12:35:32 15 document.  
16           MR JABBI: My Lords, it is Registry page 18213. No, sorry,  
17 My Lords. Sorry, My Lords. Registry page 18204, My Lords.  
18 Unfortunately it is not numbered in my own, but Registry page  
19 18204.  
12:37:07 20           PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.  
21           MR JABBI:  
22 Q. Yes, Mr Witness, do you recognise that document?  
23 A. Yes, I do. It's a response to the request I made.  
24 Q. Which request?  
12:37:28 25 A. The one that you've just tendered as evidence.  
26 Q. The request in Exhibit 137?  
27 A. Yes.  
28 Q. And by whom is that response?  
29 A. Captain Ogbonna.

1 Q. What is the date of the letter?  
2 A. 5th December 1998.  
3 Q. Was your request in fact --  
4 JUDGE ITOE: 5th December?  
12:38:15 5 MR JABBI: 5th December 1998, My Lord.  
6 Q. Was the request in fact met?  
7 A. Yes, they did give us the ammunition.  
8 MR JABBI: My Lord, if I may tender it.  
9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koppe, any comment or objection?  
12:38:50 10 MR KOPPE: No objection, Your Honour.  
11 MR MARGAI: None, My Lords.  
12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Margai. Mr Prosecutor?  
13 MR KAMARA: None, Your Honour.  
14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. So this document of  
12:39:03 15 5 December 1998, "Issue of ammo" from headquarters 15th ECOMOG  
16 Brigade Kenema and signed by Captain Ogbonna for the commander is  
17 marked as Exhibit 138.  
18 [Exhibit No. 138 was admitted]  
19 MR JABBI: Thank you very much, My Lord. If the witness  
12:39:46 20 can also be shown this other document.  
21 Q. Mr Witness, can you read the number in the extreme top  
22 right-hand corner on that document?  
23 A. 18212.  
24 MR JABBI: My Lord, it is Registry page number 18212.  
12:40:52 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: And what is the subject matter of this  
26 document?  
27 MR JABBI:  
28 Q. Yes, do you recognise it?  
29 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. As what?
- 2 A. It's a letter from 15th ECOMOG Brigade headquarters to me  
3 while I was administrator.
- 4 Q. In respect of?
- 12:41:18 5 A. Supply of ammunition and logistics to Kamajors working with  
6 ECOMOG units.
- 7 Q. Thank you. And what is the date?
- 8 A. 3rd February 1999.
- 9 Q. And the author of the particular letter?
- 12:41:47 10 A. Major Tony Nwadiaro.
- 11 MR JABBI: My Lord, if we may tender it.
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes. Counsel for second accused?
- 13 MR KOPPE: No objection, Your Honour.
- 14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Margai?
- 12:42:05 15 MR MARGAI: None, My Lords.
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.
- 17 MR KAMARA: No objection.
- 18 PRESIDING JUDGE: So this document will be marked as  
19 Exhibit 139 and this document is a letter from headquarters 15th  
12:42:20 20 ECOMOG Brigade to the administrator Civil Defence Force Kenema  
21 and the subject is "Issue of ammunition and logistic support to  
22 Kamajors head of Nibatt 25 location" and signed by Major Nwadiaro  
23 for commander.
- 24 [Exhibit No. 139 was admitted]
- 12:42:55 25 MR JABBI: My Lord, if the witness could look at this other  
26 document. My Lord, Registry page 18213.
- 27 Q. Now, do you recognise it, Mr Witness?
- 28 A. Yes, I do.
- 29 Q. As what?

1 A. One of those letters to our office informing us that we had  
2 ammunition to collect from the 15th ECOMOG Brigade headquarters.  
3 Q. By whom was it written?  
4 A. Major Nwadiaro.  
12:44:05 5 MR JABBI: My Lord, we wish to tender it.  
6 MR KOPPE: No objection, Your Honour.  
7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Margai for third accused?  
8 MR MARGAI: None, My Lords.  
9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Counsel for the Prosecution?  
12:44:18 10 MR KAMARA: No objection.  
11 PRESIDING JUDGE: So this other document from headquarters  
12 15th ECOMOG Brigade on issue of ammunition signed by Major  
13 Nwadiaro for commander and addressed to Civil Defence Force in  
14 Kenema is marked as Exhibit 140.  
12:44:52 15 [Exhibit No. 140 was admitted]  
16 MR JABBI:  
17 Q. Now, with respect to Exhibit 140, Mr Witness, the exhibit  
18 that is before you, you said it was informing you of ammunition  
19 to be collected by your organisation. Was the ammunition  
12:45:13 20 collected as indicated?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you have given evidence of all these  
23 collections -- supplies and collections of arms and ammunition.  
24 What was the state of play in terms of the use of those weapons  
12:46:05 25 over that period, let's say the second half of 1998?  
26 A. Use of the ammunition or weapons.  
27 Q. Yes, the weapons and ammunition. Did you have cause to use  
28 them?  
29 A. Well, they were used in prosecuting the war. We actually

1 used this ammunition to either defend locations that we held or  
2 to go to try and seize locations from the possession of junta  
3 forces.

4 Q. Yes, one of the uses you have given is to defend positions  
12:47:03 5 that you held?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Were those positions, in fact, ever under attack at all in  
8 that period?

9 A. On many occasions different locations came under attack.

12:47:31 10 Q. Can you give any examples?

11 A. For instance in late 1998 we were in control of Segbwema.  
12 Segbwema is in Kailahun District, Njaluahun Chiefdom.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. And it came under very severe and sustained attack.

12:48:21 15 Q. By?

16 A. By the AFRC/RUF forces.

17 Q. And what happened?

18 A. Eventually we lost it to them, but it was stoutly defended  
19 before the loss.

12:48:48 20 Q. Any other example at all?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Yes?

23 A. There's a -- away from Segbwema there's a place called  
24 Bendu Junction.

12:49:11 25 Q. In what chiefdom is that?

26 A. Bendu Junction is in Nongowa Chiefdom, Kenema District.

27 Q. Yes?

28 A. Again that too was defended, was held by our own forces.

29 Q. Held?

1 A. Yes, held by our own forces. Around that same period it  
2 also came under severe and sustained attack.  
3 Q. Where?  
4 A. Within the same period. I'm talking about Bendu Junction.  
12:50:16 5 Q. I see, in Kenema --  
6 A. Nongowa Chiefdom, yes, Kenema District.  
7 Q. Yes?  
8 A. And again we also lost that one eventually.  
9 Q. Thank you.  
12:50:25 10 A. And within that same period again we were occupying Mano  
11 Junction.  
12 JUDGE ITOE: And the sustained attack you're referring to  
13 was the AFRC --  
14 THE WITNESS: RUF.  
12:50:39 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: RUF.  
16 THE WITNESS: Yes, they were the ones who were attacking  
17 our positions. Again they repeatedly attacked Mano Junction, but  
18 unfortunately they failed to take that from our possession.  
19 Those are just examples.  
12:51:12 20 MR JABBI:  
21 Q. Now, Mr Witness, in those encounters that you have just  
22 narrated, did you, your organisation, take any prisoners of war?  
23 A. On several occasions we did take prisoners of war and, for  
24 instance, in 1998 certain locations --  
12:51:52 25 Q. When in 1998?  
26 A. It must have been sometime in October 1998.  
27 Q. Yes, carry on.  
28 A. Certain locations, some of our locations to the south of  
29 Kenema in Dama Chiefdom, one specific one was Tokpombu in Dama

1 Chiefdom and this one was held entirely by Kamajors. It came  
2 under very serious attack and in the engagement we dispersed the  
3 AFRC/RUF forces and then we took about five prisoners. They were  
4 brought to our office in Kenema, my office in Kenema.

12:53:15 5 Q. What happened to them?

6 A. We kept them there, we fed them, they were there in the  
7 office with us until the ceasefire agreements were signed and we  
8 let them go. In fact, whilst they were there we discovered  
9 them -- we discovered that one of them was very good at repairing  
10 weapons and he would help us on many occasions when we brought --

11 he would help our Kamajors clean up their weapons on many  
12 occasions whilst he was there and he was there up to 1999 when  
13 the Lome Accord was signed and we let them go and they went to  
14 Tongo because which was then held by their own people.

12:53:55 15 Q. You say he would help. Did he help to fix weapons?

16 A. He did. He did freely, yes.

17 Q. Now, Mr Witness, during all these activities did any  
18 members of your own organisation ever fall short of proper  
19 behaviour and conduct?

12:54:39 20 A. On several occasions, yes, some did.

21 Q. Can you give the Court one example?

22 A. For instance, in 1998 again one of our commanders in Joru,  
23 that's in Gaura Chiefdom.

24 Q. Watch your pace, please.

12:55:08 25 MR JABBI: Joru, My Lords, J-O-R-U. Gaura Chiefdom,

26 G-A-U-R-A

27 Q. Yes, one of your commanders in Joru Gaura Chiefdom?

28 A. Had some problem with the chiefs who were in the township  
29 and they forwarded a complaint against him to the senior district

1 officer by then who was in Kenema, Mr Tiffa.

2 Q. What was his name, do you know?

3 A. The senior district officer then was Mr Tiffa.

4 Q. No, sorry, the commander. The name of the commander, who

12:55:51 5 was --

6 A. James Kallon.

7 Q. James Kallon?

8 A. James Kallon.

9 Q. He was commander at where?

12:55:57 10 A. Joru.

11 Q. Joru. Yes, the complaint was made. What happened?

12 A. And then the senior district officer Mr Tiffa forwarded the  
13 complaint to our office, to my office.

14 Q. Yes?

12:56:18 15 A. And then I had James Kallon brought to the office and then  
16 I called other senior commanders together and then put the matter  
17 before them. We deliberated on it and decided that James Kallon  
18 had defaulted very seriously and that we should subject him to  
19 disciplinary measures and we did.

12:56:48 20 Q. What was his default?

21 A. He had misbehaved against the chiefs of the township of  
22 Joru.

23 Q. Do you know specifically how?

24 A. Well, the people had given permission for a certain group  
12:57:13 25 in the township to hold a dance and then this fellow just  
26 proceeded to disrupt --

27 Q. The dance?

28 A. Yes, the entire activity and he behaved rudely towards the  
29 chiefs also.



1 Q. And what disciplinary action was taken?

2 A. Well, we had him locked up and not even in our own cell, we  
3 sent him to the state prison for one month.

4 MR JABBI: Now can the witness have a look at this  
12:58:13 5 document. My Lords, Registry page 18209.

6 JUDGE ITOE: Dr Jabbi appears to have very solid feet this  
7 time. I say your feet appear to be very solid this time because  
8 you've not asked for any permission to sit down. I'm sure the  
9 break has done you a lot of good.

12:59:31 10 MR JABBI: Yes, indeed, My Lord.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right. Anyway, you may continue. It's  
12 just an interjection.

13 MR JABBI: My Lord, I'm trying to rush up a few things  
14 against 1.00.

12:59:46 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: We are almost there now.

16 JUDGE ITOE: Almost there. Maybe you just have enough time  
17 to tender that document.

18 MR JABBI: My Lord, as a matter of fact, there's a sequence  
19 in connection with that and it will take a little bit of time. I  
13:00:18 20 wonder if that would be a convenient spot.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: So you're not moving ahead with this  
22 document 18209.

23 MR JABBI: Yes, My Lord, I'll proceed with it at the next  
24 date.

13:00:30 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: As you wish.

26 MR JABBI: Thank you very much, My Lord.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is 1.00 anyhow and we normally break  
28 at 1.00. So the Court will adjourn to tomorrow morning at 9.30.  
29 Thank you. Court is adjourned.

1 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 1.00 p.m.,  
2 to be reconvened on Thursday, the 4th day of  
3 May 2006, at 9.30 a.m.]  
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EXHIBITS:

Exhibit No. 135	52
Exhibit No. 136	55
Exhibit No. 137	57
Exhibit No. 138	58
Exhibit No. 139	59
Exhibit No. 140	60

WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENCE:

WITNESS: ARTHUR KOROMA	2
EXAMINED BY MR JABBI	3