



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF  
THE SPECIAL COURT  
V.  
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

FRIDAY, 25 APRIL 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  
Ms Doreen Kiggundu

For the Registry:

Ms Rosette Muzigo-Morrison

For the Prosecution:

Mr Nicholas Koumjian  
Ms Shyamala Alagendra  
Mr Alain Werner  
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay Taylor:  
Mr Morris Anyah

For the Office of the Principal Defender:  
Mr Silas Chekera

1 Friday, 25 April 2008

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

09:29:47 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. I note appearances are as  
6 before, Ms Alagendra.

7 MS ALAGENDRA: Good morning, your Honours. That is  
8 correct.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah?

09:30:09 10 MR ANYAH: Good morning, Madam President. Your Honours,  
11 good morning. That is correct.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: If there are no other matters I will  
13 remind the witness of his solemn declaration.

14 Mr Witness, I again remind you as I have done on other  
09:30:26 15 mornings that you took a solemn declaration last week to tell the  
16 truth. That declaration is still binding on you and you must  
17 answer questions truthfully. Do you understand?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord.

19 WITNESS: TF1-334 [On former affirmation]

09:30:35 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed, Mr Anyah.

21 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR ANYAH: [Continued]

23 Q. Mr Witness, when we left off yesterday we were engaged in  
24 discussions about the Great Commission, the books of Matthew and  
09:30:53 25 the books of Mark, and we will leave the scripture for a moment  
26 and come back to it some time later perhaps. I want to now ask  
27 you questions about events after or around the time of the Lome  
28 peace talks, through the period of time when you said you and a  
29 delegation from Sierra Leone paid a visit to the President of

1 Liberia, Mr Charles Taylor. What is the West Side Boys,  
2 Mr Witness?

3 A. Well, the West Side Boys comprised the SLA soldiers, the  
4 RUF and the small boys that we had that we had trained in that  
09:31:49 5 area. So we were called the West Side Boys and we were the only  
6 set of people who were very close to Freetown.

7 Q. You said it comprised the SLAs, the RUF, some small boys  
8 that you had trained in that area. Are those the three  
9 constituent members of the West Side Boys?

09:32:23 10 A. Well, we had some STF, like I said earlier, who joined us.  
11 That is when Gullit had advanced to Makeni and then we had some  
12 former NPFL fighters with us there at the base.

13 Q. Well, you just mentioned the name Gullit. I thought Bazzy  
14 was head of the West Side Boys?

09:32:53 15 A. This is very simple. I said when Gullit had left us. He  
16 left us and went. I am not saying that Gullit was with us again.  
17 And it was after that we went to that area and formed the West  
18 Side Boys.

19 Q. The head of the West Side Boys was Bazzy Kamara, yes?

09:33:13 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Not Alex Tamba Brima or Gullit, yes?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. Hassan Papa Bangura, or Bomb Blast, was also a member of  
24 the West Side Boys, yes?

09:33:31 25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. And you as well, true?

27 A. Yes, my Lord.

28 Q. The persons who took some UNOMSIL soldiers hostages, the  
29 record says UNAMSIL, but you had said UNOMSIL and at the time it

1 was the observer mission in place. Would you agree with that?

2 A. Yes, my Lord.

3 Q. Yes, it was not UNAMSIL. I am speaking of July now 1999,  
4 correct. It was UNOMSIL, observer mission?

09:34:12 5 A. That was what I said. I said UNOMSIL.

6 Q. Now the people who took some UNOMSIL soldiers, some ECOMOG  
7 soldiers, Bishop George Biguzzi, is that the name you said?

8 A. Yes, Biguzzi, yes.

9 Q. Then the bishop of Makeni, yes?

09:34:36 10 A. He was the bishop in Makeni. Bishop Biguzzi. He was in  
11 Makeni.

12 Q. The people who took all of those people hostage in about  
13 July, you said, was the West Side Boys, right?

14 A. Yes, my Lord.

09:34:59 15 Q. Are you sure the West Side Boys were not exclusively made  
16 up of AFRC or SLA members?

17 A. No, my Lord. We were mixed.

18 Q. We are now speaking of the time around the Lome Peace  
19 Agreement. Do you still maintain you were all mixed? Is that  
09:35:26 20 your evidence, Mr Witness?

21 A. Yes, my Lord, we were mixed. We were together. There was  
22 coordination up to the Lome Peace Accord.

23 Q. And after Lome there was no coordination, right?

24 A. No, the coordination continued until the arrest of the  
09:35:53 25 UNOMSIL and that led us to go to Liberia.

26 Q. Let's talk about what else was happening around this time.  
27 Foday Sankoh was initially in custody at Pademba Road before the  
28 J6 or 6 January invasion, correct?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. And when you and your fellow SLA members entered Freetown  
2 on 6 January and you went to Pademba Road, Foday Sankoh had been  
3 moved, right?

09:36:47 4 A. Well, it was not just I and my fellow SLA members. Like I  
5 said, it was a mixed force. It was a mixed force that went to  
6 Freetown, but before we could arrive there we already noticed  
7 that Sankoh had been taken out of the prison.

8 Q. Okay, let's adopt your terminology for a moment, mixed  
9 force. The point is Sankoh had been taken away, right?

09:37:10 10 A. Yes, according to the people that we released from the  
11 prisons - from the prisons. What they told us was that, they  
12 said before we reached there the ECOMOG people had just come  
13 there and taken Pa Sankoh away.

14 Q. By April of that year would you agree that Foday Sankoh had  
09:37:30 15 been flown to Lome, Togo?

16 A. Well, maybe if you tell me the year. I want you to state  
17 the year so that I will get it very clear, because I am not sure  
18 what year you are talking about now.

19 Q. That's fair enough. That's fair enough. I am speaking of  
09:38:00 20 the year 1999. By April 1999 would you agree Foday Sankoh had  
21 been flown to Lome, Togo?

22 A. Yes, like I said, he called whilst we were in Newton and he  
23 said he was on the preparation to go on the peace accord. That  
24 one I know, yes.

09:38:27 25 Q. You have answered the question saying he called when you  
26 were in Newton to say he was in preparation. It doesn't say  
27 where he was calling from. What I am putting to you is that  
28 Foday Sankoh was in Lome, Togo in April 1999. Do you agree?

29 A. Well, I never knew anything about that. He only called and

1 told us that he was on preparation to go to Lome for the peace.

2 Q. Well, let's start with the first of several BBC reports I  
3 will hand out to the Court. We have heard a lot about the BBC in  
4 this case. Madam Court Officer, could you put one on the  
09:39:54 5 overhead projector, if you don't mind? Thank you.

6 Mr Witness, the document in front of you is from the  
7 Internet. Its source is given at the bottom of the page. It is  
8 a BBC extract from the BBC website. The caption or the title of  
9 the article says, "World: Africa, Rebel leader freed for talks".  
09:40:24 10 If you look at the top of the page it has a date on it. It says  
11 Sunday, April 18, 1999. Do you see that, Mr Witness?

12 A. Yes, my Lord.

13 Q. And then you see a picture, right?

14 A. Yes, my Lord.

09:40:48 15 Q. Soldiers with weapons and in some kind of military fatigue,  
16 right?

17 A. Yes, my Lord.

18 Q. And you see the first paragraph beneath that photograph  
19 says:

09:41:00 20 "The leader of the Sierra Leonean rebels, Foday Sankoh, has  
21 arrived in the Togolese capital, Lome, following his release from  
22 jail to consult his commanders on possible peace talks to end  
23 Sierra Leone's eight-year civil war."

24 Do you see that?

09:41:20 25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. Having seen this, do you agree now that Foday Sankoh was in  
27 the capital of Lome, Togo in April 1999?

28 A. Well, yes, according to this paper, I agree.

29 Q. And if you go down a little bit where it says:

1 "The rebel leader is due to hold a week of discussions with  
2 his military commanders in the Togolese town of Kara - the home  
3 town of Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema, who is helping to  
4 broker the peace initiative?"

09:42:09 5 Do you see that?

6 A. Yes, my Lord.

7 Q. It is the case, is it not, that as of April already in 1999  
8 the peace process was in motion?

9 A. Yes, my Lord.

09:42:27 10 Q. Thank you. And this is the same time you testified that  
11 you and other West Side Boys were engaged in an attack on Port  
12 Loko, right?

13 A. Yes, my Lord.

14 Q. Yes. We will come back to that. And, by the way, it was  
09:42:46 15 in Port Loko you captured the two Malian soldiers, right?

16 A. Yes, my Lord.

17 Q. What was the fate of those two Malian soldiers, Mr Witness?

18 A. Well, like I said, we captured them in Port Loko and then  
19 we handed them over to Bazzy who was the commander and then he  
09:43:10 20 informed Gullit - I mean he informed Mosquito in Kailahun and it  
21 was only after the peace accord, when they had signed the peace  
22 accord that Bazzy went and handed them over to the Government of  
23 Sierra Leone.

24 Q. They were captured about 7 May, right?

09:43:29 25 A. Yes, within that time. Yes.

26 Q. Now the President of Togo, Gnassingbe Eyadema, not the  
27 current Eyadema who is President of Togo. Gnassingbe Eyadema,  
28 the father, he was chairman of ECOWAS at that time, right?

29 A. Well, since I was in the jungle save that you are

1 explaining it to me now, because we were in the bush.

2 Q. Have you heard of ECOWAS before, Mr Witness?

3 A. Yes, my Lord.

4 Q. You have also heard of the United Nations of course, right?

09:44:12 5 A. Yes, my Lord.

6 Q. When you folks took those hostages including the bishop,  
7 both ECOWAS and the UN were involved in trying to secure their  
8 release, right?

9 A. All what I knew was that, like I said, we got in touch with  
09:44:34 10 the government in Freetown and, like I said, that was the time  
11 Abdulai Mustapha communicated with us and said they were coming  
12 to come and receive us. And like I said also, Johnny Paul also  
13 called and said he was now on preparation to go to Liberia and  
14 that we should go and join him there.

09:45:02 15 Q. Are you aware that the border between Liberia and Sierra  
16 Leone was closed from December 1998 until October of 1999 by  
17 President Charles Taylor?

18 A. Well, I was not around that area, the borderline, save that  
19 you are informing me today.

09:45:30 20 Q. You are saying you are not aware of that fact?

21 A. I know, yes, my Lord.

22 Q. This Court has determined it to be a fact that the Lome  
23 Peace Agreement was signed on 7 July 1999. Your Honours, I want  
24 to cite to the judicial notice decision. I am referring to  
09:46:09 25 CMS-370 and this is fact number W. It says:

26 "On 7 July 1999 the Government of Sierra Leone signed a  
27 peace agreement with the RUF in Lome, Togo (Lome Peace  
28 Agreement)."

29 Mr Witness, 7 July is when this Court concludes Lome was



1 signed. At that time, 7 July, what was the status of the RUF/SLA  
2 relationship? Can you tell us, please?

3 A. Well, it was good. It was good.

09:47:06 4 Q. You told us yesterday that when you arrived at this plan as  
5 to how to abduct the hostages - and this abduction took place is  
6 it in Magbeni, yes?

7 A. Yes, my Lord. It was in Magbeni that we captured the  
8 UNOMSIL and the ECOMOG officers and then Bishop Biguzzi and  
9 others.

09:47:31 10 Q. You and your fellow fighters came up with a plan for Hassan  
11 Papa Bangura to lure them into a meeting and upon him removing  
12 his hat, you said, you would then arrest the hostages. Is that  
13 fair to say, Mr Witness?

09:48:04 14 A. Well, you have misinterpreted me. I said Bazy called a  
15 meeting and it was during that meeting that this plan was  
16 designed. He said we should go to the meeting and he explained  
17 what Hassan Papa Bangura was supposed to do and after doing that  
18 we will arrest the hostages.

09:48:27 19 Q. Yes, Bazy called the meeting, but a part of the meeting  
20 called for a certain cue sign by Bomb Blast to the rest of you as  
21 you went to move in, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And the act which was to signify that it was time for you  
24 to move in was him taking off his hat, correct?

09:48:52 25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. A minor point, but you told the Prosecution before that it  
27 was him having to take off his glasses and not his hat. Do you  
28 recall telling the Prosecution that before?

29 A. Well, that might have been a mistake, but, like I said, it

1 was the hat and that was what I told the Prosecution - the  
2 investigators. I said no sooner he took off his hat then the  
3 troops will enter.

4 Q. But it is possible you said glasses before, right?

09:49:36 5 A. Well, my Lord, like I said, what I saw is what I have said  
6 in the Court. I said he took off his hat.

7 Q. Okay, I will come back to that. At this time you and your  
8 fellow fighters thought Johnny Paul Koroma was under arrest in  
9 Kailahun by the RUF, right?

09:50:03 10 A. Yes, my Lord.

11 Q. You also knew that the AFRC was not mentioned in the Lome  
12 peace agreement, true?

13 A. Yes, the SLA - he spoke about the SLA, that they did not  
14 include the SLA in the Lome Peace Accord.

09:50:37 15 Q. When you say he spoke about the SLA, are you referring to  
16 Johnny Paul Koroma?

17 A. Well, yes, he included Johnny Paul Koroma because he too  
18 was an SLA.

19 Q. When you say "he", that is what I want to know. Who  
09:50:58 20 included Johnny Paul Koroma?

21 A. Johnny Paul Koroma was an SLA.

22 Q. Let's leave Koroma for a second and focus on what you and  
23 your fellow fighters at Magbeni knew at the time, or thought at  
24 the time. You and the people in Magbeni felt that Johnny Paul  
09:51:20 25 Koroma was being held under arrest by Sam Bockarie in Kailahun,  
26 correct?

27 A. Yes, according to Bazzy he said he was considering that  
28 very much, because it had taken a long time that Johnny Paul had  
29 not communicated with them, it seems he was under house arrest.

1 Q. And eventually when you did speak with Johnny Paul Koroma  
2 and you said there were two conversations, and I am not saying  
3 you in particular spoke with him, on one of those occasions you  
4 felt that he was speaking under duress, or stress. Is that fair  
09:52:05 5 to say, Mr Witness?

6 A. Yes, indeed, because that was what we told him, because of  
7 the response that he made to us.

8 Q. Would it be fair to say that there were about three reasons  
9 why you and other fighters in Magbeni decided to take these  
09:52:35 10 UNOMSIL, ECOMOG and media and religious people hostages, the  
11 first one being you wanted the release of Johnny Paul Koroma?  
12 Would that be fair to say, Mr Witness?

13 A. Well, we did say we wanted to talk with him wherever he  
14 was.

09:53:06 15 Q. Was securing his release one of the objectives behind  
16 taking these hostages, Mr Witness?

17 A. Well, the question you are asking is - you see the point  
18 was clear. He said that it had taken a long time that Johnny  
19 Paul had not spoken to us and we now want to talk to Johnny Paul  
09:53:37 20 Koroma.

21 Q. The lack of communication between you, Bazy and the rest  
22 and Johnny Paul Koroma was a source of concern for you, right?

23 A. Yes, my Lord, it was a concern.

24 Q. The lack of recognition of the SLAs or AFRC in the Lome  
09:54:03 25 Peace Agreement was a source of concern for you and other  
26 fighters in Magbeni, correct?

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: When you put it that way, Mr Anyah, are  
28 you putting that as the second of your three reasons that you are  
29 putting to the witness?

1 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President:

2 Q. Yes, Mr Witness?

3 A. You might want to go back to the question because I did not  
4 get it clear.

09:54:24 5 Q. I will. The lack of recognition of the SLAs, what I call  
6 the AFRC and you call the SLAs, was a source of concern - well, I  
7 will take that again. I will withdraw that and rephrase it. The  
8 lack of recognition of the SLAs and the AFRC at Lome and in the  
9 peace agreement was a source of concern for you and the other  
09:54:47 10 fighters at Magbeni when you took these hostages, true?

11 A. Yes, my Lord.

12 Q. And after you spoke with Johnny Paul Koroma you also had in  
13 mind the possible role in the peace process and in the new  
14 government for Johnny Paul Koroma, a position of chairman for  
09:55:15 15 Consolidation of Peace. Yes, Mr Witness?

16 A. No, just when we got to Liberia that Johnny Paul indicated  
17 to us that there was a position like that in existence.

18 Q. While you were still at Magbeni, one of the hopes or  
19 aspirations of you and the other fighters were that the AFRC, or  
09:55:44 20 SLA as you call them, would have some kind of role to play in the  
21 new government, yes?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. Would you say that those three things I have mentioned,  
24 playing a role in the new government, having communication with  
09:56:07 25 Johnny Paul Koroma and the fact that you were not represented at  
26 Lome, those three things were contributing factors to you taking  
27 these hostages?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. When Johnny Paul Koroma called, or when you had a

1 communication with him and he said, "Put together a delegation  
2 and go to Freetown", the President of Liberia was sending a  
3 helicopter to pick him up, Johnny Paul Koroma, to Liberia, you  
4 and your fighters left Magbeni and you went to - is it Mansumana,  
09:57:07 5 Mr Witness?

6 A. Yes. Yes, my Lord.

7 Q. Eventually you arrived in Freetown, yes?

8 A. Yes, my Lord.

9 Q. Stayed at the Solar Hotel, right?

09:57:26 10 A. Yes, my Lord.

11 Q. None of this was done in secret, was it, Mr Witness?

12 A. Well, we were under strict security control. I don't know  
13 what the government did, but we were escorted by armoured cars up  
14 to where we went to. To say that we had the opportunity or

09:57:53 15 chance to go about visiting people, no.

16 Q. I didn't ask you about visiting people. I was asking you  
17 if you had to hide, or sneak into Freetown. This was all done in  
18 daylight, right?

19 A. Well, we left Magbeni at night and, like I said, when we  
09:58:17 20 were moving we were escorted by ECOMOG to Freetown.

21 Q. Well, at the Solar Hotel General Maxwell Khobe came to pay  
22 you a visit, right?

23 A. Yes, my Lord.

24 MR ANYAH: For the record, Khobe is spelt K-H-O-B-E.

09:58:37 25 Maxwell, regular spelling:

26 Q. Khobe at the time, a Nigerian general, was chief of army  
27 staff of the Sierra Leone Army, correct?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. Kenyan general, four star general, Daniel Opande, came to

1 see you at the Solar Hotel, correct?

2 A. Yes, my Lord.

3 Q. Opande was overall force commander for ECOMOG at the time  
4 in Sierra Leone, true?

09:59:10 5 A. Yes.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated].

7 MR ANYAH: Yes, Opande is spelt O-P-A-N-D-E. Daniel,  
8 regular spelling:

9 Q. All of these people, these important dignitaries, military  
09:59:25 10 men, they all knew you were going to Liberia to meet President  
11 Charles Taylor, yes?

12 A. Yes, my Lord.

13 Q. His Excellency Tejan Kabbah's protocol officer, Abdulai  
14 Mustapha you said, was waiting for you in Freetown when you  
09:59:50 15 arrived, correct?

16 A. Yes, my Lord.

17 Q. All of this was official. The Government of Sierra Leone  
18 was involved, yes?

19 A. Yes.

10:00:04 20 Q. The UN was involved. There were UN representatives waiting  
21 to meet you when you arrived in Freetown, yes?

22 A. Well, like I said, those were the only people, Maxwell  
23 Khobe and Opande, that met us. We did not see any other UN  
24 people who went to visit was at Solar Hotel.

10:00:51 25 MR ANYAH: Madam President, may I have a moment, please?

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

27 MR ANYAH:

28 Q. Well, UNAMSIL personnel welcomed you - or rather UNOMSIL  
29 personnel welcomed you when you were at Mansumana, correct?

1 A. They went there to receive us.

2 Q. Well, let me just cut to the chase. I will read to you  
3 what you told the Prosecution on 7 November 2003. Your Honours,  
4 I am reading from tab 4 in the bundle of Defence documents handed  
10:01:38 5 out yesterday. Mr Witness, you can follow what I am reading if  
6 you want to check the accuracy. It is in that set of documents  
7 you have there and, Madam Court Officer, could you kindly display  
8 the relevant pages for the public on the overhead. Your Honours,  
9 this is tab 4 and I think it's page 32. I will find the ERN

10:02:22 10 number in a minute. Mine does not have the ERN number on the top  
11 as does yours. Yes, the ERN number is 00100398 and it is page 32  
12 paginated at the bottom right-hand corner. Mr Witness, these  
13 are records of your interview with the Office of the Prosecutor  
14 on Friday, 7 November 2003 and at the bottom of that page it

10:03:03 15 says:

16 "A. At Mansumana we met a very big delegation comprising  
17 of ECOMOG, UNAMSIL and other top militaries?

18 Q. Did you go to Liberia at all?" I am now on page 33.

19 "A. Yes, we were taken to Freetown we stayed at Solar  
10:03:25 20 Hotel. At Solar Hotel we were visited by Khobe who was the  
21 then army Chief of Staff and Khobe encouraged us, telling  
22 us that we should not mix up ourselves in politics and that  
23 if we say we want the military we are always welcome. "

24 I will agree with you that there is no indication UNAMSIL  
10:03:45 25 or UN officials met you in Freetown just yet as far as this  
26 passage is concerned, but it does confirm you were met with a big  
27 delegation including UNAMSIL officials at Mansumana, yes?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. We will come back to that passage, because there are

1 important aspects of it I want to ask you about, or that section  
2 of this document. Now the plane you took from Lungi to Roberts  
3 international was an official plane provided by who?

4 A. Well, we met it there just like I told you. We had nothing  
10:04:40 5 else to do with that. When we went there with the helicopter we  
6 met the plane. The aircraft was parked and then we and Abdul ai  
7 Mustapha, we went there and then we entered the aircraft.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, do you know or do you not  
9 know --

10:04:59 10 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord, I don't know.

11 MR ANYAH:

12 Q. Well, the Court did not finish her question. You don't  
13 know who provided the plane; is that what you're trying to say,  
14 Mr Witness?

10:05:11 15 A. Yes, my Lord, I don't know.

16 Q. But none of you or your fellow fighters had to pay for your  
17 airfare from Sierra Leone to Liberia, yes?

18 A. Yes, my Lord, we did not pay. Like I said, we did not know  
19 about who. We just saw the flight.

10:05:33 20 Q. Significantly Abdul ai Mustapha flew on that flight with  
21 you, President Kabbah's protocol officer, yes?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. And when you arrived at Roberts international airport was  
24 Momoh Gibba waiting for you there?

10:05:58 25 A. No, I said when we got there we saw two vehicles that came  
26 to receive us.

27 Q. These vehicles you testified yesterday had unique licence  
28 plates. One had Guest 1 on the front licence plate and other one  
29 had Guest 2 on the front licence plate, correct?



1 A. I am sorry, it's not correct. I said the vehicles that  
2 came to pick us up, they were jeeps. They came to Roberts  
3 airfield. And the men were dressed in coats and they told us  
4 that they were special guards to the President. They picked us  
10:06:39 5 up and we went to Boulevard Hotel.

6 Q. Well, there were cars and security personnel sent by the  
7 President of Liberia to welcome your delegation, right, at the  
8 airport?

9 A. Well, yes, it was those jeeps that picked us up and then  
10:07:00 10 they drove us to the hotel.

11 Q. At the Boulevard Hotel the Sierra Leonean ambassador to  
12 Liberia at the time came to visit you and your fellow fighters,  
13 yes?

14 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:07:20 15 Q. He knew what you were in Liberia for, correct?

16 A. Well, he visited us there, yes.

17 Q. That was not my question. He knew you were in Liberia to  
18 consult with Johnny Paul Koroma and to possibly meet the  
19 President of Liberia, yes?

10:07:44 20 A. Well, I was not there to enter his mind. I only knew that  
21 he came there to visit us as Sierra Leoneans who had come to  
22 lodge in the hotel.

23 Q. He didn't just come because you were only Sierra Leoneans.  
24 He came for another reason. What was the nature of the  
10:08:05 25 conversation that you had with him at the hotel?

26 A. Well, we never had anything to discuss with him. What we  
27 told him and what especially Bazzy told him was that if he wanted  
28 to talk anything with us he should go to Johnny Paul Koroma to  
29 talk with him. We never had anything to talk with him.

1 Q. But the point is you agree that the President's protocol  
2 officer accompanies you from Lungi to Liberia and then the Sierra  
3 Leonean ambassador comes to pay you a visit at Boulevard. Are we  
4 in agreement, Mr Witness?

10:08:43 5 A. Yes, my Lord.

6 Q. When did you meet Momoh Gibba in Liberia the first time?

7 A. It was in the hotel. He was the person that we met in the  
8 hotel. He welcomed us.

9 Q. I see. The protocol officer of the President of Liberia  
10:09:06 10 came to welcome you and your fellow delegation members, yes?

11 A. Well, he introduced himself to be the ADC. He said he was  
12 Momoh Gibba and he is the ADC to the President. He moved us to  
13 the hotel manager and then he gave his orders for us to stay in  
14 the hotel.

10:09:33 15 Q. Fair enough. We will accept that he is the ADC,  
16 aide-de-camp, to President Taylor. The point is the President's  
17 aide-de-camp came to welcome you and your group, right?

18 A. We met him there. When we came we met him in the hotel.

19 Q. He was there to receive you, you said a few minutes ago,  
10:09:55 20 correct?

21 A. Yes, my Lord.

22 Q. When did these two vehicles you spoke of yesterday with the  
23 unique licence plates Guest 1 and Guest 2 - when did they come to  
24 pick you up?

10:10:14 25 A. That happened the next day and when we reached he said we  
26 should take our baths and then we should feel free. And then the  
27 next day we saw two black cars that came to pick us up.

28 Q. You didn't have to pay for your stay at the Boulevard  
29 Hotel, did you, Mr Witness?

1 A. Like I said, Momoh Gibba said that we shouldn't use money  
2 on anything there. He passed this order, they gave us the rooms.  
3 He said except for alcohol. He said we can use anything there  
4 except alcohol. If we wanted to take in alcohol we should buy it  
10:11:02 5 for ourselves, but all other things were free for us.

6 Q. Yes, all expenses paid for except for alcohol, yes?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. It was clear that these vehicles that came to pick you up  
9 were official government vehicles, was it not, Mr Witness?

10:11:24 10 A. Well, I saw Guest 1, Guest 2, they came and picked us up,  
11 and I want to believe that it was a government official vehicle.

12 Q. Were there any RUF members among the 11 of you, Mr Witness?

13 A. No.

14 Q. I thought you told us RUF members were still part of the  
10:11:54 15 West Side Boys before you left?

16 A. Yes, but not part of the delegation that went. Like I  
17 said, our focus was the SLA that was left out of the Lome Peace  
18 Accord.

19 Q. Would you say after the Lome Peace Agreement and the  
10:12:16 20 failure to mention the SLAs, as you call them, in the agreement  
21 the SLA and the RUF went their separate ways, Mr Witness?

22 A. No, we did not have separation at that time. We only  
23 showed this concern and then Bazzy planned the operation and then  
24 we went and executed it. The SLAs who were there with them and  
10:12:42 25 even the RUF were still there, we left them all there. Stagger,  
26 Eddie and others, they were all there. And we only decided to  
27 launch this operation to ensure that we were recognised.

28 Q. That who was recognised, Mr Witness?

29 A. The SLA.

1 Q. You told us of a meeting that you and your contingent had  
2 with Johnny Paul Koroma at some lodge in Monrovia, right?

3 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:13:23

4 Q. Do you know who was providing that residential facility for  
5 Johnny Paul Koroma?

6 A. Well, like I said, Johnny Paul told us that it was  
7 President Taylor who gave him that facility and his guards were  
8 there and I also saw RUF men and in fact it was Johnny Paul who  
9 showed them to us. He said, "Do you see the RUF moving around?"

10:13:46

10 Q. When you said that yesterday, Mr Witness, it occurred to me  
11 that I had not read about it before. Did you tell the  
12 Prosecution when you spoke with them 7 November 2003 you saw RUF  
13 men with Johnny Paul Koroma in Monrovia? Did you tell them that?

10:14:09

14 A. Well, I said - I said it. I am not guessing. What  
15 happened is what I am saying.

16 Q. Well, we are still on the tab I mentioned. This is the  
17 record of your interview, tab 4. I stopped at page 32 and 33.

10:14:53

18 If we move on the same tab to page 34. The ERN number is  
19 00100400. Mr Witness, let me read what you said to the  
20 Prosecution about this whole entire Liberian mission. This is  
21 what they have down as you telling them in 2003, one of your  
22 earlier interviews with them. Page 34 reads:

10:15:22

23 "From Lungi we went to Liberia in an aeroplane and Abdulai  
24 Mustapha was in that group. One hour later we arrived at Roberts  
25 airfield in Monrovia. We were received by men who were not  
26 dressed in uniform, but I was told they were security men for  
27 Charles Taylor who came in two jeep cars. We were taken to Hotel  
28 Boulevard in Monrovia where we stayed. After some time we were  
29 visited by the Sierra Leone ambassador to Liberia.

1 Later Johnny Paul sent a car which collected us and took us  
2 to the house where he stayed. We had a closed door talk with  
3 him. Johnny Paul Koroma told us the situation he found himself  
4 in in Kailahun. He told us how he was molested by the RUF, how  
10:16:04 5 his wife too was molested by the RUF in Kailahun.

6 When Johnny Paul Koroma asked us for our demands Bazzy was  
7 very, very persistent in asking for the AFRC to come back. When  
8 we were consulted, the junior men were consulted, we told Johnny  
9 Paul Koroma that the men on the ground said that they wanted the  
10:16:37 10 army to be reinstated. The reason is if we talk about the AFRC  
11 not everybody will be involved in politics, but if we say 'the  
12 army' everybody will partake of it, especially when it was said  
13 that the army was disbanded."

14 I can read on to the next page, but I will read the last  
10:17:04 15 paragraph just so we conclude the part when your meeting with  
16 Koroma took place, or you have made reference to your meeting  
17 with Koroma.

18 "In that meeting Johnny Paul Koroma also said that since he  
19 has no office and there was vacancy for the CPP office, he said  
10:17:22 20 he was asking for that office to be given to him so that he also  
21 can take part in the peace negotiation in Sierra Leone."

22 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

23 A. Yes, my Lord.

24 Q. I have read it to you. That's the record of your first  
10:17:38 25 description of this meeting with Johnny Paul Koroma. Any  
26 reference there to the SLAs? It says AFRC, does it not?

27 A. Well, I did not see reference like that there, but this -  
28 what happened is what I have explained.

29 Q. But do you get my point? You have been insistent on

1 calling them SLAs before this Court. Five years ago you were  
2 calling them AFRC, right?

3 A. Well, this was the name given to us. Those of us, the SLAs  
4 in the bush, they said AFRC/RUF fighters and people knew that the  
10:18:20 5 AFRC was part of the SLA and people called us AFRC/RUF fighters.

6 Q. Any reference to seeing Johnny Paul Koroma surrounded - or  
7 having about himself RUF men at this house, Mr Witness?

8 A. I have not seen reference like that. Maybe it was up to  
9 the investigators and the people who wrote this, but what I told  
10:18:48 10 them was that I said Johnny Paul showed us the RUF boys who were  
11 with him. So it was only up to the investigator who wrote this  
12 thing.

13 Q. I will come to two more interviews you had about this  
14 subject in 2007 and we will find out then if you told them about  
10:19:05 15 RUF in the same house. We will get to it. Now, Mr Witness, do  
16 you see some of the concerns of the AFRC members being described  
17 on this page. They wanted the military to be reinstated. Do you  
18 see that, Mr Witness?

19 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:19:26 20 Q. Do you see the reference to having some kind of  
21 participation by Johnny Paul Koroma in the new government that  
22 was forming following the Lome Peace Agreement?

23 A. Yes, my Lord.

24 Q. How about the reference to Johnny Paul and his wife being  
10:19:45 25 molested by the RUF. Do you see that, Mr Witness?

26 A. Yes, my Lord.

27 Q. Indeed, Johnny Paul Koroma did tell you about his  
28 experiences in Kailahun, yes?

29 A. He told us that, that is true. He told us.

1 Q. Your evidence before this Court is at this time, after what  
2 they had done to your leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, RUF men were  
3 still part of the West Side Boys. Is that your evidence,  
4 Mr Witness?

10:20:17 5 A. We were all there at the West Side, yes. They were part of  
6 the West Side Boys.

7 Q. Yes, you still had RUF members as part of the West Side  
8 Boys. Now, after this meeting with Johnny Paul Koroma you  
9 eventually got to meet with Charles Taylor during this visit,  
10:20:49 10 correct?

11 A. Yes, my Lord.

12 Q. Was it on the same day you met with Koroma, or was it on  
13 the following day?

14 A. It was not the same day. I think it was the following day.  
10:21:14 15 I think it took us one or two days when Johnny Paul sent to us  
16 saying that we should prepare to go and meet the President, when  
17 Bazy chose from amongst us some people who should go and meet  
18 with the President.

19 Q. Only five of you were chosen at that time, right? Five of  
10:21:36 20 the 11?

21 A. Yes, my Lord.

22 Q. Mr Witness, before you and the 11 even left Freetown to go  
23 to Liberia to meet with President Taylor, you wanted some  
24 guarantees or assurances that you wouldn't be arrested, right?

10:22:02 25 A. Well, this question looks - I want you to repeat it again.  
26 Let me get it clear.

27 Q. The West Side Boys were --

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry to interrupt, Mr Anyah. Just to  
29 make sure is it arrest within the Sierra Leone area, or arrest

1 within the Liberian area you are talking about?

2 MR ANYAH: I will clarify. I hope to clarify. Thank you,  
3 Madam President:

10:22:33

4 Q. Mr Witness, the West Side Boys were under tremendous  
5 pressure after they took these hostages in July/August 1999,  
6 correct?

7 A. Well, I want you to describe for me the pressure under  
8 which we were.

10:22:54

9 Q. You were under pressure from the international community,  
10 yes?

11 A. Well, it was the Sierra Leone government and the ECOMOG  
12 that said we should release their people and the UNOMSIL  
13 officials who were there, the UN also said we should release  
14 them.

10:23:09

15 Q. So, ECOMOG was insisting you should release them, yes?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. UNOMSIL, UN, was insisting that you released them, right?

18 A. Yes, they said to release the ones who were under arrest,  
19 the ones we captured.

10:23:29

20 Q. The Sierra Leonean government was also insisting you  
21 released the hostages, right?

22 A. Yes.

10:23:43

23 Q. Well, that is the pressure to which I am referring. Do you  
24 consider there to have been pressure on the West Side Boys around  
25 the time when you took these hostages?

26 A. Yes, by the bodies that I have made mention of.

27 Q. And it is fair to say, is it not, that before you departed  
28 for Liberia you wanted some assurances from the Liberian  
29 government that nothing would happen to your delegation once you



1 got to Liberia, yes?

2 A. Well, before we left Abdulai Mustapha had assured us that  
3 since the hostages were with us nothing was going to happen to  
4 us. We never wanted assurance from the Liberian government. We  
10:24:26 5 said we wanted to see Johnny Paul so that we will talk with him.  
6 We knew that we had people under our arrest, so nobody was going  
7 to arrest us.

8 Q. I repeat my question: Did you, the West Side Boys, have  
9 any concern about being arrested upon arrival in Liberia?

10:25:06 10 A. Well, the only concern we had was for Freetown in general,  
11 because we were afraid a little that if we went to Freetown maybe  
12 they would want to arrest us, but we knew very well that if the  
13 government had a plan to arrest us then our men also on the  
14 ground will do away with the people who were there with us, the  
10:25:30 15 hostages. So that was our only fear.

16 Q. We are now back in Monrovia and you go for your visit with  
17 President Taylor. This was at the Executive Mansion you said.  
18 Correct me if I am wrong.

19 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:25:53 20 Q. When you made your way to meet the President of Liberia, he  
21 was accompanied by Daniel Chea, his Minister for Defence, right?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. Momoh Gibba was also present in the vicinity, yes?

24 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:26:14 25 Q. And he met the five of you, right?

26 A. Yes, my Lord, including Johnny Paul Koroma.

27 Q. Charles Taylor was meeting with you at the request of  
28 ECOWAS, true or false?

29 A. I did not know anything about that. Like I said, I did not

1 know anything about that, whether it was ECOMOG or ECOWAS that  
2 did it. I did not know about that. It was only Johnny Paul that  
3 told us that we should prepare, that we are going to see the  
4 President where we will discuss and we will see how we can solve  
10:26:51 5 the problem.

6 Q. Charles Taylor was meeting with you to facilitate peace in  
7 Sierra Leone. True or false, Mr Witness?

8 A. Well, we went to solve - the only thing, like I said,  
9 Johnny Paul told us that President Taylor was ready to meet with  
10:27:12 10 us so that we will tell him exactly our demands.

11 Q. And part of the demands included the SLA being more  
12 involved in the new government that was being formed in Sierra  
13 Leone after Lome, correct?

14 A. Yes, we said we should be part of the Lome Peace Accord.

10:27:33 15 Q. You would agree with me, Mr Witness, that it was important  
16 to have the SLAs play a role in this peace process in Sierra  
17 Leone if the Lome agreement was to be successfully implemented?

18 A. Yes, my Lord.

19 Q. And Charles Taylor was trying to solve some of your  
10:27:55 20 concerns, the concerns of the SLA, right?

21 A. Well, like I said, we arrested people. We took people  
22 hostage and then we discussed our demands, and then Johnny Paul  
23 told us that we should be prepared to go and meet with him in  
24 Liberia and then we will meet the President of Liberia so that we  
10:28:21 25 will discuss this issue.

26 Q. Johnny Paul was essentially telling you that Charles Taylor  
27 would facilitate - or help resolve some of your concerns, right?

28 A. Yes, he said we should go and meet with him and then we put  
29 forward our demands and then they will find ways and means to

1 solve it.

2 Q. During this meeting with the President of Liberia,  
3 yesterday you told us he gave your group 15,000 United States  
4 dollars. Do you remember telling us that?

10:29:00 5 A. Yes, my Lord.

6 Q. You described in some detail how he pulled it out of some  
7 portfolio you called it, right?

8 A. Yes, my Lord.

9 Q. Was there anything illegal about that, or criminal about  
10:29:18 10 giving you 15,000 dollars, Mr Witness?

11 A. Well, he handed it over to Johnny Paul and he told him to  
12 give it to us so that we shall feel free and buy things around,  
13 go around shopping. I cannot say exactly that the way you are  
14 putting it that is it, but except you explain it to me now, but  
10:29:49 15 all I am saying is that he handed it over to Johnny Paul and he  
16 asked Johnny Paul to give it to us.

17 Q. Do you know what kola nut is, Mr Witness?

18 A. Well, I know kola, people chew it in Freetown.

19 Q. Yes, kola nuts. When you go and consult some elderly  
10:30:14 20 people in Sierra Leone sometimes do you take kola to them,  
21 Mr Witness?

22 A. I don't understand the kind of consult you are talking  
23 about.

24 Q. When you have social interactions in Sierra Leone and  
10:30:31 25 sometimes you visit an older statesman, as a sign of respect  
26 sometimes do you break kola with him, Mr Witness?

27 A. Well, I have not done that before, wherein I will go and  
28 meet somebody, because I am not a crook. I am not involved in  
29 crookish activities to say I will go to somebody and take out

1 something and say, "Here is kola nut for you." No, I have not  
2 done that.

3 Q. Are you saying that breaking of kola signifies some kind of  
4 crooked activity? Is that what you are saying, Mr Witness?

10:31:16 5 A. Well, in my own view that is what has destroyed Freetown.  
6 When people want their businesses to go through they take  
7 something and take it to the big man in the office and give it to  
8 him. They say, "This is your kola", and the business - what they  
9 want will happen. But those of us who do not have it, for the  
10:31:38 10 poor people, if they don't have the kola to take it to that big  
11 man your business will not go through. That is what has  
12 destroyed Freetown.

13 Q. I am not asking you what has destroyed Freetown. I am  
14 asking you, the entire west coast of Africa, from Nigeria when  
10:31:53 15 you start, you move up the coast through Liberia to Sierra Leone,  
16 the breaking of kola traditionally is a sign of respect between  
17 elder and junior, correct?

18 A. I don't know, because I was not - I did not grow up in the  
19 provinces. I live in the city, so I don't know much about that  
10:32:17 20 tradition you are talking about.

21 Q. It is also the case that when young people visit a senior  
22 man in the community he will give them something to take back  
23 with them as a token of friendship and goodwill, is it not?

24 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, can I just clarify whether  
10:32:31 25 this is a question being put, or whether counsel is making a  
26 statement of fact that this is what happens.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Counsel is putting a proposition, but  
28 maybe phrase it as a question, Mr Anyah.

29 MR ANYAH: I did phrase it - I did phrase it as a question.

1 I will rephrase it.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, indeed.

3 MS ALAGENDRA: The record says that, "It is also the case  
4 that when young people" --

10:32:56 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: He ended it by saying, "Is it not?"

6 MR ANYAH: Yes:

7 Q. Mr Witness, I will repeat my question. I'll read it:

8 "It is also the case that when young people visit a senior  
9 man in the community he will give them something to take back  
10 with them as a token of friendship and goodwill, is it not?"

11 Do you agree with that, Mr Witness?

12 A. Well, that has never happened to me. Since I was in the  
13 military to say I will go and meet my colonel to - when I go to  
14 my seniors, my colonel, the orders he gives me is what I execute,  
10:33:42 15 but to say I have ever gone to my colonel and then he will take  
16 out something and give it to me as kola, kola nuts, no, I have  
17 never done that. That has not happened.

18 Q. Have you ever received someone in your household that  
19 looked up to you, a young person, and when they were leaving you  
10:33:58 20 said, "Take this money and pay your transport"? Have you ever  
21 done that, Mr Witness?

22 A. Well, for me I don't do that, because everybody knows me  
23 for that. If I don't invite you to my house and you come to me  
24 and you expect me to give you money, I will not do it. I don't  
10:34:26 25 do that.

26 Q. You don't, but do you know people in Sierra Leone who when  
27 young people visit them they say, "Young man, young woman, take  
28 this, pay your way, pay your tuition"? Are you familiar with  
29 that culture in West Africa, Mr Witness?

1 A. My Lord, you are forcing me to say what you want me to tell  
2 you. That has not happened to me. I am telling you what has  
3 been happening to me. I have not witnessed that and I have not  
4 done it.

10:35:00 5 Q. Would you agree that Charles Taylor giving you 15,000 on  
6 the day in question in 1999 was a symbol or token of goodwill and  
7 friendship? Would you agree that, Mr Witness?

8 A. I was not in his head or in his mind. He gave it to Johnny  
9 Paul to give it to us. I didn't know his intention. He just  
10:35:25 10 said we should buy logistics and other things like clothing  
11 whilst we were in Liberia.

12 Q. You have used the magic word "logistics". What do you mean  
13 by logistics? You always - you refer to arms and ammunition as  
14 logistics. Are you referring to something sinister when you say  
10:35:43 15 logistics, Mr Witness?

16 A. Well, logistics could comprise food, arms and ammunition,  
17 all of those could be part of logistics. When they say go for  
18 the military logistics, even the uniform is inclusive, the food  
19 could be part of logistics, ammunition could be part of  
10:36:05 20 logistics, arms could be part of logistics.

21 Q. Are you saying that following a meeting where President  
22 Taylor was trying to solve problems regarding peace in Sierra  
23 Leone, are you suggesting he was giving you 15,000 to buy arms,  
24 Mr Witness? Are you possibly suggesting that to this Court?

10:36:26 25 A. No, he said you should buy clothing and some other things.

26 Q. Then I go back to my question. His giving you that money  
27 was a token of goodwill and friendship, true?

28 A. He gave it to us. He gave it to Johnny Paul and told him  
29 to give it to his men so that we will buy clothings. I didn't

1 know his intention.

2 Q. When he says you should use the money and buy clothing, do  
3 you view that as something of generosity, Mr Witness? Kindness,  
4 a good gesture on his part?

10:37:22 5 A. Well, that was up to him, but we received it. That was up  
6 to him.

7 Q. It is not whether it was up to him. I persist with my  
8 question, Mr Witness. When somebody gives you money to buy  
9 clothing and other like items, do you, in your experience as a  
10 grown man, view that as a gesture of goodwill?

11 A. Well, to me it could have different meanings, because, like  
12 for me, for example, if I give money to anybody that person must  
13 have done something for me. I cannot just give him money without  
14 doing anything for me. I will not do it. So that's why I said  
10:38:10 15 it is up to him. I didn't know his intention. He gave the money  
16 so that we could buy clothing and some other things.

17 Q. I see. Your evidence is you never give out money to  
18 others. You do not give people return fare money as a matter of  
19 custom in West Africa when they visit you. This is your evidence  
10:38:35 20 to this Court, Mr Witness, right?

21 A. I am talking about my personal principle. I don't know  
22 about others. I am talking about my personal principle. I  
23 cannot just give money to people without - even my wife. Except  
24 if I - except if she asks that she wants to buy some clothing or  
10:38:56 25 something to do with the child's schooling, or to go to the  
26 market, then I will give money, but I do not just give money like  
27 that.

28 Q. During this meeting with President Taylor, yesterday a  
29 number of things you said caught my attention. You said

1 President Taylor spoke of having reorganised some SLAs and sent  
2 them back to Sierra Leone. Do you recall saying that,  
3 Mr Witness?

4 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:39:32 5 Q. You said President Taylor spoke of "the movement" and his  
6 support of the 6 January invasion of Freetown. Do you recall  
7 saying that, Mr Witness?

8 A. Yes, my Lord.

9 Q. Yes. And then you told us of the \$15,000 pulled out from  
10:40:07 10 the portfolio and handed to you, yes?

11 A. Yes, my Lord.

12 Q. Let's look at what you told the Prosecution when they first  
13 interviewed you in 2003 about this meeting with the President of  
14 Liberia. Your Honours, I am still at tab 4. It will now be page  
10:40:32 15 35, ERN number 00100401. Mr Witness, 7 November 2003, this is  
16 all you told the Prosecution about this meeting with the  
17 President of Liberia. At the top of the page, that paragraph:

18 "We went back to the hotel after the closed door meeting to  
19 wait for further instructions. Later some vehicles were sent to  
10:41:24 20 take Johnny Paul Koroma to meet President Charles Taylor in the  
21 mansion. We went together with Johnny Paul Koroma to the mansion  
22 and we had some discussion with Charles Taylor. Charles Taylor  
23 told us in that meeting that the RUF and the SLA should come  
24 together so that we can fight for what we want. Since he was a  
10:41:50 25 President, we did not say anything. We only listened to Johnny  
26 Paul Koroma to address the issue. We left the mansion, we went  
27 back to the hotel, and Johnny Paul Koroma went to his own base."

28 I will just read a little bit into the next paragraph:

29 "After that Johnny Paul Koroma brought another paper to us



1 which stated that President Kabbah has agreed to reinstate the  
2 army and that the office of the CCP has been given to him. We  
3 all signed."

4 This is all you told the Prosecution when you first met  
10:42:30 5 with them in November 2003 about this entire meeting with the  
6 President of Liberia, yes, Mr Witness?

7 A. Well, yes, and it was in response to a question that they  
8 put to me. It was the way the question was asked. In fact there  
9 are sometimes I wanted to explain further and they said, "No,  
10:42:53 10 just stop there, this is what we want for now, if we want more we  
11 will ask you later." And was the question they put to me and I  
12 answered exactly the question. You can see clearly we had a  
13 meeting. They did not ask me to dilate further what went on in  
14 the meeting.

10:43:08 15 Q. On 7 November 2003 you were not at that time living in a  
16 house being paid for by the Special Court, were you, Mr Witness?

17 A. No, I was not there at that time. I was at my house.

18 Q. 7 November 2003 Charles Taylor had not been arrested and  
19 detained by the Special Court, yes, Mr Witness?

10:43:35 20 A. Yes, my Lord.

21 Q. No mention in that statement I have read about 6 January  
22 invasion of Freetown, yes, Mr Witness?

23 A. As I said, it is not there, but it was the - I answered  
24 questions in response - I answered questions just as they were

10:44:00 25 put to me. I could not have said things that were not in  
26 response to questions asked to me. At times I wanted to explain  
27 some things and they said, "No, just stop there. When we want  
28 that later we will ask you." I said, "I also want to explain"  
29 and they said no, I will be limited. "You should answer the

1 questions that" - that's what they will tell me, "Answer the  
2 questions that are put to you."

3 Q. Yes, we understand all these instructions that are not  
4 reflected in the paper. Let's focus on what's in the paper.

10:44:30 5 There is no mention of Charles Taylor providing arms and  
6 ammunition to the SLAs, is there?

7 A. It is not there, but he tells you that we had a meeting.  
8 We had a meeting with the President. So if they had asked me,  
9 "What did you discuss in this meeting" then you will have seen it  
10 in the same document.

10:44:49 11 Q. No mention of this \$15,000 from that portfolio, US dollars,  
12 being brought out by President Taylor. No mention of that, yes?

13 A. Yes, my Lord. They did not say it, but they mentioned the  
14 meeting that we had.

10:45:10 15 Q. No mention of Charles Taylor reorganising SLA soldiers who  
16 came through Guinea and him sending them back to Liberia. No  
17 mention of that, Mr Witness, yes?

18 A. It is not there, as I said, but the meeting that we had, it  
19 is reflected here that there was a closed door meeting with the  
20 President, but the investigator did not ask me to elaborate.

10:45:35 21 Where he asked me to stop there, that is where I stopped. If he  
22 had asked me, "What did you discuss in the meeting, after this  
23 what happened" I would have gone ahead to dilate to elaborate  
24 further.

10:45:52 25 Q. Mr Witness, if you go to tab 1, the very first tab of that  
26 set of documents, and we will come back to your additional  
27 statements on this issue in 2007, but that's tab 1, Mr Witness,  
28 let's focus on tab 1 for a second. This document has all the  
29 dates on which you have met with the Office of the Prosecutor for

1 which we have records and we see that your meetings with them  
2 started on 5 November 2003 right up until this month, the month  
3 of April, 10 April 2008. You have met with them for 31 times, 31  
4 times, Mr Witness, during that period of time?

10:46:59 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Did you say 31? I am just looking at the  
6 number at the bottom. It says 21.

7 MR ANYAH: On the far right-hand corner, Madam President,  
8 is the tab or page where the interview notes are found. That's  
9 on the right-hand side. But on the left-hand side where it says  
10:47:15 10 number of - yes.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Indeed I see it now. It was covered  
12 over. I'm sorry, Mr Anyah.

13 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President:

14 Q. Mr Witness, you see what I am referring to, right?

10:47:29 15 A. Yes, my Lord.

16 Q. Do you know when the first time you mentioned receiving  
17 15,000 United States dollars from President Charles Taylor was,  
18 what interview date you mentioned that amount being given to you?  
19 Between 2003 and 2008, when did you first tell them that?

10:47:53 20 A. Well, they used to call me for interview intermittently  
21 right up until this time and so maybe you can refer me, because  
22 you have the document in front of you. So please you can refer  
23 to that document, because I cannot recall because they were  
24 calling me - I am not a machine. I am a human being. They used  
10:48:14 25 to invite me, they asked me questions and I answered.

26 Q. I was waiting for the phrase you are a mortal man. Do you  
27 know what that phrase is: You are a mortal man? Can you explain  
28 what that phrase is to us?

29 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, can I ask the relevance of

1 this question?

2 MR ANYAH: He said he was a human being. I am phrasing it  
3 in vernacular he might be more familiar with.

4 MS ALAGENDRA: There is still the relevance, your Honour.

10:48:39 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: He is entitled to put the question,  
6 Ms Alagenda, because the witness himself has said, "I am a human  
7 being."

8 MR ANYAH:

9 Q. You know what "mortal man" means, Mr Witness, yes?

10:48:52 10 A. I said I am a human being. It is not that I have a machine  
11 implanted in my head. I am liable to make mistakes, or I can  
12 forget. I am not a machine like this that you have, now you can  
13 save something in its memory, when you come back you can just  
14 click on something and it can pop up. I am a human being.

10:49:19 15 Q. You wanted me to point you to the relevant tab where you  
16 speak of the 15,000. I am putting it to you it was on 6 April  
17 2008 and the tab number is tab 18, tab 18. Can you flip to tab  
18 18 and you will see the reference to the 15,000 United States  
19 dollars. It was a Sunday, Mr Witness. 6 April was the 28th  
10:50:04 20 meeting, 28th time you had met with the Office of the Prosecutor,  
21 at least from what they have disclosed to us, and you see what it  
22 says there. It says:

23 "Witness states that at the end of the meeting with  
24 President Charles Taylor in Liberia in 1999, Taylor gave the  
10:50:22 25 group of soldiers with Johnny Paul Koroma the sum of 15,000 USD  
26 to share among themselves."

27 Yes, Mr Witness?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. Does that juggle your memory, or revive your memory as to

1 when you first told the Prosecution about this 15,000 dollars?

2 A. Well, this was a time that they asked me a question  
3 relative to that and, as I said, prior to that time they did not  
4 bring questions relating to that, but when they brought a  
10:51:00 5 question like that to me then I answered. So this was the time  
6 that they brought the question relative to that: "What did you  
7 discuss in the meeting? How did you end up?"

8 Q. I see. Mr Witness --

9 A. Yes, my Lord. Yes, your Honour, I want to use the gents.

10:51:30 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please assist the witness.

11 THE WITNESS: Please.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I have asked if you can be assisted  
13 to leave. Yes, Mr Anyah, you wish to speak?

14 MR ANYAH: Madam President, may Mr Taylor be excused to  
10:51:54 15 also use the washroom?

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, please leave. If he can also be  
17 escorted.

18 Mr Anyah, please proceed.

19 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President:

10:55:37 20 Q. Mr Witness, let's go to 2007 and let's now see your  
21 description about this meeting with President Charles Taylor. I  
22 would refer you and others here present to tab 13. Tab 13  
23 contains notes from your meeting with the Office of the  
24 Prosecutor almost a year ago, 8 May 2007. It is about four and a  
10:56:45 25 half years or four years removed from your first meeting with  
26 them in 2003. Well, four years or less, but over three years  
27 certainly. If you go to page 2, starting at the bottom of page 2  
28 of that tab, ERN number 0032137 - Mr Witness, if you flip the  
29 page over to page 2, the bottom right-hand corner, there is a

1 paragraph there that starts, "JPK communicated from the Kailahun  
2 after the adoption of the UNAMSIL." Perhaps that was supposed to  
3 be abduction of the UNAMSIL and we have clarified you meant  
4 UNOMSIL and not UNAMSIL. So:

10:57:49 5 "JPK communicated from the Kailahun after the adoption of  
6 the UNAMSIL soldiers that they should be released, but the SLA  
7 soldiers based at West Side refused, that JPK was under gunpoint  
8 forcing him to order the release. He later communicated that an  
9 11 man delegation be formed to be sent to Liberia."

10:58:15 10 Now over on the next page, ERN00032138. You see that  
11 sentence right there after "Liberia", Mr Witness, it says, "This  
12 was coordinated by both the Sierra Leone government and the  
13 Liberia government." Do you see that, Mr Witness?

14 A. Yes, my Lord.

10:58:44 15 Q. Your trip to Liberia with this delegation was an official  
16 matter between Sierra Leone and Liberia, correct?

17 A. Yes, it was between governments. They took us from  
18 Freetown and flew us to Liberia and the Liberian government  
19 received us in Liberia.

10:59:03 20 Q. Do you see the next sentence? Considering I asked you a  
21 few minutes ago whether you were seeking assurances from the  
22 Liberian government, do you see the next sentence, it reads, "The  
23 SLAs at West Side had to get assurance from the Liberian  
24 government to confirm that nothing will happen to them on arrival  
10:59:25 25 in Liberia"? Do you see that, Mr Witness?

26 A. I see it, yes, my Lord.

27 Q. This is what you told the Prosecution back in May 2007,  
28 yes?

29 A. Yes, my Lord.

1 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause, Mr Anyah. Yes, Ms Alagendra,  
3 do you wish to say something?

4 MS ALAGENDRA: I was going to ask that the counsel put the  
10:59:54 5 whole of the issue with regards to assurance, which appears in  
6 the next paragraph.

7 MR ANYAH: Yes, of course. I intended to do so to be fair  
8 to all sides, of course:

9 Q. Mr Witness, the next paragraph says:

11:00:06 10 "The SLAs requested for the assurance of the delegation to  
11 travel to Liberia because the Liberian government had influence  
12 over the RUF. Through the communication JPK told witness and  
13 others that a helicopter had been sent on the orders of Charles  
14 Taylor to pick him and flown to Liberia."

11:00:28 15 That is what you told the Office of the Prosecutor, right?

16 A. Yes, my Lord.

17 Q. Now, what you mean by assurance, I have put to you before,  
18 was that you and fellow SLA members were concerned something  
19 would happen to you in Liberia. Do you challenge that,

11:00:44 20 Mr Witness?

21 A. As it is in my statement, first we had a fear for Freetown  
22 because after 6 January they are said we were to go there and so  
23 we said no. Secondly, we had another fear because RUF had a  
24 strong connection in Liberia, whether they would have anything to  
11:01:11 25 do to us, so that is why we were asking for assurance and they  
26 told us nothing would happen to us.

27 Q. I see. If we go down to the bottom of the page, where it  
28 says, "The following day JPK and the delegation met Charles  
29 Taylor." Do you see that, Mr Witness? The last paragraph of the

1 page. It reads:

2 "The following day JPK and the delegation met with Charles  
3 Taylor and JPK introduced the delegation. After the  
4 introduction, JPK read out the demands of the SLAs. Charles  
11:01:46 5 Taylor responded that he was very much happy to receive the  
6 delegation, that he was not happy with the division between the  
7 RUF and AFRC. Charles Taylor further said that he hopes to  
8 achieve peace between the two groups."

9 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

11:02:03 10 A. Yes, my Lord.

11 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, can I ask that the whole  
12 paragraph be put to the witness, please.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am not sure that counsel has completed  
14 his question.

11:02:15 15 MR ANYAH: I will read to the next page to assure my  
16 learned colleague if that would be of assistance.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed.

18 MR ANYAH: Thank you:

19 Q. Mr Witness, do you see the reference there about Charles  
11:02:28 20 Taylor hoping to achieve peace between the two groups?

21 A. Yes, my Lord.

22 Q. He was a mediator during this process, a mediator for  
23 peace, yes?

24 A. Yes, well, if he hadn't a concern for us they would have  
11:02:49 25 sent us to Ghana, but it was because he had hands in the AFRC/RUF  
26 fighters, that's why we were taken to Liberia.

27 Q. What is the reference in your response to Ghana? Are you  
28 suggesting that Ghana had the chairmanship of ECOWAS back in  
29 1999, around this time? Is that what you're suggesting,



1 Mr Witness?

2 A. No, what I am saying is that if you are saying that it was  
3 a peace mediator, then even Ghana would have mediated, because  
4 they would have even said, well, now that you are fearing for RUF  
11:03:34 5 we will send you to Ghana so there will be no RUF there, but it  
6 was because they knew Charles Taylor had direct hands in the  
7 RUF/AFRC, that's why they suggested Liberia.

8 Q. That was not the original point of focus of my question.  
9 It was simple. It was whether or not Charles Taylor, given what  
11:03:57 10 you are quoted as telling the Prosecution, was facilitating peace  
11 between these factions?

12 A. Yes, because he was the immediate person that had direct  
13 influence on the AFRC and the RUF. That's why the government  
14 said to facilitate the meeting in Liberia. We insisted that we  
11:04:24 15 had some fear for the RUF, but they still said we should go  
16 there.

17 Q. We have already established that he was facilitating this  
18 peace in the context of something or a process that you told the  
19 Prosecution was being coordinated by the governments of Sierra  
11:04:42 20 Leone and Liberia, yes?

21 A. Yes, my Lord.

22 Q. Continuing to read on the page: "He cited instances how he  
23 had been assisting RUF/AFRC after the intervention." Over to the  
24 next page, ERN ending in 2139, and here you give an answer, you  
11:05:06 25 say:

26 "The instance he was referring to was that he allowed his  
27 border with Sierra Leone to be opened so that soldiers who  
28 escaped from the front lines came to Liberia. That the escaped  
29 soldiers were arrested and sent back to Sierra Leone to fight.

1 That he had distributed arms and ammunition to Mosquito to  
2 counter the offensive of Mosquito Spray who attacked Liberia from  
3 Guinea. Charles Taylor said that he provided logistics which  
4 comprised of arms and ammunition, food, et cetera. Charles  
11:05:42 5 Taylor further assured the delegation of his continued support to  
6 AFRC/RUF. Charles Taylor advised both groups to unite and not  
7 allow the politicians to divide the group, otherwise everyone  
8 will find themselves in prison?"

9 The next sentence I will leave for later. It's important.

11:06:01 10 I won't read it now, but it speaks of the STF. We will come back  
11 to it. But let's focus on what I have just read, Mr Witness. In  
12 May of 2007 you knew by then that Charles Taylor was in the  
13 custody of the Special Court, yes?

14 A. Yes, the whole world knew.

11:06:29 15 Q. Precisely. May of 2007 you are living in a house being  
16 paid for by the Special Court, yes?

17 A. Yes, my Lord.

18 Q. May of 2000 when you speak with the office of the  
19 Prosecutor for the first time you start talking about Charles  
11:06:47 20 Taylor providing logistics to the SLAs and AFRC, yes?

21 A. Well, it was depending on the question. At this time they  
22 brought the question. You could see that from the various  
23 interviews that I had with them, it was that time that they  
24 brought the questions. If they did not ask me a question I will  
11:07:08 25 not volunteer answers. They asked me to explain at that time and  
26 so I explicated further.

27 Q. Do you remember the document I showed you in tab 2 that  
28 delineates your interview dates with the Office of the  
29 Prosecutor? Do you know that 8 May 2007 was your 22nd interview

1 with the Office of the Prosecutor? 22. And that is the first  
2 time you are now talking about Charles Taylor providing logistics  
3 to the SLAs, yes, Mr Witness?

11:07:50 4 A. Yes, in the various trials too I said it, but when the  
5 investigator was asking me before then he did not ask me about  
6 that, but later when he asked me that he wanted to have more  
7 information I answered that. Before then he did not ask me to go  
8 further, but on this occasion they asked me to elaborate and I  
9 dilated further. What I did not know I will tell them that it is  
11:08:11 10 not to my knowledge, but what I knew and for the sake of justice  
11 I said I will say it. And this time I told them, the  
12 Prosecution, that I had no fear as I had before. I said because  
13 before when Charles Taylor was the President I had a fear that if  
14 I had said we went to Liberia I would fear for my life, but now  
11:08:35 15 that Charles Taylor is no longer President I will not have fear  
16 to say anything. I will tell the truth and whatever I knew I  
17 will say everything and that is what I did.

18 Q. I see. Let me consider your answer for a moment. Let me  
19 take a look at it. You are saying to this Court, Mr Witness -  
11:09:03 20 your Honours, the answer of course is on page 48 and it starts at  
21 line 15 for me which is a 12 point font I am using and I want to  
22 start with the part where he says:

23 "What I do not know I will tell them that is not to my  
24 knowledge, but what I knew and for the sake of justice" - let me  
11:09:26 25 stop this so I can read it.

26 "But what I knew and for the sake of justice I said I will  
27 say it and this time I told them, the Prosecution, that I had no  
28 fear as I said before. As I said because before when Charles  
29 Taylor was the President I had a fear that if I had said we went

1 to Liberia I would fear for my life, but now that Charles Taylor  
2 is no longer President I have no fear to say anything. I will  
3 tell the truth and I will say everything and that is what I did?"

4 That's what you just told us; now Charles Taylor is no  
11:10:04 5 longer President you have no fear. Mr Witness, the first time  
6 they asked you to tell them what happened about this meeting with  
7 Charles Taylor, that was your third time meeting with them, 7  
8 November 2003, yes?

9 A. Yes, my Lord, according to you.

11:10:26 10 Q. 7 November 2003 Charles Taylor was no longer President of  
11 Liberia, yes? He had left office in August of 2003, right?

12 A. Except when you are telling me now, but I can still recall  
13 he was a President. I can recall he was a President before I  
14 start elaborating.

11:10:55 15 Q. Are you saying that when you met with them for the third  
16 time, 2003, 7 November, Charles Taylor was still President of  
17 Liberia? Is that your evidence? Is that what made you afraid so  
18 that you could not speak freely, Mr Witness? Well, I have two  
19 questions in one.

11:11:13 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

21 MR ANYAH: So let me rephrase it:

22 Q. Are you saying on 7 November 2003 Charles Taylor was still  
23 President of Liberia?

24 A. Well, I cannot recall the date that he was the President or  
11:11:30 25 no longer a President, but, as I said, when he still was a  
26 President I had fear for my life because that man was really  
27 influential, because when I went to Liberia I saw it myself and  
28 he was a President. And I said I was afraid because most of our  
29 SLA brothers crossed to Liberia and he rescued them and I said

1 something could happen and maybe my life would be at risk. That  
2 is one. And second point, I answered the questions that were  
3 asked to me. I did not volunteer answers. During the first  
4 interview they did not ask me to elaborate about the meeting, but  
11:12:11 5 when they asked me later I had to dilate.

6 Q. There are about 19 meetings between your third interview  
7 with them and your 22nd interview with them and it is only in  
8 2007 you start speaking about Charles Taylor providing logistics  
9 to the RUF, yes, Mr Witness?

11:12:35 10 A. That was the time the question was asked to me and that was  
11 the time I answered.

12 Q. Mr Witness, are you aware of the role Charles Taylor played  
13 and the role played by Liberia, I put the two together, in the  
14 peace process in Sierra Leone?

11:12:58 15 A. Except if you will want to explain to me so that I will  
16 know.

17 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, is that a no? Is that a no,  
18 you're not aware?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord, I don't know. Yes.

11:13:13 20 MR ANYAH:

21 Q. Are you aware that RUF delegates came through Liberia, were  
22 picked up by a United Nations aircraft and flown to Lome for the  
23 peace agreement? Are you aware of this occurrence, Mr Witness?

24 A. Well, we were at the West Side, as I said. We didn't know  
11:13:40 25 how they arranged their delegation, how they went to Lome.

26 Q. Are you aware of President Taylor being part of the  
27 Committee of Six formed by ECOWAS, Economic Community of West  
28 African States, to facilitate the Lome Peace Agreement? Are you  
29 aware of that, Mr Witness?

1 A. I am not aware, except that you are telling me now.

2 Q. And you see even as far as May of 2007, this paragraph I  
3 have just read in tab 13, do you see any mention there that  
4 Charles Taylor assisted in the 6 January invasion of Freetown?

11:14:21 5 This paragraph I have read, do you see any mention there,  
6 Mr Witness, of that fact, what you told us in Court yesterday?

7 A. Which - what is the reference?

8 Q. The page you are looking at ends in ERN number 2139. From  
9 the top of the page: "The instance he was referring to was that  
11:14:42 10 he allowed his border with Sierra Leone to be opened so that  
11 soldiers who escaped from the front lines came to Liberia." That  
12 entire paragraph, is there reference there, Mr Witness, to  
13 Charles Taylor facilitating the 6 January invasion of Freetown?

14 A. No, I don't see any reference here to that, but in the  
11:15:05 15 meeting that was what he discussed with us. That is what I told  
16 the Court.

17 Q. Do you know when you made your reference to 6 January, a  
18 few months later they came back to you again. The Prosecution  
19 came back to you again, Mr Witness. It's in tab 15. And then  
11:15:23 20 you added some words to this paragraph. You specifically added  
21 some words to this paragraph. Let's go to tab 15. Tab 15, page  
22 3, the ERN number of that page ends in 0519, the date of this  
23 meeting between the witness and the Office of the Prosecutor  
24 appears on page 1, 20 September 2007.

11:16:08 25 Madam Court Officer, could you give him tab 15, page 3?  
26 Paragraph 13 of that page, Mr Witness, there was your 24th  
27 meeting with the Office of the Prosecutor, 20 September, they  
28 came back to you and then you added something to that paragraph I  
29 have just read. It says, 13, ERN number 00032139, paragraph 11,

1 the fourth sentence should read, "Charles Taylor said that he  
2 provided logistics which comprised of arms and ammunition, food,  
3 etc, to the troops" and here is the relevant language, this is  
4 what you have inserted in that paragraph after "food etc", you  
11:17:11 5 have added: "Since they were driven from Freetown by ECOMOG  
6 during the intervention, even during the January 6 invasion up to  
7 the ceasefire." This is what you have added a few months later,  
8 yes, Mr Witness?

9 A. Yes, when this question was brought to me regarding the  
11:17:36 10 meeting, if I had any knowledge about Charles Taylor and I said,  
11 "Yes, he discussed that with us in a meeting." I told them that.  
12 I told the investigator who interviewed me.

13 Q. Are you saying when you met with them in May it escaped  
14 your mind to tell them that Charles Taylor had provided all of  
11:18:03 15 these logistics as you prefer to call them --

16 A. Well --

17 Q. May I finish my question? That Charles Taylor had provided  
18 all of these logistics since you were driven from Freetown by  
19 ECOMOG during the intervention period, even during the 6 January  
11:18:26 20 invasion up to ceasefire? Did this escape your mind when you  
21 spoke with them on 8 May 2007?

22 A. Well, it depended on the questions that they asked of me.  
23 If they wanted to ask me questions they would call me, they asked  
24 me what do you know about this and I will answer. If after some  
11:18:52 25 time they wanted to ask me some other questions they will call me  
26 and ask me and then I will give them the answers. They were the  
27 investigators. They were asking me the questions. I wouldn't  
28 have suggested questions to them. So I answered the question to  
29 them because it was asked. So this question was asked, was

1 answered, because they asked it of me. I couldn't have  
2 volunteered answers.

3 Q. But you see, Mr Witness, even after you met with them 8 May  
4 2007 and they came back for more, 20 September, in both of those  
11:19:25 5 interviews you still left out the \$15,000. It was only when you  
6 came to The Hague in April of this year you added one more thing,  
7 "Oh, by the way, he took out \$15,000 from a portfolio and he gave  
8 it to us." Yes, Mr Witness?

9 A. Except if the investigators had been omitting that, but I  
11:19:47 10 mentioned that. I can remember even during the AFRC trials I  
11 mentioned that when the Defence objected that that was not part  
12 of the statement. I can recall.

13 Q. I see. Mr Witness, are you aware of the fact that within a  
14 few weeks after you and your delegation returned to Freetown  
11:20:18 15 Foday Sankoh flew in from Lome?

16 A. Yes, together with Johnny Paul Koroma.

17 Q. Well, I have not finished my question.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Johnny Paul Koroma was still in Monrovia, yes?

11:20:34 20 A. Yes, my Lord.

21 Q. Foday Sankoh flew in from Lome to Monrovia, yes?

22 A. Well, we had left Monrovia at that time. As I said,  
23 President Taylor told us that Pa Sankoh was leaving to go, coming  
24 through Ghana, and he will meet us there so we will discuss. But  
11:21:00 25 I said when that incident happened that forced us to move. It  
26 was only Major Gbonkelenkeh that we left behind. So it was when  
27 we were in Freetown that we were told that Sankoh had arrived in  
28 Liberia and he was trying to prevail on Johnny Paul Koroma to  
29 come to Freetown.



1 Q. Yes. Two men were in Monrovia and they met with President  
2 Taylor. Are you aware of that, Mr Witness?

3 A. Well, I was not in Liberia again as I said. We had left.  
4 It was only Major Gbonkelenkeh who was part of our squad that  
11:21:39 5 left in Liberia with Johnny Paul Koroma.

6 Q. Let's see what the BBC says about this meeting in Monrovia.  
7 Madam Court Officer, I would be grateful for your assistance. I  
8 hope I have enough copies. Mr Witness, you told us several times  
9 of listening to Focus on Africa over the BBC or France

11:23:08 10 International, AFI, but this is from the BBC. The reference  
11 appears below from the internet website. Do you see at the top  
12 of the page it says, "Friday, August 6, 1999." Do you see that,  
13 Mr Witness?

14 A. Yes, my Lord.

11:23:32 15 Q. Do you see the caption, "World: Africa, Sierra Leone, Who  
16 are the kidnappers?" That's the question posed.

17 A. Yes, my Lord, I see it.

18 Q. And you read the first paragraph:

19 "The rebel group at the centre of the Sierra Leonean  
11:23:50 20 hostage crisis can be traced back to the 1997 coup which  
21 overthrew the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. Among  
22 the demands of the kidnappers is the release from captivity of  
23 Johnny Paul Koroma - the man who led the Sierra Leonean army in  
24 the coup against President Kabbah in 1997.

11:24:18 25 The kidnappers say they are from the Armed Forces  
26 Revolutionary Council (AFRC), the movement led by Mr Koroma.  
27 They say their leader is being held prisoner by the Revolutionary  
28 United Front - another rebel movement which recently signed the  
29 Lome Peace Accord with President Kabbah's government."

1 And then interestingly you see the next paragraph,  
2 Mr Witness. It says: "Previously, the AFRC and RUF have fought  
3 together against the Kabbah government."

4 And then we go to the next page. There is a paragraph  
11:25:06 5 there I will come back to, but let me read it for now. It says:

6 "In fact, the protracted war fought against the rebels by  
7 the ill-paid soldiers" - and this relates to the history from the  
8 provisional ruling council all the way from Strasser's  
9 administration all the way to Momoh - I'm sorry, all the way to  
11:25:27 10 Kabbah --

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: You're not actually quoting there,  
12 Mr Anyah. You are putting in an comment.

13 MR ANYAH:

14 Q. Yes, I will come back to this issue, but let me read it for  
11:25:36 15 now. This is what it says, it reads:

16 "In fact the protected war fought against the rebels by the  
17 ill-paid soldiers contributed to the resentment which eventually  
18 triggered the coup."

19 We will discuss what caused that coup, but let me read on:

11:25:57 20 "When Mr Koroma and his soldiers took power in Freetown,  
21 the RUF offered its support and was granted a share in the  
22 government."

23 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

24 A. Yes, my Lord.

11:26:06 25 Q. This is saying when the AFRC took power in 1997 RUF offered  
26 its support. Do you see that, Mr Witness?

27 A. I see it.

28 Q. If you go down a little bit where it says "Fought  
29 together", that is the transitional phrase, do you see, "However,

1 the RUF and the AFRC retained distinct identities." Do you see  
2 that, Mr Witness?

3 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, in fairness for that paragraph  
4 to make sense the paragraph above that needs to be read to the  
11:26:43 5 witness.

6 MR ANYAH: Okay, thank you, learned counsel. I will read  
7 the first paragraph.

8 Q. The section is "Fought together." It says:

9  
10 "The two groups fought together against a counter-offensive  
11 launched by the Nigerian-led ECOMOG intervention force, which was  
12 attempting to restore President Kabbah to power. However, the  
13 RUF and the AFRC retained distinct identities."

14 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

11:27:11 15 A. I see it.

16 Q. This is saying that even after the junta period, after  
17 President Kabbah was thrown out of government, AFRC and RUF  
18 retained distinct identities. Do you agree, Mr Witness?

19 A. I disagree. The person who wrote this was not on the  
11:27:37 20 ground. I was there. I disagree.

21 Q. You are entitled to disagree, but you quoted the BBC and we  
22 now quote the BBC, so let's read on.

23 A. Well, I am quoting, I was on the ground, what happened.  
24 This one was written by a journalist who was not on the ground.  
11:27:58 25 I was on the ground.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: We understand your answer, Mr Witness.  
27 Allow counsel to continue, please.

28 MR ANYAH:

29 Q. Now the next paragraph is also important. This is no

1 longer junta period this is talking about. There is now talking  
2 about 6 January and that invasion you spoke a lot about. It says  
3 - and I will skip the one that says when Mr Kabbah returned to  
4 the presidency last year, we move to the next paragraph:

11:28:22 5 "The RUF continued to control large areas of the country,  
6 but it was the AFRC which came very close to gaining control of  
7 the capital once more in an attempted insurrection in January."

8 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

9 A. Yes, my Lord.

11:28:41 10 Q. They are saying that the 6 January invasion was an AFRC  
11 matter. Do you agree, Mr Witness?

12 A. I disagree.

13 MR ANYAH: I see the time and the Chamber's concern.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I was just about to note that too,  
11:28:55 15 Mr Anyah. Mr Witness, it's now the time for the mid-morning  
16 break. We will be taking 30 minutes and we will be resuming  
17 court at 12 o'clock. Please adjourn court until 12.

18 [Break taken at 11.29 a.m.]

19 [Upon resuming at 12.00 p.m.]

12:00:42 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed, Mr Anyah.

21 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President:

22 Q. Mr Witness, before the break we were considering an article  
23 by the BBC dated 6 August 1999, and I recall I was on page 2 of  
24 the article and I read to you a paragraph and I asked you a  
12:01:13 25 question about the 6 January invasion. I want to read that  
26 paragraph again. It is on page 2, Mr Witness, the page on which  
27 Johnny Paul Koroma is pictured, and it says down in the middle of  
28 the page:

29 "The RUF continued to control large areas of the country,

1 but it was the AFRC which came very close to gaining control of  
2 the capital once more in an attempted insurrection in January."

3 Mr Witness --

4 A. Yes, my Lord.

12:02:11 5 Q. -- do you agree that the invasion of Freetown on 6 January  
6 1999 was exclusively an AFRC affair?

7 A. I disagree.

8 Q. When we go down on the same page there is the paragraph  
9 that says:

12:02:40 10 "Johnny Paul Koroma had been expected at the Lome talks and  
11 is believed to have been on the list of people nominated by the  
12 RUF to form part of a Government of National Unity, but he never  
13 arrived in Lome. Mr Koroma had been living in hiding with the  
14 RUF rebels and their military commander Sam (Mosquito) Bockarie."

12:03:10 15 Then we go to the next page, Mr Witness, the third page,  
16 and there is a section that says "Fears of Koroma's influence".  
17 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

18 A. Yes, my Lord.

19 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer - yes, thank you:

12:03:29 20 Q. And if you go down to the paragraph that says:

21 "Believing their leader was kept away from the talks, the  
22 AFRC kidnappers are now complaining they were neglected in the  
23 peace process. They want to be readmitted and paid as soldiers  
24 in the Sierra Leone Army which is being re-established following  
12:03:52 25 President Kabbah's return to office."

26 Do you see that, Mr Witness? Can you answer affirmatively?

27 A. Yes, my Lord.

28 Q. Now we have been reading this article and there is a clear  
29 distinction, is there not, between the AFRC and the RUF? Yes,

1 Mr Witness?

2 A. Well, as I say, when I look back to the date - excuse me,  
3 please - to say August 1999 this person was a writer. He wrote.  
4 He was not on the ground when the troops entered Freetown. It

12:04:40 5 was what he understood. That is what he wrote and published, but  
6 I disagree to what he wrote. He was not on the ground.

7 Q. Well, will you agree with the writer that the AFRC was  
8 complaining about being neglected during the peace process?

9 A. I have said that clearly in the Court. I said that was why  
12:05:10 10 we captured the UNOMSIL. Thankfully, you have seen it in the  
11 writing.

12 Q. You would agree with the writing that it said the soldiers  
13 wanted to be readmitted? That is the AFRC soldiers wanted to be  
14 readmitted into the Sierra Leone Army, yes?

12:05:30 15 A. Yes, my Lord, because that was one of our demands that we  
16 went with in Liberia, that we were to be recognised and  
17 reinstated into the national army.

18 Q. So we now have two aspects of the article with which you  
19 agree, yes, Mr Witness?

12:05:51 20 A. Maybe you can name the other one, but I think this is the  
21 one that I agree with, the reinstatement of the army. That is  
22 why the delegation went.

23 Q. We are still on page 3 now and you recall a few minutes ago  
24 you agreed with me and the article when it says that you felt  
12:06:14 25 neglected from the peace process. Would that make it number 2  
26 point with which you agree, Mr Witness?

27 A. This is the only one I have seen that I can agree on,  
28 because that was why we did that operation at West Side. Maybe  
29 you would want to remind me of the other one that I agreed with

1 you on, but I can remember it is this one that I agreed with you  
2 on.

3 Q. Well, I will let the record speak for itself on that.

12:06:58

4 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, can I also say that I am not  
5 aware of the other one myself, if counsel can say what was the  
6 other proposition.

12:07:16

7 MR ANYAH: Well, Madam President, with respect I have been  
8 interrupted during my cross-examination and I am entitled to have  
9 some latitude in how I examine the witness. I have not misstated  
10 any facts.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please feel calm, Mr Anyah.

12 Ms Alagenda, there was a reference to the AFRC complaining  
13 and he said, "I clearly said that in court".

14 MS ALAGENDRA: That is still one, your Honour.

12:07:29

15 PRESIDING JUDGE: And the neglected.

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Ms Alagenda, there are two paragraphs  
17 that counsel is putting before the witness on page 3 I believe;  
18 that is the paragraph beginning with the words "Believing their  
19 leader" and the second paragraph is "They want to be readmitted".

12:07:50

20 Now, there are two separate propositions in those two paragraphs  
21 with which I imagine that the witness says he agrees.

22 Do you agree with the things written in those two  
23 paragraphs, Mr Witness?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord.

12:08:08

25 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Justice Sebutinde:

26 Q. Shall we go back to page 2, Mr Witness, the preceding page.  
27 Right next to the picture of Johnny Paul Koroma, slightly below  
28 it, there is a paragraph that starts:

29 "When Mr Koroma and his soldiers took power in Freetown the

1 RUF offered its support and was granted a share in the  
2 government. "

3 Mr Witness, do you agree with that paragraph?

4 A. Yes, my Lord.

12:08:50 5 Q. Indeed during the course of your evidence you told us you  
6 recalled a BBC broadcast by Foday Sankoh where you heard for the  
7 first time the name People's Army, correct?

8 A. Yes, my Lord.

9 Q. And that was Foday Sankoh suggesting or directing his RUF  
12:09:10 10 members to go and join the AFRC in Freetown, yes?

11 A. Yes, that was what he said.

12 Q. You would agree that it was not Charles Taylor who asked  
13 the RUF to go and join the AFRC junta in Freetown, yes?

14 A. Well this was an order from their commander at the moment,  
12:09:37 15 yes, that is the AFRC. It was when the AFRC overthrew, not 6  
16 January. It was when Foday Sankoh called the RUF to join forces  
17 with the AFRC in Freetown.

18 Q. Yes, but I want to be clear about this. We are speaking of  
19 the same event, 25 May 1997. My question is this: It was Foday  
12:10:04 20 Sankoh, not Charles Taylor, who directed or ordered the RUF  
21 members to go and join the junta or AFRC in Freetown, yes?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. When we go down to the section that says "Fought together  
24 "- you see that, Mr Witness?

12:10:38 25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. There is a paragraph that says:

27 "The two groups fought together against the  
28 counter-offensive launched by the Nigerian-led ECOMOG  
29 intervention force which was attempting to restore President



1 Kabbah to power."

2 You agree they fought together, right, Mr Witness?

3 A. Yes, my Lord.

12:11:06

4 Q. Then the next paragraph beneath that: "However, the RUF  
5 and the AFRC retained distinct identities." Do you agree with  
6 that, Mr Witness?

12:11:30

7 A. I would want you to break it down for me. What do you mean  
8 by different identities? I want to have it clearly. Because  
9 I can remember this question was put to me that they were not  
10 together, now you are talking about identity. I would like you  
11 to make it a little more clear.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Pause, Mr Witness, and I will ask  
13 counsel. It would appear the witness does not fully understand.  
14 Please rephrase it or explain it.

12:11:44

15 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President. I will try:

16 Q. Mr Witness, is it fair to say that after the junta period  
17 there was still, on the one hand, the RUF and, on the other hand,  
18 the AFRC, as in they were not one and the same?

12:12:12

19 A. No, they still continued to be the same. They were SLA on  
20 our own end and there were SLAs in Kailahun. They were in Daru -  
21 towards Daru. So they were still the same. Right up to even  
22 after the peace negotiations.

23 Q. I will clarify. I understand. Mr Witness - I'm sorry,  
24 Justice Sebutinde.

12:12:31

25 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, are you saying that the RUF  
26 and the AFRC became the same organisation, were fighting as the  
27 same organisation, or that they were two distinct organisations  
28 fighting together?

29 THE WITNESS: They were two different organisations, but we

1 had the same aim and we were doing organised operations,  
2 coordinated operations, RUF/SLA. That was how the operations  
3 went on.

12:13:08 4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: So then they were two distinct  
5 identities, but fighting together with a common aim. Is that  
6 your evidence?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord.

8 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Justice Sebutinde:

9 Q. The two groups in question had a common enemy in the  
12:13:26 10 government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, correct?

11 A. Yes, my Lord.

12 Q. Yes. There is another article from the BBC I would like to  
13 be assisted with. Mr Witness, do you have an article before you  
14 from the BBC with the date 1 October 1999?

12:14:44 15 A. Yes, my Lord.

16 Q. "World: Africa", that's what it says, "Sierra Leone rebel  
17 leader delays return." Do you see that, Mr Witness?

18 A. Yes, my Lord.

19 Q. There is a picture there. Underneath the picture reads,  
12:15:05 20 "The peace accord was signed in Lome in July." Do you see that,  
21 Mr Witness?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. Do you see Corporal Foday Sankoh in that picture,  
24 Mr Witness?

12:15:17 25 A. It is not too clear. Yes, I see him. It is not so clear.

26 Q. We go down to the first full paragraph, it says:

27 "The Sierra Leone rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, has delayed  
28 his return home. Mr Sankoh, who heads the Revolutionary United  
29 Front (RUF), had been expected back in Freetown on Friday along

1 with the head of the former military government, Johnny Paul  
2 Koroma, but Mr Sankoh told the BBC he would not return to Sierra  
3 Leone until next week. The BBC correspondent in Freetown says  
4 the country has ground to a standstill in anticipation of their  
12:16:11 5 homecoming, which would mark a key stage in the peace process."

6 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

7 A. Yes, my Lord.

8 Q. This return homecoming of both Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul  
9 Koroma was a significant event for peace in Sierra Leone, yes?

12:16:33 10 A. I did not get that clear. I did not get that clearly.

11 Q. Yes, I understand. I will try and be clearer, Mr Witness.

12 The BBC is saying that Freetown had ground to a halt in  
13 anticipation of the return of both Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul  
14 Koroma. Do you agree with that proposition, Mr Witness?

12:17:04 15 A. When you say standstill, I don't understand when you say  
16 Freetown was in a standstill. I don't understand what that  
17 means.

18 Q. Would you agree that it was very important to peace in  
19 Sierra Leone, the arrival of these two men together, united in  
12:17:23 20 Freetown in 1999, the month of October?

21 A. Yes, my Lord, I will agree.

22 Q. Let's go back down to the end of the page, same page we are  
23 on. At the bottom there is the reference:

24 "The two men held more than three hours of reconciliation  
12:17:52 25 talks in" - over to the next page - "Monrovia mediated by  
26 Liberian President Charles Taylor on Thursday."

27 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. So there was this significant event in Sierra Leone and

1 Charles Taylor spent three hours with two men facilitating  
2 reconciliation and mediating whatever disputes they may have.  
3 This is what the BBC says, do you agree, Mr Witness?

4 A. Yes, according to what is written here.

12:18:35 5 Q. Johnny Paul Koroma told you before you left Monrovia that  
6 he was going to meet with President Taylor, right?

7 A. Yes, before we went to Monrovia.

8 Q. And it was anticipated at that time before your departure  
9 for Lungi that Foday Sankoh would soon arrive from Lome, Togo in  
10 Monrovia, yes?

11 A. No, I did not get that right.

12 Q. There was talk before your delegation left Monrovia that  
13 Foday Sankoh would soon be coming to Monrovia from Lome, Togo,  
14 yes?

12:19:17 15 A. No. I said when we met with President Taylor he told us  
16 that Foday Sankoh was leaving and would come to Ghana. From  
17 Ghana he will come to Monrovia and he will meet with the team  
18 that went there, the delegation, and we will discuss things out.

19 Q. You see the paragraph after the one I have just read, it  
12:19:45 20 says: "Afterwards the two rebel leaders appeared in jovial mood  
21 as they spoke to reporters." It quotes Johnny Paul Koroma as  
22 saying, "I am satisfied. Everything is fine now." This is  
23 after their meeting with Charles Taylor. Do you see that,  
24 Mr Witness?

12:20:02 25 A. Yes, I can see it, but this thing happened because of a  
26 reason.

27 Q. Yes. At the time all of this was going on - well, let's go  
28 back a few months before. Did your West Side Boys take two RUF  
29 commanders hostage; Mike Lamin and Superman, Denis Mingo?

1 A. Can you please tell me the time frame, because it happened  
2 after some time. I want the time frame.

3 Q. I will do so. In the month of August 1999 did the AFRC, or  
4 SLA members, as you call them, take Denis Mingo aka Superman and  
12:21:05 5 Mike Lamin into custody?

6 A. Yes, it happened. It was after the return when we came  
7 from Liberia and Johnny Paul and others had come to Freetown.  
8 That happened.

9 Q. Are you aware that it was Charles Taylor who facilitated  
12:21:24 10 the release by the AFRC of Mike Lamin and Denis Mingo?

11 A. No, I don't know that because Johnny Paul gave the order.  
12 When he came he said we should release them. That I know of.

13 Q. Johnny Paul Koroma was at the time in Monrovia, right,  
14 Mr Witness?

12:21:51 15 A. Well, I think you are teaching me things that I witnessed.  
16 I told you that it was after we came from Liberia we went into  
17 the jungle. When Johnny Paul and Foday Sankoh arrived, that was  
18 the time we arrested Mike Lamin, Superman and others. That is  
19 what I know, but if you are saying that at that time Pa Sankoh  
12:22:24 20 and Johnny Paul had not come yet, no, I disagree.

21 Q. That is not what I am saying. You appear to be saying that  
22 Johnny Paul Koroma was already in Sierra Leone when Mike Lamin  
23 and Denis Mingo were arrested. Is that your evidence?

24 A. Yes, my Lord, because we had left Liberia and we had come,  
12:22:47 25 moved to the West Side when Johnny Paul and Foday Sankoh were now  
26 in Freetown and that was when we ran that operation and we  
27 arrested those guys.

28 Q. I want to be clear about this because it could lead to some  
29 confusion. What I wish to know is this: The date of arrest, not

1 the cause of the detention, the date of arrest of these two men,  
2 did it take place when Johnny Paul Koroma was in Sierra Leone?

3 A. Yes, at that time they had come. We had left Liberia. We  
4 were now in the West Side jungle. Johnny Paul and Foday Sankoh  
12:23:30 5 had left. We heard over the radio that they had arrived in  
6 Freetown because the ECOMOG forced us that all the commanders  
7 should go back to their areas. It was when we left that Johnny  
8 Paul and others arrived. So Johnny Paul and Pa Sankoh arrived in  
9 Freetown while we were in the West Side together with the other  
12:23:51 10 commanders because all of us were together. After which when  
11 Johnny Paul arrived it was within that week that we arrested Mike  
12 Lamin, Superman. There was FAT Sesay. We arrested all of them,  
13 because he too was with the squad that came from Makeni.

14 Q. Mr Witness, are you telling the Justices that after Johnny  
12:24:17 15 Paul Koroma had met with Foday Sankoh in Liberia for  
16 reconciliation talks with Charles Taylor, upon arrival back in  
17 Sierra Leone his AFRC fighters arrested two RUF commanders? Is  
18 that your evidence, Mr Witness?

19 A. Yes, we arrested them. We arrested Mike Lamin and Superman  
12:24:44 20 and there was a reason why Bazzy ordered their arrest.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, counsel is asking about a  
22 time frame. Concentrate on the time.

23 MR ANYAH:

24 Q. Mr Witness, I am not quarrelling with you whether or not  
12:25:01 25 they were arrested. I just want to know whether it was before  
26 the meeting between Koroma, Sankoh and President Taylor, or after  
27 the meeting.

28 A. It was after the meeting when we had left Liberia. That  
29 was when we came and did the arrest, when we arrested Mike Lamin

1 and Superman.

2 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer, can you assist me please.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, I obviously do not want to  
4 interfere with your cross-examination, but it appears to me that  
12:25:37 5 you are honing in to the return date of Sankoh and Koroma.

6 MR ANYAH: That is correct, Madam President.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Whereas the witness appears to be  
8 replying on his return date.

9 MR ANYAH: For my purposes it will not make a difference,  
12:25:50 10 but I will seek to clarify first.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well.

12 MR ANYAH:

13 Q. Mr Witness, was Johnny Paul Koroma in Sierra Leone on the  
14 date the AFRC members arrested Mike Lamin and Denis Mingo?

12:26:10 15 A. Yes, my Lord.

16 Q. And he had just come from Liberia. Is that your evidence?

17 A. Yes, my Lord.

18 Q. And he had just come from the meeting that this BBC article  
19 speaks about between himself, Corporal Foday Sankoh and President  
12:26:31 20 Charles Taylor?

21 A. Yes, the two of them came to Freetown. They were in  
22 Freetown when we did the arrests of these two people.

23 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer, may I have your assistance  
24 please:

12:28:04 25 Q. Mr Witness, this is an article from a website that keeps  
26 day to day accounts of news from Sierra Leone. The citation  
27 appears below, "sierra-leone.org", it is a news archive and you  
28 see the date there on the top of 31 August 1999. Do you see  
29 that, Mr Witness?

1 A. Yes, my Lord.

2 Q. I will read that paragraph. It says:

3 "Two RUF commanders, Brigadier Dennis 'Superman' Mingo and  
4 Brigadier Mike Lamin, were reportedly abducted by AFRC rebel  
12:28:46 5 soldiers late Monday or early Tuesday while travelling between  
6 Freetown and Makeni."

7 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

8 A. Yes, my Lord.

9 Q. It says:

10 "The kidnapping took place in the area near Okra Hill, some  
11 45 miles east of Freetown, where rebel soldiers earlier this  
12 month kidnapped nearly 40 UN military observers, aid workers,  
13 ECOMOG soldiers and journalists."

14 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

12:29:19 15 A. Yes, my Lord.

16 Q. "The rebel commanders were part of an RUF advance team  
17 which has been holding talks with the government officials in  
18 Freetown on ways to implement the peace accord signed in Lome,  
19 Togo last month. The reasons for Tuesday's abductions was not  
12:29:36 20 immediately clear."

21 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. This is speaking about the abduction of two RUF rebel  
24 commanders who played a part in the peace process, Mike Lamin and  
12:29:50 25 Dennis Mingo, and it is saying it took place 31 August 1999. Does  
26 that refresh your recollection regarding when Mike Lamin and  
27 Dennis Mingo were arrested?

28 A. I know of the arrest and they were not just two, and apart  
29 from that I disagree with this date because we had come and



1 Johnny Paul Koroma together with Foday Sankoh had come first  
2 before we did the arrest, when Johnny Paul ordered that we should  
3 release them. We moved with them and all of us went to Freetown  
4 even.

12:30:30 5 Q. Do you know why the date is important, Mr Witness? It is  
6 important because I am putting it to you that Charles Taylor  
7 brokered or facilitated the release of these two men.

8 A. Well --

9 Q. May I finish? Mike Lamin and Denis Superman Mingo, and he  
12:30:52 10 did it in conjunction with the meetings between Foday Sankoh and  
11 Johnny Paul Koroma to facilitate peace. Do you agree with that  
12 proposition?

13 A. I disagree.

14 Q. Let us go down the page. Let us talk about the Malians and  
12:31:09 15 who else Foday Sankoh was meeting with, on the same page. You  
16 told us of the Malians and you remember I said they were arrested  
17 7 May. It says:

18 "Two Malian ECOMOG soldiers who were captured by the RUF on  
19 May 7 during a rebel attack on Port Loko returned to Bamako on  
12:31:28 20 Monday, according to Malian state radio. The two, who were  
21 reported to be in good health, were released August 29 following  
22 lengthy negotiations by Sierra Leone and Mali within the  
23 framework of ECOWAS, the radio said."

24 Do you see that, Mr Witness? Please say yes or no, or  
12:31:49 25 answer in the affirmative?

26 A. Yes. Yes, I see it.

27 Q. This is suggesting that ECOMOG - I am sorry, that ECOWAS  
28 was involved in all of these negotiations. Would you agree with  
29 that, Mr Witness?

1 A. Well, I did not see any ECOWAS member with me. It was  
2 Johnny Paul's order that we executed. No ECOWAS member went  
3 there to talk to us.

12:32:27 4 Q. Do you see reference to lengthy negotiations by (1) Sierra  
5 Leone, (2) Mali, (3) within the ECOWAS framework? Do you know  
6 what that means, Mr Witness?

7 A. I will explain.

8 Q. Please do.

9 A. These Malians whom we released, we demanded that we would  
12:32:50 10 only release them if they would release our brothers who were in  
11 custody in Guinea. So this negotiation was ongoing between the  
12 Sierra Leone Government and the Malian government, so when our  
13 men were released and they confirmed to us that they had come  
14 that was when we released them too. So, it was not an ECOWAS  
12:33:13 15 effort. It was the Sierra Leone and Malian government in  
16 relation to what we demanded. That was why this release  
17 happened.

18 Q. So you disagree with the part that suggests negotiations  
19 took place within the ECOWAS framework, but you agree that the  
12:33:32 20 Malian government and the Sierra Leonean Government negotiated  
21 the release, right?

22 A. Yes, because it happened.

23 Q. Shall we go to the next paragraph and see who Foday Sankoh  
24 met with in addition to President Taylor:

12:33:49 25 "30 August 1999" RUF Leader Corporal Foday Sankoh said  
26 Monday he was preparing to depart Togo for Freetown. 'I will be  
27 leaving here within the next few days or even hours. I met  
28 President Eyadema today to say goodbye', he said".

29 Eyadema, Gnassingbe Eyadema Senior of Togo, was President

1 or chairman of ECOWAS at that time. Do you agree, Mr Witness?

2 A. Yes, according to this paper. That is what I see.

3 Q. Well the paper calls him President, but it doesn't say of  
4 where. I am proposing to you he was chairman of ECOWAS, the  
12:34:33 5 Economic Community of West African States, at that time. Do you  
6 agree?

7 A. I am happy that it is your proposition. That is what you  
8 are saying, but I am not seeing it here.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, do you know whether President  
12:34:49 10 Eyadema was President of ECOWAS, or do you not know?

11 THE WITNESS: I know he was a President in Togo, but he is  
12 saying he was the chairman and I don't know. I am not seeing it  
13 here even.

14 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer, could you assist me.

12:35:10 15 I have one more of these.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: I notice I said "President of ECOWAS"  
17 when I should have said "chairman".

18 MR ANYAH:

19 Q. Mr Witness, this is another article from the same website,  
12:36:18 20 sierra-leone.org, and for counsel's references they can verify  
21 the citation at the bottom of the page printed by myself a few  
22 days ago. Mr Witness, it speaks of 30 September 1999 and you see  
23 the first sentence reads:

24 "RUF Leader Corporal Foday Sankoh and former AFRC Chairman  
12:36:59 25 Lieutenant-Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma met in Monrovia for the  
26 first time on Thursday, and held more than three hours of  
27 reconciliation talks mediated by Liberian President  
28 Charles Taylor."

29 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

1 A. Yes, my Lord.

2 Q. We have been through this before, right, in the context of  
3 a BBC article a few minutes ago, yes?

4 A. Yes.

12:37:29 5 Q. You see the next sentence:

6 "The two rebel leaders told reporters afterwards that they  
7 had ironed out their differences, but did not elaborate 'I am  
8 satisfied. Everything is fine now', Koroma told reporters."

9 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

12:37:49 10 A. Yes, my Lord.

11 Q. Let's go down further in the paragraph. There is something  
12 there of importance. If you go down to where it says "In  
13 September ...", it is around the middle of the page and it reads:

14 "In September, Koroma and 13 of his followers issued a  
12:38:19 15 document claiming they were 'unrepresented, unrecognised and  
16 marginalised in all the deliberations and final outcome of the  
17 Lome Peace Agreement' and that their interests had been ignored  
18 by RUF leaders."

19 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

12:38:37 20 A. Yes, my Lord.

21 Q. This is speaking of a dispute between the RUF and the AFRC,  
22 is it not, Mr Witness?

23 A. Yes, but there was a time frame. There was supposed to  
24 have put the time there that it happened after the peace accord,  
12:39:00 25 because we were left out.

26 Q. Let us go down a little bit:

27 "Among their demands were that they be reinstated into the  
28 Sierra Leone Army and that they be given a voice in the  
29 power-sharing agreement with the Sierra Leone Government."

1 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

2 A. Yes, my Lord.

3 Q. And now we come to something of note, of importance. The  
4 next sentence:

12:39:32 5 "Prior to the talks Taylor told the rebel leaders he had  
6 been in contact with ECOWAS, the UN and the OAU to ensure that  
7 all parties to the Sierra Leone conflict were included in the  
8 government and 'to make sure that as you prepare to go to  
9 Freetown they are part of the process, that they are present and  
12:40:01 10 that they accompany you to Freetown'. Taylor said he had  
11 contacted Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema, current ECOWAS  
12 chairman, to 'finalise the arrangement' for their return home.  
13 Liberian information minister Joe Mulbah told reporters Wednesday  
14 night that Sankoh and Koroma would fly to Freetown on Friday and  
12:40:31 15 'will be escorted by some officials of the Liberian Government'."

16 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

17 A. Yes, my Lord.

18 Q. The media is reporting that Charles Taylor was in contact  
19 with ECOWAS, with the chairman of ECOWAS Gnassingbe Eyadema, with  
12:40:53 20 the UN, with then the Organisation of African Unity all in  
21 efforts to facilitate peace between Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul  
22 Koroma. Do you agree or disagree, Mr Witness?

23 A. This was not to my knowledge, because when I went to  
24 Liberia he did not tell us any of this. That is not to my  
12:41:15 25 knowledge, because it was when we captured Johnny Paul Koroma  
26 that was - I heard Charles Taylor saying we should go and see  
27 Johnny Paul Koroma.

28 Q. Well, let me break that question into two because it is not  
29 fair to you.

1 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Really, is this what the witness said,  
2 "When we captured Johnny Paul Koroma"? Is that what the witness  
3 said?

12:41:47

4 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honour. It could have been a  
5 mistake on his part.

6 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: He is shaking his head in disagreement.  
7 Witness, can you please repeat what you just said.

12:42:09

8 THE WITNESS: I said the only time - what I know, it was  
9 after we had captured those UNOMSIL officials and that we  
10 demanded that we wanted to see with Johnny Paul Koroma and that  
11 was when we went there and I don't know anything about this  
12 negotiation that Charles Taylor negotiated with the UN or ECOWAS  
13 for us to go and meet with Johnny Paul Koroma.

14 MR ANYAH:

12:42:26

15 Q. So your answer is that you do not know whether or not  
16 Charles Taylor spoke with all of these people? Is that your  
17 response, Mr Witness?

18 A. Yes, my Lord, because Johnny Paul just told us that he had  
19 spoken to Charles Taylor to ensure that the - facilitate a  
20 helicopter to go and pick us to go to Freetown.

12:42:48

21 Q. But you would agree with what is written on the print. You  
22 would not disagree that this paper or this article is suggesting  
23 that Charles Taylor did all of these things?

24 A. Well, my Lord, this is a writing of a journalist. If they  
25 favour somebody they write in that person's favour, so they can  
26 write anything.

12:43:17

27 Q. I see. I have one more article. You mentioned Christo  
28 Johnson to us yesterday. Do you recall that, Mr Witness?

29 A. Yes, my Lord.

1 Q. A journalist taken hostage by you and your fellow fighters  
2 in Magbeni, yes?

3 A. Yes, my Lord.

12:44:31

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, is there something you wanted  
5 to say?

6 THE WITNESS: I am sorry, I am taking a drug that makes me  
7 to urinate frequently, so I want to use the gents.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: We understand. Please assist the  
9 witness, Madam Court Officer.

12:48:46

10 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer, could the witness kindly be  
11 given a copy of a document, this is a BBC article, and could one  
12 copy be placed on the overhead, please:

13 Q. Mr Witness, yesterday you told us of a reporter by the name  
14 of Christo Johnson. Do you recall that, Mr Witness?

12:49:10

15 A. Yes, my Lord.

16 Q. Christo Johnson was one of the journalists taken hostage by  
17 you and your fellow fighters at Magbeni, yes, Mr Witness?

18 A. Yes, my Lord.

12:49:28

19 Q. When did you say that hostage taking took place again,  
20 Mr Witness?

21 A. It was say after the Lome Peace Accord, just after the Lome  
22 Peace Accord was signed, around July/August.

23 Q. The date on this article if you look at the top says  
24 Friday, 6 August 1999. Do you see that, Mr Witness?

12:49:47

25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. It says, "World: Africa, Sierra Leone hostage tells of  
27 ordeal." Yes, you see that, Mr Witness?

28 A. Yes, my Lord.

29 Q. Then we read the first paragraph:

1 "Reuters reporter Christo Johnson, who was among the  
2 hostages captured by Sierra Leone rebels, talks of his ordeal  
3 following his release."

4 Yes?

12:50:17 5 A. Yes, I have seen that.

6 Q. Then as you look through the pages of this article you will  
7 see Johnson's name in bold letters and the words after his name  
8 as if he's answering questions. Can you look through the article  
9 to familiarise yourself with this process. I will start with the  
10 first paragraph where the name Christo Johnson is highlighted in  
11 bold on the first page:

12 "Christo Johnson: We first arrived in a village where they  
13 (the rebels) released 22 children. From there we moved on to the  
14 place where we were supposed to collect another batch of  
15 children, which would have brought the number up to about 200.

16 While waiting for these children to come in, we were told we  
17 would have to attend a meeting with the soldiers. We were  
18 invited to this meeting hall by a spokesman for the AFRC soldiers  
19 (from the former militia regime). And when we entered they asked  
20 us to stand for prayers. After prayers the spokesman came out  
21 with a statement from their side saying that they had problems.  
22 They had been looking for food and medicines. People seemed to  
23 be neglecting them. They had a lot of problems. Patience was  
24 running out and they were looking to the international community  
25 and the government. While this was happening a group of guys  
26 came in and said, 'Look, you guys, hands up!' - we put our hands  
27 up. They said, 'Hands up, give up everything you have.' We had  
28 no alternative but to obey their instructions."

29 Do you see that, Mr Witness?



1 A. Yes, my Lord.

2 Q. Is this narrative similar to what you recall happening to  
3 Christo Johnson and the rest back in what you say was July 1999?

4 A. There is - part of it is similar, is true.

12:52:53 5 Q. Continuing, this is Mr Johnson speaking:

6 "They said, 'Look, don't get scared, we are not going to  
7 harm you. We just want the international community to know what  
8 our grievances are and you will have to take these grievances to  
9 the government and the world'."

12:53:15 10 You see that, Mr Witness?

11 A. Yes, my Lord.

12 Q. We get to the next page. This part is important,  
13 "Question" - now you will agree this is somebody asking Christo  
14 Johnson a question and the question is:

12:53:30 15 "Were you able to establish whether these men were just  
16 members of the former AFRC militia regime or whether they were  
17 also some Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in the group?"

18 Mr Johnson answers: "We established that they were all  
19 AFRC members, former members of the Sierra Leone Army. There  
12:53:56 20 were no RUF people there."

21 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

22 A. Yes, my Lord.

23 Q. Christo Johnson is telling the BBC and the world that the  
24 people who took him hostage were all AFRC members, not even one  
12:54:12 25 was an RUF. Do you agree with that, Mr Witness?

26 A. I disagree. I totally disagree.

27 Q. You continue to maintain - may I finish my question? You  
28 continue to maintain that RUF members were part of this West Side  
29 Boys you claim to have been a member of?

1 A. Yes and I want to give a brief explanation with the Court's  
2 permission in this particular area.

3 Q. Is the explanation something you haven't told us before,  
4 Mr Witness, when you were questioned by the Prosecution?

12:54:58 5 A. Well this is something that I have seen established by  
6 Christo Johnson here and he is a journalist, and even when he was  
7 in the camp he had limited areas to go to. We limited his  
8 movement. He did not go to all the areas that we were and with  
9 certain senior commanders he did not even visit them. And then  
12:55:24 10 we - when we called him, we explained things to him. The senior  
11 commanders explained to him and then he told us that he will go  
12 and put it over the news, you see, and that was what happened.

13 And Christo Johnson himself was just limited at the headquarters.  
14 Bazzy and other commanders, he only spoke to them. He was not  
12:55:42 15 allowed to go to the villages, or the areas around us. He was  
16 only limited to the headquarters where the commanders were, the  
17 commanders who explained this thing to him, that is Bazzy, Bomb  
18 Blast, Tito and others, Junior Lion and all of us who were there.  
19 So if he is saying here that what he saw at the headquarters is  
12:56:06 20 what he is explaining here then I don't agree with it, because  
21 there were some other villages where there were different,  
22 different battalions situated there.

23 Q. What you are telling the Court, Mr Witness, is that the  
24 area around which Christo Johnson was allowed to stay had no RUF  
12:56:24 25 members in that vicinity. Is that what you are trying to suggest  
26 to this Chamber?

27 A. What I am saying, no, I said the man was limited. We  
28 arrested them and it was only at the headquarters where Bazzy and  
29 others were that he was allowed to go. When we needed him we

1 will go and collect him from Tito's place and then he will come  
2 to Bazzy, but to say he had a free movement all around the area,  
3 that didn't happen. So he never even knew who and who were  
4 staying in that camp, because he was only limited to the  
12:57:01 5 headquarter. And mostly when he was staying with Tito and he  
6 would be taken from Tito's place and be brought to Bazzy's place  
7 when we needed him, so that was all. He came there at Bazzy's  
8 place and then things were explained to him, then he said he will  
9 go to Freetown and send it over air and he will give the news to  
12:57:21 10 the world. Then that was what happened.

11 Q. Are you saying, Mr Witness, that because he was kept at the  
12 headquarters that prevented him from knowing who else was at this  
13 camp? Is that what you are suggesting to this Chamber?

14 A. Yes, my Lord, because he was limited. He would only move  
12:57:47 15 from Tito's place where he was staying and then come to Bazzy,  
16 who was the overall commander. You will always see soldiers  
17 passing, roaming about all over the place, but he did not know  
18 actually who and who were there. The only things he said when he  
19 was supposed to have were the things we told him. The things we  
12:58:07 20 told him were the things he was supposed to have said.

21 Q. Oh, is that your evidence now, that he only said the things  
22 you told him? Is that your evidence, Mr Witness?

23 A. Yes, we told him to go and tell the international  
24 community. I have said this earlier in my testimony. We said he  
12:58:30 25 should go and inform the international community that we want our  
26 leader to be released and he was held hostage in Kailahun and we  
27 want the international community to ensure that he has been  
28 released and then - those were the news items we gave to him and  
29 when we heard him over the air he did not state these things that

1 I see here. He only went over the air and said very good things  
2 about us, but all of these things he has established here were  
3 not said over air.

4 Q. You understand, Mr Witness, that the top of the article  
12:59:06 5 says:

6 "Reuters reporter Christo Johnson, who was among the  
7 hostages captured by Sierra Leone rebels, talks of his ordeal  
8 following his release"?

9 You understand he was making these comments after his  
12:59:22 10 release, Mr Witness, yes?

11 A. Well according to the paper, yes. Just as I am sitting  
12 here somebody can ask me about the Special Court and I can say  
13 anything and that will be my own comment, but not what maybe  
14 somebody told me to say. This must have been his own comments  
12:59:44 15 that he made, but he was limited in the camp. He was just  
16 limited between two areas.

17 Q. And is that why he did not know or professes not to have  
18 known there were RUF members amongst your number?

19 A. He did not know anything about the camp. The only thing  
13:00:05 20 was that he was held hostage. And when we discovered that he was  
21 a journalist, when he told us, he said he wanted us to take him  
22 to Bazzy so that he will be released so that he will go to town  
23 and tell the international community the reason why we held the  
24 people hostage. So that was all that he knew about the camp. He  
13:00:28 25 only saw us roaming about the camp.

26 MR ANYAH: Madam Court Officer, could we turn to page 2 for  
27 the public on the overhead:

28 Q. Mr Witness, let us read on to the next part of this  
29 article. There was a question posed to Mr Johnson:

1 "What else did they have to say about the situation in  
2 Sierra Leone?"

3 Answer: "One of the commanders said to us, 'Our problem is  
4 that the RUF general, that is Sam Bockarie, has arrested our  
13:00:59 5 leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Johnny Paul (Koroma), who was chairman  
6 of the AFRC regime. He has been arrested and he has not been  
7 allowed to move'.

8 All they wanted was for the government of President Tejan  
9 Kabbah to use his influence to get (RUF leader) Corporal Foday  
13:01:21 10 Sankoh and Charles Taylor to get Sam Bockarie to release Johnny  
11 Paul immediately"?

12 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. This confirms that Johnny Paul Koroma had been arrested,  
13:01:40 15 yes?

16 A. Well, we were not at the scene. Like I said, he was no  
17 longer communicating, so as Bazzy said we have not been getting  
18 communication from this man for a long time and if this man has -  
19 if for a long time now we have not been communicating with him it  
13:02:04 20 means he must be under arrest, so if he has not been calling us  
21 all this while then he must be under arrest.

22 Q. At the time this was going on the members of your group  
23 wanted President Kabbah and President Taylor to step in to solve  
24 these problems, yes?

13:02:21 25 A. No, all what we had decided on was that we had said that if  
26 we held this - if we arrested these UNOMSIL people who came and  
27 we held them hostage, they will recognise us. Whosoever, the  
28 government and the international community, they will recognise  
29 us. And then we said if we arrested them and held them hostage,

1 that will show our concern to the international body.

2 Q. This article is dated 6 August 1999 and we have seen  
3 articles whereby as of October President Taylor had gathered all  
4 of these warring factions together, specifically Koroma and

13:03:06 5 Sankoh. You recall that, Mr Witness?

6 A. Yes, according to the paper. He had direct influence and  
7 he was the only person they knew would be able to do that.

8 Q. He was the person who sent that helicopter to pick Johnny  
9 Paul Koroma and take him to Monrovia, right?

13:03:29 10 A. Yes, according to Johnny Paul, according to what he told us  
11 on the radio set.

12 Q. And then we go down on the same page to the next question:  
13 "How would you describe the mood of these abductors? Are  
14 they desperate men?"

13:03:49 15 And then the answer comes:

16 "They are very, very desperate. They want their man,  
17 Johnny Paul, to be released because they are desperately in need  
18 of peace. If Johnny Paul is not released, I think they want to  
19 fight the RUF."

13:04:06 20 Do you see that, Mr Witness?

21 A. Yes, my Lord.

22 Q. Christ is painting a picture of how desperate you and your  
23 fellow fighters were. Do you agree with the picture that is  
24 painted by this article?

13:04:21 25 A. Well, I agree that we were desperate to see Johnny Paul.

26 Yes, we were desperate. Yes. We did say that we wanted to see  
27 him, because they did not make mention of him and us in the Lome  
28 Peace Accord and for a long time he has not been talking to us  
29 and so we are desperate to see him.

1 Q. The article specifically is saying you were desperate for  
2 peace. Do you agree with that proposition?

3 A. Yes, we also wanted peace. We needed peace because we had  
4 now realised that if Johnny Paul was not included in the Lome  
13:05:11 5 Peace Accord then we will be out, so we were also supposed to be  
6 part of the Lome Accord because we were now a force to reckon  
7 with.

8 Q. And when you went to Liberia to meet President Taylor you  
9 were going in search of solutions to facilitate peace, right?

13:05:27 10 A. Well this question that you are asking me, what I know we  
11 arrested people, but Johnny Paul did not tell us that,  
12 "Charles Taylor, we want peace". We did not tell him, "We need  
13 peace", or, "We need peace". Johnny Paul told us that, "You  
14 should now move with your delegation. You go to Freetown and  
13:05:57 15 then you meet me in Liberia."

16 Q. Do you see the last part of the paragraph I just read? It  
17 says, "If Johnny Paul is not released, I think they want to fight  
18 the RUF." Do you see that, Mr Witness?

19 A. Yes, my Lord.

13:06:12 20 Q. This is the same RUF you said had members amongst your  
21 number at the same time Christo was held hostage, yes?

22 A. Go back to the question, please.

23 Q. You have told this Court that amongst your group were RUF  
24 members when Christo Johnson was held hostage, yes?

13:06:45 25 A. Yes, my Lord.

26 Q. The same RUF members, or the same RUF organisation, that  
27 you wanted to fight if Johnny Paul was not released, you had  
28 their members amongst your number. Is that your evidence,  
29 Mr Witness?

1 A. Yes. Yes, my Lord, they were with us.

2 Q. The same RUF members that you wanted to fight you tell us  
3 were present at the house, or lodge, where Johnny Paul Koroma was  
4 in Monrovia when you visited him about a month later. Do you

13:07:23 5 stand by that evidence, Mr Witness?

6 A. Yes, my Lord, they were there.

7 Q. I see.

8 A. I want to state this clear, that our determination when we  
9 held that man was that they should release our leader. So we did

13:07:48 10 not have any difference with them at that moment, we were

11 together as one, but because we were not made mention of in the

12 Lome Peace Accord so we decided to arrest those people so that we

13 will make it a condition that if they don't release our leader we

14 will cause problem for the peace process in Sierra Leone.

13:08:12 15 MS ALAGENDRA: Your Honours, if I can just clarify

16 something. The answers the witness has been giving to these

17 questions seem to suggest that he is agreeing the RUF was there,

18 but the issue as to whether they wanted to fight the RUF has

19 still not been clarified.

13:08:35 20 MR ANYAH: I have asked the questions I need to ask for my

21 examination on this issue.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: There will be re-examination,

23 Ms Alagenda.

24 MR ANYAH: Madam President, if it please the Court, I would

13:08:47 25 ask for MFI numbers for the five articles I have put before the

26 Chamber.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, perhaps in order to get them in  
28 the right sequence I can rely on you to go through each one.

29 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President. The first one was a BBC



1 article, dated 18 April 1999, and the title is "World Africa:  
2 Rebel leader freed for talks."

3 MS MUZIGO-MORRISON: That would be MFI-27.

4 MR ANYAH: 27, is that it?

13:09:56 5 MS MUZIGO-MORRISON: 27.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: All right. That is a three page document  
7 with the heading "BBC News" and a subheading "World Africa:  
8 Rebel leader freed for talks", dated Sunday, 18 April. Is that  
9 the correct one? Yes, that is MFI-27.

13:10:20 10 MR ANYAH: I thought it would be 26.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: So did I. I am just relying on Court  
12 Management to keep the master record.

13 MS MUZIGO-MORRISON: Madam President, 26 is Port Loko.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, very well.

13:10:37 15 MR ANYAH: Thank you.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you for that. MFI-27.

17 MR ANYAH: The second one is also a BBC article, the date  
18 is 6 August 1999. The title is "World: Africa, Sierra Leone,  
19 Who are the kidnappers?"

13:11:04 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is a three page document headed "BBC  
21 News", subheading "World: Africa, Sierra Leone, Who are the  
22 kidnappers?" It becomes MFI-28.

23 MR ANYAH: The next one is a news archives from the website  
24 sierra-leone.org and it relates to the dates 31 August 1999 and  
13:11:34 25 30 August.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a one page document headed  
27 "Sierra Leone, News Archives, August 1999, Sierra Leone Web",  
28 sub-dated 31 August 1999, it becomes MFI-29.

29 MR ANYAH: The next one is also a news archives article

1 with the date 30 September 1999 and it has two photographs, one  
2 of - well, that was not introduced in evidence, but it's one of  
3 Foday Sankoh and one of Johnny Paul Koroma.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. It's a one page document  
13:12:36 5 headed, "Sierra Leone, News Archives, September 1999, Sierra  
6 Leone Web, News Archives" with a sub-date of 30 September 1999  
7 and that becomes MFI-30.

8 MR ANYAH: I think there are two more. The next one is an  
9 article from the BBC from 1 October 1999.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a three page document headed,  
11 "BBC News" with a subheading, "World: Africa, Sierra Leone Rebel  
12 Leader delays return" with the date of Friday, 1 October 1999.  
13 That becomes MFI-31.

14 MR ANYAH: I misspoke, I said five, but I think there are  
13:13:32 15 six. The sixth and last one is what I have just been through  
16 referring to Christo Johnson. The title is "Sierra Leone hostage  
17 tells of ordeal." It is dated 6 August 1999.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. That is a three page document  
19 headed, "BBC News" with a subheading, "World: Africa, Sierra  
13:13:52 20 Leone Hostage tells of ordeal" and the date Friday, 6 August  
21 1999. It becomes MFI-32.

22 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President:

23 Q. Mr Witness, while we are on the topic of Johnny Paul Koroma  
24 you will agree with me that Johnny Paul Koroma and Foday Sankoh  
13:14:28 25 returned from Monrovia to Freetown on 2 October 1999. Does that  
26 sound right to you, Mr Witness?

27 A. Well, I can't recall the particular month or the date, but  
28 I do recall that it was some weeks after we had left Liberia and  
29 returned to Sierra Leone that Johnny Paul Koroma and Foday Sankoh

1 came.

2 Q. And they came together, yes?

3 A. Yes, my Lord.

4 Q. And they came together from Liberia, yes?

13:15:16 5 A. Yes, my Lord.

6 Q. In respect of Johnny Paul Koroma, Mr Witness, you have told  
7 the Office of the Prosecutor that you are not aware and you have  
8 no knowledge about any diamond transaction - rather, about  
9 diamond transaction between Charles Taylor and Johnny Paul Koroma  
10 for arms and ammunition. Would you agree that you have told the  
11 Prosecution that?

12 A. Yes, I agree.

13 Q. Would you agree that at no time before after Lome from the  
14 junta period all the way until disarmament --

13:16:11 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause Mr Anyah. The record shows  
16 you to say, "At no time before after Lome." I am not quite sure  
17 which.

18 MR ANYAH: Okay, yes, I will correct it:

19 Q. Mr Witness, between the junta period, 25 May 1997 and the  
13:16:30 20 time you met Johnny Paul Koroma in Monrovia, at no time during  
21 that period did he go to Liberia. Do you agree with that?

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: The junta period, you say 25 May 1999.  
23 Do you mean '97?

24 MR ANYAH: I thought I said 1997. I will have to rephrase  
13:16:53 25 the question.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: In fact, you are right, I have a note  
27 that you said '97. Please ensure that the transcript is  
28 corrected.

29 MR ANYAH:

1 Q. Mr Witness, here is the proposition: From when the junta  
2 took power in Freetown on 25 May 1997 up until August 1999 when  
3 you met Johnny Paul Koroma in Monrovia, at no time did Koroma go  
4 to Monrovia. Do you agree with that?

13:17:22 5 A. Well, I disagree because I was only limited to the time  
6 when we left Freetown. That was the intervention time. And he  
7 left us in Kono and then he went to Kailahun. So since then  
8 I did not know anything about his movements when he was in  
9 Kailahun. I can only tell you about the moment we were in  
13:17:49 10 Freetown when we left Freetown up to the time we went to Kono,  
11 Gandorhun and then he left us and went.

12 Q. So there are periods of time when you cannot account for  
13 Johnny Paul Koroma's whereabouts?

14 A. Well, yes, because when we left Kono and he left and it was  
13:18:18 15 only when we were at West Side now that we said that for a long  
16 time now the man has not been talking to us, so we decided to  
17 kidnap those hostages.

18 Q. I am looking at the answer you gave, the first sentence  
19 where you say, "Well, I disagree because I was only limited to  
13:18:37 20 the time when we left Freetown." What did you mean by that,  
21 Mr Witness?

22 A. Well, what I mean is that when we left Freetown, up to the  
23 time we escorted Johnny Paul to Gandorhun when he left, I know  
24 about that time. But after which when he left us there and went  
13:19:00 25 to Kailahun I don't have any idea about his movement within that  
26 area.

27 Q. Was Johnny Paul Koroma made a part of the new government  
28 post-Lome, after he returned to Freetown from Monrovia?

29 A. Well, he did not become a member in the new government, but

1 he had an appointment that was given to him and he was the CCP  
2 chairman.

3 Q. Precisely. And that's what he wanted when he was in  
4 Monrovia, right?

13:19:46 5 A. Well, when we went to Monrovia he said that that was the  
6 only space that he saw where he was - where he would occupy so  
7 that he can be able to assist in bringing peace. He said it was  
8 the CCP office that was vacant.

9 Q. But you remember --

13:20:12 10 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Could we have the full description of  
11 that acronym, please?

12 MR ANYAH: Yes, the witness told us yesterday that it stood  
13 for chairman for Consolidation of Peace.

14 THE WITNESS: It's CCP, chairman Consolidation For Peace.  
13:20:36 15 Chairman for the Consolidation of Peace, CCP.

16 MR ANYAH: When I said chairman for consolidation I forgot  
17 the "the", but fair enough, it's his evidence.

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: But I thought the witness said he was the  
19 CCP chairman. Is the CCP not the council for the Consolidation  
13:20:55 20 of Peace, or committee, or something?

21 MR ANYAH: I can clarify:

22 Q. Mr Witness, what is the CCP? Please tell us first what the  
23 acronym means, CCP?

24 A. Chairman for the Consolidation of Peace. So we just used  
13:21:12 25 to call him chairman, CCP chairman. That was how people used to  
26 call him in short, CCP chairman.

27 Q. Was the CCP an arm of the new government, an arm or unit, a  
28 component of the new government?

29 A. The only thing I knew was that it was when the issue of the

1 peace process came up that they formed this office to coordinate  
2 the peace process. I don't know whether it had any direct  
3 business with the government or influence with the government.

13:21:56

4 Q. But the new government came in and formed an office that  
5 had something to do with CCP, right?

6 A. Yes, to coordinate the peace activities in the country with  
7 the various factions that were fighting.

8 Q. And this is what Johnny Paul wanted when you met with him  
9 in Monrovia, right?

13:22:23

10 A. Like I said, he told us that there was no other office that  
11 was vacant at that moment. He said it was only the CCP office  
12 that was vacant and it was that office that he had seen as a  
13 place where he can occupy, because he said he has seen that  
14 appointments - all other appointments have been given to people,  
15 to other people, but he said the CCP office was free. So for the  
16 sake of peace he said he was ready to accept that office. So he  
17 was made the chairman for the Consolidation of Peace in Sierra  
18 Leone.

13:22:50

19 Q. You remember I read you some of your responses that were  
20 recorded by the Office of the Prosecutor when you met on 7  
21 November 2003 and there is a part where you said you signed  
22 something. It reads: "We left the mansion, went back to the  
23 hotel and Johnny Paul Koroma went to his own base." For  
24 counsel's purposes I am reading from tab 4, page 35, ERN number  
25 00100401, but I will be brief.

13:23:31

26 "After that Johnny Paul Koroma brought another paper to us  
27 which stated that President Kabbah has agreed to reinstate the  
28 army and that the office of the CCP has been given to him. We  
29 all signed."

1 You recall that, Mr Witness? We went through this.

2 A. Yes, it happened.

3 Q. And I am putting it to you that Charles Taylor, President  
4 of Liberia, facilitated the acquisition of this position for  
13:24:13 5 Johnny Paul Koroma. Do you agree?

6 A. My Lord, I disagree.

7 Q. I am putting it to you that Charles Taylor, President of  
8 Liberia, facilitated the reinstatement into the army of Johnny  
9 Paul Koroma and others. Do you agree?

13:24:42 10 A. I disagree. Johnny Paul was not reinstated. We were  
11 reinstated. Johnny Paul was retired. We were reinstated. It  
12 was not Charles Taylor who facilitated that. It was our action.  
13 It was our action as a result of which Charles Taylor mediated  
14 that we should go to Liberia and then we discussed then. That  
13:25:12 15 happened.

16 Q. Well, just to be clear on the last point, yes, I concede  
17 that you say Johnny Paul retired, that's what you say, but with  
18 respect to the rest of it I am putting it to you that  
19 Charles Taylor facilitated your reintegration and reinstatement  
13:25:32 20 into the Sierra Leone Army. Do you agree, Mr Witness?

21 A. I disagree.

22 Q. How is it that two of the main demands your group had, a  
23 role for Johnny Paul Koroma in the new government and the  
24 reinstatement of SLA members into the army, were accomplished  
13:25:55 25 while you were in Monrovia. Can you explain that?

26 A. Well, if we had not arrested the UNOMSIL we would have  
27 continued our life like that. They would have disarmed us. It  
28 was because we arrested the UNOMSIL and we demanded for Johnny  
29 Paul Koroma. That was how he came in to be able to negotiate

1 this thing, because they had now - he himself saw that, "This has  
2 now reached a point that it was going to be difficult if I just  
3 sat by and did not put involvement into it", so that was why he  
4 decided that he was going to Liberia and then when he gets to  
13:26:36 5 Liberia he will facilitate for our own movement also to Liberia  
6 so that they will let the government see reason and then  
7 cooperate with us.

8 Q. Is your evidence to the Court that the reasons your demands  
9 were met was because you had hostages?

13:27:00 10 A. Yes, my Lord. If we had not held those people hostage,  
11 they would not have taken us seriously. They would not have  
12 known anything about us. They will all just say, "The Lome  
13 Accord said we were all RUF. We were all combatants", but we  
14 also said, "No, no, no, we are not going to accept that. They  
13:27:19 15 should recognise the SLA". If we had not taken that action they  
16 would not have recognised us, Johnny Paul himself wouldn't have  
17 gone to Liberia and we ourselves wouldn't have gone to Liberia to  
18 meet with Charles Taylor.

19 Q. But the fact remains, does it not, that Liberia, Monrovia  
13:27:37 20 specifically and specifically President Charles Taylor, was the  
21 site or the location where there was a meeting of the minds and  
22 there was agreement to reinstate you and others into the army?  
23 Did you understand what I said, Mr Witness?

24 A. No, my Lord, I did not get anything from the interpreter.

13:28:06 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, are you in position?

26 MR ANYAH: I did not hear an interpretation.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: No. Is there a Krio interpreter in  
28 position?

29 THE WITNESS: It is okay.



1           PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, we are --

2           THE INTERPRETER: There is a Krio interpreter, but I learned  
3 counsel was going fast. I think he was talking to him from the  
4 booth, but the microphone does not go from the floor.

13:28:50 5           PRESIDING JUDGE: I understand, thank you. Mr Anyah, two  
6 matters. It would appear your question wasn't put because you  
7 were speaking too quickly and, secondly, we are coming close to  
8 the lunch break. So, please put your question again and we will  
9 look at the time when we hear the answer.

13:29:03 10          MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President:

11 Q. Mr Witness, can you hear me through the interpreter?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. My question is this. Do you agree that Monrovia and  
14 President Charles Taylor were the central location, the focus,  
15 for the meeting of the minds for peace between the RUF and the  
16 AFRC - that is question one - around this time, post-Lome?

17 A. Well, that only happened when we had done the abductions.  
18 That was the reason why it happened.

19 Q. Do you agree that it was in the city of Monrovia and at the  
13:30:14 20 behest of Charles Taylor that all of your requests, requests to  
21 be reinstated into the army and to give Johnny Paul Koroma the  
22 position of CCP, were accomplished and achieved?

23 A. Yes, because of the abduction that we did. That was the  
24 reason why they asked us to go - they invited us to go - and so  
13:30:41 25 that we will pass our intentions over to them and then they will  
26 do what we want.

27 Q. Now, one last question. Is your evidence that  
28 Charles Taylor played no role in securing this position of CCP  
29 for Johnny Paul Koroma and in facilitating the reinstatement of

1 you and others into the Sierra Leone Army?

2 A. It is not to my knowledge.

3 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is now our usual time for adjourning  
13:31:15 5 for the lunch break, but as this is Friday we attend to other  
6 matters and other meetings on Friday afternoon. Therefore, we  
7 will be resuming court on Monday at 9.30, Mr Witness. You may  
8 recall this from last week. I again remind you, Mr Witness, as  
9 I have done on other occasions, that since you have taken the  
13:31:35 10 solemn declaration you are not to discuss your evidence with  
11 anyone else. You understand?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Please adjourn court until  
14 Monday at 9.30.

13:31:47 15 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 1.30 p.m.  
16 to be reconvened on Monday, 28 April 2008 at  
17 9.30 a.m.]

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I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION:

TF1-334	8557
CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR ANYAH	8557