



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

MONDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2008
9:30 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before the Judges:

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

For Chambers:

Mr William Romans
Ms Doreen Kiggundu

For the Registry:

Ms Rachel Irura

For the Prosecution:

Ms Brenda J Hollis
Mr Nicholas Koumjian
Mr Alain Werner
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Courtenay Griffiths QC
Mr Terry Munyard

1 Monday, 6 October 2008

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

09:29:18 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. Good morning, Mr Koumjian.
6 Your appearances, please.

7 MR KOUMJIAN: Good morning, your Honours. Counsel for the
8 Prosecution this morning, Alain Werner, Maja Dimitrova and myself
9 Nicholas Koumjian.

09:29:48 10 MR GRIFFITHS: Good morning, Madam President, your Honours,
11 counsel opposite. For the Defence today are myself, Courtenay
12 Griffiths, and my learned friend Mr Terry Munyard.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Mr Koumjian, I note there is
14 no witness on the stand.

09:30:00 15 MR KOUMJIAN: The witness is available, but we simply want
16 to go through the procedure of revoking previous protective
17 measures. This is witness TF1-263.

18 After discussions with us here he has agreed to go open
19 without the use of his pseudonym. This is a witness that,
09:30:24 20 consistent with our position on other witnesses, we believe falls
21 into the general category of the decision of July 2004 of the
22 Sesay Trial Chamber. The witness has also from the same Trial
23 Chamber earlier decisions some general protective measures and
24 pseudonym.

09:30:50 25 We ask that those be revoked except for the address and
26 current whereabouts not being made public. So the only
27 information that the Prosecution is requesting remains
28 confidential is in the order of Trial Chamber I of 23 May 2003.
29 That is in paragraphs (b) and (c) it indicates that identifying

1 information be sealed by the Registry - excuse me. Paragraph (e)
2 of that order of May 2003 says that the names and other
3 identifying data or information on file with the Registry which
4 would reveal the identity not be disclosed. We are simply asking
09:32:14 5 that the address and current whereabouts of this witness not be
6 disclosed.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, just for purposes of record
8 and to ensure that I know what I am talking about, you are
9 referring to the decision of 23 May 2003 in the Prosecutor v
09:32:36 10 Sesay; is that correct?

11 MR KOUMJIAN: That's correct. And I'm sorry, my earlier
12 references were to the July 2004 where paragraphs (b) and (c) --

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I had that. So are you in effect
14 referring to two decisions, Mr Koumjian?

09:32:52 15 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see.

17 MR KOUMJIAN: And I believe, to be open with the Court,
18 this is a witness that falls into the category that your Honours
19 have previously ruled that this July 2004 decision does not apply
09:33:04 20 to. That's, I think, the subject of an appeal. But that has
21 been the consistent position. This is a witness who was a child
22 at the time of the events in question but is not now.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Would he have come under Category B?

24 MR KOUMJIAN: To be open with the Court, as I read the
09:33:48 25 Court's order it does not define a child, but, from the logic of
26 it, it seems to be referring to persons who were minors at the
27 time they testified.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, you have heard
29 Mr Koumjian's application.

1 MR GRIFFITHS: Once again, Madam President, we welcome
2 recision of the protective measures subject of course to the
3 caveat ventilated in particular by Mr Anyah on previous
4 occasions.

09:34:55 5 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, just for the record, I do not
6 mean to imply that the Prosecution also has changed its position.
7 I understand your Honours have ruled and I believe it is the
8 subject of appeal. The Prosecution position remains that this
9 general category of witnesses is covered by the July 2004
09:35:12 10 decision, but it is the same issue we've previously discussed.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: I understand.

12 [Trial Chamber conferred]

13 Mr Koumjian, just to make sure that we are all talking
14 about the same thing, because you've referred to two orders and
09:41:29 15 to other paragraphs, you are asking for (e) of the order of 23
16 May 2003. I'm going to read that out into the record to ensure
17 we are all clear on what you are asking. That is that:

18 "The names and any other identifying data or information on
19 file with the Registry or any other information which could
09:41:51 20 reveal the identity of witnesses and victims shall not be
21 disclosed to the public or the media and this order shall remain
22 in effect after the termination of the proceedings in this case."

23 That is what you are seeking the Court to enforce today.

24 MR KOUMJIAN: Only in part, your Honour. I am asking the
09:42:11 25 Court simply to order part of the identifying data, meaning the
26 specific information regarding the witness's address and current
27 whereabouts to remain non-public and confidential. Obviously the
28 name - he will testify and state his name for the record.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: So it is his address and current

1 whereabouts?

2 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, thank you.

3 [Trial Chamber conferred]

09:43:35

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, for purposes of record, in
5 the light of the preceding rulings of this Court, we are of the
6 view that this is tantamount to a fresh application for
7 protective measures that identifying data, i.e. the address and
8 current whereabouts of the witness is tantamount to a fresh
9 application. Have you any objection to that application?

09:43:58

10 MR GRIFFITHS: I have no objections to that application.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. As has already been ruled by
12 majority in this Chamber, and the parties having knowledge in the
13 course of this application and prior applications, the
14 application for rescission of protective measures as provided in
15 the decision of July 2004 are redundant.

09:44:15

16 However, the application coming before Court today is a
17 fresh application that part of the identifying data of the
18 witness, i.e. his address and current whereabouts not be
19 disclosed to the public or the media is a fresh application, and
20 we grant that application.

09:44:37

21 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you. I believe the Court Officer will
22 bring the witness in. The witness will be testifying in the Kono
23 language.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, have we a Kono
25 interpreter in position?

09:45:01

26 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honours.

27 WITNESS: KOMBA SUMANA [Sworn]

28 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR KOUMJIAN:

29 Q. Good morning, sir.

- 1 A. Yes, good morning.
- 2 Q. Sir, can you tell us where you were born?
- 3 JUDGE SEBUTINDE. Can we start with his name?
- 4 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 09:47:21 5 MR KOUMJIAN:
- 6 Q. Sir, can you tell the Court your name?
- 7 A. Yes. My name is Komba Sumana.
- 8 Q. Do you know how to spell your name?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 09:47:42 10 Q. Can you please spell Komba first and then Sumana?
- 11 A. K-O-M-B-A.
- 12 Q. And Sumana?
- 13 A. S-U-M-A-N-A.
- 14 Q. Sir, where were you born?
- 09:48:06 15 A. I was born in Koidu.
- 16 Q. Do you know when you were born?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. When were you born, sir?
- 19 A. 1984.
- 09:48:35 20 Q. Sir, do you know the month you were born, or no?
- 21 A. I don't know.
- 22 Q. Sir, when you came to The Hague, did you bring with you any
- 23 paper?
- 24 A. Yes, I brought my birth certificate with me.
- 09:49:01 25 Q. Where did you get your birth certificate from?
- 26 A. Kono.
- 27 Q. Do you know when you got your birth certificate, the one
- 28 that you have with you?
- 29 A. Well, it was my father who got it for me in 2002 after the

1 war.

2 Q. Thank you. Do you have that with you now?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can you please take it out and show it to us?

09:49:39 5 A. Yes.

6 MR KOUMJIAN: I would ask the Court Officer to first show
7 it to Defence counsel and then your Honours. Your Honours, the
8 Court Officer also has a scanned copy of this document. If your
9 Honours would like, we can display that for the public. I would
10 ask that it be marked for identification; the scanned copy. We
11 would like to return the original to the witness.

09:51:03

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, have you any objection to
13 that procedure?

14 MR GRIFFITHS: Madam President, I have a photostat copy of
15 the document and I wouldn't seek to deny the witness the
16 opportunity of taking the original back to Sierra Leone with him
17 because I can understand why it would be important for him to
18 keep the original.

09:51:26

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Strictly this would be a matter to be
20 dealt with at the point of tender, but we have dealt with it now
21 and so I will mark the scanned copy as MFI-1.

09:51:40

22 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you. That can be removed then:

23 Q. Sir, do you have any tribe or ethnicity?

24 A. Yes.

09:52:00

25 Q. What is your tribe or ethnicity?

26 A. I speak Kono and Krio.

27 Q. Okay, those are the languages you speak, but do you belong
28 to any tribe?

29 A. I'm a Kono man.

1 Q. Thank you. Now, you just told us you speak Kono and Krio.
2 Do you speak any other languages?

3 A. No.

4 Q. What is your education?

09:52:46 5 A. Well, I stopped in Class 4.

6 Q. Can you read?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Thank you. Sir, what was your father's profession?

9 A. He was a policeman.

09:53:06 10 Q. Where was he a policeman?

11 A. In Koidu.

12 Q. What was the force that your father was in called, do you
13 know?

14 A. It was chiefdom police officer.

09:53:28 15 Q. Were those - was your father's force the type of police
16 that carried guns?

17 A. No.

18 Q. In addition to being a policeman, did your father have any
19 other profession?

09:53:52 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What other kind of work did your father do?

22 A. Well, he used to have workers. They used to mine for him.

23 Q. Thank you. And, Mr Witness, if you can just remember that
24 the interpreters need to hear every word and so please try to

09:54:14 25 speak clearly into the microphone and slowly. Thank you. They
26 did understand you last time. Where was it that your father used
27 to --

28 A. Okay.

29 Q. Where was it that your father used to have workers mine for

- 1 him?
- 2 A. In Bumpe.
- 3 Q. What district is Bumpe in?
- 4 A. In Koidu.
- 09:54:45 5 Q. Okay. Koidu is a town, is that right?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Is Bumpe in the town, or outside the town?
- 8 A. It's outside the town.
- 9 Q. About how far or how long does it take to walk from the
- 09:55:07 10 centre of Koidu to Bumpe - to the centre of Bumpe?
- 11 A. Well I cannot give the correct estimate, but it's a little
- 12 bit far. Each time I intend going there I board a bike.
- 13 Q. Okay, on a bike can you tell us how long it would take you
- 14 to get there?
- 09:55:34 15 A. Well when I intend to go there I used to go along with the
- 16 bicycle, but I never spend much time along the route.
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, would that be a motorbike,
- 18 or a cycle push bike?
- 19 MR KOUMJIAN:
- 09:55:59 20 Q. When you say bike, or bicycle, do you mean - does it have a
- 21 motor or not?
- 22 A. Bicycle.
- 23 Q. Thank you. So that means without a motor, am I
- 24 understanding you correctly?
- 09:56:22 25 A. Yes, it was just a bicycle.
- 26 Q. The area that your father mined, did he own the land?
- 27 A. No, he was not the owner.
- 28 Q. What was the relationship between your father and the land
- 29 owner?

1 A. Well, it was --

2 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly
3 repeat his answer.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter asks you to
09:57:13 5 repeat your answer. He did not hear you clearly. Maybe,
6 Mr Koumjian, if you repeat the question as the answer recorded
7 doesn't accord with what was asked.

8 MR KOUMJIAN:

9 Q. Sir, I was asking if you can describe the relationship
09:57:34 10 between your father and the owner of the land?

11 A. Well, it was owned by one man. They used to work - he used
12 to work together with my father. He was the owner of the land.

13 Q. Okay, thank you. Now, Mr Witness, do you recall ever
14 hearing of a change of government in Freetown?

09:58:14 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. When that - how did you hear about that?

17 A. Well, we got that over the radio and my father used to tell
18 me again.

19 Q. When that happened, where exactly were you living?

09:58:37 20 MR GRIFFITHS: I wonder if we could have a little bit more
21 clarity. I am sure there have been a number of changes of
22 government in Sierra Leone and it would be interesting to know
23 which particular change of government we are talking about.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, there have been a few elections,
09:58:51 25 Mr Koumjian.

26 MR KOUMJIAN: I think it will confuse things further and so
27 I can try, but I think it will become more apparent. Let me try:

28 Q. Mr Witness, do you know how the government changed? Who
29 became the new government?

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: You have got two questions there,
2 Mr Koumjian, and we still don't have a real time period.

3 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, and I don't think we are going to get a
4 date, but I think from the context of the testimony the date will
09:59:20 5 become apparent to your Honours:

6 Q. Sir, did you know which government came into power?

7 A. I don't understand. The government that was there?

8 Q. Yes, let me try again. You said you heard about a change
9 of government. Do you know who became the new leader? If you
09:59:52 10 don't know, just tell us.

11 A. At the time we were there we just heard that the soldiers
12 have overthrown.

13 Q. Okay, thank you. Now after the soldiers overthrew - excuse
14 me, when the soldiers overthrew the government, where exactly
10:00:12 15 were you living?

16 A. I was in Koidu Town.

17 Q. The area you were living, did it have a name?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What was the area called?

10:00:34 20 A. Tankoro.

21 Q. At this time, when the soldiers overthrew the government,
22 who were you living with in Tankoro? Who was in your house?

23 A. I was with my father.

24 Q. In addition to your father were there other members of your
10:00:59 25 family living with you, or no?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. Can you tell us what other members of the family were in
28 the house with you and your father?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay, who else lived in the house?

2 A. I, my elder brother, my younger brother and our elder
3 sister and some of our younger sisters and my father and my
4 mother.

10:01:38 5 Q. Okay. You told us about your father and mother and some
6 brothers and sisters. At that time in Tankoro, when the soldiers
7 overthrew the government, how many brothers were living in the
8 house with you?

9 A. We were four in number. All of us were male.

10:02:11 10 Q. So, you and three brothers?

11 A. Yes, and me made it four.

12 Q. Thank you. How many of your three brothers were older than
13 you and how many younger than you?

14 A. Well, a woman was older than all of us. The two men were
10:02:50 15 older than I, among the men.

16 Q. Okay, thank you. That's clear. So, the oldest of your
17 brothers - of the males - what was his name?

18 A. He was called Sahr.

19 Q. Who was next oldest after Sahr?

10:03:21 20 A. E-boy.

21 Q. Who was the youngest brother; younger than you?

22 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, is this a normal name, or a
23 pseudonym?

24 MR KOUMJIAN: It's a normal - it is a version of a normal
10:03:42 25 name:

26 Q. You said E-boy, spelt E dash B-0-Y. Is E-boy short for
27 another name?

28 A. He was called Aiah.

29 MR KOUMJIAN: And Aiah I believe in Kono is A-I-A-H.

1 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: So is that A-boy, or E? You spelt it as
2 E-boy.

3 MR KOUMJIAN: I spelt it as E-boy based on the transcript
4 from the other trial.

10:04:21 5 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Well, just tell us the correct spelling
6 please.

7 MR KOUMJIAN: I can ask the Kono interpreters for a
8 spelling. Your Honour, I would spell it E-B-0-Y as I hear it
9 phonetically:

10:04:42 10 Q. Sir, what was the name of your youngest brother?

11 A. He was called Kai.

12 MR KOUMJIAN: That we spelt K-A-I:

13 Q. Then you indicated you had sisters. How many sisters were
14 living in the house at that time?

10:05:03 15 A. Well, there were three in number by then.

16 Q. Okay, thank you. Now, sir, you talked about hearing about
17 the soldiers overthrowing the government. Did life change at all
18 in Kono when that happened?

19 A. Things were not all right when they overthrew.

10:05:53 20 MR KOUMJIAN: I am just asking the interpreter, I think it
21 was, "Things were not all right." Is that the correct - okay,
22 thank you:

23 Q. Can you say what you saw in Kono after this change in the
24 government?

10:06:15 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. What did you see?

27 A. Well, after the overthrow, we were there in Koidu but then
28 we used to go to school. It came a time when there was no normal
29 school. Each time we went to school we used to run away. When

1 we would go to school we used to run away. So my father said we
2 should not go to school again, we should stay at home. So we
3 were there at home when my father also stopped working, so we
4 decide to stay at home.

10:06:57 5 Q. Why was it that people were running away from the school?

6 A. Well, sometimes at school some of our parents would go
7 there to collect us from the school, some were running away.

8 Q. Running away from who? Were they running from anyone, or
9 no?

10:07:25 10 A. They said the soldiers.

11 Q. You said your father stopped working. In which of the
12 professions?

13 A. At the time he was a policeman. That was the time he
14 stopped working.

10:07:48 15 Q. Do you know why your father stopped working as a policeman?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you explain to us what you know?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Please tell us what you know about why your father stopped
10:08:12 20 working?

21 A. Well, at the time he said to us that each time they went to
22 office there was no work, so all offices were closed down, so he
23 decided to stay home because he alone was not - have the ability
24 to work.

10:08:34 25 Q. Did the people that you saw in Kono, in Koidu Town, did
26 that change when this government changed?

27 A. Well, things became difficult.

28 Q. Explain to us how it became difficult?

29 A. Well, at the time there was no business going on. Every

1 day there was running helter and skelter, the soldiers were
2 harassing people.

3 Q. When you say soldiers - I'm sorry, did the interpretation
4 finish? Okay. Thank you. When you say soldiers, can you tell

10:09:32 5 us - describe the people that you are talking about as soldiers?

6 A. At the time some used to wear full uniforms and some did
7 not, so they were mixed in the town. They were all soldiers at
8 the time. We called them soldiers.

9 Q. Did all of the people in the town stay in the town?

10:10:03 10 A. Some were there and some used to leave for the villages.

11 Q. What kind of people left the town?

12 A. Well, the Lebanese people who were there started going
13 away, the Marakas who were there also and some senior people who
14 were in the town, they used to go towards Guinea, those who had

10:10:41 15 the opportunity.

16 Q. Sir, did your father continue to mine?

17 A. No, he stopped mining.

18 Q. Why did your father stop mining?

19 A. Well, when he stopped working as a police he also stopped
20 mining.

10:11:13 21 Q. Had anything occurred at the mining site?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What had happened?

24 A. Well, the people who were working for him, one was beaten
10:11:32 25 up by the soldiers. The report was made to him and he too said
26 they should stop, they should stop working.

27 Q. When your father stopped working at the site, did the other
28 workers, people who were working for your father, also stop or
29 did they continue to work?

1 A. They did not go. They too stopped.

2 Q. Do you know if anyone else started to mine at that site and
3 if you don't know, just say so?

4 A. No, because at that time we did not go there.

10:12:21 5 Q. Did your family stay in Tankoro?

6 A. Yes, we were there. We had not yet gone.

7 Q. And did your family ever leave Tankoro?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. When did your family leave Tankoro?

10:12:51 10 A. Well, there came a time when Koidu turned into something
11 else, because even to buy something there was nothing there.
12 That was why we left.

13 Q. Do you know what had happened that had made Kono turn
14 into - well, you said "something else"?

10:13:17 15 A. Yes, because when the overthrow took place Koidu was turned
16 upside down.

17 Q. You've said your family left Tankoro. Can you tell us how
18 long after you heard about the soldiers overthrowing the
19 government it was that your family left Tankoro?

10:14:05 20 A. I cannot, because the month this thing happened was the
21 month that we too left.

22 Q. Okay. When you left, where did you go? Where did your
23 family go?

24 A. We went to my mother's village.

10:14:31 25 Q. What was the name of your mother's village?

26 A. Yekeyor.

27 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, the spelling is Y-E-K-E-Y-O-R:

28 Q. Did all of your family go together to Yekeyor?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. What did you do in Yekeyor, your family? What did your
2 family do there?

3 A. We used to go to our coffee farm in my father's place.

10:15:17

4 Q. When you say your father's place, did that place have a
5 name?

6 A. Yes, there is.

7 Q. What is the name of your father's place?

8 A. Pakidu.

9 Q. What is Pakidu? Is it bush, is it a town, is it a village?

10:15:38

10 A. It's a village.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Have we a spelling for that, Mr Koumjian?

12 MR KOUMJIAN: P-A-K-I-D-U:

13 Q. So where was the coffee farm of your father?

14 A. It's there in our village, at the back of our house.

10:16:11

15 Q. Pakidu, when you say the village?

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 Q. When you say that's your father's place, what do you mean
18 that Pakidu was your father's place?

19 A. That is where he was born.

10:16:29

20 Q. Did he have family still living there?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Where did you sleep at night?

23 A. Well, when we spent the day there we would come to Yekeyor
24 to pass the night.

10:16:49

25 Q. What happened to your house in Tankoro?

26 A. It was burnt down.

27 Q. How did you find out that your house in Tankoro was burnt
28 down? I'm sorry, Mr Witness, first let me ask you another
29 question. Was your house in Tankoro burnt down before or after

1 your family left for Yekeyor?

2 A. Well, it had not been burned when we went.

3 Q. How did you find out that your house in Tankoro was burnt?

10:17:40

4 A. Well, when we went to the village, staying there, my elder
5 brother E-boy and Sahr, they came to the house. They were the
6 ones who told us.

7 Q. What did E-boy and Sahr tell you about the house, about
8 what they saw in Tankoro?

10:18:08

9 A. Well, we were in Yekeyor when they came at night and said
10 they have started burning houses and that even our house had been
11 burnt. They said they had started burning down houses in Koidu.
12 They came at night and told when we were in Yekeyor.

13 Q. How long did your family stay in Yekeyor?

14 A. Well, we spent three weeks there.

10:18:31

15 Q. Where did you go after the three weeks?

16 A. We returned to Pakidu in my father's town.

17 Q. Was your family sleeping in Pakidu?

18 A. Yes, we moved there.

19 Q. Did anything happen to Yekeyor after you left?

10:19:04

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What happened?

22 A. Well, when we left for Pakidu, we were there, after one
23 week the place was attacked.

10:19:38

24 Q. Sorry, Mr Witness, I'm going to go back a bit. I forgot to
25 ask you one question. When Sahr and E-boy came back from Tankoro
26 and you said they said that they started burning houses, did they
27 say who was burning the houses?

28 A. Yes. They said the soldiers.

29 Q. Okay. Now, when you said - going back to when you were in

1 Pakidu and you said Yekeyor was attacked, what did you see?

2 A. Well, we were in Pakidu when Yekeyor was attacked. We were
3 in Pakidu when we used to see fire on houses in the town.

10:20:30

4 Q. How far is it from Yekeyor to Pakidu? And if it's easier
5 for you, you can tell us how long it takes to walk.

6 A. It's not a long distance. You would take one hour on the
7 way.

8 Q. To walk, or going with a vehicle when you say one hour?

10:20:55

9 A. On foot. On foot. It's not a long distance. You wouldn't
10 take up to one hour.

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, he says he was in Pakidu
12 when he saw fire on houses in the town. What town?

13 MR KOUMJIAN:

10:21:10

14 Q. Sir, when you said you saw fire in the town, which town did
15 you see fire in?

16 A. Yekeyor.

17 Q. What time of day was it that you saw the fire?

18 A. It was at night.

10:21:37

19 Q. After you saw the fire in Yekeyor, did you ever see anyone
20 from Yekeyor after that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you remember - where was it that you saw people from
23 Yekeyor?

24 A. Yes.

10:21:59

25 Q. Where was it that you saw them?

26 A. Well, when we were in Pakidu, after we had seen the fire,
27 it was not long when we saw people coming from that ends towards
28 Pakidu. They were the ones who told us that the rebels have come
29 there in Yekeyor and they've burnt houses. It was then that they

1 told me - told us that they've killed my uncle.

2 Q. Now, after these people came, did your family stay in
3 Pakidu?

4 A. No.

10:22:41 5 Q. Where did you go?

6 A. Well, that night we went into the bush. That was where we
7 slept.

8 Q. How many people do you think went into the bush?

9 A. Well, we were many. The entire town. We all went into the
10:23:02 10 bush.

11 Q. Did your family stay together or separate?

12 A. Well, at that time we were in the same place. We had not
13 yet gone our separate ways.

14 Q. After your family was told by people in Yekeyor that your
10:23:23 15 uncle killed, did your family do anything?

16 A. Well, yes.

17 Q. What was done?

18 A. Well, at that time we were in that bush hiding my eldest
19 sister said she was going there to go and find out what had
10:23:50 20 happened.

21 Q. What was the name of your elder sister?

22 A. Kumba.

23 Q. And do you know if Kumba went to Yekeyor?

24 A. Yes, she left us in the bush and said she was going to
10:24:14 25 Yekeyor.

26 Q. Did you ever see Kumba again?

27 A. No, I never saw her.

28 Q. Did you ever hear what happened to her?

29 A. Well, when she went on that way we did not see her. They

1 just came and told us that she had been killed.

2 Q. Who told you that she had been killed?

3 A. Those who left Yekeyor. They told us at the time we were
4 in the bush.

10:24:47 5 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Is Kumba properly spelt in the
6 transcript?

7 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, your Honour. I believe so:

8 Q. Sir, did the people tell you who killed your sister?

9 A. Yes.

10:25:09 10 Q. What did they say?

11 A. Well, at that time that they met us there they told us she
12 had been killed by the rebels.

13 Q. How long did you stay in Yekeyor - in the bush, excuse me?
14 In the bush.

10:25:32 15 A. Well, that is where we were. We spent a month there in the
16 bush.

17 Q. Where you were in the bush, was it close to any towns or
18 villages?

19 A. Well, we were in the Pakidu bushes. The towns were a
10:25:56 20 little bit far away.

21 Q. Do you recall what time of year this was?

22 A. Well, I can't tell the time but - I can't tell the time.

23 Q. Do you - and if you don't know the answer just say so, do
24 you know what year it was?

10:26:30 25 A. I did not know the year.

26 Q. Was it was it the rainy season or the dry season?

27 A. Well, the rain had started pouring.

28 Q. You said you stayed in the bushes for about a month. What
29 happened at the end of that time?

1 A. Well, we were in the bush there and we used to go to town,
2 but we were in the bush hiding. The place where we were, at one
3 time it was attacked in the evening hours and my father was
4 captured. They were not able to capture me. I was able to
10:27:26 5 escape.

6 Q. Okay. Mr Witness, none of us were there and you were
7 there, so I would like - the judges would like you to tell them,
8 in as much detail as you recall, what happened when you were
9 attacked in the bush?

10:27:44 10 A. Well, at that time that we were in the bush we established
11 a hut there. We were there one evening when the rebels came and
12 attacked us there. They captured my father, my mother and some
13 other people with whom we were. At that time they were unable to
14 capture me, I escaped. But where I was in hiding, I used to see
10:28:16 15 what was going on in the hut. There was one man --

16 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat this
17 slowly.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter needs you to
19 repeat your answer slowly. He has to try and keep up with you
10:28:34 20 and also people are writing what you said. So please pick up
21 your answers from where you said, "But where I was in hiding, I
22 used to see what was going on in the hut. There was one man --"
23 Please continue from there.

24 THE WITNESS: I said when we were in the bush we built a
10:29:00 25 hut. That was where we were sleeping. There came a time, one
26 evening, when we were attacked there in the hut. We ran away.
27 They captured my father and some other people with whom we were
28 there. They were not able to capture me on that day. But where
29 I was in hiding, I was there and used to see what was going on in

1 the hut. I was there for a while. There was - when one man, who
2 had come from another bush, he had come to do his hair. After he
3 had had his hair cut, they left. That man was captured and there
4 was a hot water there. They asked him for water - for rice and
10:29:52 5 he said he hadn't rice, so that hot water that was there was
6 poured in his head and the others were all put down to sit down
7 there.

8 One rebel brought a rope and tied it around my father's
9 throat and they asked had him to produce the rice and my father
10:30:09 10 said that he had not farmed. Then he started crying and they
11 removed the rope and tied it around my elder brother's throat and
12 they asked him to show where the rice was.

13 I was still there when they assembled them, the things that
14 were there, including our rice and little things that we had.
10:30:29 15 They put them all together and they asked them to carry them on
16 their heads to town. As they were going to the town I came from
17 my hiding place and they went to town.

18 They took them to the town and they asked them to sit in
19 the barri. I was in the bush whilst I saw what was going on. I
10:30:51 20 was there until nightfall. Where I was, I heard people screaming
21 in the bush. I went into that bush and I searched for those
22 people. I saw mine aunt there, my father's younger sister. I
23 saw her, I met her there.

24 Q. Thank you. Mr Witness, I'm going to go back and ask you
10:31:16 25 some more questions about the attack. Who was it that attacked
26 the people in the bush?

27 A. Well, it was the rebels at that time, because that was what
28 we used to call them. They were the ones who were there.

29 Q. How many persons attacked?

1 A. When I was in the bush I saw six of them.

2 Q. Were they armed?

3 A. Yes, they were armed. They had guns.

4 Q. What kind of guns?

10:31:51 5 A. Well, AKs and some other guns with chains on them.

6 Q. Were they men, or women, or mixed?

7 A. They were men, those whom I saw.

8 Q. The rebels/men that you saw, how were they dressed?

9 A. Some had combats, full combats on. Some others had combat
10:32:26 10 trousers and civilian clothes.

11 Q. What language or languages were the rebels speaking?

12 A. Well, some were speaking Mende. Some were speaking
13 Liberian English.

14 Q. Now, you talked about a man being caught and hot water
10:32:59 15 being poured over his head. How do you know the water was hot?

16 A. Well, that water was over the fire for them to cook rice.

17 Q. Do you know what happened to the man's head when the water
18 was poured on it?

19 A. Well, he had scars. He was injured. Up until now he is
10:33:30 20 still in our village. He had the wounds all over his head.

21 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, just for interest, this
22 attack, what time of the day did it take place, did he say?

23 MR KOUMJIAN:

24 Q. Sir, what time of day was it when the rebels attacked?

10:33:48 25 A. In the evening. In the evening, towards 7 o'clock.

26 Q. And you said that you saw this from where you were hiding.

27 Can you describe where it was that you were hiding, that you were
28 able to see what was happening?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. Tell us - describe the place that you were at hiding when
2 you saw these things happening?

3 A. Well, the place where we built the hut, it was an open
4 place.

10:34:37 5 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat his
6 answer slowly.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, again the interpreters are
8 having a problem hearing you. Can you repeat what you said? Do
9 you need the answer - excuse me, do you need the question
10:34:50 10 repeated?

11 THE WITNESS: I said I was in hiding close to the hut. The
12 place was dark, under the bushes, that was where I was lying
13 down. I used to see them but they were not seeing me. The place
14 where the hut was built was an open place.

10:35:17 15 MR KOUMJIAN:

16 Q. Sir, how many people did the rebels capture in that attack?
17 Can you give us an estimate?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. About how many people were there?

10:35:31 20 A. Well, those of us who were there, my mother and my father,
21 they were all captured, and my elder brothers. There were some
22 others, six people. They were all captured, those with whom we
23 were there.

24 Q. What about your sisters, the ones that were still alive?

10:35:57 25 A. They were all there at the time, but they were younger.

26 Q. Did the rebels capture them, or did they let them go?

27 A. They were all captured, together with my mother, and they
28 took them along.

29 Q. Now, how do you know where they took your family? You told

1 us that they took them to the barri. How do you know that?

2 A. Where I was when they took them, when they were taking them
3 to the town I was behind them going slowly.

10:36:51

4 Q. How - excuse me, in the place that the rebels attacked, did
5 they take anything from that place?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What was taken?

10:37:11

8 A. Our clothes, the rice we had and some other things. They
9 took all of them. All the little things that we had were taken
10 away.

11 Q. How did they transport these things?

12 A. Well, they put them on the heads of my father, mother and
13 my brother and the other people who were captured.

10:37:31

14 Q. You said your family was taken to a barri. Where was this
15 barri?

16 A. In Pakidu Town. That is where they were taken.

17 Q. After your family were taken to the barri, you said you
18 heard some noises in the bush?

19 A. Yes, where I was in hiding.

10:38:04

20 Q. And did you find someone you know?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Who did you find?

23 A. I met my aunt there; my father's younger sister.

24 Q. After you met your aunt, what happened?

10:38:18

25 A. When I met them that day in the bush, I explained to them
26 that father and others had been captured. Then she said that I
27 should sleep there. In the morning I came to the town to see if
28 they could release them. Early in the morning I came there, but
29 I did not find them there. I saw them going with loads on their

1 heads. Then I returned to them in the bush and told them that
2 they had taken my father and others away.

3 Q. Okay. Mr Witness, you said, "I saw them going with loads
4 on their head". Who was going with loads on their head?

10:39:08 5 A. Well, those who were captured. There were some rebels at
6 their back and some in front and they were in the middle, so I
7 was at the back of them and I saw them going. I looked at them
8 for a while and then returned into the bush to my aunt and
9 others.

10:39:29 10 Q. What direction was your family going in when you saw them
11 with the loads.

12 A. They were going towards Koidu Town.

13 Q. After you went back with your aunt, what did you do?

14 A. Well, when I went I stayed with them and we were there when
10:39:57 15 we heard that ECOMOG had come to Koidu. Then they said we should
16 come to Koidu.

17 Q. You said that, "We were there when we heard that ECOMOG had
18 come to Koidu", and then you said, "Then they said we should come
19 to Koidu". Who said that you should go to Koidu?

10:40:21 20 A. Well the elderly people who were there in the bush, because
21 there were many there. They were the ones who said all of us
22 should come to Koidu to ECOMOG.

23 Q. Mr Witness, do you know why it was that these people wanted
24 to go to ECOMOG?

10:40:45 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Can you explain that to us?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. Okay, please explain why it is that the people wanted to go
29 to ECOMOG.

1 A. Because they said they were the government soldiers who had
2 come there. It was at that time that we said we were going
3 there.

10:41:35 4 Q. Where did you actually go with these - excuse me, how many
5 people did you travel with then looking for ECOMOG?

6 A. Well we were many, because we left there at night.

7 Q. Where did you go?

8 A. We were going to Koidu. We travelled through the bush. In
9 the morning, we came to the main road.

10:42:00 10 Q. Do you recall seeing anything on that journey?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What did you see?

13 A. Well as we were coming in the morning from Yekeyor, between
14 Yekeyor and Dewadu we saw corpses on the way.

10:42:29 15 MR KOUMJIAN: Dewadu, your Honours, is spelt D-E-W-A-D-U:

16 Q. How many corpses do you recall seeing?

17 A. I saw two on the way when we were going.

18 Q. Can you describe them? Were they men, or women?

19 A. Well they were men, because when we met them they were
10:43:01 20 decomposing at the time by the side of the road. We didn't stand
21 to look at them properly. Then we ran away.

22 Q. Were they dressed in any uniform?

23 A. No, they were wearing civilian clothes.

24 Q. Were you able to find ECOMOG?

10:43:25 25 A. No.

26 Q. What happened?

27 A. Well, when we went they attacked us on the way and so
28 everybody went his or her separate ways. So, when I was going I
29 met one man called Pa Hassan and then I explained to him what had

1 happened to me and so the two of us were there in the bush.

2 Q. You said that, "They attacked us on the way". Who attacked
3 you?

10:44:09

4 A. Well it was the rebels, because when they came there they
5 attacked us, they shot guns and all of us went our separate ways.

6 Q. When you met this man called Pa Hassan - and the spelling
7 of Hassan is H-A-S-S-A-N - what happened?

10:44:44

8 A. So, on that day that I met him I explained to him what had
9 happened to him and I told him I had not seen my father and my
10 mother and I said I was the only person in the bush and he said
11 we should stay there.

12 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat his
13 answer again.

10:44:59

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause, please, Mr Witness. The
15 interpreter again is having trouble keeping up with you. You
16 must speak more slowly, please. So, I want you to pick up and
17 repeat your answer from where you said, "I said I was the only
18 person in the bush and he said we should stay there". Please
19 continue from that point.

10:45:22

20 THE WITNESS: So when I met this man called Pa Hassan, the
21 two of us were together. There came a time when we were there -
22 after a week together with him there came a time when the rebels
23 went there, three of them. When they went there, they were not
24 able to capture me. I ran away. The other said they should
25 shoot me and the other said, no, they should not shoot me. I ran
26 away and stood at a distance. They captured that man and they
27 asked him why I had run away. He told them that I was a
28 gentleman with whom he was there and they left him and they said
29 they would come the next day. On that day, we stayed in the

1 bush. I came to him later and he explained to me. Then I told
2 him that I would sleep there and early in the morning I will
3 leave for the bushes. Early that morning, as I was leaving for
4 my house, as I approached the house they captured me. They
10:46:35 5 captured us there and they asked us to sit down. That man was
6 tripped and he fell. They took out all the things that were
7 there. That was where we were and they took us and they brought
8 us.

9 Q. Mr Witness, I know it's not natural, but try to use the
10:47:03 10 name instead of "he" or "him". First, I have a few questions
11 about what you told us. When you stayed with Pa Hassan were you
12 outside in the bush, or were you in a house or a hut? What kind
13 of place was it?

14 A. Well, where the house was it had become a bush. It had
10:47:31 15 become a bush. It was a house that was incomplete. It became a
16 bush. It was in that incomplete house that we were.

17 Q. Okay. You said the rebels came, three of them, one day and
18 were not able to capture you, is that right? The first day?

19 A. Yes, when they came they were not able to capture me. I
10:48:02 20 ran away.

21 Q. Did they say anything to anyone before they left?

22 A. Yes, they left a message to the man.

23 Q. When you say "the man", can you say the name?

24 A. Yes, Pa Hassan.

10:48:24 25 Q. What did they tell Pa Hassan?

26 A. They said they would come for us in the morning. At that
27 time I was there I did not know that we were close to them. We
28 didn't know anything when we were in the bush.

29 Q. Mr Witness, you've told us what year you were born. At

1 that time were you the same size you are now?

2 A. No, I was not like that. I was very small at the time.

3 Q. Did you have any facial hair?

4 A. No, I had a picture that I took after the war.

10:49:32 5 Q. Sir, when the rebels gave the message to Pa Hassan, what
6 did you do?

7 A. Well on that day when I came he told me - I said, "Well, I
8 will sleep", and very early in the morning I left for the bushes,
9 because that is where I used to stay and I will come back in the
10:49:59 10 evening/ that is what I used to do. So I told him, we slept and
11 very early in the morning as I was going - as I was approaching
12 the house I was captured.

13 Q. Who captured you?

14 MR GRIFFITHS: Madam President, before we go any further,
10:50:11 15 the witness makes mention of a picture which might be of
16 assistance and I wondered whether it was available, or what the
17 situation was with that.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, there was a reference after
19 your question about facial hair.

10:50:27 20 MR KOUMJIAN:

21 Q. Sir, do you have that picture with you that you took after
22 the war?

23 A. Yes, my voter ID card.

24 Q. You have it with you now?

10:50:40 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Can we see it?

27 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the interpreter would like
28 to make a correction.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Interpreter, which correction?

1 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter said when the witness was
2 approaching the house. The actual interpretation should be,
3 "Just as I was leaving the house."

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Going rather than coming?

10:51:32 5 THE INTERPRETER: Yes. "Just as I was leaving the house
6 where I had slept."

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Counsel has heard that correction.

8 MR GRIFFITHS: There is a matter I would like to raise once
9 all the parties have had an opportunity of having a look at this
10 voter registration card, Madam President.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, Mr Griffiths, I think we have all
12 seen the card now.

13 MR GRIFFITHS: This particular document which the witness
14 has helpfully produced, Madam President, could have some
10:54:11 15 significance with regard to Article 4(c) of the statute of the
16 Court. Consequently - and it has not been reproduced for the
17 parties, so I wonder whether my learned friend would take the
18 responsibility of having it copied so it could be marked for
19 identification and become an exhibit in the proceedings?

10:54:42 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, you have heard the
21 application by Mr Griffiths?

22 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, I think if copying is done it
23 would be more appropriately done by the Court Officer at this
24 point and I don't have a problem with that. There is an issue
10:54:56 25 just about voter records being confidential. I don't know
26 whether they are or not in Sierra Leone, but we could deal with
27 that separately.

28 MR GRIFFITHS: This isn't a voter record, Madam President.
29 This is the identification card of a voter which is something

1 quite different.

2 Whilst I am on my feet can I also make mention of this: If
3 possible it would be helpful if the photocopying of that document
4 could be done in colour, because I anticipate that many of the
10:55:28 5 features of the witness will be lost if it's done purely in black
6 and white.

7 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, the witness said this was
8 taken after the war. Could we have a little more detail exactly
9 as to when?

10:55:49 10 MR KOUMJIAN:

11 Q. Mr Witness, do you recall first of all where it was that
12 you got this card?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Where were you?

10:56:03 15 A. Well, the war had ended in Freetown in 2002. That was when
16 I took it, during the elections.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: On the practical point raised by
18 Mr Griffiths on colour reproduction, I am afraid I don't know
19 what facilities are available to us. Is it possible to have it
10:56:33 20 copied in colour?

21 MS IRURA: Your Honours, Court Management does not have a
22 colour copier. We have to outsource the copying of the document.
23 I am not aware whether OTP have such a facility. They are
24 stating they don't, so we would have to outsource the copying.

10:56:52 25 MR KOUMJIAN: I believe we do have that facility. Excuse
26 me. They don't. One moment, please.

27 Yes, we have done it by going outside the OTP. We can give
28 the information to the Court about how that is done. Ms Hackler
29 would be the person to contact to get the information.

1 MS IRURA: Your Honour, we employ the same outsourcing
2 facility as OPT for the copying so we would be able to do that at
3 an appropriate time.

10:57:46

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you for that. I don't know where
5 the document is now in its journey around the Court.

6 MR KOU MJIAN: I believe the Court Management has it.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Proceed, Mr Koumjian.

8 MR KOU MJIAN: Thank you. Sorry, I am just trying to recall
9 where I was before we got to the photograph.

10:58:28

10 PRESIDING JUDGE: The witness was saying he was captured as
11 he left the house.

12 MR KOU MJIAN: Yes. Thank you:

13 Q. Were the people that captured you this day the same people
14 that had come the day before?

10:58:47

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. How many of them were there?

17 A. There were three in number.

18 Q. What exactly did they do to Pa Hassan?

10:59:10

19 A. At that time when he was captured, they swept him off his
20 feet and he fell down and he was sitting on the ground with me
21 and they took the things that were there.

22 Q. What kinds of things did they take?

23 A. There was a zinc. There was zinc there. Husk rice as
24 well.

10:59:31

25 Q. After you were captured, what happened to you?

26 A. Well, they captured us and brought us to where their boss
27 was at a place called Kissi Town. That was where we were
28 brought.

29 Q. Were the men that captured you --

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: We haven't actually determined that it
2 was men, Mr Koumjian.

3 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you:

4 Q. The persons that captured you, can you describe them?

11:00:06 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Please do so.

7 A. Well, at that time when we were captured they had on the
8 uniform trousers and the civilian clothes and they were carrying
9 guns. When they were talking they were speaking Liberian English
10 to us and they took us away.

11:00:29

11 Q. Were they men or women?

12 A. They were men.

13 Q. When you say they swept Pa Hassan off his feet, describe
14 what you mean?

11:00:47

15 A. They tripped him and he fell on the ground.

16 Q. And did they leave him on the ground or do anything to him?

17 A. Well, he was sitting there and they put me close to him and
18 they took those things that were there.

19 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, could we have some
20 description of this uniform? What is uniform trousers?

11:01:09

21 MR KOUMJIAN:

22 Q. Sir, when you say they had on uniform trousers, can you
23 describe what you mean?

24 A. Yes. A military uniform.

11:01:30

25 Q. What colour were the trousers?

26 A. Well, it was a combat. Black and green. It was mixed like
27 that.

28 Q. Were these - can you tell us anything about the age of
29 these men?

1 A. Well, I cannot tell their age, but they were youths. They
2 were not adults.

3 Q. Thank you. After they captured you and took the things
4 from the house, what happened?

11:02:17 5 A. Well, they took us from there. We took some of those
6 things and they took some and they brought us to Kissi Town to
7 their boss.

8 Q. When you say Kissi Town, what is Kissi Town?

9 A. It's a town. That was where they were based.

11:02:39 10 Q. How far is Kissi Town from Koidu Town?

11 A. It's a long distance.

12 Q. How long would it take to walk from Kissi Town to Koidu
13 Town?

11:03:08 14 A. Well, you wouldn't pass the night on the way. It's not
15 that long.

16 Q. Is Kissi Town along any road, or no?

17 A. It's on the main road.

18 Q. What does that road go between?

19 A. It goes to Guinea.

11:03:30 20 Q. And if you go in the other direction, where do you go? If
21 you leave Kissi Town and don't go towards Guinea, go away from
22 Guinea, where does it take you?

23 A. Those little villages around.

24 Q. Does that road ever go to Koidu Town?

11:03:56 25 A. Yes. It goes up to Koidu.

26 Q. Now, you said that was their camp. What did you see there
27 in Kissi Town?

28 A. Well, when they brought us there, there were many there.

29 There were many there in that town. That is where they brought

1 us.

2 Q. Many of what in the town? Were there civilians, soldiers?
3 What kind of people were there?

11:04:39

4 A. The rebels. There were many there and some civilians whom
5 they had captured. I saw them there.

6 Q. You said that they took you to their boss. Who was their
7 boss?

8 A. Wallace, they called him Major Wallace.

9 Q. Can you tell us, Major Wallace, what was his nationality?

11:05:11

10 A. Well, he was a Liberian.

11 Q. Was all his family Liberian, if you know?

12 A. Well I knew his mother, because I did not see his father.
13 I was told he was a Liberian, but he didn't tell me about his
14 father.

11:05:39

15 Q. Well, what was his mother? What was her nationality?

16 A. Liberian. She was a Liberian.

17 Q. What languages did Wallace speak?

11:06:14

18 A. Well he used to speak Krio and Liberian English and a tribe
19 in Liberia, but I did not hear that. They will be sitting
20 together whilst they spoke that, but when they spoke the Liberian
21 English I used to understand some of it.

22 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Interpreter, when you say, "He did not
23 hear that", do you mean "I did not understand the language"?

24 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honour.

11:06:34

25 THE WITNESS: Yes.

26 MR KOUMJIAN:

27 Q. How was it - I am sorry, did you want to say something
28 else?

29 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: The witness is agreeing with me.

1 MR KOUMJIAN: Oh, I see. Thank you. That is always a good
2 policy, Mr Witness:

3 Q. Sir, can you tell us whether Wallace was with any family?

4 A. He was together with his wife and their bodyguards.

11:07:09 5 Q. Now, at that time did you know what force Wallace was part
6 of?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. At that time what force did you consider him part of?

9 A. At that time they were there under Superman, the rebels.

11:07:37 10 Q. Did you later learn anything about Wallace's background?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did Wallace belong to any particular force?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What was the name of that force?

11:08:07 15 A. Well, later he told us that he was a ULIMO soldier.

16 Q. Okay. When he said he was ULIMO, did he say anything else
17 about what he was when he was with ULIMO?

18 A. Yes, he told me.

19 Q. What did he tell you?

11:08:34 20 A. He said at the time they were in Liberia as ULIMO soldiers.

21 Q. Did he say who his boss was in Liberia?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Who?

24 A. He said at the time they were under Colonel Kromah.

11:08:59 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, just before we proceed
26 further is the spelling of Wallace on the record the correct
27 spelling, because there is more than one spelling of that name?

28 MR KOUMJIAN: Wallace should be W-A-L-L-A-C-E.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please note that so it can be corrected.

1 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Also, Mr Koumjian, it would be helpful if
2 we knew when this witness was captured, he may not be able to
3 tell the time, but whether it was the rainy season, or the dry
4 season, and perhaps a bit more detail of the time.

11:09:38

5 MR KOUMJIAN:

6 Q. Mr Witness, when you were captured, do you know what time
7 of year it was?

8 A. It was during the rainy season. It had started raining.

11:10:01

9 Q. Now, you mentioned that Wallace said in Liberia he was
10 under Colonel Kromah. Do you remember the first name of Kromah?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What was his first name?

13 A. Well, later they used to say Alhaji Kromah. That was how
14 they used to call him.

11:10:26

15 Q. At the time in Kissi Town, who was Wallace's boss?

16 A. It was Superman.

17 Q. What did they do with you after you were captured?

11:10:58

18 A. Well, when I was captured I was with them. When they
19 brought us, Pa Hassan was released. As he was going I wanted to
20 go after him, but they told me not to go and that I should stay
21 with them. They said I was to become an SBO. That was what they
22 told me. So, I sat down there crying. We slept there and in the
23 morning they put somebody to go with me with a gun to accompany
24 me to fetch water. We used to fetch water. Sometimes they would
25 take out husk rice for us to pound. That was the kind of job I
26 was doing. Those domestic jobs.

27 Q. Did you ask to be allowed to find your family?

28 A. No, they did not allow me.

29 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, what is SBO?

1 MR KOUMJIAN:

2 Q. Sir, can you say again. They said they wanted you to
3 become a what? An SB --

4 A. They said I should be an SBU under them.

11:12:13 5 Q. Thank you. Do you know what SBU meant?

6 A. I did not know its meaning.

7 Q. Where did you sleep when - after you were captured?

8 A. Well those who captured me, I used to sleep in their house.

9 I would spread a mat on the floor and sleep on that mat and they
11:12:39 10 would sleep on the bed.

11 Q. Did anything happen in this room where you were sleeping,
12 or in this house where you were sleeping?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What happened?

11:12:54 15 A. Well, there came a time when they went on patrol. They
16 brought some women and some children. They brought them to the
17 house. Some were released and they slept with some during that
18 night. They raped them.

19 Q. Sir, when you say that "They went on patrol", who was it
11:13:17 20 that went on patrol and then brought some women and children?

21 A. Those who had captured me, they went and brought these
22 women.

23 Q. Did you learn the names of those that had captured you?

24 A. Yes.

11:13:38 25 Q. What were their names?

26 A. One was called Wuya, another Opong and then Alie.

27 MR KOUMJIAN: I will try to get the spellings. Alie is
28 A-L-I-E. Wuya - we will get spellings at the break, our best
29 efforts.

1 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Maybe the witness can spell?

2 MR KOUMJIAN:

3 Q. Can you spell the names, sir?

4 A. No.

11:14:35 5 Q. Now while you were there in Kissi Town, do you know if
6 there were any other camps that you became aware of?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What other camps did you become aware of?

9 A. Well, there was one that they called PC Ground and Banya
11:15:09 10 Ground.

11 Q. Where was first Banya Ground? Where was Banya Ground?

12 A. PC Ground was in far.

13 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, correction, at the back.
14 Beyond.

11:15:30 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, are we talking about Banya
16 Ground, or PC Ground? I am sorry, Mr Interpreter?

17 THE WITNESS: Well --

18 MR KOUMJIAN: Perhaps I can try, your Honour:

19 Q. Mr Witness, the Banya Ground was it on a road, or in the
11:15:56 20 bush?

21 A. All of them were on the main road.

22 Q. And this is the same road - is it on the same road that
23 Kissi Town was on, or a different road?

24 A. It was on that main road. All of them were on the main
11:16:21 25 road.

26 Q. Thank you. So if you are going from Koidu Town towards
27 Guinea, which camp do you come to first and which second and
28 which third if you go on that main road?

29 A. Well, if you were leaving Koidu you will first meet

1 Kissi Town, then you go to PC ground and then from there you go
2 to Banya Ground.

3 Q. Did these camps have the same commander, or different
4 commanders?

11:17:06 5 A. Well, they had different commanders.

6 Q. Who was the commander of Kissi Town?

7 A. It was Superman.

8 Q. Who was the commander of PC Ground?

9 A. General Issa.

11:17:26 10 Q. And who was the commander of Banya Ground?

11 A. Morris Kallon.

12 Q. Did you ever go to PC Ground, or past PC Ground?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Tell us what you saw.

11:18:06 15 A. Well, there came a time when Wallace went and took me to go
16 to PC Ground for some rice. As we were going, as we were
17 approaching the PC Ground, we saw - we met some rebels standing
18 there together with Issa. Then there were ten people who were
19 tied with a rope. They were standing at the side of the road. I
11:18:37 20 was afraid when I met them and then I pushed away a little.

21 Wallace and others - Wallace was talking there with Issa. After
22 they had finished talking, he met me and we went. As we were
23 getting into the town, we were going through a coffee farm when
24 we heard gunshots. As we were returning, those people whom I had
11:19:06 25 seen tied I saw them dead. Then we returned.

26 Q. How many people did you see tied?

27 A. Five.

28 Q. And when you came back, how many bodies did you see?

29 A. I saw the five of them lying on the ground.

1 JUDGE LUSSICK: I thought he said he saw ten people tied
2 with a rope.

3 MR KOUMJIAN: I am wondering whether that was correctly
4 interpreted.

11:19:45 5 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, that was the interpreter's
6 mistake.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause, Mr Witness, please.
8 Mr Interpreter, you said there was a mistake.

9 THE INTERPRETER: Yes.

11:19:52 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: What is that mistake?

11 THE INTERPRETER: Instead of ten it was five.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see.

13 THE WITNESS: I said five people were tied.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, thank you, Mr Witness. We are now
11:20:07 15 clear on that. That is what you did indeed say. Thank you.

16 MR KOUMJIAN:

17 Q. When you say they were tied, sir, describe what you mean?

18 A. They were tied with their hands at their back. Some were
19 not wearing clothes and some only had on pants. They were tied
11:20:29 20 with their hands at their back.

21 Q. Where was General Issa?

22 A. I met him standing there with a gun in his hand. He had a
23 pistol at the edge of the road. His bodyguards were all standing
24 there, close to them.

11:20:53 25 Q. How did you know that was General Issa?

26 A. Well at the time I was captured and I was with Wallace,
27 that was when they showed him to me. He used to come to
28 Kissi Town.

29 Q. Who showed him to you?

1 A. Alie, one of those who captured me.

2 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: The witness said, "His bodyguards were
3 all standing there close to them". Who is "them"?

4 MR KOUMJIAN:

11:21:22 5 Q. Mr Witness, when you saw General Issa you said you saw him
6 and his bodyguards were all standing there close to them. Who do
7 you mean when you say the bodyguards were standing close to them?

8 A. The rebels, they were standing around with guns in their
9 hands. They were surrounding those men.

11:21:52 10 Q. Which men were they surrounding?

11 A. Those people whom they had tied.

12 Q. How long after you walked away did you hear shots?

13 A. Well, it was not long because it was close to the town. It
14 was just as we were getting to the town we heard the sound of the
11:22:18 15 gun.

16 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you've also mentioned a Morris Kallon.
17 Did you ever see him?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Where did you see him?

11:22:45 20 A. It was at that time that I saw them. They were in
21 Kissi Town.

22 Q. Sorry, when you said that Alie showed you General Issa,
23 what did he say about General Issa?

24 A. Well, when I saw them sitting down in front of Superman's
11:23:10 25 house, there was a mango tree there under which they were
26 sitting. There were a lot of rebels surrounding them. They were
27 sitting down. Then I asked Alie who those people were and he
28 told me and then he started pointing at them. He said, "This one
29 sitting down is Issa. He is the boss of all of us here. He was

1 the one who was at the other camp". It was at that time that he
2 showed them to me, when they were sitting down there.

3 Q. When you say Issa was the boss of all of - I thought I
4 heard something else. The boss, who was Issa the boss of?

11:23:54 5 A. Well, they said he was their boss. All of them their boss
6 was Mosquito.

7 Q. Who was Superman's boss?

8 A. All of them were under him. They were all under Mosquito.

9 Q. Did you ever hear of anything happening in Issa Sesay's
11:24:24 10 camp which you said was PC ground?

11 A. Well those things that I knew about, except for those
12 people whom I saw being killed - whom I saw that they were killed
13 on that day.

14 Q. Okay. Now, you mentioned Morris Kallon. Did you ever hear
11:24:57 15 of anything happening with Morris Kallon that you witnessed?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Tell us what happened.

18 A. Well, when this thing happened it took a week. Then they
19 took us to go to one village. They said we were to go on patrol.
11:25:24 20 They took us there. They were going to kill a cow and so they

21 took us along. As we were approaching Banya Ground, we didn't go
22 into the town when we heard gunshots. Then we entered the town
23 and then we saw one man fighting and he was shot. Those whom we
24 met there, we asked them what had happened and they said it was
11:25:55 25 Morris Kallon who shot him. We asked what had happened and they
26 said - they said --

27 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat this
28 last one. It's not very audible.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, just pause for a moment,

1 please, as the interpreter did not hear you clearly for the last
2 part of your answer. Please pick up where you said, "They said
3 it was Morris Kallon who shot him and we asked what had
4 happened". Please continue from there.

11:26:37 5 THE WITNESS: As we were getting there, those people whom I
6 met standing there close to this corpse - at the time the man had
7 not died. He was fighting to die. He was struggling to die.
8 Then we asked and they said it was Morris Kallon who had shot him
9 and they said it was because they gave him a sheep and the sheep
11:27:02 10 ran away.

11 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, towards the end of his
12 answers he is not very clear in his answer.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: I have to ask you to pause again,
14 Mr Witness, because the interpreter says that when you are
11:27:15 15 answering towards the end of your answer you go quieter and he
16 cannot hear you properly. You've said, "The sheep ran away".
17 Continue from there, but when you speak keep speaking at the same
18 level of loudness.

19 THE WITNESS: I said the sheep - they said they had given
11:27:43 20 him the sheep for him to go and tie for the sheep to go and eat.
21 As he was coming with his sheep, he was dragging the sheep along
22 and the sheep fell and it was struggling and it died. They went
23 and told Morris Kallon this and when he came he shot the man. We
24 were on the way when we heard the gunshot and when we were coming
11:28:11 25 we saw this man struggling to die, but it was that fright that
26 was in me when we passed along to the house. We left that corpse
27 there.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, we have just been alerted to
29 the fact that we are just about up to time and so I trust that is

1 a convenient place to adjourn.

2 Mr Witness, we take a morning break of half-an-hour. We
3 are going to take that break now and we are going to start
4 re-hearing and continuing with your evidence at 12 o'clock. Do
11:28:48 5 you understand?

6 THE WITNESS: Okay.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please adjourn court until 12.

8 [Break taken at 11.30 a.m.]

9 [Upon resuming at 12.00 p.m.]

11:59:25 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: I note a change of appearance,
11 Mr Koumjian.

12 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, your Honours. For the Prosecution,
13 Brenda J Hollis has joined us and remains Alain Werner, Maja
14 Dimitrova and myself, Nicholas Koumjian.

11:59:41 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Please proceed, Mr Koumjian.

16 MR KOUMJIAN:

17 Q. Mr Witness, I'm going to continue asking you questions and
18 ask you to continue to try to speak as clearly as you can because
19 the interpreters who are sitting in another room have to hear
12:00:02 20 everything you say when you speak into the microphone. So also
21 speak slowly and if you give a longer answer, pause every once in
22 a while to allow them to catch up.

23 Sir, I want to go back to an answer you gave, and for
24 counsel and your Honours on my LiveNote this is page 45, line 19.

12:00:33 25 I was asking you about anything that happened in the house that
26 you were staying at after you were captured and taken to Wallace.
27 You said:

28 "Well, there came a time when they went on patrol. They
29 brought some women and some children. They brought them to the

1 house. Some were released and they slept with some during that
2 night. They raped them."

3 Sir, when you said "there came a time when they went on
4 patrol", who went on patrol?

12:01:14 5 A. Those who had captured me went on that patrol, the rebels.

6 Q. Can you say their names again, if you recall?

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: I only recall one name being mentioned.
8 Were there more than one?

9 MR KOUMJIAN:

12:01:31 10 Q. Can you say the names again?

11 A. Those who captured me and went on that patrol, they were
12 the ones who went. Alie, Wuya and Opong.

13 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, did the interpretation finish?

14 THE INTERPRETER: He is speaking over the witness so I did
12:01:56 15 not hear what he said.

16 MR KOUMJIAN:

17 Q. Sorry, I spoke over you. You said Alie, Wuya, which our
18 spelling through the interpreters is W-U-Y-A and Opong,
19 O-P-O-N-G. Did you say anyone else or did you say something
12:02:12 20 else, sir?

21 A. I said just the three of them. They went again on that
22 day.

23 Q. And you said that, "They brought some women and some
24 children. They brought them to the house." How many women and
12:02:33 25 children?

26 A. They brought four of them.

27 Q. How many were women and how many were children?

28 A. Well, all four of them - there was one child among --

29 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat his

1 answer more clearly.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter asks you to
3 repeat your answer; he did not hear you clearly. Please speak
4 clearly.

12:03:12 5 MR KOUMJIAN:

6 Q. So, Mr Witness, can you describe the people that were
7 brought back to the house?

8 A. They brought civilians on that day. They had captured them
9 from the bush.

12:03:31 10 Q. Were they all male or female or mixed?

11 A. Well, women met me on that day. They brought women. They
12 were carrying loads on their heads.

13 Q. How many women did you see?

14 A. Four of them. The fourth one, there was one who was
12:03:59 15 carrying a child, a young boy.

16 Q. How old - could you tell us anything about the age of the
17 women?

18 A. I can't tell their ages, but they were adults.

19 Q. And then what happened when the four women and the one
12:04:21 20 child were brought to the house?

21 A. Well, they released two; one of them carrying the child and
22 another woman, they released them and they went away.

23 Q. And what happened to the two that were not released?

24 A. The two of them slept there.

12:04:47 25 Q. Where did they sleep?

26 A. They slept with them in their room.

27 Q. Could you see or hear them?

28 A. I heard them crying at night.

29 Q. Did you understand anything they said when they were

1 crying?

2 A. She was saying, "Get off me. Get off me." That was how
3 she was crying at night.

4 Q. You said they slept in the room. Where did Alie, Wuya and
12:05:33 5 Opong sleep? You said the women slept in the room. Where did
6 Alie, Wuya and Opong sleep?

7 A. All of them slept in that room. All of them slept there on
8 that day.

9 Q. Thank you. Now I want to go back to another answer just
12:05:57 10 before the break. When you were talking about what you saw
11 involving Morris Kallon, you said on page 50 of my LiveNote
12 beginning on line 8, "Well, when this thing happened it took a
13 week." What did you mean when you say the thing with Morris
14 Kallon happened, it took a week?

12:06:29 15 A. Those people whom he killed there. Those people whom he
16 killed.

17 Q. Those people who who killed? Which people are you talking
18 about, sir?

19 A. That man whom he killed for that sheep.

12:06:48 20 Q. Well, when you said it happened it took a week, what did
21 you mean?

22 A. It took a week before they took us to go to Kailahun.

23 Q. Okay. So are you saying it was one week before you left
24 Kono?

12:07:12 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Then you went on and said, "Then they took us to go" and
27 you said something village and we did not yet understand it.
28 What village was it that you were talking about when you gave
29 this answer about going to kill a cow so they took us along?

1 A. We went - they took us - we went - they took us to go and
2 find food. They said they were going to kill a cow. When we
3 came from there, that was when they said Morris Kallon had killed
4 that man. We went to a village but I do not know the name of
12:07:55 5 that village.

6 Q. Where was this that you saw the man struggling to die?

7 A. Banya Ground.

8 Q. Mr Witness, do you know if the man did or did not die?

9 A. He died.

12:08:18 10 Q. How do you know?

11 A. Well, it was later that they told me, those who were coming
12 from there.

13 Q. Now, sir, you talked about three different camps. Were
14 civilians present in any of those camps, Banya Ground, PC Ground
12:08:43 15 or Kissi Town?

16 A. Well, rebels were there and civilians who were captured.

17 Q. The civilians that were captured, what did they do in the
18 camp?

19 A. Well, we were just there with them doing domestic chores.

12:09:13 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, you said at the camp and
21 he's also said three different camps.

22 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay, thank you:

23 Q. Were there civilians - in which of the camps were there
24 civilians, Mr Witness? You've mentioned three camps.

12:09:30 25 A. Well, in all of those camps there were civilians with them.

26 Q. Okay, thank you. And what was it that the civilians would
27 do in the camp? You said domestic chores; can you tell us what
28 you mean by that?

29 A. Where I was - where I was the civilians whom I saw there,

1 some used to pound husk rice in the morning, some used to fetch
2 water and when we went to fetch water we would go with them and
3 we would meet with some on the way. We were just doing domestic
4 chores around.

12:10:22 5 Q. The civilians that were there, were they men or women or
6 mixed?

7 A. Women and men.

8 Q. Were there more women or more men or was it about equal?

9 A. Men - the men were many.

12:10:47 10 Q. Where did the civilians sleep?

11 A. Well, if you were captured the person who would capture you
12 would - you would be staying with that person.

13 Q. Where did the women that were captured sleep, if you know?

14 A. I can't know because I didn't go to everybody's house.

12:11:15 15 Everybody was in his or her own place.

16 Q. Okay, thank you. Now, Mr Witness, you have mentioned
17 something about Kailahun just a few moments ago. Did something
18 happen that led you to leave Kono?

19 A. Yes.

12:11:46 20 Q. Can you tell us what it was that occurred?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Please tell us how it first happened that you left Kono.

23 A. Well, when we were in Kissi Town when I was captured, at
24 the time that I was with Wallace, there came a time when an
12:12:17 25 announcement was made. Somebody came from PC Ground and made an
26 announcement one evening. They said Issa had sent a message:
27 All those who had been captured, if you knew that you had been
28 captured, they said they wanted to see all of us in the morning
29 at PC Ground. So that morning they assembled all of us. Then

1 Wallace said I should go. I should go to find out what it was.
2 They said if anybody did not go, if it was found out later you,
3 whom they would find out, if you are a civilian they will kill
4 you. It was at that time that Wallace said I should go.

12:13:03 5 So we went and they assembled us. When they assembled us
6 in Kissi Town they accompanied us at - to PC Ground. When we
7 went there we also met some people who had been assembled in the
8 bush. That was where we assembled again.

9 Q. Well, where was it that you all assembled?

12:13:32 10 A. PC Ground.

11 Q. Can you give us any estimate of how many people there were
12 there at that meeting?

13 A. Well, those of us whom they took along, we were many. We
14 were more than 200, those who were there - those of us who were
12:13:57 15 there in the bush.

16 Q. What happened once you were all assembled at PC Ground?

17 A. Well, when they assembled us there, Issa, Morris Kallon -
18 Issa said, all those of you who have come, he said Mosquito had
19 sent a message that he would want to send all of you to Kailahun
12:14:25 20 for training. It was at that time when he finished speaking then
21 they started screening us. Whoever was selected would stand in a
22 queue. When you were selected you would stand in a queue. That
23 was what they did, and on that day we moved.

24 Q. Who was selecting people?

12:14:48 25 A. Morris Kallon. It was he who was selecting people.

26 Q. The people that came and assembled at PC Ground, were they
27 men or women?

28 A. There were women and there were men.

29 Q. Who were the people that were selected? Did they have

1 anything in common?

2 A. I have not understood that question properly.

3 Q. Thank you; I'll try to make it clearer, I'm sorry. What
4 kind of people were selected?

12:15:40 5 A. Well, I cannot make a distinction. They were just
6 selecting people.

7 Q. Did they select both men and women?

8 A. Yes, they selected women and men.

9 Q. And what were the ages in comparison to you of the people
12:16:10 10 selected, can you tell us?

11 A. Well, at that time there were some who were adults. We
12 were there as well, the children, but we too were many. They
13 assembled us. There were adults and there were children.

14 Q. About how many were selected?

12:16:44 15 A. Well, we were more than 200.

16 Q. What happened after - well, first of all, were you
17 selected?

18 A. Yes, I was selected.

19 Q. And what happened to those of you that were selected?

12:17:08 20 A. Well, after they had selected us we queued and we moved
21 that evening.

22 Q. Did anyone say whether or not you had a choice to go?

23 A. They wouldn't say. Everybody was afraid because we were
24 under gunpoint at the time. They said if anybody refused to go
12:17:37 25 they would kill him.

26 Q. You said, "We moved that evening." Where did you go?

27 A. To go to Kailahun.

28 Q. How did you travel?

29 A. We went to the dumper road, the main road, we used the bush

1 road to go.

2 Q. Were you in vehicles?

3 A. No, we walked.

4 Q. Who went besides the people selected?

12:18:24 5 A. Well, there were some rebels. Some of them at our back,
6 some in front and some at our sides as we went along.

7 Q. How long did you walk for?

8 A. We spent three weeks on the way.

9 Q. Mr Witness, at that time did you know Kailahun?

12:18:56 10 A. No, I had not gone there.

11 Q. Had you ever left Kono before that time?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Can you describe the place that you went to in Kailahun?

14 A. Well, when we went we reached a place called Buedu but we
12:19:24 15 did not enter the town, we used a bypass in the bush. That was
16 where the training place was and that was where we were taken in
17 the bush, an open place.

18 Q. What did this place look like? Did it have any structures
19 or any equipment?

12:19:48 20 A. There were huts there that were built, but it was an open
21 place.

22 Q. What happened when you arrived at this space?

23 A. Well, when we got there in the evening, when we got there
24 we slept. In the morning Mosquito came and some other people,
12:20:18 25 his bodyguards, they were with him. They introduced us and they
26 said the training was to start the following morning. He said
27 when they would have trained us they would bring us back to Kono
28 to clear Kono. Then they identified one woman who was to train
29 us; she was called Monica.

1 Q. Mr Witness, you said Mosquito came. Can you describe what
2 Mosquito looked like?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Please describe him.

12:21:04 5 A. He was slim, black and tall. His head - he had a long head
6 and he was accustomed to wearing spectacles, dark ones.

7 Q. Now, you said that a woman was identified to train us, she
8 was called Monica. Did you see the woman that day that Mosquito
9 came?

12:21:48 10 A. Yes, they came together with that woman and he introduced
11 her to us.

12 Q. Do you know the nationality of Monica?

13 A. Well, at the time she used to speak Liberian English to us.

14 Q. Mr Witness, do you know - did you ever learn a name for

12:22:11 15 Mosquito other than Mosquito?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And what was his name?

18 A. They used to call him Master.

19 Q. Did you ever hear any other name for Mosquito?

12:22:42 20 A. No, that was the name we used to hear them call him,
21 Master, Master.

22 Q. Thank you. Mr Witness, when you had this big meeting at PC
23 Ground before going to Kailahun what season was it?

24 A. It was the rainy season. It used to rain. It had started
12:23:17 25 raining.

26 Q. When you got to this camp did you go through training?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. How long did the training last?

29 A. We spent two months there.

1 Q. Can you tell us what were you - what did the training
2 consist of? Let me rephrase it to try and make it clearer. What
3 did they teach you in the training?

4 A. Well, when we went on that day, in the morning, we started
12:24:03 5 jogging in the morning. There was a place where we used to stop.
6 It is a long distance. Every morning we did that. When we came
7 there were some trainings. They taught us how you were to crawl
8 on the ground when you were going on an ambush, how to shoot.
9 They used to teach us that.

12:24:29 10 Q. What did they teach you about how to shoot?

11 A. Well, they were illustrating it with a stick and later they
12 started giving us guns.

13 Q. What kind of guns were you trained with?

14 A. AK-47.

12:24:55 15 Q. What did they teach you about the gun?

16 A. They taught us how to dismantle it and when you dismantled
17 it they will give you a time as to how to assemble it.

18 Q. Did they teach you anything else about the gun?

19 A. And shooting it. That was what we were taught.

12:25:27 20 Q. Were you given any training in cleaning the gun?

21 A. Yes, they taught us that too.

22 Q. What did they teach you about how to clean the gun?

23 A. Well, they used to come with some oil. When you dismantled
24 it you would rub the oil wherever it should be rubbed and after
12:25:57 25 that you assembled it.

26 Q. What else did they teach you?

27 A. They trained us how to attack a town; how to attack a
28 house, that was how to burn a house; how to take over a town.
29 That was what we were taught.

1 Q. Okay, thank you. Explain to us what they taught you about
2 how to take over a town?

3 A. Well, when they used to take us, because those houses in
4 which we used to sleep, we illustrated on them. Sometimes we
12:26:46 5 were divided in three groups; some would go this way, some would
6 go the other way and some would go straight. That was how we
7 were divided. As to how to attack a town, some people would come
8 from this end and the others from this other end and the others
9 from the other end.

12:27:03 10 Q. What were you taught about how to burn a house?

11 A. Well, on that day they assembled us, we were all sitting
12 down in a circle. Then this woman started showing us how to burn
13 down houses. She said if you did not have petrol, if there is a
14 match that is what they would put on the house and torch that to
12:27:35 15 fire. She said the house would burn down.

16 Q. Who was the woman that taught you that?

17 A. Monica.

18 Q. How were you treated, you and the others, during the
19 training?

12:27:55 20 A. We were not treated well. They used to beat us up.
21 Sometimes even to have food was a problem. Sometimes just a
22 spoonful, they would put it - they would give you each and in the
23 evening they did the same thing.

24 Q. What were you beaten with?

12:28:18 25 A. A cane. They had it.

26 Q. Did you get any injuries when you were being trained?

27 A. My knees. Scars were on my knees.

28 Q. Do you have scars now?

29 A. Yes, the scab is there on my knee, on my foot.

1 Q. If you - I don't know if you can lift your pants leg to
2 show us? Is that possible with the pants you're wearing now, or
3 no?

4 A. Yes, if they agree I can show it.

12:29:15 5 MR KOU MJIAN: Your Honours, may I ask the witness to roll
6 up his pants leg and show his lower leg?

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: He did say both knee and foot so I'm not
8 sure which one it is. Mr Witness, are you able to maybe stand up
9 and step out of where you are so that everyone can see, the
10 lawyers on this side and the lawyers on the other side. Can you
11 come a little forward. That's it.

12 Mr Witness, we're having a little trouble seeing. Maybe if
13 you took off your headphones and walked up closer to where the
14 lawyers are, first on that side and then on the next side.

12:30:37 15 Mr Koumjian, have you seen this?

16 MR KOU MJIAN: Yes. I think it's difficult to see from a
17 distance.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Turn and face us now and point out what
19 you had just been pointing out to the lawyers. Also point it out
12:30:58 20 to us.

21 MR KOU MJIAN: He's not getting the interpretation. Perhaps
22 the headset could be put on him. He's not getting your Honour's
23 instructions.

24 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, did you see any scars?

12:31:16 25 MR KOU MJIAN: I did when I was much closer to him. I can't
26 from this distance.

27 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I certainly didn't see the scars.
28 Perhaps they were there, but I didn't see them.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: For purposes of record I will note that

1 the witness stood up, left the witness stand into a more open
2 part of the Court and indicated between his knee and the other
3 shin. However, it wasn't clear what exactly was being shown.

12:31:50

4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Interpreter, did the witness say he
5 was injured in his foot or his leg?

6 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, he first said his knee,
7 then he said his foot. But in our traditional languages the
8 concept of foot describes the - could be part of the leg.

9 MR KOUMJIAN:

12:32:22

10 Q. Sir, I'm going to ask you to just keep your headphones on
11 and just please stand up and point to where you have scars. You
12 don't even have to roll your pants up if you don't need to. Can
13 you point to where on your body the scars are? You can walk
14 forward.

12:32:50

15 A. This is one of them. This is one of them.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Now, can you please walk up to where
17 counsel are and show those marks also.

18 Counsel, I want to agree the record. I noted a round mark
19 on the lower shin. What did counsel note?

12:33:46

20 MR GRIFFITHS: I had real difficulty noticing anything,
21 your Honour. Maybe it's just my eyesight.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: It wasn't very pronounced. This is
23 clear.

12:34:03

24 MR KOUMJIAN: What I propose - what I saw is that the
25 witness has a couple areas where the pigment is much lighter than
26 his surrounding skin that he pointed to.

27 JUDGE LUSSICK: I saw that too, Mr Koumjian. That was on
28 the right shin --

29 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes.

1 JUDGE LUSSICK: -- but I didn't see anything on the left
2 shin at all.

3 THE WITNESS: I want to use the gents.

12:34:30

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please assist the witness to leave the
5 Court.

6 [In the absence of the witness]

7 MR KOU MJIAN: Just to answer Justice Lussick's point, I was
8 not able to see the left leg because of the angle he was standing
9 at to me.

12:38:03

10 [In the presence of the witness]

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed, Mr Koumjian.

12:38:36

12 MR KOU MJIAN: Your Honours, it's my belief that to describe
13 these I would have to see this much closer rather than several
14 metres away and we all would. I don't think it's something we
15 could see from several metres distance. I would ask that the
16 witness approach and I can attempt a description and then counsel
17 can say whether he agrees or not and he can also approach Defence
18 counsel.

12:38:51

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Counsel obviously is entitled to see it
20 and I'm not - I don't know that the witness could get an awful
21 lot closer to Mr Griffiths. He certainly could be closer to you
22 and the record would have to be agreed.

12:39:15

23 MR GRI FFITHS: Madam President, I'm not sure that I'm happy
24 with the suggested procedure for the simple reason that
25 observation is such a subjective matter, particularly in an
26 instance like this where there are potential disputes as to what
27 is actually there, and perhaps the best way of resolving this is
28 for example for the witness's legs to be photographed so that a
29 permanent record is available. Thereafter everyone can make

1 their own assessment as to what can be shown, rather than
2 Mr Koumjian give his own subjective assessment as to what he can
3 see.

12:39:53

4 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, my concern is I know that
5 photographs often do not pick up distinctions in colour - small
6 distinctions in colour. Actually what I would prefer is that
7 your Honours look at this much closer and make your own
8 determination, but I recognise a difference between --

12:40:13

9 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, could perhaps the Court
10 Officer look at these marks and try to describe what she sees.

11 JUDGE LUSSICK: Well, my observation is on record.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, could you come out again and
13 come a little bit closer to the judges please.

14 [Trial Chamber conferred]

12:42:29

15 The judges have looked and seen the following: there are
16 two scars on the right leg both roundish, one below the knee on
17 the shinbone and one closer to the ankle on the shinbone, and
18 there is approximately a two inch line of discolouration on the
19 shinbone of the left leg.

12:42:55

20 MR KOUMJIAN:

21 Q. Mr Witness, do you know if medication was available to
22 those of you undergoing training?

23 A. They were not giving us medicines. Even the injury that I
24 have, it was my colleagues who had some leaves that they put
25 there.

12:43:20

26 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, it's not clear how these
27 injuries that he was describing got to him.

28 MR KOUMJIAN:

29 Q. Sir, the injuries that you showed the judges, how did you

1 get those?

2 A. Well the training that we were undergoing, crawling on the
3 floor - crawling on the ground, the shrubs, the roots that were
4 there used to pierce us and bruise us on our feet.

12:43:59 5 MR KOUMJIAN: Again, I would just ask if the interpretation
6 "feet" includes lower leg as previously stated in Kono? That's a
7 question for the interpreter actually. The interpretation was
8 "foot" and previously it was explained that that could include
9 the lower leg.

12:44:21 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Did you wish the interpreter to answer
11 that? Mr Interpreter, a question has come from counsel as to the
12 word used and whether the word used meant foot, or as you
13 originally indicated it could mean leg.

14 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, like I had originally indicated,
12:44:39 15 your Honour.

16 MR KOUMJIAN:

17 Q. Mr Witness, did everyone survive the training?

18 A. One person died. One man died.

19 Q. What happened to the man that died, do you know?

12:45:00 20 A. He fell ill.

21 Q. Sir, what happened at the end of the training?

22 A. The day that we finished, it was at that time that they
23 assembled us. Then Mosquito came again, we were standing there
24 and it was not long when a vehicle came - two vehicles. They
12:45:42 25 brought them - brought them with guns. It was at that time that
26 he told us that --

27 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat his
28 answer more audibly.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, please pause because the

1 interpreter cannot hear you clearly. He would like you to speak
2 more loudly and pick up your answer from the point where you
3 said, "At that time he told us that --" Continue from there.

4 THE WITNESS: At that time I said Mosquito - when we
12:46:25 5 finished the training, Mosquito came again. He assembled all of
6 us. We were lined up. It was not long that two vehicles came.
7 They brought guns. At that time they started distributing the
8 guns. When they finished distributing the guns, then they said
9 those of us who've been trained there we would be going back to
12:46:53 10 Kono to go and clear there. It was - that was what he said at
11 that meeting on that day.

12 MR KOUMJIAN:

13 Q. Okay. Mr Witness, who said that you would be going to Kono
14 to clear there?

12:47:14 15 A. Mosquito.

16 Q. You said that you were assembled and all of you were lined
17 up. Can you describe how you were lined up?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Tell us was it one line, or more than one line?

12:47:42 20 A. It was more than one line. The adults were in two long
21 lines and the children were in two long lines and the women too.
22 That was how we were standing in the lines.

23 Q. When you say "the children", what ages are you talking
24 about, or how old were they in comparison to you?

12:48:12 25 A. Well, some were tall. There were some others with whom I
26 had the same height. I did not actually ask about ages. I
27 didn't ask any one of my colleagues for his age.

28 Q. Now, you said that two vehicles came. Was anyone in the
29 vehicles?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Who was inside the vehicles?

3 A. Well, soldiers came. I saw them dressed in uniform.

4 Q. Was this the first time you saw these particular soldiers?

12:49:14 5 A. Those who brought the guns, I used to see some who used to
6 come. Those who brought the guns, that was the time I saw them.

7 Q. Okay, let me try to clarify that. First the people that
8 brought the guns, can you describe how they were dressed?

9 A. Yes.

12:49:38 10 Q. How were they dressed?

11 A. Well, they had on red caps and combats. They had - they
12 were well dressed and they had a muffler round their necks.

13 Q. When you say a red cap, can you describe that?

14 A. Yes, military trousers.

12:50:16 15 THE INTERPRETER: Correction, military hats. Military cap.
16 MR KOUJIAN:

17 Q. Did anyone tell you who these soldiers were?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Who told you?

12:50:32 20 A. There was one rebel who was standing close to me at the
21 time that we were standing in the line, because we met them
22 there, so I asked him - I asked him about the soldiers who had
23 come and he said they were Charles Taylor's soldiers.

24 Q. Did you hear any of these men with the red caps on speak?

12:51:06 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. What language did they speak?

27 A. They were speaking Liberian English.

28 Q. Now you said that weapons were distributed. Can you tell
29 us - first can you describe the weapons that were distributed?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Describe them, please.

3 A. They brought AKs, RPG bombs, mortar and those guns that had
4 chains, those big guns that had chains, they brought them on that
12:52:02 5 day.

6 Q. Where did the weapons come from? Did you see how they got
7 there?

8 A. Well, they had come from the town. They had come from the
9 town to where we were in the bush.

12:52:22 10 Q. Who brought the weapons, if you know?

11 A. Well, those soldiers whom I saw were the ones who were in
12 the vehicle. They were the ones who were driving the vehicles
13 when they came.

14 Q. Just so we're clear, these soldiers that were driving the
12:52:42 15 vehicles, are they the same as the ones you described with the
16 red hats - caps?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. When you say they came from the town, do you know what town
19 they came from?

12:53:04 20 A. Well, the place where we were, they said it was Buedu, it
21 had come from that end.

22 Q. Were the guns, the AK-47s, were they new or old?

23 A. There were new ones and old ones.

24 Q. How were they distributed?

12:53:31 25 A. Well, they started with the adults. Up to the time that
26 they - by the time they got to us the new ones had finished, so
27 they gave us the old ones.

28 Q. Did you receive a weapon that day?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. What kind of weapon?

2 A. They gave me AK.

3 Q. Did you receive any ammunition?

4 A. At that time they did not distribute the bullets. They
12:54:12 5 said it was not enough.

6 Q. After the weapons were distributed, what happened then?

7 A. After they had distributed the guns Mosquito said we were
8 going back to Kono, to go and clear there. On that day we slept
9 there. Very early in the morning we left.

12:54:46 10 Q. When you left where did you go?

11 A. We went through the bush path that we had used to go to
12 Kono.

13 Q. Where did you stop eventually?

14 A. Well, when we moved we passed the night in one village.

12:55:14 15 Q. Did you arrive - did you get to Kono?

16 A. Yes, we got to Kono.

17 Q. Where did you go in Kono?

18 A. We went back to PC Ground.

19 Q. How did you travel, in vehicles or on foot?

12:55:37 20 A. We walked on foot to go.

21 Q. About how long did it take for you to get back to PC
22 Ground?

23 A. We spent three weeks six days.

24 Q. When you got back to PC Ground what season was it?

12:56:08 25 A. Rainy season.

26 Q. What happened when you arrived back at PC Ground? Excuse
27 me, let me ask you another question. When you travelled who went
28 with you to Kono?

29 A. Well, before we could go they provided some rebels to

1 accompany us.

2 Q. So were these people that had not trained with you?

3 A. No, we met them there.

4 Q. About how many of these rebels joined you and the other

12:56:56 5 recruits - the other trainees?

6 A. I did not do a head count but they were many, those with
7 whom we went.

8 Q. Who led your group? Who commanded the group that went back
9 to Kono, if you know, on the way?

12:57:23 10 A. Well, those who went with us, there was one man among them
11 called Blood.

12 Q. Was Mosquito or General Issa with you on that trip?

13 A. No, I did not see them there.

14 Q. What happened once you arrived back at PC Ground?

12:57:51 15 A. Well, when we got to PC Ground we slept. In the morning
16 Issa assembled us and they said when we sleep, the following
17 morning we should attack the town. So that day they showed the
18 operation that they were taking along. They said Operation No
19 Living Thing. That was what it was called.

12:58:35 20 Q. Okay. When you got to PC Ground did you see General Issa?

21 A. Yes, he was there. We met him there.

22 Q. Who said that it was Operation No Living Thing?

23 A. Issa said so.

24 Q. So when they said that the following morning you would

12:59:03 25 attack the town, what town were they speaking of?

26 A. They said Koidu Town.

27 Q. What did you do after hearing that?

28 A. So when they said on that day - said that on that day - I

29 was frightened, because I was not used to fighting, so I hid that

1 evening.

2 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he repeat where he went
3 to.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please pause, Mr Witness. The
12:59:46 5 interpreter asks you to repeat the name of the place that you
6 went to.

7 THE WITNESS: Kissi Town.

8 MR KOUMJIAN:

9 Q. How did you go from PC Ground to Kissi Town?

13:00:07 10 A. I hid. I escaped and went there.

11 Q. Did you go by vehicle or on foot?

12 A. I walked.

13 Q. Mr Witness, you might try, if you could, moving your chair
14 a little closer to the microphone. It will make it easier for
13:00:28 15 the interpreters to hear you. When you got to Kissi Town - first
16 of all, sorry, when you went to Kissi Town what did you do with
17 your gun?

18 A. Well, when I went I explained to Wallace that I am not used
19 to fighting and that I was afraid. Then I gave him the gun and
13:01:05 20 he took it and he said - he said, "Go into the room, you are not
21 going anywhere." On that day I was in the house when they were
22 passing by to go on the attack.

23 Q. Did Wallace go on the attack?

24 A. Yes.

13:01:36 25 Q. Before you went for the training you said you lived with
26 Wallace. Did Wallace have any family in the house?

27 A. Yes, his wife was there.

28 Q. And what was your relationship with his wife?

29 A. Well, it was a good relationship. I was there with them.

1 Q. What was the nationality of Wallace's wife?

2 A. She was a Sierra Leonean, Temne by tribe.

3 Q. You said that in the house, you were there when they were
4 passing by to go on the attack. What did you see from the house
13:02:28 5 as far as people passing by to go on the attack?

6 A. Well, I was in the house. The house is close to the road.
7 I was there in hiding when I saw them passing by. At the time,
8 it was raining that evening. I saw Issa, Morris Kallon and
9 Augustine Gbao, they were sitting in a vehicle as they passed.

13:03:08 10 They stopped in Kissi Town. Together with Superman they boarded
11 the vehicle and went. The rest were walking on foot as they
12 went.

13 Q. You said you did not participate in the attack. Did you
14 learn if the attack was successful or not?

13:03:40 15 A. Well, they were not able.

16 Q. Who told you that?

17 A. Wallace told me and I was there when they brought some
18 people who'd been wounded.

19 Q. Just so we're clear, Mr Witness, who was fighting against
13:04:02 20 who in that battle?

21 A. The rebels used to attack ECOMOG.

22 Q. After that attack what did you do?

23 A. After the attack I was there with Wallace. After I had
24 explained to him that I had lost all my people, then he said I
13:04:43 25 shouldn't be afraid, I should stay with him and he will help me
26 to find my people. So he gave me the confidence to stay there,
27 because I had nowhere to go then. So I was with him up to a time
28 when we moved from there and went to Kurubonla.

29 Q. When you were with Wallace after returning from the

1 training what was your job then?

2 A. Well, when I came to him I used to launder his clothes.
3 When his wife is cooking I would be close to her, helping her to
4 do the job.

13:05:41 5 Q. Did you ever get your gun back?

6 A. Well when I gave it to him, when we were moving out he gave
7 it to me to take it so that we can go.

8 Q. Who was Wallace's commander at that time?

9 A. Well, at that time he was under Superman.

13:06:12 10 Q. Do you know who Superman's commander was?

11 A. Well, at that time they were taking orders from Mosquito.

12 Q. Did you learn of any conflict between Mosquito and Superman
13 at that time?

14 A. Yes.

13:06:42 15 Q. What did you hear?

16 A. Well, after that attack, we were in Kissi Town when a time
17 came when a news came that Issa had come to Superman at Kissi
18 Town. He said Mosquito said he wanted to see him and his wife.
19 He said he wanted to see him in Kailahun. So at that time he did
13:07:15 20 not go, so the following morning he called a meeting. He said he
21 was moving, whoever was ready to go, and it was in the evening
22 that we moved and we slept at Tombodu.

23 Q. Mr Witness, you mentioned Superman's wife. Did you see
24 that person - that woman?

13:07:53 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Who was this woman? Can you describe her?

27 A. Yes, she was fair in complexion. She looked like a
28 half-caste. Sometimes when we were going they took her in a
29 hammock.

1 Q. Do you know what the argument was between Mosquito and
2 Superman; what it was about?

3 A. Well that was the news we heard, so in the morning Superman
4 called the meeting and then we left.

13:08:43 5 Q. Before we go to the meeting, just one more question about
6 this woman. You said she looked half-caste. What do you mean by
7 that?

8 A. She was fair in complexion like a white man.

9 Q. When Superman called the meeting, did you go to that
13:09:07 10 meeting?

11 A. Yes, we were standing there together with Wallace.

12 Q. What did Superman say?

13 A. What he said was that he was moving. He said he was unable
14 to stay there. He said whoever was ready - whoever was ready to
13:09:33 15 move should go. It was in the evening that we left. We slept at
16 Tombodu.

17 Q. Who went with Superman?

18 A. The rebels who were there, all of them moved at the time.

19 Q. When you say the rebels that were there, the rebels that
13:10:01 20 were where went with Superman?

21 A. Yes, there in Kissi Town.

22 Q. How did you travel to Tombodu?

23 A. Well, we bypassed Koidu Town and surfaced at Tombodu. We
24 met Savage there. We slept there.

13:10:38 25 Q. Was this the first time that you had seen the person you
26 just called Savage?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. Who was he?

29 A. Well, he was an SLA.

1 Q. What did you hear about him when you were there in Tombodu?

2 A. Well, when we got there in the night some of the people,
3 the boys we met there, that night we were sitting together and
4 one boy started saying, "This man kills people too much", and he
13:11:27 5 said that there was one pit there where they killed people and
6 dumped them there. He said every morning one person will be
7 killed. So, that morning we went towards the pit and I saw. I
8 saw some corpses floating. They had been decomposed. That day I
9 was afraid and I went to Wallace. I was reluctant to be moving
13:12:03 10 about until the time we left.

11 Q. You said, "The boy started saying, 'This man kills people
12 too much' ". Who was this boy? Was he a civilian, or a soldier?

13 A. He was a civilian. He too had been captured. That was
14 what he told me. He was there with them.

13:12:30 15 Q. And when he said, "This man kills people too much", who did
16 you understand him to mean when he said "this man"?

17 A. He said Savage.

18 Q. What happened - what did Superman do in Tombodu, if you
19 know?

13:13:02 20 A. Well, we slept there that day and in the morning they
21 called a meeting and all of us came together. Then he explained
22 what had happened where we had come from in Kono. Then Savage
23 said that he too was ready to move. Then all of us moved from
24 there that evening, because normally we walked in the night
13:13:32 25 because of the jet. We did not walk during the day.

26 Q. So we're clear, did Savage go with you?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. Did --

29 MR GRIFFITHS: I wonder if I could interrupt, Madam

1 President, just to ask this. I've been waiting patiently to see
2 if we would get some kind of a time frame as to when this move
3 took place from Kissi to Tombodu. It appears that we're waiting
4 in vain, unless of course Mr Koumjian asks a question of the
13:14:06 5 witness which might clarify that.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, there has been some lapse of
7 time and exactly how much lapse of time is not entirely clear.

8 MR KOUMJIAN:

9 Q. Mr Witness, how long after the attack that was

13:14:26 10 unsuccessful, No Living Thing, did you leave Kissi Town?

11 A. Well the day we left Kailahun, it was at that time that
12 that operation was declared.

13 Q. I'm not sure, Mr Witness, if you understood my question, or
14 maybe the interpreter didn't. Let me try again. You talked
13:14:55 15 about hiding in Wallace's house when an attack took place on
16 Koidu Town, in that attack the rebels were not successful and
17 then you've talked about Superman leaving and going to Tombodu.
18 Can you tell us how much time there was between the attack that
19 you did not take part in and when Superman left Kissi Town?

13:15:39 20 A. It was up to a week before we left. After the week - after
21 the attack it was after a week.

22 Q. Was it - what time of year was it? What season was it when
23 you left?

24 A. It was the rainy season, but it was not raining much. It
13:16:05 25 used to rain once in a while, not every day.

26 Q. Thank you. Now after you left Tombodu, where did you go?

27 A. When we left Tombodu we went to Kurubonla.

28 Q. When you went - you said Savage came. Did any soldiers -
29 did Savage bring any soldiers with him?

1 A. Yes, there were soldiers there.

2 Q. When the group of you went to Kurubonla did you all travel
3 together, or was the group divided in any way?

4 A. They were divided into three places.

13:17:07 5 Q. Was one group ahead of the other group?

6 A. They were divided. The first group was there, the advanced
7 team. It was led by Savage. We were in the middle team.

8 Q. When you travelled to Kurubonla, how long did it take for
9 you to arrive in Kurubonla approximately?

13:17:43 10 A. I can't tell, but we took some time on the way. We took
11 some time on the way.

12 Q. How did you travel? Did you have any vehicles?

13 A. No, we walked.

14 Q. On that journey did you see anything when you were with the
15 middle group?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What did you see?

18 A. Well, as we were going we used to see corpses. We used to
19 see corpses. We were at the back, the others were in front, so
20 as we went we used to see corpses on the way.

13:18:33

21 Q. What kind of people did you see that were dead; that were
22 corpses?

23 A. They were civilians, because I did not see uniforms on
24 them. I did not see anything on them.

13:18:53

25 Q. Were they all men, or all women, or mixed?

26 A. They were mixed.

27 Q. What about their ages? Can you tell us anything about the
28 ages?

29 A. Well, I used to see some adults.

1 Q. Could you tell - did you see any wounds?

2 A. At the time - at the time that we were going I did not see
3 wounded people. I saw corpses.

4 Q. Could you tell how the people were killed? If not, just
13:19:38 5 say so.

6 A. Well, when we were going we just used to see some people
7 lying down with blood oozing from them as we went along.

8 Q. When you arrived in Kurubonla, was anyone in Kurubonla?

9 A. Yes.

13:20:11 10 Q. Who was there?

11 A. We met rebels there again.

12 Q. Do you remember the names of any commanders that were there
13 in Kurubonla?

14 A. Yes.

13:20:31 15 Q. Can you tell us the names that you remember now?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Which commanders can you remember being in Kurubonla when
18 you arrived with Superman's group?

19 A. We met SAJ Musa there and General Bropleh and Five-Five, we
13:21:02 20 met them there.

21 Q. What happened after your group with Superman arrived in
22 Kurubonla?

23 A. Well, when we reached there in the morning - we arrived
24 there in the evening. We slept. In the morning a meeting was
13:21:34 25 called. All of us were assembled, those of us who went and those
26 whom we met. They assembled there at the time. It was at that
27 time that I knew that there were three groups. They divided them
28 - they divided themselves into groups. There was the STF, who
29 were standing in their own group, the RUF in their own group and

1 the SLAs. That was how they were standing in groups.

2 Q. So, Mr Witness, prior to that did you know that these
3 different rebels belonged to different groups?

13:22:36

4 A. It was at that time that I knew that they were in different
5 groups.

6 Q. And what happened once you were all assembled there in
7 Kurubonla?

8 A. Well, it was at that time during the meeting that SAJ Musa
9 said to Superman that now you've come --

13:23:10

10 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he repeat his answer,
11 please.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter asks you to
13 repeat your answer. I will ask counsel to put the question
14 again. Mr Koumjian, if you can oblige by putting the question
15 again, please.

13:23:25

16 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay:

17 Q. Sir, I asked you what happened once you were all assembled
18 there in Kurubonla. Can you please go over that again and tell
19 us what you remember about that meeting, speaking slowly, please.

13:23:44

20 A. Well, when we got to Kurubonla, we got there in the
21 evening. In the morning a meeting was called. Those of us who
22 came and those who were there, we assembled that morning. It was
23 at that time that I knew that there were three groups; the SLAs
24 were in their own line, the STFs were in their own line and the
25 RUFs.

13:24:16

26 It was at that meeting that SAJ Musa said to Superman that
27 now you've come, but we don't have bullets - sufficient bullets
28 here. Then Superman told him that I brought some bullets. It
29 was at that time that they decided there was one base - one town

1 called Mongo. It was at that time that they decided to go and
2 attack there.

3 Q. Do you know the full name of Mongo?

4 A. They called the place Mongo Bendugu.

13:25:15 5 Q. After that meeting what happened. By the way, Mr Witness,
6 first I want to thank you. You spoke very slowly and clearly and
7 the pauses you gave in your answers were perfect. If you can
8 please maintain that pace, that was perfect. So now, sir, can
9 you please tell us what happened after the meeting in Kurubonla
13:25:39 10 that you just spoke about?

11 A. Well, after the meeting they decided to launch that attack.
12 We spent the day and the night. In the morning the convoy left.

13 Q. Did you go on the attack?

14 A. Yes, because Wallace said we should go and at that time I
13:26:10 15 was with him.

16 Q. And what happened on this attack?

17 A. Well, we went that day, we walked for three days before we
18 could get there. We attacked there and captured there. We got a
19 lot of bullets there and the big guns that were there, we were
13:26:47 20 unable to take them so they burnt them there. On that day we
21 carried them along.

22 MR KOUMJIAN: Do we have a few minutes?

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: We have about a minute or so, but I was
24 going to ask to clarify, "We were unable to take them so they
13:27:20 25 burnt them there. On that day we carried them along." Carried
26 what along?

27 MR KOUMJIAN: I'll go into that in some depth in just a
28 moment.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see. Well, in that case it may be

1 appropriate then to take the break and resume that line of
2 inquiry later.

13:27:46 3 Mr Witness, it's now lunchtime. We normally take our lunch
4 break at this time for one hour. We will be resuming court at
5 2.30. Please adjourn court until 2.30.

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

7 [Upon resuming at 2.30 p.m.]

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, please proceed.

14:28:53 9 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you. Your Honours, I received, and I
10 believe your Honours did also, the colour copy of the voter
11 registration card. May that be given an MFI number, please?

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, that will be MFI-2. It is a copy of
13 an original document headed "Republic of Sierra Leone National
14 Electoral Commission" and I must commend those who got it done so
14:29:20 15 quickly.

16 MR KOUMJIAN: Can I just verify that the original has been
17 or will be returned to the witness?

18 MS IRURA: Your Honour, the original has been returned to
19 the witness.

14:29:32 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: In actual fact I didn't ask if there was
21 to be any objection to it being returned to the witness.
22 Mr Griffiths, you had responded in relation to the birth
23 certificate.

14:29:44 24 MR GRIFFITHS: There is no reason why the original should
25 stay with the Court, your Honour. I am satisfied with a copy.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Mr Koumjian.

27 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you:

28 Q. Mr Witness, before we go back to the attack on Mongo I want
29 to clarify a few points from this morning's testimony. First on

1 page 72 to page 73 - the bottom of 72 to the beginning of 73 on
2 my LiveNote - you were being asked about some soldiers that you
3 saw that came when you finished your training. You said on page
4 73:

14:30:31 5 "There was one rebel who was standing close to me at the
6 time that we were standing in a line because we met them there,
7 so I asked him - I asked him about the soldiers who had come. He
8 said they were Charles Taylor's soldiers."

9 Then I asked you:

14:30:51 10 "Q. Did you hear any of those men with the red caps on
11 speak?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What language did they speak?

14 A. They were speaking Liberian English."

14:31:11 15 Mr Witness, how did you recognise the language as Liberian
16 English?

17 A. Well, when we were there that was why I understood that
18 they were Liberians, because those who were there with whom we
19 were in the training, the Liberians, the way they were talking -
14:31:36 20 the way they were talking, it's the same like those who came.

21 Q. Okay. How about when you lived in Wallace's house, what
22 languages did you hear at Wallace's house?

23 A. Well, sometimes he speaks the Liberian English and
24 sometimes Krio. But even there he didn't know how to speak it
14:32:02 25 properly, because sometimes when he speaks he mixes it up with
26 Liberian English.

27 Q. When you say, "He didn't know how to speak it properly",
28 are you talking about Wallace?

29 A. Yes, the Krio - when he is speaking Krio I said he does not

1 know how to speak it properly.

2 Q. Okay, thank you. Before you were captured by rebels, had
3 you heard - in your life had you heard Liberian English?

14:32:53

4 A. Well, I used to hear that - I used to hear about Liberian
5 English, but I had not heard it being spoken before.

6 Q. On page 73 at the bottom and the top - the first five lines
7 of page 74 I was asking you about the weapons that were
8 distributed when you finished your training and I asked you to
9 describe them and you said: "They brought AKs, RPG bombs, mortar

14:33:29

10 and those guns that had chains - those big guns that had chains."
11 Mr Witness, can you explain to us what you mean by a big gun that
12 had chains?

13 A. Well, when we were there that was when we knew its name,
14 LMG, this one that had the chain belt.

14:34:03

15 Q. What was in the belt? What you called the chain belt, what
16 was inside it, if anything?

17 A. Bullets.

18 Q. Thank you. Was this the type of gun that one man could
19 carry, or not?

14:34:28

20 A. Sometimes it is carried by one person and another person
21 with the chain after him.

22 Q. Thank you. Now you talked, Mr Witness, about after the
23 training returning to PC Ground to Kono District and the attack
24 the next day. Do you know - and just tell us if you do not. Do
25 you know where the ammunition came from that was used by the
26 rebels in the attack?

14:34:56

27 A. Well, I did not know whether they had bullets there, but
28 the ones - I did not know where they got them from if they had
29 them at all.

1 Q. When your group came from the training from Kailahun to
2 Kono, do you know if your group was carrying any ammunition?
3 Again if you don't know, just tell us.

14:35:39 4 A. When we left Kailahun, the bullets that we brought, I know
5 about them. I did not know if they had some more. I did not
6 know that.

7 Q. Okay, what do you mean by "the bullets that we brought"?
8 You said, "When we left Kailahun, the bullets that we brought, I
9 know about them." What bullets are you talking about?

14:36:05 10 A. Well, the one that was distributed, it was not enough and
11 they said we should come. When we got to Koidu they distributed
12 them.

13 Q. So I am just a little confused. Were they distributed in
14 Kailahun, or in Kono, or in both, the bullets?

14:36:30 15 A. They distributed them in Koidu, Kissi Town, PC Ground.
16 That was where it was distributed.

17 Q. Were you there when the ammunition - when the bullets were
18 distributed?

19 A. At the time that they were distributing it I was not there.
14:36:52 20 I had gone.

21 Q. How do you know they distributed it if you were not there?

22 A. Well, I heard from my colleagues, those with whom we had
23 come there. When we met, they told me.

24 Q. Mr Witness, you also talked about going to Tombodu and you
14:37:20 25 said - I believe this is page 82. I asked you about Savage and I
26 asked you:

27 "Q. What did you hear about him when you were there in
28 Tombodu?

29 A. Well, when we got there in the night some of the

1 people, the boys we met there, that night we were sitting
2 together and one boy started saying this man kills people
3 too much and he said there was one pit there where they
4 killed people and dumped them there."

14:38:06 5 Did the boy tell you or say anything about what kind of
6 people were being killed?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What did he say?

9 A. He said the civilians who were captured. That was what he
14:38:27 10 told me.

11 Q. Thank you. Okay, Mr Witness, I want to go back now to the
12 attack you started telling us about at Mongo Bendugu. You said
13 you travelled for three days from Kurubonla to get there. Is
14 that correct?

14:38:53 15 A. From Tombodu to Kurubonla, I have not understood you
16 properly.

17 Q. No, from - I am sorry, my question is: Is it correct you
18 said you travelled for three days from Kurubonla to attack Mongo?

19 A. Yes.

14:39:16 20 Q. Who went on that attack?

21 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Yes, I wanted to seek clarification. The
22 witness said at Kurubonla there were three groups; the SLA, STF
23 and RUF. And then you asked him and he replied "It was at the
24 time that they decided to go and attack there" meaning Mongo
14:39:36 25 Bendugu. I am not quite sure which of these three groups or
26 whether they acted together.

27 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you:

28 Q. Mr Witness, who went on the attack to Mongo Bendugu?

29 A. Well, the groups, in all the three groups combined, they

1 provided people to go on the attack.

2 Q. Did all of the soldiers that were at Kurubonla go on the
3 attack or only some of them?

4 A. Some went whilst some stayed.

14:40:23 5 Q. Do you recall any commanders who went on the attack at
6 Mongo?

7 A. Some commanders went.

8 Q. Which commanders do you remember being on the attack at
9 Kurubonla - excuse me, at Mongo Bendugu?

14:40:51 10 A. Well, Superman was there and Wallace, because Bropleh did
11 not go so it was Wallace who went in his stead and SAJ Musa,
12 Savage and there was another whom they called Komba Gbundema.
13 They went.

14 Q. And just so we are clear, are you saying that all those
14:41:18 15 that you mentioned except for Bropleh went on the attack?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Who were you attacking at Mongo?

18 A. Well, at the time that we went there it was the Guineans
19 who were there.

14:41:46 20 Q. What was Mongo Bendugu? Was it a town, was it a village,
21 was it a bush place?

22 A. It was a town.

23 Q. Where were the Guineans?

24 A. They were in that town, Mongo Bendugu.

14:42:11 25 Q. Did they have any particular place in the town?

26 A. Yes, there was a place with a fence. That was where they
27 were, but that place is at the border.

28 Q. Okay. This place with a fence, is that what you attacked?

29 A. Yes, the town. Their base was in the barracks and that

1 barracks was fenced. They were in that very town.

2 Q. Did the Guineans have any heavy weapons?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Were they using the weapons against you?

14:43:12 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What was the result of the attack?

7 A. Well, we succeeded. We dislodged them from there.

8 Q. Did your forces actually enter the camp?

9 A. Yes.

14:43:42 10 Q. Now you mentioned some things that were captured and some
11 that were burnt or destroyed. Can you tell us first of all what
12 you remember about what was captured?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What do you remember that your forces captured?

14:44:16 15 A. Well, at the time we captured guns. There was one there
16 called 40 barrel and a tanker. At the time we were not able to
17 take that along. That was burned down, that war tank, and the
18 rest of the bullets, the AAs and the mortars and the AKs, we took
19 all of them and the rest was burned.

14:44:48 20 Q. Okay, thank you. Just so we are clear, when you say "the
21 bullets the AAs, the mortars and the AKs, we took all of them",
22 are you saying you took the weapons, or the ammunition, or both?

23 A. The bullets; they were mixed.

24 Q. What about - did you capture any AA guns and take them with
14:45:14 25 you?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. Did the rebel forces capture any mortars and take them with
28 them?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. Were there any civilians involved in that attack?

2 A. Yes, some were captured.

3 Q. What happened after this attack on Mongo Bendugu?

4 A. Well, after the attack we returned and we spent one week.

14:46:15 5 Then they took some, then they distributed the bullets and some
6 ammunition and they sent some - they said they were to go to
7 Freetown, so some soldiers were provided and some rebels and they
8 moved at the time and they left us there. They went to Freetown.

9 Q. When you say, "Some soldiers were provided and some rebels
14:46:46 10 and they moved and they left us there", do you recall the names
11 of any of the persons or commanders that left you to go then?

12 A. Yes, those who stayed.

13 Q. You said that a group left and you said, "They went to
14 Freetown". Who was the commander of that group, if you know?

14:47:25 15 A. Five-Five.

16 Q. What happened after this group - you said of soldiers and
17 rebels - led by Five-Five left you in Kurubonla, what happened
18 then?

19 A. Well, they left us there. We spent the month there, then
14:47:57 20 we moved. We went to Koinadugu.

21 Q. Now, Mr Witness, at this time when you moved to Koinadugu,
22 what season was it?

23 A. At that time it was not raining.

24 Q. How about --

14:48:20 25 A. It was during the dry season.

26 Q. How about when you attacked Mongo Bendugu, what season was
27 it?

28 A. It was not raining at the time when we were there.

29 MR GRIFFITHS: Madam President, before we go any further, I

1 am on a 14 font at page 99 and at line 3, the witness speaking
2 about events after the attack on Mongo Bendugu, says, "Well after
3 the attack we returned and we spent one week." To where did they
4 return?

14:49:16 5 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you. I will clarify that:

6 Q. Sir, after the attack on Mongo Bendugu, where did you
7 return to?

8 A. We returned to Kurubonla.

9 Q. And can you tell us again how long you stayed at Kurubonla,
14:49:35 10 approximately?

11 A. Well, when we returned and divided them, and the others
12 went to Freetown, we spent a week there before we left for
13 Koinadugu.

14 Q. Who went to Koinadugu? Did all of you that remained after
14:49:59 15 that group left towards Freetown or just some of you?

16 A. Nobody stayed there. All of us who stayed moved.

17 Q. When you say Koinadugu, are you talking about the town or
18 the district?

19 A. It is a town. They called it Koinadugu.

14:50:30 20 Q. When you got to Koinadugu, who were the top commanders with
21 your forces?

22 A. It was SAJ Musa who was there as commander, deputised by
23 Superman.

24 Q. What happened after you went to Koinadugu?

14:51:02 25 A. We went to Koinadugu and that was where we were when they
26 decided to go - when they decided to attack Kabala.

27 Q. Who decided to attack Kabala, if you know?

28 A. It was SAJ Musa who called a meeting and the senior men who
29 sat together and arranged this.

1 Q. Did you take part in an attack on Kabala?

2 A. Yes, because at the time Wallace never left me there, and
3 we used to go together, together with his wife.

4 Q. When you attacked Kabala, who led the attack?

14:52:00 5 A. Well, they divided us into two groups.

6 Q. How were you divided?

7 A. Those of us who went, we went and surfaced on the Freetown
8 road and the others went towards Kabala at the back of Kabala.

9 That was where SAJ Musa and others went. Superman came towards
14:52:28 10 this end. That was how it was divided.

11 Q. Who were you attacking in Kabala?

12 A. At that time it was the ECOMOG and Kamajors that were
13 there.

14 Q. Do you remember the nationality of the ECOMOG that was
14:52:48 15 there?

16 A. They used to speak their language. They said the Oga
17 language.

18 MR KOUJIAN: We will try and get a spelling unless someone
19 volunteers it:

14:53:21 20 Q. Sir, what happened on this attack at Kabala?

21 A. Well, during that attack when it was launched it was not
22 successful on that day, so we returned.

23 MR KOUJIAN: The spelling we have for Oga is O-G-A:

24 Q. Where did you return to?

14:53:57 25 A. We returned to Koinadugu.

26 Q. In Koinadugu was there anyone there besides the soldiers?

27 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he repeat his answer
28 clearly.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter has not heard

1 your answer. Can you please repeat your answer. Do you need the
2 question asked again?

3 THE WITNESS: Okay, repeat the question.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please repeat, Mr Koumjian.

14:54:37

5 MR KOUMJIAN:

6 Q. Mr Witness, in Koinadugu were there any people there
7 besides the soldiers and rebels?

8 A. No, nobody was there except us who had been captured who
9 were among them as they went along.

14:55:00

10 Q. Were there other people who were captured with you there in
11 Koinadugu?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Were they men, or women?

14 A. Women and men.

14:55:16

15 Q. What were the ages of the people that had been captured and
16 were there in Koinadugu?

17 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, are you suggesting captured
18 in Koinadugu, or what?

19 MR KOUMJIAN: That were in Koinadugu. That had been
20 captured and were there.

14:55:32

21 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Captured where?

22 MR KOUMJIAN: I will clarify. Thank you:

23 Q. Mr Witness, where had these people been captured?

24 A. Well, some were captured in the Kabala end, some in
25 Koinadugu. They were captured there.

14:55:49

26 Q. What were the ages of the people that were captured and
27 were in Koinadugu?

28 A. Well, I can't tell their ages because I did not ask them,
29 but they were adults and some that were of my height were among

1 them as well.

2 Q. Okay, thank you. What were these people who had been
3 captured doing in Koinadugu?

14:56:39

4 A. Well, they were captured. They were there. They created
5 the place where these people were trained.

6 Q. What kind of training were they giving to these people?

7 A. Well, they said a military training. That was what they
8 were taught.

14:57:01

9 Q. Were any of these people who were captured used for
10 anything else?

11 A. Well, I used to see them. They took them to their barracks
12 where they were training them.

13 Q. Okay. After the unsuccessful attack on Kabala that you
14 talked about, what happened after you returned to Koinadugu?

14:57:41

15 A. When we returned to Koinadugu, we were there when the time
16 came that we returned. It was after one week that they arranged
17 again for us to return.

18 Q. To return where, sir?

19 A. Kabala.

14:58:01

20 Q. And what was the plan to go back to Kabala? Can you
21 explain to us what the plan was?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Please do so.

14:58:28

24 A. Well, it was at that time that they said during the first
25 target they were unsuccessful. He said they should - some people
26 should go wearing white cloth on their head as if they had gone
27 there for peace. There was another group, SAJ Musa's group, they
28 wore red on their head and they went through another way and they
29 went. On that day they launched that attack, but even on that

1 day they were unsuccessful, the town was only divided into two,
2 and later they were dislodged.

3 Q. Okay. First of all, Mr Witness, did you go on this attack?

14:59:14

4 A. Yes, I went, because the person with whom I was, whenever
5 he went I went because he did not like to leave us behind.

6 Q. Is that Wallace that you went with?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did Wallace have a commander on that attack?

9 A. Yes.

14:59:36

10 Q. Who was his commander?

11 A. Well, during that attack he was under Superman.

12 Q. Which - you talked about two groups, one or two groups of
13 people, one wearing white cloth and another group, you said SAJ
14 Musa's group, that wore red on their head. The people that wore

15:00:03

15 white, did they have a commander?

16 THE INTERPRETER: Can learned counsel kindly ask the
17 question again.

18 MR KOUMJIAN: Sorry, I will repeat the question:

15:00:17

19 Q. Did the people who were wearing white on their head, did
20 they have a commander?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Who was commanding those with white on their heads?

23 A. It was Superman who was commanding them.

24 Q. Did the people with white on their head have any weapons?

15:00:48

25 THE INTERPRETER: Can learned counsel please repeat the
26 question.

27 MR KOUMJIAN:

28 Q. First of all, the group that Superman was commanding that
29 was wearing white on their head - the interpreters have got the

1 Kono on channel 1, if they can just correct that. I will try the
2 question again.

3 Sir, the group that Superman was commanding that had white
4 on their head, were those - you talked about three groups. Were
15:01:25 5 those members of any of those three groups; the rebels, the SLAs
6 or the STF?

7 A. Yes, at the time. They were mixed at the time.

8 Q. Did the people that wore white on their heads have guns?

9 A. Yes.

15:01:52 10 Q. How did they have their guns? How did they carry their
11 guns?

12 A. They were carrying it under their shirts. Some had coats,
13 so the guns were under them.

14 Q. What happened when you got - these groups got to Kabala?

15:02:21 15 A. Well, when they reached on that day, where we went we
16 stayed there up to the evening. Then they launched the attack,
17 those who were wearing the red cloths. They launched the attack
18 and, as the fighting was going on, the town was divided. ECOMOG
19 was on one side and the rebels on the other up to morning and in
15:02:48 20 the morning the rebels were dislodged again and then we returned
21 to Koinadugu.

22 Q. You said that in the evening they launched the attack. Was
23 there any signal to launch the attack?

24 A. Yes.

15:03:12 25 Q. How was the attack launched? Explain that to us.

26 A. They said they would first launch an RPG and then by that
27 we will know. So it was the RPG that was first launched.

28 Q. Now, in this fight in Kabala you said the town was divided.
29 Was anything captured in Kabala?

1 A. Yes, they captured bullet - guns.

2 Q. Were any people captured?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Where were the people captured?

15:04:11 5 A. Some were captured in Kabala. Others when we were coming
6 on the way, that was where they were captured - the youths.

7 Q. The people that they captured, were these soldiers, ECOMOG,
8 or were they civilians?

9 A. They were civilians. Only one ECOMOG was captured.

15:04:37 10 Q. What happened with the civilians that were captured?

11 A. They brought them to Koinadugu.

12 Q. After this second attack on Kabala, what happened then?

13 A. Well, when we left there the second time, when we returned
14 we did not go back there. We stayed in Koinadugu. Those who had
15:05:09 15 been captured, they started training them.

16 Q. Did anything happen during this time that these people were
17 being trained?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Tell us what happened.

15:05:31 20 A. During the training there was one rebel there called
21 Alabama. He was the one who was training them. So at that time
22 they said there was one boy, Superman's boy, he went there and
23 shot one man at the training barracks where the training was
24 going on. So that conflict was there. They said SAJ Musa went
15:05:57 25 there and the man was identified to him and he too killed a man.
26 At that time I was at the house, I just heard the gunshot. The
27 infighting, Superman and SAJ Musa, their bodyguards and
28 themselves. There was panic in the town when the shooting was
29 going on. It was at the time that SAJ Musa moved and those who

1 were being trained also moved.

2 Q. Where did SAJ Musa move to, if you know?

3 A. Well, at the time that he moved we did not know. It was
4 after he had moved, after a week, that he called that he was
15:06:44 5 going to Freetown.

6 Q. So in this incident that you talked about where SAJ Musa
7 shot one of Superman's bodyguards, did I understand you
8 correctly?

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: He didn't say - I don't remember it being
15:07:02 10 a bodyguard. It was a man identified.

11 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay, Superman's boy - sorry, thank you.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: "That man was identified and he too
13 killed a man."

14 MR KOUMJIAN:

15:07:16 15 Q. Was there a gunfight in the town when this happened?

16 A. Yes, there was a gunfight. At that time we were in the
17 house and we just heard the gunshots in between them.

18 Q. Who was fighting on the two sides in this fight in the
19 town? Who was fighting against who?

15:07:48 20 A. Well, Superman, his bodyguards and SAJ Musa and his
21 bodyguards, they were fighting against each other. They were
22 fighting against Super and Super was fighting against them so the
23 town was in chaos at that time.

24 Q. How long did that fight last for, the gunfight?

15:08:14 25 A. Well, it took some time before it subsided. When it
26 subsided we did not see SAJ Musa any longer. He had gone.

27 Q. Thank you. Now you said in your answer, you used the name
28 Super. Who do you mean when you say Super?

29 A. I did not know its meaning. I just heard them calling him

1 Superman.

2 Q. Is Super the same person as Superman or a different person?

3 A. It is the same person. It is not another person.

4 Q. When SAJ Musa left the town, what commanders remained in
15:08:58 5 Koinadugu?

6 A. Bropleh and Superman were there.

7 Q. Who was the commander in Koinadugu?

8 A. It was Superman who was commanding, deputised by Bropleh.

9 Q. You had mentioned earlier that when you went to Kurubonla
15:09:28 10 with Superman, Savage was with you. Was Savage there in
11 Koinadugu?

12 A. Yes, he did not go. He stayed there.

13 Q. So just so we are clear, when SAJ Musa left, did Savage
14 stay with Superman or go with SAJ Musa?

15:09:59 15 A. He stayed with Superman there.

16 Q. Mr Witness, did you know anyone named Mani?

17 A. Yes, he was there. They used to call him.

18 Q. What did they call him?

19 A. They said Brigadier Mani.

15:10:24 20 Q. Did Brigadier Mani go with SAJ Musa or stay in Koinadugu
21 with Superman?

22 A. Well, he was in Koinadugu because he was an elderly man,
23 but not that much. He didn't go, move around frequently.

24 Q. So just so we are clear, my question was: Did Mani,
15:10:51 25 Brigadier Mani, go with SAJ Musa or stay in Koinadugu with
26 Superman?

27 A. He stayed in Koinadugu. He didn't go.

28 Q. Now, you mentioned that after a week there was a
29 communication. Is that correct?

1 A. Yes, when they went it was after some time that they
2 called.

3 Q. About how much time, approximately, was it before they
4 called?

15:11:37 5 A. I have not understood.

6 Q. Well, first of all you said "they called". Who called who?

7 A. SAJ Musa called.

8 Q. Who did SAJ Musa call?

9 A. Well, their communication that was with Super, it was that
15:12:03 10 that he called.

11 Q. When you say the communication, what was the means of
12 communication that was used? Was it a telephone or something
13 else?

14 A. There was a set there. A military set that they used.
15:12:24 15 That was what they had.

16 Q. And what happened when SAJ Musa called? What was the -
17 what did he say, if you know?

18 A. Well, Wallace explained to me that when he called he told
19 him that he was going after Five-Five to go to Freetown. He said
15:12:45 20 Superman and others should move to go to Makeni. He said that
21 was what he was told.

22 Q. So when SAJ Musa said that Superman and the others should
23 go to Makeni, what did Superman and the others do?

24 A. Well, he did not refuse. We moved. We were there for some
15:13:14 25 time but at that time we moved.

26 Q. So after SAJ Musa said he was going to Freetown and
27 Superman should go to Makeni, tell us what happened with your
28 group?

29 A. Well, when he made that call, we were there when Superman

1 made the announcement that we will move at any time, so we were
2 there for up to three weeks before we left. When we left, we
3 left to go to Makeni.

4 Q. How did you go to Makeni?

15:14:08 5 A. We used a bush pass - bypasses in the villages.

6 Q. Who went on this journey to Makeni?

7 A. All of us moved.

8 Q. Who was commanding the group you were with; the overall
9 commander?

15:14:35 10 A. Our own group, it was Superman that was leader of all the
11 groups when we moved.

12 Q. Where - did you attack anything before Makeni anywhere?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Where?

15:14:58 15 A. There is a town there called Binkolo.

16 Q. What happened when you attacked Binkolo?

17 A. Well, when we got there it was at night. We attacked there
18 and fighting ensued. Komba Gbundema said that it was dark. It
19 was at that time that they started setting houses on fire. We
20 spent the night there until morning.

15:15:33 21 Q. How many houses were set on fire?

22 A. Well, I was unable to count because it was a large town and
23 it was at night.

24 Q. What did you yourself do during that attack?

15:15:59 25 A. At the time we were with one man, the one carrying the
26 communication, we were with him. There was a house that they
27 said we should burn down. It was Komba Gbundema who passed that
28 order. So, together with that man that I was, that one that had
29 the communication, that house that was there, we burnt it down.

1 Q. The man that had the communication, do you recall his name?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What was his name?

4 A. They used to call him Blood.

15:16:41 5 Q. What was your job travelling with Blood?

6 A. I was to stay with him as a bodyguard. Because he was
7 carrying the communication he was unable to carry a gun.

8 Q. Now, Mr Witness, when you were with Blood, did you hear any
9 communications?

15:17:21 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. First, let me ask you this: Blood, do you know what group
12 he belonged to?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Which group?

15:17:35 15 A. He was with Superman rebels.

16 Q. Do you know if he was RUF, or SLA, or STF?

17 A. He was RUF.

18 Q. What was the communication - did you hear a communication
19 when you were with Blood?

15:18:03 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Tell us what happened?

22 A. Well, we were there when this call was made from Kono. It
23 was Issa. He called. He said he wanted to talk to Superman. On
24 that day we went, we took the communication to Superman and they
15:18:25 25 spoke. After they had spoken, Superman said Issa and others too
26 said they have moved and they were towards Magburaka. Then he
27 said we too should advance on Makeni.

28 Q. Did Issa - first of all this Issa that you are talking
29 about, who is he? I just want to be clear who we are talking

1 about.

2 A. The one that we left in Kono, General Issa.

3 Q. Thank you. You said General Issa said he was in Magburaka,
4 or they were towards Magburaka. Did Issa Sesay indicate where he
15:19:15 5 was to do - where he was going?

6 A. He said they were coming to Makeni.

7 Q. Was there any other communication between Superman's group
8 and Issa Sesay's group about the attack on Makeni?

9 A. Yes, it was through the communication that they spoke.

15:19:50 10 Q. What other things did they say about the attack on Makeni?
11 Do you remember anything else?

12 A. Yes, at the time that they spoke.

13 Q. Tell us what you remember.

14 A. Well, at the time that we took that communication and they
15:20:14 15 spoke, he said he too was about to move. He said he was in
16 Magburaka about to come to Makeni. He said so Superman and
17 others should advance on Makeni. So he - they created a
18 password, the password that they were to take to Makeni. They
19 called it Fitti-Fatta. They said when we got to Makeni that
15:20:42 20 would enable us to know one another. That evening we came to
21 Makeni.

22 Q. Can you explain to us how the password would work? How it
23 was that the two groups would know each other by the password?

24 A. Yes, they explained that to us. I used to know.

15:21:05 25 Q. Can you try to explain it to us?

26 A. This password that we were shown, they said when we got to
27 Makeni, because we knew one another, so if you came across your
28 colleague, if you will say Fitti and he did not say Fatta then
29 you would know that he was an enemy. That was the reason for the

1 password.

2 Q. Did your group attack Makeni?

3 A. Yes, we came together.

4 Q. Who was defending Makeni?

15:21:49 5 A. It was the ECOMOG at the time.

6 Q. Did the ECOMOG in Makeni have any heavy weapons?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was this a small battle or a big battle? How would you
9 describe it?

15:22:16 10 A. Well, there were heavy weapons there with them.

11 Q. What happened when you attacked Makeni?

12 A. Well, we attacked Makeni. We were there for two days
13 before it was captured. That was where we stayed.

14 Q. Was Wallace participating in this attack?

15:22:54 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What happened to Wallace in the attack?

17 A. It was at that time that he was shot on his leg.

18 Q. Did the rebels succeed in Makeni, or did ECOMOG win the
19 battle?

15:23:26 20 A. It was the rebels who captured there.

21 Q. Was anything captured from ECOMOG in that battle?

22 A. Yes, they captured everything from them.

23 Q. After Makeni was taken, what did the soldiers do - the
24 rebels?

15:23:56 25 A. Well, we were in Makeni when they were divided into three
26 groups.

27 Q. Okay, when Makeni was first taken were there any civilians
28 in Makeni?

29 A. Yes, there were some civilians there. But some had left.

1 Some were in the houses.

2 Q. What did the soldiers do with the civilians?

3 A. Well, at the time some civilians were in their houses and
4 their doors were shut. At the time I was not moving about,
15:24:42 5 because I was close to Wallace in the house after he had been
6 shot on his leg. I was not moving about frequently.

7 Q. Did you hear what the soldiers did in Makeni after the
8 rebels captured Makeni?

9 A. Yes, they used to do things there. We heard.

15:25:08 10 Q. What did you hear?

11 A. Well, we used to hear about rape cases and killings. At
12 that time there was a law.

13 Q. Okay, we will come back to that in a moment.

14 THE INTERPRETER: Correction interpreter. "There came a
15:25:29 15 time when a law was imposed."

16 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay:

17 Q. I am asking about the first few days after Makeni was
18 taken. What happened then, if you know?

19 A. Well, when Makeni was captured we were there in different
15:25:54 20 groups. The three groups were further divided. RUF was in Teko
21 Barracks, STF were at one place called Waterworks, the SLAs were
22 in the centre of Makeni Town. That was how they were
23 distributed.

24 Q. When you were in Makeni, did you see anyone you knew after
15:26:23 25 Makeni was captured?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. Can you tell the judges what happened?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. Please tell them.

1 A. Well, at the time that we were in Makeni I went around.
2 That was when I saw my elder brother, one of those who was
3 captured, Sahr. We met and he explained to me and he said they
4 had killed my brother, the one called E-boy. At that time we
15:27:10 5 went and he showed me where he was staying. That was where we
6 were. Then I came back and told Wallace that I have seen my
7 brother. Then he showed me my father's picture, that my father
8 had been amputated.

9 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat where
15:27:32 10 his father is.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter asks that you
12 repeat where your father - Mr Interpreter, is it is or was?

13 THE INTERPRETER: That's why I am asking. It's not clear.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see. It may be best to repeat that
15:27:51 15 part of your answer where you said, "Then he showed me my
16 father's picture." Continue from there.

17 MR KOUMJIAN:

18 Q. Let me go back over your answer a little bit, Mr Witness.
19 When you met Sahr, your older brother, did he tell you how he
15:28:09 20 came to Makeni?

21 A. Yes, he explained to me.

22 Q. How was it that Sahr had come to Makeni?

23 A. Well, he said they had come from Kono together with Issa.

24 Q. Now, did Sahr tell you about your second brother, E-boy?

15:28:39 25 What did he tell you had happened after you had seen your family
26 captured by the rebels to E-boy?

27 A. Well, when Sahr - when I met with Sahr he said they had
28 come from Kono, so we sat and we discussed and he explained how
29 my elder brother was also killed. He said he was killed on the

1 way.

2 Q. Was your brother E-boy killed - was he killed in battle, or
3 was he killed in another way?

15:29:35

4 A. During battle. They said when Koidu was attacked, that was
5 when he was killed.

6 Q. I want to come back to your brother later. After you met
7 Sahr and you went back to Wallace, did you hear any news in
8 Makeni about the group that you said SAJ Musa had taken out of
9 Koinadugu and said were going to Freetown?

15:30:31

10 THE INTERPRETER: Can counsel please repeat the question.

11 MR KOUMJIAN:

12 Q. In Makeni, did you hear any news about SAJ Musa's group
13 which you said had left Koinadugu and later told Superman they
14 were heading towards Freetown?

15:30:46

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What did you hear? What news did you hear about SAJ Musa,
17 first of all?

15:31:06

18 A. Well, at the time that we were there we heard communication
19 at the time that we went to Brigadier Mani. I and Wallace went
20 there and we were there when a call was made that they wanted
21 reinforcement. They were there together with Superman. They
22 said they wanted reinforcements and that SAJ Musa had been shot
23 in Freetown.

24 Q. Okay. Where were you when you heard this communication?

15:31:33

25 A. At Superman's house. That was where they were sitting
26 down.

27 Q. Was Superman present?

28 A. Yes, they were all sitting there outside.

29 Q. Now you said that, "We were there when a call was made that

1 they wanted reinforcements." Who made the call to you - to your
2 group?

3 A. Well, it was Five-Five who called that they had shot SAJ
4 Musa and that they wanted reinforcements.

15:32:08 5 Q. Who was Five-Five speaking to?

6 A. Superman.

7 Q. What happened after that?

8 A. We left them there and we went home together with Wallace,
9 so that news spread everywhere. When we went home Wallace sent
10 me to the market to buy meat for him. As I was coming I came
11 across a truck where I was taken and they said we should go.

12 They took us and they said we should go to Issa. They took us to
13 Issa. That was where we were assembled for us to go.

14 Q. You said as you were going to buy the meat you came across
15 a truck where you were taken. Explain what you mean when you say
16 you were taken?

17 A. They said I should be part of the reinforcement. At that
18 time they were capturing people. Whoever was captured they would
19 put that person on the truck.

15:33:35 20 Q. Where did the truck go after you were put on to the truck?

21 A. They took us to Superman's house.

22 Q. To whose house?

23 A. Issa's house. That was where they took all of us. Issa's
24 house.

15:33:51 25 Q. What happened when you got there to Issa's house?

26 A. Well, they took us there, they assembled us there, and our
27 number increased and they provided trucks in which we were loaded
28 to be taken. Three trucks. When we got to Lunsar, our own
29 truck, one of them, stopped there. That was where we disembarked

1 and we stayed there together with Superman. They said those who
2 had come from Kabala should stay, so we stayed whilst others went
3 ahead.

15:34:34 4 Q. Okay, I want to go over your answer a bit. I know it's a
5 long day. Sir, when you said you were at Issa's house, they
6 assembled you there and trucks came and then you said, "When we
7 got to Lunsar our own truck stopped", before you left Makeni did
8 anyone tell you where you were going or what the mission was?

9 A. Yes, they told us.

15:35:06 10 Q. Who told you?

11 A. Issa. In front of his house. That was where we were
12 assembled and that was where he told us.

13 Q. What did Issa say?

14 A. He said we should take reinforcements to Freetown.

15:35:25 15 Q. Did all of the trucks go together, the three trucks, to
16 Lunsar?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And what happened at Lunsar?

19 A. Well, when we got to Lunsar, we were stopped there. They
15:35:43 20 said those of us who had come from Kabala should stay - stop
21 there and other truck with some people went ahead and one of my
22 friends, they went.

23 Q. What was the name of your friend that you said went ahead?

24 A. He was called Rubber-Rubber.

15:36:09 25 Q. When you say this group went ahead, do you know where they
26 were going?

27 A. They went to Freetown.

28 Q. How many of the trucks stayed in Lunsar and how many went
29 towards Freetown?

1 A. Well, two left to go. The one stayed there. All the
2 others transferred into the other two and they went.

3 Q. Okay, when you spoke to Rubber-Rubber - excuse me, did you
4 ever speak to Rubber-Rubber after that day?

15:36:55 5 A. Yes, at the time that I spoke to him it was at the time
6 that they came. That was when - that was the time that we spoke.

7 Q. What do you mean "at the time they came"?

8 A. At the time that they had gone to Freetown and returned,
9 when they returned to Makeni it was at that time that we spoke to
10 each other.

15:37:18

11 Q. What did Rubber-Rubber tell you after he returned about
12 what happened?

13 A. Well, when he came I asked him. I asked him about the
14 mission that they had taken along and he said they went but they
15 stopped at Waterloo. He said not all of them were able to go to
16 Freetown. He said they took the - they used a bypass and went to
17 Freetown. He said when they went they met Five-Five and others.
18 At the time that they went SAJ Musa had already died. It was
19 there that they were and then later they came.

15:37:40

20 Q. Right. Mr Witness, how long did you remain in Lunsar?

21 A. We spent a month there.

22 Q. Who was the commander of the forces you were with in
23 Lunsar?

24 A. It was Superman.

15:38:32

25 Q. Did your forces go on any attacks when you were with that
26 group at Lunsar?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. What was the mission?

29 A. They went to attack Gberi Junction.

1 Q. Who was attacking Gberi Junction?

2 A. Superman.

3 Q. Was there anyone else attacking Gberi Junction with
4 Superman?

15:39:13 5 A. Yes, there were other commanders who went.

6 Q. Was the group that attacked Gberi Junction only the group
7 from Lunsar or did anyone else come on the attack?

8 A. Well, there was another group that came from Makeni to go
9 there.

15:39:39 10 Q. The group that came from Makeni, who was their commander?

11 A. It was Rambo who went with them.

12 Q. Who were you fighting against at Gberi Junction?

13 A. It was the ECOMOG that was there at the time.

14 Q. Who won the battle; ECOMOG or the rebels?

15:40:16 15 A. Well, on that day the rebels dislodged them from there.

16 Q. After Lunsar - after you left Lunsar - where did you go?

17 A. Well, when we left Lunsar we returned to Makeni. That was
18 where we were.

19 Q. Now, did anything happen in Makeni when you returned there
15:40:43 20 between the different groups?

21 A. Well, we were there when fighting took place there.

22 Q. Who was fighting in Makeni?

23 A. Well, Issa and Super.

24 Q. Were you there when this happened?

15:41:11 25 A. Yes, I was there when the fighting took place.

26 Q. Did anyone die in that fighting?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. Who?

29 A. Rambo.

1 Q. What happened after this fight between Superman and Issa
2 Sesay and Issa and Rambo?

3 A. Well, when we were in Lunsar, it was Rambo --

4 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he repeat his answer.

15:41:53 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter asks you to
6 repeat your answer, please. You said "Well, when we were in
7 Lunsar." Please continue from there.

8 THE WITNESS: I said when we were in Lunsar Rambo attacked
9 him there - Issa there - at one time, so when we returned in
10 Makeni they fought against each other. It was at that time that
11 Issa was driven from Makeni and he went to Magburaka. Those of
12 us who had come from Kabala were now there. There came a time
13 when a mediation took place and they came together again.

14 MR KOUMJIAN:

15:42:44 15 Q. Okay. Before we go on to discuss the mediation, this is
16 what we understood, Mr Witness, from your answer, and listen
17 carefully and tell me if it is correct. What the transcript says
18 that you said is, "I said when we were in Lunsar Rambo attacked
19 him there - Issa there ". Is that what you said, that Rambo
15:43:10 20 attacked Issa?

21 A. I said Superman. They attacked Superman.

22 Q. Okay. What was the mediation that you just spoke about?
23 After Rambo was killed, what was the mediation you just spoke
24 about?

15:43:38 25 A. Well, when this fighting took place, at that time there was
26 a masked devil --

27 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he again repeat slowly.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry, Mr Witness, to interrupt, but the
29 interpreter is having a problem hearing you clearly. You said

1 "When this fighting took place at that time." Continue from
2 there, please.

3 THE WITNESS: I said when they were in Makeni, when the
4 fighting started between them, Superman and Issa and Rambo, when
15:44:23 5 they fought that was the time that Superman killed Rambo. Then
6 Superman - Issa moved and came to Magburaka. That was where he
7 was. When we met again there was a traditional priest called Pa
8 Demba. He was the one who mediated between them.

9 MR KOUMJIAN:

15:44:48 10 Q. Who was this man, Pa Demba?

11 A. A local medicine man; a local juju man.

12 Q. Did he belong to the army or the RUF or the STF or any of
13 those groups?

14 A. He was with the RUF.

15:45:18 15 Q. Mr Witness, since you mentioned a medicine man, I am going
16 to take you back to Kono. When you were in Kono, was there ever
17 a medicine man there?

18 A. Yes, there was one there too.

19 Q. Was that before you went for training or after you went for
15:45:43 20 training?

21 A. After the training, that was the time that he was there.

22 Q. And what did this medicine man do?

23 A. He used to mark people. He used to make cuts on people
24 saying that bullets - they would not be caught by bullets. It
15:46:09 25 was a kind of juju.

26 Q. Can you show us - I show you start to point - but can you
27 show us where he would make the cuts on people? Can you show the
28 Judges?

29 A. Well, I refused to take it because those whom I met there,

1 blood was oozing from them so I was afraid and refused.

2 Q. Did you see where they were bleeding from?

3 A. Yes. I went there and I saw him administering the marks on
4 them. He was marking them on their chests, on their arms - upper
15:46:52 5 arms - and their backs.

6 Q. Thank you. Sorry for the digression. So after the
7 mediation by Pa Demba, what happened between Superman and Issa
8 Sesay?

9 A. Well, they were there at the time and they were working
15:47:21 10 together. That was where we were.

11 Q. How long did you stay in Makeni?

12 A. I took a year there.

13 Q. When you were in Makeni, did any other forces come to
14 Makeni; not rebels, not SLA, not ECOMOG?

15:47:52 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Who came?

17 A. UNAMSIL came, but they did not come there to fight. They
18 had come there for peace.

19 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, you seem to have been
15:48:05 20 introduced a character called Issa Sesay. I think the witness
21 has consistently spoken of General Issa.

22 MR KOUMJIAN: That is correct, your Honour. That is my
23 error, if I did that:

24 Q. Sir, did you see anything happen to the UNAMSIL?

15:48:31 25 A. Yes, at the time that we were there.

26 Q. What did you see? Sorry, what did you see happen?

27 A. Well, at the time that we were there Wallace left us there
28 and went to Freetown. At the time they said it was the time for
29 disarmament, he left us at the house and went. He went to

1 Freetown to surrender. So we were there at the house when the
2 UNAMSIL started coming to do their deployment. It came to a time
3 when they were attacked at their barracks and they were captured,
4 together with their belongings, and they took them along.

15:49:15 5 Q. Did you see that?

6 A. Yes, where I was - from where I was.

7 Q. Tell us what exactly you saw?

8 A. Well, at the time I was - where I was standing, because one
9 of their camps were there, Waterworks, they used to pass in front
10 of our house, so we heard gunshots and we went and stood there.
11 They were captured. Some of them were wearing the short pair of
12 -short pair of trousers and they were put on a truck and they
13 put them in a truck and took them to Teko Barracks.

14 Q. Mr Witness, who captured the UNAMSIL?

15:50:07 15 A. It was the rebels.

16 Q. Did you see any commanders present when - of the rebels -
17 when UNAMSIL was captured?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Who did you see?

15:50:26 20 A. Well, I saw Issa there in the vehicle when they passed. I
21 saw him standing there as well when they put these people in the
22 vehicles and took them away.

23 Q. Mr Witness, you said you heard gunshots. Were you able to
24 tell who was shooting?

15:50:50 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Who was shooting?

27 A. It was the rebels who were shooting. They were shooting in
28 the air and some on the ground. Up to the - all around the
29 barracks they were shooting in the air and on the ground.

1 Q. Thank you. Now, Mr Witness, after you saw them being taken
2 into the trucks, did you ever see the UNAMSIL peacekeepers again?

3 A. Yes, at the time when I went in search of my brother - my
4 elder brother.

15:51:37 5 Q. Where did you go to look for your elder brother?

6 A. When I went to Teko Barracks, that was where I met them.

7 Q. What did you see in Teko Barracks?

8 A. At the time that I went there, I did not know where my
9 elder brother was, so I was searching for him. I met them right
10 at Issa's. There was a compound there. That was where they were
11 placed. That was where they were sitting down. I stood there
12 and looked at them for a while and passed by to look for my elder
13 brother.

14 Q. What were the peacekeepers doing? You said they were
15:52:24 15 sitting down. Sorry, how were they dressed?

16 A. Well, they had on pants - just pants - and their
17 undervests, that was what they had on. They hadn't shoes when I
18 saw them.

19 Q. When you went to Teko Barracks, how long was that - let me
15:52:53 20 try the question again, sorry. You told us about seeing the
21 peacekeepers captured and placed into trucks and then you told us
22 about seeing them at Teko Barracks. How much time passed in
23 between when you saw them taken and put on trucks and when you
24 saw them in the barracks?

15:53:18 25 A. Well, on the day they were captured it was in the evening.
26 It was in the following morning that I went there, very early in
27 the morning, in search of my brother. It was at that time that I
28 saw them there.

29 Q. Thank you. When the UNAMSIL were captured, did the rebels

1 capture anything else besides the peacekeepers themselves?

2 A. Yes, they captured all their belongings. Their vehicles,
3 their food, their guns, their ammunition, they captured all.

15:54:06

4 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you had mentioned that before this
5 happened Wallace had left you to go to Freetown. Is that
6 correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did Wallace talk to you before he left?

9 A. Yes.

15:54:28

10 Q. Thank you. What did he tell you?

11 A. Well, at the time that he was going he called me, those of
12 us who were with him, six of us. He said they were going to
13 surrender. He said whatever he does there, he will come and take
14 us along. So he left us and went. That morning we accompanied

15:54:52

15 him. He, Bropleh and some other people, they went.

16 Q. How far did you accompany him?

17 A. We stopped at Lunsar. That was where they boarded a
18 vehicle to go.

15:55:23

19 Q. Did you talk to Wallace about whether you could go with
20 him?

21 A. Yes, I told him on that day.

22 Q. Tell us, what did you say to him and how did he respond?

23 A. He said I should stay at the house, because his wife did
24 not go, we were there together. He said I should stay there. He
15:55:46 25 said when he goes away - when he goes he will come and take us
26 along. That was what he told me.

27 Q. Now, Mr Witness, at this time did you want to stay in
28 Makeni?

29 A. No, at that time I was there, but I was going in search of

1 my people - my relatives. I was going around in search of my
2 relatives.

3 Q. At that time, Mr Witness, had disarmament begun?

4 A. Yes, they had started the disarmament at Gberi Junction.

15:56:32 5 Q. Is there any reason why you didn't go to Gberi Junction to
6 disarm?

7 A. There was a reason why I did not go.

8 Q. Explain to the judges why you did not go to disarm at that
9 time.

15:56:53 10 A. Well, at that time when they said that they had started
11 disarmament at Gberi Junction and Wallace and others went and
12 left us behind, at that time they came to us at the house where
13 we were. They attacked us. Issa and his bodyguards attacked the
14 house. So some of the guns that were left with us, they took all
15:57:22 15 of them and went away. At that time there was a checkpoint at
16 Makump. They said whoever they saw going out of Makeni towards
17 Lunsar would be arrested and - would be arrested and returned to
18 Kono, so there was no way to pass through.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, who is the "they" that said
15:57:50 20 this? Sorry.

21 MR KOUMJIAN:

22 Q. Who said that anyone - you said, "They said whoever they
23 saw going out of Makeni towards Lunsar would be arrested." Who
24 said that?

15:58:18 25 A. It was Issa who passed that order.

26 Q. Did the rebels tell you anything about whether you were
27 allowed to disarm?

28 A. Well, they refused because there was a checkpoint. They
29 said whoever was arrested would be returned to Kono.

1 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: We really need the spelling of this
2 checkpoint.

3 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, my colleague is looking it up:

4 Q. Mr Witness, where was this checkpoint? Can you describe
15:59:10 5 the place?

6 A. Makump, when you leave Makeni going to Freetown, that was
7 where it was.

8 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, the spelling we have is
9 M-A-K-U-M-P:

10 Q. Mr Witness, when you went to Teko Barracks looking for your
11 elder brother, did you find him?

12 A. Yes, I saw him at the time.

13 Q. Did you talk to him then?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What did he tell you about your family?

16 A. Well, at the time that I saw him we went, he showed me the
17 picture. I said one woman with whom we were in Koidu brought
18 that picture and gave it to him. He showed me my father's
19 picture and I looked at it and his arm was amputated. It was
16:00:33 20 then that I told him that I was going to Freetown in search of my
21 father.

22 Q. Did your brother tell you who amputated your father's arm?

23 A. Well, he did not tell me because he was not there at the
24 time, because when we were captured we were - we went our
16:00:59 25 separate ways.

26 Q. Thank you. You said that your brother had a letter. Who
27 was the letter from?

28 A. It was one woman who brought the letter and the pictures
29 from our father. That woman used to come to sell fish in Makeni.

1 Q. You say she brought the letter and the picture from your
2 father, who wrote the letter, if you know?

3 A. She said it was my father that wrote the letter.

16:01:43

4 Q. Could you read the letter yourself, or did you get any help
5 to read the letter?

6 A. I took it to one of my friends who read it out to me.

7 Q. And what did the letter say?

16:02:08

8 A. Well, he wrote things in there. He said right now he can't
9 do anything because he was not seeing us. He said the condition
10 that he was in was not nice. Those were some of the things he
11 wrote in the letter, but at the time he did not finish reading
12 the letter because we had started crying. Then I folded the
13 letter.

14 Q. You have seen your father since then, correct?

16:02:31

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you describe the amputation?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Please do.

16:02:52

19 A. One of his arm - when I met him and I asked him he said one
20 of his arm was first chopped off. He said they continued hacking
21 him and they told him that the cutlass was not sharp enough and
22 they went and brought another machete which was used to --

23 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he repeat his answer
24 slowly.

16:03:08

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, I am sorry, but the
26 interpreter - you are going too quickly for him. You said, "They
27 brought another machete which was used." Please continue from
28 there.

29 THE WITNESS: He said it was the rebels who captured him

1 and amputated him. They first chopped off his left arm and they
2 - when they were doing this they said the cutlass was not sharp
3 enough and they brought another cutlass which was used to chop
4 off his right arm. So the right arm was chopped off and the
16:03:50 5 other one was only hacked, but he can hardly work with it. He
6 could manage it to write - to do some writing only.

7 MR KOUMJIAN:

8 Q. After you got the letter with the picture of your father,
9 did you ask your brother about - excuse me, you mentioned that
16:04:16 10 you had three brothers. The brother you were talking to in Teko
11 Barracks was Sahr, is that correct? The oldest?

12 A. Yes, he is Sahr.

13 Q. And Sahr had told you earlier that E-boy had been killed.
14 Is that correct?

16:04:39 15 A. Yes, he told me.

16 Q. You told us at the beginning of your testimony that your
17 younger brother was named Kai. Did Sahr tell you what happened
18 with Kai after the family was captured?

19 A. Yes.

16:04:58 20 Q. What did he say happened to Kai?

21 A. Well, they were not in the same place, but he too was
22 there. He only explained about E-boy because they were in the
23 same place. Kai was with somebody else.

24 Q. Did he say where Kai was?

16:05:26 25 A. Well, he said he did not see him. He said he only saw
26 E-boy dead, but that he had not seen Kai.

27 Q. After you got the letter from your father, what did you do?

28 A. Well, it was at that time that I told him that I was going
29 in search of my father, but he said he was going to wait for a

1 while. It was at that time also where we were we heard - where
2 we were we heard from Bropleh's bodyguards that they were going
3 to surrender, so I followed them. Together we moved through the
4 bush. We walked through the bush up to Port Loko. That was
16:06:15 5 where we disarmed.

6 Q. What happened after you went to Port Loko?

7 A. Well, that was where I disarmed. I disarmed there and that
8 was where I was and got some transport and went in search of my
9 father in Freetown.

16:06:38 10 Q. Did the letter indicate where your father was living?

11 A. Yes, there was a location there, the address where they
12 were.

13 Q. Did you go to that location?

14 A. Yes, we went there.

16:07:03 15 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he repeat his answer.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, again the interpreter did not
17 hear you clearly. You said, "Yes, we went there", but the
18 interpreter has not heard the rest of your answer. Please repeat
19 it.

16:07:24 20 THE WITNESS: I said one of my friends together with whom I
21 went to Port Loko, they knew the place. They took me there.
22 They directed me to where my father was and I went there.

23 MR KOUMJIAN:

24 Q. What kind of a place was it where your father was?

16:07:47 25 A. It was a camp. They said Aberdeen Road.

26 Q. What kind of people were in the camp, excuse me.

27 A. Those people whose arms had been amputated and who had been
28 mutilated, they were the ones who were there.

29 Q. Did you speak to your father there?

1 A. Yes, at the time we had met.

2 Q. What did you speak to your father about?

3 A. At the time when we met we were not able to talk to each
4 other because he was crying and I was crying, so the following

16:08:41 5 morning he asked me and I explained exactly what had happened to
6 me, then he too explained his - how - what had happened to him up
7 to the time he had this problem.

8 Q. Did your father tell you where it was that he was
9 amputated?

16:09:04 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Where was it?

12 A. He said in Koidu Town.

13 Q. Did you discuss your younger brother, Kai?

14 A. Yes.

16:09:28 15 Q. What did your father tell you?

16 A. Well, he told me that at the time that they brought them to
17 Koidu they took Sahr and Aiah from them and they said he and Kai
18 should return to the bush, so as he was returning on that day
19 they met another group and they took Kai away from him. So he
16:09:58 20 was the only one going through the bush when he met another group
21 of rebels and they captured him and he was brought again to
22 Koidu. It was there that they brought them and lined them up and
23 that was how their hands were being chopped off. They were many,
24 those who were standing in that line.

16:10:26 25 Q. Did your father tell you why they chopped his hands off?

26 A. Well, he did not tell me the reason.

27 Q. Did those who amputated your father's hand, and tried to
28 amputate the other, did they say anything to your father after
29 the amputation?

1 A. Well, he said when his arm was chopped off they told him to
2 go to Kabbah so that he can give him another arm. They directed
3 him to where ECOMOG was in Kokuima. They said he should go to
4 President Kabbah for him to give him another arm. He said that
16:11:19 5 was what they told him at the time after they had chopped off his
6 arm.

7 Q. And did your father go to ECOMOG?

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Was it not Kabbah?

9 MR KOUMJIAN: They directed him to where ECOMOG was.

16:11:38 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: I understand, yes.

11 MR KOUMJIAN:

12 Q. How did your father - what did he do after he was
13 amputated?

14 A. He said he too tried hard. He was going gradually up to
16:11:54 15 the time until he reached Kokuima. That was where he met ECOMOG.
16 He went there and he was taken to Makeni. From Makeni they
17 brought him to Freetown at Connaught, in the hospital.

18 Q. Where was your mother when your father was amputated, if
19 you know?

16:12:19 20 A. Well, she too - she too explained something different. She
21 too was not there. She said they were not together in the same
22 place.

23 Q. What happened to your mother?

24 A. Well, she was with our youngest sister. They used the
16:12:40 25 bypass somewhere else until they surfaced where ECOMOG was. She
26 said they too met ECOMOG there and they took them and brought
27 them to Makeni. That was where she met my father and they went
28 together.

29 Q. Did your father tell you - excuse me, when you met your

1 father at Aberdeen, was your mother with him?

2 A. Yes, I met her there.

3 Q. Did they tell you - your parents - whether they knew where
4 Kai was?

16:13:25 5 A. No, they did not tell me.

6 Q. What did you talk - say to them about Kai?

7 A. Well, we were there. I spent two - three weeks there with
8 them. It was at that time that I told them that I wanted to come
9 to Koidu in search of Kai, that maybe I will see him, but my

16:13:52 10 father disagreed, so I tried very hard and there came a time when
11 he said I should go. He gave me transport fares and I came to
12 search for Kai.

13 Q. Did your father say why he initially disagreed with you
14 going to look for Kai in Kono? In Koidu, excuse me.

16:14:17 15 A. Yes, he gave me a reason why I shouldn't go there.

16 Q. What did he say?

17 A. He said because they had not disarmed them there, let me
18 not go there and be captured. At the time that was what he told
19 me.

16:14:37 20 Q. Did you go to Koidu?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did anyone go with you?

23 A. I went alone. I boarded a vehicle and went.

24 Q. What happened when you got to Koidu?

16:15:02 25 A. Well, on that day that I went to Koidu, I started searching
26 for him, asking people. I met one of my friends who also knew me
27 and knew my brother. He directed me to where my brother was.
28 That day I went there - that evening - and I met him there. When
29 he saw me, he started crying and I too started crying. Then I

1 said Kai was here with me. He said he was there with one rebel
2 called Killer. So he went and introduced me to him. We sat
3 there. As we were talking, one of them, one of their friends who
4 was called Peleto, we were all sitting together and he was
16:16:01 5 explaining everything and I said I had come there for my brother.
6 I said my father had sent me to come for him and they said they
7 were not going to give him to me. So I pleaded with them, but
8 they refused. Then I left and went. There was one office called
9 MP office. I went there and made this report that I had come for
16:16:27 10 my brother and they had refused to give him to me. As soon as I
11 was completing the statement, they said I should be arrested
12 there because they said we were the ones who were trying to
13 betray them. They put me into their guard room and that was
14 where I was. I was there for two days. I slept there for two
16:16:54 15 days. On the third day in the evening I escaped. I escaped
16 through a window there and that night I met him in the house,
17 then I told him to pack his belongings so that we can go that
18 night. So he too went in, but he was unable to pack his
19 belongings. He just took one trousers and joined me. That night
16:17:25 20 I moved with him and there was a town called Small Sefadu. That
21 was where we slept. In the morning we came to the main road and
22 one vehicle - one UN vehicle - took us from there and went with
23 us. He - it left us in Makeni. Then we boarded another vehicle
24 for Freetown.

16:18:07 25 Q. You said that when you went to Koidu you found your
26 brother, Kai, and he said he was there with one rebel called
27 Killer. Do you know when you say Killer, a rebel called Killer,
28 did Killer belong to one of the forces that you have talked
29 about?

1 A. Yes, he was a rebel.

2 Q. When you say rebel, was he army or was he another faction?

3 A. They were rebels. They were just there. They just said
4 rebels. They said they were Issa's soldiers at the time.

16:18:58 5 Q. And how about Peleto?

6 A. They were all there in the same house.

7 Q. Was Peleto a rebel or belong to another faction?

8 A. He was a rebel. They were there together.

9 Q. Did Killer and Peleto tell you why you could not take your
16:19:31 10 brother?

11 A. Yes, they said they were not going to give him to me. They
12 did not tell me the reason why they were refusing to give him to
13 me.

14 Q. Did your brother later tell you what he was doing in that
16:19:50 15 house?

16 A. Yes, he told me the job he was doing there.

17 Q. What did he tell you?

18 A. Well, I asked him on that day, he said he was laundering
19 clothes, fetching water, pounding rice and doing domestic chores
16:20:16 20 there. What actually caused me to want to take him out of that
21 place was that he had a sore on his leg and he said it was not
22 being treated and that was why that day when I went I did not
23 leave him there.

24 Q. Now you said that after Killer and Peleto refused to let
16:20:40 25 you take your brother, you went to the MP office. What do you
26 mean by the MP office?

27 A. Well, they said when a soldier or when a rebel does
28 something wrong, that was where they were reported. That was why
29 I went there. But when I explained to them they said I wanted to

1 betray them because I had come to take my brother to go to
2 Freetown.

3 Q. When you say "They said that you wanted to betray them",
4 who told you that?

16:21:23 5 A. Well, the MP that I met there at their office, he was the
6 one who told me that.

7 Q. When you escaped from the MP office - excuse me, when you
8 were there at the MP, you said they put you into a guard room.
9 Was there anyone else in the guard room?

16:22:09 10 A. Yes, I met people there. Two people.

11 Q. You said on the third day in the evening you escaped and
12 then you said, "That night I met him in the house and then I told
13 him to pack his belongings". Who were you speaking about when
14 you said you met him in the house?

16:22:38 15 A. My brother Kai; I am referring to him.

16 Q. When you went back to the house and found Kai, was Killer
17 or Peleto there?

18 A. I did not see them there. When I went I saw my brother. I
19 was standing in the corner and I called him and I explained to
16:23:04 20 him that he should pick up his belongings for us to go.

21 Q. Mr Witness, when you went back to the house, what do you
22 think would have happened to you if you had been caught by Killer
23 or Peleto?

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is speculation.

16:23:25 25 MR GRIFFITHS: This is inviting the purest speculation,
26 Madam President.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: I have just made that ruling.

28 MR KOUMJIAN:

29 Q. After you got Kai and you returned, did you return to your

1 family?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Mr Witness, did your family ever find the bodies of your
4 sister or your brother; E-boy or Kumba?

16:24:12 5 A. No, we were not able to see their corpses.

6 Q. How did what happened affect your family?

7 A. Well, it took us aback because we are undergoing strains
8 now. Up until now we have not been able to find out anything
9 about who killed them.

16:24:43 10 Q. What does your father do now?

11 A. He is not working because he can't work right now.

12 Q. What does your family do for money?

13 A. Well, we are the ones who try hard to support them at home,
14 because I am no longer going to school because my father cannot
16:25:17 15 pay for me, there is no money. My father - my brother too, my
16 elder brother too is not going to school. Only the younger ones
17 are going to school. They say we should support them to go to
18 school. So we are working hard to support them.

19 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you. I have no further questions of
16:25:42 20 the witness, your Honour.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Koumjian. Mr Griffiths,
22 will you have cross-examination of the witness? I ask because we
23 are virtually at the end of the tape.

24 MR GRIFFITHS: I do have a few questions of the witness,
16:25:56 25 Madam President, and I certainly wouldn't be able to conclude
26 this afternoon.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. If there is no objection we
28 will defer the commencement of the cross-examination until
29 tomorrow.

1 MR GRIFFITHS: Not at all. I'm grateful.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, it is now the time for the
3 Court to close for today. We will be starting again tomorrow
4 morning at half past 9. Now that you have taken the oath I must
16:26:24 5 tell you that you are not to discuss your evidence with any other
6 person until all of your evidence is finished. Do you
7 understand?

8 THE WITNESS: Okay.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very good. Please adjourn court until
16:26:37 10 9.30 tomorrow.

11 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.28 p.m.
12 to be reconvened on Tuesday, 7 October 2008 at
13 9.30 a.m.]

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I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION:

KOMBA SUMANA 17878

EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR KOUMJIAN 17878