

THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

CASE NO. SCSL-2004-15-T  
TRIAL CHAMBER I

THE PROSECUTOR  
OF THE SPECIAL COURT  
v.  
ISSA SESAY  
MORRIS KALLON  
AUGUSTINE GBAO

THURSDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2004  
8.57 A.M.  
TRIAL

Before the Judges:

Benjamin Mutanga Itoe, Presiding  
Bankole Thompson  
Pierre Boutet

For Chambers:

Ms Candice Welsch  
Mr Matteo Crippa

For the Registry:

Ms Maureen Edmonds

For the Prosecution:

Mr Peter Harrison  
Mr Christopher Santora  
Mr Christopher Dunn (intern)

For the Principal Defender:

Ms Haddijatou Kah-Jallow

For the accused Issa Sesay:

Mr Wayne Jordash  
Mr A.F. Serry-Kamal  
Ms Sareta Ashraph

For the accused Morris Kallon:

Mr Shekou Touray

For the accused Augustine Gbao:

Mr Andreas O'Shea  
Mr John Cammegh

1 Thursday, 28 October 2004  
2 [The accused Sesay and Kallon entered court]  
3 [The accused Gbao not present]  
4 [Open session]  
08:53:59 5 [Upon commencing at 8.57 a.m.]  
6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Learned counsel, we are starting -- resuming  
7 our session and I would, again, want to indicate that, as  
8 you have noticed, we are still at the mercy of the power  
9 supply in the court. We were supposed to start at 8.30,  
08:55:55 10 but here we are starting at 9.00. We hope that the  
11 technicians and the administration would be able to bring  
12 this problem to an end and for us to resume with our  
13 normal reading, and this said, I see a gallery, you know,  
14 that is packed full of mostly young women, I suppose, of  
08:56:24 15 a college I don't know. I just want, on behalf of my  
16 colleagues, to wish them a very happy welcome to the  
17 Court and to also wish at the same time their teachers or  
18 their lecturers who are guiding them here, and we hope  
19 they would benefit from the experience that they've come  
08:56:49 20 to live through in the course of these proceedings.  
21 Thank you very much.  
22 Yes, Mr Santora.  
23 MR SANTORA: Yes, Your Honours.  
24 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see you are on your feet. We're prepared  
08:57:05 25 to go on with your Prosecution witness. And may I please  
26 indicate that because of our calendar, which has been  
27 delayed somehow, we expect -- we expect and we would like  
28 to end up with the testimony of this witness, at the  
29 latest, by tomorrow at 12.00 or 1.00, and I am addressing

RONI KEREKES - SCSL - TRIAL CHAMBER I

1 myself to both sides of the aisle here. I hope you will,  
2 please, understand our constraints and I would ask the  
3 Prosecution to confine itself to the essence of the  
4 evidence it has to lead in-chief and for the Defence to  
08:57:52 5 do the same, please. So we should finish -- we must  
6 finish with this witness by 12.00, or at the latest at  
7 1.00 tomorrow. I thank you for your understanding.

8 You may proceed, Mr Santora.

9 MR SANTORA: Thank you, Your Honour. The next witness -- the  
08:58:11 10 pseudonym of the next witness was TF1-355. As the  
11 Prosecution indicated earlier this session, this witness  
12 has agreed to testify publicly and, therefore, the screen  
13 has been removed. The witness has also indicated that  
14 his current country of residence is not a point of  
08:58:36 15 concern to him should it come out, and there is no need  
16 to go into closed session as long as it is confined to  
17 his country of residence and his country of -- where he  
18 relocated from. I just wanted to indicate that to the  
19 Chamber so we can possibly expedite things and not need  
08:58:59 20 to go into closed session, as long as it is confined to  
21 his country.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right, this is noted. Does this call for  
23 any observations from the Defence? The observations are  
24 made by Mr Santora,

08:59:12 25 MR JORDASH: No, thank you.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: All right. Mr Touray?

27 MR TOURAY: None, My Lord.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Cammegh.

29 MR CAMMEGH: Yes, I am very happy with the situation.



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: You're very happy.  
2 Yes, my learned brother has something.  
3 JUDGE BOUTET: I'm not sure I understand what you mean by  
4 "confined to country of residence". So when are we to  
08:59:36 5 know that the question being asked is not related or is  
6 related to a subject matter that is not country of  
7 residence? You mean if there are questions about his  
8 former country of residence? What is -- I don't  
9 understand what you're saying.  
08:59:53 10 MR SANTORA: It is in reference to where he relocated to when  
11 he departed from his former country and relocated to a  
12 new country. He does not have any -- he doesn't have any  
13 concern about that new country coming out in proceedings.  
14 And as we had a witness prior to this where the country  
09:00:14 15 was actually an issue, in this instance it is fairly  
16 public information, and so as long as it is not his  
17 specific street and city and state, but the country is of  
18 no concern to him.  
19 JUDGE BOUTET: Thank you. That answers my question.  
09:00:30 20 MR SANTORA: The witness was formally by the pseudonym  
21 TF1-355, but at this point we would call Hassan Bility  
22 for the Prosecution.  
23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Mr Learned Counsel, you are abandoning the  
24 pseudonym?  
09:00:55 25 MR SANTORA: Yes.  
26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Hassan?  
27 MR SANTORA: Hassan Bility.  
28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Can you spell Bility, please?  
29 MR SANTORA: B-I-L-I-T-Y.



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Bility?

2 MR SANTORA: Yes.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is it very hot in the gallery? It is very  
4 hot. Well, too bad; we apologise to our visitors. We  
09:01:38 5 have power -- electricity problems. Normally it is more  
6 comfortable than you find it this morning. We apologise  
7 for this and we hope that when next you come, you will  
8 have a more comfortable climate. These are some of the  
9 things you should also learn as leaders of tomorrow, you  
09:01:57 10 know, in this country and in Africa as a whole, that you  
11 have the technology, but the technology at times ends up  
12 disappointing you. So there we are.

13 [The witness entered court]

14 WITNESS: HASSAN BILITY sworn

09:02:42 15 EXAMINED BY MR SANTORA:

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Santora you may proceed.

17 MR SANTORA: Thank you, Your Honours.

18 Q. Can you state your full name for the Court.

19 A. My full name is Hassan Bility.

09:03:18 20 Q. Mr Bility, where are you from?

21 A. Country of origin?

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. Liberia.

24 Q. And where were you born in Liberia?

09:03:27 25 A. I was born in Yekepa, northern Liberia, Nimba county.

26 Q. You said Nimba county?

27 A. Yes, I said Nimba county.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: What town? What town, please?

29 THE WITNESS: Yekepa. It is Y-E-K-E-P-A. It's a mining -- it





1 used to be a mining town -- city by LIMCO. That is the  
2 Liberian American mining company.

3 MR SANTORA:

4 Q. Mr Witness, have you been to school before?

09:04:06 5 A. Yes, I've been to school.

6 Q. Briefly describe your highest degree in school.

7 A. Bachelor of science. I attended the Fofana Arabica  
8 English school in Monrovia; the St. Patrick's high  
9 school, an all boys school in Monrovia; the University of  
09:04:25 10 Liberia; and in Ibadan Nigeria.

11 Q. What was your degree from school --

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel, can we go over that again?

13 MR SANTORA:

14 Q. Just -- and if I can ask you to make sure to try to speak  
09:04:37 15 slowly when you reply. Briefly just explain the schools  
16 you went to in Monrovia.

17 A. I attended the Fofana Islamic/Arabic and English school  
18 in Fish Market Sinkor, Monrovia. I attended the St.  
19 Patrick's high school, an all boys Catholic school in  
09:05:06 20 Monrovia, the University of Liberia, and the University  
21 of Ibadan in Nigeria.

22 Q. What was the name of the university in Nigeria?

23 A. UI, University of Ibadan.

24 Q. Okay. What was your degree from UI?

09:05:26 25 A. I hold a Bsc degree.

26 Q. What is that?

27 A. Bachelor of science.

28 Q. In what profession?

29 A. Journalism.



1 Q. Okay. What languages do you speak?

2 A. I speak some arabic, not very fluent. I also write and  
3 read arabic. I speak some French, not very fluent. I  
4 also write and read some French. I speak English, in my  
09:06:11 5 opinion, very fluently.

6 Q. After finishing school in Nigeria what was your  
7 profession?

8 A. Journalism.

9 Q. Where did you work?

09:06:22 10 A. I worked in Monrovia, the capital city of the Republic of  
11 Liberia.

12 Q. What was the organisation that you --

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Santora, you're going very fast.

14 MR SANTORA: I'm sorry, Your Honours.

09:06:45 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: He worked as a journalist in Liberia?

16 MR SANTORA: Yes, Your Honour.

17 Q. What was the organisation you actually worked for in  
18 Monrovia?

19 A. Media institutions, or otherwise.

09:07:28 20 Q. Media institutions?

21 A. I worked as editor of The National newspaper. The name  
22 is "The National" newspaper. I worked as editor of The  
23 Analyst newspaper, the newspaper I worked with up to June  
24 24th, 2002 when I was seized by plainclothes government  
09:07:56 25 security officers and sent to a six-month torturous  
26 prison. I also worked -- I served an as editor.

27 JUDGE BOUTET: Slowly, slowly, please.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please start and go slowly.

29 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honour. I served as editor.



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Of The National.  
2 THE WITNESS: Of The National newspaper.  
3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.  
4 THE WITNESS: I worked with The Analyst newspaper first as  
09:08:30 5 news editor and later rose through the ranks to become  
6 editor-in-chief of The Analyst newspaper. I also worked  
7 as editor of the official newspaper of The Press Union of  
8 Liberia, an umbrella organisation of all media  
9 institutions in Liberia. I also worked --  
09:09:04 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Your pace is still fast. Could you go back  
11 to after becoming editor-in-chief of The Analyst  
12 newspaper. Could you take us back to that one, after  
13 that and slowly, please.  
14 THE WITNESS: Yes, yes, sir. I worked as editor-in-chief of  
09:09:26 15 The Analyst newspaper and I also served as the editor of  
16 the official newspaper of the Press Union of Liberia.  
17 The press union is --  
18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Stop there, please.  
19 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just give us the profile; it will help us.  
09:09:57 20 It is quite elaborate, so let's just go through it so we  
21 can get everything precisely.  
22 PRESIDING JUDGE: I'm sure if you were giving a dictation  
23 test, you would be a very poor judge to your students  
24 whose scripts you might be correcting, because you're  
09:10:19 25 going very fast. Go to the pace, you know, a pace that  
26 will be able to -- your evidence is very important and we  
27 need to have it clearly on the records, okay?  
28 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.  
29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Editor of the official newspaper of the



1 press?

2 THE WITNESS: Union of Liberia.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Union of?

4 THE WITNESS: Continue?

09:10:46 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

6 MR SANTORA:

7 Q. So just slowly tell them what is the Press Union of

8 Liberia?

9 A. The Press Union of Liberia is an umbrella organisation

09:10:58 10 that represents -- or that includes all media

11 institutions in the Republic of Liberia, both electronic

12 and print. Electronic, meaning radio; print newspapers.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I also served as press officer of the European

09:11:29 15 Union/European Commission in Monrovia under the

16 leadership of Ambassador Brian O'Neill. My --

17 Q. Before you proceed, let them finish that.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: You said that is the Press of the European

19 Union?

09:12:08 20 THE WITNESS: Sure.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Of Liberia?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: The delegation of the European Union of

24 Liberia?

09:12:19 25 THE WITNESS: Yeah, the European Union/European Commission

26 mission in Monrovia in Liberia, specifically in Monrovia.

27 MR SANTORA:

28 Q. When did you serve in that capacity? Do you remember the

29 years?





1 A. 2002. The process actually began in late 2001, November  
2 and I officially started in January 2002.

3 Q. Until when?

4 A. Until my arrest on 24th June, Monday, 2002.

09:12:54 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: What date?

6 THE WITNESS: 24th June, Monday, 2002.

7 MR SANTORA:

8 Q. Just to clarify the time frame, when did you actually  
9 start working --

09:13:14 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: And you say you were arrested by  
11 plainclothes --

12 THE WITNESS: I was arrested by government security personnel  
13 under the direct.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: In uniform or?

09:13:26 15 THE WITNESS: Plainclothes.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Plainclothes, that's what I mean.

17 MR SANTORA:

18 Q. Now, when you talk about these positions, I just want to  
19 clarify the time frame for the Chamber. When did you  
09:13:56 20 start working at The National newspaper?

21 A. I began work at The National newspaper in 1997.

22 Q. Do you remember the month?

23 A. Yes, I do remember the month. It was in August 1997.

24 Q. Okay. And The Analyst, when did you start working there?

09:14:14 25 A. I started work with The Analyst in July 2000 -- July  
26 2000. And in terms in continuation of my service in  
27 Liberia, I also served as consultant and project officer  
28 of a London based organisation called International  
29 Alert, A-L-E-R-T, and my job included writing about and



1 preaching peace in Liberia through the use of the media.

2 Q. When did this occur?

3 A. This began in 2001, up 'til 24th June 2002.

4 Q. Mr Bility, you said you were arrested on 24 June 2002?

09:15:52 5 A. Yup.

6 Q. Was this the first time you were arrested?

7 A. Actually, no, that was my seventh arrest by the Charles  
8 Taylor government?

9 Q. Okay. I want --

09:16:07 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just a minute. Slowly, Mr Santora.

11 MR SANTORA: I wanted to proceed chronologically.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: No, you should proceed chronologically, but  
13 orderly.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: You can proceed.

09:16:51 15 MR SANTORA:

16 Q. Okay. You said it was the seventh time you were  
17 arrested; is that correct?

18 A. Yes, that's correct.

19 Q. Can you remember the first time you were arrested?

09:17:01 20 A. Yes, I was arrested the first time shortly after I began  
21 work with The National newspaper as editor.

22 Q. Do you remember specifically when?

23 A. In terms of specific date I can't, but it certainly was  
24 very shortly after I began.

09:17:44 25 Q. Why were you arrested the first time?

26 A. I was arrested the first time because I had written a  
27 newspaper editorial titled "Who is the Judas in ECOWAS?"  
28 And Judas I was referring to the biblical Judas.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: What is the title again?



1 THE WITNESS: "Who is the Judas", J-U-D-A-S, "in ECOWAS?"

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes. Let's have the title first before any  
3 elaboration of the -- "Who is the Judas in ECOWAS?"

4 MR SANTORA: ECOWAS.

09:18:35 5 THE WITNESS: ECOWAS, Economic Community of West African  
6 States.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Oh, that we're familiar with. That's okay.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: When you say "the Judas", you were referring  
9 to?

09:18:53 10 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I had written this against the backdrop  
11 that the government of former President Charles Taylor --

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: You were referring to the biblical?

13 THE WITNESS: I was drawing a parallel between the position of  
14 the then Liberian president.

09:19:17 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Hold on. "Drawing a parallel between the  
16 Liberian President."

17 THE WITNESS: The then President Charles Taylor position with  
18 respect to the crisis in Sierra Leone.

19 MR SANTORA:

09:20:18 20 Q. What specifically were you referring to in this article  
21 when you talk about the position of Charles Taylor  
22 related to the crisis in Sierra Leone?

23 A. I actually was referring to -- now, let me give you a  
24 brief background first. There is a biblical man called  
09:20:40 25 Judas who, we are told by the Bible, pretended to be with  
26 Jesus, but instead in the end sold Jesus for 12 pieces of  
27 silver, so --

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Hold on. Hold on.

29 MR SANTORA:



1 Q. Please continue describing what you meant in the article  
2 when you were referring to the position of Charles Taylor  
3 vis-a-vis the crisis in Sierra Leone.

4 A. In my opinion, because the editorial page is the opinion  
09:21:56 5 page of a newspaper, this was an opinion of the paper,  
6 The National, therefore in the opinion of the national,  
7 President Charles Taylor pretended then to be interested  
8 in the resolution of the Sierra Leonean crisis, but in  
9 reality he worked to undermine the peace process efforts  
09:22:39 10 that were being made by ECOWAS to resolve the crisis in  
11 Sierra Leone. A specific example then --

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Hold on, please. Hold on, hold on.

13 MR SANTORA:

14 Q. Okay, proceed and explain --

09:23:25 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: You're proceeding with wanting to give us an  
16 example.

17 THE WITNESS: A specific example then was ECOWAS had set up a  
18 five member committee -- five country member committee  
19 called "the Committee of Five", and this included  
09:24:01 20 Liberia. It also included Cote d'Ivoire. When the  
21 committee announced that it was holding its meeting in  
22 the federal capital of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,  
23 Abuja, the member countries of the committee were all  
24 expected to be in attendance. Liberia, which had been  
09:25:11 25 under suspicion for its alleged support to the  
26 Revolutionary United Front, the RUF, refused to attend  
27 and even sought so give reasons why it would not attend.  
28 In the opinion of the Liberian government, the RUF was  
29 being forced, and in the words of President Charles --





1 former President of Charles Taylor was being --

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Was being forced to do what?

3 THE WITNESS: Was being forced to cooperate with the peace  
4 process in Sierra Leone.

09:26:53 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: You were about to report that, was it?

6 THE WITNESS: Sorry?

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: You were reporting that in the words of --

8 THE WITNESS: In the words of former Liberian President  
9 Charles Taylor.

09:27:13 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

11 THE WITNESS: In a newspaper conference held at the Executive  
12 Mansion, official residence of presidents of Liberia, he  
13 said, "I will not accept any arm twisting." A few days  
14 later the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia,  
09:28:07 15 Mr Monie, M-O-N-I-E, R Captan.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr?

17 THE WITNESS: Monie R Captan.

18 MR SANTORA: Spell captain.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Monie is spelled?

09:28:32 20 THE WITNESS: M-O-N-I-E.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: M-O-N-I-E?

22 THE WITNESS: Yeah, R Captan, C-A-P-T-A-N said that the reason  
23 Liberia failed to send a representative to the committee  
24 of five meeting in Abjua, was that -- the reason was that  
09:29:33 25 both he and his principal deputy were out of the country  
26 on a more important government mission because --

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr O'Shea.

28 MR O'SHEA: Your Honour, I'm sorry, but when I look at the  
29 indictment, I do not see anywhere any counts of crimes



1 against peace. I only see counts relating to crimes  
2 against humanity and war crimes. I therefore fail to see  
3 how any of this can have any relevance of war crimes or  
4 crimes against humanity alleged against these three  
09:30:43 5 accused.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Mr Santora.

7 MR SANTORA: Your Honour, the Prosecution has alleged in its  
8 indictment that the accused were members of a joint  
9 criminal enterprise and that in joint criminal enterprise  
09:30:55 10 they were associated to be -- and working with Charles  
11 Taylor of Liberia. There is -- it is very relevant to  
12 show the RUF's association with Charles Taylor and we  
13 believe that this area is relevant. Now we are in an  
14 area of personal background, however --

09:31:12 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel, the objection is overruled,  
16 continue.

17 MR SANTORA: Thank you, Your Honour.

18 THE WITNESS: Having given two separate positions, one by  
19 former President Charles Taylor, two by the then Minister  
09:31:38 20 of Foreign Affairs Monie R Captan, and knowing myself  
21 that the foreign policies -- foreign policy of Liberia  
22 was actually dictated by former President Taylor.  
23 I thought the long-held suspicion that the government of  
24 Liberia provided a gradation of assistance to the RUF was  
09:32:44 25 beginning to be laid bare. People could see it now.

26 JUDGE THOMPSON: Was beginning to?

27 THE WITNESS: Be laid bare, B-A-R-E.

28 MR SANTORA: Laid bare.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: "Was beginning to be laid bare." Thank you.



1 MR SANTORA:

2 Q. Mr Bility, in the article "Who is the Judas of ECOWAS?",  
3 did you speak then specifically to Taylor's support of  
4 the RUF?

09:33:21 5 A. I did. It was not only Taylor. I also did point out  
6 that Cote d'Ivoire, whose Foreign Minister then Amara  
7 Essy should have been at the meeting, refused to send a  
8 delegation.

9 MR CAMMEGH: Your Honour, can I interrupt, please? I take  
09:34:01 10 Your Honour's ruling, of course, just now that the words  
11 of Mr Santora that there perhaps ought be evidence to  
12 establish the link between Charles Taylor and the RUF. I  
13 understand that ruling. What I fail to understand now,  
14 however, is that the fact -- and I know Your Honours  
09:34:25 15 haven't seen the statement, but there are two points  
16 I want to raise. Number 1, we're venturing into a realm  
17 which really bears little, if any, resemblance to the  
18 statement that we have, but mainly, my second point is  
19 this: I don't know if this witness is being put forward  
09:34:43 20 as an expert. We're dealing with matters which he  
21 suspected, or opinions that he held in 1997, which, if  
22 I remember correctly, was the year he started his  
23 employment with this particular newspaper. And it seems  
24 to me, with all respect, that what we're hearing from  
09:34:58 25 this witness with right now is a commentary, a political  
26 commentary, and that being a commentary, an opinion of  
27 one individual at one particular time. Could we please  
28 stick to his experiences which he claims he endured  
29 whilst he was involved with these newspapers and the



1 conditions which prevailed upon him at those times.

2 It seems to me going beyond the Prosecution's realm to be

3 adducing evidence of pure opinion as to this man's

4 subjective observations as to what was going on within

09:35:40 5 the political circles in Liberia at that time.

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Let me say that if you -- if you were to

7 separate your two positions, if you were to talk about

8 the statement that you have disclosed to you, I think

9 I would respond by saying that, if your complaint is that

09:36:03 10 what is now being proffered in direct examination is, in

11 fact, outside the context of what was disclosed to you,

12 I would examine that submission in a different sense from

13 the second one. The second one is this: My response to

14 the second submission, and with the greatest respect to

09:36:28 15 you, I would say it is meretricious, that judicial

16 valuation of evidence, in respect of the matters that are

17 alleged in the indictment, cannot be done in a judicial

18 vacuum. What we sense is happening here is the context

19 and circumstances actually underlying the allegations in

09:36:50 20 the indictment. And it would be clearly improper to

21 suggest that the Prosecution or the Defence, in

22 presenting evidence for both sides, cannot provide the

23 Court with the context so as to enable the Court to

24 evaluate the evidence in that context. So I would

09:37:12 25 definitely not be in favour of upholding you on the

26 second one. On the first one, perhaps if I'm persuaded

27 sufficiently, I may take a different route.

28 MR CAMMEGH: Can I just answer Your Honour briefly in relation

29 to the second?





1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

2 MR CAMMEGH: I refer again to the moment when you overruled my  
3 learned friend Mr O'Shea some moments ago. And, of  
4 course, I accept that there is merit in laying some sort  
09:37:43 5 of background, to a degree. All I'm suggesting is  
6 that -- and particularly in view of the time, the fact  
7 that we do seem to be under some pressure to finish this  
8 tomorrow, could we not have some degree of -- well, could  
9 this evidence not be compacted?

09:38:01 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Condensed. Well, good, if that's your  
11 suggestion, then I have no problem. But if the  
12 suggestion is as to the impermissibility of this  
13 approach --

14 MR CAMMEGH: Yes.

09:38:12 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- in direct examination, I would dissent.

16 MR CAMMEGH: Well, could I now return to the first heading  
17 which, to put it bluntly, now we're moving to the Cote  
18 d'Ivoire. There is -- and I'm sure Mr Santora would  
19 accept this readily, although there is reference to the  
09:38:30 20 article "Who is the Judas Within" -- well, we actually  
21 have ECOMOG in our statement, not ECOWAS if it was, but  
22 there is no substance in terms of the background, the  
23 political background that led to the creation of that  
24 article. And it may well be in evidence that we are  
09:38:51 25 going to hear reference to another article written by  
26 this witness, and the same would apply, again the  
27 background, the political background to that article is  
28 not referred to. I simply ask, particularly in view of  
29 the time constraints, because we all want to finish this



1 witness by the end of this session and preferably by  
2 tomorrow lunchtime, I simply ask that the Prosecution  
3 maintain some -- well, some boundaries, can I put it that  
4 way, in the -- to the extent to which this witness is  
09:39:25 5 going to testify on matters that may be, after a point,  
6 extraneous. I simply ask that.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Cammegh, I go with you, you know, in  
9 terms of the Prosecution being focused, you know, on the  
09:39:43 10 main issues at stake, but you would not disagree that  
11 Cote d'Ivoire has surfaced in the course of the evidence  
12 in this Court as having some connection with the crisis  
13 in Sierra Leone in terms of the trafficking of arms and  
14 diamonds, you know, between Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina  
09:40:16 15 Faso. Would you think that the mention of Mr Amara, the  
16 then Ivorian Foreign Minister, is extraneous, having  
17 respect to this background? I accept that, you know, the  
18 Prosecution has to limit itself, but focusing your mind  
19 on this: Would you think that the fact which has been  
09:40:42 20 elicited, which this witness is talking about, and  
21 talking about Cote d'Ivoire is extraneous, you know, to  
22 what we already have or what is pertinent or relevant in  
23 this case?

24 MR CAMMEGH: Cote d'Ivoire has been mentioned; Burkina Faso,  
09:40:56 25 of course, has been mentioned to a greater degree. All  
26 I'm seek is that there is some restriction in terms of  
27 the ambit of this witness's evidence. If nothing -- if  
28 for no other reason, for simple reasons of expediency.  
29 I do accept that this witness has to describe some of the



1 background. What I do object to is him giving a  
2 subjective commentary on the way he perceived politics in  
3 Liberia to be in late 1997.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: All right. We have taken note of that. We  
09:41:28 5 would like the -- would you proceed, please. We don't  
6 want any reply to this. You will proceed with the  
7 evidence and the introductory remarks which I made before  
8 we started remain valid and that is that, you know, you  
9 have to really focus yourself on facts which are really  
09:41:46 10 relevant to the issue. We're not saying that if they're  
11 background facts you should ignore them, but please, you  
12 know, we agree to some extent, you know, with  
13 Mr Cammegh's comment on this issue. You may wish to  
14 proceed, please. Let's get along.

09:42:00 15 MR SANTORA: I will proceed and I just wanted to briefly state  
16 that -- and perhaps it would put my friend at some relief  
17 that I do not plan on going through the circumstances of  
18 every single arrest. I wanted to just generally put out  
19 the information as to why he was arrested, and this was  
09:42:16 20 the original question to begin with. It is about his  
21 initial arrest and his initial background and I was just  
22 going to briefly cover that. There were several issues  
23 raised, and as you said, I will not respond to every one  
24 of them at this point. But at this point, and if I'm  
09:42:32 25 allowed some permissibility in stopping or the --  
26 question of stopping the witness's response if I feel it  
27 is getting into an extraneous area, I think it would  
28 facilitate the proceedings a bit in allowing me to  
29 control or let him --



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, can we then proceed, you know, instead  
2 of -- let's not take much time on this -- much more time  
3 on this issue. Let's proceed, please. But let the  
4 witness go back to where he was explaining, because I  
09:43:05 5 think that his comment, you know, on the absence of an  
6 Ivorian representative at this meeting, he has said --  
7 you know, I think he said the Ivorian Foreign Minister --  
8 Mr Amara Essy should have been at the Abjua meeting, but  
9 was not there and did not send a representative. Is that  
09:43:31 10 right?

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: And it is on an incomplete sentence in the  
12 article. "I also did point out that the Cote d'Ivoire  
13 Foreign Minister, then Amara, should have been", and it  
14 was at that point that the objection was taken. Could we  
09:43:47 15 move from there.

16 MR SANTORA: Yes, Your Honour.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

18 MR SANTORA:

19 Q. I want to bring you back to the article and after you  
09:43:58 20 wrote this article. What happened after you wrote the  
21 article and it was published?

22 A. When the article was published, there is a programme on  
23 the BBC called Press Review. That programme reviews  
24 commentaries and editorials in newspapers across Africa,  
09:44:29 25 so the BBC, which is the British Broadcasting --

26 JUDGE THOMPSON: That is okay.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's okay, we know. We know the BBC.

28 JUDGE THOMPSON: We take judicial notice of these things.

29 Please proceed.





1 THE WITNESS: Reviewed this editorial, was published on a  
2 Tuesday and then it attracted a lot of attention. The  
3 government did probably notice it, but, you know, what  
4 goes object the BBC.

09:45:04 5 MR SANTORA:

6 Q. So what happened after it went on the BBC?

7 A. There was a request -- many, many requests by the reading  
8 public to have the editorial republished in our  
9 subsequent edition, which would have fallen on Thursday.

09:45:32 10 Q. So was it republished?

11 A. We did republish it and we did indicate that its  
12 republication was contingent on popular request. Then  
13 the government probably became aware of it then, more  
14 aware and then I was arrested. Actually eight persons  
09:46:08 15 armed with AK-47 went to arrest a journalist with a pen  
16 in the office.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: A journalist with a pen in the office?

18 THE WITNESS: Yup.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: You said you were arrested by how many men?

09:46:22 20 THE WITNESS: Eight men led by Saa Gbollie, the then Assistant  
21 Director of Operation at the Liberian National Police.  
22 He headed a specifically notorious division of the police  
23 called SOD, Special Operation Division, but named or  
24 referred to or interpreted by the public as Sons of the  
09:47:04 25 Devil.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just hold on. Hold on.

27 JUDGE THOMPSON: Is that germane to your case?

28 THE WITNESS: Yes.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Mr Santora.



1 MR SANTORA: No, it is not.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Why do we want all that?

3 MR SANTORA: I just don't want to cut him off in a response  
4 without -- but if I'm permitted to cut off the witness,  
09:47:26 5 I can.

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah, with that particular one. Why -- of  
7 what value is it to the Court in evaluating --

8 MR SANTORA: I understand, Your Honour.

9 Q. Okay. You were at your office when you were arrested; is  
09:47:44 10 that correct?

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. And I want you to listen and specifically answer the  
13 question I ask at this point. Where were you taken when  
14 you were arrested?

09:47:54 15 A. I was taken to President Charles Taylor by the late  
16 director of police to whom I had been turned over by the  
17 arresting officers.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, you were taken to Taylor, what  
19 happened? Please move fast -- I mean, abridge you  
09:48:14 20 evidence and tell us the events.

21 MR SANTORA:

22 Q. Describe what happened when you got to Taylor?

23 A. Well, when I got to President Taylor, he said, "I have  
24 read your things" and one of them was that if I kept --  
09:48:32 25 if I kept meddling in his government's affairs, relative  
26 to the war in Sierra Leone, he would personally stop me.  
27 He made actually over ten different statements. The crux  
28 of his statement was that I should stop.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just a minute. If you stop meddling with



1 his government affairs relating to the war in Sierra  
2 Leone?  
3 THE WITNESS: Yup.  
4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Let's have that part.  
09:49:12 5 THE WITNESS: He said if -- among other things, that if I kept  
6 meddling.  
7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Meddling with what?  
8 THE WITNESS: His government's alleged affairs with the RUF  
9 and the war in Sierra Leone.  
09:49:24 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slowly, slowly. "Alleged affairs and the war  
11 in Sierra Leone." Yes.  
12 THE WITNESS: He would personally stop me.  
13 PRESIDING JUDGE: He would personally?  
14 THE WITNESS: He would personally stop me.  
09:49:42 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.  
16 THE WITNESS: And by then I was believing -- he made a comment  
17 that, among other things, among other comments, he also  
18 added that, "Are you satisfied with this condition?",  
19 meaning bleeding and having been beaten.  
09:50:21 20 Q. Who beat you?  
21 A. The arresting officers lead by Saa Gbollie and other  
22 people.  
23 Q. And on this arrest how long were you held for?  
24 A. I was held for about two days at the Ministry of Justice  
09:50:40 25 under then minister of Justice Peter --  
26 PRESIDING JUDGE: It's okay.  
27 MR SANTORA:  
28 Q. That's okay. Now, this arrest -- first of all, are you  
29 familiar with the coup, the AFRC coup in Sierra Leone in



1 May of 1997?

2 A. Say that again.

3 Q. Are you familiar with the AFRC coup in May 1997?

4 A. Yes, I am.

09:51:11 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Before you start volunteering answers to  
6 this, you must have direct facts. You must have direct  
7 facts which you're going to tell the Court. We don't  
8 want to base the evidence you're giving on speculations  
9 or on your opinions. Do you understand me?

09:51:34 10 THE WITNESS: I do.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: So this said, you may proceed.

12 THE WITNESS: Please ask that question again.

13 MR SANTORA:

14 Q. You stated you were familiar with the AFRC --

09:51:45 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Can ask him the question are you familiar?

16 MR SANTORA:

17 Q. Are you familiar with the occurrence of the AFRC coup in  
18 Sierra Leone in May 1997?

19 A. If the question is: Am I familiar with the occurrence?

09:52:00 20 Q. Yes.

21 A. Yes, I am.

22 Q. Was this first arrest before or after that coup?

23 A. This first arrest was after that coup.

24 Q. Okay. You stated in total that you were arrested seven  
09:52:24 25 times before your departure from Liberia; is that  
26 correct?

27 A. That's correct.

28 Q. Aside from the issue of Taylor's perceived support for  
29 the RUF, were you arrested for any other reasons





1 specifically?

2 A. Well, specifically I don't think so. The reason I do not  
3 think so is that --

4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute. Let's have that first.

09:52:51 5 "Specifically I do not think I was" -- what is the answer  
6 there?

7 MR SANTORA: He doesn't think he was arrested on the basis of  
8 any -- for any other reason aside from the publication of  
9 this perceived support.

09:53:07 10 THE WITNESS: I might also want to add --

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: You'll add when we've heard that -- "from the  
12 publication of the report". Yes, you now say you might  
13 also add what?

14 THE WITNESS: Or expand.

09:53:32 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, let's just stick to that, if you like.

16 "I might also add that" --

17 MR SANTORA:

18 Q. So subsequent to this --

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, we know that as a journalist you  
09:53:47 20 have the intellectual ability from the background you've  
21 brought before the Court you have -- you can distinguish  
22 between facts and imaginations.

23 THE WITNESS: Sure.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is very difficult, you know, to limit  
09:54:00 25 your mental faculty so as to focus it on what we need as  
26 a Tribunal. We'll ask you to try and focus yourself and  
27 leave behind, you know, any tendency to imagine or to  
28 create or to arrive at conclusions which are necessarily  
29 related to the case before us. Do you understand me?



1 THE WITNESS: I do.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right. Yes, Mr Santora, you may proceed,  
3 please.

4 MR SANTORA:

09:54:31 5 Q. So is it correct that after this article you referred to,  
6 the article entitled "Who is the Judas in ECOWAS?", that  
7 you published subsequent articles about this topic; is  
8 that correct?

9 A. Yes, that is correct. I wanted to add to the first  
09:54:50 10 answer I gave relative to my arrests being for a specific  
11 reason, so if the Court can allow me.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Go ahead, please.

13 THE WITNESS: Okay. I generally reported on the war in Sierra  
14 Leone, but the war in Sierra Leone and because --

09:55:27 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slowly, witness. "On the war in Sierra  
16 Leone." Yes.

17 THE WITNESS: And because of the involvement of Liberian  
18 security personnel, there were other things I reported on  
19 that were -- that came as a result of the war.

09:59:17 20 [HS281004B 10.00 a.m.]

21 And that was the incalculable and widespread human rights  
22 abuses that followed. So I can't separate, therefore,  
23 being arrested for reporting human rights violations in  
24 those conflict areas from the war itself.

10:00:14 25 MR O'SHEA: Sorry to interrupt, but if I can revert back to  
26 that first heading, there's no reference in this man's  
27 statement to these human rights abuses. The Prosecution  
28 are calling crime-based witnesses to deal with those.  
29 We're all familiar with them; we all know what they were.



1 I would really ask, please, for this witness to remain  
2 within the confines of the purpose for which he's been  
3 called.

4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, I would sustain that position

10:00:44 5 [microphone not activated]. Otherwise we might end up,  
6 because of this testimony, multiplying issues and clearly  
7 learned counsel for the Prosecution, I'm sure it's not  
8 your intention.

9 MR SANTORA: That is not my intention, Your Honour. As this  
10:00:59 10 Chamber has stated, in oral testimony it's often the case  
11 where there will be somewhat of an elaboration and --

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: But not an unlimited elaboration.

13 MR SANTORA: Of course not.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Not an unlimited elaboration.

10:01:15 15 MR SANTORA: I don't think that this --

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: This witness's perspective of merging human  
17 rights violations with what he's come here for and being  
18 a journalist cannot be the right way to proceed here.  
19 There are specific allegations in the indictment, and I'm  
10:01:31 20 sure that the evidence here must be tailored towards what  
21 allegations have been made.

22 MR SANTORA: I completely understand, Your Honour. I will  
23 proceed at this point.

24 Q. You stated that the content of your writing, at least in  
10:01:48 25 part, talked about Taylor's relationship with the RUF and  
26 the war in Sierra Leone. Had you ever been to Sierra  
27 Leone at this time period?

28 A. Yes, I had been to Sierra Leone after May 25th military  
29 coup d'etat in Sierra Leone.



1 Q. How long did you stay in Sierra Leone?  
2 PRESIDING JUDGE: After May what?  
3 THE WITNESS: 25th.  
4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Which year was that?  
10:02:21 5 THE WITNESS: 1997.  
6 MR O'SHEA: Your Honour, with respect, I'm sorry to keep  
7 jumping up, but after May 25th is actually factually  
8 quite meaningless. We know that he started his job at  
9 this newspaper in August -- he told us that about an hour  
10:02:35 10 ago. Perhaps he could give us some specific date as to  
11 when he went to Sierra Leone. That would be far more  
12 helpful and probative than after May 25th, which was  
13 three months before he started his employment.  
14 MR SANTORA: I can ask that. I was using it as a reference  
10:02:53 15 point in time --  
16 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, go ahead, counsel.  
17 MR SANTORA:  
18 Q. Do you remember the month you came to Sierra Leone?  
19 A. Specifically I don't remember the exact month, but it  
10:03:00 20 definitely was after I had begun work at The National  
21 newspaper in August.  
22 Q. About how many stays did you stay in Sierra Leone?  
23 A. I stayed for about 14 days -- about 14 days.  
24 Q. And just briefly tell the Court about your observations  
10:03:26 25 when you were in Sierra Leone, what you saw?  
26 A. Observations that I made included seeing some Liberians  
27 in military uniforms carrying arms as well --  
28 MR JORDASH: Objection. This is wholly new evidence. There's  
29 nothing about this in his statement and we are about to





1 enter not Charles Taylor's link or alleged link to the  
2 RUF, but we're about to enter the conflict itself within  
3 Sierra Leone. This witness was never called, I would  
4 submit, for that purpose. It's about joint criminal  
10:04:22 5 enterprise and what this witness can tell us about  
6 Charles Taylor and Charles Taylor's connection with the  
7 RUF and the relevant personnel in the RUF.

8 Giving details about Liberian intervention in the  
9 war itself by virtue of seeing soldiers in Sierra Leone  
10:04:40 10 is way outside of this witness's witness statement, and  
11 I'm worrying, because the Defence have had no opportunity  
12 to evaluate this evidence. It might be -- I don't know  
13 what he's going to say, but it might be extremely  
14 significant.

10:05:01 15 MR O'SHEA: Your Honours, can I second those comments?

16 MR SANTORA: Your Honours, it is in the statement that he did  
17 go to Sierra Leone at this time. Again, this is simply  
18 an elaboration and there's no intention to come out with  
19 completely new information here. It's just his general  
10:05:20 20 observations as to what he saw while there. Now, if the  
21 situation does arise where there is information that  
22 would put my learned colleagues in an unfair position,  
23 then I think the issue can be dealt with at that time,  
24 but thus far it hasn't happened yet. I don't see how  
10:05:36 25 this simple elaboration as to what you saw while here for  
26 a brief period of time puts my learned colleagues in an  
27 unfair position at this point. Should it go further,  
28 I would say that they would be in that position, but  
29 I think it's premature at this point.



1 MR O'SHEA: Well, Your Honour, can I just say that if this  
2 witness is about to testify in relation to any crimes  
3 being committed in Sierra Leone, the point raised by  
4 Mr Jordash applies with even more force. We have no  
10:06:12 5 documentary notice of that insofar as this witness is  
6 concerned. There should have been the "will say"  
7 statement. There hasn't been one. So if this witness is  
8 about or wishes to testify in relation to suspected  
9 crimes, he must be prevented from doing so.

10:06:28 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is there anything in the statement that you  
11 disclosed to the Defence that gave the impression that he  
12 was going to testify to crimes committed in Sierra Leone?

13 MR SANTORA: No, there isn't.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: There's none?

10:06:40 15 MR SANTORA: No, there isn't.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: The objection is upheld. We'll proceed,  
17 please.

18 MR SANTORA: There was no --

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: The objection is upheld. Let us proceed,  
10:06:49 20 please.

21 MR SANTORA: So am I allowed to ask about just his  
22 observations?

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Continue with your questions. As the  
24 evidence evolves --

10:07:01 25 MR SANTORA: Then it will come --

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: We'll see, you know, where we run into  
27 difficulty ourselves.

28 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated] in military  
29 uniforms carrying arms is where he stopped.



1 MR SANTORA: So I think he stated -- I wonder if it's in or  
2 not -- whether he said he saw Liberian troops while here.  
3 JUDGE THOMPSON: He said he saw some Liberians in military  
4 uniforms [microphone not activated]

10:07:31 5 MR O'SHEA: Your Honour's microphone, please.  
6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Included seeing some Liberians in military  
7 uniforms carrying arms. Thank you, Mr O'Shea. That is  
8 what we got to. That is what unleashed the objection.  
9 MR SANTORA:

10:07:51 10 Q. How long -- I'm sorry, after you visited Sierra Leone,  
11 where did you go?  
12 A. Say that again.  
13 Q. Did you return back to Liberia after your visit here?  
14 A. Yes, I did return to Liberia.

10:08:06 15 Q. Where were you living at this point?  
16 A. I was living on Jamaica Road, Bushrod Island, Monrovia.  
17 Q. And how long did you live there until?  
18 A. I lived there until August 1998.  
19 Q. And then where did you live?

10:08:38 20 A. I moved to VP Road. VP Road is a stretch of about two,  
21 three miles branching off from Tubman Boulevard and VP  
22 actually stands for vice-president named after --  
23 JUDGE THOMPSON: No, it's not necessary.  
24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please let's go to relevant issues, please.

10:09:09 25 MR SANTORA: Okay.  
26 JUDGE THOMPSON: From VP Road where?  
27 MR SANTORA:  
28 Q. You said you moved here in August of 1998; is that  
29 correct?



- 1 A. Yeah, that's correct.
- 2 Q. Now, I will submit that this will be relevant  
3 subsequently, but I just want you to describe the  
4 compound that you lived in.
- 10:09:30 5 A. The compound that I lived in is -- I mean comprises of a  
6 two-storey building with 12 rooms in it and it shares a  
7 fence -- a common fence with a widely known bishop called  
8 Isaac Winker, and it's on the VP Road.
- 9 Q. What area of Monrovia is VP Road -- is this compound?
- 10:10:19 10 A. VP Road actually connects -- it's a stretch of road about  
11 two, three miles that connects Tubman Boulevard opposite  
12 the Catholic Hospital Junction and a popular area called  
13 Joba [phon] Market and the specific area is in Kongo  
14 Town, but it's sometimes referred to as Old Road, because  
10:10:46 15 of its proximity to the Old Road Joba [phon] Market.
- 16 Q. How far away was your compound from the Executive  
17 Mansion?
- 18 A. The Executive Mansion -- the compound is far away --  
19 I can't say specifically in terms of mileage, but it was  
10:11:07 20 pretty much close to where President Taylor lived, but  
21 it's far from the Executive Mansion, which is like just  
22 opposite the University of Liberia on Capitol Hill.
- 23 Q. How far then was the compound you were living in from  
24 Taylor's actual living residence?
- 10:11:28 25 A. Well, it was a couple of miles -- it must have been about  
26 four, five miles. Specifically I can't say its distance  
27 to former President Charles Taylor's home, I can only  
28 make an approximation. I can't say specifically it is  
29 exactly this, but it's pretty close so my thinking is it





1 was about three, four miles -- I mean four, five miles.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: It's okay. It's okay, please, you know.

3 MR SANTORA:

4 Q. Can you tell the Court who lived in this compound with  
10:12:06 5 you?

6 A. Yes, I can. In this compound lived members of --  
7 military men of the Anti-Terrorist Unit, the ATU of the  
8 Government of Liberia. Also living there was a man  
9 called Sam, who was a driver to Benjamin Yeaten, the  
10:12:39 10 Chief of Security of former President Taylor, and  
11 Benjamin Yeaten's personal special assistant, a man who  
12 ran his office, the day-to-day activities of his office  
13 at the Executive Mansion lived there. So with the  
14 exception of me, the rest of the people who lived there  
10:13:04 15 were military people.

16 Q. Okay. You said Sam, who was the driver of Benjamin  
17 Yeaten.

18 A. Sure.

19 Q. Specifically what other individuals can you remember that  
10:13:18 20 lived there?

21 A. Yes, I can. There also lived another individual who was  
22 not a Liberian. His name was Kennedy alias K1. He lived  
23 there with a number of other Sierra Leoneans, and  
24 specifically RUF, because Kennedy did say so.

10:13:51 25 Q. Were there any other individuals aside from Sam and  
26 Kennedy that you can remember?

27 A. In terms of names?

28 Q. In terms of names or aliases?

29 A. Yes, John Doe --



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Learned counsel, you want him to give the  
2 names of the 12 occupants of the number of rooms in that  
3 flat?  
4 MR SANTORA: I was interested in some of these occupants, yes,  
10:14:13 5 Your Honour.  
6 PRESIDING JUDGE: All right. Okay.  
7 THE WITNESS: John Doe lived there, Richard Demmy -- actually,  
8 a correction. The special assistant to Benjamin Yeaten  
9 is not Sam, it's Richard Demmy -- Richard -- and the  
10:14:32 10 driver was Sam, so both of them lived there. John Doe,  
11 who was an artillery commander under Charles Taylor,  
12 lived there. K1, Kennedy, lived there. Stephen Dolo  
13 lived there. I lived there. A number of other security  
14 personnel -- military SOD -- ATU specifically -- lived  
10:14:58 15 there.  
16 PRESIDING JUDGE: You were the only civilian.  
17 THE WITNESS: I was.  
18 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's what you have said.  
19 THE WITNESS: Say that again.  
10:15:06 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: You were the only civilian.  
21 THE WITNESS: I was the only non-security person living in  
22 there.  
23 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's what I'm referring to as being the  
24 only civilian; the others were security personnel?  
10:15:17 25 THE WITNESS: Sure.  
26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right.  
27 MR SANTORA:  
28 Q. Mr Bility, you stated previously that you were arrested  
29 for writing articles relating to Taylor's support of the



1 RUF.

2 A. Sure.

3 Q. But I want to ask you if you personally ever saw  
4 first-hand evidence of this while you were living at this  
10:15:39 5 compound --

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: What is your question?

7 MR SANTORA: I wanted to ask him his personal -- his personal  
8 observations --

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

10:15:48 10 MR SANTORA: -- as to support Taylor was giving to the RUF  
11 while living at this compound off of VP Road.

12 THE WITNESS: Yes, I did see personally first-hand such a  
13 support.

14 MR SANTORA:

10:16:19 15 Q. Characterise what you saw.

16 A. I did see at different times some high-ranking officials  
17 of the Revolutionary United Front come to the compound,  
18 ask for people there, escort through the checkpoints to  
19 the borders. Now, specifically --

10:16:55 20 Q. Before you proceed, generally which RUF high officials  
21 did you see?

22 A. I did see Sam Bockarie alias Mosquito, I did see General  
23 Issa Sesay there, and a number of other Liberian  
24 officials as well.

10:17:20 25 Q. Any other RUF officials?

26 A. Say that again.

27 Q. Were there any other RUF officials aside from Sam  
28 Bockarie and Issa Sesay?

29 A. At the compound or in Monrovia?



1 Q. Let's first stick to the compound.

2 A. Specifically in the compound specific people that I did  
3 see included Sam Bockarie Mosquito and Issa Sesay inside  
4 in there.

10:17:59 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Inside, in the compound?

6 THE WITNESS: In the compound. I said high-ranking, but  
7 I also said earlier that K1, Kennedy, lived there inside  
8 the compound.

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: But you've not yet been asked about that.

10:18:28 10 THE WITNESS: All right.

11 MR SANTORA:

12 Q. Mr Bility, I want to focus on this time starting when you  
13 lived off of VP Road in August of 1998, and I want to  
14 talk about specific instances when you saw RUF leaders.

10:18:47 15 Do you remember the first time you saw RUF leaders  
16 visiting this compound?

17 A. Yeah, I do remember. It was some time late 1998 in terms  
18 of time.

19 Q. Describe what exactly you saw.

10:19:10 20 A. First, I did see, as I came from drinking a common tea  
21 called Hatai, a block away from where I lived, I walked  
22 past -- when I entered the compound --

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: At about what time?

24 THE WITNESS: At about 8.00 -- late.

10:19:36 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: 8.00 a.m. or 8.00 p.m.

26 THE WITNESS: p.m. I walked past a number of  
27 security military persons in the compound, because I was  
28 on the second floor. I went up and I stood on the  
29 balcony overlooking the yard.





1 [Power failure interrupts proceedings]

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Learned counsel, I think we will rise. We  
3 should adjourn, because it might take a while for power  
4 to be restored for us to continue the proceedings. As  
10:22:05 5 you very well know, we proceed only up to 11 this  
6 morning. So we would be adjourning the proceedings to  
7 2.00 o'clock this afternoon, during which time we hope  
8 power will be restored to us once we restore proceedings.

9 MR HARRISON: Can I ask the Court to consider allowing us to  
10:22:31 10 continue -- Mr Santora and the witness in a loud voice?  
11 The court reporter has informed me she's able --

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is a public hearing and the public is not  
13 connected to us, so we can't allow that application. It  
14 is a public hearing. We will see how we will go, but for  
10:22:50 15 now we like the public to hear us. We have to adjourn  
16 and resume the session at 2 o'clock. The Court will  
17 adjourn.

18 [Break taken at 10.25 a.m.]

19 [On resuming at 2.10 p.m.]

14:11:51 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good afternoon, learned counsel. We're  
21 resuming our session and we hope that power will not let  
22 us down any more. Mr Santora, I think it would be nice,  
23 because we were interrupted, you know, before we rose in  
24 the morning, for the evidence to be retaken at least at  
14:12:30 25 the tail end of where we stopped before we rose in the  
26 morning, so you may please proceed.

27 MR SANTORA: Thank you, Your Honour.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bility, how are you?

29 THE WITNESS: [Microphone not activated]



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: You're all right? Good.

2 MR SANTORA: Mr Bility, could you please turn on your mike?

3 Q. Mr Bility, I want to ask you again, when you respond,  
4 please speak slowly when you respond to my questions.

14:13:10 5 You were -- before we broke, you were talking about the  
6 first time after you moved into the residence off of  
7 VP Road when you saw RUF leaders coming and visiting the  
8 compound; do you remember that?

9 A. Yes, I do.

14:13:32 10 Q. You stated that this was after you moved in the compound  
11 in August of 1998 that this occurrence happened; is that  
12 correct?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. Can you go ahead and tell the court exactly what you saw  
14:13:53 15 in this instance?

16 A. Yes. I was coming from drinking tea --

17 Q. Actually, before you proceed, we're just going to adjust  
18 something.

19 A. I was coming from drinking tea, commonly referred to as  
14:14:36 20 Hatai, in the evening at about 8.00. I walked into the  
21 compound on VP Road where I, along with other people,  
22 military personnel lived. I walked past a number of  
23 security personnel and military men to the second floor  
24 of a two-storey building. I went and stood on the  
14:15:29 25 balcony overlooking the yard. While there a red jeep  
26 drove into the compound and about three to four men  
27 jumped out of it -- jumped down. A few minutes, about  
28 five, later a dark green coloured jeep also drove in. On  
29 it were a person I had known as Issa Sesay.



1 JUDGE BOUTET: This is in the green jeep?  
2 THE WITNESS: Yes, this is in the green jeep -- the second  
3 jeep that drove in about five minutes later. Actually,  
4 it was a dark green jeep and another man -- was Issa  
14:17:14 5 Sesay and another man, and the security guys, military  
6 guys.  
7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Issa Sesay and another man?  
8 THE WITNESS: And another person, yeah.  
9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Do you know the person?  
14:17:26 10 THE WITNESS: I don't. The security personnel there began to  
11 say, "General Issa Sesay is here. General Issa Sesay is  
12 here," and the atmosphere in the compound changed from  
13 that of a relaxed one to a more sober and serious one,  
14 and Sesay moved up towards where a man who lived there  
14:18:31 15 named John Doe --  
16 MR SANTORA:  
17 Q. When you say Sesay, do you mean he departed the vehicle?  
18 A. He departed the vehicle.  
19 Q. And where did he go?  
14:18:46 20 A. He moved towards the first -- the second apartment on the  
21 left where John Doe lived.  
22 Q. How did you know it was Issa Sesay?  
23 A. I know -- I had seen pictures of him before, and I had  
24 had some contact -- some -- I had seen him not very  
14:19:20 25 closely before moving up and down in cars in Monrovia  
26 along with other people, other RUF people, and  
27 specifically the security guys there, everybody was  
28 saying that, "General Issa Sesay is here. General Issa  
29 Sesay is here. General Issa Sesay is here."



1 Q. What happened after he approached the second apartment in  
2 the compound?  
3 A. He walked up to John Doe, who was, as I earlier said, an  
4 artillery commander under former President Charles Taylor  
14:20:01 5 in his army, and asked for a man named Sam who's room was  
6 adjacent to mine on the second floor, and he asked for  
7 Sam.  
8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sam?  
9 THE WITNESS: Yes, S-A-M. Sam was the driver of Benjamin  
14:20:39 10 Yeaten, chief security, President Charles Taylor, head of  
11 all of his, President Charles Taylor's, security forces  
12 whether army, police or whatever.  
13 MR SANTORA:  
14 Q. What happened after Issa Sesay asked for Sam?  
14:21:04 15 A. Well, they sent someone up -- they actually called --  
16 someone called Sam in a loud voice, "Sam, Sam." At the  
17 same time someone walked up the stairs to call Sam, and  
18 when the president spoke to Sam, they asked Sam -- I was  
19 close by -- that they wanted him to lead an unspecified  
14:21:39 20 number of cars through checkpoints to Liberia's border  
21 with Sierra Leone and just in that process another  
22 vehicle drove --  
23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please, please, please. They asked him to  
24 lead a number of -- an unspecified number of cars?  
14:22:11 25 THE WITNESS: Yeah.  
26 PRESIDING JUDGE: From Liberia to the border?  
27 THE WITNESS: From Monrovia to the border Liberia shares with  
28 Sierra Leone through Lofa County.  
29 MR O'SHEA: Was that Lofa County?





1 MR SANTORA: [Nods head]

2 THE WITNESS: I said through Lofa County -- the border Liberia  
3 shares with Sierra Leone through Lofa County and, in the  
4 process, while that was going on, another vehicle drove  
14:23:17 5 to the compound.

6 MR SANTORA:

7 Q. Describe this third vehicle.

8 A. This third vehicle was a smaller vehicle and on it was  
9 Musa Sesay, a member of former president Charles Taylor's  
14:23:47 10 government and a member also of -- or a former member of  
11 the then disbanded National Patriotic Front of Liberia, a  
12 rebel group led by Charles Taylor.

13 Q. During this time were you still on the balcony?

14 A. Yes, I still remained on the balcony as Sam was preparing  
14:24:19 15 and he spoke unsatisfactorily and he personally spoke to  
16 me.

17 Q. What exactly did he say?

18 A. He said that -- in an apparently dissatisfied tone, he  
19 said, "We" -- he said, "They were the ones who were doing  
14:24:52 20 the basic most important work of president Taylor and  
21 that they did not enjoy the amenities that were accruing  
22 as a result of their fighting for Taylor to make him  
23 president and that, according to him, all of the honour,  
24 respect and what he termed enjoyment were going to the  
14:25:52 25 RUF Sierra Leone people.

26 Q. After he said this --

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please wait.

28 MR SANTORA: Sorry, Your Honours.

29 JUDGE BOUTET: I just want to make sure I understand. Who is



1 the exact person saying that? Is it Sam or the  
2 person with Sam?  
3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sam.  
4 THE WITNESS: This is Sam speaking.  
14:26:25 5 MR SANTORA:  
6 Q. After Sam said this, what happened?  
7 A. Sam got dressed and decided to obey the order, or obey  
8 what he had been told -- to do what he had been told and,  
9 in the interim, or while this was going on also, Sam  
14:27:50 10 Bockarie, on a fourth vehicle, drove towards the compound  
11 but remained outside of the fence.  
12 Q. What type of vehicle was Sam Bockarie in?  
13 A. This was a jeep.  
14 Q. Do you remember the colour?  
14:28:33 15 A. No.  
16 Q. How did you know that in that jeep was Sam Bockarie?  
17 A. I know, because I had seen Sam Bockarie at close range  
18 many, many, many times earlier. I had also seen many of  
19 his pictures. In addition to that, the very security  
14:29:43 20 guys were saying, "General Mosquito is here."  
21 Q. After Sam spoke with you, what happened?  
22 A. Sam decided to follow. As the cars -- the vehicles moved  
23 and left the compound, Sam got on one of the vehicles,  
24 the first one, and they left the compound and headed  
14:30:56 25 towards Kongo Town in the direction of former president  
26 Charles Taylor's residence.  
27 Q. While they were there, did you stay on the balcony?  
28 A. While they were there, I walked down, left the compound,  
29 went to a neighbour's house --



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: While they were there, did you stay on the  
2 balcony? Finish with that first?

3 THE WITNESS: I stayed on the balcony for most of the time  
4 while they were present, but as the vehicle began to  
14:31:50 5 leave, I walked down the stairs to a neighbour's house  
6 about -- just across a narrow unpaved road.

7 MR SANTORA:

8 Q. Okay. Did you leave the compound before they left?

9 A. I did not leave the compound. Now, before they left,  
14:32:25 10 that phrase -- I left the compound when they began to  
11 leave after Sam and Issa Sesay, those vehicles began to  
12 leave, because Bockarie had come from an opposite  
13 direction. His car remained parked for a while and he  
14 was the last to leave. So before he left I walked out of  
14:32:55 15 the compound.

16 Q. What did you observe as you walked out of the compound?

17 A. I observed them move towards the direction of Kongo  
18 Town -- towards Kongo Town, the direction of former  
19 president Taylor's residence, and that is the main road  
14:33:20 20 towards Lofa County.

21 Q. As you left the balcony and went down the stairs, did you  
22 observe the vehicles?

23 A. Well, as I said, as I left the balcony, there was a more  
24 sober, more tense atmosphere, and not being a security  
14:33:45 25 person, I didn't want to be seen as making direct  
26 observations of what was obtaining, so I behaved as if  
27 I did not care. But I did see the vehicles move in that  
28 direction.

29 Q. What do you mean when you say "obtaining"?



- 1 A. Happening.
- 2 Q. Okay. When you walked out of the compound past the  
3 vehicles, did you see anything in the vehicles?
- 4 A. Yeah. Actually, when the vehicles came, as I stood on  
14:34:30 5 the balcony before I even left, I did see on the  
6 tarpaulin, which was half -- like half-lifted, and which  
7 was also being intermittently lifted by the security guys  
8 to see what was there, assault rifles called AK-47.
- 9 Q. Which vehicles did you see containing AK-47s?
- 14:35:13 10 A. A vehicle driven by -- there were several -- a number of  
11 AK-47s and if your question is if there was a physical  
12 AK-47 on any of the vehicles, yes, there was a physical  
13 AK-47 on the first two vehicles, the dark green which  
14 came in second and which Issa was on, and the red one,  
14:35:43 15 but the vehicle he was on had the AK-47s.
- 16 Q. Could you approximate how many AK-47s were in that  
17 vehicle?
- 18 A. Well, in my approximation at the time, I thought there  
19 were about at least 20 on there.
- 14:36:16 20 Q. And were they packaged, or were they standing free?
- 21 A. Some were packaged and some were like in package and  
22 loosed at the ends, so you could see them from the  
23 vantage point where I stood, because when the vehicles  
24 entered they faced the building, and then they turned  
14:36:42 25 around, turned their back towards the building, headed  
26 towards the gate in an exit mode.
- 27 Q. You stated this occurred around 8.00 o'clock at night; is  
28 that correct?
- 29 A. Yes, that's correct.





- 1 Q. How could you see what was going on in the yard at night?
- 2 A. Well, I could see, because there was a generator that lit  
3 the compound courtesy of Richard, who was the special  
4 assistant of Benjamin Yeaten, so there was a generator  
14:37:17 5 and there was fluorescent bulbs on, so I could see what  
6 was going on.
- 7 Q. You stated that this occurred after you moved into the  
8 VP compound in August of 1998; is that correct?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 14:38:11 10 Q. Do you remember how many weeks or months after you moved  
11 in that this incident occurred?
- 12 A. I don't specifically remember. I'm not sure that --  
13 I don't specifically remember that.
- 14 Q. Do you think it was before Christmas 1998?
- 14:38:29 15 A. It definitely was before Christmas 1998, that's  
16 definite -- I'm sure about that.
- 17 Q. Earlier you stated that an individual named Kennedy was  
18 living at the compound; is that correct?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 14:39:08 20 Q. And you stated that he was a RUF; is that correct?
- 21 A. That's correct, because he told me so, and I did see  
22 Sierra Leoneans - whom I could identify by the distinct  
23 way they speak English - to the compound carrying arms.
- 24 Q. After you moved in to this compound, can you remember any  
14:39:47 25 specific conversations with Kennedy?
- 26 A. Yes, I do remember a very specific conversation with  
27 Kennedy in November 1998.
- 28 Q. Can you please --
- 29 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated]



1 THE WITNESS: In November --  
2 PRESIDING JUDGE: 1998?  
3 THE WITNESS: 1998, yes.  
4 MR SANTORA:  
14:40:46 5 Q. Can you please tell the Court to the best of your  
6 recollection exactly what were the contents of that  
7 conversation?  
8 A. Yes, I can. Kennedy, who had become -- who had made me  
9 his friend and was very approachable, informed me that  
14:41:21 10 there was to be a new government in Freetown and he told  
11 me that, with the help of President Charles Taylor -- he  
12 said specifically with the help of the Papay, the  
13 president, and the word "Papay" was used by security  
14 personnel -- all facets of the Liberian security  
14:42:03 15 personnel and those who worked with them to refer to  
16 Charles Taylor. He did also say "the president". He  
17 said with his help they would succeed. Then he said --  
18 in fact, he pointed at a man called Mohamed of Middle  
19 Eastern descent, a Lebanese man, and said that Mohamed  
14:42:41 20 was the liaison between a soon-to-be government in  
21 Freetown and some group of people he did not name but  
22 said -- called "supporters".  
23 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated] very clear.  
24 Mohamed was to be a liaison between a soon-to-be  
14:43:29 25 government in Freetown and --  
26 THE WITNESS: And a group of people who supported the RUF --  
27 was not to be, was already the liaison, and then shook  
28 hands with Mohamed. And we stood there -- I stood there  
29 along with them as they began to speak what I then knew



1           then, and know today, as Krio language. In addition --

2 MR SANTORA: Just hold on one second.

3 THE WITNESS: Okay.

4 MR SANTORA:

14:45:06 5 Q. Okay. Do you know -- well, go ahead --

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: In addition?

7 MR SANTORA:

8 Q. -- and explain what you were saying.

9 A. In addition, Kennedy informed me later, after Mohamed had

14:45:26 10 walked towards the balcony, that Mohamed was also,

11 according to him, a rich diamond merchant between them,

12 the RUF, and some people he did not name.

13 Q. Mr Bility, when Kennedy told you about the Papay support

14 to start a new government in Sierra Leone, do you know

14:46:48 15 what that meant?

16 A. Well, I can't say in absolute terms what it meant.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: We don't want you to conjecture, either.

18 THE WITNESS: I'm only saying what he told me. He told me

19 that the Papay -- Taylor would provide support for a

14:47:17 20 change of government in Sierra Leone -- a new government.

21 MR SANTORA:

22 Q. Did Kennedy explain what he meant when he said "a new

23 government in Sierra Leone"?

24 A. Yes, that's what I just said. He said Taylor was

14:48:04 25 providing support for a change of government in Freetown.

26 The conversation actually touched a variety of topics and

27 went on for a while, and Kennedy explained many different

28 things that in my opinion a president wouldn't have known

29 had he not been living in that apartment.



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, what did he tell you; what did Kennedy  
2 tell you?  
3 THE WITNESS: Well, restating them, he said that, with the  
4 help of Charles Taylor's support -- "Papay" -- they were  
14:48:54 5 planning for a new government.  
6 PRESIDING JUDGE: That we have on record already.  
7 THE WITNESS: We do. He also said that support that they  
8 received then from the Papay would not fail them in their  
9 quest for a change of government in Freetown.  
14:50:26 10 MR SANTORA:  
11 Q. Mr Bility, you stated that this conversation took place  
12 in November 1998; is that correct?  
13 A. That's correct.  
14 Q. I want to take you back now to your personal knowledge of  
14:50:42 15 RUF leaders visiting Monrovia, and you spoke about one  
16 instance in 1998. I want to take you to the year 1999.  
17 Are there any other specific instances that you  
18 personally saw?  
19 A. Yeah. In January -- January 16, about six days after my  
14:51:12 20 son's birthday --  
21 JUDGE THOMPSON: January 16, what year?  
22 THE WITNESS: 1999.  
23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Six days after your son's birthday?  
24 THE WITNESS: Birthday, yeah.  
14:51:40 25 MR SANTORA:  
26 Q. On 16 January 1999 what exactly did you see?  
27 A. I saw in the compound there Musa Sesay escort two men --  
28 Issa and Sam Bockarie of the RUF -- to the compound  
29 and --





- 1 Q. Before we proceed, this is the compound off of VP Road?
- 2 A. Yes, this is where I lived -- I began to live in August  
3 1998.
- 4 Q. In this instance, on 16 January 1999, where were you  
14:52:32 5 standing exactly when you saw this?
- 6 A. I stood on the balcony of the second floor and Musa Sesay  
7 came. They actually came with two cars -- Musa Sesay's  
8 car was the third car. He escorted these two cars --  
9 jeeps -- into the compound.
- 14:53:07 10 Q. You stated he was escorting Sam Bockarie and --
- 11 A. And General Issa Sesay.
- 12 Q. And which vehicles were they in?
- 13 A. They were in jeeps. They were in a military-coloured  
14 vehicle -- jeeps.
- 14:53:26 15 Q. Were they in the same jeep or different jeeps?
- 16 A. Pardon?
- 17 Q. Were they in the same --
- 18 A. They were in different jeeps.
- 19 Q. Was there anybody else with them?
- 14:53:40 20 A. Yeah, there were a couple of other persons whom I could  
21 not identify with them in their respective vehicles and  
22 they were, as I said, escorted by Musa Sesay. I know  
23 that specifically, because my cousin, who's called Abu,  
24 worked as special bodyguard to Musa Sesay and, in fact,  
14:54:38 25 Musa Sesay is my uncle. They drove into the compound.
- 26 Q. What time of the day was this?
- 27 A. This was about 5.00.
- 28 Q. And what exactly did you see after they drove into the  
29 compound?



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's 5.00 p.m. I would presume?

2 THE WITNESS: 5.00 p.m., yes, sir. They drove into the  
3 compound in jeeps that had AK-47 rifles on them and Abu,  
4 who --

14:56:25 5 MR SANTORA:

6 Q. Please hold one second. How did you know there were  
7 AK-47s in the jeeps?

8 A. I saw some of the AK-47s myself and the security guards,  
9 who lived in the compound along with my cousin Abu, said  
14:57:21 10 this to me -- I mean I heard them say it and --

11 Q. What exactly did they say?

12 A. They said, "We've got raw bitches." I'm sorry for that  
13 word, but that's what they said, and the word "bitches"  
14 was a common reference term by security personnel to  
14:57:58 15 arms. So one of the pickups had tarpaulin and not  
16 properly sealed, not properly covered. As was the case  
17 in the past the same security guys would walk to the jeep  
18 or pick-up, lifted the tarpaulin, "Oh, we've got raw  
19 bitches, we've got raw bitches."

14:58:46 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Why were the bitches raw?

21 THE WITNESS: Because they were new -- yeah, raw -- new.

22 MR SANTORA:

23 Q. Do you remember which of the vehicles specifically that  
24 the tarpaulin was lifted on?

14:59:21 25 A. The vehicle that Sesay drove -- I mean, Sesay rode in,  
26 I specifically saw that -- the one he disembarked from.  
27 They had also come for Sam to lead a convoy of cars as  
28 well with arms and this time around Abu had --

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: To lead a convoy of cars?



1 THE WITNESS: Of cars.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: To where?

3 THE WITNESS: To the border with Sierra Leone.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: This time around?

15:01:09 5 THE WITNESS: And this time around Abu, who was the -- who was

6 a special bodyguard to Musa Sesay, carried a pass -- a

7 paper with him. He held it in his hand. He said it was

8 a pass. He said it was signed by former President

9 Charles Taylor to give them -- to give the team, the

15:02:09 10 convoy, easy access through checkpoints and I believe

11 that because of the presence of Musa Sesay, who was also

12 believed to have the easiest access to former President

13 Charles Taylor. I did see a signature on the pass.

14 I did see, or I saw a signature on the pass that

15:03:08 15 I believe was former president Taylor's, because I had

16 seen his signatures earlier.

17 MR SANTORA:

18 Q. Did you see anything else on the pass?

19 A. Pardon?

15:03:34 20 Q. Did you see anything else on this pass?

21 A. Office of the President.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Now, please, Candice, is this a convenient

23 time to stop for the technicians? Yes, we'll have to

24 stop here, because the technicians are working out

15:04:03 25 something for power supplies and I think we would rise

26 and they say it would require maybe 15 to 20 minutes. So

27 we will rise and resume when they are ready. We will be

28 told when they're ready, but they have assured us that it

29 will be finished in the next 15 to 20 minutes. So the



1 Court will rise, please.

2 [Break taken at 3.05 p.m.]

3 [HS281004C 3.35 p.m.]

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: We are resuming the session. Mr O'Shea, are  
15:30:12 5 you all right.

6 MR O'SHEA: I apologise.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see you are in difficulty.

8 MR O'SHEA: [Microphone not activated]

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: It's all right. Yes, just a minute, let's  
15:30:31 10 give Mr O'Shea a few minutes to be able to use his hand  
11 and take down some notes.

12 MR O'SHEA: Thank you, Your Honour.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Santora, please, you may proceed.

14 MR SANTORA: Thank you, Your Honours.

15:31:42 15 Q. Mr Bility, before we broke -- before we took the last  
16 break, you had just finished describing an instance on 16  
17 January 1999 where you saw Issa Sesay and Sam Bockarie  
18 being escorted by Musa Sesay at the compound of VP Road,  
19 and you described a pass that you said was signed by  
15:32:16 20 Charles Taylor that Abu showed you. Do you remember  
21 anything else about the contents of this pass that Abu  
22 showed you?

23 A. Yes, I do. The pass had at the top "From the Office of  
24 the President." It also had in it to grant easy access  
15:32:53 25 to the team or the convoy -- easy passage through  
26 checkpoints.

27 Q. Mr Bility, I want to continue to focus on the year 1999.  
28 Can you tell the Court about any other specific instance  
29 where you saw RUF leaders in Monrovia?





1 A. Yes, I can. In 1999, June, at the 7-11 gas station in  
2 Monrovia in Sinkor along the Tubman Boulevard.  
3 Q. Okay, slow down.  
4 PRESIDING JUDGE:  
15:34:16 5 Q. You say in 1991?  
6 A. 19 --  
7 Q. 1999, I'm sorry?  
8 A. Yeah, June.  
9 Q. June?  
15:34:27 10 A. June, June, yeah.  
11 Q. June?  
12 JUDGE THOMPSON: June, 1999.  
13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Oh, June.  
14 THE WITNESS: June, 1999.  
15:34:28 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.  
16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please call June first before 1999.  
17 JUDGE THOMPSON: In June 1999.  
18 PRESIDING JUDGE: In June 1999, yes.  
19 THE WITNESS: I did see a number of Liberian and RUF officials  
15:34:45 20 at the 7-11 gas station along the Tubman Boulevard road  
21 in Sinkor, Monrovia. As I rode -- as I, along with other  
22 passengers, rode a taxi from central Monrovia, along the  
23 Tubman Boulevard, to the Old Road Sinkor passing through  
24 VP road.  
15:35:35 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: You saw -- what did you see in the station,  
26 please?  
27 THE WITNESS: I saw Saa Gbollie, who was a Liberian -- who was  
28 a Liberian government official - security official. I  
29 saw Jack the Rebel.



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: What's Gbollie -- could you spell? Is it --  
2 THE WITNESS: Gbollie. It's G-B-O --  
3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Saa?  
4 THE WITNESS: S-A-A.  
15:36:05 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: I see.  
6 PRESIDING JUDGE: And then?  
7 THE WITNESS: Gbollie, G-B-O-R-L-I-E.  
8 JUDGE THOMPSON: And who else?  
9 THE WITNESS: Jack the Rebel.  
15:36:16 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: What was Saa Gbollie?  
11 THE WITNESS: Saa Gbollie was one of Charles Taylor's security  
12 officers working at the national police -- the Liberian  
13 National Police.  
14 PRESIDING JUDGE: And?  
15:36:37 15 THE WITNESS: Jack the Rebel.  
16 MR SANTORA:  
17 Q. Who is Jack the Rebel?  
18 A. Jack the Rebel was one of Taylor's security personnel,  
19 who had fought with the NPFL during the rebel war and was  
15:36:55 20 notorious, at least in the eyes of the public, for  
21 carrying on -- for carrying on -- carrying out dangerous,  
22 if you like, orders of Charles Taylor. Dangerous and  
23 deadly orders former President Charles Taylor. I also  
24 saw --  
15:37:26 25 Q. Please, hold on one second.  
26 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated] For carrying out  
27 dangerous and what?  
28 THE WITNESS: Deadly murders, orders of former President  
29 Charles Taylor.



1 MR SANTORA:  
2 Q. Do you know his real name?  
3 A. Yeah, he's -- he was Francis Dwana. D-W-A-N-A, Dwana.  
4 Q. And you stated you also saw RUF officials at this 7-11?  
15:38:17 5 A. Yes, I did see a number of RUF officials.  
6 PRESIDING JUDGE:  
7 Q. In that petrol station?  
8 A. At the 7-11 petrol --  
9 Q. Petrol station?  
15:38:29 10 A. -- station, yeah.  
11 Q. Let me get you right. How are you calling it - 7-11 or  
12 -- is that it?  
13 A. 7-11. Seven, dash, eleven.  
14 Q. Seven, dash, eleven?  
15:38:42 15 A. That's the name of the petrol station.  
16 MR SANTORA:  
17 Q. Perhaps for clarification, can you tell the Court what  
18 the 7-11 gas station is in Monrovia?  
19 A. The 7-11 gas station at the time in 1999 -- up to  
15:38:57 20 1999 was --  
21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Is it going to be a long history?  
22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Not history, please.  
23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Is it germane to your case.  
24 MR SANTORA: I thought it would be helpful for contextual  
15:39:05 25 reference, because it's not --  
26 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, perhaps; it's entirely up to you, but  
27 it's just that a long history might not be --  
28 MR SANTORA: No, I don't think it's a long history and it's  
29 just --



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Briefly, tell us what 7-11 is without going  
2 into the detailed history. I know you have a lot history  
3 in your memory.

4 THE WITNESS: It was the --

15:39:22 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: That would serve for your memoirs,  
6 Mr Bility.

7 THE WITNESS: It was the service station where Liberian  
8 Government officials and security personnel got fuel. It  
9 was purely for that.

15:39:55 10 MR SANTORA:

11 Q. Okay. Now, you stated that you saw RUF officials there  
12 as well. Do you remember specifically which RUF  
13 officials you saw?

14 A. Yes, I do remember. The ones I saw were Sam Bockarie,  
15:40:16 15 Eddie Kanneh, and Issa Sesay.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: What's the second name?

17 THE WITNESS: Eddie Kanneh, E-I-I-E -- I mean, D-D-I-E.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

19 THE WITNESS: Kanneh.

15:40:40 20 MR SANTORA:

21 Q. Can you spell that?

22 A. K-A-N-N-E-H.

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: And Issa Sesay. Thank you.

24 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

15:40:57 25 MR SANTORA:

26 Q. Did you know who Eddie Kanneh was?

27 A. I know who Eddie Kanneh was. I know that Eddie Kanneh  
28 was a ranking person of the Revolutionary United Front,  
29 and in Liberia I know that most of his activities





1 included deals in diamond.

2 Q. Aside from these individuals that you have mentioned,  
3 were there other people present with this group as well?

4 A. There were other security personnel travelling along with  
15:41:58 5 them.

6 Q. What exactly did you see?

7 A. I did see pick up trucks or jeeps with some arms on  
8 board, and --

9 Q. Before you proceed, you were in this 7-11 station at the  
15:42:31 10 time?

11 A. Yep, I was in the 7-11 station, in a cab.

12 Q. And you said you saw some -- do you remember how many  
13 vehicles you saw?

14 A. Well, I saw at least two vehicles. There were other  
15:42:49 15 vehicles there, but the two vehicles -- jeeps, I was  
16 convinced, and other people on board on the taxi were  
17 convinced, that these vehicles were the vehicles that  
18 these men were riding. And, like, Saa Gbollie and some  
19 of -- Jack the Rebel and the other guys, namely Sam  
15:43:20 20 Bockarie, Issa and Eddie, they were very close to the  
21 vehicle. And Saa Gbollie usually opened the vehicle's  
22 door, 'cause the vehicle carried the radio; and a radio  
23 you transmit -- a radio transmitter, sorry -- a radio  
24 that is used to transmit to talk to other people in the  
15:43:47 25 field. So they had gone there for fuel.

26 Q. How do you know that?

27 A. I know that because I heard them talk about it, because  
28 when we got there, the 7-11 gas station, they said they  
29 didn't have fuel. And because the taxi in which we were



1 riding also needed --

2 MR CAMMEGH: Could the witness, please, slow down. Thank you.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah.

4 MR SANTORA:

15:44:26 5 Q. Okay. Just describe --

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slow pace, please.

7 MR SANTORA:

8 Q. -- at a slow pace, what exactly you saw.

9 A. I saw the men - namely, Saa Gbollie, Jack the Rebel or

15:44:43 10 Francis Dwana --

11 Q. Okay. And what happened after you saw them?

12 A. They walk up to the serviceman at the petrol station and

13 asked him that they needed fuel, and the guy told them

14 that they had run out of fuel and that they didn't have

15:45:04 15 fuel. So they - meaning Saa Gbollie et al - thought that

16 they were hoarding the fuel. So they remarked that, "We

17 are on VIP mission to the border," and they insisted that

18 they got the fuel. And the serviceman pleaded with

19 them --

15:45:35 20 Q. Slow down, please.

21 A. All right.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: What was remark of Saa Gbollie, you say - we

23 are on what mission?

24 THE WITNESS: VIP mission to the border.

15:46:15 25 MR SANTORA:

26 Q. Did he say specifically what border?

27 A. Liberia-Sierra Leone border.

28 Q. Did he say that or did you just infer that?

29 A. He did say that, indeed.



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Who precisely said it? Is this Saa Gbollie

2 or Jack the Rebel?

3 THE WITNESS: Saa Gbollie did say that.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Saa Gbollie.

15:47:07 5 MR SANTORA:

6 Q. What happened after he said that?

7 A. After he said that, the men -- the guys at the service

8 station pleaded with them to understand that they didn't

9 have fuel. And while that was going on, they threatened

15:47:32 10 to beat them.

11 Q. Who threatened?

12 A. Saa and Jack the Rebel. They threat -- that threat was

13 specifically made by Jack the Rebel; that if they didn't

14 get fuel, they would use the word "flog" them. And while

15:48:07 15 that was going on, another guy -- another boy -- young --

16 very young, small boy made a remark that they were on

17 mission to the border and ordered they had to reach

18 Sierra Leone with or without fuel from the 7-11 service

19 station. Another person travelling --

15:49:54 20 Q. Before you go on. This small boy, was he with this

21 group?

22 A. Yes, he was with them and he carried arms. He didn't

23 wear a uniform, but he carried arms and he spoke

24 Liberian-English.

15:50:23 25 Q. What happened after the small boy said this?

26 A. The small boy made that remark and another person made a

27 similar remark, but at the same time, like, lifted the

28 tarp -- the tarpaulin that covered the content of the

29 pick-ups in full view of the -- of people who were



1 around.

2 Q. Was it in your view?

3 A. No, that was not a view. I did see arms on board the  
4 pick-ups. And the guy who did that was publicly beaten  
15:51:44 5 on orders of Saa Gbollie and Jack the Rebel.

6 Q. Was the person who lifted this tarp with this group?

7 A. Yes, he travelled with them.

8 Q. While all this was going on, how far away were you?

9 A. Well, I was -- I wasn't very far. It's a service station  
15:52:33 10 that, in my opinion, it's not more than --it's length,  
11 from where it begins to the back wall -- very back  
12 wall -- the office, it's like 20, 30 feet away. And we  
13 were all close up in that little area, so I was very  
14 close. And, of course, there was light. So I was very  
15:53:12 15 close to be able to see and recognise.

16 Q. When the tarp was pulled away, could you see arms?

17 A. Yes, you could. The reason we could was the -- I was  
18 like the last passenger to have boarded the taxi, so --

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Santora, is that evidence necessary? Are  
15:53:51 20 you insisting to have that evidence?

21 MR SANTORA: I just wanted his actual basis of knowledge for  
22 the fact that they had -- that arms were in their  
23 possession.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: He had said about this -- about the third  
15:54:03 25 time he has said he saw arms --

26 [Overlapping speakers]

27 MR SANTORA: Okay, I just wanted to clarify.

28 Q. Let me just ask you then --

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: And he's talking of he's being about 20 to





1           30 feet, you know, away from the -- yes.

2   THE WITNESS:  Sir.

3   JUDGE THOMPSON:  [Microphone not activated] Being a bystander.

4   THE WITNESS:  Excuse me.

15:54:26 5   PRESIDING JUDGE:  Yes?

6   THE WITNESS:  I did -- sir, I did not say, Your Honour, that I

7           was 20 to 30 feet away.  I said the breadth or length of

8           the service station, from where the service station

9           begins to the very wall that houses it's office, was

15:54:43 10   about that length.  So we were all like closer up there.

11           So I was closer than that.

12   PRESIDING JUDGE:  Give us your distance from that place in the

13           station your own distance, not the length of the

14           building.  That does not interest us.

15:54:57 15   JUDGE THOMPSON:  Yeah, it's --

16   THE WITNESS:  My distance from these guys or from --

17   JUDGE THOMPSON:  Your observation distance, perhaps.

18   PRESIDING JUDGE:  Your observation point.  You know, where you

19           watching all this going on.

15:55:07 20   THE WITNESS:  At most 20 feet.

21   JUDGE THOMPSON:  Well, that's precisely we've -- [Overlapping

22           speakers]

23   PRESIDING JUDGE:  That's precisely what you've said, isn't it?

24   JUDGE THOMPSON:  Yeah.

15:55:12 25   PRESIDING JUDGE:  20 to 30 feet.

26   JUDGE THOMPSON:  In other words, you were like a bystander, so

27           to speak?

28   THE WITNESS:  Yep

29   JUDGE THOMPSON:  Yeah, just watching it all, hearing it all.



1 THE WITNESS: Yep.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Santora?

3 MR SANTORA:

4 Q. I know that you stated that you saw arms, but exactly  
15:55:31 5 what type of arms did you see?

6 A. AK47.

7 Q. Could you approximate how many?

8 A. Well, in my approximation, about 60 of them.

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Did he say six, zero?

15:56:00 10 MR SANTORA: Yes, Your Honour.

11 Q. After you saw the arms, what happened then?

12 A. What do you mean?

13 Q. After you saw the tarp being pulled away and these  
14 conversations, what happened after that?

15:56:25 15 A. Yeah, the guy who pulled the tarp away was beaten, I said  
16 earlier, publicly.

17 Q. Right, and after that -- after the beating?

18 A. After the beating he was told that -- he was reminded  
19 that he was travelling with VIPs and that there were  
15:56:45 20 people around, and he was asked how dare he made such a  
21 disclosure and/or remarks.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: He was reprimanded for disclosing the arms?

23 THE WITNESS: Yep.

24 MR SANTORA:

15:57:23 25 Q. After this reprimand, what happened then?

26 A. What do you mean if you say "what happened"?

27 Q. After you saw this transpire, where this person was  
28 reprimanded, what happened after that?

29 A. Well, the very insistence to get --



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: No, tell us. They insisted, they insisted;  
2 they threatened, they threatened. Did they get the  
3 petrol? Were they served with the petrol?  
4 THE WITNESS: The guy at the --  
15:57:54 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Because the other guy said --  
6 THE WITNESS: They didn't have petrol.  
7 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- they would get to the Liberian-Monrovia  
8 -- Liberian-Sierra Leonean border with or without fuel  
9 from 7-11, isn't it?  
15:58:04 10 THE WITNESS: Yep.  
11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Did they get fuel from 7-11?  
12 THE WITNESS: In the end they did.  
13 MR SANTORA:  
14 Q. After they received the fuel, did they proceed to leave?  
15:58:33 15 A. They did proceed to leave towards the Congo Town area,  
16 which leads --  
17 PRESIDING JUDGE: They left. Don't tell us where they went  
18 to. They could go to a place which leads, but you cannot  
19 know where they go from there. You understand? They  
15:58:50 20 left and they went towards the Congo Town, you say.  
21 THE WITNESS: Yep.  
22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good. They drove towards Congo Town?  
23 THE WITNESS: Yeah.  
24 MR SANTORA: Your Honours, that's all the questions that the  
15:59:18 25 Prosecution has for this witness.  
26 PRESIDING JUDGE: But one question about the Congo Town road  
27 you're referring to. You said earlier on that it is a  
28 road which leads towards the border of --  
29 THE WITNESS: I said it was the main road --



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

2 THE WITNESS: -- that leads towards the border with  
3 Sierra Leone, through Lofa County.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, that is what you said.

15:59:53 5 THE WITNESS: Yep.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel for the first accused, would  
8 you now proceed with the cross-examination of this  
9 witness.

16:00:58 10 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Yes, Your Honour.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: May I be privileged with having your full  
12 names, please.

13 MR SERRY-KAMAL: AF Serry-Kamal.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: AF --

16:01:09 15 MR SERRY-KAMAL: AF, Abdul Franklin.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Abdul. Abdul --

17 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Franklin.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Franklin.

19 JUDGE THOMPSON: Franklin, yes.

16:01:29 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Kamara, why don't you come inside. Yes,  
21 that's right. So that you can be closer to -- Abdul  
22 Franklin --

23 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Serry-Kamal.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Serry-Kamara.

16:01:42 25 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Kamal.

26 JUDGE THOMPSON: Kamal.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Kamal?

28 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Yes.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is it two "m's" or one "m"?





1 MR SERRY-KAMAL: One "m".

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: One "m".

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Is the Serry-Kamal hyphenated?

4 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Yes.

16:01:52 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. Begin then.

6 CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR SERRY-KAMAL:

7 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

8 Q. Mr Bility, you said had been -- you were reporting on the

9 events in Sierra Leone in 1997?

16:02:19 10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And that --

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated]

13 MR SERRY-KAMAL: In 1997, Your Honour.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated]

16:02:46 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Was it in 1997 or since 1997?

16 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Since 1997.

17 Q. Did you continue to report on the crisis in Sierra Leone

18 up to 1997?

19 A. If I did continue to report on the crisis in Sierra Leone

16:03:03 20 in up --

21 Q. Up to 1997?

22 A. Yes, I did, up to 2002.

23 Q. Up to 2002. And you said you actually visited

24 Sierra Leone after the main coup?

16:03:22 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. And you were here for 14 days?

27 A. For about.

28 Q. For about 14 days. Which routes did you take to come to

29 Sierra Leone?



1 A. Well, I don't think that --

2 Q. Which routes did you take to come to Sierra Leone?

3 A. -- I can disclose that, because, as a journalist, I made

4 a promise to those who took me from Liberia to

16:03:56 5 Sierra Leone. So in my opinion that promise still holds.

6 Q. Did you come by air or --

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just a minute, just a minute. Let us get

8 you textually, you know, what you're saying. The

9 question that has been put to you by learned counsel is

16:04:16 10 how did you come to Sierra Leone? What do you have to

11 say about that?

12 THE WITNESS: How?

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes. How did you come to Sierra Leone?

14 THE WITNESS: I was taken to Sierra Leone.

16:04:41 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: And you were talking of not disclosing how

16 you came because -- because -- I want to get that. We

17 want to get that, you know, on the records.

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 JUDGE THOMPSON: Perhaps we should clarify the question.

16:04:54 20 Counsel, was your question the route that he took or how

21 did he come?

22 MR SERRY-KAMAL: I asked first how --

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: How he came.

24 MR SERRY-KAMAL: -- he came.

16:05:03 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay. So we're now on the route side?

26 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Yes, I want him to -- [Overlapping speakers]

27 JUDGE THOMPSON: Right. So what is the response to that?

28 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

29 Q. Did you come by air or did you come by road? I'm sure



1           you can disclose that.

2   JUDGE THOMPSON: Right, well, let's answer.

3   THE WITNESS: Yes, I'm saying that my coming to

4           Sierra Leone --

16:05:25 5   MR SERRY-KAMAL:

6   Q. Mr Bility, the question is --

7   A. -- was --

8   Q. -- did you come by road or by air?

9   A. My coming to Sierra Leone --

16:05:32 10   JUDGE THOMPSON: Perhaps -- so that we have it clear, are we

11           talking about the first visit?

12   MR SERRY-KAMAL: He only came here once, according --

13           [Overlapping speakers]

14   JUDGE THOMPSON: Once, yeah.

16:05:40 15   MR SERRY-KAMAL: According to his evidence.

16   JUDGE THOMPSON: But he's here now.

17   MR SERRY-KAMAL: No. Well, in '97.

18   JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay, right. So let's put that in context.

19   MR SERRY-KAMAL: I'll specify in 1997.

16:05:51 20   JUDGE THOMPSON: Quite right, yes. Coming to Sierra Leone,

21           you said.

22   THE WITNESS: Pardon?

23   JUDGE THOMPSON: You said, "My coming to Sierra Leone" --

24   THE WITNESS: Was facilitated by ECOMOG and I do not wish to

16:06:09 25           go further than that. It was both by land and air.

26   JUDGE THOMPSON: I didn't get the last part. By ECOMOG --

27   THE WITNESS: Yep. And it was facilitated --

28   JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, I got that.

29   THE WITNESS: -- both by air and by road.



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: By road, okay.

2 THE WITNESS: And I added that I do --

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: No, slowly, slowly. I need to get you.

4 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I personally do not wish --

16:06:38 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute, Mr Witness. Please take your  
6 time. Restrain yourself a bit. It was by air and by  
7 road. And then go on now.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: By ECOMOG.

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, I got the ECOMOG -- facilitated by

16:06:55 10 ECOMOG. It was by air and by road. And you're going to  
11 add something.

12 THE WITNESS: As a journalist --

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: As a journalist, yes.

14 THE WITNESS: -- I do not wish to breach the confidence then

16:07:06 15 reposed in me. That is where my strength is and I can't  
16 go more than what I've said in terms of detail.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: "That is where my strength lies," did you  
18 say?

19 THE WITNESS: My strength, confidence. Not to disclose

16:07:34 20 sources of certain information at the request of the  
21 informant or the person who gives -- who does it. And  
22 that's ethical.

23 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

24 Q. Was that your first visit to Sierra Leone?

16:08:11 25 A. That was my first ever visit to Sierra Leone.

26 Q. Did you stay in Freetown or out of Freetown?

27 A. I don't know Freetown technically. I stayed in an area  
28 called Brookfields and don't wish to disclose the  
29 location of the home of the people who housed me. So if





1 Brookfields is --

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute. We're writing your evidence  
3 down, Mr Witness. You're a professional man. Please,  
4 just follow the rules here too.

16:09:04 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: I'm sure the witness -- I'm sure you write  
6 shorthand, do you, when you're making your journalistic  
7 jottings? I'm sure you do that in shorthand.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated] Yes, counsel?

9 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

16:09:23 10 Q. You stated you were here for two weeks?

11 A. I was here for --

12 Q. About two weeks?

13 A. -- about 14 days.

14 Q. That's about two weeks. Now, you said you made -- you  
16:09:54 15 had time to go round Freetown?

16 A. Are you asking that I said that? I did not say that.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: No, no. No, counsel is asking you a  
18 question.

19 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

16:10:06 20 Q. Did you have time to go round Freetown?

21 A. Well, if you say around Freetown, you have to define for  
22 me -- you have to provide a working definition for what  
23 the phrase "around Freetown" means. I did go to places  
24 in Freetown.

16:10:18 25 Q. Like?

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just a minute, just a minute. 'I went to  
27 certain places in Freetown'; is that what you're saying?

28 THE WITNESS: Yep, yep.

29 JUDGE BOUTET: Mr Witness, would you open your mike, please?



1 Thank you.

2 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

3 Q. Now which places in Freetown?

4 A. Say that again.

16:11:00 5 Q. You said you went to places in Freetown. Which places  
6 did you go to in Freetown?

7 A. Well, I went around the Tengbeh Town area, I went around  
8 the Syke Street area, and I went around --

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Which one?

16:11:28 10 [Overlapping speakers]

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Okay, Syke Street.

12 JUDGE BOUTET: Syke Street.

13 THE WITNESS: Syke.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's S-Y-T-C-H?

16:11:35 15 JUDGE BOUTET: K-E, S-Y-K-E.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Syke, okay.

17 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

18 THE WITNESS: And I went around the Regent Road area around  
19 the pisa [phon] area.

16:12:03 20 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

21 Q. Those are all the -- those are the only areas you went  
22 to?

23 A. I can't possibly name all of the areas I went to. I've  
24 just named, for your benefit, some of the areas I went  
16:12:14 25 to.

26 Q. And you said you went back to Liberia?

27 A. Of course.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Why can you not name other places you went  
29 to visit? That you cannot remember their names or --



1 THE WITNESS: Nobody knows -- I don't know for sure everywhere  
2 in Freetown I visited.  
3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Okay. All right.  
4 THE WITNESS: I don't know that for sure.  
16:12:46 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Okay. So if you're not mentioning them it's  
6 because you can't remember the names. What I'm saying  
7 is, besides the areas you have mentioned, you visited  
8 other areas whose names you cannot remember in Freetown;  
9 would that be right?  
16:13:01 10 THE WITNESS: Yep.  
11 MR SERRY-KAMAL:  
12 Q. And you returned back to Liberia after that -- by the  
13 same route you came?  
14 A. I returned --  
16:13:31 15 Q. By the same route you came?  
16 A. Give me a break to answer your question. I returned to  
17 Liberia --  
18 Q. I am asking questions. Tell the Court, please.  
19 A. Ask the question.  
16:13:44 20 Q. The question -- yes, My Lord.  
21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Witness, please restrain yourself. Listen to  
22 the question that counsel asks and answer the question  
23 precisely.  
24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Your microphone.  
16:13:58 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: Listen to counsel's question and you answer  
26 the question precisely and as fully as you can.  
27 THE WITNESS: Quite.  
28 JUDGE THOMPSON: He's here to defend his client and he's  
29 asking questions on behalf of his client. Proceed,



1 learned counsel.

2 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

3 Q. I said you returned to Liberia by the same route you  
4 came?

16:14:18 5 A. Well, I can't say the same route. What I can say is  
6 through the same facilitation method.

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slowly, slowly, witness. 'I cannot say that  
8 I returned' --

9 THE WITNESS: I cannot say.

16:14:33 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- 'to Liberia through the same route.'  
11 But --

12 THE WITNESS: I can say --

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: 'I can say,' yes?

14 THE WITNESS: -- through the same facilitation method.

16:14:48 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: 'Through the same facilitation' --  
16 THE WITNESS: Method.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Method.

18 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

19 Q. Are you saying that after you had written that article  
16:15:05 20 about the Judas in ECOWAS, you had an encounter with  
21 Charles Taylor, in which he said a lot of things to you  
22 when you were taken to him. Remember that?

23 A. I do.

24 Q. Did he say something about protecting the state of  
16:15:27 25 Liberia, that is intervened in Sierra Leone?

26 A. If he said that?

27 Q. Yeah.

28 A. I don't remember if he said that to me.

29 Q. Well, we have in your proof of evidence --





1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please, just a minute.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah, counsel, let us have what you're  
3 putting to him again. I didn't quite get that. What was  
4 the question, counsel?

16:16:11 5 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Now, that in his interview with Charles  
6 Taylor, he said Charles Taylor --

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: His encounter?

8 MR SERRY-KAMAL: His encounter -- [Overlapping speakers]

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, quite right. [Overlapping speakers]

16:16:27 10 MR SERRY-KAMAL: His encounter with Charles Taylor he said a  
11 lot of things to him.

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Quite right.

13 MR SERRY-KAMAL: I was going to suggest to him that he said --  
14 among the things he said was something relating to his  
16:16:38 15 intervention in Sierra Leone.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: Put it to him.

17 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

18 Q. I'm putting it to you that he said, "We are not in  
19 Sierra Leone only to help the RUF"?

16:16:47 20 A. Is that -- what's the question?

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: The question is did he --

22 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

23 Q. Did he say anything about his intervention they are --

24 JUDGE THOMPSON: Did he say that.

16:16:55 25 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

26 Q. -- not committed to helping the RUF?

27 A. No.

28 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute. Counsel?

29 THE WITNESS: He did not say --



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: All right, just a minute. Counsel is on his  
2 feet. Learned counsel?

3 MR HARRISON: In the past, Mr Sesay's counsel has asked that  
4 the document be put before the witness.

16:17:12 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Right, quite right.

6 MR HARRISON: And if he wishes it to be done, I have a copy  
7 here.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Quite.

9 MR HARRISON: Unfortunately, I notice that -- [Overlapping  
10 speakers]

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel, that is the procedure we  
12 have been adopting all along. It would be in the  
13 interests of justice to be consistent.

14 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Yes. You have a copy?

16:17:22 15 MR HARRISON: Unfortunately, the copy I have I marked it in  
16 two places. I leave it to counsel to decide if he is  
17 content to look at my copy and see if it is appropriate  
18 to be given to the witness.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: I'm sure counsel would need some -- need a  
16:17:43 20 few minutes, you know, to look at that document, because  
21 his was just one page. Is that one page as well or how  
22 many more pages?

23 MR SERRY-KAMAL: [Overlapping speakers] It's just this one  
24 page and the next page. That page and the top of the  
16:17:59 25 next page.

26 [Document handed to the witness]

27 THE WITNESS: The question?

28 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

29 Q. Just look at that, please, and the top of the next page.



1 No, the bottom of that page and the top of the next page?

2 JUDGE BOUTET: Mr Defence counsel, can I ask you to clarify  
3 that for the record, as such. I am all confused and this  
4 is not the process we have adopted. I thought that when  
16:18:30 5 documents were to be used, we would be given copies as  
6 well. I am a bit at a loss to understand what is  
7 happening here. Which document are you talking about?  
8 When was that done? What's the date of that document?  
9 Who wrote that document? I know nothing about that.

16:18:45 10 MR SERRY-KAMAL: The interview was done on the 2nd of November  
11 2003.

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, counsel -- learned counsel, can we now  
13 then insist on you laying the proper foundation.  
14 Because --

16:19:01 15 MR SERRY-KAMAL:  
16 Q. Mr Bility --

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Quite. Because if you are going to refer  
18 this witness to something that he said in a statement  
19 that he made out of court, with a view to contradicting  
16:19:12 20 what he's saying here now in respect of some particular  
21 issue, it's proper that you lay the proper legal  
22 foundation for the -- even if you're not necessarily  
23 going to ask for it to be received in evidence; just for  
24 the tidiness of the -- as my learned brother said.

16:19:34 25 MR SERRY-KAMAL: As it pleases, Your Honour.

26 Q. Mr Bility, remember you had an interview with Alan White  
27 and Randall Neely?  
28 A. Yes, I do remember it.  
29 Q. On the 2nd of November 2003?



1 A. Yep.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: What was the date again, counsel?

3 MR SERRY-KAMAL: The 2nd of November 2003.

4 Q. At Long Island in New York?

16:20:10 5 A. Yep.

6 Q. And, of course, during the course of interview you

7 watched someone -- what you said was recorded by the

8 interviewers?

9 A. Was recorded?

16:20:29 10 Q. Yes.

11 A. What do you mean, "recorded"?

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Was written down.

13 THE WITNESS: Yeah. We have tape recording.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: That's all right. We don't want to be

16:20:39 15 argumentative. It was written down. Is that what you

16 mean, learned counsel?

17 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Yes, Your Honour, it was written down.

18 THE WITNESS: Yep.

19 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

16:20:45 20 Q. Now, is that the statement?

21 A. Well, I haven't --

22 Q. Copy of it?

23 A. I haven't had the time to go through the entire text to

24 know that this is the exact interview, or the exact

16:20:59 25 conversation we had. It was more like a conversation.

26 So I can't say in absolute terms that this is the exact

27 text of what I said.

28 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah, just a minute. You haven't -- 'I

29 haven't had the time to look through this document,' to





1 enable you to do what? You've not had the time, you say,  
2 to look through this document to --  
3 THE WITNESS: He's putting a question to me.  
4 JUDGE THOMPSON: No, I'm asking what is your answer. I know  
16:21:41 5 the question.  
6 THE WITNESS: To enable me --  
7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Quite right, that's what I'm interested.  
8 THE WITNESS: -- to determine in absolute terms --  
9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, 'to enable me' --  
16:21:46 10 THE WITNESS: -- to say exactly this is --  
11 JUDGE THOMPSON: 'To determine in absolute terms' --  
12 THE WITNESS: To determine if this represents --  
13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, you've said, "To enable me to determine  
14 in absolute terms" to do what?  
16:22:01 15 THE WITNESS: If this represents that interview. I do see --  
16 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute, just a minute. I just want to  
17 have your evidence in an intelligible manner. 'If this  
18 represents that interview.' Right, I've got that first  
19 part. Did you want to amplify that, did you say?  
16:22:21 20 THE WITNESS: Yes. I want to add that I do see statements  
21 here that I did make, as I just flick through the pages.  
22 But I do not think that that can be a certain  
23 determination.  
24 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, that's okay, you've already talked  
16:22:49 25 about absolute terms. [Microphone not activated]  
26 THE WITNESS: All right. Go ahead.  
27 MR SERRY-KAMAL:  
28 Q. But you recall talking to him about the article --  
29 PRESIDING JUDGE: No. Let me -- did you sign that statement



1 -- the statement -- what you're flipping through? Did  
2 you sign it?  
3 THE WITNESS: Do you mean this finished --  
4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.  
16:23:12 5 THE WITNESS: This finished copy?  
6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, that copy. You know, did you sign  
7 anything after you made the statement?  
8 THE WITNESS: Well, I'm not sure if I did. If you say "sign",  
9 I mean we held conversations, took interview and notes  
16:23:31 10 were being taken. So I've met Alan only once in the  
11 States and once -- I mean, in the States. I only met him  
12 one time in the States up to the time I came here, so --  
13 in terms of signing, I don't remember if I did sign that.  
14 I don't know if the writer can say that I did completely  
16:23:53 15 sign it. But I'm not denying --  
16 JUDGE THOMPSON: So your answer is that you do not remember --  
17 THE WITNESS: Yeah, that I signed --  
18 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- that you signed that statement?  
19 THE WITNESS: That I signed a prepared --  
16:24:03 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: I beg your pardon. Yes, quite.  
21 THE WITNESS: This is my answer: I do not remember if I  
22 signed a finished text. I do remember --  
23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slowly, slowly. We want your evidence  
24 intelligibly. 'If I signed a finished text.' Yes?  
16:24:26 25 THE WITNESS: I do remember --  
26 JUDGE THOMPSON: 'But I do remember' --  
27 THE WITNESS: -- based on what I've glanced at so far, that I  
28 did make some of the statements that I've seen so far  
29 that I've glanced at.



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Continue, learned counsel.

2 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

3 Q. I know you now identify some of the statements you made  
4 in your statement there -- in the notes -- in the  
16:25:08 5 interview notes there. Now, what I want to refer you to  
6 in the interview is the portion dealing with the remarks  
7 made by Charles Taylor.

8 A. What paragraph?

9 Q. At the bottom of the first page.

16:25:17 10 A. Yep.

11 Q. To the top of the next page.

12 A. Yep.

13 Q. The words starting with, "Taylor commented that these  
14 countries are able to go in to [sic] preemptive to invade  
16:25:31 15 countries when their national security is at stake."

16 A. Yep.

17 Q. Now, you remember that aspect?

18 A. Yep.

19 Q. You remember him saying that?

16:25:36 20 A. Yes, I do remember, and I also want to add --

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: No, no --

22 [Overlapping speakers]

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Don't add yet.

24 JUDGE THOMPSON: Wait, wait. Take your time witness. I do  
16:25:47 25 remember that portion of the statement. What was your  
26 next question, learned counsel?

27 MR SERRY-KAMAL: That Taylor commented that "These countries"  
28 - that is, referring to United States and Britain - "were  
29 able to go on the preemptive to invade countries when



1           their national security was at stake."  
2   THE WITNESS: Yes, he did say that.  
3   JUDGE THOMPSON: So he now -- he agrees that Taylor said that?  
4   MR SERRY-KAMAL: Yes, My Lord.  
16:26:19 5   JUDGE THOMPSON: All right, let's have that down.  
6   THE WITNESS: Your Honour, sir --  
7   JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute.  
8   PRESIDING JUDGE: Where Taylor said that --  
9   THE WITNESS: Your Honour, sir, he used the word  
16:26:24 10          "intervention". The word "intervention" is totally  
11          different from this. He said that Taylor told me he  
12          intervened in Sierra Leone because of the -- his national  
13          security was at stake. That is not what this sentence is  
14          saying, this particular stuff. So I want him to re-read  
16:26:41 15          it. It doesn't mean in the English language the same  
16          thing as what this is saying. It does not have the same  
17          meaning.  
18   JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, actually, witness, the procedure is  
19          that counsel will put to you something that is recorded  
16:26:56 20          there. It is your -- it would be your place to agree,  
21          disagree or deny, or to modify. Or if what is put  
22          there -- what he reads to you does not reflect what you  
23          told the interviewer, you are entitled to tell us what is  
24          missing or what needs to be modified. I'm not sure  
16:27:25 25          whether we are at the stage yet where you want to  
26          interpret what you said. That would be for the Court  
27          when -- if that comes into evidence.  
28   THE WITNESS: Yeah. Your Honour, I'm saying --  
29   JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah, quite. All we are interested in now is





1           whether --

2   MR SERRY-KAMAL:  What Taylor said.

3   JUDGE THOMPSON:  -- what he said there -- what is recorded

4           there represents what you faithfully said to the

16:27:48 5           interviewer.

6   THE WITNESS:  Your Honour, I'm saying --

7   JUDGE THOMPSON:  Do you follow that process?

8   THE WITNESS:  I do, I do.

9   JUDGE THOMPSON:  In other words, he's trying to compare what

16:28:01 10          you said here in direct examination on a particular thing

11          to what you said to an interviewer.

12   THE WITNESS:  Yeah.

13   JUDGE THOMPSON:  In other words, an out-of-court statement.

14   THE WITNESS:  Yes.

16:28:09 15   JUDGE THOMPSON:  And what he's doing is putting that portion

16          to you, and your options are to say "I did not say that"

17          or "I disagree", or "I said that, but something is

18          omitted".  But the interpretation thing is not -- I don't

19          think it's something that we, at this stage, are

16:28:25 20          interested.  I want to record your evidence.

21   THE WITNESS:  Your Honour, sir, I'm not interpreting.  The

22          learned counsel introduced a word that is not even in

23          this -- [Overlapping speakers]

24   JUDGE THOMPSON:  I said -- [Overlapping speaker]

16:28:40 25   PRESIDING JUDGE:  That is what I understand you to be saying,

26          that the word counsel has used is not in that statement.

27   THE WITNESS:  No, it's not.

28          [Overlapping speakers]

29   THE WITNESS:  That's why I said no.



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: In reply to his question, use the word which  
2 you use and not what he is suggesting to you.  
3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, okay.  
4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Are you all right?  
16:28:58 5 THE WITNESS: No, I'm not.  
6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Use the word --  
7 MR SERRY-KAMAL: He's not all right.  
8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Use the word which you used textually in the  
9 statement you have in front of you. Even if he's using  
16:29:08 10 another word, tell him what you're saying is not what I  
11 said. This is what I said, and you refer to the  
12 statement before you. Do you understand me?  
13 THE WITNESS: I do.  
14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right. Can we proceed?  
16:29:20 15 THE WITNESS: We can.  
16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Serry-Kamal, can we proceed?  
17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Counsel, would you read exactly what -- and  
18 not paraphrase anything, because that is not the proper  
19 way.  
16:29:33 20 MR SERRY-KAMAL: I did not paraphrase.  
21 JUDGE THOMPSON: I hope you don't do that.  
22 MR SERRY-KAMAL:  
23 Q. What is recorded here is that Taylor told the interviewer  
24 -- interview they call it. That, "Taylor commented that  
16:29:41 25 these countries are able to go on the preemptive to  
26 invade countries when they have national security at  
27 stake. But when we have such a problem, they do not want  
28 us to do this." Do you recall saying that to him?  
29 A. He did say that, and --



1 Q. Okay, thank you.

2 JUDGE BOUTET: Mr Counsel, what you're quoting from is from  
3 the document that has been filed with the Court  
4 Management at page 9131, so we can find this document if  
16:30:16 5 need be.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Learned counsel, yes?

7 MR HARRISON: My observation was that the witness wished to  
8 provide the Court with a further explanation on that  
9 answer. I think he's entitled to do so at this point in  
16:30:39 10 time. He's still being responsive to the question.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: He will, he will. We are not preempting him  
12 from -- we want to get right, you know, the answer he's  
13 given to this question first. Because when they become  
14 too many, we get confused. I mean, we want the records  
16:30:58 15 to be neat and to be read intelligibly.

16 MR HARRISON: But my understanding was the witness did wish to  
17 amplify on that particular answer and I think he is  
18 entitled to.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: He will amplify. There is nobody -- we are  
16:31:07 20 not preempting him, you know, from amplifying. Yes, can  
21 you read that portion of the statement again?

22 MR SERRY-KAMAL: Now, it reads, "Taylor commented that these  
23 countries are able to go on the preemptive to invade  
24 countries when they have national security at stake. But  
16:31:28 25 when we have such a problem, they do not want us to do  
26 this."

27 JUDGE THOMPSON: And the state of the evidence at this point  
28 is that 'I remember that Charles Taylor said that.' Have  
29 I reflected your response to that?



1 THE WITNESS: Your Honour --

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Of course, you will have to amplify if you  
3 want to amplify.

4 THE WITNESS: I want to amplify, yes. You have reflected what  
16:31:49 5 -- my response to that.

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, good. Then you can proceed with the  
7 amplification, because it is important to know whether  
8 Taylor said that or not.

9 THE WITNESS: He did say that.

16:32:00 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah, good. Well, then amplify.

11 THE WITNESS: Now, the word -- the reason I said no first was  
12 that the word "invasion" -- I didn't use the word  
13 "invasion". The person who recorded this, they didn't  
14 put there "invasion".

16:32:11 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slowly, slowly, let's have it.

16 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I did not use the word "invasion" -- I  
17 mean, "intervention", sorry. "Intervention". And the  
18 word "intervention" is not here.

19 JUDGE THOMPSON: The word "intervention" --

16:32:27 20 THE WITNESS: It's not in this particular sentence. And the  
21 learned counsellor asked me --

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute, just a minute. We're not  
23 getting it.

24 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

16:32:38 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: To make sense of the records. The word  
26 "intervention" is --

27 THE WITNESS: I did not make -- I did not say that.

28 JUDGE THOMPSON: You did not say that to the interviewer.

29 THE WITNESS: Yes.





1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Let's have that first part first.

2 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: 'I did not use the word' --

4 THE WITNESS: "Intervention".

16:33:02 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: To the interviewer. That's the first part.

6 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

7 [HS28004D 4.35 p.m.]

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Then the second part is what?

9 THE WITNESS: The interviewer either did not mention that

16:36:04 10 here.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: The interviewer did not mention the word

12 "intervention" --

13 THE WITNESS: "Intervention".

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: -- in the document?

16:36:18 15 THE WITNESS: In this particular sentence he's quoting from,

16 in the second paragraph of the first page.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: In the particular sentence quoted by counsel.

18 THE WITNESS: So my negative answer, that "no", stemmed from

19 the introduction of a new word, which is neither here nor

16:36:44 20 anywhere, or I did not even say, so Taylor did not tell

21 me he intervened.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: Thank you. "My negative answer stemmed from

23 the introduction of the word 'intervention'."

24 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I know the connotative meaning, so I did

16:37:01 25 not say that; it's not here.

26 JUDGE THOMPSON: That's okay. We do not need to go into the

27 connotative and denotative meanings of these words. The

28 word "intervention" -- thanks.

29 MR SERRY-KEMAL:



1 Q. Did you also say to the interviewer that Taylor made a  
2 remark, "We are not only in Sierra Leone to help the  
3 RUF"?

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is not complete. Go ahead, counsel.

16:37:26 5 "We're not only in Sierra Leone to help the RUF," but to  
6 do what again? Can you continue?

7 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

8 Q. There's the next sentence before it goes on to the -- "It  
9 was President Taylor's belief that the Kamajors were  
16:37:45 10 providing a corridor to the enemies in Sierra Leone."  
11 A. So is the question whether Taylor said that?  
12 Q. Yes.  
13 A. Yes, Taylor did say that.  
14 Q. Do you also recall saying --

16:38:26 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please wait. But also to do what with the  
16 Kamajors?

17 MR SERRY-KEMAL: The Kamajors -- "It was President Taylor's  
18 belief that the Kamajors were providing a corridor to the  
19 enemies in Sierra Leone."

16:39:18 20 Q. Do you also recall stating to the interviewer that Taylor  
21 stated, "Liberia's national interest is at stake and they  
22 will remain in Sierra Leone to help stop the threat to  
23 Liberia"?

24 A. He did make that statement.

16:39:33 25 Q. Now, do you remember during your coverage of the  
26 events -- the crisis in Sierra Leone when the AFRC was  
27 overthrown or was driven out of office by ECOMOG?  
28 A. In terms of a specific date?  
29 Q. Yes, do you remember the date?



1 A. I don't remember now.

2 Q. Well, you were covering the crisis in Sierra Leone?

3 A. I was. Things that you remember five years ago in terms  
4 of dates you probably might not be able to remember --

16:40:53 5 Q. You remember the period when -- was it 1997 or 1998?

6 A. Pardon?

7 Q. When was it? Was it in 1997 or 1998 that ECOMOG removed  
8 the AFRC?

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: No, no. Let us not get entangled, learned  
16:41:09 10 counsel. Did I understand you to ask him whether he  
11 remembered his coverage of the fall of the AFRC?

12 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Yes, Your Honour.

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, let's stick to that.

14 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

16:41:23 15 Q. Do you know the date?

16 A. The date?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. I don't know the date.

19 Q. You don't know?

16:41:28 20 A. Because I don't use my mind as a warehouse of facts.

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute. Witness, you've got to answer  
22 questions in a precise way. Do you remember the date --

23 THE WITNESS: I don't remember the date. I probably remember  
24 the year, not the date - 1998.

16:41:52 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated] this is a court of  
26 law and we have our rules, just as you have your rules in  
27 your profession.

28 THE WITNESS: Okay.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: "I do not remember the specific date of the



1 coverage of the overthrow of the AFRC."  
2 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
3 Q. Did you report it in any of your newspapers?  
4 A. Report what?  
16:42:16 5 Q. The removal of the AFRC from office, since you were  
6 covering the crisis in Sierra Leone?  
7 A. I did not only report it --  
8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Did you report it?  
9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Did you report it?  
16:42:28 10 THE WITNESS: Yes, I did.  
11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Would your answer questions precisely?  
12 THE WITNESS: I did report it.  
13 JUDGE THOMPSON: It's a factually straightforward question.  
14 THE WITNESS: Okay. I did report it.  
16:42:37 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: "I did report the coverage." We are not  
16 going to be able, in ascertaining the truth, to evaluate  
17 subjective broadsides and analysis. "I did report the  
18 coverage of the overthrow or the removal of the AFRC from  
19 office." Next question, learned counsel.  
16:42:57 20 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
21 Q. Now, I put it to you that the removal was in February --  
22 13 February 1998?  
23 PRESIDING JUDGE: He has said 1998, but he can't remember the  
24 date.  
16:43:12 25 MR SERRY-KEMAL: I suggested to him 1998, but he did not --  
26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Would it be correct to say that the removal  
27 took place in February 1998?  
28 THE WITNESS: I'm saying I think it was 1998 -- early 1998.  
29 I don't know specifically what date it was.





1 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
2 Q. Now, did you cover, in your coverage of the events in  
3 Sierra Leone, the January 6th invasion of Freetown in  
4 1999 by the -- the invasion of Freetown in 1999 in your  
16:44:02 5 newspaper?  
6 A. Yes, we did.  
7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Again, we have to -- the witness has served  
8 -- he has held a number of editorial positions. Can we  
9 be specific on the newspaper, you know, which he's  
16:44:36 10 referring to -- which one? He has moved from one  
11 newspaper to the other. Which one is he saying --  
12 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
13 Q. In which newspaper did you cover this?  
14 A. The National newspaper.  
16:44:51 15 Q. The National newspaper. In your evidence-in-chief you  
16 said you saw Issa Sesay in Liberia in 1998.  
17 A. Yes, I did say that.  
18 Q. Was it your first time of seeing him? The time you saw  
19 him -- you said you saw him in Liberia. Was it your  
16:45:52 20 first time of seeing him?  
21 A. Specifically I had -- it was my first time seeing him  
22 with arms in the company of arms.  
23 Q. The question is: was it the first time of seeing him --  
24 JUDGE THOMPSON: Let him finish the answer?  
16:46:16 25 THE WITNESS: No, it was not my first time of seeing him.  
26 JUDGE THOMPSON: "No, it was not my first time of seeing him."  
27 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
28 Q. When was the first time you ever saw him in person?  
29 A. At a distance, not very close, and pointed out by



1 people -- that was also in 1998, early.

2 Q. Early 1998?

3 A. Yeah, in 1998.

4 Q. Which month?

16:46:44 5 A. I don't recall. I don't recall the month.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: But it was in 1998?

7 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

8 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

9 Q. Early 1998. Now, I am putting it to you that Issa Sesay

16:47:17 10 never left this country any time early 1998 -- never left

11 this country to go anywhere early 1998.

12 A. Are you asking me the question?

13 Q. I'm putting it to you.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: He wants you to agree or disagree.

16:47:36 15 THE WITNESS: I disagree.

16 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

17 Q. I put it to you that you never ever --

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: You disagree.

19 MR SERRY-KEMAL: -- left this country.

16:47:42 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: We got it. It's all right counsel.

21 "I disagree that..."

22 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

23 Q. Now, do you know who was leading the RUF --

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Hold on; hold on.

16:47:55 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel, give us time to write the

26 evidence.

27 MR SERRY-KEMAL: I'm sorry, Your Honour.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: I disagree that Issa Sesay never left this

29 country in --



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Early 1998.

2 MR SERRY-KEMAL: In early 1998.

3 Q. I'm further putting it to you that Issa Sesay never left  
4 this country any time in 1998 -- any time in 1998.

16:48:35 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Never left Freetown.

6 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Never left Sierra Leone.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry, Sierra Leone.

8 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Sierra Leone any time in 1998.

9 THE WITNESS: I disagree with that.

16:49:02 10 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

11 Q. Do the names of these towns mean anything to you: Koidu,  
12 Makeni -- Koidu and Makeni?

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Why not take them singly? Koidu is not in  
14 Makeni, is it? Let's take them singly.

16:49:20 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Koidu is very far from Makeni.

16 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Not so far, My Lord.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: It's about a seven-hour drive.

18 MR SERRY-KEMAL: From Makeni it's less than an hour.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is it Kenema?

16:49:35 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated]

21 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

22 Q. Does the name Koidu mean anything to you?

23 A. Mean?

24 Q. Yeah, Koidu or the Kono District -- Koidu?

16:49:41 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated].

26 THE WITNESS: He's asking if it means something to me.

27 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated]

28 THE WITNESS: Does it ring any bell in my ear, is that what  
29 you want to ask -- yes, it does.



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: "Koidu does not mean anything" [microphone  
2 not activated]  
3 PRESIDING JUDGE: He said yes.  
4 JUDGE THOMPSON: Did you say yes?  
16:49:58 5 THE WITNESS: Koidu?  
6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Did you say that it rang a bell in your ear?  
7 THE WITNESS: Yes, I know that it's a town in Sierra Leone.  
8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay, we'll just have that. "Koidu does ring  
9 a bell in my ear."  
16:50:09 10 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
11 Q. What about Makeni?  
12 A. The name Makeni does as well.  
13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Does ring a bell. Makeni, too, does.  
14 Mr Kemal.  
16:50:36 15 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
16 Q. I'm putting it to you that in 1998 Issa Sesay was in  
17 Makeni -- he was in Makeni.  
18 PRESIDING JUDGE: In 1998?  
19 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Yes, My Lord.  
16:50:49 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's a very vague question.  
21 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
22 Q. Sorry, in December -- let me put it. In December 1998 he  
23 was in Makeni.  
24 JUDGE THOMPSON: Is that -- did he give any evidence to the --  
16:51:00 25 he talked about early 1998, so why not put this question  
26 again in the time context, otherwise --  
27 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
28 Q. In 1998, the early part of 1998, he passed through -- he  
29 was in Makeni temporarily for a few days?





1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Do you know that?  
2 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
3 Q. In February he was in Makeni, not in Liberia at all. He  
4 was not in Liberia; he was in Makeni.  
16:51:20 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Do you agree or disagree, or do you know  
6 that?  
7 MR SERRY-KEMAL: He was in Makeni.  
8 JUDGE BOUTET: What's the question?  
9 MR SERRY-KEMAL: In February he was in Makeni, not in Liberia.  
16:51:29 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: So you are putting it to him?  
11 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Yes, I'm putting it to the witness that he  
12 was in Makeni, not in Liberia.  
13 JUDGE THOMPSON: All right. That's perhaps a better way to  
14 proceed?  
16:51:39 15 THE WITNESS: Can I answer yes and go and expand?  
16 JUDGE THOMPSON: Oh, yes, why not.  
17 THE WITNESS: I disagree. And the reason I disagree --  
18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slowly [overlapping speakers]  
19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Okay, just hold on. You disagree that --  
16:51:49 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: That he was not in Liberia but in Makeni --  
21 I disagree that Issa Sesay was not in Liberia but in  
22 Makeni -- did you say early 1998?  
23 THE WITNESS: In February.  
24 JUDGE THOMPSON: In February 1998.  
16:52:07 25 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
26 Q. I'm putting it to you --  
27 JUDGE THOMPSON: No, he was --  
28 THE WITNESS: I'm expanding.  
29 JUDGE THOMPSON: He wants to expand why. I think we must



1 allow him to do that.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, yes.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Go ahead.

4 THE WITNESS: He's restricting the presence of Issa Sesay in  
16:52:24 5 Makeni in February. I did not specify -- I did not say  
6 he was in Liberia in February -- I said early. So  
7 I think -- yeah.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: That's his instruction. Yes.

9 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

16:52:39 10 Q. I'm putting it to you from Makeni he went to Koidu in  
11 February/March 1998. I'm putting it to you that from  
12 Makeni he went on to Koidu in 1998 and, finally --

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: No, no, that's not a fair question. If you  
14 are broadening it to 1998, I mean why -- the issue that  
16:53:08 15 he is taking with you is February 1998, but you're now  
16 saying that you're putting it to him that he was passing  
17 from where to Makeni in 1998 --

18 MR SERRY-KEMAL: I'm putting it to him that after he left  
19 Makeni in February, he moved on to Kono in February 1998.

16:53:29 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: How would he know that?

21 JUDGE BOUTET: To Kono -- now you are moving from Koidu to  
22 Kono.

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah, how would he know that?

24 MR SERRY-KEMAL: He moved on to Koidu.

16:53:37 25 JUDGE BOUTET: But how is this witness -- all the witness has  
26 told you is that --

27 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Your Honour --

28 JUDGE BOUTET: The witness has told you that, yes, he knows  
29 Koidu, because this is a town in Sierra Leone. When you



1 ask him about Makeni, he has answered to you yes, this is  
2 a town in Sierra Leone. So have you asked the witness if  
3 he has ever been in Makeni in that period of time in  
4 Koidu. What's the purpose? I'm at a loss to follow you  
16:54:00 5 on this absolutely, and I don't know how the witness can  
6 ever answer these questions the way you put that to him.

7 MR SERRY-KEMAL: I'll rephrase the question.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes. Our concern is that he's not here to  
9 testify as to matters that he does not peculiarly know.  
16:54:15 10 He's here to testify as to matters that are within his  
11 knowledge, and of course, when you put those type of  
12 questions, they become very argumentative.

13 MR SERRY-KEMAL: As it please Your Honour.

14 Q. Now, I'm putting it to you that when you say he was in  
16:54:31 15 Liberia, he was never there; he was within Sierra Leone  
16 all this time -- all the time you're talking about --  
17 never left this country.

18 A. Response?

19 JUDGE THOMPSON: Does the witness have any response to that?  
16:54:46 20 Do you know that?

21 JUDGE BOUTET: He has already responded to that.

22 THE WITNESS: I don't know that.

23 JUDGE BOUTET: He said he disagreed with it.

24 THE WITNESS: I could not possibly know that.

16:54:53 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: He has said he disagrees.

26 JUDGE THOMPSON: He disagrees; he doesn't know that. He only  
27 disagrees as to February

28 MR SERRY-KEMAL: I'm moving on. I am moving to the next  
29 question.



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, please move on.

2 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

3 Q. In 1999 you also said you saw Issa Sesay in Monrovia at  
4 the 711 station.

16:55:07 5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. I am putting it to you that, when you said that, you're  
7 not speaking the truth; he was nowhere near the 711  
8 station, he was in Sierra Leone at the time.

9 A. Response?

16:55:33 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, go ahead.

11 THE WITNESS: I agree that I disagree with that, but I also  
12 disagree with you, because you possibly couldn't be in a  
13 position to trace every route of Mr Sesay, neither could  
14 I, but I've said specifically that I did see him at  
16:55:56 15 specific points.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: In other words, you confirm your evidence?

17 THE WITNESS: Yep.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: That you did see him.

19 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

16:56:07 20 Q. I say you were arrested for the seventh time in June  
21 2000.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And you were kept in prison for six months?

24 A. Yep.

16:56:21 25 Q. By Charles Taylor?

26 A. Yep.

27 Q. After your release you gave interviews with CNN; not so?

28 A. I gave what?

29 Q. Interviews with CNN about your time in office.





1 A. I have given tons of interviews to --  
2 Q. I'm referring particularly to the one with CNN.  
3 A. I've had more than -- I've had many interviews on the  
4 CNN, so I don't know which one you are referring to. You  
16:57:11 5 have to --  
6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Counsel, perhaps this is an invitation to be  
7 specific.  
8 THE WITNESS: You'll have to date what you're referring to.  
9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay, witness, we'll address counsel on that.  
16:57:21 10 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Can I have a moment? I'll get the interview.  
11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, certainly.  
12 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
13 Q. 8 June 2003.  
14 JUDGE THOMPSON: What happened? Put the question.  
16:57:50 15 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
16 Q. You gave an interview with CNN on 8 June. It was aired  
17 on 8 July - sorry - 2003.  
18 A. Which -- June, July?  
19 Q. 8 July 2003.  
16:58:06 20 A. Answer?  
21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Go ahead, answer. Did you give an interview  
22 to CNN on 8 July 2003?  
23 THE WITNESS: I did give interviews to CNN. I don't remember  
24 the exact date, because there were more than one -- more  
16:58:21 25 than several interviews. So I would like for him to name  
26 the interviewer, then I'll remember.  
27 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
28 Q. Kyra Phillips.  
29 A. Yeah, Kyra Phillips, yep, that's right.



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: "I agree that on 8 July 2003 I did give an  
2 interview" -- what's the name, counsel?  
3 THE WITNESS: Kyra Phillips.  
4 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Kyra Phillips.  
16:58:52 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Of CNN.  
6 MR SERRY-KEMAL: CNN, yes.  
7 Q. And in that interview you spoke of --  
8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute. Mr Harrison is on his feet.  
9 MR HARRISON: If there's an extra copy, I wonder if it could  
16:59:08 10 be given to the witness.  
11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel, do we have any documentary  
12 record of that?  
13 MR SERRY-KEMAL: There's only one copy that we have,  
14 unfortunately. I'm not referring particularly to what he  
16:59:26 15 said, just mentioning the interview -- just mentioning  
16 that he gave interviews.  
17 MR HARRISON: That's fine.  
18 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
19 Q. As a result of that interview were you contacted by the  
16:59:42 20 OTP -- the Office of the -- Alan White? You were  
21 contacted by Alan White later on, in November?  
22 A. I don't know if -- answer?  
23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, go ahead.  
24 THE WITNESS: I don't know if Alan's establishment of contact  
17:00:05 25 with me was the result of the interview.  
26 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slowly. Repeat that.  
27 THE WITNESS: I don't know --  
28 JUDGE THOMPSON: Whether --  
29 THE WITNESS: If Alan's establishment of contact --



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: You mean Alan White?  
2 THE WITNESS: Alan White.  
3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Why don't you answer the question first?  
4 Answer the question first, you see.  
17:00:27 5 THE WITNESS: I don't know.  
6 JUDGE THOMPSON: He said he doesn't know.  
7 THE WITNESS: If the contact --  
8 PRESIDING JUDGE: After that interview, was that when Alan  
9 White came -- was it after --  
17:00:37 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: I think the witness was giving the answer.  
11 Did you want to intervene?  
12 MR HARRISON: I have to say, My Lord, I think you're on the  
13 right track. The witness was responding to the question  
14 that was put.  
17:00:47 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, that he did --  
16 MR HARRISON: There may be other questions that the Court  
17 [overlapping microphones]  
18 JUDGE THOMPSON: I understand that counsel's question was  
19 trying to establish a causal connection between the CNN  
17:00:57 20 interview and the interview with Alan White and that was  
21 what I thought you were trying to explain, witness.  
22 Could you --  
23 THE WITNESS: Can I answer and expand, Your Honour?  
24 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, just do it precisely first.  
17:01:09 25 THE WITNESS: First, I don't know whether Alan's contact with  
26 me --  
27 JUDGE THOMPSON: Alan White's contact with me --  
28 THE WITNESS: Came as a result of that interview.  
29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Came as a result of that interview --



1 THE WITNESS: I make a living --

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute - as a result of that

3 interview. But isn't that the point of the question?

4 I think -- isn't that what you were asking?

17:01:38 5 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Yes.

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: Let us leave --

7 THE WITNESS: I want to expand, sir.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: But would it assist the Court in

9 evaluating --

17:01:45 10 THE WITNESS: I think so; I think so.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, we think not. Let's proceed.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Why don't we listen to him? It may assist

13 us.

14 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, then I yield to the Presiding Judge.

17:01:57 15 Let's hear the expansion.

16 THE WITNESS: This is what I want to expand on.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Okay.

18 THE WITNESS: I earn part of my living as a public speaker in

19 the United States, especially on the East Coast, so it's

17:02:11 20 possible -- I've spoken at many places, universities.

21 It's possible that someone may have heard me speak on

22 this injustices, or certain things in West Africa, and

23 contacts would be established as a result of that.

24 I can't say so neither was it the result of the CNN

17:02:30 25 interviews nor any of this public speaking stuff that

26 I can verify resulted or prompted Alan's -- Alan White's

27 contact with me. Thank you.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: You're speculating.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah, your answer definitely confirms my





1 concern, that you are speculating here.

2 THE WITNESS: I can't verify that, sir.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes, quite. Let's proceed then.

4 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

17:02:53 5 Q. In your various lectures did you refer to Taylor's  
6 connection with terrorists?

7 A. I did, and I retain and maintain that position.

8 Q. Charles Taylor's connection with terrorists?

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: Does he say that he stands by that assertion?

17:03:32 10 THE WITNESS: Up to this point.

11 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

12 Q. Particularly al-Qaeda?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And did you particularly tell them about him training  
17:04:03 15 terrorists within his country?

16 A. If I told him --

17 Q. No, in your lectures.

18 A. Which lecture?

19 Q. Public speaking.

17:04:13 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: In your public lectures, did you tell your  
21 audience?

22 THE WITNESS: I do remember me telling the CNN and some  
23 students at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard  
24 that Liberia was becoming a breeding ground for  
17:04:35 25 terrorism.

26 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

27 Q. Now, in your coverage of the crisis of Sierra Leone, did  
28 you know who the leader of the RUF was?

29 A. I -- yes.



1 PRESIDING JUDGE: In his coverage, did he --

2 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Know who the leader of the RUF was.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: He said yes.

4 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

17:05:35 5 Q. What was the name of the leader?

6 A. The RUF was -- I mean, he was Foday Sankoh.

7 Q. Do you know whether he was incarcerated at any time in

8 1997 -- anywhere in 1997?

9 A. I know he was incarcerated. I can't remember exactly

17:06:14 10 when. I know he was held in Nigeria, and later on in

11 Freetown.

12 Q. Now, during the time he was incarcerated in Nigeria, who

13 was the head of the RUF? Since you were covering the

14 crisis, who was acting as the head of the RUF in Sierra

17:06:48 15 Leone?

16 A. Well, as far as my understanding -- answer?

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

18 THE WITNESS: As far as my understanding of the RUF operation

19 was concerned, RUF, though, was fighting in Sierra Leone

17:07:17 20 but was being dictated to from Liberia. So who ever was

21 favoured by former President Charles Taylor was indeed

22 considered, in practice and in reality, as the head of

23 the RUF.

24 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

17:07:58 25 Q. Mr Bility, let me put it very simply to you. I'm putting

26 it to you that during the upsurge of Foday Sankoh in

27 Nigeria, Sam Bockarie was the head of the RUF in Sierra

28 Leone -- in Sierra Leone, Sam Bockarie?

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Do you know that?



1 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

2 Q. I'm putting it to you that in your coverage you should  
3 have known that.

4 A. Yes, I do know that at some point Sam Bockarie did head  
17:08:22 5 the RUF. At other points -- Issa Sesay's name was  
6 announced as head of the RUF --

7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Slowly, slowly, witness. I do know that at  
8 some point Sam Bockarie --

9 THE WITNESS: Did head the RUF.

17:08:40 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Did head the RUF.

11 THE WITNESS: And at others --

12 MR SERRY-KEMAL: And --

13 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel, can we have the answer?

14 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Sorry, Your Honour.

17:08:52 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: And at other points?

16 THE WITNESS: Issa Sesay's name was announced as the head of  
17 the RUF.

18 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

19 Q. Now, let us deal with the period when Sam Bockarie was --

17:09:06 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: We are not yet --

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel is not cooperating with us.  
22 I know it's enthusiasm, but it's just that we're trying  
23 to record these pieces of evidence.

24 MR SERRY-KEMAL: I'm sorry; I'm very sorry.

17:09:20 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: At that point Issa Sesay was --

26 JUDGE THOMPSON: Announced as the head, is that what you said?

27 THE WITNESS: Yes, of the RUF.

28 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

29 Q. Let us deal with the period when Sam Bockarie was the



1 leader of the RUF. This was from 1997 to 1999; do you  
2 agree with me? He left Sierra Leone and went to  
3 Liberia --  
4 A. This is my answer.  
17:09:45 5 Q. -- from 1997 until he went to Liberia to stay there?  
6 A. This is my answer, sir. I really don't use my mind, my  
7 brain as a warehouse for facts. I think the knowledge to  
8 get information is more important than using the mind as  
9 a storage house. I can't say specifically --  
17:10:05 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Actually, we don't want the logical  
11 constraints --  
12 THE WITNESS: I don't know, sir, what particular point --  
13 JUDGE THOMPSON: We would even disagree with you. Some of us  
14 sitting here use our mind also as a warehouse, but let's  
17:10:18 15 just answer -- you either know or you don't know, or you  
16 don't remember?  
17 THE WITNESS: I don't remember specifically.  
18 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
19 Q. Well, Sam Bockarie --  
17:10:27 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel, you asked the questions; you  
21 don't want us to record the answer. As I say, this is  
22 enthusiasm. Well, let's get it all so that we get a  
23 balanced picture here. So your answer to that question  
24 is what?  
17:10:40 25 THE WITNESS: I don't know; I'm not sure.  
26 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
27 Q. Let me put it in sequence.  
28 PRESIDING JUDGE: You are not sure of what?  
29 THE WITNESS: The specific period he mentioned that the RUF





1 was headed, within that specific historical parenthesis,  
2 by Sam Bockarie.

3 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

4 Q. Okay, let me put it this way. You first heard of Sam  
17:11:07 5 Bockarie being head of the RUF before you heard about  
6 Issa Sesay becoming the head of the RUF?  
7 A. Is that a question?  
8 Q. Yes. I'm putting it to you that it was Sam Bockarie who  
9 was initially head of the RUF before. Later [overlapping  
17:11:18 10 speakers]?  
11 A. Question?  
12 Q. -- was appointed interim head of the head of the RUF?  
13 A. I don't know; I can't be sure time-wise.  
14 JUDGE THOMPSON: You don't know who was first in time, is that  
17:11:38 15 what you --  
16 THE WITNESS: I can't be sure time-wise.  
17 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
18 Q. Now, in your coverage of the RUF crisis [overlapping  
19 speakers]  
17:11:43 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Now, look, I want you to clarify certain  
21 issues. I'm not saying you remember everything, but at  
22 least you were covering the situation in Sierra Leone.  
23 THE WITNESS: Yep.  
24 PRESIDING JUDGE: You have told us that Foday Sankoh was  
17:12:03 25 imprisoned somewhere in Nigeria?  
26 THE WITNESS: Yeah.  
27 PRESIDING JUDGE: And later was moved to Sierra Leone?  
28 THE WITNESS: Yeah.  
29 PRESIDING JUDGE: And that within that period there was



1 another leader for the RUF?

2 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: You've mentioned Sam Bockarie.

4 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

17:12:17 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: And that later Issa Sesay, you know, was  
6 also mentioned as the leader of the RUF?

7 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Who was first in time as the leader of the  
9 RUF; is it Bockarie, or Issa Sesay?

17:12:33 10 THE WITNESS: Oh, that's the question?

11 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Yes.

12 THE WITNESS: In time, though I can't be 100 per cent sure,  
13 I think it was Bockarie.

14 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

17:13:18 15 Q. Did you know about the disarmament process in Sierra  
16 Leone?

17 A. The what?

18 Q. The disarmament process in Sierra Leone?

19 A. If I know about that?

17:13:27 20 Q. Yes, in your coverage of the crisis in Sierra Leone.

21 A. Yeah, I did.

22 Q. Yes, okay. Do you know where Foday Sankoh was when the  
23 disarmament was in progress?

24 A. I really can't remember now. Your Honour, can I just add  
17:14:03 25 something to this?

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, but don't go too far.

27 THE WITNESS: As editor, we write and read many, many, many  
28 stories, and I don't know if he, the learned counsel,  
29 understands that a journalist will remember everything he



1 writes precisely, and my coverage of the war -- of the  
2 crisis in Sierra Leone was largely, in part, discouraging  
3 my country's government in respect to its involvement in  
4 Sierra Leone, so I did not pick up every detail that went  
17:15:05 5 on in Makeni, Koidu and other places. We largely  
6 depended on Prince Brima, may his soul rest in peace and  
7 Lansana Fofana and what's the other guy's name for the  
8 VOA.

9 Q. Calvin Lewis?

17:15:21 10 A. Calvin Lewis.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Now that you've expounded --

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel I'm sure appreciates that  
13 perspective. I'm sure learned counsel does not remember  
14 every exception to some legal theories.

17:15:37 15 MR SERRY-KEMAL: No, My Lord.

16 JUDGE THOMPSON: We always have to look it up. Thank you.

17 MR SERRY-KEMAL: It's just that he was covering the crisis,  
18 just the disarmament -- the disarmament was equally  
19 important.

17:15:47 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yes.

21 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

22 Q. Now, who was head of the RUF at the time of the  
23 disarmament? Who was heading the RUF at the time of the  
24 disarmament process?

17:15:56 25 A. I'm not sure.

26 JUDGE THOMPSON: Well, he can't remember.

27 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

28 Q. I'm putting it to you that the head of the RUF at the  
29 disarmament process was Issa Sesay.



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: That was a different question.

2 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure.

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: The answer the witness has given you was the  
4 question that you posed whether he knew where Foday  
17:16:16 5 Sankoh was when the disarmament process was in progress,  
6 and there he said he did not -- he cannot remember.

7 MR SERRY-KEMAL: He doesn't know.

8 JUDGE THOMPSON: Of course, then he gave his perspective of  
9 how a journalist's mind works. Then now you're posing a  
17:16:31 10 different question.

11 MR SERRY-KEMAL: I'm putting a different question.

12 JUDGE THOMPSON: Yeah, well, I hope we don't confuse the two.

13 MR SERRY-KEMAL: It's a different question now. I said at the  
14 time of the disarmament the head of the RUF -- I'm  
17:16:40 15 putting it to him that the head of the RUF was Issa  
16 Sesay. He's the only person who doesn't know that --

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: Do you know that?

18 MR SERRY-KEMAL: -- in the whole world.

19 THE WITNESS: I told him I wasn't sure.

17:16:53 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: "I'm not sure whether Issa Sesay" --

21 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

22 Q. But you were covering this crisis?

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute, counsel; let me get the  
24 evidence -- "was acting head of the RUF".

17:17:05 25 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

26 Q. You were covering this crisis -- this was an important  
27 time?

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please wait.

29 JUDGE THOMPSON: Learned counsel, don't address the witness.





1           There'll come a time for addresses to the Court. At the  
2           time of the disarmament process --

3   MR SERRY-KEMAL:

4   Q.   Now, do you know whether ECOWAS was involved in the  
17:17:29 5           disarmament process in Sierra Leone - the ECOWAS leaders  
6           were involved?

7   A.   What is the question? You asked an earlier question --

8   Q.   Do you know whether the ECOWAS leaders were involved in  
9           the disarmament process in Sierra Leone?

17:17:42 10  A.   I'm aware of that.

11  Q.   You're aware of that. Do you know whether -- who was the  
12           chairman of ECOWAS at the time -- at the time of the  
13           disarmament process, chairman of ECOWAS?

14  A.   I can't recall. If I might add --

17:18:18 15  JUDGE THOMPSON: Wait; let us have that answer.

16  THE WITNESS: I don't recall.

17  MR SERRY-KEMAL:

18  Q.   Who was the chairman of ECOWAS at the time of the  
19           disarmament process?

17:18:25 20  JUDGE THOMPSON: He said he cannot recall who --

21  THE WITNESS: I cannot recall.

22  JUDGE THOMPSON: -- at the time of the disarmament process he  
23           cannot recall who was the chairman of ECOWAS.

24  MR SERRY-KEMAL:

17:18:39 25  Q.   Do you know who was president of --

26  JUDGE THOMPSON: No, wait, counsel! He said he wants to add  
27           something. Is it going to enlighten -- you've already  
28           said you cannot remember who the chairman of ECOWAS was.

29  THE WITNESS: At the time, I cannot remember.



1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Shall we go to the next question then.

2 THE WITNESS: Yeah, if he wishes.

3 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

4 Q. Do you remember who was the president of Nigeria at the  
17:19:04 5 time?

6 JUDGE THOMPSON: At the time meaning the same disarmament  
7 process?

8 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

9 Q. During the disarmament process, the president of Nigeria  
17:19:23 10 at the time?

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: Witness, what's your answer?

12 THE WITNESS: I guess it was Sanni Abacha.

13 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

14 Q. Oh, I see. Sanni Abacha in 2000?

17:19:38 15 JUDGE THOMPSON: Sanni Abacha was chairman of ECOWAS.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: He was the president --

17 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Was president.

18 JUDGE THOMPSON: Was chairman of ECOWAS, isn't it?

19 MR SERRY-KEMAL: No, president of Nigeria.

17:19:46 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: President of Nigeria, you said?

21 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Yes, I said president of Nigeria.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: At the time of the disarmament process.

23 MR HARRISON: The time of disarmament may well be something  
24 that's completely unclear to not only myself, but it may  
17:20:12 25 also be unclear to the witness. I think that may be an  
26 important oversight that ought to be clarified.

27 JUDGE THOMPSON: It may even be unclear to some of us on the  
28 Bench. Learned counsel for the first accused, can you  
29 put some more specificity or context to this --



1 MR SERRY-KEMAL: The period I'm referring to is the period  
2 2000 to 2002, the period I'm referring to.  
3 JUDGE THOMPSON: 2002. So, witness, that is the time frame  
4 2000 to 2002.  
17:20:50 5 THE WITNESS: If that's the time frame, then it was not Sani  
6 Abacha, because he had died then.  
7 JUDGE THOMPSON: Then it was not Sani Abacha?  
8 THE WITNESS: Yeah.  
9 JUDGE THOMPSON: So he's retracting that. If that's the time  
17:21:05 10 frame, it was not Sani Abacha, because he had passed  
11 away.  
12 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Passed away a long time ago.  
13 JUDGE THOMPSON: So this is the clarification that the  
14 Prosecution was seeking, so would you need to reformulate  
17:21:18 15 another question, or do you want to leave it?  
16 MR SERRY-KEMAL: I'll ask the question again.  
17 JUDGE THOMPSON: All right.  
18 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
19 Q. In the period 2000 to January 18, 2002 when the war was  
17:21:36 20 declared -- had come to an end in Sierra Leone, who was  
21 president of Nigeria?  
22 A. Between what period and what period?  
23 Q. 2000 -- the year 2000 and January 2002 -- January 18th --  
24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please, let us move. If you know the name  
17:21:53 25 of the president, put it to him.  
26 THE WITNESS: Olusegun Obasanjo.  
27 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
28 Q. I am putting it to you that it was president of Nigeria,  
29 Olusegun Obasanjo who, with his group, appointed Issa



1 Sesay interim head of the RUF in 2002 -- 2000 -- in 2000?

2 A. So answer?

3 JUDGE THOMPSON: Do you know that?

4 THE WITNESS: Please restate that. You're putting it to me

17:22:53 5 what?

6 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

7 Q. The point I'm putting to you is that it was the president

8 of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo who appointed Issa Sesay as

9 interim head of the RUF in 2000?

17:23:12 10 A. Answer: there is nowhere that I ever mention that Issa

11 Sesay was head of the RUF at a specific period. I never

12 mentioned that; it's not here.

13 Q. You've not answered my question. I'm putting it to you.

14 You either know, or you do not know.

17:23:39 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Do you know that it was Obasanjo who

16 appointed --

17 THE WITNESS: Directly appointed.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Who appointed Issa Sesay.

19 THE WITNESS: I don't know that.

17:23:46 20 JUDGE THOMPSON: You don't?

21 THE WITNESS: I don't know that Obasanjo directly appointed

22 Issa as head of the RUF. I do know --

23 JUDGE THOMPSON: Next question.

24 THE WITNESS: -- that he was appointed by Taylor.

17:23:56 25 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

26 Q. Do you know whether any meetings were held in Abuja --

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please, learned counsel, let's get the

28 reply. Please, let's get the reply out.

29 THE WITNESS: I do know he was appointed by Charles Taylor --





1           that I know. Go ahead.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated]

3 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

4 Q. Do you know --

17:24:25 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute. We have, on my records, is

6           the witness now saying that your answer that you do not

7           know that it was president -- the president of Nigeria

8           who appointed him is not consistent with your new answer?

9 THE WITNESS: Pardon?

17:24:50 10 JUDGE THOMPSON: Because your new answer is that you do know

11          that Issa Sesay was appointed by Charles Taylor as head

12          of the RUF. Your earlier answer was that you do not know

13          that it was the president of Nigeria who appointed Issa

14          Sesay as head of RUF. Is there any inconsistency?

17:25:09 15 JUDGE BOUTET: But the question was in the year 2000 at the

16          time of disarmament. It was a very precise question.

17 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Overlapping speakers] that period of time?

18 THE WITNESS: Yeah, that period of time.

19 JUDGE THOMPSON: Good, all right. Thank you.

17:25:25 20 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

21 Q. Do you know whether there were any meetings held by

22          ECOWAS on the peace process in Abuja, and also in Kono,

23          with our own president here? Let us start with Abuja

24          first?

17:25:39 25 A. Yeah. I do know that there were a number of meetings

26          held on the Sierra Leonean crisis in Nigeria.

27 Q. Abuja, presided by President Olusegun Obasanjo?

28 A. Presided by?

29 Q. Yeah, those meetings [overlapping speakers]



1 A. What do you mean?

2 Q. He was the chairman of the ECOWAS --

3 A. You mean presided over by?

4 Q. I am not going to get involved in that.

17:26:03 5 A. I can't answer it if you say "presided by" -- I don't  
6 know what that means. I have to understand the question  
7 before I answer it. If it's "presided over by", I can  
8 answer that, but "presided by", I don't know that --

9 Q. Olusegun Obasanjo was the chairman of the meeting.

17:26:16 10 A. I don't know because the answer -- the question is  
11 "presided by". I don't know that, Your Honour.

12 JUDGE BOUTET: The question is do you know if he was chairman  
13 of the meeting? It's the same question differently.

14 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I know that some meetings were held and  
17:26:31 15 those meetings were presided over by Obasanjo.

16 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

17 Q. President Kabbah was part of those meetings?

18 A. I don't recall the entire historicity of what you're  
19 trying to say, whether President Kabbah was there. At  
17:26:56 20 some point President Kabbah I do know attended, or sent  
21 representatives.

22 JUDGE THOMPSON: I mean, you are a journalist. You profess so  
23 much expertise and professionalism?

24 THE WITNESS: Did you say "profess"?

17:27:10 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: Just a minute. If you cover these meetings,  
26 one is not saying that you come out with a reservoir of  
27 knowledge, but if you are asked a question and you do not  
28 remember or you do not know, there's no need to engage in  
29 a confrontational entanglement.



1 THE WITNESS: All right.

2 JUDGE THOMPSON: I mean, we don't expect you to remember  
3 everything.

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

17:27:33 5 JUDGE THOMPSON: But you do profess -- that's why you're  
6 here -- you've given us a profile of your professional  
7 accomplishments as a journalist.

8 THE WITNESS: Yeah, let me add this, sir.

9 JUDGE THOMPSON: That's okay; that's all right. We'll hear  
17:27:46 10 the next question. Counsel, proceed.

11 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

12 Q. There was a meeting in Monrovia; not so? There was also  
13 a meeting of the ECOWAS on this peace process in  
14 Monrovia?

17:27:59 15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. The first meeting was held in Monrovia?

17 A. Answer?

18 Q. I'm putting it to you that the first meeting was held in  
19 Monrovia.

17:28:11 20 A. The first --

21 JUDGE THOMPSON: Which?

22 MR SERRY-KEMAL:

23 Q. The peace accord -- I mean the disarmament -- the ECOWAS  
24 leaders' meeting.

17:28:21 25 JUDGE THOMPSON: Let's have the question in context.

26 THE WITNESS: No, no, that's wrong.

27 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated]

28 MR SANTORA: Just to avoid a confusing question to the  
29 witness, is the question with regards to a specific time



1 period? I know there have been numerous meetings  
2 throughout in Monrovia and maybe we can --  
3 JUDGE THOMPSON: [Microphone not activated]  
4 MR SERRY-KEMAL: The first meeting was in 1998, My Lord -- the  
17:28:45 5 first meeting was early 1998.  
6 [Ms Ashraph confers with first accused]  
7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Kemal, about how much more time do you  
8 think you --  
9 MR SERRY-KEMAL: About five minutes.  
17:29:51 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Right, okay; thank you.  
11 Q. Now, the first meeting was held at the Executive  
12 Mansion --  
13 JUDGE THOMPSON: First meeting of whom? Be a bit more  
14 precise.  
17:29:58 15 MR SERRY-KEMAL: The ECOWAS leaders.  
16 Q. And I think president [inaudible] attended --  
17 A. Your Honour, is it the first meeting of the committee of  
18 five that was set up to solve the Sierra Leone crises, or  
19 first meeting of what? ECOWAS leaders held numerous  
17:30:20 20 meetings. The first meeting of what?  
21 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
22 Q. The first meeting of the committee of five.  
23 A. I disagree. The first meeting was held in Abuja, which  
24 the Liberian government refused to attend, so that's not  
17:30:32 25 right.  
26 Q. Was the meeting held in Liberia, Monrovia?  
27 JUDGE THOMPSON: What --  
28 MR SERRY-KEMAL:  
29 Q. Was the meeting held in Monrovia in 2000?





1 JUDGE THOMPSON: Oh, learned counsel.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: He's saying the first meeting was held in  
3 Abuja?

4 THE WITNESS: Not Liberia.

17:30:49 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: You're saying it's in Liberia. He says --

6 THE WITNESS: Which is wrong.

7 MR SERRY-KEMAL: What I said was any meeting early in 2000.

8 THE WITNESS: He said the first.

9 MR SERRY-KEMAL: No, I've finished with the first.

17:30:50 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Take the question -- the first, please.

11 JUDGE THOMPSON: We don't even have the answer.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Kemal, take the first meeting.

13 MR SERRY-KEMAL: He said the first meeting was held in Abuja  
14 in 2000.

17:31:10 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: The committee of five.

16 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Yes.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: In the year 2000?

18 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Yes.

19 MR HARRISON: With respect, the witness --

17:31:18 20 THE WITNESS: No, that's wrong.

21 MR HARRISON: -- never said anything about the year.

22 THE WITNESS: That's wrong. It was not 2000, it was 1997 --  
23 not 2000. Check your records, please.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: 1997?

17:31:32 25 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

26 MR SERRY-KEMAL: Let us leave 1997 and let us come to 2000.

27 Q. In 2000 was any meeting of this committee held in Liberia  
28 in 2000 -- Monrovia?

29 A. Was -- I don't know specifically the year. I do know



1           that meetings were held in Monrovia, and let me add this,  
2           which is very important.

3   PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

4   THE WITNESS: It's very important.

17:32:01 5   PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

6   THE WITNESS: Someone suggested -- the Defence suggested that  
7           I covered the meetings. We, at the Analyst and at the  
8           National, were considered -- branded by the Liberian  
9           Government as anti-government journalists and we were  
17:32:19 10          denied every opportunity to travel and attend these  
11          meetings. I want you to get that right.

12   MR SERRY-KEMAL:

13   Q. Now, what about the meetings that were held in Monrovia,  
14          did you cover those meetings?

17:32:35 15   A. Yeah, my paper -- the paper did cover the meetings.

16   Q. That's what I'm talking about, the one in 2000.

17   A. 2000 what month, sir?

18   Q. I said do you recall any of those meetings being held in  
19          2000 in Monrovia?

17:32:57 20   A. Yeah.

21   Q. Now, you wanted precise dates -- between August and  
22          September 2000 in Monrovia.

23   A. I do know that some meeting was held in Monrovia.

24   Q. And which President Konare attended?

17:34:02 25   A. The Malian president, I don't remember him attending a  
26          meeting in Monrovia. I don't remember if he attended the  
27          August/September meeting, as he was the president of Mali  
28          at the time. You mean Alpha Oumar Konare?

29   Q. Yes.



1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You remember now?

3 A. I remember that he attended a peace meeting in Monrovia  
4 [overlapping speakers]

17:34:23 5 Q. Yeah, he attended --

6 JUDGE BOUTET: Well, he's answered your question. He can't  
7 tell you if he attended that meeting. He remembers that  
8 that president attended a meeting. Now, he can't say  
9 whether it was during that period -- that time frame that  
17:34:32 10 you put to him.

11 [HS281004E 5.35 p.m.]

12 JUDGE BOUTET: That's what he has answered to you. He knows  
13 that he's been to Monrovia; he knows he's been there some  
14 time, but he cannot say it is during the timeframe that  
17:31:51 15 you've put to him.

16 MR SERRY-KAMAL: I put it between August and September.

17 JUDGE BOUTET: He cannot say; that's his answer.

18 MR SERRY-KAMAL: I will not press the point.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: But he remembers, learned counsel, that  
17:32:03 20 Alpha Oumar Konare, the Malian President, attended this  
21 meeting in Monrovia. He cannot remember, you know,  
22 whether it was within the timeframe. I think --

23 MR SERRY-KAMAL: That is enough for me.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- this is it.

17:32:12 25 MR SERRY-KAMAL: That is enough for me.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

27 MR SERRY-KAMAL: That will be all for the witness. Sorry,  
28 just one moment.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, yes, you may proceed.



1 MR SERRY-KAMAL:

2 Q. I'm putting it to you that throughout 1999 the first  
3 accused --

4 A. The what?

17:32:41 5 Q. The first accused, Mr Issa Sesay, was invited, throughout  
6 1999, but never out of -- never out of Sierra Leone?

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: He has answered that question.

8 JUDGE BOUTET: You put that for '98 and '99.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

17:32:57 10 MR SERRY-KAMAL: I thought I had not covered it.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think we can let that matter rest there.

12 He's answered that question. That will be the end of  
13 your cross-examination of this witness.

14 Well, the day is far spent and I think it's a  
17:34:23 15 convenient time for us to adjourn the proceedings to  
16 tomorrow. Learned counsel, we intend to start tomorrow  
17 at 9 o'clock. I hope it doesn't inconvenience anybody,  
18 because we want to get this, you know, out of our track.  
19 So rather regrettably, I would have to indicate that we  
17:35:06 20 will adjourn and start the session at 9 a.m. tomorrow  
21 morning. The Court will rise, please.

22 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 5:39 p.m., to be  
23 reconvened on Friday, the 29th day of October 2004, at  
24 9.00 a.m.]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

We Roni Kerekes, Maureen P Dunn, and Ella K Drury  
Official Court Reporters for the Special  
Court for Sierra Leone, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
proceedings in the above-entitled cause were taken at the  
time and place as stated; that it was taken in shorthand  
(machine writer) and thereafter transcribed by computer,  
that the foregoing pages contain a true and correct  
transcription of said proceedings to the best of our ability  
and understanding.

We further certify that we are not of counsel nor related  
to any of the parties to this cause and that we are in  
nowise interested in the result of said cause.

Roni Kerekes

Maureen P Dunn

Ella K Drury

WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION:

WITNESS: HASSAN BILITY	4
EXAMINED BY MR SANTORA	4
CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR SERRY-KAMAL	65