



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF  
THE SPECIAL COURT  
V.  
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

MONDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2008  
9.30 A.M.  
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

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Before the Judges:

Justice Teresa Doherty, Presiding  
Justice Richard Lussick  
Justice Julia Sebutinde  
Justice Al Hadji Malick Sow, Alternate

For Chambers:

Mr Simon Meisenberg

For the Registry:

Ms Rachel Irura

For the Prosecution:

Ms Alain Werner  
Mr Christopher Santora  
Ms Julie Baly  
Ms Kirsten Keith

For the accused Charles Ghankay  
Taylor:

Mr Terry Munyard  
Mr Morris Anyah

1 Tuesday, 19 February 2008

2 [Closed session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

09:23:34 5

6 [At this point in the proceedings, a portion of  
7 the transcript, pages 4127 to 4233, was  
8 extracted and sealed under separate cover, as  
9 the proceeding was heard in closed session.]

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1 [Open session]

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: What language will the witness speak in,  
3 Mr Werner?

4 MR WERNER: Good afternoon. Mende.

13:07:34 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Do we have a Mende interpreter in  
6 position, please?

7 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honour.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very good. Thank you, Mr Interpreter.

9 MR WERNER: Your Honours, my understanding is that he is a  
13:08:07 10 Muslim.

11 WITNESS: TF1-330 [Sworn]

12 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR WERNER:

13 MR WERNER:

14 Q. Good afternoon, Mr Witness.

13:09:47 15 A. Good afternoon.

16 Q. I am going to ask you some questions.

17 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the Court Officer  
18 readjust the microphone?

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Which microphone, Mr Interpreter?

13:10:08 20 THE INTERPRETER: The witness's microphone.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Proceed on, Mr Werner.

22 MR WERNER: Thank you, Madam President:

23 Q. Mr Witness, I am going to ask you some questions and these  
24 questions will be interpreted to you. If you do not understand  
13:10:43 25 the question, please say so.

26 A. Okay.

27 Q. Mr Witness, can you state your name for this Court?

28 A. My name is Mr Aruna Gbonda.

29 MR WERNER: And for the record, Aruna is A-R-U-N-A, Gbonda

1 G-B-O-N-D-A:

2 Q. And do you know your date of birth, Mr Witness?

3 A. I was born in 1952.

4 Q. And do you belong to any tribe?

13:11:42 5 A. I am a Mende by tribe. But I can hear my children giving  
6 me that year and I used to hear that from them.

7 Q. You were talking about your year of birth?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So you said that you learnt your year of birth through your  
13:12:06 10 children. Is that what you said?

11 A. It is on the documents. That is what they used to tell me,  
12 that, "You were born in 1952. If you are asked, just say so." I  
13 don't know what is 52, but they used to tell me it is on the  
14 document. They read the document to me.

13:12:29 15 Q. Do you know where you were born?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Please tell this Court where you were born.

18 A. I was born in Talia.

19 MR WERNER: And Talia would be T-A-L-I-A:

13:12:54 20 Q. And where do you live today?

21 A. I live in Talia.

22 Q. And do you know in which district in Sierra Leone is Talia?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Which district, Mr Witness?

13:13:19 25 A. It is in the Kailahun District.

26 Q. Do you know the chiefdom in Kailahun District?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. Please tell this Court in which chiefdom is Talia in  
29 Kailahun District?

1 A. Luawa Chiefdom.

2 MR WERNER: So, Luawa, your Honours, L-U-A-W-A:

3 Q. Mr Witness, do you know how many people live in Talia  
4 today, in your village?

13:14:08 5 A. We are many there. I have not counted us there, but we are  
6 many there, we are many.

7 Q. Did you ever go to school?

8 A. Not a day did I went to school - did I go to school.

9 Q. What are you doing for a living, Mr Witness?

13:14:37 10 A. Farming.

11 Q. Can you describe your work as a farmer in Talia, Kailahun  
12 District?

13 A. I do rice farming.

14 Q. And which kind of rice farming are you doing, Mr Witness?

13:15:08 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: How many kinds of rice farming do we  
16 have?

17 MR WERNER: Several, as I learnt.

18 THE WITNESS: Oh, it is a bush work. There is - we can do  
19 cocoa farming, and coffee farming, and rice farming, so, in fact,  
13:15:29 20 I can say generally it is bush work.

21 Q. You said that you did rice farming; which kind of rice  
22 farming are you doing, Mr Witness?

23 A. During the dry reason, the month of January, that is the  
24 month that we start doing the brushing. We start brushing bush.  
13:15:59 25 After that month, the following month that we call February, that  
26 is when we do the clearing.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Now, Mr Interpreter, let us get something  
28 clear at the beginning.

29 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honour.

1           PRESIDING JUDGE: The expression "brushing" is an  
2 expression used in Sierra Leone. Let's have the English  
3 expression.

4           THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, "cultivate".

13:16:32 5           PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

6           MR WERNER:

7 Q.   Mr Witness, can I just stop you there. I didn't ask you to  
8 describe the process of the rice farming. I was just asking you  
9 - if you don't know, that is fine. I was just asking you how  
10 many - if there are different kinds of rice farming you are doing  
11 in Talia as a farmer?

12 A.   There is upland farming. That is, again, there is swamp  
13 farming and we can feed from the harvest that we get from there.

14           MR MUNYARD: Madam President, on this topic only I am quite  
13:17:20 15 content for my learned friend to lead.

16           MR WERNER: Thank you.

17           PRESIDING JUDGE: Let us see if it is wet rice, or dry  
18 rice.

19           MR WERNER:

13:17:30 20 Q.   Mr Witness, you talked about rice farming. You talked  
21 about cocoa and other kind of bush activities. What else, if  
22 anything, do you do in Talia as a farmer?

23 A.   I can do gardening, cocoa farming. That is as well  
24 farming. That is as well farming.

13:18:08 25 Q.   Can you think of anything else that you do as a farmer in  
26 Talia, Mr Witness?

27 A.   That is what I have told you. There could be another one:  
28 We have coffee farming. We used to do all of these.

29 Q.   Now, Mr Witness, I would like to bring your attention to

1 1996. Can you remember the year 1996?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Where were you, Mr Witness, in 1996?

4 A. I was in Talia, in the bush.

13:19:10 5 Q. And what, if anything, did you do, Mr Witness, at that time  
6 in 1996?

7 A. I was working for the rebels.

8 Q. When you said "I was working for the rebels", who were the  
9 rebels?

13:19:43 10 A. Those who had guns, fighting the war. They were called the  
11 rebels. That was how we called them. That was the name they  
12 gave to us.

13 Q. And what, if anything, were you doing at that time in 1996  
14 with the rebels?

13:20:10 15 A. I used to make farms for them. We used to make farms for  
16 them.

17 Q. And when you say "We used to make farms for them", who are  
18 the "we"?

19 A. Those with whom we were in the same village will come  
13:20:34 20 together to make a farm. That is why I said "we". In Mende when  
21 you say "we" it is all of you who would be together in the same  
22 place. That is what you refer to as "we".

23 Q. Who were these people that were together in the same place?  
24 Who were they, Mr Witness?

13:21:01 25 A. Those of us who lived in Talia, we were the ones doing that  
26 work for them.

27 Q. At that time in 1996 where were you?

28 A. I was in Talia in the bush. They used to call the place  
29 Talia jorbush.

1 Q. You told us before about Talia, now you are telling us  
2 about Talia jorbush. Where exactly is Talia jorbush, if you  
3 know, Mr Witness?

13:21:55

4 A. I said - I said we were Talia in the bush. It was in that  
5 bush, where we used to sleep, that they called jorbush. The bush  
6 nearby Talia. We left the village. We left the village because  
7 the war was intense and so we went into the bush and that was  
8 where they used to call jorbush.

13:22:13

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Could we have some spellings, Mr Werner,  
10 please?

11 MR WERNER: Well, the only new name he gave is jorbush  
12 which I guess, I have no spelling, would be J-0 [sic] Bush.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

14 MR WERNER:

13:22:28

15 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you said that civilians of Talia were in  
16 this bush. Who else, if anyone, was in this jorbush with you at  
17 that time in 1996?

13:23:01

18 A. There were rebels there. They were controlling us. They  
19 were called the G5s. When we were working they will be there to  
20 monitor us.

21 Q. And these rebels, Mr Witness, if any, which name did they  
22 have?

13:23:26

23 A. G5, that was the name they had. Those who were monitoring  
24 us, they were called the G5s. That particular G5's name was  
25 Morrie Feika.

26 MR WERNER: Your Honours, for the record Morrie Feika would  
27 be M-O-R-R-I-E, Morrie, and the family name Feika, F-E-I-K-A:

28 Q. You said, Mr Witness, that Morrie Feika was a G5. What do  
29 you mean when you say G5?

1 A. The soldiers - the person who would be in charge of us, the  
2 civilians, that was the person they called G5. They called him  
3 G5. I didn't know what that meant, but I knew he was our boss.  
4 Whatever we were doing, we were in his hands, we the civilians.

13:24:19 5 Q. When you said "they call him G5", who called him G5,  
6 Mr Witness?

7 A. When the rebels came that was when we used to hear those  
8 names, those positions.

9 Q. And, if anyone, who else did you know among these rebels?

13:24:49 10 A. That man - they had a boss who was the head of all of the  
11 rebels. He was called Prince Taylor.

12 MR WERNER: Your Honours, Prince Taylor, Prince and then  
13 Taylor as the family name:

14 Q. When you said, Mr Witness, that Prince Taylor was the head  
13:25:13 15 of all of the rebels, what do you mean?

16 A. From amongst all the rebels, for all of the rebels, he was  
17 the head of all the G5s. The junior ones and the senior ones, he  
18 was the head of all of them, the G5s.

19 Q. If you know, did Prince Taylor report to anyone?

13:25:56 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. To whom did he report?

22 A. Amongst them Mosquito was their boss. Issa Sesay deputised  
23 him.

24 MR WERNER: I think there were no new names, your Honours:

13:26:22 25 Q. When you say he was "their boss", who? Who are you talking  
26 about, Mr Witness?

27 A. The person that I am talking about, the name that we knew,  
28 that was how he was called. He was called Mosquito and the other  
29 one was called Issa Sesay. That was how they were called.

1 Q. So, you told us about Morrie Feika, you told us about  
2 Prince Taylor, you told us about Mosquito and Issa Sesay. If  
3 anyone, whose other name did you hear at that time in 1996 when  
4 you were in the jorbush?

13:27:10 5 A. While we were in the bush there was another person with us.  
6 He was called Augustine Gbao. He was referred to as IDU  
7 Commander. He was a liaison between the G5 and us. He will talk  
8 to the G5s and the G5s will talk to us. Morrie Feika and others,  
9 he will tell them something and they in turn will tell us.

13:27:41 10 MR WERNER: Your Honour, Augustine Gbao, Gbao is G-B-A-O.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, I note the time. Would this  
12 be a convenient point?

13 MR WERNER: Yes, it would.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very good. Mr Witness, we are now going  
13:27:55 15 to take the lunchtime adjournment. We will adjourn to 2.30.  
16 Please adjourn the Court.

17 [Lunch break taken at 1.30 p.m.]

18 [Upon resuming at 2.30 p.m.]

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, you were just in your  
14:28:54 20 examination-in-chief. Please proceed.

21 MR WERNER: Thank you, Madam President, your Honours:

22 Q. Good afternoon, Mr Witness.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Mr Witness, before the break --

14:29:20 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Before the break you spoke about rebels in the jorbush near  
27 Talia and you told us that Mosquito was their boss and you told  
28 us that Issa deputised Mosquito and I asked you before the break  
29 but I'm not sure you understood my question so I'm going to ask

1 you again, who were these rebels you were talking about,  
2 Mr Witness?

3 A. Those who came and who were fighting the war in this  
4 country, but they weren't wearing any uniform. Just like I am  
14:30:05 5 dressed here, so they were also dressed, these rebels.

6 Q. And if you know how were they called?

7 A. I said rebels. Their name is rebels. They used to call  
8 them another name.

9 Q. And when you say they used to call them another name, which  
14:30:29 10 other name?

11 A. When they came they would write on the walls of houses RUF.  
12 They used to write on houses.

13 Q. Thank you. Now before the break you told us that Gbao,  
14 Augustine Gbao, was the IDU commander. Do you remember that?

14:31:03 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What was the IDU, Mr Witness, if you know?

17 A. IDU, from what they explained to us, the work they do, he  
18 would receive the message and pass it on to Prince Taylor and  
19 Prince Taylor in turn would pass it on to Morie Fekai and Morie  
14:31:29 20 Fekai would in turn pass it on to us, that is what I saw, those  
21 with whom we were working.

22 Q. So when you say he would receive the message who are you  
23 talking about? Who would receive the message?

24 A. When I said he is an IDU, he was the middle man between the  
14:31:56 25 civilians and the IDU. Whatever was there to pass on to the  
26 civilians he would pass it on to Prince Taylor that this is what  
27 the civilians are required to do. The civilian commander, that  
28 G5, would tell you that this is what you're supposed to do. Our  
29 own head was Morie Fekai.

1 Q. Just listen to my question. When you said that you were  
2 the middle man between the civilians and the IDU who are you  
3 talking about?

4 A. I am talking about Augustine Gbao. He would talk to Prince  
14:32:35 5 Taylor and Prince Taylor was the G5 commander. He was our head.  
6 All of us, the civilians, he was our head. But he would not just  
7 - things would not just emanate from him. He would get it from  
8 Augustine Gbao and he would pass it on to Prince Taylor and he  
9 would in turn pass it on to him. That's how it happened.

14:32:54 10 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. And when you say - we understand  
11 that you talk about Augustine Gbao and you say he would talk to  
12 Prince Taylor and Prince Taylor who was a G5 would talk to Morie  
13 Fekai and Morie Fekai would talk to the civilians, why would  
14 Morie Fekai talk to the civilians, Mr Witness?

14:33:18 15 A. Mr Prince Taylor, he was head of all the fighters.  
16 Wherever there was fighting the civilians who were there, he  
17 would be head of them. Morie Fekai, why I'm talking about Morie  
18 Fekai, where we were, that was his own place. Mr Morie Fekai was  
19 the representative of Prince Taylor where we were.

14:33:42 20 Q. Mr Witness, we understand very well that you said that  
21 Morris Fekai was your head and then Morris Fekai was representing  
22 Prince Taylor. That is very clear. The question was you said  
23 that Morris Fekai would talk to the civilians. The question is  
24 why was Morie Fekai talking to the civilians?

14:34:15 25 A. If it is time for farming, if they say we should farm, they  
26 would not just come and tell us, they would tell him to tell us  
27 to farm.

28 Q. And when you say they would tell him, who would tell him?

29 A. That's what I explained a while ago. That Augustine Gbao

1 would tell Mr Prince Taylor, at the time that they were together  
2 he would tell Prince Taylor and Prince Taylor would tell his  
3 boys. Morie Fekai was one of them. He was our own master. When  
4 we were working he would be supervising us.

14:34:52 5 Q. Thank you for that. We will come back to that in due  
6 course. Thank you for this explanation, Mr Witness. Now you  
7 told us before that you were in jorbush in 1996 with the RUF. In  
8 1996 how long did you stay in this jorbush near Talia?

9 A. We were there not just '96. We were there up to '96. That  
14:35:23 10 '96 didn't end, then we went to Kailahun. They gave us the  
11 position. That's where we went in Kailahun. We left the bush.

12 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Interpreter, did you say that '96  
13 didn't end? Is that what you said?

14 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, that's what I said.

14:35:49 15 MR WERNER: I'm going to try to clarify that, your Honour.

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Does that mean that the witness moved to  
17 Kailahun before the end of 1996? I'm asking Mr Werner.

18 MR WERNER: I'm going to try to clarify that:

19 Q. So, Mr Witness, you just told us now about the fact that  
14:36:09 20 you moved from the jorbush to Kailahun. If you can remember when  
21 did you move to Kailahun?

22 A. '96 did not end. It was in '96 that we left the bush and  
23 went to Kailahun. We were in Kailahun when '96 came to an end.

24 Q. Thank you. Now, Mr Witness, I have the feeling that maybe  
14:36:47 25 if you can just slow down when you talk maybe that will help the  
26 interpretation and I will try to do the same here. Now when you  
27 said that you went to Kailahun what are you talking about?

28 A. I am talking about those for whom we went there. They told  
29 us to go to Kailahun. They told us to come from out of the

1 bushes and go to Kailahun. That's when we went to Kailahun.

2 Q. And are you talking about Kailahun Town?

3 A. Yes. That's where we went.

4 Q. Thank you. Now you said that they give you position.

14:37:38 5 Which position are you talking about, Mr Witness, at that time at  
6 the end of 1996?

7 A. I was a deputy chiefdom commander.

8 MR WERNER: Sorry, your Honours, I hear that he said that.

9 I can try to --

14:37:55 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: I do recall him saying that too. It was  
11 two answers or three answers back. Continue, Mr Werner.

12 MR WERNER: Yes, I was just trying to see his answer:

13 Q. So you said that you were a deputy chiefdom commander.

14 When did you become a deputy chiefdom commander?

14:38:25 15 A. In that same '96. That was when I became deputy chiefdom  
16 commander.

17 Q. And could you explain to this Court how you became a deputy  
18 chiefdom commander?

19 A. There was one person they called Sellu. He was appointed  
14:38:52 20 as chiefdom commander and Morie Fekai appointed me as his  
21 assistant to work with him.

22 MR WERNER: Your Honours, Sellu would be S-E-L-L-U:

23 Q. Now you talked about a Sellu who you said was chiefdom  
24 commander. Do you know his full name?

14:39:24 25 A. Sellu Ensah.

26 MR WERNER: Ensah would be E-N-S-A-H:

27 Q. Now could you explain what a chiefdom commander means and  
28 then we will come back to your own appointment, but first what a  
29 chiefdom commander means?

1 A. That position, at this time they will call him paramount  
2 chief. They will call him the paramount chief. Before the war  
3 they would call that position paramount chief. Those civilians  
4 who were with the rebels in Kailahun in that area, we were with  
14:40:19 5 them. We led them, so that was the name that was given to us.  
6 The person who deputised the paramount chief they called deputy  
7 chieftom commander and I was in that position.

8 Q. And when you said that this position at this time they will  
9 call him paramount chief, who would call him paramount chief?

14:40:50 10 A. Chieftom councilors would appoint the paramount chief. 19  
11 to 20 people would appoint him. Even if they are up to a  
12 hundred --

13 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly  
14 repeat his last answer.

14:41:11 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter would like  
16 you to repeat your answer again. He wants to hear it once more.

17 THE WITNESS: I said before the war when they were going to  
18 appoint a paramount chief the house tax that we pay, the 19  
19 people, the 20th one would be appointed and we would bring these  
14:41:50 20 people together and up to a point these people would appoint the  
21 paramount chief, those people who would make the 20th person.

22 MR WERNER:

23 Q. Now, coming back to the appointment of Sellu Ensah to be  
24 clear, because when you talked about before the war --

14:42:07 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just before you go on, Mr Werner, I find  
26 that last answer very confusing. Perhaps if I ask the witness.  
27 Mr Witness, could you again explain to us how the paramount chief  
28 was appointed before the war?

29 THE WITNESS: Chieftom people, the house tax that they

1 paid, 19 people, when it makes up 20 they would appoint one  
2 person. For instance in that area that we were, if they have up  
3 to 20 people out of every 20 people they would have one person,  
4 they would appoint one person. Out of every 20 people they would  
14:42:56 5 appoint one person and that would go up to 20 and those 20 people  
6 would appoint the paramount chief.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Witness, I'm clear now.

8 MR WERNER:

9 Q. Now coming back to 1996 and the appointment of Sellu Ensah,  
14:43:16 10 who appointed Sellu Ensah as a chiefdom commander?

11 A. Commander. It was Augustine Gbao and others who gave him  
12 that position.

13 Q. Thank you. And when you say he was chiefdom commander,  
14 chiefdom commander for what, for which part of Kailahun District?

14:43:52 15 A. The Luawa Chiefdom.

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Werner, is chiefdom commander the same  
17 as a paramount chief?

18 MR WERNER: I do not know the answer. I will ask the  
19 witness:

14:44:07 20 Q. Mr Witness, have you heard the question? Is a paramount  
21 chief the same thing as the chiefdom commander?

22 A. During the war they would call their own paramount chief  
23 chiefdom commander during the war.

24 Q. And who called their own paramount chief chiefdom  
14:44:36 25 commander, Mr Witness?

26 A. Augustine Gbao and others. Augustine Gbao, Mosquito,  
27 Prince Taylor, Issa Sesay, that's what they called us.

28 Q. Now you said that Sellu Ensah was the chiefdom commander  
29 for Luawa Chiefdom. Now, if you know, what was his job?

1 A. Sellu Ensah, when it's time for farming they would tell him  
2 that we want you to cultivate a farm for us and he would pass it  
3 on to me and I in turn, all those civilians, I will go after the  
4 civilians, we will come together and cultivate that farm. That  
14:45:42 5 was what his job was.

6 Q. And when you say that they would tell him that we want you  
7 to cultivate a farm, who would tell Sellu Ensah that?

8 A. Augustine Gbao and others. I keep saying it Augustine  
9 Gbao. Where we were in Kailahun, he was the leader there. He  
14:46:12 10 was the representative for Issa Sesay and Mosquito in Kailahun,  
11 so he would pass an order to Morrie Fekai and Morrie Fekai would  
12 pass it on to Sellu and Sellu would pass it on to me. That's how  
13 we worked.

14 Q. Thank you for that. And when you say Kailahun are you  
14:46:29 15 talking about Kailahun Town?

16 A. Not just the town. When I talk about Kailahun it's all  
17 Kailahun surrounding, that Luawa Chiefdom. That's our chiefdom.  
18 That's the headquarter town, Kailahun.

19 Q. Now you explained that you were the deputy chiefdom  
14:46:57 20 commander so for which part of Kailahun District were you the  
21 deputy chiefdom commander?

22 A. Luawa Chiefdom, Kailahun. That chiefdom is what we call  
23 Luawa, but the big town is called Kailahun.

24 MR WERNER: I cannot remember, your Honours, if I spelt for  
14:47:26 25 you Luawa or not. I did, okay:

26 Q. Now can you tell this Court what was your job as a deputy  
27 chiefdom commander for Luawa Chiefdom?

28 A. The first thing is during the dry season we do farming.  
29 After that during the period to cultivate cocoa we harvested.

1 When it's time for palm kernel we farm that one as well. After  
2 that it is up to us to also transport it to the riverside for  
3 them to go and sell it. Those are the jobs that I did and my  
4 followers, those are the things we did.

14:48:40 5 Q. So, Mr Witness, you said that you and you used the word  
6 "we" were doing farming. Now I'm not talking about the civilians  
7 of Luawa Chiefdom for a while, just about you as a deputy  
8 chiefdom commander. As a deputy chiefdom commander for Luawa  
9 Chiefdom what were your jobs?

14:49:07 10 A. It was my responsibility when Sellu tells me that all the  
11 civilians should do this, it was my responsibility. I too had my  
12 representatives in the surrounding villages. I would tell all of  
13 them that this is what we are supposed to do. That was my own  
14 real job and we would all do it together and I would ensure that  
14:49:27 15 that work is done and we hand it over to him.

16 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. How long did you remain a deputy  
17 chiefdom commander for Luawa Chiefdom, Mr Witness?

18 A. I have been in that position up to the time of the  
19 disarmament.

14:49:58 20 Q. And can you remember which year was the disarmament in  
21 Sierra Leone?

22 A. I think it was in '92 that they collected all the guns.  
23 '91, '92, in between there, that was the time they collected all  
24 the guns. That's when my own reign ended.

14:50:29 25 Q. Was it after or before your appointment as a deputy  
26 chiefdom commander?

27 A. I have been in that position up to the time of the end of  
28 the disarmament. And when they took the guns from us they took  
29 those positions from us. At the moment there are chiefs there.

1 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now you said that your village was  
2 Talia and then you went to Kailahun Town, district headquarter of  
3 Luawa Chiefdom, when you were appointed deputy chiefdom  
4 commander. How long did you stay in Kailahun Town?

14:51:25 5 A. That's the time I told you about; from '96 up to that year  
6 that the disarmament started I was still in Kailahun.

7 Q. And during those years how did you travel from Kailahun  
8 Town to Talia, your own village?

9 A. When I was going sometimes Fekai had his office, I would go  
14:52:02 10 there and tell him that I want to go to my village. They would  
11 give me a document. They called it a pass. That was what we  
12 used to go around.

13 Q. And why did you need a pass at that time to go from  
14 Kailahun Town to Talia, Mr Witness?

14:52:22 15 A. If you didn't obtain that pass and you come across any  
16 rebel he would think that it's another civilian who had come to  
17 spy on them and they would kill you. That was why we obtained  
18 that pass; to show that we were them.

19 Q. And when you say to show that you were with them who are  
14:52:49 20 you talking about, with whom?

21 A. I said the rebels.

22 Q. And, if anyone, who else needed a pass at that time to  
23 travel from Kailahun Town to Talia?

24 A. Every civilian who wanted to go somewhere would have to  
14:53:15 25 obtain a pass. Every civilian.

26 Q. And how do you know that, Mr Witness?

27 A. I was leading them. Wherever I was going I will obtain a  
28 pass. That was why they too would have to obtain a pass.

29 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you told us what was your job as a deputy

1 chiefdom commander and you said that part of your job included  
2 farming. Could you explain to this Court what you meant when you  
3 said that part of your job as a deputy chiefdom commander for  
4 Luawa Chiefdom included farming?

14:54:13 5 A. Farming, when we say farming there is rice farming, there  
6 is coffee farming, there is cocoa farming. But at this time we  
7 were doing rice farming. I really want to explain how we do this  
8 farming. It's a physical job and whoever was physical would do  
9 that job.

14:54:43 10 Q. And when was it that you requested civilians to do farming?

11 A. At that time that I was in Talia they would tell us to  
12 farm. The RUF people would tell us to farm, to farm for RUF. We  
13 would come together and go and do the clearing, burn the farm, do  
14 the farming and harvest the rice and hand it over to them.

14:55:22 15 Q. And from the time you were deputy chiefdom commander how  
16 many times did that happen, how many times did you do that?

17 A. We continued farming I think up to the year 2000. I think  
18 so. In between those. Maybe I will forget a little, but I think  
19 it went up to 2000. In between those years. That's what I  
20 think. We were still farming.

14:56:00 21 Q. And you're talking about farming in Talia?

22 A. Not just Talia. Whichever village had people farming was  
23 done there. Not just Talia.

24 Q. And talking about Talia for one second, how many people  
14:56:23 25 were working on this rice farming from '96 to 2000 in Talia?

26 A. In Talia all those people who were in Talia did that work.  
27 All those people who were in Talia did that work. Before the war  
28 we were many there, but when the war came so many people ran  
29 away, some people died, but those who came there, those who came

1 there, they are up to 50 in that town, some strangers added up to  
2 them, doing their own farming in that town.

3 Q. And what if anything - from '96 to 2000 when you were doing  
4 this farming in Talia, what, if anything, did you harvest?

14:57:35 5 A. We would harvest rice but I cannot tell you the quantity of  
6 the rice, but we used to harvest the rice and give it to them.  
7 They put it in their barns. They would eat the rice.

8 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: They would keep it in their what?

9 THE INTERPRETER: B-A-R-N, your Honour.

14:58:04 10 MR WERNER: Barns:

11 Q. And when you said that we give it to them, who are the  
12 them, Mr Witness?

13 A. The rebels. We used to give it to the rebels. We would  
14 give it to Morrie Fekai and he would in turn give it to them.

14:58:30 15 Q. Why did you give this rice to Morrie Fekai, Mr Witness?

16 A. Whatever they would tell us to do, if we did it, they would  
17 tell him and he would tell Sellu, Sellu in turn would tell me.  
18 So when we did the work we would hand it over to him and he in  
19 turn would hand it over to them. We would not go straight to  
14:58:55 20 Augustine Gbao.

21 Q. But when Morrie Fekai told you to do that why did the  
22 civilians of Talia do it?

23 A. When the war came we were enslaved. Whatever they would  
24 tell us to do, that was what we would do. That was why we were  
14:59:27 25 doing the farming. We were in slavery. He was controlling us.  
26 He would tell us to do it. We were not - we were not free.

27 Q. And when you say we were in slavery what exactly do you  
28 mean, Mr Witness?

29 A. Before the war when I would be doing my farming I would do

1 it at my own pace. I will harvest the rice and I will eat it and  
2 I will be well fed. But when the war came and we were captured  
3 the farming that we used to do for them, we would give them all  
4 the proceeds. We would go to the bush and look for food to eat.

15:00:13 5 So in that circumstance you are in slavery.

6 Q. And talking about this work that the civilians of Talia did  
7 in the rice farms, were the civilians of Talia ever paid for that  
8 farming?

9 A. Never. That never happened. If you did not do it you  
15:00:44 10 would be beaten and that would be your pay. In fact if you  
11 delayed going to the place you would be beaten seriously and that  
12 was your pay.

13 Q. And who, if anyone, did you see being beaten because the  
14 rice was not produced?

15:01:10 15 A. Even myself sitting here, I was beaten many times for  
16 works. Whenever they would tell us to do something, if they  
17 asked us to go and if you delayed just a bit you would be beaten.  
18 Even myself sitting here, I was beaten many times.

19 Q. And who beat you, Mr Witness?

15:01:39 20 A. I have forgotten the name unless you just give me some time  
21 to think. The first person who beat he was called Jerry.

22 Q. And to which group, if any, did Jerry belong, Mr Witness?

23 A. They were fighting the war. They were the rebels.

24 Q. And why were you beaten the first time?

15:02:14 25 A. They said they had told me to go with workers to go and  
26 work and I was reluctant, that's why they were beating me.

27 Q. And you said that you were beaten many times. Can you  
28 remember any other instances when you were beaten up?

29 A. Yes. They told me to take people, 300 people to Gbaiama to

1 clear the swamp, to go with the civilians. When I was going I  
2 went with about 50 people, but where they were we could not reach  
3 there, civilians could not reach there. There was a town called  
4 Sandialu and we stopped there and we sent for them. I said I had  
15:03:09 5 brought people and they asked for the number and I gave them the  
6 number and they sent for me, [indiscernible], and they took me to  
7 them. They said we asked you to bring all the civilians, 300  
8 people, and you would just bring 40 people or 50 people and they  
9 started beating me up. They beat me up and everybody in that  
15:03:28 10 whole area, that whole chiefdom heard about that beating that  
11 they gave to me.

12 MR WERNER: So, your Honours, two locations, Gbaiama,  
13 G-B-A-I-A-M-A. I believe the second one to be Sandialu but I may  
14 be wrong, but my understanding is Sandialu which would be  
15:03:54 15 S-A-N-D-I-A-L-U:

16 Q. Now you said that they asked you to bring all the civilians  
17 and you just bring 40 of them so they started to beat you up.  
18 Who are you talking about, Mr Witness? Who are the they?

19 A. The person who was there whom I met that I knew his name,  
15:04:40 20 there were people from many other areas but he was a Mende, he  
21 was called Tom Sandi.

22 MR WERNER: Tom Sandi, Tom like the name and Sandi would be  
23 S-A-N-D-I:

24 Q. And did he belong to any organisation, Tom Sandi?

15:05:03 25 A. Yes, he was a soldier. He was the one that I met there, my  
26 fellow Mende person. He was standing there while I was being  
27 beaten.

28 Q. And to whom, if anyone - to whom did he report, Tom Sandi?

29 A. I did not report, never. I did not report. You could not

1 even think about reporting because there was nowhere to report.  
2 A civilian if you were beaten, you could not even think about  
3 reporting.

15:05:39 4 Q. It's my mistake, Mr Witness. I apologise for that. My  
5 question was Tom Sandi at the time, when you knew him, to whom  
6 did he report, himself Tom Sandi?

7 A. When I went there I met Tom Sandi at that base. I knew  
8 him. He gave me his name, but I didn't know his boss. He was a  
9 soldier. I didn't know their boss. I was a civilian. A soldier  
15:06:11 10 would tell you that this was Tom Sandi's boss, but I was  
11 civilian, I couldn't tell that.

12 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. And you said that you were beaten  
13 up by Tom Sandi. What were you beaten up with, if you can  
14 remember?

15:06:39 15 A. They used to slice up tyres and they refer to it as cobra.  
16 That was what they used to beat us up with.

17 Q. You gave us two instances when you were beaten up and you  
18 told us that there were many other instances. How many other  
19 times were you beaten up, Mr Witness?

15:07:05 20 A. That was the one that I actually felt - they used to beat  
21 me, but that one I actually felt it much more than any other one  
22 else. That one I really felt it.

23 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you told us about civilians in Talia doing  
24 rice farming for the RUF and then you said that you talked about  
15:07:34 25 other locations, you said it was not only in Talia. Where else,  
26 if anywhere, were civilians working on farms?

27 A. Let me explain because when I came here I took an oath to  
28 say the truth and when I will be explaining I want those in  
29 Kailahun to know that I'm speaking the truth. What I was at

1 Gbaiama, they used to call the place targets. We were divided  
2 into groups. Wherever there was - there was a target in  
3 Sembehun, in Talia. And Borbu Highway, there was a target as  
4 well. And Bandajuma as well. They called it Bandajuma target.

15:08:22 5 And Giema too. There were six targets. The work that we did,  
6 all the others in the other targets were doing it as well. If it  
7 is this time now, if it is normal times like now they will refer  
8 to as sections, but during the war they refer to it as targets.

9 MR WERNER: So Giema would be G-I-E-M-A. Bandajuma would  
15:08:53 10 be B-A-N-D-A-J-U-M-A. Borbu Highway would be B-O-R-B-U.

11 Gbaiama, G-B-A-I-A-M-A:

12 Q. Now, Mr Witness, talking about Giema, what if anything did  
13 you see happening in Giema when you were deputy chiefdom  
14 commander for Luawa Chiefdom?

15:09:46 15 A. We the civilians, whatever we will get, if it was time of  
16 harvesting palm oil, if we got the palm oil we would take it to  
17 Giema. If it was time for cocoa, if we harvest it we would take  
18 it to Giema and from Giema we would take it to the riverside.

19 Q. Sorry, let me - probably my question was very confusing.  
15:10:10 20 I'm going to rephrase it. When you were deputy chiefdom  
21 commander what, if anything, did you see happening in Giema?

22 A. We made a big farm at Giema from - there is a place called  
23 Kambama [phon], going towards Talia, there was a big farm that we  
24 made there for the rebels. Apart from that the commanders who  
15:10:48 25 were at Giema, I don't know their names now, many of them, but  
26 most of them we used to cultivate farms for them. Even Issa  
27 Sesay we used to cultivate a swamp for him at that same Giema.

28 Q. So you talk about a big farm --

29 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: There is a name of a village, the big

1 farm.

2 MR WERNER: I'm coming to it in one second. If you just  
3 give me one second. I'm not familiar with that name. I am going  
4 to ask the witness:

15:11:25 5 Q. Mr Witness, you said that there was a big farm in Giema and  
6 there was a place - did you say Kambama?

7 A. Giema, the place was called Kambama, going towards Talia.  
8 It is just - it's just an adjoining of Giema. Kambama is a place  
9 where they had a cemetery. That's why called the place Kambama,  
10 because it was where the cemetery for Giema was.

15:12:03

11 MR WERNER: I have no spelling, your Honours. I can try,  
12 but I have no spelling:

13 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you told us about a big farm in Giema.  
14 What did you talk about when you said there was a big farm? Can  
15 you explain further what you meant when you said there was a big  
16 farm in Giema?

15:12:29

17 A. We cultivated a farm. Issa Sesay and others told us to  
18 cultivate a very big farm for them, those who were fighting, and  
19 they said they would use the rice to send it to support the war.  
20 The farm was really big at that same Kambama, towards the end of  
21 the village.

15:12:55

22 Q. And who worked on this big farm, Mr Witness?

23 A. All of this work that I have been telling you, we were  
24 doing it, we the civilians. That was the work we did.

15:13:21

25 Q. And if you can remember for this big farm in Giema when did  
26 that happen, when did civilians work on that farm?

27 A. That Giema farm I think it was in '97, that big farm. But  
28 besides that we used to cultivate other farms, besides that big  
29 one, because every village people would have to cultivate a farm

1 for rebels. But that particular big one I think it was in '97  
2 that we cultivated it. We were in Kailahun when we came to do  
3 the work.

15:14:16 4 Q. And how many civilians worked on that big farm in Giema, if  
5 you can remember?

6 A. Some days we will go there up to 150 sometimes.

7 Q. Now you told us as well about a swamp farm and you  
8 mentioned the fact that some commanders had farms and you  
9 mentioned the names of Issa Sesay. Now what, if anything, can  
15:14:50 10 you say about a swamp farm in Giema?

11 A. If you leave Giema town there is a swamp that you will  
12 reach, from the swamp you get to a school, but it was that swamp  
13 that we cultivated, that very big swamp that we did for Issa  
14 Sesay. It was on the main road.

15:15:26 15 Q. And why did you cultivate a swamp farm for Issa Sesay  
16 outside Giema?

17 A. That was the food he used to eat at home.

18 Q. And when you say he who are you talking about?

19 A. Issa Sesay and the people who were with him would eat that  
15:16:02 20 rice. The people with whom he stayed.

21 Q. And how did you know that?

22 A. I saw people with him at his house.

23 Q. Now, Mr Witness, how many civilians worked on this swamp  
24 farm in Giema?

15:16:36 25 A. It was not every day but many of us used to go there to  
26 work, but it was not on a daily basis. If you are saying on a  
27 daily basis, no. But we used to go there in large numbers and we  
28 did it until the end of the work.

29 Q. And can you remember the year when you civilians went to

1 work on this swamp farm in Giema for Issa Sesay?

2 A. Starting from '96 right until 2000 we cultivated that  
3 swamp.

4 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now you told us that there was  
15:17:30 5 harvesting of cacao. Can you remember saying that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What if anything do you know about this harvesting of cacao  
8 at the time you were deputy chiefdom commander for Luawa  
9 Chiefdom?

15:18:04 10 A. In '97 when they asked us to give them cacao in Talia, my  
11 village, the cacao they got was 35 bags. In '98 we submitted up  
12 to 37 bags of cacao and after that the other year we gave 40  
13 bags. That was the end.

14 Q. And to whom did you give those bags to, Mr Witness, '97,  
15:18:50 15 '98 and '99?

16 A. When we would bring the cacao together I will hand it over  
17 to Chief Sellu and Chief Sellu would hand it over to Morrie Fekai  
18 and Morrie Fekai in turn would hand it over to Augustine Gbao.  
19 He would hand it over to Augustine Gbao.

15:19:19 20 Q. And where did you hand over this cacao to Chief Sellu?  
21 Where did that happen?

22 A. Initially we would gather it at Giema after we completed  
23 the gathering of the cacao, but in '98 we used to gather it at  
24 Kailahun.

15:19:55 25 Q. And how was the cacao transported from Talia to Kailahun  
26 Town?

27 A. We would take the cacao from Giema, we would not stop at  
28 Kailahun, we would take it to the riverside. That was where they  
29 used to transact business.

1 Q. Now let me - I should have asked you that before. How many  
2 people in '97, '98 and '99, how many people in Talia worked on  
3 this cacao production?

4 A. We were many doing that work. We were many doing that  
15:20:52 5 work. But to say that whenever we went there I would do a head  
6 count, no, I did not do that, but we were many doing that work.

7 Q. And how many people transported this cacao to the  
8 riverbank?

9 A. When they would ask us to take for example 20 bags 40  
15:21:13 10 people would go with the cacao. One person - two people to a  
11 bag.

12 Q. And what was the age group of these people transporting the  
13 cacao, Mr Witness?

14 A. We were adults. There were no children. Children couldn't  
15:21:47 15 have carried that cacao. Like people of my age or some people  
16 were not up to my age, but they were all adults.

17 Q. And what was the gender of these people transporting the  
18 cacao?

19 A. We the men were carrying the cacao. I never saw them give  
15:22:09 20 it to women to carry.

21 Q. And talking about harvesting of the cacao in Talia, did the  
22 children work on the farms?

23 A. At that time there were not small children, because there  
24 was no food. Those who had children, most of them had run away.  
15:22:43 25 Where we were, if those who had children, we couldn't have taken  
26 them to the cacao farm. We couldn't take them there. We used to  
27 leave them behind and we would go, we the adults, we would go  
28 there to do the cacao harvesting.

29 But like this time when there is food all over the place,

1 if you are going there, if you are going to do cacao harvesting  
2 you would take your children with you because there is food and  
3 whilst you are plucking it they would be gathering it for you.

15:23:21

4 Q. And when you say this time when there was food when are you  
5 talking about?

6 A. Like now where I'm here, I am free, I am not in anybody's  
7 custody, I am for myself. But at that time we were in the  
8 custody of the rebels, we hadn't any option. That was the year I  
9 am talking about. We were not free.

15:23:50

10 Q. And about this cacao farm in Talia, did women work on this  
11 cacao production, Mr Witness?

12 A. Yes, the harvest, we would do it together with the women.

15:24:23

13 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now you told us before as well  
14 about a palm oil production or harvesting. What did you mean

15 when you spoke about a palm oil harvesting, Mr Witness?

16 A. Like the dry season, this month in Mende we would call it  
17 March. If you want to harvest palm oil this is the month you go  
18 and cut the palm fruit, then you start the process. They would  
19 ask us to contribute palm oil. They would distribute it amongst  
20 targets. Talia target would give three drums and we gave that.

15:24:59

21 Q. And when you say they would us to contribute palm oil, who  
22 would ask you to contribute palm oil, Mr Witness?

23 A. Augustine Gbao would tell Morrie Fekai and Morrie Fekai  
24 would tell Sellu and Sellu in turn would tell me and I would as  
25 well go and tell me representatives and we would gather the palm  
26 oil.

15:25:30

27 Q. And how many times did that happen in Talia when you were  
28 deputy chiefdom commander?

29 A. Three times.

1 Q. Can you remember those times?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Please tell this Court?

15:26:04

4 A. In '98 we contributed four drums of palm oil. In '99 we  
5 contributed one drum.

6 Q. And what about in '97, did you contribute any palm oil?

7 A. We contributed three drums.

8 Q. And how many people worked in Talia on producing this palm  
9 oil?

15:26:35

10 A. When they would say we should do the palm oil harvesting,  
11 except children that would not be with us, but every adult was  
12 involved in that work. When once you were a civilian that was  
13 your work.

14 Q. And how was this palm oil given to Augustine Gbao?

15:27:08

15 A. I will not take it straight to Augustine Gbao. If I did  
16 that they would use an English word they called bypass and I  
17 would not do that. I would not want to bypass the authority. If  
18 I did the harvesting I would give it to Sellu Ensah and Sellu  
19 Ensah would present it to Morrie Fekai and Morrie Fekai in turn  
20 would present it to Augustine Gbao. That was how it happened.

15:27:34

21 Q. So where did you give that palm oil to Sellu Ensah,  
22 Mr Witness, in '97, '98 and '99?

23 A. In '97 we gathered the palm oil in Giema. In '98, '99 it  
24 was in Kailahun.

15:28:05

25 Q. And how did you transport this palm oil from Talia to  
26 Giema?

27 A. I explained it once. If we got it from Giema, from there  
28 straightaway we would take it to the riverside. We would not  
29 take it Kailahun. From there straight we would go to the

1 riverside.

2 Q. Who transported this palm oil to the riverside?

3 A. We the civilians, we would take it to the riverside.

4 Q. And how many civilians in 1997 did you need to transport  
15:28:46 5 this palm oil to the riverside?

6 A. If they will say for example it was going to be one drum  
7 each drum contained 12 - 10 jerry cans.

8 Q. So how were these jerry cans transported?

9 A. We would cut leaves and we would make them as a kind of pad  
15:29:33 10 to use that. We would not just put the palm oil on our bare  
11 heads. We would use some leaves and use them as pads.

12 Q. And you said that this palm oil was brought to the  
13 riverside. If you know, what was this palm oil used for?

14 A. Yes.

15:30:11 15 Q. Do you know what this palm oil was used for when you  
16 brought it to the riverside?

17 A. When they got it to the riverside, they would sell it and  
18 they would buy salt, Maggi and bags of rice. Cigarettes too.

19 Q. And who would sell it, Mr Witness?

15:30:41 20 A. The rebels would sell it. Our own work was just to carry  
21 it. We would not even be close. We would go a little far from  
22 there and they would sell it. I would not tell you that this  
23 person was particularly the one responsible for selling it. We  
24 would just carry it to the place and we would push away and they  
15:30:57 25 would do the transaction.

26 MR MUNYARD: I wonder if the word Maggi is correctly  
27 written on the screen. I wonder if we could find out what it is  
28 because I'm mystified by that.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Perhaps I shouldn't give evidence from

1 the Bench, but it's a little --

2 MR WERNER: I will clarify.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: If there's still a mystery after this I  
4 will right it for you.

15:31:25 5 MR WERNER: I agree:

6 Q. Mr Witness, you said that the rebels would sell this palm  
7 oil and then they would buy salt, bags of rice, cigarettes and  
8 Maggi. Could you explain what Maggi is, if you know?

9 A. Yes. Maggi cube, even now they put it in packets. It's  
10 part of the ingredients of cooking. It's part of the condiments.  
11 If you want to cook a sauce, for example, you would put Maggi in  
12 it to make it a little more delicious.

13 MR MUNYARD: I'm very grateful. I didn't realise they had  
14 it in Sierra Leone as well as in England.

15:32:11 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: It's an extremely popular market item,  
16 Mr Munyard.

17 MR MUNYARD: I'll make a note of that, your Honour.

18 MR WERNER:

19 Q. Mr Witness, so we understand now very well that the palm  
15:32:27 20 oil would be sold and then the rebels would buy salt, Maggi, rice  
21 and cigarettes. If you know, what did happen to these products  
22 that were bought in the riverside?

23 A. We would carry it on our heads and bring it to Kailahun and  
24 they had a store there and we would pack it in that store and we  
15:32:55 25 would leave them.

26 Q. And when you say they had a store who are you talking  
27 about?

28 A. The rebels had the store. Let me make it clear.

29 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now you explained what happened in

1 1997 with this palm oil. What happened in 1998?

2 A. In '98 too we did farming. We cultivated farms. In those  
3 years we cultivated farms.

4 Q. Sorry, Mr Witness, probably my question was not clear. I  
15:33:47 5 was just trying to finish off with the palm oil and you explained  
6 that you produced in Talia palm oil in - civilians produced in  
7 Talia palm oil in 1997, 1998 and 1999 and I asked a question  
8 about the transport of palm oil for 1997. So the question is  
9 what happened with the palm oil produced in Talia in 1998, if you  
15:34:12 10 can remember?

11 A. When we would gather the palm oil, we would take it to the  
12 riverside and they would buy those items that I had just  
13 mentioned.

14 Q. And what about 1999?

15:34:45 15 A. Just as I explained, that is it.

16 Q. Now, Mr Witness, do you know in Kailahun District and in  
17 your chiefdom, do you know a place called Keyah River? Sorry,  
18 let me repeat the question. Do you know a river, Mr Witness, in  
19 Luawa Chiefdom called Keyah River?

15:35:29 20 A. Yes.

21 MR WERNER: Your Honours, Keyah, K-E-Y-A-H.

22 Q. Did you go to Keyah River when you were deputy chiefdom  
23 commander from 1996 to 2000?

24 A. Yes.

15:35:57 25 Q. And what, if anything, did you see in Keyah River during  
26 those years?

27 A. Keyah is shorter to my home town where I am. It is shorter  
28 to my home town. Before they came we used to fish during the dry  
29 season. We would start the fishing in February, right up to

1 March, we would do fishing there and we used to eat the fish that  
2 we caught.

3 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Interpreter, what do you mean Keyah is  
4 shorter to my home?

15:36:40 5 THE INTERPRETER: It's a shorter distance.

6 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Shorter than what?

7 THE INTERPRETER: That is what the witness said.

8 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: What is the correct interpretation of--

9 THE INTERPRETER: It's supposed to be a short distance but  
15:36:52 10 the witness said shorter. It's supposed to be a short distance  
11 but the witness, your Honour, used shorter to my home so I don't  
12 know what he was comparing it to.

13 MR WERNER:

14 Q. Mr Witness, what did you mean when you said that it was a  
15:37:07 15 shorter distance to your home?

16 A. I said it is not far from my home town. From my home town  
17 to that river it's one and a half miles.

18 Q. Now you explained that the fishing would start in February  
19 up to March. Who would do the fishing, Mr Witness?

15:37:50 20 A. Before the war we were free doing things on our own, but  
21 during the war the women used to fish for the RUF.

22 Q. And when did that happen?

23 A. They did it for many years. Right up to 2000 the women  
24 used to fish, that is their work.

15:38:20 25 Q. And can you just explain - help us with that. You say they  
26 did it for many years right up to 2000. Which years are you  
27 talking about?

28 A. Starting from '94 when they started fishing for them right  
29 up to that year that I have mentioned they used to do fishing for

1 them.

2 Q. When you say for them who are them, Mr Witness?

3 A. I said for the RUF.

15:39:06

4 Q. And you said that the women were fishing. Who, if anyone,  
5 did you know among the women going fishing to the Keyah River for  
6 the RUF?

7 A. Yes, the women, when they would be leaving, the person they  
8 would appoint to lead them, that leader was called Hawa Jusu.

9 MR WERNER: Your Honours, H-A-W-A J-U-S-U:

15:39:46

10 Q. And who was that Hawa Jusu, Mr Witness?

11 A. She's a woman. She's still in Talia as I'm talking.

12 Q. And during the time you were deputy chiefdom commander  
13 what, if anything, happened to Hawa Jusu?

15:40:21

14 A. When they would ask them to go for fishing if she would  
15 delay to bring the women together they would beat her. In my  
16 presence they beat her up twice.

17 Q. And who did that, Mr Witness?

18 A. The rebels beat her up. But the rebels who were commanded  
19 to beat her up, I don't know their names, but they beat her up in  
20 my presence.

15:40:48

21 Q. And when did that happen?

22 A. This month, like in this month, in March.

23 Q. In which year was she beaten up, if you know?

24 A. '97, '98 they beat her up in my presence.

15:41:23

25 Q. And I asked you who did that and you said that the rebels  
26 beat her up, the rebels who were commanded to beat her up. How  
27 do you know that rebels were commanded to beat her up?

28 A. When they will say that they will - the women should go to  
29 this town and go and do the fishing, the soldiers who would be

1 going, they needed to go - they needed to go and tell the G5 that  
2 the women should go and do the fishing.

3 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness repeat that  
4 answer.

15:42:13 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter would like  
6 you to repeat your answer again so he can hear it clearly.  
7 Please repeat your answer.

8 THE WITNESS: I said with regards fishing the rebels would  
9 come together and say let's go to this town so the women would do  
10 fishing for us and they will just go to the town. If they got  
11 there they would just tell Hawa to get some women to go and do  
12 the fishing. That was how it happened. But if anybody refused  
13 then they would ask one of them to beat that person up.

14 MR WERNER:

15:42:56 15 Q. And how do you know that, Mr Witness?

16 A. It happened in my presence.

17 Q. Thank you. Now you told us as well about coffee  
18 harvesting. What, if anything, do you know about coffee  
19 harvesting during the time you were deputy chiefdom commander for  
15:43:22 20 Luawa?

21 A. Where I am living we have coffee there, but not much of it.  
22 But going towards Sandialu they have a lot of coffee there.  
23 Whilst we would be contributing cacao they would be contributing  
24 coffee.

15:43:50 25 Q. And when you say they would be contributing coffee who are  
26 you talking about?

27 A. The civilians at their end, they will be contributing  
28 coffee because they had a lot of coffee at that end.

29 Q. And when you say at their end, which end? Are you able to

1 assist where in Luawa Chiefdom?

2 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can counsel repeat the  
3 question.

4 MR WERNER: The witness said that they contributed coffee  
15:44:43 5 at that end and I was asking where was that end, which location  
6 is he talking about?

7 THE WITNESS: I said that town is called Sandialu

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Can we have a spelling for that?

9 MR WERNER: I think I gave it to you, but I'm very happy to  
15:45:07 10 do it again. It would be S-A-N-D-I-A-L-U, Sandialu:

11 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you said that they were contributing  
12 coffee. To who, if anyone, were they contributing coffee, the  
13 civilians at Sandialu?

14 A. When they would harvest the coffee, they too had a G5 but  
15:45:41 15 the G5, the overall G5 would have his representative there, so  
16 they would present it to that representative and he in turn would  
17 give it to his boss. He would present it to the G5 and the G5 in  
18 turn would present it to Augustine Gbao. But the G5 who was at  
19 Sandialu, I didn't know his name. But wherever there were  
15:46:06 20 civilians they had their agents there.

21 Q. And when you say they have their agent there, who are the  
22 they, who had their agents there?

23 A. The G5s. They would have their representatives there.  
24 That is what I'm referring to as agent. That is how they called  
15:46:33 25 it. But actually it is their representative.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, I notice the word "adjutant"  
27 and the word "agent" have both been on record.

28 MR WERNER: Thank you for that, I didn't notice.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: I understood the witness to say agent.

1 MR WERNER: Apparently in my question it was translated  
2 like adjutant. So let me ask the question again:

3 Q. I asked you, Mr Witness, I understood you to say that they  
4 had agents and I was asking who were these agents?

15:47:15 5 A. They were they representatives. Wherever they had their  
6 representatives they would call it their agents, but for us we  
7 knew it was their representative, but they called it their  
8 agents.

9 Q. And whose representatives were they, Mr Witness?

15:47:39 10 A. I said the G5s. They had their representatives.

11 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you told us about civilians in Talia  
12 harvesting palm oil, cacao, working on rice farms and going to  
13 fish for the RUF. Now what else if anything did the civilians of  
14 Talia do for the RUF during the time you were a deputy chiefdom  
15 commander?

16 A. This month that I've mentioned, at the end of this - at the  
17 end of that month, the following one you cannot fish. During  
18 that time we would do hunting for - we would do game hunting.

19 Q. Who would do game hunting?

15:48:49 20 A. Even in Talia they used to do it and in Giema they did it.  
21 Just as I mentioned the targets, they did it in all the targets.

22 Q. And what did they hunt in the bush around Talia?

23 A. We would go into a bush and we search for animals. We will  
24 search for cutting grass, because those are the animals that  
15:49:18 25 would destroy our farms, because if we don't kill them they would  
26 destroy our rice, so that's why they would be the first set of  
27 animals that we would search for. After that we would search  
28 from some others now, but our main target was cutting grasses.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, again I'm going to avoid

1 giving evidence from the bar table but could have a better  
2 description of what a cutting grass is.

3 MR WERNER:

15:49:51

4 Q. Mr Witness, could you describe for this Court what is a  
5 cutting grass?

6 A. There is an animal in the bush that has a big head but does  
7 not have pines on it. That is what we call cutting grass.

8 MR WERNER: I think that the way it is transcribed --

9 JUDGE LUSSICK: It looks like a big rat, doesn't it?

15:50:33

10 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is. It's a big rat.

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Interpreter, is this called a grass  
12 cutter? Is it a cutting grass or a grass cutter?

13 Mr Interpreter, is it the same animal as a grass cutter?

14 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honour.

15:50:53

15 MR WERNER:

16 Q. Mr Witness, during the time you were deputy chiefdom  
17 commander what would happen with these animals caught in the bush  
18 by the civilians of Talia?

15:51:18

19 A. I myself sitting down here, sometimes when we caught them  
20 we put them together and I and Fatoma took them to Mosquito. We  
21 used to give it to them to eat.

22 Q. Who is Fatoma, Mr Witness?

23 A. Fatoma Aruna. He is in Giema. I and Fatoma Aruna took  
24 that meat there. He had one and I had one and we took them  
25 there.

15:51:44

26 MR WERNER: Your Honour, Fatoma would be F-A-T-O-M-A and  
27 Aruna A-R-U-N-A.

28 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Is this a he or a she?

29 MR WERNER: I'm going to clarify".

1 Q. So what is the gender of Fatoma Aruna, Mr Witness, if you  
2 know?

3 A. He's a male.

15:52:19

4 Q. So you said that you and Fatoma Aruna would take them and  
5 bring them to Mosquito in Buedu. Why did you do that?

6 A. We took his own meat. After the game hunting they told us  
7 that this one that you get you would have to take for Mosquito.  
8 After we had caught them we dragged them up and took them to  
9 Mosquito.

15:52:43

10 Q. And who told you that?

11 A. Morrie Fekai.

12 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now you told this Court that you  
13 lived in Kailahun Town as a deputy chiefdom commander from '96 to  
14 2000. What, if anything, did you see happening in Kailahun Town

15:53:01

15 when you were there?

16 A. I thank you, those questions that you're asking me, you are  
17 leaving some behind. If you ask me why did you do this then I'll  
18 explain, but you just asking me and I'm ending up the  
19 explanation. You're asking me why did this happen. If you're  
20 asking me this way I will explain for the Court people to know  
21 why this was happening. This one that you've asked me now I'll  
22 answer.

15:53:33

23 When we were in Kailahun Morrie Fekai - they would tell  
24 Morrie Fekai to tell us to weed. When they tell him that he  
25 would tell Chief Sellu and Sellu would tell me. I also had my  
26 own representatives in the villages. I would send people there  
27 and I would tell them that they've asked us to weed the village  
28 and we would weed Kailahun. We used to weed even on the roads.

15:53:50

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, we seem to have a few

1 words. Is the word weed?

2 THE INTERPRETER: Weed, W-E-E-D, yes, your Honour.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: I note the transcript has wait, weed and  
4 weave but the word is weed, W-E-E-D. So we'll have that  
15:54:36 5 corrected.

6 MR WERNER: And I will try to get some clarification, your  
7 Honours:

8 Q. What do you mean when you say that the civilians had to  
9 weed? Could you explain what you meant?

15:54:49 10 A. The grass - the grass that grows in the town, you can't  
11 walk easily on them. That's the grass we used a hoe to weed. We  
12 would weed that. It would be like the street that has this black  
13 tarmac.

14 Q. And when did that happen that Morrie Fekai told the  
15:55:15 15 civilians to come to Kailahun Town and weed? When did that  
16 happen?

17 A. I said Morrie Fekai will tell Sellu and Sellu would tell  
18 me. It was I who would tell my own representatives and all of us  
19 would come to Kailahun and weed the grass from there. Up to that  
15:55:40 20 time we were in Kailahun we continued do that. Up to the time  
21 the Pakistanis came there, the white people. When they were  
22 going there they took machines along and that was what the - the  
23 machines that were used to weed the grass. It was during that  
24 time that they arrived there that we stopped weeding grass, but  
15:55:57 25 we continued doing it up to 1996.

26 Q. And when, if you know, did the Pakistanis come to Kailahun  
27 Town?

28 A. I think they went in '91. They were in Kailahun. They  
29 were there up to the time of disarmament. That's what I think.

1 The year 2001.

2 Q. When you said that you used to go there and you said up to  
3 that time we were in Kailahun we continued to do that, which time  
4 were you talking about?

15:56:58 5 A. Starting from '96 I said up to 2000 - up to the year 2001.  
6 When these people went they were the people who assisted us.  
7 They had machines that were used. They had the machines. Before  
8 that we were the ones who weeded the grass from Kailahun.

9 Q. And from '96 up to 2000 how many civilians did weeding in  
10 Kailahun Town, did this job in Kailahun Town?

11 A. I do not do a head count. To say that all of them I did a  
12 head count and I can remember, no. But we were many. There were  
13 civilians and those civilians who were there, it could be between  
14 400 and 800. There were others who did some other jobs. For  
15:58:00 15 instance, the farming that I was telling you about. We would  
16 have some people who would go to do that farming. That was how  
17 it happened.

18 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. In Luawa Chiefdom do you know a  
19 town called Yandohun?

15:58:24 20 A. What do you want to ask? That's not the name of the town.  
21 Yandohun. I know a town called Yandohun, but you said Yandohun,  
22 I heard Yandohun.

23 Q. Sorry for my accent, Mr Witness. Yandohun would be  
24 Y-A-N-D-O-H-U-N. And where is Yandohun?

15:58:52 25 A. Yandohun is in the Luawa Chiefdom.

26 Q. And when you were a deputy chiefdom commander what, if  
27 anything, happened in Yandohun?

28 A. There was a man called Patrick Bangula, he knew about  
29 diamonds. Those of us who were there didn't know about diamonds.

1 The only thing we knew cause cacao, coffee and palm oil. But he  
2 said there was something that is under the earth called diamonds.  
3 So he knew about that. So Mosquito and others, Issa Sesay, they  
4 appointed him to suggest wherever diamonds are and that was the  
15:59:47 5 time we started looking out for a place to mine.

6 Q. Can you tell this Court the name again of that person  
7 appointed by Issa and Mosquito to look for diamonds. Can you  
8 give that name again?

9 A. Patrick Bangula.

16:00:12 10 MR WERNER: I think he said Bangura.

11 THE WITNESS: Patrick Bangula.

12 MR WERNER: So Patrick is P-A-T-R-I-C-K. I'm hearing  
13 Patrick Bangura, but the interpretation we are getting is Patrick  
14 Bangula:

16:00:34 15 Q. Could you tell the last name again once more, Mr Witness?

16 A. He's a civilian but he's Mende. He used to speak Mende and  
17 I heard that. Kailahun is not his birthplace. I don't know the  
18 town where he came from but he came from up there. I don't know  
19 where.

16:00:57 20 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, you were asked to repeat the  
21 second name of the witness, please - the second name of this  
22 person.

23 THE WITNESS: Patrick Bangula. That's how we called him.  
24 That's the name we knew. Patrick Bangula.

16:01:18 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: That's the record, Mr Werner.

26 MR WERNER: Yes and I will then spell it B-A-N-G-U-L-A.

27 Q. So, Mr Witness, what happened when Patrick Bangula was  
28 appointed by Issa Sesay and Mosquito to look for diamonds? What,  
29 if anything, happened after that?

1 A. He brought civilians together and they were doing the job.

2 It was civilians who were doing the job.

3 Q. And who brought civilians together, Mr Witness?

4 A. In that town where he was. It was in Yandohun when they

16:02:13 5 said they were going to mine for diamonds, he brought the

6 civilians together and they were the ones who were doing the

7 mining.

8 Q. And when did that happen?

9 A. It looks like it was in '97 or '98, in between. That was

16:02:33 10 the time that happened. I think so.

11 Q. And how many civilians worked there at that time?

12 A. I was not there but they were many. The civilians who were

13 in Yandohun were the ones who did that work. I did not actually

14 go there, but I know that they did that job. But they didn't

16:02:56 15 find any diamonds there.

16 Q. So how did you know about that if you didn't go there?

17 A. Those who were there who were doing that work, they would

18 come and tell us. At that time I was in Kailahun. They were

19 saying that they were mining for diamonds, that Patrick Bangula

16:03:17 20 had asked them to mine for diamonds, they were the ones who were

21 telling me.

22 Q. Now, Mr Witness, do you know a placed called Monfidor in

23 Luawa Chiefdom?

24 A. Yes.

16:03:36 25 MR WERNER: Your Honours, Monfidor would be

26 M-O-N-F-I-D-O-R:

27 Q. What, if anything, happened in Monfidor in Luawa Chiefdom?

28 A. They were mining for diamonds between Monfidor.

29 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the witness has called a

1 name of a town that I didn't get clearly. Can he kindly be asked  
2 to repeat.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, can you pause a moment,  
4 please. The interpreter wants you to repeat the name of a town  
16:04:12 5 you said or a place you said and the rest of your answer. He did  
6 not hear you properly.

7 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm going to explain slowly. That  
8 town that they called Monfidor, from Monfidor there's another  
9 town you'll meet, they called that town, Sahbahun, it's by the  
16:04:42 10 river, the river is called Moa.

11 MR WERNER: Your Honours, Sahbahun would be S-A-H-B-A-H-U-N  
12 and Moa, M-O-A.

13 Q. Please, continue, Mr Witness. So what happened,  
14 Mr Witness, in Monfidor?

16:05:15 15 A. In between Monfidor and Sahbahun they used to mine for  
16 diamonds there.

17 Q. Who mined for diamonds there?

18 A. I said from Monfidor going to Sahbahun, in between there  
19 they were mining for diamonds there.

16:05:37 20 Q. Mr Witness, just listen to my question. Who between  
21 Monfidor and Sahbahun, who was mining for diamonds?

22 A. The civilians were mining for diamonds. The person who was  
23 head of the civilians there who knew about diamonds was Monia  
24 Lahai, even as I'm talking now he's in Talia.

16:06:07 25 MR WERNER: The family name would be L-A-H-A-I. I'm not  
26 sure about the first name, but Monia would be M-O-N-I-A:

27 Q. And did Monia Lahai report to anyone?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. To whom did he report?

1 A. That person, that person was called Stanley Jusu. That was  
2 how they called him. For instance, just like Patrick Bangula  
3 was, that was what he was there. His name was Stanley Jusu.

4 MR WERNER: Your Honours, Stanley Jusu would be

16:06:58 5 S-T-A-N-L-E-Y and J-U-S-U:

6 Q. Now, it isn't very clear to me, Mr Witness. Stanley Jusu,  
7 to whom did he report?

8 A. At that time all of them in Kailahun, the boss of all  
9 bosses was Augustine Gbao. He was the one in Kailahun.

16:07:27 10 Mosquito, Issa Sesay, he was their representative there.

11 Q. Thank you for that clarification, Mr Witness. Now you told  
12 us about Yandohun and some civilians mining there and you told us  
13 about a place between Monfidor and Sahbahun where civilians were  
14 as well mining there. Now did the civilians find diamonds in

16:07:51 15 Kailahun District?

16 A. I did not see with my own eyes.

17 Q. And what, if anything, did you hear about diamonds?

18 A. They were mining. They said they were mining, but I do not  
19 even know diamonds. But they used to mine and that was not the  
16:08:18 20 only place they were doing the mining. In fact wherever there  
21 was a large crowd where they used to do the mining, you did not  
22 even ask me about those towns.

23 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you said that Yandohun and a place between  
24 Monfidor and Sahbahun were not the only places where they were  
16:08:44 25 doing mining. So where else were they doing mining?

26 A. Giema. Where Mr Patrick Bangula was, that was the very  
27 place in Giema that they were doing the mining. On the main  
28 road. That was where they were doing the mining. I went there  
29 myself and I saw it.

1 MR WERNER: And Giema was already spel t, your Honours:

2 Q. Now you said that they were doing the mining. Who was  
3 doing the mining there in Giema, Mr Witness?

16:09:18

4 A. The civilians, the civilians who were in Giema, they were  
5 the very ones that Mr Patrick Bangula brought together to do the  
6 mining.

7 Q. And how many people were mining in Giema. How many  
8 civilians were mining in Giema?

16:09:36

9 A. They were many. I do not - I did not do a head count but  
10 they were many. I myself went there where the mining was being  
11 done and I saw a di amond.

12 Q. What else did you see when you went there, Mr Witness, if  
13 anything?

16:09:53

14 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, before the witness answers  
15 that question the interpreter would like to make a correction.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause, Mr Witness, please.

17 Mr Interpreter, is this a correction to the last answer or to the  
18 question?

16:10:15

19 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, it is a correction to the last  
20 answer.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Let's have the correction  
22 then.

23 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter had said, "And I saw a  
24 di amond". The answer should be, "And I did not see a di amond".

16:10:30

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, does that affect your  
26 question?

27 MR WERNER: I will ask again, your Honour:

28 Q. So, Mr Witness, you said that you went to Giema and you  
29 didn't see any di amonds. What else, if anything, did you see

1 when you went to Giema?

2 A. I saw them digging a pit and they were doing the mining  
3 itself. They would excavate the gravel and they would wash it.  
4 I saw that one happen.

16:11:12 5 Q. And who were digging the pit, Mr Witness?

6 A. The civilians.

7 Q. And where was Mr Patrick Bangula when you went there?

8 A. That diamond business was in his hands in that area.

9 Q. Did you see him when you went to Giema?

16:11:42 10 A. I do not understand the question.

11 Q. Did you see Mr Patrick Bangula at the time you went to  
12 Giema and you saw the civilians digging the diamonds - sorry,  
13 digging the gravels?

14 A. Yes. I saw him in person at that workplace.

16:12:02 15 Q. And when you said the diamond business was in his hands in  
16 that area what did you mean?

17 A. I said he was head of that diamond business. He was head  
18 of that diamond business. When the people would be working he  
19 would be there to supervise them.

16:12:30 20 Q. Thank you. Now, Mr Witness, many times you told us about  
21 rebels and once you said that they were RUF rebels. Now when you  
22 were a deputy chiefdom commander from '96 to 2000 what were the  
23 age groups of these RUF rebels that you saw?

24 A. There were children, some who were eight carrying guns.

16:13:20 25 There were some nine years old. There were others 10 years. I  
26 used to see them carrying guns.

27 Q. And where did you used to see them carrying guns?

28 A. All these commanders that I have mentioned, they were -  
29 these children were with them. They were with Issa Sesay, they

1 were with Mosquito, they were with Augustine Gbao.

2 Q. And what were they doing with them?

3 A. They were carrying guns. They too were rebels.

16:14:07

4 Q. And can you remember the years that you saw these young  
5 rebels?

6 A. These children, these little children, when the war came,  
7 when they captured them they trained them and they were with  
8 them. Because in every year a child would grow and they were  
9 with them up to the time of the disarmament, those children. Up  
10 to now they are there and they call them ex-combatants.

16:14:34

11 Q. And when you say these little children, when the war came  
12 when they captured them, who captured these little children,  
13 Mr Witness?

16:15:05

14 A. The rebels captured them. Those leaders who were training  
15 people, they were the ones who captured people and trained them.  
16 The rebels. They were the ones who captured them. Those  
17 children didn't know anything about guns. They were the ones who  
18 captured them and trained them to use guns.

16:15:21

19 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now, Mr Witness, today in this  
20 Court you said that civilians in Talia and other villages were  
21 forced to work. You said that you could not move without a pass  
22 from Kailahun Town to your village. You said that you were  
23 beaten up many times. So let me ask you this: Why did you stay  
24 in Luawa Chiefdom from '96 to 2000?

16:15:58

25 A. The reason that I did not leave there, when the war came it  
26 came in Sierra Leone in that our area, it came there, the war  
27 came there in 1991, in March 1991. When the war - and when the  
28 war came and they captured Kailahun they said the war would only  
29 last for three months. That was why they said that nobody should

1 go anywhere. They said they wanted to capture all of us so that  
2 we would not go anywhere. At that time after the war had gone  
3 past three months they were scattered all over the place, nobody  
4 could go anywhere. That was the reason I couldn't go. When they  
16:16:40 5 said three months we thought that it would end in three months,  
6 so we decided not to go, we would stay there and do our jobs.  
7 That was why I didn't go.

8 Q. And you talk about 1991 when the war came. Now what about  
9 after 1996, why did you stay in Luawa Chiefdom after 1996?

16:17:08 10 A. I couldn't. They were scattered all over. Even at the  
11 border. If they saw me with a load they would kill me. That was  
12 why I did not go anywhere. I just looked up to God. I just  
13 looked to God's might. Whatever they asked me to do I will do.

14 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Interpreter, did the witness say I  
16:17:36 15 wouldn't or I couldn't?

16 THE INTERPRETER: Couldn't.

17 MR WERNER:

18 Q. Now, Mr Witness, during the same period from '96 to 2000  
19 when you were deputy chiefdom commander how was your health?

16:17:57 20 A. The jobs that we were doing starting from up to '96, in  
21 between then I had an illness called hernia and that was caused  
22 by the fact that we were carrying heavy loads. That hernia was a  
23 result of that job that we were doing. Like I am now in your  
24 presence here, you people sitting there, I cried out to them  
16:18:28 25 that, oh, I have this illness now and this is as a result of the  
26 war and that hernia was treated two years ago. That's why I am  
27 sitting here today talking to you. Otherwise I wouldn't have  
28 been able to sit here to talk to you.

29 Q. Now, Mr Witness, what, if anything, did you learn about the

1 health of other people living in your village Talia?

2 A. The hernia was many. The hernia illness was many. Before  
3 the war it was not there, because those people who were working,  
4 but at the time --

16:19:25 5 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly  
6 repeat his answer and repeat it slowly.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, just pause, please. You're  
8 going to a little bit too quickly for the interpreter. Could you  
9 repeat what you said and say it slowly, please.

16:19:41 10 THE WITNESS: Okay, I agree. Before the war hernia was not  
11 common. The reason that hernia became common, for instance that  
12 cacao that I have spoken about, there was nobody who could take a  
13 bag to carry it to Njala. But during the war, because we were  
14 carrying it, these bags of cacao, hernia became very, very  
16:20:18 15 common. But I talked about mine. Some people were hiding  
16 theirs, but I talked about mine and I was treated.

17 MR WERNER: And the witness gave a name of maybe a place.  
18 I'm not familiar with it, Njala. I'm going to ask the witness if  
19 he can help us with that:

16:20:34 20 Q. Mr Witness, you said that there was nobody who could take a  
21 bag to carry it to Njala. Where is Njala?

22 A. I said what led to hernia to be common, if for example you  
23 carry a lot of loads you would strain your nerves and your  
24 [indiscernible] would be swollen and that was caused by the load  
16:21:10 25 that we carried. But some people were ashamed to say it, but I  
26 did not shy to say mine, so I said mine and it was treated.

27 MR WERNER: I will try again. I don't think he answered  
28 the question about the place. I'm not sure it's a translation --

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, did you say you went to some

1 place with the cocoa?

2 THE WITNESS: I said from Giema we would carry the load  
3 from Giema to riverside. It could go up to 10 miles or even  
4 beyond that.

16:21:56 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Witness.

6 MR WERNER: Thank you, your Honour:

7 Q. Now, Mr Witness, before you said that - upon giving your  
8 evidence today you said that there was no food for the civilians.  
9 During that time you were a deputy chiefdom commander. What did  
10 you mean when you said there was no food?

16:22:18

11 A. That was what I explained, that the question as you're  
12 asking me, you're leaving some behind. You're leaving some  
13 questions out. You would have asked me how would you get the  
14 food to eat. That time we hadn't any food so we were going to  
15 the bush and get yams and even that was finished. So what we fed  
16 on was palm cabbage.

16:22:47

17 Q. And for how long did you feed yourself on palm cabbage?

18 A. We were feeding on that right until the time those white  
19 people came and we were getting assistance from them, when they  
20 would cook we would go there and they would give some to us.

16:23:24

21 Q. And so my understanding is that you said that you used to  
22 eat palm cabbage until the white people came. Now what about  
23 your children, what did they normally eat during the period of  
24 time you were deputy chiefdom commander?

16:23:57

25 A. That same palm cabbage. We used to eat that together with  
26 them. But in '99, there are times if they would ask us to get  
27 that government palm oil, if you get an extra one for yourself  
28 then you'll go and get some rice. But the rice that we got from  
29 there could not even feed us for up to two months. So when the

1 rice would finish we would start eating palm cabbage.

2 Q. And what, if anything, happened to your children as a  
3 result of eating palm cabbage?

16:24:56

4 A. They had an illness. Their legs and cheeks were swollen  
5 and they refer to it as oedema. That's what we heard. They had  
6 swollen feet and legs and they died. Five children died for me.  
7 Five of my children died. Even now their graves are there in  
8 Talia jorbush.

16:25:16

9 Q. And do you know when did they die, Mr Witness, your  
10 children?

11 A. It was in '96 that all of them died. When they got that  
12 illness one would die and say the next two - the other two days  
13 another would die, because there was not much protein in the food  
14 that we had.

16:25:41

15 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now where if anywhere did the  
16 civilians from Talia go when they were sick?

17 A. If somebody got sick there is a herb we referred to as  
18 Gbangbei and we would cut that herb, it's a root, and that is  
19 what we would use to drink as medication. If you are lucky you  
20 will not die, but if you are not lucky then you will die.

16:26:27

21 Q. Mr Witness, can you give us the name of that herb again,  
22 please?

23 A. There is a tree called Gbangbei. It's the root of that  
24 tree that we would cut and we would wash it. When we washed it  
25 we would cut it in pieces and we put it say in a container like  
26 this mug that I'm having in front of me and when - it took some  
27 time, then the root would have drained into the water then we  
28 would drink it.

16:27:01

29 Then there was some other thing that we would rub on, it's

1 I like a clay. Then that is what we used to rub on our bodies when  
2 we were sick. When we would drink that one, that one that had  
3 water on it and we would rub the other one on our bodies. That  
4 was our own form of medication.

16:27:39 5 MR WERNER: I believe the name to be Gbangbei. The  
6 spelling I have would be G-B-A-N-G-B-E-I. Can I ask just one  
7 more question?

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, you have a couple of minutes,  
9 Mr Werner.

16:28:00 10 MR WERNER: Thank you.

11 Q. Mr Witness, you said that the civilians from Luawa Chiefdom  
12 would use this herb when they got sick. Now talking about the  
13 rebels that you talked about in your evidence, where if anywhere  
14 would these rebels go when they were sick?

16:28:29 15 A. They had their medical people with them who would treat  
16 them. They had their medical people. Wherever they were they  
17 would have medical team.

18 MR WERNER: Thank you, your Honour.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, we finish court at this time  
16:28:50 20 now and we start again tomorrow morning. I want to explain to  
21 you that between now and the time all your evidence is finished  
22 you must not discuss your evidence with anyone else. Do you  
23 understand this?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes.

16:29:08 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. We will adjourn now and  
26 resume court tomorrow at 9.30.

27 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.30 p.m.  
28 to be reconvened on Wednesday, 20 February 2008  
29 at 9.30 a.m.]

