

Case No. SCSL-2004-15-T
THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
ISSA SESAY
MORRIS KALLON
AUGUSTINE GBAO

THURSDAY, 03 MAY 2007
9.55 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER I

Before the Judges:	Bankole Thompson, Presiding Pierre Boutet Benjamin Mutanga Itoe
For Chambers:	Ms Candice Welsch Mr Matteo Crippa
For the Registry:	Mr Thomas George
For the Prosecution:	Mr Peter Harrison Ms Penelope-Ann Mamattah Mr Charles Hardaway Mr Vincent Wagona Ms Kay Mvungi
For the accused Issa Sesay:	Mr Wayne Jordash Ms Sareta Ashraph
For the accused Morris Kallon:	Mr Shekou Touray Mr Charles Taku Mr Melron Nicol-Wilson Mr Alpha Sesay (intern) Ms Sabrina Mahtani
For the accused Augustine Gbao:	Mr Andreas O'Shea Mr John Cammegh

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1

2

[RUF03MAY07 - MC]

3

Thursday, 3 May 2007

4

[The accused present]

5

[Open session]

6

[Upon commencing at 9.55 a.m.]

7

PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning, counsel. This Trial

8

Chamber is reconvened today to commence pursuant to our Rules

of

9

Procedure and Evidence, specifically Rule 85(A)(ii), the

10

presentation of evidence for the Defence in this case. May I

now

11

have appearances. Prosecution.

12

MR RAPP: Mr President, Your Honours, good morning.

13

Counsel appearing today for the Prosecution are the

Prosecutor,

14

Steven Rapp; Peter Harrison; Charles Hardaway; Penelope-Ann

15

Mamattah; Vincent Wagona; and Shyamala Alagendra.

16

PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. And we welcome you to the

17

proceeding --

18

MR RAPP: Thank you very much.

19

PRESIDING JUDGE: -- and give a special recognition here

to

20

you.

21

MR RAPP: Thank you.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: May I have appearances for the Defence
23 for the first accused.

24 MR JORDASH: For the first accused, Wayne Jordash; my
25 co-counsel, Sareta Ashraph; Jared Kneitel and Martha Sesay.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. For the second accused.

27 MR NICOL-WILSON: Your Honours, for the second accused,
28 Charles Taku; Melron Nicol-Wilson; Sabrina Mahtani; and Alpha
29 Sesay.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

Page 3

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. And for the third accused.

2 MR O'SHEA: Good morning, Your Honours. Andreas O'Shea;
3 Mr John Cammegh; and legal assistants, Lea Kulinowski and
4 Cuffie. Thank you.

Julius

5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Counsel, at this stage, I
6 would like to read the decision of the Bench on the motion
7 by counsel for the third accused to defer the making of their
8 opening statement.

filed

9 The Chamber grants the Gbao Defence motion and
10 consequentially orders that the Gbao Defence shall deliver its

to 11 opening statement, if it intends to do so, immediately prior
12 the presentation of evidence on behalf of the third accused,
13 Augustine Gbao.

retract 14 Any subsequent application by the Gbao Defence to
Chamber 15 from this order or to vary the conditions imposed by this
16 as to the calling of common witnesses will be deemed to be an
17 abuse of process.

18 MR O'SHEA: We are most grateful, Your Honour.

and 19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Consistent with the Rules
20 our stipulated procedure, we'll begin with the presentation of
our 21 the evidence for the first accused. Again, in keeping with
counsel 22 Rules and, specifically, Rule 84, we'll first call upon
of 23 for the first accused to make an opening statement on behalf
24 his client. After the conclusion of the opening statement for
stand, 25 the first accused, the first accused will take the witness
26 having, pursuant to Rule 85(C), elected to testify in his
27 defence. Mr Jordash.

28 MR JORDASH: Your Honours, my learned friends for the
29 Prosecution and learned co-counsel for co-accused, it is my

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

and
1 privilege to stand before you to finally introduce Mr Sesay
2 his defence case.

3 JUDGE ITOE: Mr Jordash, you are starting at 10.00.

4 MR JORDASH: I'm clock-watching. It's a privilege to
5 address Your Honours at the Special Court For Sierra Leone and
be
6 part of what we hope will be a reconciliation for Sierra
Leone.

7 And last, but not least, it is a privilege to represent Mr
Sesay,
8 a man who, notwithstanding his frustration and long-term
9 incarceration since March 2003, has waited patiently for the
10 opportunity to explain, in his own words, and to his many
Defence
11 witnesses, why he is innocent of these heinous charges, and
why
12 the Prosecution case must be rejected in its totality.

13 The explanation you will hear from Mr Sesay and many
14 Defence witnesses may well seem surprising, at first. It will
15 not accord with much of what you have heard in this courtroom
and
16 beyond, for much of what you have heard about this conflict is
17 based on rumour, fable, and folklore.

18 The evidence you have heard in this courtroom concerning
19 the conduct, some in the RUF, cannot be disputed. But the
20 evidence you have heard from the Prosecution witnesses
concerning
21 the acts and conduct of Issa Sesay is simply just not true.

UNAMSIL

hear

palm

from

contribute

is

22 You will hear from ex-RUF, ex-AFRC, ex-SLA, ex-CDF,
23 peacekeepers and even previous heads of state. And you will
24 from civilians aplenty: Teachers; hunters; doctors; nurses;
25 wine tappers; diamond miners; petty traders; farmers; police
26 officers; NGO workers; journalists; citizens of Sierra Leone
27 all walks of life. These many witnesses will come to
28 to our common aim of ending impunity in Sierra Leone.
29 Their contribution will be no less valuable because it

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 5

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

of

on

the

not

1 on behalf of the Defence. On the contrary, many, if not all,
2 the witnesses will have taken huge personal risks to testify
3 behalf of the first accused.

4 It is not easy to leave your homes, your family and your
5 livelihood to travel to Freetown and associate yourself with
6 RUF and with Mr Sesay. The cause is not a popular one. This
7 caricatured Prosecution, which seeks to criminalise Mr Sesay,

8 for what he has done, but for every single act committed in
9 furtherance of the conflict by any person, from 1996 to 2000.

10 In due course, this Prosecution will be exposed by these
11 very many courageous people. In any event, it ought not to
12 long for a reasonable, fair-minded person, legally trained or
13 otherwise, to reject such an overblown proposition.

14 A conviction based on this Prosecution is a conviction
15 based on an attempt to individualise the wrongs of the complex
16 civil war, and lay all sins at the feet of one man. This must
17 fundamentally flawed. The good people of this country are too
18 sophisticated and too intelligent to accept such a one-sided
19 of individual culpability and will reject it without
20 hesitation.

21 Notwithstanding the wrongs committed on them by members of the
22 RUF, the good citizens of Sierra Leone are looking for justice
23 and not knee-jerk vengeance.

24 No Foday Sankoh, no Johnny Paul Koroma, no Sam Bockarie,
25 SAJ Musa, no Denis Mingo, but instead, an all-encompassing,
26 catchall joint criminal enterprise, alleging that the very act
27 waging war is the crime. Little reliable direct evidence
28 Mr Sesay from civilians or other independent witnesses,
29 huge number of suspect insiders willing to say anything to
salvage their own disreputable lives.

take

be

idea

hesitation.

no

of

against

instead a

1 The Defence evidence will rise above generalities.
2 Witnesses will confirm that Mr Sesay took any actions
necessary
3 to protect and provide for civilians within the confines of
war,
4 a war which was fought in the towns and villages of Sierra
Leone.
5 These witnesses recognise there is a distinction between the
pain
6 and suffering caused by the brutality of war and the pain and
7 suffering caused by a breach of the laws of war. The
8 Prosecution's joint criminal enterprise fails to make the same
9 distinction.

10 In the Prosecution's thinking the divide between good
and
11 evil is always hard and fast. Anyone who is in a high-command
12 position must bear the greatest responsibility for all the
crimes
13 committed; ipso facto, Mr Sesay is guilty of all the crimes
14 within Sierra Leone.

15 The truth will show that this nebulous deluge of
16 allegations does not even begin an accurate description of the
17 conflict, an accurate description of the RUF, an accurate
18 description of the man Mr Sesay and his experiences during the
19 war.

20 The problem with any simplistic notions of good and evil

21 ought to be obvious to any inquiring mind, but there are
22 particular problems when this thesis is applied to Mr Sesay,
and
23 the central problem is this: There are literally hundreds of
24 witnesses who have indicated their willingness to testify on
25 behalf of Mr Sesay. These witnesses span the whole conflict
and
26 demonstrate the efforts made by the first accused to save
lives
27 and ensure their welfare. This irrefutable fact will become
28 crystal clear over the next few months, as this courtroom is
29 filled with the voices of the innocent, whose lives were
improved

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 7

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 immeasurably by the acts and conduct of Mr Sesay.
2 A civilian farmer and herbalist, and I quote:
3 "At that time Issa Sesay was taking care of us. He
4 empowered us and we felt strong. When Issa Sesay talked
to
5 us, we were not afraid as before. We were a little bit
6 stronger. Issa Sesay was giving us food. He did not
ask
7 for anything in return. He said it was just because
there

bush, 8 was a shortage of food. If you needed to go to the
9 he would give you bodyguards to go with you. Issa Sesay
10 made his own farm for the front people and for the
11 civilians who could not farm for themselves. We would
go 12 there to work with happiness. People went there to eat.
13 People stopped dying of hunger as before."
14 A farmer and a youth leader:
15 "My family were safe. His family was my extended
family. 16 We were working for Issa Sesay with our heart. We were
not 17 forced. People would appoint themselves to work for
Issa 18 Sesay."
19 And these accounts number into the hundreds.
20 We will not just rely on the testimony of insider
witnesses 21 who may come with a degree of frailty. You will not need to
take 22 only their word for it, you will have the word of independent
23 civilians from far and wide: From Pademba in 1991; Kayima in
24 1994; Masingbi; Matotoka; Magburaka in 1998; Makeni in 1999;
and 25 Kono in 2000.
26 The evidence will show that Mr Sesay lived up to the
spirit 27 of ideology and rules which underpin the true heart of the
RUF. 28 Was this spirit corrupted in some places by some people? No
29 doubt. Were terrible crimes committed by some claiming to

Page 8

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

ought

1 represent the RUF? Again, no doubt. But we say Mr Sesay
2 not to be held responsible for these crimes.

for

3 Notwithstanding the evidence of all these independent
4 witnesses, we accept, Mr Sesay accepts, that he must account

part

5 himself. Legitimate questions arise from his membership of

Gbundema

6 of the RUF. Members of the RUF committed horrific crimes.

of

7 Commanders such as Denis Mingo, Gibril Massaquoi, Komba

people

8 and Sam Bockarie acted completely against the ideology. Some

9 the rank and file were opportunistic criminals, and these

10 have caused the innocent in Sierra Leone a huge amount of pain

11 and suffering. We do not deny that pain and suffering. It is

12 only fair that a man who rises to assume the title of interim

the

13 leader of the RUF be called to answer those charges. This is

about

14 ending of impunity. It is not, as the Prosecution implies,

about

15 securing convictions and delivering guilty verdicts. It is

fair

16 calling people to account for their actions and delivering

17 and transparent justice.

18 We do not pretend that is easy, even for experienced
19 judges, such as this Honourable Court. It is these types of
20 cases where there are overwhelming feelings of repugnance that
21 the system is most tested.

The

22 Here is where the miscarriages of justice take place.

all

23 impulse for vengeance and the desire to punish is present in

people

24 of us, and the cry for vengeance and punishment is almost
25 deafening around the precincts of this Court. As so many

be

26 have said to me over the last four years, "How can the judges
27 acquit top-ranking RUF on trial? How can millions of dollars

then

28 spent setting up a court to try the members of the RUF and

29 acquit the highest-ranking commander? How can Mr Sesay be

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 9

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

can

1 innocent? How can you be friendly with a man like that? How

2 you sleep at night representing someone from the RUF?"

what

3 It is this cry for vengeance and punishment which drove
4 Kofi Annan to accuse all the detainees of being criminals;

created
an
applies
to all, even those such as the accused, accused of heinous
crimes.

attention
of
this
nature
justice,
trial
we
of
go
willful
of

5 an unfortunate comment from the head of an organisation
6 and mandated to ensure the promotion of universal respect for
7 observance of human rights and fundamental rights. That
8 to all, even those such as the accused, accused of heinous
9 crimes.
10 We do not shy away from bringing to this Court's
11 Mr Sesay's greatest fear, that even those with long experience
12 criminal law, who know the constant challenges of delivering
13 justice, will not be able to overcome the challenges which
14 case brings in this emotionally charged environment.

15 He sits before you with grave misgivings about the
16 of this Court and its ability to be able to deliver true
17 notwithstanding, as Your Honours will have observed, he has
18 placed his faith in the process so that justice may be done.
19 Mr Sesay asks for nothing more than a fair trial. A fair
20 which will be forced to ask and answer this question: How do
21 reconcile the man who civilians, insiders and others will
22 describe as doing so much good with a man who rose to the top
23 such an infamous organisation?

24 Well, in order to understand this question, we have to
25 back to the basics. The Prosecution having inculcated a
26 blindness that sacrificed an understanding of the complexity

an 27 this conflict to the simple dichotomy of good versus evil, and
28 opening speech full of poetry and gothic imagery, and little
29 else.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 10 SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

material 1 This blindness has added to their huge amount of
the 2 already circulating, which owes more to the condemnation of
3 RUF than it does to the truth. We say it will not help you
you 4 decide the guilt or innocence of Mr Sesay. It will not help
5 decide what we ought to expect from a man who found himself in
6 his position. It will not help you understand where his
7 responsibility might lie.

surrounds 8 We all must be familiar with the mythology that
as 9 this conflict, arising from even respected organisations such
10 Human Rights Watch, from the UN, from well-known authors. How
11 many books and reports have we read accusing the RUF in their
12 thousands of entering Freetown on January 6, 1999? What we
know 13 in this courtroom: That is mythology. Presumption after

14 presumption has been laid out in relation to this war.

15 mythology.
16

We say Kailahun is a very good example of that

were

16 International commentators will have you believe that there

as

17 hundreds, if not thousands, of civilians killed and raped in

18 Kailahun from 1991 until the end of the war. This is accepted

Why

19 truth. The weight of opinion is firmly against the RUF and

20 firmly against the Defence. And, yet, the question remains:

three

21 were the Prosecution only able to secure the testimony of

22 civilians from the whole of Kailahun?

We

23 I pause here to say we do not dispute that crimes were

24 committed in Kailahun during the indictment period. We do not

25 dispute the tragedy of the killing of the alleged Kamajors.

Kamara

26 do not dispute the deaths of Foday Kallon, Fonti Kanu, Dr

27 and petty trader Zainab. We do not dispute that these were

28 tragic and wrong.

29 But these deaths are explainable, even if inexcusable.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

or

1 They say more about the autocratic paranoia of Sam Bockarie,
2 legitimate concerns relating to enemy infiltration, or loss of
3 viable resources than they do about the RUF as a whole in
4 Kailahun, this inexplicable joint criminal enterprise, or the
5 acts and conduct of the first accused. As terrible as these
6 events are, they do not support the so-called truth that
7 was a killing field.

Kailahun

and

8 The truth of the matter will be laid out by the Defence
9 is quite different and will surprise many. The evidence will
10 show that this so-called criminal organisation, Revolutionary
11 United Front, rose up in 1993 to protect the civilians of
12 Kailahun, driving out the Liberians, driving out the NPFL
13 fighters in order to implement some ideology. We say it was
14 remarkably successful. This ideology, implying a meritocracy,
15 food production for all, free hospitals, education and trade
16 benefit the many, rather than the few, was remarkably

to

successful.

will

17 We say it, Mr Sesay says it, civilians in their tens
18 say it. And so, as part of a discovery of where Mr Sesay's
19 culpability may lie, one has to go back to the basics. The
20 inquiry is an inquiry into the functioning of the RUF. Again,
21 is an inquiry which requires careful analysis. The RUF is not
22 one single organisation. It was a number of entities linked
23 one over-arching command which consisted of one, the leader.

first

it

by

It

beginning
not a
policy
point

24 was not a single organisation, not even from the very
25 when the NPFL members maintained their own command, largely
26 separate from the Sierra Leonean command. It was certainly
27 single organisation from late 1993 when the RUF embraced a
28 of guerilla operations and moved into the bush. From this
29 onwards, it became a guerilla movement consisting of several

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 12

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

through
that
of
will

1 units controlled by one person, the leader.
2 A cursory examination of the realities of the RUF
3 honest witnesses will expose the fallacy which presupposes
4 this was one organisation with one aim and a hierarchal chain
5 command. The history of the development of the organisation
6 be laid out by the Defence to show its true formation.

important
1.

7 The Defence evidence will show that the two most
8 command positions within the RUF from 1993 until 2000 were:
9 The leader; and 2. The de facto area commanders. The

truth

10 constituent parts of RUF were controlled by area commanders in
11 conjunction with the overall leader. It did not matter in

12 who the battlefield commander was or who the battle-group
13 commander was. These titles impinged upon the running of the
14 areas in the most peripheral of ways. We ask the unanswered
15 question: What was the specified role of the battlefield
16 commander? What was the specified role of the battle-group
17 commander? I venture that no one in this room, no one in this
18 Court, no one in the RUF, is able to state that with a

consistent

assignments

19 degree of accuracy. The Defence will show that these
20 meant little within the RUF. What mattered was the leader and
21 the area commanders, the de facto area commanders.

accused

never

than

RUF.

between

the

22 It is our case that, despite the titles the first
23 held from 1996 onwards, in reality, his commandability was
24 more than that of an area commander. It could not be more
25 an area commander because of the practical realities of the

26 There was no need for a decision-making commander
27 the leader and the area commanders and so, by the time the RUF
28 joined the AFRC in May 1997, this was the coming together of
29 disparate groups: Those from the Northern Jungle; those from

each
1 Western Jungle; those from Kailahun; groups who barely knew
2 other, shared little cultural understanding of each other and
3 were wedded to each area group rather than the unity of the
4 whole. They had been left to develop their own military
5 machines; their own mode of recruitment, lawful or otherwise;
6 their own food and weapon supply systems, lawful or otherwise;
7 their own medical systems, lawful or otherwise.

their
8 The names were the same: S4; G5; IDU; MPs; IOs, but
9 principle and practice varied and was contingent upon the area
10 commanders with some, but often limited, input from the
11 over-arching leader. Each of these areas had been run by
strong
12 commanders: Sam Bockarie, Isaac Mongor and Superman.

all
13 Issa Sesay had been within the Kailahun group but, at
14 times, his command remained contingent upon either Foday
Sankoh
15 or either Sam Bockarie. In short, Mr Sesay had no men of his
16 own, no area of his own, no force of his own, no military
culture
17 of his own making, nothing but the capricious goodwill of
18 Sam Bockarie, which gave him some influence amongst the whole.
19 Influence does not mean effective control.

20 And so the Defence case will show that Mr Sesay did his
21 level best within his area of responsibility to prevent and

clear 22 punish crimes against civilians. This will become crystal
to 23 within the next few months. We shall pay particular attention
November/December 24 the follow areas: Giema, from July 1994 until
Kono 25 1995; Pendembu from around April 1998 until December 1996;
and 26 to Makeni, December 1998; Makeni, January 1999 to March 1999;
to 27 Kono, March 2000 onwards. These are the locations where
28 Mr Sesay's authority, as a de facto area commander, was able
the 29 be exercised at times to prevent and punish crimes by some of

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 14

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

The 1 RUF men. This is where his responsibility might be found.
on 2 evidence will show that he did not shirk this responsibility;
3 the contrary, he embraced it.
4 And so, Giema, 1994. Mr Sesay's function was an area
largely 5 commander. His role was hugely administrative. His job
Unit 6 to ensure the welfare of the civilians. The Joint Security
7 worked well. There were functioning MPs, G5 and IDUs; crimes

and 8 reported and dealt with decisively. Civilians were protected
9 were safe.

the 10 1997. The Defence evidence will show that the men from
11 Northern Jungle and the Western Jungle were, in the main,
12 strangers to Mr Sesay. He did not share their values or their
13 aims. They did not answer to him. They answered first and
14 foremost, in their hundreds, to their area commanders. Mr
Sesay 15 was outnumbered and they knew it. The title of battle-group
16 commander meant little to them, little to the vast majority of
the 17 the RUF men, and even less to the SLAs who seized power from
18 hapless Kabbah government.

19 The evidence will prove that, in any event, the AFRC was
20 controlled militarily, civilly, by a small group of men led by
21 Johnny Paul Koroma. The evidence will show that Mr Sesay had
22 little or no authority to control the workings of the AFRC;
effective 23 attending Supreme Council meetings does not equate to
24 control or control of the AFRC military might. We do not
accept 25 that mining was discussed during Supreme Council meetings. We
do 26 not accept that there was a policy of forced mining in Tongo.
We 27 do not dispute that there may have been instances of forced
no 28 mining in Tongo. We don't know. We were not there and we had
of 29 authority to be there. We do know that Mr Sesay disapproved

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 brutality against civilians.

were

2 1998. The Defence evidence will show that when crimes

3 being committed elsewhere, civilians were living a peaceful

4 existence in Pendembu under the de facto area commander,

food

5 Mr Sesay, with an access to a criminal justice system, with

6 and with a legitimate administration. It was Sam Bockarie who

G2,

7 controlled the entirety of the unit commanders, the S4, G1,

at

8 G3, G4. It was Sam Bockarie who controlled the training camp

9 Pendembu. It was Sam Bockarie who micro-managed all issues.

10 And all the while Kono is being run by Superman. The

11 Defence evidence will show that Issa Sesay had nothing, and I

12 repeat nothing, to do with Kono, from the time he left in late

already

13 February 1998 until the end of December 1998. This has

from

14 been confirmed by implication by TF1-360, who did not hear

will

15 Mr Sesay throughout the whole period. The Defence evidence

that

16 confirm, through radio operators and through other insiders,

one

17 he supplied not one piece of assistance to that location, not

18 single bullet went from him in Pendembu to Kono.
19 Late 1998. The Defence evidence will show that, as the
20 SLAs advanced with their murderous campaign through the
Bombali
21 province, Mr Sesay was on quite a different operation. As the
22 likes of the psychopathic Junior Lion and TF1-184 rampaged
their
23 way through Karina, Mandaha, Rosos, Mateboi and on to Major
Eddie
24 Town, eventually to Freetown, Mr Sesay came through Kono and
25 eventually to Makeni, holding sensitisation meetings in each
26 town. From Masingbi, Matotoka, Magburaka, inviting civilians
to
27 continue their lives in peace, without harassment, and with a
28 hope for a better future. No killings, no rapes, no
amputations,
29 no looting, no burnings, no forced labour.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 16

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 How ironic that these monsters should be prosecuting
him.
2 As Superman brutalised his way from Koinadugu to Makeni
in
3 late 1998, looting and burning as he went along, the evidence
4 will show that Mr Sesay was talking to civilians, punishing
his

5 men for infractions of the law, encouraging farming and
providing
6 medical care, and negotiating for the surrender of several
he
7 thousand CDF fighters. You will hear from some of them, how
lawful
8 kept their villages safe, and how he insisted in forming a
events
9 administration. How could this man be responsible for the
by
10 in Freetown, January 6, only a few days after these attempts,
11 him, to protect the population?

12 The Defence evidence will confirm that of TF1-174, that,
13 when he arrived in Makeni, civilians celebrated. The evidence
14 will show that he tried his level best to protect the
civilians
15 from the likes of Brigadier Mani's men, Tina Musa's men,
Bropleh,
16 and the incursions by Gibril Massaquoi and Superman. Judge
him
17 for those efforts and not for being unable to stop all the
18 violence. One man can only do so much.

19 1999 saw the implosion of the RUF as the high-ranking
20 military commanders fought against each other for control of
21 territory and for the heart of the movement. This period will
be
22 important, for it demonstrates the lack of co-ordination
between
23 these men and between Issa Sesay. The radio logs supplied by
the
24 Prosecution tell an eloquent tale of disunity and enmity. As
the
25 West Side boys rampaged around Okra Hill, and Superman and
Gibril
26 Massaquoi launched attacks on the innocents in Port Loko, what

done 27 was the second in command doing; protecting, or, as he had
show 28 throughout his time with the RUF? The Defence evidence will
it 29 that when he was attacked in March 1999 by these commanders,

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 17 SESAY ET AL
03 MAY 2007 OPEN SESSION

1 was civilians who helped him to escape. It was civilians who,
2 when he fought his way into Makeni in October 1999 to get rid
of 3 the SLAs, were dancing, literally, in celebration at his
return. 4
welfare 5 Mr Sesay picked up where he left off, ensuring the
anyone 6 of civilians. It is not true that he forced children or
mine 7 to train at Yengema; it is not true that he forced people to
8 in Kono. Not one name has yet been supplied by the people
9 apparently dragged out of Makeni in 1999. The good people of
people. 10 Bombali will come and explain that they know of no such
11 All they know is that the first accused worked tirelessly,
seed 12 opening schools, encouraging trade, opening roads, providing
13 rice, and, all the while, protecting the environs from the

13 attacks by others. His authority was limited by an
increasingly
14 irrational Foday Sankoh, but he did what he could when he
could
15 within the authority vested in him as a de facto area
commander
16 of the Bombali District.

17 MS ASHRAPH: We have now reached the start of the year
18 2000, and very little of the war of the indictment remains,
yet a
19 topic which stretches across the conflict, and which no one
can
20 define, but on which everyone has an opinion, remains
untouched.
21 That topic is one of forced marriage, which forms the
substance
22 of count 8 of the indictment. This is the first time that
forced
23 marriage has been charged before a Court such as this.

24 It is not an easy area, not legally and not socially.
It
25 puts the law into the realm of personal relationships, and
asks
26 for conduct to be divided into neat packages of legal and
27 illegal; define black and white in an area of life that is
28 susceptible to grey.

29 That is not to say that one cannot define force at its
most

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

are

of

one

Prosecution

is

female

only

the

of

a

1 extreme; the barrel of a gun, the threat of violence. There
2 no murky boundaries in such circumstances, but the delineation
3 a forced marriage can be much more complex than that. Only
4 woman, TF1-093, has come to this Court on behalf of
5 and claimed that she was a victim of a forced marriage. This
6 the same witness who gave evidence that she met Mr Sesay in a
7 rebel camp in Okra Hill in 1998; a fact which, given even the
8 widest possible range of wartimes events, cannot be correct.
9 This is the only paltry evidence we have to gauge how the
10 half of such a union would herself define force. It is the
11 insight into the inner workings of an alleged forced marriage
12 afforded to us by the Prosecution evidence.

13 The Prosecution brought an expert on the subject whose
14 evidence seemed to define a forced marriage as one, not where
15 woman had not consented, but, rather, where the parents of the
16 woman had not consented. If this is accepted as a definition
17 a forced marriage, one might ask oneself: Is this going to be
18 the definition under international law which is universally
19 applied?

20 Even applying it to the facts as they are now before the
21 Court, what is going to be required of a commander under such

effective 22 definition? If Mr Sesay sees an RUF fighter under his
23 command and a civilian woman in a relationship, which bares no
24 outward signs of coercion, should he involve himself in a
parents 25 seemingly peaceful union to determine the consent of the
26 of the woman in question, or the woman herself? Does that
duty 27 to intervene arise in the woman or someone on her behalf,
another 28 civilian or a member of the G5 unit, perhaps, coming forward?
29 The Defence will bring witnesses, some of whom were
married

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 19 SESAY ET AL
03 MAY 2007 OPEN SESSION

1 to members of the RUF, to show that consensual relationships
2 between RUF men and civil woman were common, particularly in
3 Kailahun District, where members of the RUF were well
integrated 4 with the civilian population. Some of these marriages, as
5 with
6 all marriages, broke down, while others remained intact
7 throughout the war and to the present day.
8 Witnesses will say that, following the ousting of the
Liberians in 1992, they themselves were not aware of any

RUF 9 instances of women being forced to be in relationships with
10 men. These witnesses will raise several thorny questions
include 11 surrounding the issue of forced marriage. Those issues
the 12 the potential difficulties in a wide definition of force and
13 varying cultural conceptions of marriage in different
woman 14 communities. Use of force, or threat of use of force on a
15 to induce her into a relationship poses no definitional
16 challenges. In the same way, clear consent erects no hurdles.

17 What happens, however, when a woman decides to stay with
a 18 fighter, who she likes, but perhaps does not love, because he
her 19 represents a source of food, safety and security for her and
20 family in an unstable world, and not because of any acts or
by 21 omissions of the fighter himself? Has that woman been forced
comes 22 the fighter to be in a relationship? What if that fighter
23 to the woman with true affection, but that woman decides to be
not 24 with him because of the circumstances she finds herself in,
man? 25 because or not solely because of an attraction towards that
culpable 26 Is that force of circumstance enough to make a fighter
27 of a charge of sexual violence?

28 The Defence asks this Court to consider how different
that 29 is to the circumstance of a young unemployed woman in a
Freetown

1 bar, who is unlikely to have the opportunity to earn more than
2 the equivalent of US\$5 a day, who consents to have a
relationship
3 with a man who works for an international organisation, who
makes
4 at least US\$115 a day. For both women, neither might choose
to
5 be in a relationship with that man if they were in different
6 circumstances; if they did not live in an area made dangerous
by
7 war, or a country which afforded an easier opportunity to earn
a
8 living wage. Yet, are those woman forced?
9 Moreover, should a woman enter into a relationship with
an
10 RUF fighter, because the fighter is a better option than
others
11 before her? Where does it leave a commander in charge? Is a
12 commander required to intervene in a relationship that
appears,
13 from all outward appearances, to be a content albeit
convenient
14 one? What if no one complains? By the same token, should
police
15 here check with women with no resources, as to whether they
are
16 in relationships with well-paid foreigners, for all the right

17 reasons, whatever those might be. There is a danger of
18 criminalising behaviour that one is generally uncomfortable
with,
19 simply by virtue of it taking place in a war.
20 Next issue that some of our witnesses will raise is the
21 different cultural conceptions of marriage. The Court will
hear
22 of marriages arranged in peacetime; at a girl's birth,
following
23 initiation at age 12 or 13 years, the girl will then be
married
24 to a boy selected years before. The Court will also hear of
25 women whose families consented to marriages to chiefs in the
26 community, chiefs who are sometimes more than twice the age of
27 the girl herself; for marrying a chief means your offspring
will
28 be of a ruling house and eligible to be a chief in future.
29 That is not to say that all marriages are without
romance,

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 21

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 but simply that the purpose of marriage in different
communities
2 all over the world can differ widely, and love, invaluable as
it

of 3 may be, is not always the most important thing in your choice
4 partner.

5 Let me be clear. We are not suggesting that women did
6 suffer in the war and that they did not suffer directly
7 because they are of the female sex. Yet, the truth is that men,
8 particularly when nothing is being demanded by them by way of
9 action, like to think of themselves as protectors of women, as
10 standing protectors of the people who are somehow not capable of
11 infantilises up for themselves at that time. Yet, this attitude
12 capable women; it denies women the conclusion that they're agents
13 but of rational choice. Yes, some women were victims of the RUF,
14 virtue that is quite different from saying all women, simply by
15 a of being in relationships with members of the RUF, must be
16 victims because that relationship took place in the context of
17 war. Many women formed relationships with members of the RUF
18 perhaps because they fell in love. For some, their attachments
19 had more rational roots, a rationality that was accepted in
20 today. prewar marriage choices and which continues to be accepted

21 against The Defence will show that the RUF had strict laws
22 the mistreatment of women. Rape, in particular, was harshly
23 to punished by the RUF. Certainly one law that insiders are able
24 is recall is that rape was punishable by execution, so engraved

25 it in their minds. The extent to which those laws worked, of
26 course, depended on the adherence of individual commanders to
the
27 spirit and letter of the law.
28 Crimes of sexual violence were, of course, not absent
from
29 areas under RUF command during this conflict. The Defence
hope

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 22 SESAY ET AL
03 MAY 2007 OPEN SESSION

1 to show, through different witnesses, the areas under the
2 specific commanders where crimes, including crimes of sexual
3 violence, were committed. Witnesses will come forward to give
4 evidence that Mr Sesay's relationships during the conflict
were
5 all consensual. Witnesses will state where rape and other
crimes
6 of sexual violence were reported, in an area where Mr Sesay
was
7 in command, following a guilty verdict from the Joint Security
8 Unit, Mr Sesay would recommend harsh punishments in line with
the
9 overall RUF ideology.
10 Sam Bockarie resigned from the RUF on 14 December 1999,
the
11 Defence say, following a fallout with Foday Sankoh over

12 disarmament. Bockarie, a man who had found his place in the
13 world in a war setting, was not willing to disarm and
14 particularly not to forces which included members of the
15 Nigerian-led ECOMOG group. As Sankoh resumed his place at the
16 apex of the RUF, the Defence will show that he became
17 increasingly erratic, never fully able to make the leap from
18 revolutionary to statesman.

19 In early May 2000, the Defence will bring witnesses to
show
20 that Sesay was based in Kono. At a DDR camp around Makeni,
21 several low-ranking RUF men disarmed without the permission of
to
22 their commanders. Unbeknownst to Mr Sesay at the time, it was
23 set off a chain of events in Makeni, culminating in the arrest
including
24 and holding several UNAMSIL men and military observers,
25 Zambian personnel who had been sent from Lunsar into Makeni.
26 Exhibits will show that in the day that follows, messages
flowed
27 between the RUF men in Makeni and Sankoh and his advisers in
28 Freetown. The substance of those messages was that the RUF
had
29 been the subject of an attack by the UN. Later that day

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

1 Foday Sankoh contacted Mr Sesay in Kono. Mr Sesay was
informed
2 of the UN's attack on the RUF and was then asked to proceed to
3 Makeni to put the situation under control.

4 Mr Sesay will explain how he proceeded to Makeni. He
and
5 other Defence witnesses will describe the chaotic scene he
found
6 there. Defence witnesses will come forward to testify about
7 Mr Sesay's upset at what he found in Makeni.

8 Foday Sankoh sent a message, as the Court will see, that
9 the UN personnel should be taken to the Kangari Hills until
the
10 matter was sorted out by the powers that be. Mr Sesay was
then a
11 man of 29 years of age. He had been fighting in a war for
almost
12 10 years. A peace accord had been signed. The Kangari Hills
13 were not a place, in the view of Mr Sesay, to take the UN in
14 order to keep them safe. It was a place in the bush with no
easy
15 access to food or to medicine. Mr Sesay's faith in Sankoh's
16 ability to lead the RUF into disarmament was ebbing. He took
a
17 unilateral step, rejecting Sankoh's direct orders and had the
men
18 moved to Kono District. Kono, a place where he was in
command, a
19 place where the conditions were of course difficult but were
20 measurably better than those in the Kangari Hills, and a place
21 far safer than Makeni at the time. Some of those who were
22 arrested will come to this Court and tell us of the point from

and

23 which, from their knowledge, Mr Sesay's involvement started
24 how he behaved throughout their time with the RUF. They will
25 tell of being taken to Kono and being given medical treatment;
26 being given the same food that the RUF themselves were eating,
27 and being kept safe. While the conditions were not luxurious,
28 they were no better or worse than those the RUF and the local
29 community lived under.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 24

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

was

person

other

forward

the

1 As Your Honours will already have heard from the
2 Prosecution, while these events were occurring, Foday Sankoh
3 arrested and imprisoned on 8 May 2000. The RUF lost the
4 who was primarily responsible for liaising with UNAMSIL and
5 heads of government. With Sankoh imprisoned in Freetown,
6 witnesses who were among the people being held will come
7 to say they were kept safe in Kono under Sesay.
8 Several options lay before Mr Sesay at this point. The
9 majority of the RUF deified Foday Sankoh. This is clear from
10 Prosecution insiders themselves. There would have been

observers

11 widespread support for using the UNAMSIL and military

12 as leverage to gain the release of Foday Sankoh. There was
13 little to gain for Mr Sesay at that stage to merely release
them.

14 Certainly, it would have been widely unpopular with RUF hard
15 liners, some of whom have given evidence as Prosecution
witnesses

16 and who, to this day, blame Mr Sesay for Sankoh's continued
17 imprisonment and his eventual death in custody.

18 Yet, Mr Sesay chose to move forward with negotiations
and,

19 in doing so, he expressed the commitment to peace, a valuing
of

20 peace over the release of Foday Sankoh. This would not have
been

21 the choice of many of the RUF commanders; commanders such as
Mike

22 Lamin or Gibril Massaquoi who, throughout the disarmament
23 process, opposed every step towards a peaceful Sierra Leone,
24 preferring that the RUF should continue its fight until Sankoh
25 was released.

26 Witnesses who were around Mr Sesay at the time of the
27 attacks in the UN, and the military observers, will testify to

28 Mr Sesay's role in it, and significantly those who were taken
to

29 Kono and then released, will step forward on behalf of a man
who

1 kept them safe during a fraught time, a time that we will show
2 that was not of Mr Sesay's own making.

have

3 Your Honours, I obviously have my eye on the clock. I
4 only another page to go and I hope you will grant me some
5 leniency.

6 JUDGE ITOE: Never mind; we were talking of some respite
7 for you.

Continue

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's okay. Quite right, yes.
9 counsel.

10 MS ASHRAPH: Thank you, Your Honour.

be

11 The final chapter of the conflict in Sierra Leone must
12 mentioned briefly. Mr Sesay became the interim leader of the

RUF

13 in August 2000. He was not propelled to this position through

a

14 groundswell of support. Indeed, Mr Sesay never carried the

the

15 constituencies that Bockarie had in Kailahun and did not have

time

16 opportunity to build up his own, as Superman did, from the

17 he was area commander of the Western Jungle from 1994 to 1996.

against

18 Sesay also did not have the benefit of being able to rage

19 the continuing imprisonment of Foday Sankoh, as people such as

to

20 Mike Lamin and Gibril Massaquoi did, as Sesay had chosen not

21 use the UN personnel as a bargaining tool for Sankoh's release
22 only a few months earlier.

Foday
Sankoh
only
to
intervention

23 Of course, Mr Sesay, having made the choice to allow
24 Sankoh to remain in prison, the Defence will show that Mr
25 did not come forward to appoint Mr Sesay as interim leader,
26 agreeing to it when his hand was forced by the ECOWAS heads of
27 state. No, there was no coronation for Mr Sesay. Rather, we
28 will hear from prominent witnesses that Mr Sesay's ascension
29 the post of interim leader was as a direct result of

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 26

SESAY ET AL
03 MAY 2007 OPEN SESSION

acting
that
RUF

1 from the ECOWAS heads of state.
2 The heads of state recognised that Mr Sankoh was not
3 in a manner which signaled he was conscious of his
4 responsibilities under the Lome Accord. The Court will hear
5 the ECOWAS leaders considered Sankoh's incarceration a turning
6 point for the peace process. They began looking for someone
7 within the RUF movement who could come forward and bring the

8 into fulfilling its part in the peace process. Issa Sesay,
9 despite his youth at the time, stood out as being capable of
10 this.

11 While in the course of the Prosecution case, Mr Sesay
has
12 been presented as, in the words of the Prosecution in opening,
a
13 commander of an army of evil, a core of destroyers, and a
brigade
14 of evil. The truth is, as the Defence will show, Mr Sesay was
15 regarded as a moderate within the RUF, capable of reasoned
16 judgment, and a person who could be relied upon to fulfill the
17 RUF's commitments to Sierra Leone and to the wider
international
18 community.

19 The report, Sierra Leone Managing Uncertainty, of the
20 International Crisis Group, describes Mr Sesay as the best
hope
21 for peace, while noting that many RUF elements were
uncomfortable
22 with him. The best hope for peace. Certainly that is how the
23 ECOWAS heads of state saw Mr Sesay. And, as we live in a
24 peaceful Sierra Leone today, we can see how right they were.

25 Indeed, it was only when Mr Sesay moved to the post of
26 interim leader that he had the one position in the upper
echelons
27 of the RUF hierarchy that could affect widespread change at
the
28 ground level, and that he did. The Court will hear that Mr
Sesay
29 was found to be honest, reliable and committed to fulfilling
the

Page 27

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

senior

1 RUF's part of the Accords. He never created any preconditions
2 for the RUF's disarmament. This was in contrast to other
3 commanders who did not want the RUF disarmed unless Sankoh was
4 released from prison.

Court

5 Many of those commanders appeared before you in this

held

6 to Prosecute the man whose attempts to disarm the RUF they
7 opposed every step of the way. The Court will hear that,
8 following the disarmament of Kono, a closed-door meeting was

his

9 in Koidu in which Mr Sesay was lauded by President Kabbah for

was

10 commitment to the peace process and in which Gibril Massaquoi

interests

11 held up as a man who did not have Sierra Leone's best

12 at heart.

of

13 A trial is about the measure of a man or a woman. That,

witnesses

14 course, includes the accused. But it also includes the

Sesay,

15 who come before this Court. The acts and omissions of Mr

16 alongside those of the many Prosecution insiders at the end of

17 the war, speaks volumes about the values of all concerned.

18 Mr Sesay will be called to the stand in just a minute to
19 give evidence. Mr Sesay, of course, does not have to give
20 evidence on his own behalf, but he chooses to do so. The fact
21 that he has chosen to give evidence does not change the fact
that
22 he should be treated like any other witness who has come
before
23 this Court.

24 It is, of course, for the Prosecution alone to prove his
25 guilt, and to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt. It is not
for
26 Mr Sesay to prove his innocence; that is presumed. He will
sit
27 before you and answer all the questions that are asked of him,
an
28 innocent man.

29 Your Honours, the Defence calls its first witness, Mr
Issa

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 28 SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 Hassan Sesay.
2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, counsel for the first
accused.
3 Let the first accused take the witness stand and be sworn.
Let's
4 proceed please. Let the witness be sworn.

5 WITNESS: ACCUSED ISSA HASSAN SESAY [Sworn]

6 [The witness answered through interpreter]

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Jordash, your witness.

8 MR JORDASH: Before we start, could I -- I should have
done
9 this earlier but we were a bit slow this morning. I have in
10 front of me a document which contains seven paragraphs which
11 relate to Mr Sesay's personal details concerning his father,
12 mother, names, addresses and so on.

13 For reasons of security, we would invite Your Honours to
14 accept this in lieu of oral testimony. I will ask some
questions
15 concerning it, but the questions I will ask will not elicit
16 identifying details. If I could pass it up to you now, I have
17 given it to the Prosecution and they agree with that course of
18 action. It would save us from going into closed session right
at
19 the beginning, which I wish to avoid.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Okay. Sounds reasonable.

21 MR JORDASH: It will be later on that I will invite Your
22 Honours either to go into closed session concerning certain
23 events as we go along, but won't reach there today, and I will
24 inform your legal officer where I'm going in that regard.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right.

26 JUDGE BOUTET: Are you filing these as exhibits, this
27 document?

28 MR JORDASH: I'd like to, yes, and I think I've just
handed
29 you every single copy I've got. Can I have a copy back,
please?

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

have

and

1 JUDGE BOUTET: Because I was going to ask you if you
2 given copies to the other parties as well. I know you have
3 you gave it to the Prosecution, but whether the Defence --

4 MR JORDASH: I've handed them all to you, but there are
5 copies for my learned friends as well. If we could pick it up
6 and have all the spare ones back.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: You say you're moving to have it
8 exhibited?

9 MR JORDASH: Yes, please.

staff?

10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Any objection from the Prosecution

11 MR HARRISON: No.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Then certainly.

13 MR JORDASH: Thank you.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Second accused?

15 MR NICOL-WILSON: No objection, Your Honour.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Third accused?

17 MR CAMMEGH: No, Your Honour.

and

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, we will receive it in evidence

19 mark it with the appropriate exhibit number.

20 MR GEORGE: 191, Your Honour.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: 191. Thank you.

22 [Exhibit No. 191 was admitted]

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Go ahead counsel.

24 MR JORDASH: Thank you.

25 EXAMINED BY MR JORDASH:

26 Q. Before I start, Mr Sesay, please try to answer the
27 questions as concisely and precisely as you can.

28 A. Okay.

29 Q. Please try to address your answers to the Honourable

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

Page 30

1 Judges, which may seem a little strange, given that I'm asking
2 the questions.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. If there's anything you do not understand by my
question,

5 please ask me to ask it again. It's almost certainly my
6 not yours.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. Now, let's start at the beginning and let's deal quickly
9 with your personal history, bearing in mind not to reveal any

okay? 10 identifying features or addresses of your family members,

11 A. Okay.

Freetown; 12 Q. I think we can deal with this: you were born in

13 is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And when were you born?

16 A. I was born at Sackville Street, central Freetown.

17 Q. And what date were you born on?

18 A. I was born in June 1970.

19 Q. So it makes you 36; yes?

20 A. Yes.

leave 21 Q. And you attended school until when? What age did you

22 school?

attended 23 A. I think -- I did not want to leave school, but I

24 school up to second term. I was in form 3. So I went on

holiday 25 to my elder sister, who was married, at Makali, in the

Tonkolili 26 District.

27 Q. Stop there. What age were you when you left school

then? 28 A. Well, I think around 16.

29 Q. And, just briefly, what did you study at school?

literature.

1 A. Well, I did subjects like geography, history,
2 I did especially when -- when I was in form 3, in fact, I had
3 interest in doing the art subject.

16?

4 Q. And why did you leave school at 14 -- sorry, at around

my

5 A. Well, just like what I said. I was in form 3 because I
6 attended secondary school in Lungi from 1 to form 3, so when I
7 promoted, to form 2. So when there was some constraints with

been

8 father, so he said I should come to Freetown. My father had
9 working in the Ministry of Works --

asked

10 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, would the witness be
11 to go a little bit slow.

12 MR JORDASH:

13 Q. Mr Sesay --

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Go ahead, Mr Jordash.

15 MR JORDASH: Thank you.

16 Q. Mr Sesay, remember to pause for the translation.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. Just go back a couple of sentences.

Ministry

19 A. I said, I stopped at form 3 because my father had
20 constraints, because my father had been working in the

21 of Works, and the branch in which he had been working was at
22 Pademba Road, just by the prisons.

23 Q. And the constraints you speak of at work were what?
24 A. Well, during that time -- well, my father had been
working
25 -- had been working three to four months. At the end of the
day,
26 he would be paid for just two months and there were
constraints
27 to maintain me and my sisters, you know, to continue
schooling.
28 Q. So what did you do?
29 A. So I went on holidays to my elder sister at Makali,
whose

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 32

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 husband had been mining gold, and he was a native, born of
2 Makali, so that he could assist me.
3 Q. And how did he assist you?
4 A. Well, when I went there, my brother-in-law, who was my
5 elder sister's husband, he showed me how to buy gold. And I
6 became used to --
7 Q. Apparently you're going really fast, Mr Sesay.
8 A. Sorry, sorry.
9 Q. No problem. "I went to my elder sister's at Makali,"
her
10 husband was mining gold, and you did what in relation to that?

11 A. I said, her husband had been mining gold and he had been
12 buying gold. And when I went there, and I was a small boy,
and I
13 had experience, and I could read and write. So the husband
14 started leaving me in the office and he started teaching me
how
15 to buy gold.

16 Q. Okay. Perhaps I should have dealt with this earlier.
Can
17 I ask you what languages you speak, please?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I've asked you.

20 A. Well, I can speak Temne. I can speak Krio. Because my
21 English was very poor, because it was only in the detention
that
22 I started to develop my English.

23 Q. So you speak English now?

24 A. Before I was arrested, I was very poor in English. But
25 with the statement of the Defence and the Prosecution and
26 interaction with my lawyer, now, I think I can speak good
27 English.

28 Q. Okay. You're a Temne; is that right?

29 A. Yes. I am a Temne, and my father came from the Port
Loko

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

1 District.

2 Q. Okay. So back to you buying gold, when was this; what
3 year?

4 A. Well, that was in '87.

5 Q. Can you remember when you first arrived there? Was it
the
6 beginning or the middle or the end of 1987?

7 A. Well, that was after, when the schools had locked for
the
8 second term. So I can say that it was during March '87.

9 Q. And how long did you remain doing that job?

10 A. Well, at the end of the day, my brother-in-law said I
was
11 to stay with him so that I could continue to do business with
12 him, so I did not come to town again.

13 Q. So how long did you stay there?

14 A. Well, I was there from '97 to '99 -- sorry, '87 to '89.

15 Q. And what happened in 1989?

16 A. Well, 1989, things became difficult for my brother-in-
law.

17 A friend of mine told me that we were to go to Ivory Coast,
and I
18 knew that my elder brother, his own friend was also in the
Ivory
19 Coast, so, we went to Abidjan.

20 Q. And what was the purpose, if any, of going to Abidjan?

21 A. Well, that was just a way of trying to try to become
22 educated, but it did not go through.

23 Q. Are you able to say when you arrived in Abidjan?

'89,

24 A. Yes. I went to Abidjan around August/September '98 --

25 sorry.

26 Q. And what did you do when you arrived in Abidjan?

to

27 A. Well, this friend of mine with whom I went, he took me

28 my elder brother, who was a cousin, a friend who was playing

is

29 football with him in Freetown. So I stayed with him, but he

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 34

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 now in America.

2 Q. And did you work there?

my

3 A. Yes. When I went, I met other Sierra Leoneans who were

4 age group. They had been selling cigarettes, like Kaifa Way,

5 Abdulrahman and others, and they told me that they were to

6 continue to sell cigarettes.

spell

7 Q. You just said two names. Can you say them again and

8 them, if you can?

9 A. Kaifa Way, Abdulrahman Bangura and the others. Kaifa,

10 K-A-F-I-A. Waiy, W-A-I-Y [sic] and Abdulrahman Bangura,

11 A-B-D-U-R-A-H-A-M, B-A-N-G-U-R-A [sic].

12 Q. How long did you sell cigarettes?

13 A. Well, that continued up to 1990, up to mid-1990. Until
14 1990, oh, yes.

15 Q. And did you make enough money to survive or what was the
16 situation with the selling of cigarettes?

17 A. Well, the profit was very little, because cigarettes was
18 made in Ivory Coast, so I was not able to get much income.

19 Q. Why did you stop selling cigarettes?

20 A. Well, I was with my friends, these friends that I have
21 talked about, Kaifa and Abdulrahman. At Ajamin -- we were

sent

22 to Ajamin, and while I was living at city Femo with

Abdulrahman,

23 but we had been selling at Ajamin.

24 Q. Where you were selling, can you spell that please, the
25 place?

26 A. Well, see, those are French pronunciations, so I do not
27 speak French. So I only knew it to be Ajamin.

28 Q. Fair enough, I think. What happened?

29 A. Well, we were -- where we were selling, but the place in

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

Page 35

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 which we were selling was very close to the parking stations

at

2 Duex cent vinge. It was a branch of Ajamin.

3 Q. Go on.

4 A. So we had a friend who was selling at this parking
station
5 where people used to travel from Burkina Faso to Abidjan. So
6 there, Ibrahim Nabie had been selling.

7 Q. And who was this Ibrahim?

8 A. Ibrahim Nabie was one of the men who came with us, but
he
9 also was a Sierra Leonean; a native of Kono.

10 Q. And what happened?

11 A. So we were -- where we were selling, I, Kaifa Way,
12 Abdulrahman, we saw Ibrahim Nabie came with one old man who
had a
13 lot of beard; they came where we were selling.

14 Q. Did you speak to this old man?

15 A. Yes, this old man greeted us. He asked about our names,
16 and he introduced himself to us as Pa Morlai.

17 Q. As Pa Morlai. Can you spell Morlai?

18 A. M-O-R-L-A-I.

19 Q. What did he say to you?

20 A. Well, he greeted us. He talked to us. He said that we
21 were young men who were in Ivory Coast who were straining, and
22 that he had been talking to Ibrahim Nabie, and that he had a
23 restaurant at Burkina Faso, and that he wanted to employ

Sierra

24 Leoneans to work there.

25 Q. When was this?

26 A. Well, this was around June 1990.

27 Q. And Pa Morlai, what nationality was he?

was

28 A. Pa Morlai, he said he was a Sierra Leonean. He said he
29 a Temne by tribe.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 36

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

restaurant

1 Q. Did he suggest what he wanted you to do at the
2 in Burkina Faso?

Sierra

in

pay

3 A. Well, he did not tell us what he wanted us to do at the
4 restaurant, he only said that he needed young men who were
5 Leoneans and that now that he had seen us, he was interested
6 us, so as to go and work in his restaurant, and that he would
7 us at the end of every month.

were

8 Q. And what did you say to that offer?
9 A. Well, I -- at that time, I had my other colleagues, like
10 Kaifa and Abdulrahman, who were mature, and they said they
11 interested, and they said that we are to go, and I decided to
12 join them because they were the elderly.

know

13 Q. Now, who was Pa Morlai?
14 A. Well, Pa Morlai, Pa Morlai was -- Pa Morlai, I came to

to
15 his name when he had gone 90 days before the war and they came
Sankoh.
16 Sierra Leone, and I came to know that he was called Foday
17 Q. How did you -- did you go to Burkina Faso?
18 A. No, we did not go to Burkina Faso. At the end of the
day,
19 we did not go to Burkina Faso.
20 Q. So where did you go?
21 A. So, the man told us, he said that he was going to sleep
in
22 a hotel. He said that we were to prepare, when he had spoken
to
23 us the other day. We, all of us -- those -- he said we were
to
24 go and meet a friend who was called Boulevard de la Paix.
25 Boulevard de la Paix, that was part of Abidjan [as
interpreted].
26 Q. So what happened?
27 A. So, the following morning, Kaifa Way, I and Ibrahim
28 Abdulrahman went to Isiaka's place.
29 Q. And then, what happened?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 37

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

a
1 A. Then -- then Pa Morlai came there with his minibus with

2 driver. He was sitting at the front seat.

3 Q. How many men were you with at this time?

4 A. At least we were eight. No, we were nine, sorry.

5 Q. And what happened then?

6 A. Well, after that, he told us that we were to board the
7 vehicle and that the flight that we were going to board was --

8 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, would the witness repeat
9 what he said.

10 MR JORDASH:

11 Q. Mr Sesay, could you just go back a little bit and repeat
12 the last answer?

13 A. I said, Pa Morlai came with the vehicle, and when he
came
14 with the vehicle, he told us that we were to go and pick a
flight
15 at Ma to go to Abidjan, because he said he was going to see
16 somebody at Ma. And he was the one that came with the
vehicle.
17 So we, the nine boys, boarded the vehicle and we went to Ma,
but
18 we did not stop at Ma.

19 Q. Where did you go?

20 A. The vehicle -- the vehicle went up to Danane because,
21 during that time --

22 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, would the witness repeat
23 what he said, the last words.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Jordash, could you advise him to do
25 that.

26 MR JORDASH:

27 Q. Could you repeat the last sentence, Mr Sesay, please?

28 Repeat the last sentence.

Abidjan, 29 A. Yes. I said, the vehicle, which we boarded from

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 38 SESAY ET AL
03 MAY 2007 OPEN SESSION

1 did not stop at Ma, it went to Danane. We went to a compound
2 that was fenced and the vehicle entered and we were there.

3 Q. And what happened then?

4 A. Well, when we arrived, we met some Ivorians in the
place.

5 They brought food. Pa Morlai asked us to eat and we ate. In
the

6 evening, Pa Morlai said we were to board the vehicle, and when
we

7 boarded the vehicle, we were driven straight to the Liberian
8 border.

9 Q. Did Pa Morlai explain what was happening?

10 A. Well, when we arrived at Danane, during that time, we
saw

11 Ivorian security in the compound. Pa Morlai did not talk to
us.

12 When he came, he just said we were to board the vehicle and we
13 went. And one of the Ivorian vehicles were behind us, and
they

14 were Ivorian soldiers, and we went to the Liberian border.

15 Q. Soldiers; were they armed or not?

16 A. They were armed. They were armed. They were Ivorian
17 soldiers.

18 Q. And where were you taken?

19 A. Well, that was my first time of going to Liberia. We
were
20 taken to a town that was called Ganta.

21 Q. And did you stay in Ganta?

22 A. Yes. We stayed in Ganta, in the compound, for two days.
23 We were not allowed to go out. We were just within the fence
in
24 the compound.

25 Q. Just so that we are clear: What do you mean you were
not
26 allowed out?

27 A. Well, Pa Morlai told us that -- that where we had
reached,
28 that we were not to go out of the compound. All of us were to
29 stay there and he, Pa Morlai, was there. He did not go
anywhere.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 39

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 Q. How long did you stay here?

2 A. We spent two nights there.

3 Q. What happened then?

4 A. Then, after that, we were driven to -- we were taken the

5 following morning. We went to university campus, which was
6 called CUC.

7 Q. What happened there?

8 A. Well, when we were taken to this campus, we were taken
to a
was
9 separate building where we and Pa Morlai were living. Nobody
10 on the other side of the campus. It was only us that were on
11 that campus, on that side of the campus.

12 Q. How long did you stay there?

13 A. We were there for about three weeks.

14 Q. What were you doing there?

15 A. Well, when we have been there for four days, that was
the
16 time that Pa Morlai took one of our colleagues, and they said
17 that they were going to the Ivory Coast border and that
told
18 individual was Isiaka. When Pa Morlai returned, Pa Morlai
19 us that Isiaka had escaped. They said, but, Isiaka -- Isiaka
told
20 would have that experience. And, after a little while, he
21 us that Isiaka had been captured and that he had been killed.
He
22 said that, well, whosoever wanted to escape, he too would be
23 killed, just as Isiaka had been killed.

24 Q. And how many of you were there at this point?

25 A. At that time, we were eight. That was the time that --
26 that was the first time that I saw Pa Isiaka [as interpreted]
27 holding an AK -- Pa Morlai.

28 Q. Pa Morlai holding the AK?

29 A. Yes. Yes.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 40

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

it 1 Q. Did Pa Morlai explain why Isiaka had been shot and why
2 was he was making that suggestion?

Isiaka. 3 A. Well, Pa Morlai did not tell me that they fired at
4 He only told me that Isiaka wanted to escape; he was caught
and 5 he was killed. He said that anybody who wanted to escape, who
6 would try to return to Ivory Coast, he said he was not
7 responsible.

8 Q. And what was the security?
9 A. Well, the place where we were taken to at this time, we
10 would see -- we saw people training and there were soldiers,
and 11 later I came to know that they were NPFL men.

12 Q. When did you come to know this?
13 A. When Pa Morlai came with Rashid Mansaray, about one week
-- 14 just between -- within one week and two weeks, Pa Morlai came
15 with Rashid Mansaray.

16 Q. And when he came with Rashid Mansaray, did he speak to
you 17 or the people being held?

to
which
told
will

18 A. Well, when he came with Rashid Mansaray, he did not talk
19 me alone. He called all of us, because we had a lounge in
20 he had been talking to us. We sat there, all of us, and he
21 us that -- say, "This is your brother and he is the one that
22 come and train you."

23 Q. Train you for what?

24 A. Well, during that time, he told us that it was Rashid
25 Mansaray that was going to train us, and that we were to come
to
26 Sierra Leone to fight against the APC.

27 Q. Who explained that to you, first of all?

28 A. Well, it was Pa Foday -- Pa Morlai himself said it.

29 JUDGE ITOE: Against who?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 41

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 MR JORDASH: The APC.

2 JUDGE ITOE: The APC.

3 MR JORDASH:

4 Q. And did he explain why?

5 A. Well, yes, he explained briefly. He said -- well -- he

was
Sierra
party

6 said he had brought Rashid Mansaray and that Rashid Mansaray
7 the one that was going to train us to fight against the APC in
8 Sierra Leone, because the APC had suppressed the people of
9 Leone. The people -- the APC had declared itself as a one-
10 state and they said a lot of things.

11 Q. Can you remember some more things he said?

went

12 A. Well, this first day he did not say much. But when we
13 to camp at Dama, that was where he talked a lot, when we were
14 parading.

may

15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Are you starting a new episode? This
16 be a convenient time for us to take our usual morning break.

17 MR JORDASH: This is the best time. Thank you.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: The Court is recessed.

19 [Break taken at 11.30 a.m.]

20 [Upon resuming at 12.02 p.m.]

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Jordash, please continue with your
22 examination-in-chief.

23 MR JORDASH: Thank you, Your Honour.

the
sentences,

24 Q. Mr Sesay, I have been told that we should try to help
25 interpreter by trying to limit answers to around two
26 okay?

27 A. Okay.

okay?

28 Q. I may then stop you in order to help the translators,

29 A. Okay.

1 Q. Okay, I think we left off at CUC?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When did you come to leave there?

4 A. Well, I think it was around July to September 1990.

5 Q. Who did you leave there with?

6 A. I was there with Pa Morlai, my colleagues, who were

eight

7 in number, after the one man had escaped.

8 Q. And how did you travel and where did you -- well, how

did

9 you travel?

10 A. You mean from Ganta?

11 Q. You went to Ganta and you went --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And what happened in Ganta?

14 A. I said, from Ganta, Pa Morlai placed us in a pick-up

plus

15 himself and we drove to CUC.

16 Q. Yes. Now, from CUC, where did you go?

17 A. We went to Naama. Camp Naama.

18 Q. And what did you find at Camp Naama? What was it?

19 A. Well, Camp Naama was an old military barracks under Doe.

20 Q. And where was it?

21 A. At the time I went there I did not know the place, but
22 later I came to know that it was part of Bome county.

23 Q. Was there anybody at Camp Naama when you arrived?

24 A. The people we met at Camp Naama, they did not allow us
to
25 reach them, neither did they come to us. But there were
people
26 there because it was a big camp.

27 Q. What kind of people were there?

28 A. Well, they were NPFL fighters.

29 Q. And what were they doing there?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

Page 43

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

artillery
1 A. Well, what I was made to understand, they had an
2 base there.

3 Q. Are you able to say how many NPFL there was at the camp?

4 A. I cannot tell because I was not used to Liberians and I
did
5 not go where they were. I was where Pa Morlai said I should
6 leave, that is, amongst my colleague Sierra Leoneans.

7 Q. Were there any other Sierra Leoneans or any other men

8 living with you, besides the ones you had arrived with?

Sierra

9 A. Well, when we arrived, Pa Morlai used to bring some
10 Leoneans, including Liberians, from other parts of Liberia.

to

11 JUDGE ITOE: Mr Jordash, if I may ask, when are we going
12 see the transition of this name, Pa Morlai.

13 MR JORDASH: Very shortly. As we enter Sierra Leone, I
14 think.

15 JUDGE ITOE: Well, I hope so.

Honourable

16 THE WITNESS: No, no. If I can respond to the
17 Judge.

18 MR JORDASH:

19 Q. Please do, yes.

name

20 A. Well, we came to know -- I came to know Foday Sankoh's
21 when he gave 90 days to the APC government of Momo.

days

22 Q. Since we are on that subject, when you say he gave 90
23 to Momo, he gave 90 days to do what?

24 A. Well, I was at Naama with my colleagues, when Foday
25 Sankoh --

he

26 JUDGE ITOE: Sorry to interrupt your witness. I think
27 can continue, it's just that, you know --

28 MR JORDASH: Yes. I think -- we'll arrive at --

doing,

29 JUDGE ITOE: I think he can continue as he has been

1 you know. I just put the question. I don't want him to get
2 himself disorientated, please.

3 JUDGE BOUTET: Just one clarification from me: I would
4 like your witness, if he can, to tell the Court what NPFL
stands
5 for, in his -- what it is.

6 MR JORDASH: Certainly.

7 Q. You heard the Honourable Judge, Mr Sesay. Do you know
the
8 answer?

9 A. Yes. NPFL is Natural [as interpreted] Patriotic Front
of
10 Liberia.

11 Q. Now, you said that Pa Morlai was bringing others, Sierra
12 Leoneans and Liberians, from other parts of the country. Were
13 they coming to where you were staying or where the NPFL were
14 staying?

15 A. They were brought to the place where we and Pa Morlai
16 stayed at the part of the barracks.

17 Q. And how long did you stay at Camp Naama?

18 A. Well, from September, we were there up to March '91.
From
19 September 1990 to March 1991.

20 Q. And how many people were brought to your part of the
camp
21 during that period?

we
22 A. Well, all of us, we are not -- we are not up to 300, but
23 are more than 200.

were
24 Q. And are you able to say what the ratio was; how many
25 Sierra Leonean; how many Liberians?

26 A. Well, it has taken a long time now. I wouldn't tell you
27 the figure, but the Liberians were more than us.

28 Q. Now, I'm not going to ask you to name everybody who you
29 came to know there, but can you name who you met there; a few

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 45
SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

Court?
1 people who you met there who might be of interest to the

meet
2 A. Well, when Pa Morlai brought us to Naama, we did not

he
3 anybody there. We were the first group of people that -- whom

members
4 brought there. But I can call the names of those -- the

there
5 of the group that we came to that place and those who came

6 later.

7 Q. Go ahead and do it, slowly, so that we can take a note.

Sula;
8 A. Kaifa Way; Ibrahim Nabie; Abdulrahman Bangura; Sefo

9 David B Sesay; Issa Sesay. The ones that were later brought,
10 first of all, Foday Sankoh came with a man who said he was
11 trained in Libya that --

12 Q. Okay. Pause there.

13 MR JORDASH: Sorry, did I cut off some of the
translation
14 there?

15 THE INTERPRETER: Come again, please.

16 MR JORDASH: Did I cut off part of Mr Sesay's answer?

17 THE INTERPRETER: No, attorney.

18 MR JORDASH: Thank you.

19 Q. And who was the man who said he had been trained in
Liberia
20 -- Libya, sorry?

21 A. According to what Pa Morlai told us, he said Rashid
22 Mansaray was one of those that was trained in Libya and
Mohamed
23 Tarawallie. But he told us that there were other people, but
he
24 did not come with them at that time.

25 Q. Were there any others who came, at any time during your
26 stay in Camp Naama, who you were told had been trained in
Libya?

27 A. Well, the ones that I later came that they were trained
in
28 Libya, but they did not go to Camp Naama, but when the war
29 started, Foday Sankoh later brought them.

1 Q. Well, brought them where?

2 A. Well, actually, some were in Liberia, but they did not
come
3 to Naama. For instance, Patrick Lamin and Daboh.

4 Q. Do you know Mike Lamin?

5 A. Yes. Mike Lamin was an instructor that trained me and
my
6 other colleagues as Vanguarders.

7 MR JORDASH: Your Honour --

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Jordash.

9 MR JORDASH: -- I've got a list here of Prosecution
10 witnesses with their respective TF1 numbers. I've spoken to
the
11 Prosecution and they do not mind if this is placed before

12 Mr Sesay, so that when he, in due course, refers to
Prosecution
13 witnesses, he remembers to do it by their TF1 numbers, because
14 it's much more instinctive for him to refer to them by their
15 names. I've shown this to the Prosecution, it's a Prosecution
16 document, actually. I think it contains every witness but
one,
17 who was at a crime base, who we are not interested in.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: How would that facilitate the process?

19 MR JORDASH: It would prevent Mr Sesay from slipping up,
I
20 hope --

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see.

22 MR JORDASH: -- and mentioning names --

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right.

24 MR JORDASH: -- of Prosecution witnesses rather than
their
25 TF1 numbers. I think he remembers many of their TF1 numbers
but
26 not necessarily all. I also think that having the document in
27 front of him will focus his mind that, when he's answering
28 questions, he ought to refer to the TF1 numbers.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Does the Prosecution confirm that?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 47

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 MR HARRISON: Yes. I was given a copy but if I can just
2 let the Court and Mr Jordash know, having looked at it, there
are
3 two TF1 numbers that are missing and, if it helps, I can say
the
4 name in Court. I'm not sure if that's what the Defence wants.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE: How do you respond to that?

6 MR HARRISON: Do you want me to give the TF1 numbers
that
7 are missing?

8 MR JORDASH: The TF1 numbers. I think 179 is one.

9 MR HARRISON: 179 is missing, which was the 70th
witness,
10 and TF1-156 is missing, which was the 72nd witness.

adopting 11 PRESIDING JUDGE: And you have no objection to him
12 that procedure?
13 MR HARRISON: No. I was asked before Court --
the 14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Thanks. And counsel for
15 second accused, do you have any objection to this?
16 MR NICOL-WILSON: No objection, Your Honour.
17 PRESIDING JUDGE: What about counsel for the third?
18 MR O'SHEA: Not at all, Your Honour.
19 PRESIDING JUDGE: You're given leave, Mr Jordash, to do
20 that.
21 JUDGE BOUTET: Mr Jordash, can we have a copy for the
22 Bench?
23 MR JORDASH: Could I supply the Court with a copy after
24 lunch?
perhaps 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, all right. But, next time,
26 you should anticipate that kind of request.
27 MR JORDASH: Absolutely.
time. 28 PRESIDING JUDGE: All right. We'll let you off this
29 additional MR JORDASH: It's got my markings with the two

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

1 witnesses, but that's it.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's okay.

3 MR JORDASH: Thank you.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Proceed then.

5 MR JORDASH:

6 Q. So, Mike Lamin was the instructor that trained you.
What
7 did he instruct?

8 A. Yes. He was one of them.

9 Q. Okay.

10 JUDGE ITOE: He trained them as Vanguard; that's what
he
11 said.

12 MR JORDASH: Thank you.

13 Q. Before we come to the training that you received, Mr
Gbao
14 and Mr Kallon, when did you meet Mr Gbao?

15 A. Yes. It was Pa Morlai himself who came with Mr Gbao.

16 Q. And Mr Kallon, when did you first meet him?

17 A. Mr Kallon came with Mike Lamin. And I came to know that
it
18 was Mike Lamin who came with Mr Kallon.

19 Q. Okay. Now, what training did you receive in Camp Naama?

20 A. Well, I was trained on physical fitness, tactics, how to
21 fight. I was trained in arms and I was trained in ideology,
22 including courtesy and discipline.

23 Q. And aside from Mike Lamin, who were the other
instructors?

24 A. Well, we got Rashid Mansaray; Mohamed Tarawallie; we had

25 Isaac Mongor; we had Kongano; and a man we use to call PI.
26 Q. PI?
27 A. Yes.
28 Q. Can you go back to the -- was it Kongano?
29 A. Kongano. Kongano.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 49

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

Morlai

sorry,

1 Q. Are you able to spell that?
2 A. No. I am not familiar with that name.
3 Q. Where was Isaac Mongor from?
4 A. Well, I did not know where he came from. It was Pa
5 that came with him; he, Kongano, and PI.
6 Q. And was Foday Sankoh present during the training --
7 Pa Morlai was still there?
8 A. Yes. He too trained us. He was responsible for the
9 drills, how to parade. He stayed with us in the camp.
10 Q. Did you want to be trained?
11 A. Well, later, when I came to know that we are coming to
12 fight a war, no.
13 Q. It may be obvious but, just in case, so why did you not
14 leave?

reported

15 A. Well, in the first instance, it was my first time that I
16 went to Liberia. And, amongst us, the ones that were taken
17 there, the one that made an attempt to escape, Pa Morlai
18 that he had been killed. And I thought that if I were to make
19 the same attempt, then I was to get the same thing. And the
20 camps were barricaded; we should not go out of the camp. So
21 going out of the camp was highly prohibited.

you

22 Q. Right. Did you see -- well, let me ask you this: Do
23 know Charles Taylor from this time?

24 A. From that time, I did not see Charles Taylor. I did not
25 know him, at that time.

by

26 Q. Did Foday Sankoh explain to you what he hoped to achieve
27 this invasion, besides the removal of the APC? Just a brief
28 answer will do.

29 A. Repeat your question, please.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 50

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

parade.

1 Q. Let me ask a different question. Did Foday Sankoh say
2 anything about what he hoped for civilians in Sierra Leone?

3 A. Well, Foday Sankoh, every morning, he came to the

tell

4 He took part on the parade. He lectured us, and he used to

the

5 us that he was organising the revolution in the interest of

people

6 people of Sierra Leone, because the APC had suppressed the

7 by making a one-party state, and that he was interested in

8 bringing democracy. That was what he used to tell us.

9 Q. Did he make mention at all of any role played or to be
10 played by Charles Taylor?

us

11 A. Well, while we were undergoing training, he did not tell
12 that.

13 Q. Did you have any girlfriend or relationship of that kind
14 while you were in Camp Naama?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you mind telling the Court who that was?

entitled

17 A. Yes. Because we were many in the base and we are
18 each to a bowl of rice; that, every two in the afternoon. So,
19 after this day, the next day you get another bowl. So we had
20 food constraint and the women were at the base with us. And
21 Foday Sankoh's wife was there with us. Her younger sister was
22 there. So, I fell in love with Monica Pearson, who was Foday
23 Sankoh's wife's sister. She was responsible for preparing the
24 food of Foday Sankoh, which was separate food. It was this
25 that used to help me with food, soap, and the like.

lady

26 Q. Where was she from?

her

27 A. Well, it was Pa Morlai's wife who brought her, that was
28 younger sister. She brought Monica with her and her younger

29 brother from Gbarnga.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 51

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 Q. Was anything taught to you about how to behave towards
2 civilians?

So

3 A. Yes. Rashid Mansaray was responsible for the ideology.

back,

4 every day after we had jogged in the morning, when we came

that,

5 everybody was given a lump of boiled cassava. And, after

6 we had an ideology class. If you did not attend the ideology

7 class, then you were not entitled to the bowl of rice. So,

8 during -- the ideology instructor used to tell us the way to

9 behave to civilians and how to treat civilians during the war.

10 Q. Can you remember some of that teaching?

11 A. Yes. I can recall, like, the three points of attention.

12 Q. Go on.

You

13 A. That is obey, obey, and obey in all your actions; 2.

take

14 were to speak politely to the masses; and 3. You shouldn't

15 anything, whatsoever little it was, from the masses. Then you

16 had the eight codes of conduct.

17 Q. Can we just go over that? Apparently there is some

18 confusion about the translation. One moment, please.

19 MR JORDASH: I think what Mr Sesay said, and I think I
20 heard this, too -- certainly my learned friend did -- he said,
21 they shouldn't take a needle or thread from the masses; not,
22 shouldn't take a thing from the masses.

you

23 JUDGE ITOE: He said they shouldn't take a thing,
24 little, from the masses.

however

25 MR JORDASH: That's what the translation was.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's what he said, yes.

27 MR JORDASH: The actual words spoken were: Not to take
28 thread -- a needle or a thread from the masses.

a

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Can we have the translation again,

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

Page 52

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 please.

2 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the interpreter is
3 asking that the witness repeat his answer.

kindly

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Jordash, let the witness repeat his
5 answer.

6 MR JORDASH:

7 Q. Could you repeat what you said about not taking from the
8 masses, please, Mr Sesay?

9 THE INTERPRETER: He said he should not take a needle or
10 thread from the masses.

11 MR JORDASH:

12 Q. Okay. Now, I'll come back to that in due course, but
let's
13 move forward, Mr Sesay. Did there come a time when you left
14 Camp Naama?

15 A. Yes. Yes.

16 Q. Now, how did this occur?

17 A. Well, we were at Naama when we heard a story which was
18 narrated by Foday Sankoh while we were parading.

19 Q. And, briefly, what was the story?

20 A. Foday Sankoh, from February, he told us that the time
had
21 become nearer when the war was to start. So while he told us
to
22 wait, Foday Sankoh informed us that a fight had ensued at
Bomaru
23 between the NPFL and the Sierra Leonean Army because of trade.

24 Q. Because of, sorry?

25 A. Because of a business transaction between the SLA and
the
26 NPL -- NPFL fighters. We used to -- who used to bring looted
27 goods to them, which they used to buy.

28 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter is sorry. Something
is
29 left behind, "That they brought looted goods, which they used
to

Page 53

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 buy."

2 MR JORDASH:

Okay,

3 Q. Okay. Let's just try and put this into some order.

days.

4 you made mention earlier about Foday Sankoh giving Momoh 90

5 Now, did this occur in Camp Naama or afterwards?

6 A. This happened at Camp Naama before the problem that

7 happened between the NPFL fighters and the soldiers.

relation

8 Q. So let's go back to that time. What happened in

9 to that?

10 A. Well, what Foday Sankoh explained to us, he said the

11 Liberian fighters used to bring looted vehicles to the Sierra

soldiers

12 Leonean soldiers at Bomaru, and that the Sierra Leonean

13 had to pay. They failed to pay to the officers in charge at

14 Bomaru. That was what brought the confusion between them, and a

15 fight ensued.

16 Q. And the 90 days, what happened in relation to that?

17 A. Well, because of this fight, that made -- Foday Sankoh said

18 he wouldn't wait for the 90 days, and that he was going to use

19 the opportunity to bring us to Sierra Leone in order for us to

20 continue the fighting.

21 Q. Right. What I'm trying to do is go back to what Foday
22 Sankoh said about the 90 days and when he said it.
23 A. Well, I think it was in February when Foday Sankoh spoke
24 over the BBC, when he gave 90 days to Momoh.
25 Q. Okay. So February, Foday Sankoh says over the radio to
26 Momoh, 90 days. Ninety days to do what?
27 A. He said 90 days. He said that Momoh should step down as
28 president. If not, he said he was going to attack the government
29 of the APC.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 54

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

waiting

1 Q. And was he referring to himself, at this stage, as
2 Pa Morlai?
3 A. No. It was during that time that he said he was a rebel
4 leader and that his name was Foday Saybana Sankoh.
5 Q. Thank you. And so, from what you observed, was he
6 for the 90 days?
7 A. How I saw things happen, yes. He was waiting for the 90
8 days, but because --
9 Q. But because?
10 A. But because a fight had ensued in Bomaru between the SLA

11 and the NPFL, he said, well, he was going to take that
12 opportunity -- make use of that opportunity.

13 Q. And so what happened?

14 A. So Foday Sankoh brought trucks at Camp Naama where we were.

15 Q. And what happened with the trucks?

16 A. Well, when he came with the trucks, it was he himself that
17 made the selection. And Mike Lamin was there, Mohamed Tarawallie
18 was there, standing, but he had a problem with Rashid, because
19 Rashid was angry.

20 Q. And what was he angry about?

21 A. Rashid said -- he said it was not the time to start the
22 war. So Pa Foday should not -- he said it was just a problem
23 between the Sierra Leone soldiers and the NPFL fighters, because
24 of buying looted items, and he said it was not the appropriate
25 time for them to start the war, but Sankoh said Rashid Mansaray
26 wanted to sabotage his operation, so he arrested and detained
27 him. We left them there and we came.

28 Q. And they came. Came where?

29 A. Well, let me first of all explain how we were divided

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

Page 55

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 before we left Naama, because we had been falling in,
according

would
Where,
and
to
I
figure.
by
to
now?

2 to platoons, and Foday Sankoh would just appoint you. He
3 say, "You, board that truck. You, go into that truck".
4 you see, I was asked to board, we came to Kailahun border.
5 Q. And what happened then?
6 A. Then the trucks were divided. Two went to Bomi-Hills
7 the others came to Kolahun. And Foday Sankoh came with us up
8 Kolahun, where he came again and divided the group into two.
9 Q. How many people came to Golahun?
10 A. Well, when we came to Kolahun, from there, Foday Sankoh
11 spoke to some commanders from the NPFL, who came with us, but
12 cannot tell the actual figure, say how many of us came to
13 Kailahun, because we were divided into two groups.
14 Q. How many in your group?
15 A. Honestly, I cannot tell. It has taken a long time. I
16 cannot recall the figure again. I cannot tell the actual
17 Q. Are you able to give an approximate number?
18 A. Well, I'd said this Court that -- we that were trained
19 Foday Sankoh in the base were not up to 300, but we would be
20 around 275 to 280, so -- but the other groups who were brought
21 join us at Kolahun, I do not know the figure.
22 Q. And who was in your group that you can name, briefly,
23 A. Well, the commanders that were introduced to us by Foday
24 Sankoh at Kolahun were Mohamed Tarawallie, Mike Lamin.
25 Those were the -- for those ones, they were with us. The new

26 commanders, whom we met at Kolahun, who were introduced to us,
27 Sam Tuah and -- Sam Tuah, Charles Timba and Antony Makunagbe.

28 Q. Can you say the last name again, please?

29 A. Antony Makunagbe.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 56

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 Q. Are you able to spell that?

2 A. Well, it's a surname. Makunagbe. See, Antony, I cannot.

3 Q. The surname, spell the surname. Antony.

4 A. Well, these are Liberian names. I am not too familiar with
5 them.

6 Q. So Sam Tuah was the Liberian, Charles Timba --

7 A. Yes. Yes. Yes.

8 Q. Can you remember the date?

9 A. Well, I think it was the 23rd, 23rd of March 1991.

10 Q. Did you know where you were going?

11 A. Well, Foday Sankoh just told Mohamed Tarawallie that we
12 were going through Vahun where we would attack Bomaru, but by
13 then I did not know Bomaru.

14 Q. Did the whole group attack Bomaru?

15 A. No. The group was divided into two. The group in which

16 fell went to Bomaru and the other group went to Koindu.

17 Q. Do you know who went to Koindu?

18 A. Well, this other man who was sent to us by Foday Sankoh at
19 Kolahun, Major John Kargbo, who was appointed at Kolahun as a
20 battle-group commander, because he had arrested Rashid. He was
21 the one that led the group to Koindu.

22 Q. Okay. His name again, please?

23 A. John Kargbo, Major John Kargbo. But he was not at Naama
24 with us.

25 Q. Did you have a rank at this time, or any position?

26 A. No, I did not have any rank. I did not have any
position.

27 But the instructions -- the instructors had ranks and some of
our
28 colleagues who had experience, Foday Sankoh made them to be
29 lieutenant. If you want me to give their names, I would do
so.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 57

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 Q. Now, there is no dispute that you were a Vanguard. When
2 were you --

3 A. Of course. I was a Vanguard.

4 Q. And when was that name given?

us,
that
we
we

5 A. Well, after the training, before Foday Sankoh divided
6 when he had this information about the fighting at Bomaru,
7 was why he said it was time that we started the war, because
8 that were trained at Naama were Vanguarders.

9 Q. And special forces, who were they?

10 A. Well, they were the ones who were trained in Libya when
11 were at Naama. That was what he told us. He said those that
12 were trained in Libya were special forces.

13 Q. Junior commandos, who were they?

14 A. They are the ones that joined the RUF when we came to
15 Sierra Leone.

16 JUDGE BOUTET: What's the name you used, Mr Jordash; junior
17 commandos?

18 MR JORDASH: Yes.

19 JUDGE BOUTET: Junior.

20 MR JORDASH: Junior.

21 JUDGE BOUTET: Like junior. Thank you.

22 MR JORDASH:

23 Q. Did your group attack Bomaru?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Let's try to name some names. Who was in the group that
26 attacked Bomaru?

27 A. Well, the commanders were Mohamed Tarawallie, Mike Lamin,
28 Sam Tuah, and Charles Timba, and James Karwhine.

29 Q. James who, sorry?

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 A. Karwhine.

2 Q. Karwhine?

3 A. Yes. Yes.

4 Q. Anyone else?

5 A. Well, those were the ones that were the senior commanders,
6 although we had lieutenants from the RUF base who were promoted
7 by Foday Sankoh to lieutenant, because Foday Sankoh, he gave two
8 promotions before we left the base.

9 Q. Who was the top commander?

10 A. You mean in our group at Bomaru?

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. Well, the commander was -- you had a commander who had been
13 commanding the Liberians and we were being commanded by Mohamed
14 Tarawallie.

15 Q. Sorry, could you repeat --

16 A. Sam Tuah was the commander for the Liberians. We had
17 Mohamed Tarawallie as our commander; we that came from Naama.

18 Q. So did any Liberians fall within the command structure of
19 the Sierra Leoneans, of the ones who attacked Bomaru?

20 A. Well, we that came from Naama, we were under Mohamed
21 Tarawallie's command.

22 Q. Were there any Liberians under Mohamed Tarawallie's

23 command?

24 A. Well, Mohamed Tarawallie was a special -- one of the
25 special forces.

26 Q. You've told us, Mr Sesay, that there were Liberians under
27 John Tuah. You've told us that -- Sam Tuah, I beg your pardon.

28 You've told us that there were Sierra Leoneans under Mohamed
29 Tarawallie.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 59

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Were the two groups separated or were there Sierra
3 in the Liberian group, or Liberians in the Sierra Leonean
4 group?

5 A. Well, Mohamed Tarawallie was among the special forces
6 from
7 Libya, so when you look at the seniority of the revolution,
8 Mohamed Tarawallie was the most senior man in our group.

9 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, would the witness be
10 asked
11 to repeat the last word?

12 MR JORDASH:

13 Q. Repeat the last question for the translator, please?

that

11 A. I said, what Foday Sankoh told us, he said that those
12 came from Libya were the pillars of the revolution. So, when

you

13 look at Sam Tuah, he was not amongst the special forces.

Mohamed

14 Tarawallie was the most senior man in our group, the Bomaru
15 group.

Any

16 Q. Were there any Liberians in the Sierra Leonean group?

17 Liberians in the Sierra Leonean group?

Liberians

18 A. Yes. Yes. Those that were trained at Naama; the

Robert.

19 that were trained at Naama by Foday Sankoh, like Johans

20 Q. Who was in the Liberian group then? Where were they
21 trained?

the

22 A. Well, that was my first time that I met them. It was

23 NPFL fighters that were in the Liberian group, Sam Tuah.

24 MR JORDASH: Right. Thank you. Just a moment, please.

25 Q. Did you attack Bomaru?

26 A. Yes. Yes.

27 Q. And who was attacked?

28 A. It was the SLAs that were at Bomaru. They were the ones
29 that we attacked.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

1 Q. Did you join in the attack?

2 A. Yes. When we came to Vahun, they gave us some short arms
3 that were called Beretta. They are short range. They are very
4 effective. We that were trained at Naama, we were given these
5 Beretta guns.

6 Q. Was the attack successful?

7 A. Yes. Everything that the soldiers had at Bomaru, they left
8 it. They left the armoured cars, their ammo dumps. Everything
9 was captured, and they escaped through the bushes -- the bush
10 roads.

11 Q. Was there an attack, as far as you were aware, anywhere
12 else at this time?

13 A. Well, just like I told you initially, I said, fighting had
14 taken place before we went there at Bomaru. But during the time
15 when we attacked Bomaru, at that time, other groups had been
16 attacking Koindu. At the same time, the men themselves at
17 Pujehun, they also had been attacking; the ones that went through
18 Bomi-Hills, through Bo-Waterside.

19 Q. So a group went through Bomi-Hills to Pujehun?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And a group went to Koindu?

22 A. Well, no. A group from Naama was divided into two. One
23 group went to Bomi-Hills to go to Pujehun; the other one went to
24 Lofa to go into Kailahun. When we reached at Lofa, Foday Sankoh
25 divided us into two groups: One group to Bomaru, one group to
26 Koindu.

27 Q. My fault. Okay. Did you know who was in the Pujehun
28 group? Did you know who was in the Pujehun group?
29 A. Well, the man who led the Pujehun group, later, as I came

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 61

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 to know -- during that time, I did not know him because he did
2 not go to Naama. He is a Special Forces, Patrick Lamin.

3 Q. Who was that?

4 A. Special Forces Patrick Lamin. He was a Sierra Leonean the
5 was trained in Libya with Foday Sankoh.

6 Q. Do you know where they went to in Pujehun?

7 A. Well, I don't know Pujehun. I did not know. Even during
8 the war, I'd never been to Pujehun, and up to this time that I am
9 talking to you. And, during that time, I was a junior and did
10 not know what had been happening at Pujehun.

11 Q. Now, after the attack on Bomaru, were there any other
12 targets?

13 A. Yes. When we captured Bomaru, we -- our group advanced to
14 Mobai and Kuiva.

15 Q. And were there attacks on those places?

16 A. Well, from the time that we captured Bomaru, the soldiers
17 did not stop anywhere. All of them went to Bomaru. There was no

18 fight at Kuiva; there was no fight at Mobai; there was no fight
19 at Pendembu.

20 Q. At Pendembu, was that --

21 A. Yes, no fighting took place there. The soldiers withdrew.
22 So the RUF just walked through the town and captured it, and they
23 occupied the town because there was no fighting.

24 Q. How long was this -- or were these attacks on these
25 villages after the attack on Bomaru?

26 A. After the attack on Bomaru, the third day, the RUF
entered
27 Pendembu without any fighting.

28 Q. Now, when you entered Pendembu, who was your immediate
29 commander?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 62
SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 A. Well, when we were at Mobai, it was Mohamed Tarawallie and
2 Sam Tuah. They are the ones that went and captured Pendembu.
3 But, during that time, from Bomaru, I was at the rear with one of
4 our big brother --

5 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, would the witness go a
6 little bit slow so as to facilitate the interpreter's work.

7 MR JORDASH:

8 Q. Sorry, that's my fault. I should have stopped you so that

9 the translator can translate. Go back two sentences.

10 A. I said, when we had captured Bomaru, I was at the rear with
11 one lieutenant who was called Sambu Carew, who was at the rear.

12 But when we came to Mobai, Mohamed Tarawallie and Sam Tuah, they
13 are the ones that took men in a truck and they drove into
14 Pendembu.

15 Q. And did you go into Pendembu with them?

16 A. At the moment, I stayed at Mobai. But, in the evening,
17 when the truck came back, so I joined the truck and went at 8.00
18 and arrived at Pendembu during the night.

19 Q. And what did you do in Pendembu?

20 A. Well, that very day, we -- all of us left at the court
21 barri. The following morning, I came across an old man who was
22 called SYB Rogers.

23 Q. Right. Before we get to SYB Rogers, just a quick question
24 about what fighting you had done. You fought in the Bomaru
25 attack. Did you fight anywhere else before getting to Pendembu;
26 you, personally?

27 A. I did not fight anywhere from Bomaru.

28 Q. Okay. Where was Foday Sankoh during this, do you know,
29 during these attacks?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

line
the
He

1 A. Well, Foday Sankoh, we left him at the Liberian border
2 when we came to Sierra Leone. When we occupied Pendembu, in
3 -- during the first week, he came to Pendembu through Bomaru.
4 came and addressed the civilian population at Pendembu.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Counsel, are you moving to another
6 episode?

7 MR JORDASH: Yes. This is good.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: We'll now recess for lunch and resume at
9 2.30 p.m.

10 [Luncheon recess taken at 1.00 p.m.]

11 [Upon resuming at 2.40 p.m.]

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Jordash, the proceeding will continue.

13 MR JORDASH: Thank you.

14 Q. I just want to ask you a question again because there
15 appears to be some confusion about the translation. What did you
16 say, Mr Sesay, was the meaning of NPFL?

17 A. I said --

18 JUDGE ITOE: Mr Jordash, please, I didn't have my earphones
19 on.

20 MR JORDASH: I'm sorry, Your Honour.

21 JUDGE ITOE: Do you think you could --

22 MR JORDASH: I'll repeat the question.

23 JUDGE ITOE: -- repeat the question. Thank you.

24 MR JORDASH:

25 Q. There appears to be some confusion about what you might
26 have said. Could you answer the question again: What is your

27 understanding of NPFL?
28 A. National Patriotic Front of Liberia.
29 JUDGE BOUTET: Natural?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 64

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 THE WITNESS: National.

2 JUDGE BOUTET: Natural?

3 THE WITNESS: National.

4 MR JORDASH: Which is what my learned colleague,
5 Mr Kneitel, heard him say the first time.

6 JUDGE ITOE: He said natural.

7 MR JORDASH: I was somewhat surprised by the --

8 JUDGE BOUTET: I don't know what Mr Sesay did say or
not.

9 This is what we got from the translation.

10 MR JORDASH: Exactly. Obviously, it's not something
I've
11 heard before.

12 JUDGE BOUTET: Mr Jordash, can I ask you, if you are --
13 because as you know some of difficulties we are having, and
you
14 are asking often your witness to spell it out, a name and so
on,

after

15 if you do have these names and, certainly, either before or
16 a day, to write them down so we can use them and there is a
17 common understanding, if only as to the spelling of whatever
it
18 is, whether it is a family name or a location, as such. As
you
19 know, especially when we go through translation, some of it
20 sounds very awkward. So if you can assist us, at least, so we
21 know that when you use a name, we have all the same spelling
or
22 the same understanding as to what this name is all about.
NPFL,
23 that is a good example of that.

24 MR JORDASH: Certainly.

25 JUDGE BOUTET: Villages is another example where you
26 have --

27 MR JORDASH: Certainly. Can I just check on that note,
28 then, that you have the names Moigboi, Kuiva and Bomaru? Do I
29 need to -- I can indicate the spelling.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 65

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

it's

1 JUDGE BOUTET: Moigboi, I know. But, the other ones,
2 a guess.

3 MR JORDASH: Kuiva is K-U-I-V-A. Bomaru is B-O-M-A-R-U.

4 And I think Mr Sesay mentioned Pendembu, which Your Honours
5 probably known P-E-N-D-E-M-B-U. Koindu, K-O-I-N-D-U.

6 JUDGE BOUTET: Thank you.

7 MR JORDASH:

8 Q. Now, I want to try, if I can, Mr Sesay, to move
relatively

9 swiftly through these years, but we do need to establish some
10 facts. Now, Pendembu in 1991, can you just indicate how long
you

11 stayed in Pendembu?

12 A. Well, I was in Pendembu from '91 to '92.

13 Q. Now, what were the front lines at that time for the RUF?

14 A. Well, we had target at Baiama.

15 MR JORDASH: B-A-I-A-M-A.

16 THE WITNESS: I can spell those villages.

17 MR JORDASH:

18 Q. You go ahead. Baiama.

19 A. B-I-A-A-M-A [sic]. And you have Kuiva, K-U-I-V-A. You
20 have Bunumbu target, B-U-N-U-M-B-U.

21 Q. Now, who was the commander in charge of the three? Or
who

22 were the commanders, I should say?

23 A. Well, it was James Cowie [as interpreted] and, Kuiva --

24 Q. Right. Pause there. Can you spell that, James
Karwhine.

25 Spell Karwhine, please?

26 A. K-A-W-I-N [sic], Kawin.

27 Q. Is he Sierra Leonean or Liberian?

28 A. Liberian.

29 Q. Baiama, who was the commander there?

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 A. Charles Timba.

2 Q. Timba?

3 A. T-I-M-B-A.

4 Q. Bunumbu?

5 A. Mustapha Jalloh.

6 Q. And he was Sierra Leonean or Liberian?

7 A. He was Gambian.

8 Q. Charles Timba?

9 A. Charles Timba was a Liberian.

10 Q. Thank you. During that time, did you go to the front
11 lines?

front

12 A. Well, during that time, we were not frequent at the

13 line. Once in a while, whenever Mohamed Tarawallie went, we
14 followed him.

15 Q. When you say "we," who are you referring to?

others.

16 A. Well, I mean me, Sambu Carew, Augustine Barnaby and

to

17 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter would like the witness

18 come again at the tail end of his testimony.

19 MR JORDASH:
20 Q. Could you repeat what you just said, please, Mr Sesay?
21 A. I said including Johans Robbert.
22 Q. Right. Can you spell that name, please?
23 A. Johans, J-O-H-A-N-S. R-O-B-B-R-T [sic].
24 Q. And who else did you mention?
25 A. I said Johans, and the other ones, because we, the
26 Vanguards, were behind Mohamed Tarawallie.
27 Q. Sorry, what do you mean? Under which ones?
28 A. I said, we, the Vanguards, normally went with Mohamed
29 Tarawallie at the -- we went with him at the front, and all

the

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 67

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 names I have called are Vanguards.
2 Q. And what did you go to the front for; you, personally?
3 A. Well, there were attacks at Daru Barracks, yeah, in '91.
4 So those one, two attacks, so I went with Mohamed Tarawallie.
5 Q. And were the -- were there fighting men positioned at
6 front lines who remained at the front lines?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. And were they Sierra Leonean or Liberians or a mixture?

these

9 A. They were mixed, mixed.

10 Q. Was there any particular group in control?

11 A. Well, at that time, the NPFL fighters were more used to
the
12 fighting, so they were in control of the front line.

13 Q. Did you observe how they were behaving?

14 A. Well, their behaviour were not nice towards us, the
15 Vanguards, including the junior commandos.

16 Q. And what do you mean by that? What did they do?

17 A. Well, they used to harass us. They used to kill some of
18 the junior commandos and they even killed some of the
Vanguards.

19 Q. And what were they doing, if anything, to civilians?

20 A. Yes. At this early stage the situation wasn't bad but,
21 later, they did bad to the civilians, when Foday Sankoh,
22 including all the Vanguards, decided to fight them in order for
23 them to return.

24 Q. Pause there: When was that, please?

25 A. Well, they started in April '92, just after the overthrow
26 of the APC, when the NPRC toppled the APC.

27 Q. Okay. We'll come to that in a minute. Let's go back to
28 Mr SYB Rogers, who you mentioned before lunch. You met him where
29 and when?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

1 A. I met SYB Rogers the second day the RUF controlled
2 Pendembu.

3 Q. And how did you meet him?

4 A. Well, we walked and we stood, because the man's house was
5 located opposite SLPMB.

6 Q. Opposite?

7 A. Opposite SLPMB.

8 Q. SLPMB. And what does that stand for?

9 A. Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board.

10 Q. And did you speak to him?

11 A. Yes. One of my friends, who spoke Mende, spoke with him.
12 That was Christopher. So --

13 Q. What was his view of the invasion?

14 A. What SYB told me and my colleagues, he said he was happy to
15 see Sierra Leoneans among the group, he said, because they felt
16 that all the people that came were Liberians. He said he had
17 decided to stay with his family and the RUF.

18 Q. Were you able to observe the attitude of any other
19 civilians in Pendembu to the invasion into the town?

20 A. Well, the civilians at Pendembu, when they heard that the
21 RUF had captured Bomaru, most of the civilians at Pendembu, they
22 went to the surrounding villages outside Pendembu. When we were
23 in control of Pendembu they returned, under the instructions
24 given by the commanders, and the people returned and Pendembu was
25 packed at that time.

26 Q. Where did you live in Pendembu?

27 A. I lived in Pa Rogers' house. He gave me a room and he gave

28 my other colleagues rooms.

29 Q. Did you know someone called Edwin Bockarie, in Pendembu?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 69

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 A. Yes. Edwin Bockarie was living at one house behind
2 Pa Rogers' house.

3 Q. When did you meet him? Did you meet him when you...during
4 this time at Pendembu?

5 A. Yes. Yes.

6 Q. Did you meet anyone else through Edwin Bockarie?

7 A. Yes. We met other people. We met Edwin's father and other
8 people.

9 Q. Edwin's father was a civilian or a fighter?

10 A. Civilian. He was a civilian, called Pa Bockarie.

11 Q. Are you married, Mr Sesay?

12 A. No. At this time, I haven't a wife.

13 Q. Well, are you married now, at this time, today?

14 A. Yes. Yeah, I have a wife.

15 Q. And when did you meet your wife?

16 A. Well, I knew the woman. I knew the woman from '91, but it
17 was only in '92 when we came into a relationship.

18 Q. Where did you meet her in 1991?

19 A. She was living in the house next to Pa Rogers' with Edwin,
20 and her aunt was staying with Edwin's father's.. father.Sorry.
21 Q. And her name, please?
22 A. The woman's name is Elsie.
23 Q. And just describe how it was you came to get married to
24 Elsie, please?
25 A. Well, Elsie was in love with one of my friend in Pendembu
26 during '91; that was, she was in love with Augustine Banebay.
27 Q. Is that B-A-N-A-B-E?
28 A. B-A-N-E-B-A-Y, Banebay. B-A-Y.
29 Q. Yes. She was in love with him, and then what?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 70

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 A. Well, in '92, when the Liberians started causing problems
2 for us, they arrested Mohamed Tarawallie, myself, Morris Kallon,
3 Peter Vandi and Kaifa Way. They took us to Kuiva and we were
4 detained there. And on the following day, Augustine was taken
5 from among us and executed. Later on, Foday Sankoh intervened
6 and I was freed. They freed Kaifa Way and also Peter Vandi, and
7 the PRO Pa Tembeh, who was a civilian, was also amongst those
8 freed.
9 Q. Would you say that name again, please? I missed it.

10 A. Yes. The RUF PRO, called Pa Tembeh.

11 Q. Can you spell that?

12 A. T-E-M-B-E-H, Tembeh.

13 Q. PRO; what does that mean?

14 A. Public relations officer.

15 Q. Just whilst we are on that subject, what was that job?

16 A. Well, it was Foday Sankoh who gave that appointment to

17 Pa Tembeh, who was in charge of -between Foday Sankoh, the RUF

18 and the civilians.

19 Q. Now, going back to Elsie?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Did you have a marriage ceremony or not?

22 A. Well, the woman was with her people, because Pa Bock -- the

23 civilians in Pendembu had to leave because the Guineans were

24 launching; rockets were dropping in Pendembu. So, Pa Bockarie

25 took his family to his hometown, Bandajuma. So after I was

26 released and Augustine had been killed, I went to inform the

27 family.

28 JUDGE ITOE: Augustine who?

29 THE WITNESS: Augustine Banebay, yes. Can I continue?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

1 JUDGE ITOE: That was Elsie's former husband, is he?

2 MR JORDASH: Yes, if not husband --

3 JUDGE ITOE: But she was -- before Elsie married him --

4 MR JORDASH: Boyfriend.

5 JUDGE ITOE: Well, anyway, boyfriend. Is that the same man
6 who was killed?

7 MR JORDASH: Yes. That's the same man.

8 JUDGE ITOE: Okay. Thank you.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. It was he. So I went
10 to Bandajuma and went with a message that Augustine has died;
11 they have killed him. So I returned to Pendembu. Then I
12 discussed with Edwin, a brother to Elsie, that since Augustine
13 had been killed, I had an interest in Elsie. So I and Edwin went
14 to Bandajuma. I spoke with Elsie and she accepted. Then Edwin,
15 myself, met the family members that were present. Elsie's aunt,
16 Pa Bockarie, Pa Bockarie's wives, and I and Edwin met them and
17 told them -- informed them that I wanted the woman in marriage,
18 and we presented a gift of kola nuts to them. And Pa Bockarie
19 himself said -- he said I was his son, because I am also a Sierra
20 Leonean, that if I had interest in his brothers --

21 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter is sorry. Can the
22 witness come again? He has lost a little bit of trend that he
23 wants to put in place.

24 MR JORDASH:

25 Q. Could you repeat what you've just said, Mr Sesay, please?

26 A. I said, I and Edwin met the family members at Bandajuma,
27 and we explained to them what my intention was and we offered
28 some gifts of kola nuts to the people. I told them that I cannot

29 now do a legal marriage, but since I have declared my intention

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 72

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 for the woman, if they accept, they can give me the woman and,
2 after the war, we will officially get married. But for us in
3 Sierra Leone --

4 Q. Did they agree or not?

5 A. he family members and the woman, all of them agreed. And
6 the lady stayed with the people.

7 Q. Now, was there a coup in 1992?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. Led by --

10 A. It was Strasser.

11 Q. Did SAJ Musa play a role?

12 A. Yes. He was the deputy chairman to the NPRC.

13 Q. And do you know when that was, in 1992?

14 A. It was in April '92.

15 Q. And where were you at that time?

16 A. At that time, I was in Pendembu.

17 Q. Now, just very quickly, was there a battlefield commander
18 at that point?

19 A. Repeat the question.

20 Q. At the time of the coup by the NPRC, who was battlefield
21 commander?

22 A. It was Mohamed Tarawallie.

as

23 JUDGE BOUTET: Mr Jordash, what is your question again,
24 to --

25 MR JORDASH: Who was battlefield commander at the time of
26 the April 1992 coup.

27 JUDGE BOUTET: Battlefield commander, where?

28 THE WITNESS: Kailahun.

29 JUDGE BOUTET: Kailahun. Thank you. Because you've been

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

Page 73

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

--
1 talking of Strasser, SAJ Musa and also [overlapping speakers]

2 MR JORDASH: I beg your pardon. Sorry.

3 JUDGE BOUTET: -- battlefield commander. I am trying to
4 follow your line of questions.

5 MR JORDASH: I accept Your Honour's point.

6 JUDGE BOUTET: So you're back to Kailahun now?

7 JORDASH: Yes, I was situating this in time, really, but
8 I understand Your Honour's issue.

9 Q. Battlefield commander of which group?

10 A. For the RUF.

11 Q. Tre was a group in Kailahun. Was there a group anywhere
12 else?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Where was that?

15 A. There was another group in Pujehun.

16 Q. Were you personally in communication with that group?

17 A. No, no.

18 Q. Do you know whether Mohamed Tarawallie was battlefield
19 commander for this group in Kailahun and the group in Pujehun?

20 THE INTERPRETER: Can the attorney come again? The
21 interpreter cannot get the question.

22 THE WITNESS: Well --

23 MR JORDASH:

24 Q. Wait a minute, Mr Sesay, sorry. There is a translation
25 difficulties. Was Mohamed Tarawallie the battlefield commander
26 for the Kailahun group and the Pujehun group?

27 A. I, Mohamed Tarawallie, Foday Sankoh made him battlefield
28 commander for the RUF. But, at this time, it was only in
29 Kailahun.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

1 Q. Do you know who was controlling the Pujehun group?

2 A. Well, when the war started in Pujehun, few months, Foday
3 Sankoh released Rashid Mansaray. He sent him to Pujehun as
4 battle-group commander. Then we had Patrick Lamin, who was also
5 a senior man to Mike Lamin -- to -- to Rashid Mansaray in
6 Pujehun, including Mike Lamin. So there were the three of them
7 who were senior men from the RUF.

8 Q. Who was the battle-group commander of the RUF, at this
9 time?

10 A. Well, when Foday Sankoh arrested Rashid, he appointed John
11 Kargbo as battle-group commander, who was based in Kailahun. So,
12 late '91, he had a battle-group commander in Pujehun as well as
13 battle-group commander in Kailahun.

14 Q. Where was Sam Bockarie at the time of the NPRC coup?

15 A. Well, during that time, Foday Sankoh had just brought him
16 around March '92 to Kailahun from Pujehun. So he was stationed
17 in Pendembu.

18 Q. Did he have a rank or an assignment at this time?

19 A. No rank, no assignment.

20 Q. Where was Foday Sankoh?

21 A. Well, Foday Sankoh was in Kailahun initially, and he used
22 to go to Pujehun and he used to go to Liberia.

23 Q. At this time was there units within the RUF?

24 A. Yes. We had units from the training base.

25 Q. From the training?

26 A. Yes. We had unit heads.

27 Q. Did you say training base? I didn't hear the last word.

28 A. Yes, I said. Foday Sankoh created unit commanders from the
29 training base. So, at this time in Kailahun, the units were

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 functioning.

2 Q. Right. Can you just tell us what they were, please?

3 A. Well, during the time of the overthrow of the APC, April
4 '92, Philip Palmer was the G5; you had the recruiting man in
5 charge, the G1; you had the combat medic, who was Dr Fabai; you
6 had the G2, later transformed by Foday Sankoh as IDU, which was
7 headed by Edward Fembeh; you had Prince Taylor, who was G4; and
8 you had Joseph, who was G4.

9 Q. So what was Prince's job?

10 A. Prince Taylor was S4 in '92.

11 Q. And G4 was who, sorry?

12 A. Joseph Brown.

13 Q. Just very briefly, because we'll come back to this in
14 greater detail later, G5 was what, just briefly?

15 A. Well, the G5 was responsible for the welfare of the
16 civilians.

17 Q. G1, you told us, was recruiting. IDU was?

18 A. The G1 was in charge of the recruitment for the training
19 base.

20 Q. G2, later to become IDU, what was this?

21 A. Well, the G2 was -- they were informants and investigators
22 between the civilians and the RUF.

23 Q. Investigating what, just briefly?

24 A. Well, they investigated fighters that caused harassment or
25 crime against the civilians.

26 Q. S4, what was that?

27 A. In charge of food; food and supplies.

28 Q. Food and supplies for who?

29 A. For the RUF fighters.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 76

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 Q. G4, what was that?

2 A. G4; in charge of the ammunition store.

3 Q. Did the IDU work with anyone?

4 A. Well, it was not only the IDU, but all these unit
5 commanders. All the unit commanders reported to the leader. So,
6 the IDU was working together with the leader.

7 Q. The IDUs would investigate. Did they investigate and
8 report to anyone other than the leader?

9 A. Yes. The IDU, if the IDU like Edward Fembeh, when he was
10 in Kailahun, at this time, Foday Sankoh himself, he used to base
11 in Kailahun. When he came, the IDU would report to him directly.

12 But if Foday Sankoh wasn't around, the IDU could report to
13 Mohamed Tarawallie or Rashid Mansaray, when he comes.

14 Q. Did you know someone in 1992 called Pa Kanneh?

15 A. Yes. Pa Kanneh, Foday Sankoh made him an MP commander.

16 Q. And when did the MPs exist? When did they first begin in
17 the RUF?

18 A. The MP started since '91.

19 Q. And what was their job?

20 A. The MP were responsible for arresting, for detaining and
21 carrying investigations. Arrest, investigate and detain. They
22 implemented punishment.

23 Q. Right. Thank you. We'll come back to these units later
24 on. You mentioned training; were there training bases in the
25 Kailahun District at this time?

26 A. Well, at this time, during the NPRC coup, there was only
27 one base. All the other bases that were operating during '91 had
28 been closed.

29 Q. Okay. Let's go back to 1991; which bases existed then?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 77

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 Just go through in order as you remember them first in time?

2 A. Well, the first week we arrived, there was no base. But

3 when Foday Sankoh paid a visit, all the liberated areas that
4 were controlled by RUF, he gave instructions that we should open
5 the base. Because he came, he went through Bomaru for the first
6 time he came to Sierra Leone. When he came, he spoke with the
7 civilians at Baiwala and, later, he told the commander to
8 establish a base at Baiwala.

9 Q. Can you spell Baiwala, please?

10 A. B-A-I-W-A-L-A.

11 Q. Who went to the base?

12 A. Well, it was the civilians themselves whom Foday Sankoh
13 spoke to and told them that the revolution was for them, and that
14 they should join the revolution. They were the people who went
15 to the base, the civilians.

16 Q. And when was the next base opened in Kailahun?

17 A. It was in Pendembu. When Foday Sankoh went there and they
18 .had a meeting at the court barri, and he told the people to

join

19 the RUF, and instructed the commander to open a base at
20 vocational secondary school at Pendembu.

21 Q. Were any more opened in 1991?

22 A. Yes. The same in Kailahun and the same in Koindu.

23 Q. Is that Kailahun Town?

24 A. Yes. Kailahun Town, a school called National Secondary
25 School. And the one in Koindu is called the Kissy Bendu
26 Secondary School.

27 Q. Did you go to any of the bases?

28 A. Yes. I used to go to the base at Pendembu.

29 Q. And what did you see when you went there?

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 A. Well, I saw recruits. I saw the recruits as well as the
2 instructors.

3 Q. And what kind of recruits were there, that you saw?

4 A. Well, I was at the court barri where Foday Sankoh addressed
5 the civilian population the first time. And he told the
6 civilians that the war he brought to Sierra Leone was for the
7 benefit of every Sierra Leonean, and even children had rights to
8 train in order for them to defend themselves from enemies.

9 Q. And their response, as you observed it, was?

10 A. Well, their reply was -- was -- they demonstrated it
11 because it was not something they said. They turn out in the
12 training. People came in hundreds. Their fathers went with
13 their children; brothers would go with their younger brother;
14 sisters with younger brothers. So, at the early stage of the
15 war, people sent their children to go to the base on their own.

16 Q. Right. Let's just deal with this subject. Going back to
17 Camp Naama, were there children in Camp Naama?

18 A. Of course there were children.

19 Q. What were they doing there?

20 A. Well, the children that were at Camp Naama were the
21 elderly --

22 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, would the witness go a
23 little bit slow.

24 MR JORDASH:

25 Q. Remember to speak one or two sentences and then pause.

26 I will try to guide you with my hand. Let's go back over that.

27 Yes, you said, of course children were there. And then what did

28 you say?

29 A. I said there were children. And these children who came to

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

Page 79

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 the base, they came with their fathers, some of them with their
2 elder brothers, some with their elder sisters.

3 Q. And what did they do -- sorry, let me just be clear. Is
4 this Camp Naama we're talking about?

5 A. Yes, Camp Naama.

6 Q. And what did they do when they got to the base?

7 A. Well, the children, they were there, but they did not take
8 active part in the training because they were not physically fit,
9 but they had been undergoing some training.

10 Q. What was the training that they underwent?

11 A. One, they used to attend ideology classes; two, they used
12 to teach them how to take cover and concealment bullet, how to

13 escape from or how to escape from explosions.

14 Q. Any other training that you observed?

15 A. Well, except when Foday Sankoh came and started training us
16 courtesy and discipline, and the children also took part in that.

17 Q. Was that the same training as received by yourself and
18 adults?

19 A. No. No. They were not trained as we were. Some of the
20 classes that we had, they did not attend those training classes.

21 Q. Such as? What kind of classes did they not attend?

22 A. Well, they did not attend armed training; they did not
23 attend bush camp training; they did not attend route march
24 training. They did not take part in those difficult trainings
25 with arms.

26 Q. Right. Could you just go over those trainings again that
27 they did not take part in, Mr Sesay, please?

28 A. Yes. I said, they did not take part in the route march,
29 that is, we were walking far distances; they did not take part in

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 80

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 that. They did not take part in ambush training; they did not
2 take part in bush camps; they did not take part in arms
training.

3 Q. Were there arms given to recruits in Camp Naama, such as
4 yourself?

5 A. Well, it was sticks. They said we, the adults were to
6 makes sticks. But the children did not go along with those
7 sticks. We, the elderly ones, had those sticks.

8 Q. When you left Camp Naama, did the children leave also?

9 A. Yes. We and the children all came and the women, but
when
10 we went to Kolahun, the women and the children stayed. They
did
11 not go with us on the attack.

12 Q. Did the children -- well, who did the children stay
with?

13 A. The children stayed -- they stayed with the WAC's
14 commander --

15 Q. And what does --

16 A. -- who was Memuna Sesay, Lieutenant Memuna Sesay, and
the
17 battle-group commander, John Kargbo. They all stayed.

18 Q. Right. Who was the WAC's commander?

19 A. The WAC's commander at Camp Naama was Lieutenant Memuna
20 Sesay.

21 Q. Are you able to spell that?

22 A. M-E-M-U-N-A, S-E-S-A-Y.

23 Q. What did "WAC's" stand for?

24 A. Well, WAC's, they were woman who were part of the RUF
who
25 were trained with us. The women were called the WAC's Unit.
So
26 she was in charge of them, and she was in command of the
women.

27 Q. Did the children have a name? Was there a name given to

28 the children?

29 A. Yes. They call them SBU, Small Boy Unit.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 81

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

any 1 Q. Did the women and children arrive into Sierra Leone at

2 stage, as far as you are aware?

3 A. Well, the group in which I was, women did not go and
4 children did not go. But, after the capture of Koindu, I
5 understood that they called the women and the children and
they

6 came to Koindu, after the RUF had captured there.

7 Q. And what did they do there, do you know?

8 A. Well, I was not at Koindu. But, at that time, Koindu
had

9 been the liberated zone for the RUF.

10 Q. What did people in the Small Boys Unit -- what did
people

11 in the Small Boys Unit do?

12 A. Well, you mean the ones that came with us from Camp
Naama?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. Well, they stayed with the Vanguarders, who were their
family

15 members, and they had been doing domestic work with the people

16 that they stayed with.

17 Q. Do you know why they were trained?

18 A. Well, according to what Foday Sankoh said, he said the
19 children were to be trained so that they could defend
themselves,
20 in case there was any attack from enemies. That's one. Two,
so
21 that they would be able to protect their lives from rockets,
22 grenade explosions and RPGs, and attacks from enemies. That
was
23 why they were trained.

24 Q. Did you hear Foday Sankoh express any view about that,
at
25 any stage, before or after entering into Sierra Leone?

26 A. Yes. Sankoh had been saying that the children were the
27 future leaders, and that they were supposed to be part of the
28 RUF, part of the RUF in the sense that they would be able to
know
29 the tactics, in case they were attacked by enemies. So, a way
of

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 82

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 being able to protect themselves from the attack of enemies.

2 Q. Did your commander, in the first few years, express any
3 view to you about the use of children?

Even

4 A. Well, yes, Mohamed Tarawallie. Yes, he used to talk.

and

5 when we used to go to the base. I went with him on one, two,

6 three times when he went to the base to talk to the recruits

7 the instructors, he even said -- even talked to other adult

8 fighters, including Vanguarders.

9 Q. And what did he say?

to

10 A. Well, he had been emphasising that the children would go

11 the base, but the children should not take part in the battle;

and

12 they should not go to the battlefield. They should just go

13 train and they'd know how to protect themselves.

14 Q. And your view at that time was, if you had a view?

by

15 A. Well, at that time, whatever our commander said, we went

16 that. We went by that, because I was under the command of

17 Mohamed Tarawallie.

18 Q. Well, do you have a view now?

knowledge

19 A. Well, my thoughts were based on what Mohamed had been

20 saying, that the children should just go and have the

That

21 to protect themselves and not to take part on the battle.

22 is my own view, based on what Mohamed had been saying.

a

23 Q. And do you know how the judgment was made as to who was

24 child and who was not, for the purposes of training, in 1991?

with

25 A. Well, in 1991 it was not the RUF that had been going

the

26 the RUF -- with these children to the training base. It was

children

27 family members themselves that had been going with the
28 to the base, because everybody was eager to join the RUF, in
29 1991, in the Kailahun District.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 83

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

saw.

going

were

their

1 Q. Well, what was the age of people going to the training
2 bases? Let's stick with Pendembu, because that's what you
3 A. Well, I can say from 11 years that children had been
4 to the base, upwards. Fathers will take their children that
5 11 years of age to the base, and elder brothers would take
6 small brothers to the base.

family

medic

"No,

children."

7 Q. And do you know how the judgment was made as to whether
8 someone should be trained to fight or trained to defend?
9 A. Well, since these children had been going with their
10 members, it was their family members who had been talking to
11 them, the instructors and the commanders. And they had a
12 at the base. They had the WAC's commander, who would say,
13 this is not mature to go to the adult side. These are

And 14 And they also had the G1, who joined the RUF from Pendembu.
15 he was also coming to the base. And he was also there to say
16 that these ones are not supposed to join the training, adult
17 training.
18 Q. Are you able to say -- and if you can't, you cannot --
are 19 you able to say what age people were training at in Pendembu?
20 What was the lowest age, are you able to say? Adult training,
I 21 mean, the training for fighting.
22 A. Well, the thing was that I had never been an instructor.
I 23 had never trained anybody. See, I had not been a training
24 commandant, I had never been an instructor, so I would not be
in 25 a position to say this is the age. But I used to see children
go 26 to the base.
27 Q. Well, just dealing briefly, because we will come back to
28 this subject but, later on in the conflict, when you were a
29 commander, did you personally have a policy about children?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

bodyguards.

1 A. Yes, because my bodyguards -- I started having

having

2 I can say from December 1993, that was the time I started

Kailahun.

3 bodyguards. And all these bodyguards were natives of

4 They stayed, with their younger brothers, with me.

5 Q. Well, while we're on the subject then, who were your

6 bodyguards in December 1993?

had

7 A. I had Boy George; I had Victor; I had Tommy Bockarie; I

8 Mohamed James; I had Musa Vandj, alias Boys.

9 Q. Can you remember any more?

10 A. Yes. I had Bolopio. I had Isiaka.

11 Q. Now, quickly, how old was Boy George in '93?

same

12 A. Well, Boy George, I can say that I and he were of the

13 age. I cannot tell his exact age, but we are of the same age.

14 Perhaps I may be two or three years older than he was.

15 Q. Okay. Victor, how old was he?

16 A. Well, Victor told me that he was born in 1971.

17 Q. Tom Bockarie?

18 A. Tommy Bockarie, it was the same age group, '71.

19 Q. Mohamed James.

20 A. Mohamed James, he had -- was around 23 years. He was a

21 little bit younger.

22 Q. Musa Vandj.

23 A. Musa Vandj was around 20 -- 19 to 20 years old.

24 Q. Bolopio?

25 A. Bolopio, he was older than I am.

26 Q. Isiaka?

27 A. Isiaka also was around 19 to 20.

28 Q. How did you -- well, did you make the decision as to who
29 should carry a gun?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 85

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

But

1 A. Well, these adults were security to me, they had guns.

2 they had their own younger brothers who were staying with me.

3 They had been living with me.

4 Q. Well, did they carry guns, the younger brothers?

5 A. I did not allow them to carry guns.

6 Q. Why not?

they

7 A. Well, one, because they were not physically fit; two,

have

8 were inexperienced; and three, it was dangerous for them to

9 arms amongst ourselves.

10 Q. Okay. What was -- how did you make the judgment?

11 A. Well, the children -- I knew most of these children and

12 these boys, Pendembu '91, because by then they had not been

13 bodyguards. So when they became my bodyguards in '93, their

in

14 brothers did explain to me that this fellow -- these were born

15 such-and-such a year and, according to the way I saw them, I

16 would know they were children, according to the way they were
17 talking.

18 Q. Okay. Thank you. Let's just move back again. I'm sure
19 this subject will come up again, but let's move back to --

yes,

20 I've just been reminded to tell you that you can drink water,
if

21 at any stage you want to.

22 A. Okay. Okay.

23 Q. Back to 1992, and I want to ask you about the Liberians.
24 Were the front lines the same as those you've described
already;

25 Kuiva, Baima and Mobai?

26 A. Yes, it was the same.

27 Q. You've referred to a time when the Liberian behaviour
28 became poor towards you and the civilians, I think you said.
Can

29 you describe what happened?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 86

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

RUF.
1 A. Well, Foday Sankoh, you know, had involved us in the
2 So we used to have classes in ideology, and we knew that right
3 from the beginning, this ideology class was compulsory. So if
4 you took part in the ideology class, you would not have food.

were
telling
of
people
the
weeks,
the
Pendembu.
So,
appointed

5 And the behaviour of the Liberians was contrary to what we
6 being taught in the base and what Foday Sankoh had been
7 us.
8 Q. In what way was it contrary? What were they doing?
9 A. Well, in the first place, Foday Sankoh told us that his
10 revolution was a self-reliance struggle, and that the people
11 Sierra Leone were the owners of the revolution. So if the
12 did not accept his revolution, then he would not succeed. And
13 that we had to go all out so that the people could accept the
14 revolution through the behaviour of we, the fighters, towards
15 civilians.
16 Q. What did the Liberians do?
17 A. Well, in the first place, I think in the first two
18 when the RUF came in, the Liberian commander went and killed
19 paramount chief who was at Levuma; yes.
20 Q. Levuma is where?
21 A. Levuma is at Mando chiefdom, just five miles to
22 They call the chief, Paramount Chief Bundunka.
23 Q. How do you spell Bundunka, please?
24 A. I think, B-U-N-D-U-K-A [sic].
25 Q. And after this, what else did the Liberians do?
26 A. Well, the paramount chief at Pendembu had to escape.
27 Foday Sankoh and some of the people at Pendembu, they

28 one caretaker paramount chief called Pa Sillah. He also was
29 captured and was killed.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 87

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 Q. How do you spell Sillah, please?

looted

2 A. S-I-L-L-A-H. And they used to force people to carry

3 goods on their heads from Pendembu to Liberia, Kailahun to

4 Liberia, Koindu to Liberia.

5 Q. What did Foday Sankoh do, if anything?

meetings

6 A. So, when it started, initially, Foday Sankoh held

7 in the various towns and villages, and he talked to the people

the

8 that he was trying to put these men under control. But, at

9 end of the day, he was not able to, so Foday Sankoh said that

10 these men should go back. So, some of the groups went and the

RUF,

11 others stayed in Kailahun; they did not want to go. So the

acting

12 again, organised themselves under the commandship of the

13 battle-group commander, when Foday Sankoh replaced John Kargbo

14 with Isaac Mongor.

15 Q. And when was that?

16 A. Well, this was around August, June, July '92. June/July

17 '92.

18 Q. And when you say "organised," what actually happened?

19 A. Well, at that time, I was at Kuiva, but I got the
20 information that Isaac, with the MP commander who was at
21 Pendembu, called Michael Rogers, they mobilised the junior
22 commandos including some Vanguarders, CO Foday and the others.
23 They attacked the Liberians in Kailahun Town. They fired at

them

24 and they launched at them, so the Liberians themselves run

away.

25 They went and, up to Koindu, they went to Bendu and they

crossed

26 the border. And that mission was referred to as Tap Final, to
27 drive the Liberians out of Kailahun.

28 Q. Did any Liberians remain?

29 A. Yes. Those that had connections with Foday Sankoh and

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

Page 88

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 some, who did not have any bad behaviour, stayed.

2 Q. And can you name some now, who stayed, please?

3 A. Yes. Like, Superman, he stayed, because Superman was an
4 in-law to Foday Sankoh, because Foday Sankoh was in love with

his

5 sister.

6 Q. Any other Liberians you could mention who stayed?

just

7 A. Well, Superman, yes, a few of them stayed. I cannot

8 recall the names.

9 Q. Where had Superman come from, do you know? Can we just
10 confirm his name is Denis Mingo?

him

11 A. Yes, yes, it was Denis Mingo. But, see, I came to know

he

12 in '92, but he came with the NPFL. See, he told me -- he said

13 was a fighter at Lofa.

14 Q. Okay. Did the civilians -- where were you at this time?

observed

15 You said you were at Kuiva; did the civilians that you

16 react to this operation?

started

17 A. The men, they suppressed the people and the people

were

18 to go to Guinea. So when they drove them out, the civilians

19 very happy. And, after they had been driven out, Foday Sankoh

20 went and held a meeting at Bandajuma. He held a meeting at

21 Ngiema. He held a meeting at different towns, talking to the

the

22 people, saying that what had happened -- he was appealing to

be

23 people so that bygones could become bygones, that it would not

that

24 repeated any more, and those that were remaining were those

25 he trained, so the civilians were so happy, because the people

26 who had been disturbing them had gone away.

27 Q. SYB Rogers, did he hold any position at any stage in the

28 RUF?

29 A. Well, SYB Rogers, yes; in 1993.

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

Rogers

War

in

the

1 Q. What position?

2 A. Well, Foday Sankoh created the War Council, and SYB

3 was the chairman of the War Council in 1993.

4 Q. Do you know the month or around -- was it the beginning,

5 middle or end of 1993?

6 A. Well, I can say mid-93.

7 Q. And what was the purpose, as you understood it, of the

8 Council?

9 A. Well, what I understood, as I saw the function of the

10 Council, it was just to bring in the civilians into the RUF as

11 part of a decision-making body.

12 Q. How many people were on the council?

13 A. Well, at the beginning 1993, it was seven people. But

14 1994 it increased.

15 Q. Of the seven people, were they military or civilians or

16 both?

17 A. Well, you only had three military men; the four were

18 civilians. You had Foday Sankoh, who was a member; you had

19 battle-group commander; and the battlefield commander.

20 Q. Just to be clear, who were they?

21 A. And, well, it was Mohamed Tarawallie and Rashid
Mansaray.

22 Mohamed Tarawallie, Rashid Mansaray, battlefield and battle
23 group.

24 Q. Which one was battlefield?

25 A. Mohamed Tarawallie.

26 Q. And who else was on that council?

27 A. Well, you had Pa Rogers, who was chairman; you had Deen
28 Jalloh, who was appointed by Foday Sankoh as IDU commander in
29 '92; he was a civilian.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

Page 90

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 Q. Any others you can recall?

2 A. You had Fayia Musa.

3 Q. Was he a civilian or a fighter?

4 A. Civilian. Then you had one woman, who was called Mammy,
5 from Pendembu.

6 Q. Repeat the name, please?

7 A. The woman, I just knew her as Mammy. I don't know her
8 second name, but there was only one woman among them. And the

9 woman was a civilian; she was an elderly woman.

10 Q. Do you know what they did? I know what you said the
11 purpose was, but do you know what they actually did?

12 A. Well, they used to have meetings with Foday Sankoh, and
13 they would discuss the development and the progress of the

RUF;

14 they would discuss the welfare of the civilians under the RUF
15 control; they would discuss about -- how to make civilians to
16 become self-reliant in food and medication.

17 Q. At this time, do you have a rank or an assignment?

18 A. Well, at this time, I did not have an assignment.

19 Q. Do you have a rank?

20 A. Well, towards mid-93? Yes, I had a rank. I was a
21 lieutenant.

22 Q. And just very briefly, what were you doing at this time
23 a day-to-day basis?

on

24 A. Well, before mid-93, well, this time, mid-93, fighting
25 been going on, but I was in Kailahun.

had

26 Q. Did you stay in Kailahun?

27 A. Well, I went out, I came to Kailahun. I went and I got
28 wounded in Pendembu and they brought me to Kailahun in the
29 hospital. I was there until the time that the government

troops

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

1 came and pushed us out of Kailahun Town.

2 Q. And when was that?

3 A. Well, that was around July/August, when the NPRC troops
4 captured Kailahun from us.

5 Q. And where did the RUF get pushed to?

6 A. Well, at that time, they pushed the RUF towards
Gbalahun,
7 towards Buedu, towards the borderline.

8 Q. Can you spell that?

9 A. Gbalahun.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. G-B-A-L-A-H-U-N, Gbalahun, and Buedu B-E-U-D-U [sic].

12 Q. You mentioned getting injured, I think?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What happened? What injury did you suffer?

15 A. Well, the NPRC troops captured Pendembu from the RUF.
Then

16 Foday Sankoh said we should go and repel the attack at
Pendembu.

17 That was where I was injured from a bullet -- a bullet from
the
18 enemy.

19 Q. So where did you go from Pendembu?

20 A. Well, from Pendembu, when I got injured, I was put into
a

21 car, motor car. I was taken to Kailahun. I was admitted in
the
22 hospital in Kailahun.

23 Q. How long did you remain there?

about

24 A. Well, I was in the hospital. When I was discharged,
25 three days, when they said I should stay at my house and be
26 coming in the morning for treatment -- about a week when they
27 said I should be coming for treatment. That was the time that
28 the men started advancing from Pendembu to Kailahun, the
29 government troops.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 92

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

and

1 Q. And what happened then?
2 A. Then they took over Kailahun Town. We withdrew. I
3 withdrew and stayed at Gbalahun.
4 Q. And did you stay in Gbalahun?
5 A. Yes. I was at Gbalahun for a short while and I came to
6 Gbandebu. I was at Gbandebu, then these fellows came again
7 pushed us again, so we retreated to Koindu.
8 Q. And do you know what -- can you spell Gbandebu, please?
9 A. G-B-A-N -- G-B-A-N-D-U [sic].
10 Q. When did you retreat to Koindu?
11 A. Well, we retreated to Koindu in late November 1993.
12 Q. And just quickly, where did the RUF -- and I'm dealing

with

13 the Kailahun RUF -- where did the Kailahun RUF occupy at this
14 time?

15 A. Well, during this time, the advanced troops had created
a
16 division within the RUF. Sam Bockarie, Papa, Augustine
Koroma,
17 Augustine Kargbo, Superman, all of them were based at Ngiema
18 while the enemy had captured Kailahun Town. So I, Mohamed
19 Tarawallie, Foday Sankoh, with a lot of others, we went by the
20 Koindu axis. So, at that time, there was RUF at Ngiema and
there
21 was RUF between the borders of Koindu and Liberia.

22 Q. Did Pujehun still exist as an RUF place?

23 A. Well, I only knew that RUF fighters were in Pujehun, but
I
24 cannot tell you anything more about that because I have not
been
25 getting any information about them, because communication had
26 already been cut off. Even with Foday Sankoh, from '92 to
this
27 time, with the group in Pujehun.

28 Q. Sorry, even Foday Sankoh did what?

29 A. I said, even Foday Sankoh -- communication had been cut
off

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

1 between him and the group at Pujehun. There was no
communication

2 between Foday Sankoh and the group at Pujehun.

3 Q. What about any movement of people between the two
groups?

4 Are you aware of any?

5 A. Well, as far as I understood and what I saw, from early
6 2000 -- I mean, from early 1992, communication was cut off
7 between the Pujehun group and Foday Sankoh in Kailahun. So,
then

8 ULIMO came and occupied the road. They came and controlled
Lofa.

9 And Foday Sankoh wasn't able to go to Liberia anymore. So he
was

10 cut off. So there was no communication up to around April to
May

11 1993. The men in Pujehun, they sent about seven men, a team
that

12 came from Pujehun. They came to Foday Sankoh in Kailahun
13 but they were not.

14 Q. Let's just take a break. When was this?

15 A. At the time that the men came?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. I said that was around April to May 1993.

18 Q. And they came from Pujehun; where?

19 A. Yes. They came from Pujehun. They arrived in Kailahun
20 around April to May 1993. They came through the Gola Forest.

21 Q. And what were they coming to do?

22 A. Well, I spoke to one of the Vanguards who came,
Augustine

23 Koroma, who told me that they came to understand about Foday
24 Sankoh, because they had no means to talk to Foday Sankoh, so

in

25 that Foday Sankoh could know the problems that had taken place

26 Pujehun.

27 Q. So how long had there been this break of communication
28 between the two groups, as far as you are aware? When did it
29 start?

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 94

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

Leone

and

Liberia.

where

because

able

1 A. Well, from '92, this is when it started. Because, from

2 '92, ULIMO, which was organised by the government of Sierra

3 to fight against the NPFL, they pushed the RUF from Pujehun,

4 the ULIMO themselves went and occupied certain parts of

5 So the RUF was not able to go through Liberia. So that was

6 -- the time that the problem started.

7 Q. Did they explain what the problems had been in Pujehun?

8 A. Yes. When these people came, they were the ones that

9 explained what had happened in Pujehun between the RUF.

10 Q. What had happened?

11 A. Yes. What they came and told Foday Sankoh was that

12 communication had been cut off and that Foday Sankoh was not

13 to go there anymore, the junior commandos, who were Gibril
14 Massaquoi, they were -- he was the one that organised them,
they
15 arrested 28 Vanguards, including Patrick Lamin, and they
executed
16 them, and they said that they had brought the war, which they
17 were not able to support, and they were going to take over the
18 command. They killed the 28 Vanguards, they killed Patrick
19 Lamin, who was one of the Special Forces.

20 Q. How did you know this information?

21 A. I said that the man who led the men from Pujehun to
22 Kailahun was one of the Vanguards called Augustine Koroma; he
was
23 the one that explained this to me. And he told all the other
24 fighters; everybody knew about this. Because when they came
they
25 brought the information to Foday Sankoh. And the man came and
26 told me personally and others, Augustine Koroma.

27 Q. Did you learn how many men there were in the Pujehun
28 District belonging to the RUF?

29 A. Well, at that time, my position did not permit me to
know

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

way

1 how many RUF were in Pujehun. But they told me that the same

way

2 that the people at Kailahun accepted the RUF, it was the same

3 the people in Pujehun accepted the RUF. So there was a heavy

4 turn-out of training to join the RUF.

5 Q. So who was the top commander in Pujehun at that time, at
6 the time Gibril Massaquoi killed these Vanguard?

commander,

7 A. Well, Gibril declared himself as the battalion

8 and he took one Vanguard, who was a native of Pujehun, and he

9 said he should be his adviser, and he was called Momoh Rogers.

10 Q. Thank you. Now, I want to take you to the end of 1993.

11 Where were you, please, at this time?

12 A. Well, as I have been telling you and the Court, I said,

13 late November 1993, we have been pushed to the border. So we

14 were on the borderline villages, like Kamagbodu.

15 Q. Kamagbodu?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How do you spell that?

18 A. Kamagbodu, K-A-M-A-G-B-O-D-U. Sandia, S-A-N-D-I-A. You

you

19 had Pumudu, P-U-M-U-D-U. And you had Taidu, T-A-I-D-U. Then

20 had Soroko Bendu, S-O-R-O-K-O B-E-N-D-U. So we occupied these

21 villages. But Foday Sankoh, himself, was at Pumudu.

22 Q. Did you have any assignment at the end of 1993?

assignment.

23 A. Well, before the end of 1993, I did not have an

for

24 But I had an assignment in December '93 as a target commander

25 these villages that were on the borderline. Foday Sankoh

rank

26 appointed me as a target commander. He promoted me to the
27 of captain.

28 Q. What were you doing as the target commander?

RUF

29 A. Well, this was a very -- it was a bad situation for the

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 96

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

So

1 because, when we had retreated, Foday Sankoh called me and the
2 other commanders at Pumudu to a meeting, and this was where he
3 gave me this appointment. And he made Peter Vandi my deputy.

there

4 I should deploy other officers, but the field commander was
5 to appoint other officials who should be -- other officers who
6 should be target commanders, Mohamed Tarawallie.

7 JUDGE ITOE: Mr Jordash, what was the role of the target
8 commander? Can I get it right, please?

9 MR JORDASH:

10 Q. Was there a specific role for a target commander?

in

11 A. Well, My Lord, at this particular time, we are already

the

12 the villages very close to the borderline, so we had a high
13 population of civilians. So, we just made these targets with

were 14 roads that linked to the enemy positions. So these targets
we 15 to defend the roads that were coming towards the villages that
16 occupied with the civilians. So my role was to supervise the
17 other sub-target commanders. Then I made report to the field
18 commander.
19 Q. Why were you with lots of civilians?
the 20 A. Well, the civilians, these were the family members of
21 fighters. And when the government troops -- for example, when
the 22 the government troops captured Pendembu, they burned some of
the 23 houses of the RUF -- of the people in Pendembu who had joined
24 RUF, who had become RUF fighters. And they had Sierra Leonean
captured 25 soldiers, who also were born in Pendembu. So when they
26 Pendembu from us, they burnt -- they burnt the houses of those
civilians. 27 who had become RUF fighters and they started killing
28 So this is why the civilians decided not to stay; they started
to 29 follow the RUF, and the children who had joined the RUF. And
the

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

1 same thing happened in Koindu at Buedu.

2 Q. At the same time or a different time?

3 A. Well, the soldiers, they started killing people. When
they
4 started capturing these towns from the RUF. This was why the
5 civilians became afraid to stay in the towns, so they decided
to
6 follow the RUF in the bush, and the small villages that we
7 occupied.

8 Q. And how were they protected by --

9 A. Well, we used to defend those roads. For the short time
10 that Foday Sankoh was there, we protected these roads so that
11 soldiers will not be able to reach the areas where we had
12 occupied. So this is how we had been protecting the
civilians.

13 JUDGE BOUTET: Can you explain what you mean by
protecting

14 these roads? What does that mean?

15 THE WITNESS: Well, My Lord, these are not motor car
16 street; these were bush roads. For example, if you had a bush
17 road that came from Kangama, and it came to Soroko Bendu,
Bendugu
18 [sic]. So between Soroko Bendu and Kangama, the villages that
19 were there, these were the ones that we transformed into
combat
20 camps; the fighters were based there. So the soldiers would
not
21 be able to come from Kangama to launch a surprise attack on
22 Soroko Bendu. They would always meet an obstacle on the way,
and
23 these obstacles were created by the RUF. So, if this
happened,

where 24 fighting would take place. They would not be able to reach

25 the civilians were.

target 26 JUDGE BOUTET: So this is what you were doing as a

27 commander, is to create these obstacles?

28 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

commanders 29 JUDGE BOUTET: And you had, you say, sub-target

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 98

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 with you?

target 2 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. The sub-target commanders, they
3 were responsible for these various targets. I gave them

Alhaji, 4 names like Kamagbodou. The commander that was there was

Soroko 5 and we also had Philip Palmer as the adviser. We also had

Isaac 6 Bendu, who was -- which was manned by Richie, who also had

7 Mongor, who was the adviser.

8 MR JORDASH:

Mongor; 9 Q. Just go back to the name you mentioned before Isaac

10 what was the name you mentioned of the commander? Commander -

-

11 I missed it. What did you say just before? Was it Alhaji?

12 A. I said Alhaji, yes. He was at Kamagbodou as a target
13 commander.

14 Q. Now, I want to ask you about Foday Sankoh. Did he come,
at
15 any stage around this time, to Pumudu?

16 A. Yes. During this time, Foday Sankoh was based in Pumudu
17 and he spent there about six days before he left for Ngiema.

18 Q. What did he do, if anything, during this six days?

19 A. Yes. I said, he summoned a meeting at Pumudu, and we
20 attended. And, during the meeting, he told us that, now, the
21 NPRC had pushed us from all the towns in Kailahun and now we
are
22 in the bush.

23 Q. Just pause there. Who was at the meeting?

24 A. I was there; Mohamed Tarawallie was there; Philip Palmer
25 was there; Augustine Mulba was there.

26 Q. Spell Augustine's last name, please?

27 A. M-U-L-B-A, Mulba.

28 Q. Who was he?

29 A. Well, he was a Vanguard.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

1 Q. Who else was there?

2 A. Isaac Mongor was there and -- with other Vanguard's,
3 including junior commandos; and Foday Sankoh's bodyguards; and
4 the civilians were also there; Pa Kallon, adviser to Foday
Sankoh
5 was there; a businessman, one Pa Konomani, whom the RUF got
from
6 Kono, was also there; Fayia Musa and Deen Jalloh were also
there.

7 Q. Rashid Mansaray, where was he?

8 A. Well, this time, Rashid Mansaray had died. Foday Sankoh
9 had killed him. He was not the only one that died. It was he
10 and other vanguards, including junior commandos, that died.
When
11 they were killed.

12 Q. Do you know why?

13 A. Well, when the government troop attacked and captured
14 Kailahun Town, information leaked to Foday Sankoh when they
said
15 that Rashid Mansaray, Kaifa Way, G1 Kanneh, Jaffa Massaquoi,
16 Richard Honero, with other --

17 Q. Okay, slow down. And Hendu, did you say? Richie --

18 A. Richie Honero.

19 Q. Could you spell Honero?

20 A. Richie Honero. H-O-N-E-R-O. Honero.

21 Q. Go on, sorry.

22 A. Well, I was at Gbandebu Junction while Foday Sankoh was
23 based at Sandiaru. During that time, Rashid Mansaray was
based
24 at Mano Sewaru with his bodyguards. So Foday Sankoh left
25 Sandiaru with his vehicle and went to Mano Sewaru and told
Rashid

he
26 that they have an urgent meeting at Sandiaru and that was why
27 had one to collect Rashid.
Sankoh
28 Q. Well, let me try to cut this short, if I can. Foday
29 killed him because -- and these other the men; what was the

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 100
SESAY ET AL
03 MAY 2007
OPEN SESSION

1 reason?
2 A. Well, the men, it was alleged that they were planning a
3 coup against Foday Sankoh because Rashid said Foday Sankoh was
4 just causing them to suffer and that he has no money to pursue
5 the war. That was why they were arrested and killed.
6 Q. Okay. Let's go back to the meeting in Pumudu. What was
7 the purpose of the meeting?
8 A. Well, the purpose of the meeting, as explained by Foday
9 Sankoh to us, he said the war has reached the point of a
10 guerrilla warfare, and that he was strictly advising all
officers
11 and junior commandos that none should surrender. And, as
12 everybody observed the advancing troops of the NPRC killing
13 civilians, what about the fighters themselves. So he was
leaving
14 us at Pumudu. He was going to Ngiema, and from Ngiema he was

15 going to the jungle. Then he made the appointment of
16 battle-group commander to Sam Bockarie. And that when he went
to
17 Ngiema, he was going to make Sam Bockarie the battle-group
18 commander because Rashid had died. And he left Mohamed
19 Tarawallie in charge of the area where we were, and he went to
20 Ngiema.

21 Q. When he went to Ngiema, was there a plan expressed at
the
22 meeting?

23 A. Yes. He said he will take the RUF to the jungle. He
will
24 take the war to the jungle. That was the plan.

25 Q. Did he express which parts of the jungle were to be --

26 A. No. Initially, he did not show any place during the
27 meeting because he was worried about his security.

28 Q. Did there come a time when he did say?

29 A. Well, he said that at Ngiema and I was not present. It
was

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 101

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 in Ngiema that he announced that he was going at the Gola
Forest.

2 Q. All right. Just pause there then. After the meeting in

3 Pumudu, where did you go?

4 A. Well, after the meeting at Pumudu, Foday Sankoh left
5 Mohamed Tarawallie, who was field commander, in charge of that
6 area. So I decided to base in the village where Foday Sankoh
7 was, that is Pumudu, while Mohamed was in Tedu, but the
8 was just a stone throw.

distance

9 Q. And when was the meeting held in Ngiema? How long after
10 the meeting at Pumudu?

as

11 A. Well, from the area where we were in Pumudu to Ngiema I,
12 a young man, I could walk there for two days. But Foday
13 as an old man, could take three days to go to Ngiema.

Sankoh,

14 Q. The meeting in Ngiema, was it -- how long afterwards, in
15 days, weeks or months, after the meeting in Pumudu?

16 A. Well, let me say about three days Foday Sankoh came to
17 Ngiema. It was around four to five days. It was within those
18 days that the meeting took place at Ngiema.

19 Q. Do you know what decisions were made in that meeting, if
20 any?

to

21 A. Yes, they made decisions, but it was later that I came
22 know. But at the moment I did not know.

23 Q. Well, what did you later learn?

the

24 A. Well, later, I came to understand that Foday Sankoh, Sam
25 Bockarie, with a very good number of fighters, they went to
26 Gola Forest, and they went to the Kambui Hills where they

created

27 a camp called Zogoda. And Foday Sankoh appointed Denis Mingo,

to
28 Papa, Augustine Kargbo, so that they could take other fighters
29 go and attack Tongo, Tongo Field.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 102
SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

I
December
Foday
was
1 Q. When did they -- oh, did they attack Tongo Field?
2 A. Yes. Yes, they attacked.
3 Q. When was that?
4 A. Well, they left Ngiema and they went and attacked Tongo.
5 think that was -- I believe it was January '94 or late
6 '93, one of the two; during that period.
7 Q. Kambui Hills, how do you spell Kambui, please?
8 A. I think it is K-A-M-B-U H-I-L-L-S. [Sic]
9 Q. So this group with Superman and --
10 A. Papa.
11 Q. -- went to attack Tongo Field, and did they --
12 A. Yes. But I have forgotten something a little. Well,
13 Sankoh had appointed a group to go to Tongo, he appointed a
14 commander that should remain in Ngiema, Sylvester Mela. He
15 the captain. He was the overall target commander for Ngiema.
16 Q. How far is Ngiema from Pumudu?

there
17 A. Well, that was why I said I, as a young man, I walked
18 for two days.
Pumudu?
19 Q. I'm sorry. It's my fault. How far was Zogoda from
That's
20 A. From Zogoda to Pumudu, that's a very long distance.
21 a very long distance. Pumudu is almost half a mile to the
22 Liberian border, and Zogoda is very close to Kenema Town.
23 Q. Now, after attacking Tongo, what did Superman do?
repelled
24 A. Well, when they attacked Tongo, the next day they
and
25 them, the NPRC troops repelled them, and they went to Peyama
26 created a jungle there called the Peyama Jungle.
27 Q. Do you know how many men Superman went with?
28 A. I was at Pumudu; I cannot tell the number of men that
29 Superman left with from Ngiema.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 103
SESAY ET AL
03 MAY 2007
OPEN SESSION

1 Q. To where, sorry?
2 A. I said, I was at Pumudu. I did not know the number of
men
3 Superman left with to go to Peyama, because I was in Pumudu.
I

4 wasn't part of the meeting.

Peyama?

5 Q. Do you know where Superman did -- did he remain in

6 A. Ngiema or Peyama?

7 Q. Peyama.

Sankoh

8 A. Well, Superman was at Peyama while Foday Sankoh was at
9 Zogoda with Sam Bockarie. And, in February '94, Superman was
10 still at Peyama. He was there for some time. Then Foday

as

11 instructed Mohamed Tarawallie to move from Pumudu to Ngiema so

up

12 to organise men, so that they could go to the north and open

13 the Kangari Hills.

14 Q. Did this happen?

he

15 A. Yes. Yes. As Mohamed Tarawallie passed through Peyama,

between

16 went to the Northern Jungle and created the Kangari Hills

17 Masingbi and Makali.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Let's take a short break.

19 [Break taken at 4.30 p.m.]

20 [Upon resuming at 5.00 p.m.]

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Jordash, your witness.

22 MR JORDASH: Thank you.

from

23 Q. So, Foday Sankoh instructed Mohamed Tarawallie to move

the

24 Pumudu to Ngiema, organise men and go to the north to open up

asked

25 Kangari Jungle, Kangari Hills. And I can't remember if I

26 you this: When was this opened?

27 A. Well, Mohamed Tarawallie left around February '94 from

the

28 Pumudu, where he left me; he went to Ngiema. From Ngiema, he
29 mobilised some men. He went through Peyama, then he crossed

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 104

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

the

1 Sewa River, and he went to Masingbi and went up to the Kangari
2 Hills.

3 Q. Do you know how many men went to the Kangari Hills?

4 A. Well, I did not know. I was far away from Ngiema and

5 man was a senior man and he did not report to me. But what I
6 knew was that he went with a group of fighters.

7 Q. Was anything happening in Pujehun with the RUF, at this
8 time?

'94.

9 A. Well, I heard information around January to February

of

10 After Foday Sankoh had established Camp Zogoda, he sent some

11 the men that went to Kailahun, so that they could go and call
12 some commanders from Pujehun to go and meet him at Zogoda.

to

13 Q. Sorry, just to be clear, he sent some men from Kailahun

14 Pujehun?

15 A. No. I had said Foday Sankoh -- men came from Pujehun

Sankoh
16 District and met Foday Sankoh in Kailahun. So when Foday
17 was leaving Ngiema, he went with some of these men to Zogoda,
18 after they had created Camp Zogoda. He sent for certain
19 commanders and fighters from Pujehun so that they could come
and
20 join him at Camp Zogoda.
21 Q. How did he communicate with Pujehun at this time?
22 A. Well, if you observe the ones that came to Kailahun,
they
23 did not communicate. They only came and found us in Kailahun.
24 So the men that he sent from Zogoda, they knew where they left
25 their brothers, in Pujehun, so they knew where their brothers
26 were.
27 Q. Was there any radio communications with Pujehun at this
28 time?
29 A. Well, the group that was sent by Foday Sankoh from
Zogoda

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 105

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

with
1 to go to Pujehun, they went with the radio set. So when they
2 arrived, they mounted the set and had direct communication
3 Foday Sankoh.

with

4 Q. Okay. Gibril Massaquoi, what happened, if anything,
5 him, at this time?

on,

6 A. Well, at this early stage, I did not know. But, later
7 in '94, I heard an information from Zogoda when these men who
8 came from Pujehun, Foday Sankoh addressed these men in -- at
9 Zogoda during a parade because when they came, Foday Sankoh

asked

10 them -- asked Gibril Massaquoi and others to explain because

of

11 the killing of the Vanguardians and Patrick Lamin. And Foday

Sankoh

12 decided that the case should be suspended. After the war,

Gibril

13 Massaquoi and those others who were involved in that issue

would

14 face the Court. That was how the case was suspended.

15 Q. Did he go anywhere in 1994?

16 A. Yes. Later, I understood that Foday Sankoh posted
17 Gibril's -- Gibril Massaquoi to open a jungle at Koribundu,

known

18 as the Koribundu Jungle.

19 Q. Could you spell Koribundu, please?

20 A. K-O-R-O-B-O-N-D-O [sic].

21 Q. Where is that, please?

22 A. Well, Koribundu, I think, is around Pujehun and Bo
23 District. It is at the Southern Province.

24 Q. Did he go and do as instructed?

that

25 A. Well, that was what I understood that he was the one

Koribundu

26 was sent there by Foday Sankoh as the commander for the

27 Jungle.

28 Q. Did he go with anyone else?

29 A. Well, he had to go with fighters. He, alone, would not
be

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 106

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 able to open up a jungle, yes.

2 Q. Did he go with any other commanders?

3 A. Well, what I understood later, few months later, Foday
4 Sankoh sent Mosquito for him to join Gibril Massaquoi so that
5 they could attack Koribundu Town. But, during the attack,
6 Mosquito accused Gibril Massaquoi that he sabotaged the
mission.

7 So there ensued an argument between Gibril and Bockarie,
8 Mosquito. So Foday Sankoh summoned the two of them at Zogoda.
9 Then he sent -- he decided to separate Massaquoi and Mosquito.

10 So Foday Sankoh sent Gibril Massaquoi with fighters from
Pujehun
11 to join Mohamed at the Kangari Hills. That was in 1994.

12 Q. And did you know Gibril Massaquoi personally at this
stage,
13 at the time he went to Kangari Hills?

14 A. I did not know Gibril Massaquoi in person during that
time.

15 Q. What happened to Sam Bockarie?

16 A. Well, Sam Bockarie, since he was the battle-group
17 commander, and Foday Sankoh only ordered him to go back where
he
18 was because his own base was Bandawor, five miles to Zogoda.
And
19 he was responsible for supervising the other targets around
Camp
20 Zogoda.

21 Q. Do you know what Sam Bockarie's role was as battle-group
22 commander?

23 A. Well, during this time, Bockarie's job, he was the main
24 commander around Camp Zogoda, because Camp Zogoda had various
25 deployments and he was taking care of those various
deployments.

26 So, with all the positions he had he was only responsible for
27 maintaining the targets around Camp Zogoda.

28 Q. Did he have anything to do with the Kangari Hills?

29 A. Nothing. He had nothing to do with that.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 107 SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 Q. And what was Mohamed Tarawallie's position -- I beg your
2 pardon, what was his role as battlefield commander at this
time?

3 A. Well, during this time, it was Foday Sankoh who was in
4 charge of the operations. He had the central command; he

5 directed the war. Mohamed Tarawallie was just responsible for
6 the Kangari Hills jungle.

7 Q. What do you mean Foday Sankoh directed the war? Try to
8 explain what you mean by that?

9 A. Well, as I said before, I said Mohamed Tarawallie went
in
10 order to open up the Kangari Hills around February '94, and
that
11 I was in Kailahun, I was in Pumudu, as captain, target
commander.

12 Then there was another captain at Ngiema who was the target
13 commander. All of us were reporting to Foday Sankoh's station
14 and we all received instruction from Foday Sankoh's station at
15 Zogoda. So, during that time, you had the title of battle-
group
16 commander. You were only responsible for the area you command
17 and not the other area.

18 JUDGE BOUTET: Who had the title of battlefield
commander
19 at that time? I'm a bit confused here. You say you take your
20 direction from Sankoh, Bockarie, who is the --

21 MR JORDASH: Sankoh.

22 JUDGE BOUTET: Sankoh, pardon me. Yes. But you are
23 talking also of the battle-group commander who is different,
24 obviously. Are we still talking of Tarawallie?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes, My Lord. You had Sankoh, who was the
26 leader. And Mohammed Tarawallie, who was the field commander,
27 And Bockarie, who was the battle-group commander. But, during
28 this time of the operation, it was a jungle operation; do you
29 understand? The battle-group commander was responsible for
the

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 various targets around Camp Zogoda.

2 MR JORDASH:

3 Q. Who was that?

4 A. That was Sam Bockarie. He was reporting to the leader

in

5 Zogoda.

6 Q. And Mohamed Tarawallie was?

7 A. Mohamed Tarawallie, he was the field commander.

8 Q. Based in?

9 A. Kangari Hills.

10 Q. Now, you were a target commander. Before I ask you

that,

11 what date are we referring to?

12 A. Well, I'm referring to -- from February, when Mohamed

had

13 left for the Kangari Hills upwards in August '94.

14 Q. You jumped from February to August.

15 A. Well, this was the routine in place from 1994, February,

16 until '94. This was the routine that was in place.

17 Commanders -- you could be a field commander, responsible only

18 for the area which you control and reported to the leader.

The

19 target commanders in Kailahun, we were two in number there.

20 Q. Who was the other one in Kailahun?

21 A. Sylvester Mela, who was at Ngiema.

22 Q. Did Superman remain at the Kangari Hills?

23 A. Superman had not gone to the Kangari Hills. He went
there
24 late '94, from Peyama.

25 Q. How long did he stay in the Kangari Hills?

26 A. Well, what I heard, when he later joined Mohamed
Tarawallie
27 through Foday Sankoh's orders, from that time, around early
'95,
28 they went and attacked Sierra Rutile, Matru Jong, and they
moved
29 and attacked Rotifunk and, later, they created the Western

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 109

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 Jungle, around Bradford.

2 Q. Where did they attack before the Western Area, Western
3 Jungle?

4 A. I said, they attacked Sierra Rutile and Matru Jong.

5 Q. Could you spell that, please?

6 A. I think it's R-U-T-I-L or R-U-T-I-L-E.

7 Q. So when was the Western Jungle created?

month.

8 A. Well, it was early '95. I cannot recall the exact

from

9 Q. Okay. Did you have anything to do with Kangari Hills

10 the time it was created?

time

11 A. From the time they formed the Kangari Hills until the

12 it was dissolved I had nothing to do with the Kangari Hills.

that?

13 Q. The Western Jungle, did you have anything to do with

14 A. The same. The same.

15 Q. Did you remain in Pumudu as target commander?

16 A. No, no.

17 Q. When did you leave there?

18 A. Well, it was in July 1994, when Foday Sankoh made some

19 promotions. He promoted Mohamed Tarawallie to

major,

20 lieutenant-colonel, battlefield commander; Sam Bockarie,

21 battle-group commander. And he promoted me to major, area

promotion,

22 commander. And, with other people, he gave them some

in

23 but he instructed me to move from Pumudu to take over command

24 Ngiema.

25 Q. So which area were you the commander of?

26 A. Well, I was area commander for Ngiema and the villages

27 between the borderline, going to Koindu, like the Pumudu area.

the

28 Because, during this time, the NPRC troops had occupied all

Ghahun;

29 towns in Kailahun. They occupied Pendembu; they occupied

Page 110

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

Ngaia;

1 they occupied Kailahun Town; they occupied Gbobu Gao; they
2 occupied Nyandehun Mambabu; they occupied Buedu; Kangama;
3 and Koindu.

4 Q. Right. Dia, how do you spell that, please?

5 A. D-I-A, Dia.

6 Q. Gihun, is that --

7 A. G-h-i-h-u-n, Gihun.

8 Q. Gbobu Gao.

9 A. Gbobu Gao, G-B-O-B-U G-A-O.

10 Q. So where were you living?

11 A. Well, I was in Ngiema Town.

you

12 Q. Just before we move to your role as area commander, did
13 have anything to do with Zogoda? Did you go there during this
14 period?

Camp

15 A. Well, from the time Foday Sankoh created Camp Zogoda, in
16 December or -- December '93 or January '94, I did not go to
17 Zogoda 'til April 1996, during the Abidjan Peace Accord.

move

18 Q. We'll come to that in due course. Now, just before we
19 to Ngiema, you have listened to the evidence and you have
20 listened to various witnesses who accuse you of being -- well,

I

21 think probably the third in command at this stage. I think we
22 had that from TF1-366, for example. What do you say to that?

'94

23 A. Well, I was not the third in command because, from July
24 to November '95, I was the area commander only for Kailahun.

I

25 was not instructing -- I was not instructing any other part

where

26 RUF had occupied in the jungles out of Kailahun.

27 Q. So you were instructing men in which specific places?

any

28 A. I said, no. I said, I did not give any instruction to

29 other part, apart from Kailahun. I was not in control of any

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

SESAY ET AL

Page 111

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

1 other parts where RUF occupied, apart from Kailahun.

2 Q. How many areas in Kailahun -- if you can't answer this,

places

3 then don't, don't try -- but are you able to say how many

4 in Kailahun were occupied by the RUF?

5 A. Well, we had two settlement in Kailahun, from December

'93

6 to March 1995; only Pumudu and Ngiema.

7 Q. Do you know the strength of the RUF fighters in those

two

8 areas, at the time you took over as area commander?

9 A. Well, during this time, the manpower strength had been
10 exhausted in Kailahun because it was the same men from
Kailahun
11 to Zogoda. It was the same men from Kailahun to Peyama. The
12 same men from Kailahun to the Kangari Hills. So during that
time
13 Kailahun just had about four to 500 men, both Ngiehun and
Pumudu.

14 Q. Who was your deputy in Kailahun?

15 A. Well, when Foday Sankoh promoted me to major, he
promoted
16 Peter Vandi to staff captain and deputy area commander.

17 Q. Just so that every one gets a good picture, how long
were
18 you area commander of Kailahun?

19 THE INTERPRETER: Please, can attorney come again.

20 MR JORDASH:

21 Q. Sorry, you have already answered the question. I won't
go
22 over it. So your deputy was Peter Vandi?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Was there a target commander or were there target
25 commanders?

26 A. Well, when I left Pumudu, the target commander who was
at
27 Pumudu, they stayed there with Peter Vandi. I came to Ngiema
and
28 target commanders were there.

29 Q. Who were they?

1 A. Well, Gbobu target, we had Mohamed Gaddafi.

2 Q. Gbobu target?

3 A. Yes, yes. Then we had Gaveru target, the road towards
4 Pendembu, we had Harris Momoh.

5 Q. Who was the name of that target, sorry?

6 A. It was Gaveru.

7 Q. Can you spell it? Just do your best.

8 A. Yes. G-A-V-E-R-U. Gaveru.

9 Q. And where was the Gbobu target?

10 A. The Gbobu target, it was along the road from Ngiema to
11 Gbobu Town. Gaveru, it was a bush road from Ngiema to
Pendembu.

12 Q. Any other targets?

13 A. Yes. We had Bandajuma.

14 Q. Who was of the target commander there?

15 A. The target commander? The target commander was Akibo
and

16 it was the road that led to Kailahun Town. Then we had the
17 Sembehun target. The target commander was called Mayalay.

18 Q. How do you spell that?

19 A. Who?

20 Q. The name of the target commander you've just said.

21 A. Sembehun.

22 Q. The target commander.

23 A. Okay. Mayalay, M-A-Y-A-L-A-Y.
24 Q. Were there other --
25 A. Yeah. Then you had the Talia target.
26 Q. Commander?
27 A. Well, I seem to be missing his name now.
28 Q. Other units? Were there other units under your --
29 A. Yes. Yes. I had unit commanders in Ngiema.

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 113

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

had

1 Q. Which ones?
2 A. I had the IDU, Francis Musa; I had the G5, DM Brima; I
3 the MP, Mohamed Jalloh; I had the G4, Joseph Brown; and the
4 combat medic, nurse Susan Lahai.
5 Q. Lahai, can you spell, please?
6 A. L-A-H-A-I.
7 Q. How many MPs were there under your command?
8 A. Well, the MP that were at the headquarters, there were
9 about two squads; about 30 of them.
10 Q. And where was the headquarters?
11 A. The headquarters was at Ngiema.
12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Jordash, is this a convenient

point?

13 MR JORDASH: Yes. Yes, thank you.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right. The trial is adjourned to
15 tomorrow, Friday, 4 May 2007, at 9.30 a.m.

p.m.,

16 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 5.30

May

17 to be reconvened on Friday, the 4th day of
18 2007, at 9.30 a.m.]

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

Page 114

SESAY ET AL

03 MAY 2007

OPEN SESSION

EXHIBITS:

[Exhibit No 191 was admitted]

29

WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENCE:

WITNESS: ACCUSED ISSA HASSAN SESAY

28

EXAMINED BY MR JORDASH

29

SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I