



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY 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 Mohamed A Bangura
Mr Alain Werner
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Courtenay Griffiths QC
Mr Terry Munyard

1 Wednesday, 9 July 2008

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

09:23:39 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. Mr Bangura, I notice a
6 change of appearance on your Bar.

7 MR BANGURA: Good morning, Madam President. Good morning,
8 your Honours, counsel opposite. Your Honours, for the
9 Prosecution this morning is Ms Brenda J Hollis, myself Mohamed A
09:30:26 10 Bangura, Mr Alain Werner and Maja Dimitrova, thank you.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Bangura. Mr Munyard, I
12 think your Bar is as before.

13 MR MUNYARD: Good morning, Madam President, your Honours,
14 counsel opposite. On the Defence bench there is Courtenay
09:30:43 15 Griffiths QC, myself Terry Munyard and Scott Schaeffer.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. If there are no other matters
17 I will remind the witness of his oath? No. Mr Witness, you
18 recall that yesterday you took the oath to tell the truth. That
19 oath continues to be binding on you and you must answer questions
09:31:01 20 truthfully. You understand?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Please proceed, Mr Bangura.

23 WITNESS: TF1-388 [On former oath]

24 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR BANGURA: [Continued]

09:31:19 25 Q. Good morning, witness.

26 A. Good morning, sir.

27 Q. We shall continue with your testimony this morning. Now, I
28 briefly just go back to one or two things that came up in your
29 evidence yesterday. You mentioned the name of a commander, or an

1 instructor, and that name was Aloysius T Caulker. Do you recall
2 that name?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Do you remember what nationality he was?

09:32:05 5 A. He was a Liberian, sir.

6 Q. Thank you. Now, you mentioned other commanders and
7 instructors who you said were Liberians. Apart from being told
8 that they were Liberians, was there any way that you yourself
9 were able to tell that they were Liberians?

09:32:30 10 A. Yes, sir, from their way of speaking, sir.

11 Q. And what about their way of speaking that you were able to
12 conclude they were Liberians?

13 A. When a Sierra Leonean is speaking and a Liberian, the
14 difference is clear, sir, from their way of pronunciation.

09:32:55 15 Q. Did they speak any particular language that you recognised
16 as different from what you spoke in Sierra Leone?

17 A. Yes, sir, most of them were speaking Gio and Mano.

18 Q. At that point in time were you familiar with these
19 languages?

09:33:32 20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. How were you able to tell then that these languages were
22 languages from Liberia?

23 A. First of all, the languages were strange to those of the
24 languages spoken in Sierra Leone at that time. Among them they
09:33:55 25 were also identified to be from those various tribes in Liberia,
26 especially the Gios.

27 Q. Apart from Gio and Mano, was any other language spoken that
28 you recognised?

29 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Which language was this?

2 A. Some of them were speaking Kpelle and Kissi and other
3 tribes that I cannot easily identify here, but they were tribes
4 among the people of Liberia.

09:34:35 5 Q. Thank you.

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Mr Witness, yesterday you mentioned that Foday Sankoh you
8 knew was the leader of the RUF. Do you recall that?

9 A. Yes, sir.

09:34:58 10 Q. How did you know at that stage, early on, that Foday Sankoh
11 was the leader of the RUF?

12 A. Well, it is very important to note at this point that in
13 addition to the ideology that I spoke about yesterday concerning
14 the coming of the rebellion against the Sierra Leone government

09:35:34 15 because of the ill-treatment the government was giving to the
16 Sierra Leoneans, they said the Liberians that came here, they
17 only came to introduce the revolution to the Sierra Leoneans and
18 also help them with logistics at the early stages and they will
19 leave the Sierra Leoneans in the hands of Foday Sankoh and that

09:35:55 20 later these Liberians would go back to Liberia, and at that time
21 they called Charles Taylor's name under the NPFL. That was the
22 indication that Foday Sankoh was the leader of the RUF in Sierra
23 Leone.

24 Q. At that early stage did you see Foday Sankoh himself?

09:36:17 25 A. Yes, sir.

26 Q. Where did you see him?

27 A. At the time that I was working as a G2 in Pendembu I often
28 saw him among the convoy waving to us. Sometimes when he is
29 travelling between Pendembu and Gbarnga, sometimes he used to

1 have assignments to go --

2 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat this
3 last bit of his answer.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause, Mr Witness. You are going a
09:36:55 5 little too fast for the interpreter. As it was explained
6 yesterday, everything you say is interpreted and written down so
7 I would like you to pause at the end of each sentence and would
8 you please continue with your answer, picking up where you said,
9 "Sometimes he used to have assignments to go". Continue from
09:37:15 10 there.

11 THE WITNESS: Okay, ma'am. As I said, at the time that I
12 worked as G2 in Pendembu I used to see him in a convoy waving to
13 us.

14 MR BANGURA:

09:37:39 15 Q. Before you actually saw him in Pendembu had you seen him or
16 heard his voice at any point in the early stages?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. When you say yes, did you see him or did you hear his
19 voice?

09:38:02 20 A. I first heard him on the radio, the BBC media.

21 Q. And when was this?

22 A. That was the time that we heard of the entry of the rebels
23 from Liberia along the borders.

24 Q. And what did he - what did you hear him say on the BBC
09:38:31 25 radio at that time?

26 A. At that time he announced that he was the leader of this
27 rebellion that has entered into Sierra Leone and that his mission
28 was to take - to take the President of that day, Joseph Saidu
29 Momoh, from power.

1 Q. Thank you. Now, yesterday you mentioned that in the course
2 of the Top 20 fighting civilians were killed as well as RUF
3 junior commandos. Do you recall that?

4 A. Yes, sir.

09:39:17 5 Q. You mentioned that your grandmother was killed. Do you
6 recall that?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Now, do you recall in what circumstances your grandmother
9 was killed?

09:39:33 10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Can you explain, please?

12 A. When they entered into Mendekeima they started killing
13 people. My grandmother was abandoned in the house. My mother
14 and other relatives fled in the bush. So after the Top 20 had
09:40:01 15 cooled down they called us to come to town. When we came to the
16 villages we saw her corpse with cutlass marks on her body. This
17 was an indication that she was killed by those who came and they
18 were killing people.

19 Q. Your mother - your grandmother, was she the only one who
09:40:24 20 was killed in your village, Mendekeima?

21 A. No, sir. The total number of people I can remember was
22 approximately about 15 people killed in Mendekeima village on
23 that Top 20.

24 Q. These people, were they fighters?

09:40:49 25 A. No, sir. Specifically in Mendekeima this number that I
26 have just estimated were all civilians.

27 Q. Thank you.

28 A. Yes, sir.

29 Q. Now, was this the only time in the course of the war that

1 you had noticed or learnt about the killing of civilians by the
2 fighters that came?

3 A. No, sir, that had been going on before even the Top 20.

09:41:36 4 Q. When you say that had been going on before even the Top 20,
5 what do you mean? Where had you heard of killings before?

6 A. Yes, sir, they had been - these Special Forces that I have
7 been talking about that conducted this Top 20, they had been
8 killing some civilians in villages for other reasons before this
9 Top 20 came up.

09:41:59 10 Q. What was the general state of affairs in these villages
11 where civilians had been killed by these fighters?

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, I am not really quite sure
13 what you mean by "general state of affairs". Do you mean the
14 political state of affairs, or the physical state of affairs?

09:42:28 15 MR BANGURA: I will try to be more specific:

16 Q. Now, you said that civilians had been killed in other
17 villages before. For civilians what was life like in the face of
18 these killings?

09:42:42 19 MR MUNYARD: Madam President, before my learned friend asks
20 for civilians what was life like, first of all we have got to
21 find out how he knows what was going on in villages that he
22 wasn't in, because he can't have been everywhere at the same
23 time, and, secondly, what is meant by "what is life like"? That
24 is even more broad than the expression "what is the general state
09:43:00 25 of affairs".

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: I was going to make a similar
27 observation, Mr Bangura.

28 MR BANGURA: I take the point, your Honour:

29 Q. You said that you learnt that civilians had been killed or

1 were being killed in other areas apart from Mendekeima before the
2 Top 20. How did you know this?

3 A. Well, at the time I was working with the G2, you know, that
4 office was an office that was established mainly in the interest
09:43:41 5 of the civilians. So most of these reports used to come to the
6 G2 office and I used to be aware of these atrocities committed in
7 these villages.

8 MR MUNYARD: Well, in that case I rise again I'm afraid
9 just to get clarification on when it was that he started to work
09:43:58 10 for the G2, because although he may have mentioned it yesterday I
11 am not sure now if we are dealing with the same specific time
12 period.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, you have heard the point. I
14 don't think I need to elaborate.

09:44:15 15 MR BANGURA: I will get the witness to say:

16 Q. Mr Witness, you have said already in this Court that you
17 worked with the G2 office. This was yesterday. What time did
18 you start working with the G2 office?

19 A. That was in late 1991.

09:44:39 20 Q. And was this before or after the Top 20 fighting?

21 A. This was before the Top 20 fighting, sir.

22 Q. So when you worked in the G2 office before the Top 20, is
23 it your evidence that you were then at that point receiving
24 complaints about killing of civilians? Is that what you have
09:45:08 25 said?

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. And could you name some of the areas where these killings
28 were going on that you received complaint about?

29 A. Yes, sir, specifically, you know, this was happening in

1 most of the areas behind the rebel lines at that time. But a
2 clear example was a village close to Manowa Ferry, to Kporlu.
3 This commander that I mentioned earlier, Samuel G Tuah, I mean
4 Sam Tuah, he used to kill civilians at that ferry. On one
09:45:55 5 occasion he ordered the canoe paddlers, all of them civilians, to
6 take the ferry for them. He said they brought the ferry late.
7 Five people were executed, you know, on the spot.

8 Q. Did you learn about any other reasons why - your Honours
9 just before I ask that question I think the witness mentioned a
09:46:19 10 name of a place. Mr Witness, you called the name of a place by
11 Manowa Ferry. Can you repeat that name, please?

12 A. Yes, sir, the village is called Kporlu.

13 Q. Are you able to spell that name for the Court?

14 A. Yes, sir.

09:46:44 15 Q. Please go ahead.

16 A. K-P-O-R-L-U.

17 Q. Thank you. Apart from this reason for killing civilians --

18 JUDGE LUSSICK: Mr Bangura, I'm sorry, but I didn't quite
19 understand his answer. What did he mean by on one occasion he
09:47:08 20 ordered the paddlers, all of them civilians, to take the ferry
21 for them? And they apparently were late and five were executed,
22 but I am not quite sure what he meant by that.

23 MR BANGURA: I will get the witness to clarify, your
24 Honour:

09:47:27 25 Q. Mr Witness, you have just tried to explain one instance
26 where civilians were killed and this had to do with crossing the
27 ferry. Can you explain the incident again? It is not quite
28 clear what you have said.

29 A. Yes, sir, as I said I mentioned a commander earlier who was

1 a field commander by the name of Samuel G Tuah. On one occasion
2 he ordered the civilians to carry the ferry for him. Among these
3 civilians some of them were from my village, Mendekeima, but they
4 were working at Kporlu at the ferry crossing point. According to
09:48:16 5 him, because of they delayed in bringing the ferry for him he
6 executed five of them.

7 JUDGE LUSSICK: Well, "carry the ferry for him", that's
8 what I don't understand.

9 MR BANGURA:

09:48:27 10 Q. When you say "carry the ferry", Mr Witness, can you be much
11 more clearer about what exactly they had to do? Did they have to
12 move the ferry themselves? What exactly did they have to do?

13 A. Well, this point of crossing that I am explaining here at
14 the Manowa Ferry, there was a ferry during normal days that was
09:48:59 15 in existence that they used to cross people and vehicles. But
16 when the rebels were advancing at that time there was a cable
17 that was connected to help the ferry to cross. That was cut. So
18 the ferry, when they came, the civilians used to use long poles,
19 sticks, to cross the ferry. So when these rebels crossed at that
09:49:31 20 time, at that time they were towards Bunumbu area. These
21 civilians were assigned the responsibility of crossing these
22 commandos - I mean the rebels.

23 So on one occasion when he came he said the ferry was on
24 the other side of the river on the Pendembu side, so they called
09:49:53 25 for the ferry and they delayed in crossing the ferry over. Later
26 when they crossed it over they were killed because they delayed.
27 That is exactly what I am trying to say.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just before you move on, Mr Bangura, I
29 note that the commander's name has been recorded at one place as

1 Samuel Joe Tuah and at another as Samuel G Tuah. I did hear the
2 witness say Samuel G, but in view of the fact there is a person -
3 another person that has been referred to in evidence I think we
4 should clarify the name.

09:50:30 5 MR BANGURA: Thank you, your Honour. I will ask the
6 witness:

7 Q. Mr Witness, the commander who we are talking of here that
8 killed five civilians, what was his name again, please?

9 A. I said Sam G Tuah. The same Tuah that I spoke of earlier
09:50:53 10 is the same Tuah that I am referring to in this case.

11 Q. So G is the middle initial, is that right?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Thank you. Now, I was going to ask the question apart from
14 the reason given in this case where five civilians were killed,
09:51:13 15 did you learn of other reasons for which civilians were killed
16 when you were in the G2 office and you had these complaints?

17 A. Yes, sir. Some other civilians were killed for their
18 wives.

19 Q. And because of these killings were the civilians able to
09:51:42 20 stay in their villages in their communities any more?

21 A. Most of them were not able to stay in their communities in
22 peace. What I mean, you know, some of them used to spend most of
23 their time in the bushes.

24 JUDGE LUSSICK: Mr Bangura, I would be interested to know
09:52:12 25 who was making these complaints to G2.

26 MR BANGURA: I will get the witness to say again, your
27 Honour:

28 Q. Mr Witness, who were making these complaints to G2 when you
29 were in the G2 office? Who were bringing these complaints about

1 killing of civilians?

2 A. Well, as I told you earlier, the G2 was one of the
3 organisations in the RUF and so they had agents who were not
4 identified as fighters in some cases. They were mostly
09:52:49 5 civilians. So there were agents in those various villages
6 working with the town chiefs, at that time they called them the
7 town commanders, you know, to gather intelligence to send it to
8 the head office of the G2. This was how the information was
9 coming. They were even having some other G2s who were trained
09:53:13 10 soldiers - I mean rebels. They were also assigned to the various
11 commanders at the front lines to inform the head office of what
12 was going on in the front lines, especially in the interests of
13 the civilians captured.

14 Q. Mr Witness, you mentioned that there were town commanders.
09:53:33 15 Who exactly were these town commanders?

16 A. These were people appointed who were given the
17 responsibility of taking care of the civilians in the town. They
18 were more or less like town chiefs.

19 Q. Were they fighters, or were they civilians themselves?

09:54:03 20 A. No, sir, they were civilians.

21 Q. What powers did they have as town commanders?

22 A. Well, from what I experienced these people were only
23 appointed so that the soldiers, whenever they needed the
24 civilians he would be used to be in control of the civilians,
09:54:34 25 because he knew where the civilians were and he was dealing with
26 them daily. He was more or less like a mediator between the
27 civilians and the soldiers.

28 Q. When you say if he needed the civilians he would be the one
29 who would get them, for what purposes would the fighters need the

1 civilians?

2 A. As I told you earlier, the civilians were used for many
3 purposes. They were using civilians to transport their loads
4 whenever they brought their goods. Sometimes when they needed to
09:55:24 5 do any other work, like clearing some areas or brushing places,
6 the civilians were used for that purpose. Even in my own case,
7 when Sam Tuah gave the order for soldiers to go to the base he
8 passed through the town commander, because he used to know us to
9 gather us and to send us to the base. These were some of the
09:55:49 10 responsibilities of the town commander.

11 Q. Were there any consequences if the town commander could not
12 come up with civilians?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. What would be the consequences, or what were the
09:56:07 15 consequences?

16 A. Sometimes they will tie the town commander and beat him up
17 mercilessly and in some other cases if they were to transport
18 loads and the town commander failed to provide manpower for that
19 load, he himself would carry that load. In some other severe
09:56:34 20 cases we heard of the killing of town commanders because they
21 failed to provide manpower for some of the operations.

22 Q. Now, in Mendekeima where you were before you were sent to
23 go and be trained, did you perform any role for the fighters that
24 came and occupied the town?

09:57:05 25 A. Yes, sir. I transported loads for them, sir.

26 Q. Apart from that, did you do anything else?

27 A. There were other jobs whenever any - whenever we were
28 called upon by the individual soldiers.

29 Q. Now, you mentioned the name Kai fa Wai yesterday, do you

1 recall?

2 A. Yes, sir. Kai fa Wai was one of the trained vanguards that
3 came along with the soldiers that came from Liberia and he was my
4 cousin.

09:58:15 5 Q. And did he play any role in the activities of the fighters
6 in your village, Mendekeima, in the early stages?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. What role did he play?

9 A. For the first time that he came to Mendekeima he was in the
09:58:48 10 company of four of his friends that he used to move along with at
11 that time; Issa Sesay, Mohamed Tarawalli and Augustine Barnaby.

12 When they came they told the town chief of Mendekeima that my
13 mother was his mother and his younger brother and that they
14 should take care of us. He also told the town commander that

09:59:19 15 whenever there was any harassment in Mendekeima he should try to
16 tell the people who were causing the problem that that was his
17 home town, so they were to ensure that they caused no problem
18 there. That was his main role that I can remember up to now.

19 Q. Now, you just mentioned Augustine Barnaby. Is this
09:59:52 20 somebody you had mentioned before in your testimony in this
21 court?

22 A. Yes, sir, I can remember yesterday I made mention of one of
23 the vanguards they killed during the Top 20. He was the one that
24 was killed in Kui va when he was arrested during Top 20 along with
10:00:18 25 Kai fa Wai and Issa. He was killed.

26 Q. Now, in Mendekeima did you continue to enjoy this
27 protection which Kai fa Wai was providing for you for long?

28 A. No, sir.

29 Q. So what happened when this protection was no longer there?

1 A. That was the time that I mentioned that I used to transport
2 loads for these fighters. I was doing it until even when Sam
3 Tuah came and gave orders that I should go to the training base,
4 so because of his absence there was no way I could have resisted
10:01:23 5 their command at that time.

6 Q. Now, Mr Witness, continuing from the point we left off
7 yesterday, you did say that the Top 20 fighting went on for about
8 a month. Do you recall that?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10:01:53 10 Q. Now, what happened after that month, after one month of
11 fighting?

12 A. Before I came to my village, Mendekeima, from the bush,
13 some other G2 agents who were first seen in Pendembu sent their
14 agents to the various villages calling us out to come to town, so
10:02:21 15 when we came the message that they used to convince us was that
16 during the Top 20 Foday Sankoh was in Liberia and now he has come
17 back and Charles Taylor has sent another commander to relieve the
18 commander who was in charge of the fighters that were causing
19 this problem and that all the fighters who were involved should
10:02:46 20 be withdrawn to go back and were replaced with a new commander.

21 Q. So you, the Sierra Leoneans who were the target of the
22 Liberian fighters, were called from your hiding in the bush. Is
23 that clear? Is that what you have said?

24 A. Yes, sir.

10:03:13 25 Q. Now, you said you were told that Foday Sankoh had come from
26 Liberia, he was not there, is that right?

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. Now, who was the commander of the Liberian fighters that
29 was in charge at that time?

1 A. Dopoe Menkarzon was the commander in charge during the time
2 of the Top 20.

3 Q. Now, earlier we heard you saying that the commander who was
4 in charge when the Liberians came in initially was Sam Tuah. Is
10:04:07 5 that correct?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Did anything happen to Sam Tuah at any point?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. What happened to him?

10:04:30 10 A. At some point in August 1991 when there was a massive
11 retreat of the rebels to the Manowa Ferry, we heard of his
12 withdrawal to Liberia, they said on the orders of Charles Taylor,
13 and later we heard that when he went there he was executed.

14 Q. Do you know why he was executed, Sam Tuah?

10:05:07 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Why was he executed?

17 A. Well, the reasons given among most of the commanders at
18 that time was that they said Sam Tuah was charged with sabotage
19 in the sense that they said even the retreat that happened, he
10:05:36 20 was the cause because he had been harassing and killing the
21 strong commanders who were fighting the war.

22 MR MUNYARD: I am sorry to interrupt, but this is all very
23 interesting, but we haven't been given any information about who
24 "they" are who said this and who it was who later told him that
10:06:06 25 when he went there he was executed. This is all incredibly
26 vague.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, you had better lay a better
28 foundation for this piece of evidence.

29 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, I am still on the --

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see, you are coming to it.

2 MR BANGURA: I have the conduct of the case and I am still
3 on the point, thank you:

4 Q. Yes, Mr Witness, you have said that you heard - how did you
10:06:37 5 learn about the execution of Sam Tuah? All of this that you
6 heard, how did you learn this information?

7 A. Well, first of all there were some pieces of information,
8 like the one I have just spoken about, the Sam Tuah issue, it was
9 not a secret. It was well broadcast among us, the fighters,
10:07:09 10 especially those from Liberia.

11 Secondly, some of us were close to these senior officers,
12 like my cousin whom I have just mentioned here, Kai fa Wai, you
13 know. They used to explain most of these things to us, because
14 they used to go to Gbarnga and back and they used to explain what
10:07:33 15 was going on there in Liberia.

16 Q. Now, this was in August of 1991 and you said after Sam Tuah
17 was withdrawn and was executed in Liberia he was replaced. Who
18 replaced him?

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: We have got that evidence. He said Dopoe
10:08:08 20 Menkarzon.

21 MR BANGURA: I am sorry, your Honour.

22 Q. What happened when Sam Tuah was executed? Withdrawn from
23 Sierra Leone and executed?

24 A. He was replaced by Dopoe Menkarzon.

10:08:27 25 Q. And you say that Dopoe Menkarzon was the commander that was
26 in control up until the time of the Top 20 fighting. Is that
27 correct?

28 A. Yes, sir.

29 Q. And the Top 20 fighting took place about what time?

1 A. That was in early 1992.

2 Q. Now, you said that Foday Sankoh came from Liberia and there
3 was - Dopoe Menkarzon was relieved. Do you recall that?

4 A. Yes, sir.

10:09:26 5 Q. Who was his replacement as a commander?

6 A. Pa James Karway replaced Dopoe Menkarzon after the Top 20.

7 Q. How did you know this, that James Karway was his
8 replacement?

9 A. This was among the pieces of information given to us. That
10:10:02 10 was the courage they gave us in the bush to come to town, that
11 the Top 20 was over.

12 Q. Now, did you yourself come out of the bush?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Now, where had you been during the Top 20?

10:10:26 15 A. Well, I started my hiding from the Pendembu bushes and
16 ended up in the Mendekeima bush.

17 Q. Did you meet Foday Sankoh at this time?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. Now do you recall or were you told why Dopoe Menkarzon was
10:10:50 20 replaced?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. What did you learn about the reason for his replacement?

23 A. Well, they said his administration was causing serious
24 problems in Sierra Leone at that time behind the rebel lines,
10:11:22 25 especially that Top 20 that was conducted by his men.

26 Q. When you say "they said", who said? Who are "they"?

27 A. Like I told you, those G2 agents who went to release to
28 give us the courage to come to town used to give us these
29 messages when we were brought to the villages.

1 Q. Now, did Foday Sankoh have any message for the Sierra Leone
2 fighters who had been hiding in the bush when he came back from
3 Liberia?

4 A. Yes, sir.

10:12:17 5 Q. What was his message?

6 A. According to these same G2 agents who brought these
7 messages to us, they said Foday Sankoh himself had given that
8 encouragement to all the RUF fighters at that time, you know, to
9 forget about what those brothers have done, some of them would
10:12:43 10 face the consequences when they return to Charles Taylor and that
11 the revolution was ours and that we needed to put ourselves
12 together and continue the fight. Especially, he said, at that
13 time he was happy to hear that there were some strong,
14 intelligent junior commandos among his forces now.

10:13:09 15 Q. Mr Witness, in your testimony you have talked about the
16 replacement of different commanders, Sam Tuah at one point was
17 commander and he got replaced by Dopoe Menkarzon and now you talk
18 about replacement of Dopoe Menkarzon by - did you give us the
19 name of the new commander who was his replacement?

10:13:38 20 A. Come back with that question, please.

21 Q. I'm sorry, who was Dopoe Menkarzon - who replaced Dopoe
22 Menkarzon?

23 A. I said Pa James replaced Dopoe Menkarzon. James Karway.

24 Q. Thank you. Sorry, I was not very sure about that
10:14:02 25 information coming out. Now, do you know who was making these
26 appointments or replacements of Liberian commanders?

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Have we ascertained that - we have
28 ascertained that Tuah was a Liberian, but have we ascertained
29 what Karway was, or Menkarzon?

1 MR BANGURA: I will get the witness to:

2 Q. Mr Witness, do you know what the nationality of Dopoe
3 Menkarzon was?

4 A. He was a Liberian, sir.

10:14:48 5 Q. And James Karway, what nationality was he?

6 A. He was also a Liberian, sir.

7 Q. Do you know who was making these appointments of Liberian
8 commanders to Sierra Leone at the time?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10:15:18 10 Q. Who?

11 A. They said these appointments were made by Charles Ghankay
12 Taylor at that time who was in charge of the NPFL in Liberia.

13 Q. How did you know this? You said "they said", but can you
14 be more specific about how you learnt that Charles Ghankay Taylor
10:15:46 15 was making these appointments?

16 A. When these commanders came at that time, it was not
17 something like they remained in offices for us to get this
18 information. Some of them used to have formations, they
19 assembled the soldiers to address them, to introduce themselves
10:16:14 20 to the soldiers for them to be known. These were the
21 introductions made, sir.

22 Q. Now, in the case of James Karway who was sent to replace
23 Dopoe Menkarzon - and this was when Foday Sankoh came from
24 Liberia. Is that correct?

10:16:35 25 A. Yes, sir.

26 Q. Did Foday Sankoh himself say anything about this change of
27 command from Dopoe Menkarzon to James Karway?

28 A. Yes, sir.

29 Q. What did he say?

1 A. As I have told you earlier, according to the G2 officers
2 who went to persuade us to come to town, they said Foday Sankoh
3 had said Charles Taylor had sent James Karway to relieve Dopoe
4 Menkarzon and his men who were causing this problem so that James
10:17:23 5 Karway would come and take over his place.

6 Q. Do you recall some of the names of these G2 commanders that
7 you have - agents that you have been referring to who had been
8 providing you with information about events?

9 A. Yes, sir, one of the G2 commanders or agents I can remember
10:17:58 10 that was in charge of our area at that time when they brought us
11 from the bush was one Mr RB Saidu.

12 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, Saidu is S-A-I-D-U:

13 Q. Do you recall any other name?

14 A. There were other agents, but that was - I am referring to
10:18:29 15 him specifically in this case.

16 Q. Mr Witness, at this time you've said that the appointments
17 were made - appointments of Liberian commanders to Sierra Leone
18 were made by Charles Taylor who was the head of the NPFL. What
19 was the relationship that you knew at this time between the NPFL
10:18:59 20 in Liberia and the RUF in Sierra Leone?

21 A. Well, what I observed and was told again was that the NPFL
22 and the RUF were fighting for similar goals. What I mean is that
23 they said Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor and some other rebel
24 leaders they used to mention, they said they came with a
10:19:48 25 revolution that would not only end in Liberia and Sierra Leone
26 and that if Sierra Leone is fortunate to have control over their
27 own rebellion at the end of the day they may even pursue other
28 countries. They were making examples of even Guinea.

29 They said it was like they have started with Liberia and

1 they have succeeded, they have almost established a very good
2 foundation there, now they were in Sierra Leone headed by Foday
3 Sankoh. Foday Sankoh - if Foday Sankoh was also able to get
4 control a similar thing would also happen to other countries.

10:20:30 5 They were mentioning Guinea at that particular time. So it was
6 like a sort of - the same organisation spreading in the various
7 subregions.

8 Q. Now, you have said that what you observed at this time and
9 you were told. Now, who told you this? Who gave you this

10:20:53 10 information about how the RUF and the NPFL were supposed to be
11 working?

12 A. I can say, sir, this information that I have just
13 established here was gathered from two different areas at that
14 time. I told you of the ideology at the base. These were some
10:21:29 15 of the issues they used to express about the relationship between
16 the NPFL and the RUF and also among the commanders who used to
17 come to take control over us in these areas - in the various
18 areas, most of them used to express these various concerns as
19 well.

10:21:57 20 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Bangura, the witness has mentioned the
21 word "revolution". I don't know if he can explain a little
22 further what he means by this revolution, if he knows that is,
23 because this seems to be the common goal that these two
24 organisations had. I am not sure I understand what revolution is
10:22:15 25 exactly.

26 MR BANGURA:

27 Q. Mr Witness, you have heard the question from Justice
28 Sebutinde. When you use the word "revolution", can you explain
29 what you mean?

1 A. From my guerilla point of view, in those days they used to
2 define it to us as a complete change and this was like a change
3 in government and at that time they were talking about -
4 especially when they considered those governments to be a sort of
10:22:57 5 a rotten system that they were implementing in the subregion at
6 that time.

7 Q. Thank you. Now, do you know how the fighting in Sierra
8 Leone in these early stages was - let me rephrase. Do you know
9 where the fighters in Sierra Leone were getting supplies from at
10:23:24 10 this time?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Where were they getting their supplies from?

13 A. The supplies were coming from Liberia, from the NPFL
14 territory.

10:23:45 15 Q. And what kind of supplies came from Liberia at this time?

16 A. Mainly the supplies were arms and ammunition and food
17 supplies.

18 Q. How did you know that these supplies were coming from
19 Liberia?

10:24:19 20 A. First, as I told you people earlier, they said that the
21 arms and ammunition that even introduced the war in Sierra Leone,
22 they said was used - I mean was sent by Charles Taylor to
23 introduce the revolution into Sierra Leone and give a starting
24 support to the revolution. Also, as I was working as a G2 in
10:24:50 25 Pendembu, we usually saw Foday Sankoh when he is passing to
26 Gbarnga - from Gbarnga. We saw him in trucks loaded with arms
27 and ammunition passing by. Thirdly, most of the time when we
28 were along the front line areas we used to see new weapons, these
29 AK-47 and RPGs. Sometimes they always said that these were the

1 weapons just sent by Charles Taylor from Liberia. The first
2 point really I can say here really was that that was sometimes in
3 1993 a group of, you know, fighters were sent across the border
4 led by Morrison Kallon to go to Gbarnga for arms and ammunition
10:25:46 5 during which time they were cut off. So all these pieces of
6 information clearly showed to me that there were arms and
7 ammunition and food supplies from Liberia.

8 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Can we go back to the point where
9 you say that you used to see Foday Sankoh passing to Gbarnga, or
10:26:08 10 from Gbarnga, in trucks loaded with arms and ammunition. Can you
11 just explain exactly where Foday Sankoh was coming from and where
12 was he heading to when you saw him pass with these trucks?

13 A. Yes, sir. I was working in the G2, but I was living
14 somewhere in Pendembu coming towards Kailahun. That is going
10:26:41 15 towards the Liberian border, the direction going towards the
16 Liberian border. On some occasions I used to be at my house when
17 we saw him passing in his jeep and we saw the trucks loaded with
18 these items I have just mentioned here, behind him, going towards
19 the Executive Mansion.

10:27:02 20 Q. When you say "Executive Mansion", what do you mean?

21 A. At that time wherever Foday Sankoh was based and had
22 established as his office, that was where we referred to as the
23 Executive Mansion.

24 Q. And where was the Executive Mansion at this time?

10:27:36 25 A. Well, as I told you, there were - wherever Foday Sankoh was
26 based he must establish his offices, like in Pendembu we had
27 Executive Mansion, in Kailahun we had an Executive Mansion, we
28 had an Executive Mansion even in Sandiaru when he was there.
29 Then we had an Executive Mansion in Koindu.

1 Q. Now, how frequently did you see Foday Sankoh pass with
2 trucks full of arms and ammunition?

3 A. Really, as I mentioned, when I was working as G2 I can
4 remember on two occasions he passed by with this convoy.

10:28:33 5 Q. Apart from those two occasions, did you know of other times
6 that Foday Sankoh came from the direction of Gbarnga with arms
7 and ammunition?

8 A. There were other occasions, but I did not see him in
9 person, but I used to hear the information.

10:28:58 10 Q. Now, apart from Foday Sankoh himself going across to
11 Gbarnga to get arms and ammunition, do you know whether any other
12 members of the RUF went across to Liberia, to Gbarnga, to get
13 arms and ammunition?

14 A. Yes, sir.

10:29:23 15 Q. Who went across that you knew of?

16 A. Well, I only came to know of other RUFs going across to
17 Gbarnga to get these ammunition when Morrison Kallon and others
18 and some other fighters left from Sierra Leone. That was in 1993
19 then they went across for arms and ammunition.

10:31:01 20 Q. Now, you have said that you were a G2 agent, or you worked
21 with the G2 office in Pendembu. How long were you there for?

22 A. Approximately about five to six months, sir.

23 Q. What happened after five to six months?

24 A. That was the time the Top 20 broke out and I fled in the
10:31:45 25 bush as far as Mendekeima.

26 Q. After the Top 20 did you continue to work in that office?

27 A. No, sir.

28 Q. What happened after that?

29 A. Well, I reassigned myself with an MP commander who was

1 assigned at the Manowa crossing point.

2 Q. When you say you reassigned yourself, what do you mean?

3 A. I did not receive any official change of assignment from my
4 office at that time to go to the - to go and work with the MPs at
10:32:36 5 Manowa Ferry. That is what I mean, sir.

6 Q. And when you say "MP", what do you mean?

7 A. This was another branch of the revolution. They called
8 them the Military Police that would enforce any arrest for
9 violation and other, you know, criminal activities.

10:33:01 10 Q. Now, who was the commander to whom you reassigned yourself?

11 A. That was the target MP commander for the Manowa target at
12 that time. They called him Solomon Mustafa.

13 Q. And you say you were based at the Manowa Ferry crossing, is
14 that right?

10:33:28 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. How long were you at this position?

17 A. I stayed with him at that crossing point until late 1992
18 when the RUF advanced as far as Kono.

19 Q. And what happened at this point? You said the RUF advanced
10:33:58 20 as far as Kono. What happened in Kono?

21 A. The RUF took over most of the towns in the Kono District,
22 including Koi du Town, Njai ama Sewafe, Njai ama Nimi koro and more
23 areas towards the north.

24 Q. You said you remained in your position as a member of the
10:34:36 25 MP office until this period that Kono was taken by the RUF. What
26 happened at that point?

27 A. Well, I was sent to Kono to meet Foday Sankoh at that time.

28 Q. Now, where was Foday Sankoh at that time?

29 A. He went to Kono.

1 Q. Was he based in Kono?

2 A. He went there just to see the progress his men were making.

3 Q. And you said that you were sent to him. Who sent you to
4 Foday Sankoh in Kono?

10:35:35 5 A. I was sent by my MP commander at that time.

6 Q. What was the message that you were given, if you were given
7 a message at all, to Foday Sankoh at this point?

8 A. Well, at the time Foday Sankoh passed through our
9 checkpoint to Kono, we later received an officer from the NPFL in

10:36:17 10 Liberia by the name of Francis Mewon. He came and said he had
11 something for Foday Sankoh, but he said he would not be able to
12 cross to go as far as that point and so the MP commander gave me
13 a letter for him and I took that letter to Foday Sankoh in Kono.

14 Q. The NPFL commander who came, did he tell you who sent him
10:36:56 15 to Foday Sankoh?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. Did you then take the letter which was prepared for you to
18 take to Foday Sankoh?

19 A. Yes, sir.

10:37:16 20 Q. What happened when you got to Kono?

21 A. I gave him the letter and I stayed there.

22 Q. When you say you stayed there, where did you stay? You
23 have mentioned several places that the RUF had taken control of
24 in Kono. Where did you stay?

10:37:45 25 A. I was assigned at Yengema, the NDMC headquarters, that is
26 the National Diamond Mining Company of Sierra Leone at that time.

27 Q. Now, just before we move on to discuss your new assignment,
28 after you passed this message, you brought the letter to Foday
29 Sankoh, do you know what happened?

1 A. Come back with that question, please. I did not understand
2 it clearly.

3 Q. Do you know whether Foday Sankoh responded or reacted in
4 any way to the letter which you brought to him?

10:38:40 5 A. If there was any reply at all I was not aware of it, but
6 after a few days Foday Sankoh left Kono and went back to Kailahun
7 District.

8 Q. Thank you. Now, you said that you were assigned to - you
9 were given a new assignment. Is that correct?

10:39:05 10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Who gave you this assignment?

12 A. I was appointed by Foday Sankoh himself on one trip when I
13 met him.

14 Q. Can you be clear. You went to Kono on - as far as your
10:39:29 15 evidence stands in this Court, you went to Kono on this one
16 occasion and you said that you were then given an assignment, but
17 you have just said that you were given - I'm sorry, you have just
18 said that you were appointed by Foday Sankoh himself on one trip
19 when you met him. What do you mean? Were there other trips?

10:40:00 20 A. When I am talking about patrols, that is when I met him in
21 Koidu. Even before I left to go to Koidu, let me just make this
22 point clear to you, he recommended that the various areas were to
23 send some men to serve as part of his bodyguard group. He said
24 he needed some men. So I was one of the men recommended from my
10:40:29 25 unit, the MP unit. So when I arrived there with the letter the
26 ground commander recognised me as one of those who were
27 recommended to serve as his bodyguards, but at that time Foday
28 Sankoh did not have enough Executive Mansion bodyguards to patrol
29 with him because he used to move from Koidu Town to some

1 important areas in Kono. So when I talk about patrolling --

2 Q. Mr Witness, can I interrupt. Can you just go a little
3 slower, please. Just continue your answer, but go a little
4 slower, please.

10:41:09 5 A. Yes, sir. As I was saying, when I arrived in Koidu the
6 ground commander at the Executive Mansion recognised me as one of
7 those recommended to serve in the bodyguard group of Foday Sankoh
8 at that time. So I was immediately assigned with him on his
9 patrol. So when I talk about one of his patrols, it is when we
10:41:46 10 left Koidu Town at a point in time to Yengema and when we got to
11 the NDMC headquarters, that was where he saw that some equipments
12 were damaged and he decided that I and some others were to be
13 assigned to take care of those instruments, especially the
14 machines, within the NDMC headquarters.

10:42:10 15 Q. At this point, Mr Witness, you are telling the Court that
16 you became part of Foday Sankoh's bodyguard team. Is that
17 correct?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Now, you said that Foday Sankoh, not long after you came
10:42:26 20 with this message, he went to Kailahun. Did you travel with him
21 to Kailahun as a bodyguard of his?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. So where were you after Foday Sankoh left and went to
24 Kailahun?

10:42:46 25 A. I remained in Yengema, the new assignment area, up to the
26 time the government troops overrun the rebels and pushed the RUF
27 out of Kono back to the Moa riverbanks.

28 Q. And when did this happen? When were the RUF pushed across
29 the Moa riverbank?

1 A. When I took up that assignment, in less than a month we
2 started experiencing that retreat. The retreat took place
3 gradually up to the time we were finally pushed across the
4 riverbank of the Moa.

10:43:40 5 Q. And about what time --

6 A. That was in early 1993.

7 Q. Thank you. Now, at this time as part of the bodyguard unit
8 to Foday Sankoh was it given any particular name, do you recall?

9 A. No, sir.

10:44:07 10 Q. Thank you. After you had retreated across the banks of the
11 Moa from Kono, did you do anything else?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. What did you do?

14 A. At first when I retreated I went straight to my village,
10:44:33 15 Mendekeima.

16 Q. And what were you doing at Mendekeima during this time?

17 A. When I arrived in Mendekeima, I met the other target
18 soldiers - I mean the front line soldiers who were across Manowa
19 to Bunumbu. They had already moved --

10:45:04 20 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness slow down
21 a little. Could he slow down a little and then take off from
22 where I stopped.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, you have speeded up again and
24 the interpreter is having trouble keeping up with you. So I want
10:45:18 25 you to slow down. As I said, try and pause at the end of each
26 sentence and pick up where you said, "The front line soldiers
27 were across Manowa to Bunumbu" - repeat that name - and then,
28 "They had already moved" and continue from there, please.

29 THE WITNESS: I said at the time I arrived in Mendekeima

1 the front line soldiers in Bunumbu, they had already retreated to
2 the Manowa Ferry and the MP office where I was operating had
3 withdrawn to Mendekeima.

4 MR BANGURA:

10:46:12 5 Q. So you came to Mendekeima and did you work there at all?
6 Did you do anything there in Mendekeima?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. What did you do at Mendekeima?

9 A. A few days whilst I was preparing to go to Pendembu for
10:46:43 10 reassignment as Executive Mansion bodyguard, a radio set was
11 brought to Mendekeima, a VHF radio, by two operators.

12 Q. Where was this radio set brought from?

13 A. They brought the radio from Pendembu.

14 Q. And who were the radio operators that brought this radio to
10:47:13 15 Mendekeima?

16 A. They were Daf and one of his colleagues called Sylvester.

17 Q. Now, these names that you have mentioned, do you know what
18 nationality these two operators were?

19 A. Yes, sir.

10:47:43 20 Q. Daf, what nationality was he?

21 A. Daf is a Sierra Leonean.

22 Q. And Sylvester?

23 A. A Sierra Leonean as well.

24 Q. Thank you. What happened when this VHF radio was brought
10:48:04 25 to Mendekeima?

26 A. Well, he said they needed a security to take care of that
27 radio and that should be either a bodyguard representation along
28 the front lines - the Executive Mansion bodyguard unit should
29 serve as security for the radio.

1 Q. And who was the Executive Mansion bodyguard present at
2 Mendekeima at this time?

3 A. I was the only one at that time.

4 Q. And what became your responsibility?

10:49:03 5 A. I took up that responsibility as the security for the radio
6 and to cater for the operators' welfare.

7 Q. What do you mean when you say "to cater for the operators'
8 welfare"?

9 A. One of my primary responsibility was to provide protection
10:49:35 10 for them in case of any retreat or trouble; that is to assist
11 them. And, secondly, when I talk about welfare here, they were
12 always on the radio in the operators' room, so it was my
13 responsibility to liaise with other commanders to help provide
14 food for them and any other basic needs that they had whilst they
10:50:07 15 were doing the operations.

16 Q. Thank you. Now, you talked earlier about the RUF being in
17 control of Kono. Are you able to tell this Court how long the
18 RUF kept control of Kono?

19 A. Before I left to go to Kono, RUF had been in Kono since
10:50:41 20 late 1992 until their withdrawal in early 1993.

21 Q. And when you say late, could it have been as late as the
22 last month or the last two months in 1992?

23 A. Yes, sir, something like that. The last two months in 1992
24 and the first two months in 1993.

10:51:09 25 Q. So in all how many months are we talking of that the RUF
26 kept control of Kono?

27 A. About four months, sir.

28 Q. Now, during the four months period roughly that they were
29 in control of Kono, do you know what was going on in Kono?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. What was going on there?

3 A. There was fighting going on outside Koidu around the
4 various target areas and within the township of Koidu itself,
10:51:59 5 including some other axis like Yengema where I was based, mining
6 was going on at that time in Kono.

7 Q. Now let us talk first about the fighting and then later we
8 will talk about mining. Who were the RUF fighting against in the
9 outlying areas from where you were?

10:52:29 10 A. At that time the RUF was fighting against the NPRC
11 government of Valentine Strasser, who was the chairman at that
12 time for the army in Sierra Leone.

13 Q. Thank you. Now, you said that within the township of Koidu
14 itself and including the other axis like Yengema, you said mining
10:52:59 15 was going on. Now, who was carrying out this mining?

16 A. The RUF fighters were doing the mining, sir.

17 Q. And do you know, if at all, what happened to the proceeds
18 of the mining?

19 A. Yes, sir, at that time when I was assigned at Yengema the
10:53:38 20 order was that diamonds were government property; by that I mean
21 no-one owned diamonds, regardless of its value. Nobody will own
22 diamonds personally because it was for the revolution, so the
23 diamonds were given to the commanders and they will in turn send
24 them to the leader, Foday Sankoh.

10:54:07 25 Q. And how did you know this?

26 A. Like in my own area of assignment at that time, we had some
27 boys who were doing something like illicit mining, so some of
28 them used to bring the diamonds and we will take them to our
29 ground commander at the Executive Mansion at that time in Koidu

1 and he in turn will send them to the leader. So similar
2 procedures were adopted in the other various areas.

3 Q. Now, how long did you spend in Mendekeima as security,
4 Executive Mansion security, for the radio operators who were
10:55:06 5 there?

6 A. I think I spent about a month with them and we retreated
7 with the radio to Kailahun.

8 Q. Why did you retreat from Mendekeima to Kailahun?

9 A. That was the time the government troops - I am referring to
10:55:39 10 the NPRC government at that time - advanced and captured Pendembu
11 for the first time.

12 Q. And about what time are we talking of here?

13 A. I am referring to some time in April or May of 1993.

14 Q. You retreated to Kailahun. What happened when you got to
10:56:24 15 Kailahun?

16 A. We were with the radio for a few days at the Executive
17 Mansion.

18 Q. Did anything happen after that?

19 A. Yes, sir, I left the radio for reassignment.

10:56:53 20 Q. Who reassigned you?

21 A. I was reassigned by one of our investigators within the MP
22 office of the RUF at that time. They used to call him Sam
23 Kolleh.

24 Q. Now, this investigator, MP investigator, called Sam Kolleh,
10:57:30 25 do you recall what nationality he was?

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. What nationality?

28 A. He was a Liberian, sir.

29 Q. What new assignment were you given by Sam Kolleh?

1 A. I was assigned as one of the investigators in his office.

2 Q. What were your duties at this time?

3 A. Well, at that time we were to help in obtaining statements
4 from some people who committed crimes, or sometimes whilst the
10:58:18 5 retreat was taking place, because at that time we were on the
6 run, they were bringing some other people who were suspected to
7 be collaborators of the soldiers. So those were some of the
8 people we investigated.

9 Q. Where were you based in performing your new duties as an
10:58:42 10 investigator under Sam Kollah?

11 A. We had the MP headquarters in Kailahun. That was where we
12 were based.

13 Q. Now, do you recall any particular matters that you
14 investigated, or your office investigated, during this time as
10:59:12 15 the RUF was retreating from advancing government forces?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. What do you recall?

18 A. Amongst all the investigations the major one that I can
19 disclose to you now is the one that I experienced that they
10:59:47 20 referred to as connivance that broke out within the RUF.

21 Q. What exactly was the matter or the issue that you were
22 investigating relating to connivance, can you explain?

23 A. Well, at that time they brought people from the front line
24 areas, mostly from a town called Luawa Ngiehun whom they said
11:00:30 25 people were very close to Sankoh and some other authorities from
26 that particular village had been in contact with some people on
27 the government side who were planning to overthrow Foday Sankoh.

28 Q. Just before we continue, Mr Witness, you mentioned the name
29 of a place where you say people were brought from. Can you first

1 of all call the name of the place again?

2 A. Yes, sir, I said Luawa Ngi ehun.

3 Q. Are you able to help this Court with the spelling of that
4 name?

11:01:15 5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Please go ahead.

7 A. Luawa is spelt as L-U-A-W-A and Ngi ehun is spelt as
8 N-G-I-E-H-U-N.

9 Q. Thank you.

11:01:38 10 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Do we have a spelling for Sam Kolleh, or
11 something? He is spelt interestingly on the transcript.

12 MR BANGURA: My mistake. I assumed that it had come up
13 before, but your Honours I would be happy to provide a spelling
14 if it has not been spelt before. Your Honours, the Prosecution
11:02:23 15 has Kolleh, K-O-L-L-E-H. I don't know whether it sounds as the
16 witness has pronounced it, but this is how we spell it, yes.

17 Thank you:

18 Q. Mr Witness, Luawa Ngi ehun, where was this? Which district
19 was it?

11:02:58 20 A. In Kailahun District, sir.

21 Q. And you said that people had been brought from Luawa
22 Ngi ehun. What sort of people were brought from Luawa Ngi ehun who
23 had been accused of collaborating? I believe that was one of the
24 things you were investigating.

11:03:21 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: He said it was in contact with the
26 authorities.

27 MR BANGURA: Thank you, your Honour:

28 Q. Which sort of people were brought to you for investigations
29 for being in contact with the government side?

1 A. The groups included both civilians and rebels at that time;
2 I mean the fighters. The civilians also had - there were other
3 civilians who were close to Foday Sankoh at that time and others
4 were just members of the Ngi ehun family, so they used to bring
11:04:20 5 them to the headquarters at that time.

6 Q. You said "the Ngi ehun family", what do you mean by that?

7 A. From the experience I got during that connivance, it got to
8 a certain time that people were targeted as long as you were
9 within that particular area, as long as you are a citizen of that
11:04:46 10 particular area, so they used to arrest both fighters and
11 civilians as long as it was mentioned that you were from Luawa
12 Ngi ehun.

13 Q. Now, what was the result of the investigations that you
14 carried out?

11:05:14 15 A. Really let me make this clear to you that at that time the
16 formality was just there to say that we were investigators, or
17 that investigation was going on, but as far as that case was
18 concerned there was no good and clear investigation conducted as
19 far as the killings were concerned. In fact, I can make you
11:05:36 20 understand that the majority of the killings were done and left
21 uninvestigated on the front lines.

22 Q. Mr Witness, you have just mentioned killings. Were there
23 killings?

24 A. Yes, sir.

11:05:54 25 Q. Who killed who?

26 A. At that time the commanders like Sam Bockarie, Issa Sesay
27 and also Mohamed Tarawalli at that time, who were the top senior
28 officers in control of the front lines, they used to come to the
29 MP office and will just ask for the detainees who were under

1 investigation and they will call them outside and they would
2 condemn the whole investigation that people had been doing,
3 especially at the time when if - they even prosecuted the MP
4 commander who was in charge of the entire MP at that time. That
11:06:47 5 is the district MP commander. He was killed. So there was no
6 confidence left in the whole investigation. They will just come
7 around, call out the detainees, they queued them up and killed
8 them. So that was why I said there was no good investigation
9 conducted in that regard.

11:07:07 10 Q. Now, where were these killings done?

11 A. The one I am talking about happened in my presence at the
12 MP headquarters and another was conducted in the middle of the
13 town. It was a public execution, I mean. It was right in front
14 of the court barri of Kailahun and we heard of others that
11:07:43 15 happened on the front line areas, but in those cases I was not
16 present.

17 Q. Do you know who ordered these executions?

18 A. Really there were no written orders that came for the
19 execution, but I believed that at that time the commanders were
11:08:15 20 not just doing things on their own. I think they were working in
21 line with Foday Sankoh's instruction at that time.

22 Q. Where was Foday Sankoh at this time?

23 A. He was still within the RUF territory at that time.

24 Q. Where exactly was he based?

11:08:47 25 A. Well, when I was in Kailahun at that time he used to travel
26 between Kailahun, Koindu and back.

27 Q. Do you know how many civilians - how many people got killed
28 or got executed in this process?

29 MR MUNYARD: Well, which process? Are we talking about

1 this specific incident? Are we talking about all of these
2 occasions, in which case how would this witness possibly know?

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura?

4 MR BANGURA: I will clarify, your Honour:

11:09:29 5 Q. Mr Witness, in the course of your investigations you said
6 people were brought and there were no proper investigations and
7 they were taken out of the cells and executed, there were
8 executions that took place right before you in your office area
9 and there were executions in the town and you heard of executions
11:09:51 10 that took place in the front lines away from where you were. Did
11 you have some idea at some point how many people got killed in
12 this whole process, you know, where you had people being accused
13 of being in contact with the government forces? All over that
14 episode, do you have some idea about how many people might have
11:10:22 15 been killed?

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, Mr Munyard's objection was
17 two-pronged. He was asking about the specific incident which the
18 witness described and then there was a general reference to other
19 occasions where the witness was absent and he queried the
11:10:39 20 foundation for that. When you say to the witness "the whole
21 process" what are you referring to?

22 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, I am referring to the entire
23 activity that went on, including killings that went on at
24 locations away from the cell. That is the general question. I
11:11:05 25 can come to it more specifically.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Then the question arises as to foundation
27 for the other killings that the witness did not either personally
28 see, or we don't know how he became aware of them.

29 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, the witness has given us - from

1 his testimony we know that he has been in a position or he was in
2 a position of an investigator and was in a position to receive
3 information and I will, your Honours, get to how he - if he gives
4 a figure I will get to how he came by such a figure:

11:11:46 5 Q. Yes, Mr Witness, did you at some point have an idea how
6 many people got executed in this whole process?

7 A. Well, really I cannot be exact in giving a total number of
8 people who were executed because some were done without my
9 knowledge, but it is likely that what I observed at the MP
11:12:38 10 headquarters and the one I saw in front of the market - I mean in
11 front of the Kailahun court barri and also the number of people
12 that we heard of being killed on the front lines, that could be
13 estimated above hundred people.

14 Q. Thank you. Now, of this hundred people, who were they?
11:13:12 15 You talked about civilians earlier and you talked about
16 commanders. Were they made up of these two groups, or were they
17 just of one?

18 A. This estimated number includes both groups.

19 Q. Do you recall particular names of civilians first of all
11:13:35 20 who were killed during at this time?

21 A. First of all, the main people involved in the connivance
22 for whom - on behalf of whom they were killing other people were
23 civilians. Like a lady called Jande. At that time she was
24 identified as a girlfriend of Foday Sankoh and Jande's brother
11:14:12 25 was also a civilian and was in charge of a business. He was
26 called a contractor. That is to say he used to negotiate for the
27 barter system of exchange that we used to do with our Guinean
28 counterparts. That is between the Guineans and the Sierra
29 Leoneans along the Moya River.

1 Q. Mr Witness, can you help the Court with the spelling of the
2 person who you say was Foday Sankoh's girlfriend?

3 A. We used to pronounce her name as Jande and the best way I
4 can help you here is J-A-N-D-E, Jande.

11:15:11 5 Q. Thank you. Now, apart from these civilians who you have
6 mentioned, did you know of fighters who were killed?

7 A. Come back, sir. Your point is not clear. Your point is
8 not clear, sir.

9 Q. Earlier you mentioned in your testimony that civilians as
11:15:43 10 well as fighters were killed in this number that you estimated to
11 be about a hundred, or over a hundred. Do you recall that?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. And you have just given us the name of one civilian and the
14 identity of another person who was also a civilian that got
11:16:06 15 killed. Do you recall that?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Now, my question is whether you recall the name or names of
18 any commanders or of any fighters, I'm sorry, who were also
19 killed in this process?

11:16:27 20 A. Like even our district MP commander was killed. He was
21 Mr CO Konneh at that time.

22 Q. Can you spell Konneh, please?

23 A. K-O-N-N-E-H.

24 Q. Any other names that you recall?

11:16:58 25 A. At that time one CO Kargbo who was own of the senior
26 officers that came with Foday Sankoh was killed. One Charles who
27 was a bodyguard to Sankoh at that time born in Ngiehun was
28 killed. Jarffer Massaquoi was another senior officer that came
29 with Sankoh, he was also killed and so many others that I cannot

1 make mention of here now.

2 Q. Can you just spell Jarffer for the Court, please?

3 A. Please, sir, it is J-A-R-F-F-E-R.

4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Bangura, sorry to interrupt. When we
11:17:55 5 are talking of these killings, I am just wondering were these
6 executions, was this crossfire, what kind of killings were these?
7 That's one. The other concern is the time frame of these
8 killings.

9 MR BANGURA: Thank you, your Honour:

11:18:13 10 Q. Mr Witness, the killings that we have been talking about in
11 which all these names of civilians as well as fighters that you
12 have mentioned took place, what sort of killings were they? How
13 were these people killed?

14 A. From what I observed at the MP, some of them died through
11:18:48 15 torture. By "torture" I mean that they were warming oil on the
16 fire and pouring it on their skin alive and some of them were
17 beaten to death. Some of them were shot at at close range.
18 These were some of the ways I saw them being killed in my
19 presence

11:19:19 20 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: And of course the assumption is who
21 killed them?

22 MR BANGURA: I will get to that, your Honour:

23 Q. Now, you have said that all of these people were killed.
24 Who was responsible or who killed these people, can you tell the
11:19:36 25 Court?

26 A. As I said earlier, the commanders at that time used to come
27 to the MP headquarters and they would carry out these executions
28 and they were Mohamed Tarawalli, Sam Bockarie at that time, Issa
29 Sesay. Those were the main people who did those killings.

1 Q. Did you know of any other people that took part in the
2 killings, apart from these three commanders?

3 A. No, sir.

4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Time frames, Mr Bangura.

11:20:30 5 MR BANGURA: Yes, your Honour, I am just coming to that:

6 Q. About what time did these killings take place?

7 A. This took place in the middle of 1993 and that was when the
8 government soldiers of Strasser at that time had taken control
9 over Pendembu.

11:20:58 10 Q. And over what period did the killings take place?

11 A. These killings went on for almost a month at different
12 locations.

13 Q. Now, amongst one of the fighters who was killed you
14 mentioned CO Kargbo. Do you recall that?

11:21:31 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Who was CO Kargbo?

17 A. Well, CO Kargbo served as the battle group commander during
18 the early stages of the RUF in Pendembu.

19 Q. At the time that he was killed, did he occupy any
11:22:04 20 particular position within the RUF?

21 A. I don't know the specific area he was assigned to or
22 responsible for at that time.

23 Q. Thank you. Apart from this incident of connivance which
24 you said you investigated and that led to these killings, was
11:22:46 25 there any other matter that you had to investigate in the MP's
26 office?

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. What other matter was this?

29 A. There were also cases of harassment. There were cases of

1 those who were brought as suspects. That is, civilians captured
2 beyond rebel lines as suspects. I mean, something like - how can
3 I say it in fact? And somebody who come around as a spy. Some
4 of them were brought there for investigations.

11:23:40 5 Q. Now, apart from the one time that there was an accusation
6 of connivance and you had all those killings, was there any other
7 time within the RUF that you had a similar situation where
8 killings took place?

9 A. Yes, sir.

11:24:03 10 Q. When was this?

11 A. The second one was almost going to the end of 1993 when
12 government soldiers took control over Kailahun.

13 Q. And what happened at this time?

14 A. Another report came that there were some senior officers
11:24:39 15 amongst the ranks of the RUF who had also connived who - I mean
16 who had had link with the government soldiers that led to the
17 massive retreat of the RUF.

18 Q. And did you have to do anything about this allegation?

19 A. Yes, sir.

11:25:04 20 Q. What did you do?

21 A. I was still working with the MP office as investigator in
22 Gbalahun.

23 Q. And what did you do in relation to this allegation?

24 A. Well, I did not have any other personal responsibility or
11:25:34 25 duty to perform in that case. I only observed what was going on
26 at that time.

27 Q. Did your office conduct any investigations into this
28 allegation at the time?

29 A. Yes, sir, the office started the investigation, but it was

1 never properly concluded.

2 Q. Who were you investigating in relation to this allegation?

3 A. Well, at that time a few of those senior officers of the
4 RUF were brought to the MPs for detention and statements were
11:26:26 5 obtained from some of them.

6 Q. Who were these officers - senior officers?

7 A. Well, some of those who were brought at that time to the
8 office that I can recall were Kai fa Wai. We had one CO 045. We
9 used to call him 045. And then one Rashid whom they said was
11:27:14 10 next to Foday Sankoh. They used to call him Rashid, CO Rashid.
11 And many others that I cannot exactly recall their names here
12 now, but they were in good number.

13 Q. What became the outcome of your investigations?

14 A. Well, just as it happened in the case of those in Kailahun
11:27:46 15 before, the investigations were never properly conducted and they
16 did not accept recommendations and because of the retreat - in
17 fact before even the retreat they had already gone ahead killing
18 some of the commanders like Kai fa Wai, CO Rashid and others.

19 Q. Who killed these men?

11:28:13 20 A. They were killed by the orders of Foday Sankoh whilst we
21 were on the retreat.

22 Q. How were these orders carried out?

23 A. Well, like in the case of Kai fa Wai that I am talking about
24 here who was my cousin, he was taken to his target area where he
11:28:43 25 was in control of. That was where they killed him and he was
26 decapitated. They took his decapitated head and placed it on a
27 checkpoint.

28 In the case of Rashid, I heard about his killing in the
29 combat camp where the defensive was at that time, Borbu, and the

1 rest of the others who were in prison were transferred towards
2 Koindu, just after the Waterworks going to Koindu. That was
3 where they said they killed all of them, because they said they
4 had nowhere to keep them.

11:29:17 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, we have been alerted that the
6 tape has actually run out. I did not want to interrupt the
7 witness's answer. Mr Witness, this is the time when we normally
8 take our mid-morning break. We are going to adjourn now for half
9 an hour, we will resume at 12. Please adjourn court until 12.

11:29:37 10 [Break taken at 11.30 a.m.]

11 [Upon resuming at 12.00 p.m.]

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed, Mr Bangura.

13 MR BANGURA: Thank you, your Honour:

14 Q. Mr Witness, before the break you were explaining the
12:01:25 15 incident where senior officers of the RUF were executed on an
16 allegation of them being in contact with government side and
17 government forces. Do you recall?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Now, do you know in total how many of these senior officers
12:01:51 20 were executed at this time?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. Now just to take you back briefly on one or two matters
23 that came up in your earlier evidence, when talking about the
24 first incident of executions that took place I asked you who had
12:02:32 25 ordered those executions and you said that - I quote exactly what
26 you said from the page and line for the benefit of my learned
27 friend page 44, line 8 to 11. You said, "I think they were
28 working in line with Foday Sankoh's instructions", that is those
29 who carried out the executions.

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. What do you mean or can you explain when you say, "They
3 were working in line with Foday Sankoh's instructions"? Can you
4 explain that further. It wasn't so clear.

12:03:19 5 A. What I meant in that case was that this connivance when it
6 broke out it was not a secret. Foday Sankoh was at that time
7 within the rebel zone when this happened and all the commanders
8 who were taken, who were doing these executions, were subject to
9 Sankoh's instruction. If it were not Foday Sankoh who had given
12:03:53 10 such an instruction, he would have taken action against those who
11 were doing the executions.

12 Q. Thank you. At another point in your testimony - earlier
13 testimony - when you were talking of government forces taking
14 Pendembu, you said that there was a retreat of forces to

12:04:20 15 Kailahun. Do you recall that?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Now when you said Kailahun, where specifically are you
18 referring to?

19 A. Well, at that time the RUF occupied towns like Ngiahun,
12:04:48 20 Kailahun Town, Gbalahun, Sandiaru, Koindu. Just the main towns
21 within the Kailahun District.

22 Q. And when they retreated - in this case you said they
23 retreated to Kailahun - where exactly of these places did they go
24 to?

12:05:22 25 A. When the government soldiers took Kailahun, if that is what
26 you mean, the RUF only maintained the positions in Gbalahun,
27 Nyandahun, Manbabu [phon], Lalehun.

28 Q. I think you got me - you didn't get me correctly. When the
29 RUF was retreating towards Kailahun, this was in the situation

1 where I believe it is Pendembu that had been taken by government
2 forces. When you say Kailahun are you referring to the town of
3 Kailahun, or are you referring to parts within the District of
4 Kailahun? That is the question.

12:06:04 5 A. I am referring to the parts of the district.

6 Q. And when you say the parts of the district, which parts do
7 you mean?

8 A. I am referring to towns beyond Pendembu, going towards the
9 Liberian border.

12:06:35 10 Q. Also in your earlier testimony, when we talked about mining
11 that was going on in Kono I asked you about the proceeds from the
12 mines and you answered that the diamonds that were found were
13 given or handed to Foday Sankoh who travelled with them to
14 Kailahun. Do you recall that?

12:07:08 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Do you know whether these diamonds that were in his
17 possession were taken anywhere from Kailahun at this point in
18 time?

19 A. No, sir.

12:07:29 20 Q. Thank you. Now, you said again relating to the
21 assignment that you - the new assignment that you got in Kono
22 which was to be part of Foday Sankoh's bodyguard, the Executive
23 Mansion Guard you called them, is that right?

24 A. Yes, sir.

12:07:50 25 Q. Do you know whether at any point in time that group, the
26 bodyguards of Foday Sankoh, came to be known by any other name?

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. What name did they come to be known by?

29 A. Later the Executive Mansion bodyguards were called the

1 Black Guards.

2 Q. Do you know about what time they assumed this name, or were
3 given this name?

4 A. No, sir, I didn't know the specific time this name was
12:08:43 5 changed, but it was later that we started hearing that name among
6 Foday Sankoh's bodyguards.

7 Q. Thank you. Now, at the time that the second executions
8 were carried out you said this was about some time in '93. Can
9 you remind the Court about what time in '93 these executions took
12:09:13 10 place?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. When was this?

13 A. The first one - I mean the conniving in Ngiehun happened
14 during the rainy season of 1993. The second one was almost going
12:09:39 15 to the end of 1993, that which happened in Gbalahun where I was
16 as investigator.

17 Q. Is it your evidence that the second execution, second wave
18 of executions took place in Gbalahun?

19 A. No, sir.

12:10:03 20 Q. Can you be clear then? You mentioned Gbalahun, what
21 happened in Gbalahun about this time?

22 A. That was where the MP office was located and I was working
23 there. They brought these people first for investigation to
24 Gbalahun, but they were not executed in Gbalahun.

12:10:31 25 Q. Now, your evidence is that at this time the RUF was in
26 retreat, is that correct?

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. Which positions did the RUF occupy as they retreated from
29 advancing government forces? Just before you answer, I am

1 talking about the end of - towards the end of '93 when these
2 executions took place.

3 A. Well, at the end of '93 after the last execution the RUF's
4 position was overrun by the government troops. I mean, the
12:11:27 5 government troops pursued the RUF as far as the Liberian border.

6 Q. When you got to that point when the RUF retreated to that
7 point, the border, were they able to go across at this time?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. Why was this not possible?

12:11:49 10 A. Well, before that retreat took place some time in 1993
11 I had heard of the advancement of the ULIMO-K fighters in Liberia
12 who have occupied the whole of the Liberian border between the
13 RUF and the NPFL in the Lofa County.

14 Q. Now, who were these ULIMO-K fighters as far as you recall?

12:12:30 15 A. They were the warring factions that were fighting against
16 the Charles Taylor group in Liberia at that time, led by one
17 Alhaji Kromah.

18 Q. By Charles Taylor's group in Liberia what group are you
19 referring to?

12:12:58 20 A. Well, at that time I am referring to the National Patriotic
21 Front of Liberia, or NPFL in short.

22 Q. You said that before the RUF retreat from advancing
23 government forces you had heard of ULIMO-K forces occupying the
24 whole of the Liberian border. Did you know about what time in
12:13:44 25 '93 that they occupied the border?

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. About what time was this?

28 A. Well, I heard of them finally closing the entire border
29 post in mid-1993 when I was in Kailahun.

1 Q. Before the RUF retreated up to that point what was the
2 effect of the closure of the border by ULIMO forces for the RUF
3 operation in Sierra Leone?

4 A. Come back with that question, please.

12:14:42 5 Q. You said that the ULIMO's action, or the activity over in
6 Liberia led to the closure of the border and you learnt about
7 this in about mid-1993, is that correct?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. And it was only about the end of 1993 that the RUF was
12:15:07 10 pushed to the border point by advancing government forces from
11 the Sierra Leone side. Is that your evidence also?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. It has been your evidence also that the RUF had been
14 getting supplies from Liberia, from Gbarnga, is that correct?

12:15:36 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Now, between the closure of the border by ULIMO-K forces in
17 mid-93 until about end of '93, what was the effect of this
18 closure, the occupation of ULIMO on that border point, on your
19 fighting in Sierra Leone, the RUF?

12:16:07 20 A. One of the main problems that the RUF faced at that time
21 was that the RUF supply line was cut off. What I mean in this
22 case was that the supply route where the arms and ammunition used
23 to come from was closed down by the advancement of the ULIMO-K
24 fighters along the borders.

12:16:44 25 Q. Did the cut off of your supply route have any impact on the
26 war that you were fighting against the government forces at the
27 time?

28 A. Yes, sir.

29 Q. How did it affect or impact the war?

1 A. From my own experience at that time, that closure of the
2 border was responsible for the massive retreat that the RUF was
3 doing at that time.

4 Q. How was it responsible?

12:17:32 5 A. It was because no more supplies were coming to the RUF,
6 I mean the supply of arms and ammunition.

7 Q. In your earlier evidence you mentioned that Morris Kallon
8 had gone across the border to Liberia for supplies. Do you
9 recall that?

12:17:58 10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. When did this happen?

12 A. That was some time in 1993 when he was sent along with some
13 groups to go to Gbarnga.

14 Q. Was this before or after the closure of the border by
12:18:23 15 ULIMO-K forces?

16 A. That was before the border was completely closed.

17 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Bangura, there is a part of the
18 evidence that is vague to me where you asked the witness when he
19 heard about the closing of the border and he says at page 58,
12:18:48 20 I think line 17, "I heard of them finally closing the entire
21 border post in mid-1993." So was the border closed in mid-1993,
22 or that is when he learned of the closure?

23 MR BANGURA: I will get the witness to clarify, your
24 Honour:

12:19:06 25 Q. Mr Witness, you heard the question posed by Justice
26 Sebutinde. Can you clarify what the position was in mid-1993;
27 was it when the border actually got closed, or was it when you
28 learnt about this and did it happen before that date?

29 A. Well, mid-1993, at that time ULIMO had occupied some parts

1 of the border towards the Foya area, but some part of Lofa was
2 still occupied by some NPFL fighters who were within the Foya
3 zone. So at that time the border was not completely closed until
4 when the RUF was finally pushed to the - along the borderline
12:20:10 5 after the second execution that I have just mentioned here.

6 Q. In effect, Mr Witness, is it the case that by mid-1993 the
7 border was not completely closed to RUF forces going across? Is
8 that your evidence?

9 A. No, sir.

12:20:35 10 Q. Just to be clear, when did the border eventually finally
11 get closed completely?

12 A. That was the time when the government soldiers took control
13 over Koindu and all the big towns in Kailahun District.

14 Q. Just to be clear further, Mr Witness, can you say about
12:21:00 15 what time in the year 1993, I believe that we are talking about,
16 that the border eventually got closed? We have been dealing with
17 broad time frames as in early, late and mid. Can you just say.

18 A. Yes, sir, when I talk about late 1993 I am referring to,
19 you know, the month of November to December 1993.

12:21:29 20 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, do you know when the border
21 was finally closed?

22 THE WITNESS: Well, the border closure that I am talking
23 about here, it was not like it was officially declared that the
24 border had been closed. But I am explaining it in a sense that
12:21:51 25 at that time the RUF didn't have access to go across the border
26 to cross into Liberia, to go through to get to Gbarnga. This is
27 what I mean.

28 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, I am asking you for a month
29 or a time frame when the border was actually closed. I am not

1 asking you for the effects of the closure. Do you know when the
2 border was closed, finally closed, or fully closed?

3 THE WITNESS: That was in November 1993.

4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Thank you.

12:22:26 5 MR BANGURA: Thank you:

6 Q. I was dealing with the point about Morris Kallon going over
7 to Liberia to collect supplies. Do you recall that?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Do you recall about what time in 1993 that Morris Kallon
10 had gone across to collect supplies? I think I asked the
11 question before.

12 A. To be specific enough I do not know the actual time frame
13 that he left.

14 Q. Is it your evidence that it was - was it before or after
15 the border was completely closed?

16 A. That was before the border was completely closed.

17 Q. And what became of that mission - first of all, before
18 I ask that, I'm sorry, who sent Morris Kallon to go across into
19 Liberia to collect supplies?

12:23:32 20 A. He was sent by Foday Sankoh at that time.

21 Q. You said that he did not go alone, he went with some men --

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: He actually said groups. He didn't
23 specify the gender.

24 MR BANGURA: Thank you, your Honour:

12:23:50 25 Q. He went with a group. Can you recall how many were in this
26 group? How strong was the group?

27 A. Well, this group that I am referring to were strong armed
28 men that were sent along with him.

29 Q. The question was are you able to tell the strength in terms

1 of number of the group that went across with Morris Kallon?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Do you know what became of this mission?

4 A. Yes, sir.

12:24:32 5 Q. Please explain.

6 A. They found it difficult to move from Liberia to join the
7 RUF on their way coming because of the occupation of the ULIMO
8 fighters along the route.

9 Q. Did Kallon eventually come back from Liberia?

12:24:59 10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. How did he get back into Sierra Leone territory?

12 A. At the time that we had been pushed in the jungles along
13 the Liberian borders, he came at one time through Liberia into
14 Guinea and from Guinea to Sierra Leone.

12:25:33 15 Q. Do you know when was this?

16 A. I cannot remember the exact time.

17 Q. Are you able to say how long Morris Kallon and his group
18 were in Liberia on this mission before he eventually came back
19 into Sierra Leone?

12:25:57 20 A. No, sir, I cannot remember the time frame.

21 Q. Thank you. Now at the end of '93, towards about the end of
22 '93, you said the RUF had been pushed to a point where they were
23 now at the border with Liberia. Do you know what positions or
24 towns they occupied in that area that they were?

12:26:30 25 A. Yes, sir.

26 Q. Please name them.

27 A. Initially, the RUF occupied villages along the Liberian
28 border like Sandia.

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

1 name of the second town.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please pause, Mr Witness. The
3 interpreter asks you to repeat the second town you mentioned
4 after Sandia.

12:27:04 5 THE WITNESS: Pumbudu.

6 MR BANGURA:

7 Q. Mr Witness, can you spell Pumbudu?

8 A. Pumbudu I used to spell it as P-U-M-B-U-D-U.

9 Q. What other locations did the RUF occupy in that area?

12:27:38 10 A. We have Taidu, Sondokoro Bendu, Koi ndu Kombay and later
11 Giema and along the Liberian border.

12 Q. Mr Witness, can you help the Court with some spellings of
13 these names that you have mentioned. First, you mentioned Taidu?

14 A. Yes, some of these names were Kissi names but, you know, we
12:28:17 15 usually spelt it T-A-E-D-U [sic], Taidu.

16 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, I will probably go by the
17 spelling which the Prosecution already has adopted before.
18 I have just been reminded that what comes up on the screen is
19 consistent with what we have for Taidu.

12:28:41 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is already on record, is it, this
21 one, Mr Bangura?

22 MR BANGURA: Yes.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Have the others --

24 MR MUNYARD: Madam President, I am sorry to interrupt, but
12:28:47 25 would it assist - because we have been getting a lot of place
26 names and descriptions of activity near the border, would it
27 assist everybody if the witness was given the map book and then
28 he can actually show us where these places were? That will
29 probably resolve the spellings at the same time.

1 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, the difficulty we do have is
2 that some of these names do not feature in any one map that we
3 have. Some of these names do not quite feature. That is one and
4 two there is also the problem of lack of consistency of spellings
12:29:27 5 of different maps. We have got an UNAMSIL map, we have a Shell
6 map of Sierra Leone and in some cases spellings differ, but
7 really the question of using a map can only be helpful for
8 limited purpose. It will not - not all the names that the
9 witness is mentioning can be found in one map.

12:29:49 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: It would appear that it is not going to
11 be a practicality, Mr Munyard, although it would have been
12 helpful.

13 MR MUNYARD: Well, I thought it might assist us generally
14 to see the area. Even - Mr Bangura hasn't said that none of
12:30:04 15 these names appear on any map. He has just said they are spread
16 over a number of maps. It would certainly help us to see what
17 part of the border that the witness is talking about.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: You mean the general area?

19 MR MUNYARD: Yes, and if the names appear on two separate
12:30:19 20 maps, or even three, I am sure we can all cope with that.

21 MR BANGURA: Your Honour, we will at this point offer the
22 spellings that we have standard for the Prosecution.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, but there are some places mentioned
24 that I do not recall hearing before.

12:30:32 25 MR BANGURA: We would make our best endeavour to cross
26 check and confirm spellings that we are not sure about.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: What about having the witness look at a
28 map?

29 MR BANGURA: We will also consider that but, your Honour,

1 the point is at this stage I understand my learned friend raising
2 the question of - the idea of a map mainly to solve the problem
3 of spellings. That is why I am addressing the question of
4 spellings at this stage. As to the use of a map, the Prosecution
12:31:01 5 has its strategy as to conducting this witness's testimony and
6 I daresay that at some future stage in these proceedings the
7 witness will be asked to use a map.

8 Your Honours, having said that, may I offer some spellings
9 for the names mentioned. Sondokoro we have S-O-N-D-O-K-O-R-O and
12:31:41 10 Koindu Kombay I believe has come up before in this Court.

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: It wastes less time if you just outright
12 spell it again.

13 MR BANGURA: I will, your Honour. Koindu as in Koindu and
14 Kombay is K-O-M-B-A-Y:

12:32:03 15 Q. And then, Mr Witness, did you say Ngeihun? Did you give a
16 name which was a compound name of Ngeihun and some other name, do
17 you recall?

18 A. No, sir, when I was trying to mention these villages that
19 we were occupying at that time I only mentioned Giema later on.

12:32:30 20 Q. Giema, thank you.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: There was also - oh, we have had that
22 one, sorry.

23 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, if I recall correctly now the
24 witness mentioned Pumbudu before and then Taidu, Sondokoro,
12:32:49 25 Koindu Kombay and Giema.

26 MR MUNYARD: Yes, Madam President, again --

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am sorry, I was just going to say
28 I thought I heard him mention Bendu and then [microphone not
29 activated].

1 MR MUNYARD: Do you want to deal with that first and then I
2 will -- [overlapping speakers]

3 MR BANGURA: Sondokoro Bendu. I get the point now, your
4 Honour. It was Sondokoro Bendu, one name.

12:33:13 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Oh, it is one place?

6 MR BANGURA: Yes, one, your Honour.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see. Mr Munyard?

8 MR MUNYARD: Thank you, Madam President. One of the
9 reasons I was hoping we would actually get the witness to show us
12:33:21 10 on maps the area he is talking about is that I can see

11 immediately in the Kailahun District two places called Giema, one
12 of which is close to the border and the other of which is also
13 quite close to the border, and it is not helping me to follow the
14 evidence by looking at the maps the Prosecution have provided if

12:33:39 15 I don't know which of the various Giemas he is talking about.
16 That was why I was proposing using a map would actually probably
17 enlighten a lot of us and might - I am not too concerned about
18 the different spellings. We all know that all of these towns
19 have different spellings. I am much more interested in where
12:33:58 20 they are.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, there has been a renewed
22 application to have a map.

23 MR BANGURA: I take the point, your Honour. Your Honours,
24 the Prosecution will at a later point - it may not be very
12:34:16 25 practical to try and do that now, but at a later stage in the
26 testimony of this witness go back and show a map which indicates
27 positions that this witness has mentioned.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well, but I am going to keep my eye
29 on this one, Mr Bangura, and if I think it is getting to the

1 stage where I think we really need it I am going to make a
2 direction.

3 MR BANGURA: Thank you, your Honour.

4 MR MUNYARD: If we are not going to use the maps now, then
12:34:45 5 I would like the witness to give us some idea of where on this
6 very long border between these two countries we are talking
7 about. It is no good saying "Giema" to me, because even in
8 Kailahun District I can see two such towns.

9 MR BANGURA: I will get the witness to give some
12:35:01 10 description of these locations, your Honour, and then later on we
11 will get a map to illustrate exactly what he is saying.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, I don't want to get the same
13 evidence twice and waste time and so the most efficient way is to
14 be implemented.

12:35:23 15 MR BANGURA:
16 Q. Mr Witness, the names that you have mentioned, are you able
17 to tell in which chiefdoms they are in Kailahun District?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Now, you mentioned Pumbudu. Do you know in which chiefdom
12:35:50 20 Pumbudu is?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Please tell the Court.

23 A. Pumbudu is in the Kissi Town chiefdom in Kailahun District.

24 Q. You also mentioned Taidu?

12:36:08 25 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Kissi what?

26 MR MUNYARD: I don't think there is a Kissi Town.

27 THE WITNESS: Kissi Teng.

28 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, Kissi Teng is --

29 THE WITNESS: I can spell that, sir. T-E-N-G, Teng.

1 MR MUNYARD: And on map S7 you can actually see it written.
2 I really don't understand the problem.

3 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, may I have a moment? Your
4 Honours, my attention has been drawn to the fact that we could
12:37:40 5 use one of the maps that has been provided to the Court in the
6 map book and the particular one in question is S7. Could the
7 witness be provided with map S7, please.

8 THE WITNESS: Can I look at the area, please?

9 MR BANGURA:
10 Q. Mr Witness, can we start again in the order in which you
11 have named these locations. First, you mentioned Pumbudu.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, I think the witness is trying
13 to familiarise himself with the map. Mr Witness, when you are
14 familiar please indicate to counsel and he can put his question.

12:39:08 15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

16 MR BANGURA:

17 Q. Are you familiar with the map that's before you,
18 Mr Witness?

19 A. Yes, sir.

12:39:23 20 Q. Now, if you look at the top of it it tells you where this
21 map is featuring, what area it's featuring. Do you see the name
22 up there?

23 A. Yes, this is the map of Kailahun District in Sierra Leone,
24 sir.

12:39:45 25 Q. Thank you. So are you able to locate on the map the towns
26 or villages that you have just mentioned in your testimony?

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. Now, let's go through that process one by one. You first
29 mentioned Pumbudu. If you can, please just show the area where

1 Pumbudu is. You don't have to mark the map at this stage. Just
2 show where Pumbudu is?

3 A. Pumbudu is not on this map here now, but there are some
4 other villages which were closer to Pumbudu found in the same
12:40:57 5 location, but these were just small villages, but they are not on
6 the map here.

7 Q. Which villages are they that are shown on the map? You
8 said there are others that are close to Pumbudu.

9 A. Like Saama. Saama was just about a mile to Pumbudu. Saama
12:41:26 10 is on the map.

11 Q. Where is Saama? Can you point to that?

12 MR MUNYARD: For my learned friend's benefit it's above the
13 E-N-G of Teng in Kissi Teng.

14 MR BANGURA: I have seen that. Maybe we can do with
12:41:57 15 marking at this point. Could the witness be provided with a
16 marker of some --

17 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Perhaps yellow might do better. It
18 stands out.

19 MR BANGURA:

12:42:25 20 Q. Mr Witness, can you just indicate with the marking pen
21 where Pumbudu should be?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Just do that, please. Thank you. Is the witness able to
24 write, draw a line from that and write Pumbudu, not necessarily
12:43:02 25 using the marking pen.

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. Next, Mr Witness, you mentioned Taidu. Can you indicate
28 where Taidu is on the map?

29 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Go ahead. Is the name Taidu actually there, or is that
2 where Taidu should be?

3 A. That is the place where Taidu is supposed to be, but it is
4 not mentioned on the map.

12:44:19 5 JUDGE LUSSICK: There is a Taydu on the map. It's south of
6 that on the other side of the border.

7 MR BANGURA: Your Honour, Justice Lussick, are you
8 referring to the one spelt T-A-I-L-U?

9 JUDGE LUSSICK: No T-A-Y-D-U, Taydu.

12:44:47 10 MR BANGURA: Yes, I get that but that seems to be on the
11 other side of the border.

12 JUDGE LUSSICK: Well, that's the only Taidu there.

13 MR BANGURA:

14 Q. Mr Witness, the town Taidu where you said you were
12:45:02 15 occupying at this time, was it on the Sierra Leone side of the
16 border, or on the Liberian side?

17 A. The Taidu I am referring to here is in Sierra Leone.

18 Q. And the circle in red which you have just put on the map,
19 does that give an indication of where the Taidu you are referring
12:45:37 20 to should have been?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Can you proceed to mark or write the name, draw a line from
23 that circle and write the name Taidu, please.

24 A. Yes, sir.

12:45:57 25 MR BANGURA: The spelling for Taidu in this Court is
26 T-A-I-D-U:

27 Q. You also mentioned Sondokoro Bendu. Can you find it on the
28 map?

29 A. The location of Sondokoro Bendu I referred to in this case,

1 there is nothing there any more.

2 Q. Do you know around what area on this map that town or
3 village should be?

4 A. Yes, sir.

12:47:01 5 Q. Can you indicate that area, please?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Please go ahead and, like you have done before, please draw
8 a line from that and write Sondokoro Bendu. The spelling for
9 this Court is S-O-N-D-O-K-O-R-O for Sondokoro and Bendu,

12:47:50 10 B-E-N-D-U.

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Bangura, is that different from the
12 Sondokoro we see on the map? There is a Sondokoro. The red line
13 immediately below Teng of Kissi Teng. It's a different
14 Sondokoro?

12:48:14 15 MR BANGURA: I am still trying to find it myself, your
16 Honour.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is written through the chiefdom border
18 marking.

19 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: You see the words Kissi Teng. If you go
12:48:30 20 to the south of that there is a thick red line with the word
21 Sondokoro written immediately below.

22 MR BANGURA: Okay, I get that:

23 Q. Mr Witness, have you found that?

24 A. Yes, sir, I have found it, sir. The location of this
12:48:45 25 Sondokoro here is far away from where I knew of and this Dambara
26 in between here, Dambara was beyond the Sondokoro I am referring
27 to here. Because I see Dambara here, then from there you come to
28 Sondokoro. It is like this is a different Sondokoro here. The
29 Sondokoro I am referring to here, from Pumbudu you come down to -

1 from Taidu you come down to Pumbudu. From there you have to
2 walk. It's a bush path about a mile distance to Sondokoro Bendu
3 that I am referring to in this case. They are all within the
4 same region that I have just marked.

12:49:31 5 Q. Lastly you mentioned Koi ndu Kombay. You also mentioned
6 Giema, but we already have had Giema before. But Koi ndu Kombay?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Can you locate Koi ndu Kombay on the map?

9 A. I cannot find Koi ndu Kombay on this map now.

12:50:29 10 Q. Where on this map would Koi ndu Kombay be if it was
11 inserted?

12 A. Well, Koi ndu Kombay is supposed to be on the southern part
13 of Sondokoro Bendu, this Sondokoro Bendu. I mean this Sondokoro
14 on the map here.

12:51:06 15 Q. So where would you put Koi ndu Kombay?

16 A. Koi ndu Kombay is supposed to be around this Sondokoro.

17 Q. Can you put a mark there to show the location where you
18 think Koi ndu Kombay should be?

19 A. Yes, sir.

12:51:41 20 Q. Please go ahead. Can you draw a line from that point and
21 write the name Koi ndu Kombay. It has been spelt K-O-M-B-A-Y for
22 Kombay. Thank you. You mentioned Giema. Where on the map can
23 you find Giema? Just to help you, was it a very far
24 distance from --

12:53:24 25 MR MUNYARD: I am anxious that my learned friend doesn't
26 help too much, because helping can turn into leading.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: I was going to remind you of the
28 obligation not to --

29 MR MUNYARD: This is a witness who claims to have knowledge

1 of all of these places and facts and so on, either from his own
2 experience or from the numerous people he has spoken to or
3 overheard.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: The witness is studying the map so we
12:53:50 5 will give him time to do that. Mr Bangura, if the witness cannot
6 locate it quickly at least we could narrow it down to the
7 chiefdom.

8 MR BANGURA: I was going to bring it out in some other way.
9 I was not actually intending to say to the witness, "This is the
12:54:30 10 location." But let's give the witness time and see:

11 Q. Mr Witness, I assume you are not able to locate Giema
12 immediately on the map. Have you found it?

13 A. No, I have found Giema to the location I was expecting it
14 to be. There is a Giema here.

12:55:07 15 Q. Can you again just circle that location. You don't have to
16 write in this case, because the location is actually indicated on
17 the map.

18 A. I have a point of correction here, sir, please.

19 Q. Yes.

12:55:41 20 A. I know Koindu Kombay is to the south of Taidu and Pumbudu
21 where I made mention of Sondokoro. And then I have seen Koindu
22 somewhere southwards here, but this Koindu, I never heard of any
23 other Koindu around that area. I believe this is the Koindu they
24 are talking about on this map here in Kissi Tongi.

12:56:13 25 Q. It is not entirely clear what you are trying to say,
26 Mr Witness. You say there is a Koindu now that you have seen in
27 Kissi Tongi?

28 A. Exactly, sir, and Koindu Kombay, you know, is found towards
29 that particular location when you are coming down southwards from

1 Taidu towards Giema. But it was one of our deployment areas
2 between Taidu, coming down towards Giema and I have seen Koindu
3 southwards along this border.

12:56:49 4 Q. So you think or believe that this Koindu that you see south
5 of Kissi Tongi is the Koindu Kombay that you were referring to.
6 Is that what you're saying?

7 A. Yes, sir, because some villages I am familiar with like
8 they were around the Koindu Kombay, they are found around that
9 Koindu, like Dambulu.

12:57:13 10 Q. So you want to make a new indication for Koindu Kombay. Is
11 that what you're saying?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Please circle Koindu, the new location that you want to
14 indicate, and since the name is not written in full you can draw
12:57:47 15 a line and write Koindu Kombay.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: I just want to be clear here, Mr Bangura.
17 Are we saying that Koindu and Koindu Kombay are the same place,
18 or are they two different places within the same town, land or
19 location area?

12:58:16 20 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, I will get the witness to
21 clarify what he is saying now.

22 JUDGE LUSSICK: While you do that Mr Bangura, you have
23 probably noticed yourself there is also another Koindu in Kissi
24 Teng chiefdom.

12:58:29 25 MR BANGURA: I realise that, your Honour.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: I don't speak the Kissi language,
27 Mr Bangura, and for all I know Koindu could be a common prefix
28 and I am trying to ensure that we are locating this correctly.

29 MR BANGURA: I will try and get the witness to be very

1 clear of his indications. May I say, your Honour, that I have
2 made the point earlier that there is in some cases inconsistency
3 in spellings and the locations are not all on one map and so --

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, we fully appreciate that point.

12:59:10 5 MR BANGURA:

6 Q. Mr Witness, the new indication which you have given of
7 Koindu Kombay only has the name Koindu indicated on the map, but
8 we have drawn a line indicating Koindu Kombay. Is there any
9 other indication on that map which could be Koindu Kombay apart
10 from this one? In other words, are you sure this is the Koindu
11 Kombay that you are referring to?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Proceed, Mr Bangura.

13:00:02 15 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, the Prosecution - there may be
16 further indications on that map. I will at this stage just hold
17 back from having it marked for identification:

18 Q. Mr Witness, what were your activities in the RUF at this
19 point as you retreated to the border area between Sierra Leone
20 and Liberia? What were the activities of the RUF at this point?

21 A. I was an ordinary RUF soldier at that time assigned with
22 Issa Sesay.

23 Q. That is speaking about yourself. Where were you based on
24 this assignment with Issa Sesay?

13:01:08 25 A. I was based at Pumbudu.

26 Q. What specifically were you assigned to do working with Issa
27 Sesay?

28 A. From the initial stage we met when we were pushed to the
29 jungle I served him as a clerk.

1 Q. What sort of activities were you engaged in, your group
2 that you were with, Issa Sesay, what sort of activities were you
3 engaged in at this time?

13:02:10 4 A. Well, at the point in time I am referring to here I used to
5 assist him in writing simple letters, simple orders and also to
6 keep some of his records that he had.

7 Q. Now, I asked you earlier about generally what the RUF was
8 engaged in at this time. Can you say what - apart from you with
9 Issa Sesay, what generally was the RUF up to at this time?

13:02:44 10 A. Well, at that time in the Kailahun District, that I am
11 referring to, in the Kailahun District we are more or less on
12 defensive and undertaking some ambushes in the Kailahun District.

13 Q. Now, at Pumbudu where you were, apart from serving as a
14 clerk for Issa Sesay, did you perform any other roles?

13:03:14 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. What did you do else?

17 A. About a month later when I was serving him as a clerk
18 I found it very difficult for my mother and my other younger
19 brothers who were with me to get food for them. So I decided to
13:03:48 20 live like an ordinary soldier so that I will be chanced to go out
21 and find food for my family.

22 Q. You said about a month after, or about at the time that you
23 were with Issa Sesay and you talk about a month, when did you
24 actually take up the appointment with him? About what time?

13:04:11 25 A. That happened when we were all running away at that time
26 into the jungle when he met me in the village Pumbudu, together
27 with my mother. That was where he expressed his regret about the
28 death of his friend, my cousin Kai fa Wai at that time and he said
29 I should be moving with him. But since he knew that

1 administratively I had been in the office writing letters, so
2 I was moving along with him, preparing some of his documents for
3 him and whatever he asked me to do.

13:05:06 4 Q. Now, when you say you were moving along with him, going to
5 any particular places?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Where did you go to moving along with him?

8 A. At that time I made mention of the villages like Pumbudu.
9 There were so many other villages within that zone that - in
13:05:29 10 which the RUF occupied defensives and they mounted checkpoints
11 there. So Issa used to move from Pumbudu and will go and check
12 the defensive positions to see what was happening there on a
13 daily basis.

14 Q. Again I come back to when exactly, or about roughly what
13:05:47 15 time you took up this position as a clerk with Issa Sesay. Can
16 you be specific?

17 A. I think it was about a week when we were on the run and at
18 that time we had not even found specific areas to base in the
19 jungles, because we would be based in a village here today and
13:06:13 20 tomorrow hear about the government soldiers coming and we had
21 nothing to fight against them, so we are just running from place
22 to place.

23 Q. Earlier you had said that you were pushed to the border
24 point into these areas about late 1993. Is that right?

13:06:32 25 A. Yes, sir.

26 Q. So would it be the case that - can you remember now from
27 that point whether you were still in 1993 when you took up this
28 appointment with Issa?

29 A. I think that was now in - because the retreat happened late

1 '93 to '94 and I was with him until we got into '94.

2 Q. So is it your evidence that it was in '94 that you took the
3 appointment with Issa Sesay?

4 A. Yes, sir.

13:07:17 5 MR MUNYARD: With respect, what the witness just said was,
6 "I think that was now in - because the retreat happened late '93
7 to '94 and I was with him until we got into 94." My learned
8 friend has now turned that round in a leading question, "Is it
9 your evidence that it was in '94 that you took the appointment
10 with Issa Sesay?" Answer, "Yes, sir."

11 That is a different proposition. It shouldn't have been
12 put in the way it was, but it is also incorrect in that it
13 misstates the witness's earlier answer.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: I know it has been answered, Mr Bangura,
13:07:55 15 but it was leading and also it does not clarify the previous
16 answer.

17 MR BANGURA: Your Honour, I will get the witness to be more
18 specific about the year:

19 Q. What year then, Mr Witness, would you say that you actually
13:08:10 20 took --

21 A. That was late 1993.

22 Q. Thank you. Now, I asked you earlier whether in addition to
23 being a clerk for Issa Sesay you had other roles that you
24 performed. Do you recall that?

13:08:25 25 A. Yes, sir.

26 Q. What other roles did you perform?

27 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Bangura, you need to speak up. What
28 is being recorded of you is half questions and misstatements.
29 I think you need to speak up as well.

1 MR BANGURA: I will, your Honour:

2 Q. The question was whether you performed other roles while
3 you were serving as a clerk with Issa Sesay. Do you recall that?

4 A. Yes, sir.

13:08:55 5 Q. Please tell the Court what roles, or role, you performed?

6 A. I served like any other ordinary soldier within the RUF,
7 but I was specifically under Issa Sesay's control.

8 Q. Anything other than just serving as an ordinary soldier?

9 That's the question.

13:09:23 10 A. Well, nothing rather than that actually, sir.

11 Q. How long was the RUF in these positions that you have
12 indicated; the border towns that you have indicated to the Court?

13 A. Well, specifically in the Kailahun District at that time we
14 were there up to 1995.

13:10:02 15 Q. Apart from you or Issa Sesay occupying Pumbudu, can you
16 tell the Court where other commanders were at this time?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Please go on.

19 A. When we retreated to the border, the 1993 I am talking
13:10:28 20 about, Sam Bockarie and other commanders came together and

21 attacked Giema, where they captured a good amount of ammunition

22 and they took Corporal Foday Sankoh and some other fighters to

23 get into the jungle in the middle of Sierra Leone so that they

24 will be able to reduce the tension on us in the Kailahun

13:11:02 25 District. So at that time we had other commanders like Mosquito,

26 CO Mohamed Tarawalli, Superman and others who had already

27 advanced as far as the western part of the country.

28 Q. Now, before we talk about these new moves that the RUF

29 made, your evidence before now has been that when you were pushed

1 to the border areas you occupied Giema. Is that correct? One of
2 the towns you occupied was Giema?

3 A. Yes, sir, Giema was only occupied after it had been
4 attacked.

13:11:50 5 Q. Can you be clear now. When you say "after it had been
6 attacked", what do you mean?

7 A. When we were pushed, before getting into the jungle in
8 Pumbudu, Taidu and Sondokoro areas at that time Foday Sankoh
9 himself was amongst the forces in Taidu. That was the time Giema

13:12:16 10 was already occupied by the government soldiers, so in less than
11 a month there was an arrangement for the re-spread of the
12 soldiers so that they will reduce tension on the fighters. That

13 was the time Mosquito and others targeted Giema and attacked
14 Giema and they captured a large cache of ammunition from there

13:12:47 15 and they decided to go into the jungle where they opened Zogoda
16 and other areas in the western part of the country.

17 Q. Now, who was occupying Giema at this time?

18 A. Before 1995 we had other commanders that were taking care
19 of Giema, but after 1995 when the government soldiers had
13:13:19 20 withdrawn from Koindu, Kangama, Dia, Buedu and Kailahun and they
21 took their defensive to Pendembu, Issa Sesay left Pumbudu and
22 went to Giema and he based there.

23 Q. My question actually was before you - before Giema was
24 attacked and a large cache of arms captured, who was occupying
13:13:49 25 Giema?

26 A. That was the government soldiers who advanced on us. They
27 had already occupied Giema before they pushed us to Koindu.

28 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, the witness mentioned the names
29 of a few places. One of them that does not seem to have come up

1 is Dia. I think that has been spelt before, but the spelling is
2 D-I-A:

3 Q. When exactly or about roughly what time was Giema attacked
4 and this large cache of arms captured from government forces?

13:14:47 5 A. Immediately after we had been pushed into the bush, about
6 two weeks to be specific, and then Giema was attacked.

7 Q. And this was in what year?

8 A. That was still in 1993.

9 Q. Your evidence is that after you had captured these weapons
13:15:16 10 you were able to move on to new areas. Is that your evidence?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. When did the RUF move on to capture new areas? You have
13 mentioned a number of areas that the RUF captured later.

14 A. I said immediately after Giema had been captured the RUF,
13:15:51 15 led by Sam Bockarie and some other authorities like Foday Sankoh
16 himself, they travelled along the Liberian border to the Joru
17 area and they went as far as the Kenema District where they
18 opened Zogoda and they continued spreading out into the country
19 as far as the western part of the country.

13:16:15 20 Q. Where is Zogoda?

21 A. From the description of the area they said it is in the
22 Kenema District, because I never visited there.

23 Q. Do you recall about what time they actually positioned
24 themselves in Zogoda?

13:16:49 25 A. Yes, sir.

26 Q. What time was this?

27 A. That was at the time they just left Giema and went into the
28 jungle.

29 Q. We are talking of - well, could we have the year roughly

1 and the month roughly?

2 A. I think this was at the end of '93 because to be specific
3 on how many months they took fighting in that area up to the time
4 Zogoda was established I cannot estimate that actually, but it
13:17:35 5 was within a short time when they left Giema and went into the
6 jungle that we started hearing about the headquarters called
7 Zogoda at that time.

8 Q. Who was based in Zogoda?

9 A. Well, Zogoda was declared the RUF headquarters in the
13:18:01 10 jungle and Foday Sankoh was based there.

11 Q. You mentioned that, apart from Zogoda, the RUF also went as
12 far as the western part of the country. Whereabouts specifically
13 are you referring to when you say the western part of the
14 country?

13:18:20 15 A. Well, I was hearing about - at that time the RUF was
16 already around the Rutile mining area and they say somewhere also
17 around this - really I don't know much of the areas at that time,
18 but they were always calling the area the western jungle and that
19 Superman was in charge of the western jungle, but the specific
13:18:55 20 villages or towns I can't recall them now.

21 Q. Now, you have mentioned Zogoda and you have mentioned
22 somewhere within the western part of the country and you talk of
23 Rutile. Did you know of any other locations that the RUF
24 occupied during this period?

13:19:21 25 A. Yes, sir. Even coming towards the Kailahun District area
26 around the Kenema District they had Bandawor, it was another base
27 for the RUF, and then we had Peyima. It was another base for the
28 RUF at that time.

29 Q. Do you recall which commanders were at these points,

1 Bandawor and Peyima?

2 A. The RUF command was actually not stable at that time, they
3 used to change commanders as time went on, and I can recall when
4 Foday Sankoh left for the first peace talk Mohamed Tarawali
13:20:08 5 remained as commander at Zogoda and Mosquito was brought to
6 Peyima as commander, whilst Issa and Peter Vandi were the
7 commanders taking care of Kailahun District. Then we had
8 Superman - we still heard about Superman staying in the Western
9 Area.

13:20:29 10 Q. You have said that you worked with Issa Sesay as his clerk
11 at Pumbudu, is that right?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. How long did you serve him as clerk?

14 A. Like I told you earlier, it was about a month when we
13:20:59 15 entered Pumbudu.

16 Q. Your evidence, as you are trying to recall now, is that you
17 started serving him as a clerk just about a month after you
18 entered Pumbudu. The question is how long did you serve him as a
19 clerk?

13:21:19 20 A. That is what I have said, sir. For about a month, sir,
21 actually. I served him as clerk for about a month.

22 Q. Did you serve him in any other capacity apart from that of
23 a clerk?

24 A. Yes, sir.

13:21:43 25 Q. What other role did you perform?

26 A. I was considered as one of the members of his own security
27 forces; I mean those close securities that would be around any
28 authority.

29 Q. And in that position what specifically were you tasked to

1 do?

2 A. Well, as far as Issa's relation was concerned, my
3 responsibility was clearly defined in 1995 when the government
4 soldiers retreated from Koindu, Buedu, Kangama and Kailahun and
13:22:38 5 went back to Kailahun on defensive and I came down to Buedu
6 where, you know, he established a ground there for himself -
7 I mean, his base. We used to call it his ground. I was in
8 charge of that ground as the ground commander for Issa Sesay in
9 Buedu.

13:22:56 10 Q. How long did you continue to serve him as a ground
11 commander at Buedu?

12 A. Well, I remained as his close - I mean his ground commander
13 in Buedu until 1996 when Sam Bockarie was appointed as the battle
14 group commander for the RUF.

13:23:29 15 Q. When in 1996 was Sam Bockarie appointed to this position,
16 battle group commander of the RUF?

17 A. To be specific I can only remember that it was during the
18 first peace talk between the RUF and the government troops at
19 that time - I mean the Government of Sierra Leone at that time.

13:23:59 20 Q. When you say the first peace talks between the RUF and the
21 Government of Sierra Leone, what are you referring to? Which
22 peace talk was this?

23 A. That was the peace talk between the RUF and the NPRC
24 government led by Valentine Strasser at that time.

13:24:29 25 Q. When did these talks take place?

26 A. I can only remember that it was in the middle of 1996, but
27 I cannot remember the particular month or date.

28 Q. Can you explain how the talks came about, how these peace
29 talks came to be initiated?

1 A. Well, really I don't know what brought about the peace
2 talk, but I can only tell you that at that time we heard of a
3 ceasefire between the RUF and the government soldiers at that
4 time and later we heard that Foday Sankoh was picked up from
13:25:34 5 Zogoda camp on board a helicopter to Abidjan for a peace talk.

6 Q. Do you recall whether anything happened while Foday Sankoh
7 was gone on the peace talks?

8 A. Yes, sir. After he had left the RUF positions were overrun
9 by the government troops at that time whilst he was in Abidjan.

13:26:06 10 Like Zogoda and some other key areas were captured by the
11 government soldiers.

12 Q. When you say "key areas", can you tell the Court
13 specifically which areas these were?

14 A. Yes, sir. At that time Zogoda, which was considered to be
13:26:32 15 the headquarters of the RUF in the jungles, was captured and
16 Kailahun District was under threat by the Kamajors in
17 collaboration with the government forces and at the end of the
18 day Mosquito abandoned Peyima to go and join Issa to defend
19 Kailahun District.

13:27:02 20 Q. You said that Foday Sankoh was picked up at one point in
21 1996 by helicopter and taken to Abidjan for peace talks, correct?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. In his absence was any arrangement made for the leadership,
24 or about the leadership of the RUF?

13:27:33 25 A. Yes, sir.

26 Q. What arrangement was made?

27 A. First of all, he made two trips on the peace talks and the
28 first one was when he was picked up from Zogoda and at that time
29 Mohamed Tarawalli stayed in charge. But when he came for the

1 second time, by then Zogoda had already been overrun and Mohamed
2 Tarawalli was nowhere to be found. That was the time Mosquito
3 was appointed the battle group commander for the RUF.

13:28:14

4 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, I am not sure whether we have
5 much time for --

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: If that is an appropriate time,
7 Mr Bangura, we can take the lunchtime adjournment now.

8 MR BANGURA: Very well, your Honour.

13:28:25

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, we are now going to adjourn
10 for lunch. It's one hour. We will be starting court again at
11 2.30. Please adjourn court until 2.30.

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

13 [Upon resuming at 2.30 p.m.]

14:31:45

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, when you're ready, please
15 proceed.

16 MR BANGURA: Thank you, your Honour:

17 Q. Good afternoon, Mr Witness.

18 A. Good afternoon, sir.

14:32:09

19 Q. We shall continue with your testimony. Mr Witness, in the
20 course of your earlier testimony you mentioned that the RUF at
21 one point not long after you had been pushed to the border, the
22 border area between Sierra Leone and Liberia, at one point --

23 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, can counsel kindly be asked
24 to repeat the question, please.

14:32:37

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: You heard the interpreter, Mr Bangura.

26 MR BANGURA: Yes, your Honour, I was still phrasing the
27 question actually:

28 Q. You mentioned that the RUF did attack Giema and captured
29 weapons from government forces. Do you recall that?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And you have marked on a map that was shown to you earlier
3 a location also named Giema. Do you recall that?

4 A. Yes, sir.

14:33:15 5 Q. Now, the Giema that the government forces attacked and
6 captured weapons, is it the same place as the Giema you have
7 marked on the map that was shown to you earlier today?

8 A. The question is not clear to me, sir. I heard of
9 government soldiers attacking Giema and capturing weapons and I

14:33:53 10 said RUF attacked Giema and captured weapons. That was what I
11 said, sir.

12 Q. I will take it again, Mr Witness.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, that is what counsel also
14 said, so please take care when you are interpreting to the

14:34:07 15 witness.

16 MR BANGURA:

17 Q. You said that the RUF captured weapons from government
18 forces at a place called Giema. Is that your evidence?

19 A. Yes, sir.

14:34:25 20 Q. And earlier when a map was shown to you here you were asked
21 to mark Giema on the map and you did that. Do you recall that?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. My question is whether the place called Giema which the RUF
24 attacked and captured weapons from the government forces is the

14:34:51 25 same place as the Giema which you marked on the map?

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. Thank you. You mentioned the name Bandawor, the name of a
28 place called Bandawor. Do you recall that?

29 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Do you know in what chiefdom and district Bandawor is?

2 A. I can only remember from the description of those who went
3 there that it was in the Kenema District, sir.

4 Q. Thank you. You can't say what chiefdom, can you?

14:35:50 5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. Are you able to spell Bandawor?

7 A. The way it is pronounced I can spell it out.

8 Q. Please try.

9 A. B-A-N-D-A-W-O-R, Bandawor.

14:36:33 10 Q. Thank you. You also mentioned a place called Joru, do you
11 recall that?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Do you know where Joru is, what chiefdom and district?

14 A. Yes, sir.

14:36:56 15 Q. Where is Joru?

16 A. Joru is found in the Gwalu District, Gwalu Chiefdom in
17 Kenema District, sir.

18 Q. Thank you. You mentioned Peyima as one of the places that
19 the RUF occupied. Well, just before we go on to Peyima my
14:37:23 20 attention has been called to the spelling for Gwalu. Can you
21 spell Gwalu for the Court? You said Gwalu Chiefdom.

22 A. Gwalu is G-A-W-U-L-A, Gwalu.

23 Q. You mentioned Peyima as one of the places that the RUF
24 occupied, do you recall that?

14:38:05 25 A. Yes, sir.

26 Q. Do you know where Peyima is, chiefdom and district?

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. Where is it?

29 A. Peyima is located in the Lower Bambara Chiefdom in the

1 Kenema District.

2 Q. And before that you had mentioned Gbalahun as a place where
3 you were serving as an MP investigator I believe, is that right?

4 A. Yes, sir.

14:38:58 5 Q. Where is Gbalahun?

6 A. Gbalahun is in the Luawa Chiefdom in the Kailahun District.

7 Q. And how do you spell Gbalahun?

8 A. G-B-A-L-A-H-U-N.

9 Q. Thank you. Now, before we broke we were discussing a part
14:39:39 10 of your evidence where you said Sankoh had attended peace talks
11 in Abidjan. Do you recall that?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. According to you he went on these talks twice, or he made
14 two trips, do you recall that?

14:40:08 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. When was the first trip that Sankoh made to Abidjan?

17 A. That was when he was picked up by a helicopter from Zogoda.

18 Q. And about what time was this?

19 A. This was some time in mid-1996.

14:40:47 20 Q. Your evidence is that he made some arrangements regarding
21 the leadership of the RUF while he was away, is that right?

22 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, can counsel kindly repeat
23 his question, please.

24 MR BANGURA:

14:40:58 25 Q. Your evidence is that Foday Sankoh made some arrangements
26 about the leadership of the RUF while he was gone on the peace
27 talks in Abidjan. Is that correct?

28 A. Yes, sir.

29 Q. And who did he leave in charge of the RUF at that time?

1 A. He left Mohamed Tarawalli in charge at that time in Zogoda.

2 Q. And did anything happen while Sankoh was gone for peace
3 talks in Abidjan?

4 A. Yes, sir.

14:41:39 5 Q. Please tell the Court what happened.

6 A. Most of the positions of the RUF were overrun by the
7 government troops in collaboration with the Kamajors.

8 Q. And did anything happen further?

9 A. Yes, sir.

14:42:14 10 Q. Please continue.

11 A. We lost some strong positions like Zogoda, Bandawor and of
12 course Peyima. Mohamed Tarawalli, who was left in charge, was at
13 large and there were many casualties really. People were killed
14 and captured. That's what I mean.

14:42:52 15 Q. Did Sankoh come back from the talks in Abidjan?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. When did he come back?

18 A. At that time the RUF was only occupying few areas in the
19 Kailahun District and Sam Bockarie had already withdrawn and
20 joined Issa and other authorities in the Kailahun District.

14:43:29 21 Q. Now, where in the Kailahun District had Bockarie withdrawn
22 to to join Issa Sesay?

23 A. At this point in time Giema was the headquarters for
24 Kailahun District under the RUF, so he was withdrawn back to
14:44:03 25 Giema.

26 Q. Where was Sam Bockarie just before he withdrew to Giema?

27 A. He was in charge of Peyima jungles.

28 Q. Did you say "Peyima jungles"?

29 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Do you mean that there were several jungles in Peyima, or
2 in and around Peyima? Is that what you mean?

3 A. Yes, sir.

14:44:58

4 Q. You said Foday Sankoh came back. When exactly did he come
5 back?

6 A. The second - I mean, when he came back from Abidjan at that
7 time it was almost getting to the end of 1996.

8 Q. And did he do anything when he came back from Abidjan?

9 A. Yes, sir.

14:45:32

10 Q. What did he do?

11 A. One of the major things he did that I can remember was that
12 -was the appointment he made when he appointed Sam Bockarie
13 battle --

14:45:59

14 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly take this
15 answer again.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter needs to
17 catch up with you. Could you repeat the answer from the point
18 where you said, "He appointed Sam Bockarie as battle ..." - I
19 think you said battle group, but continue from there please.

14:46:20

20 THE WITNESS: As I said, one of the major things he did at
21 that time was that he appointed Sam Bockarie as the battle group
22 commander for the RUF.

23 MR BANGURA:

14:46:39

24 Q. Why was Sam Bockarie made the battle group commander of the
25 RUF at this time?

26 A. Well, from what I gathered from other authorities and from
27 my own experience behind the rebel lines at that time was that he
28 was more or less the stronger commander controlling the men in
29 the battle. People always appreciated his war plans and most of

1 the soldiers took him to be the best at that time to be in
2 control in the absence of Mohamed Tarawalli.

3 Q. And Mohamed Tarawalli you said had not been seen. Exactly
4 what do you mean?

14:47:45 5 A. Well after the fall of Zogoda, where he was based, there
6 was no good account of him, whether he was captured, killed or he
7 was still somewhere in the jungle.

8 Q. Now, you said that before this time Sam Bockarie had been
9 in control of the Peyima jungles. Is that correct?

14:48:17 10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. How long, if you can recall, was Bockarie in control of the
12 Peyima jungles?

13 A. Bockarie had been in control of the Peyima jungles before
14 Sankoh left for the first peace accord in Abidjan.

14:48:49 15 Q. How much earlier, or how earlier, before that time did
16 Bockarie actually take control of the Peyima jungle?

17 A. Bockarie took over Peyima in early 1996, you know, as a
18 sort of a punishment as we heard from Foday Sankoh at that time.

19 Q. Punishment for what?

14:49:30 20 A. He said - they said he beat - he flogged one fighter to
21 death for raping when they were in that Rutile area. So he was
22 demoted and sent as a target commander to Peyima.

23 Q. Do you know what activity was going on in the Peyima area
24 at the time that Bockarie was there?

14:50:14 25 A. Peyima was one of the front lines. I mean, we had targets,
26 you know, facing Tongo Field, which was one of the most needed
27 towns for the RUF. Also mining was going on around that same
28 area for the RUF and, thirdly, Peyima served as one of the
29 transit routes to Bandawor and Zogoda.

1 Q. You said that it was also an area where mining was going on
2 about this time. What kind of mining was going on in the Peyima
3 jungle area?

14:51:26 4 A. Diamond mining was the major mining that I knew of at that
5 time.

6 Q. And do you know specifically in what parts of this jungle,
7 the area that Peyima jungle covered, in what particular parts was
8 diamond mining taking place?

14:51:56 9 A. I did not specifically reach there to see the various
10 diamond mining spots, but this region that I just mentioned in
11 the Lower Bambara chiefdom, they were all diamondiferous areas,
12 they were all mining areas.

13 Q. You said that Tongo Field was one of the most needed towns
14 for the RUF. What do you mean by this statement?

14:52:28 15 A. That there were some - Tongo Field was important to the
16 RUF. Most often authorities used to talk about --

17 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly
18 repeat this answer.

14:52:55 19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter is having a
20 problem keeping with up you. Could you please repeat your answer
21 from the point where you said, "Most often authorities used to
22 talk about", continue from there, please.

23 THE WITNESS: As I said, some of the importance of Tongo
24 Field to the RUF at that time was to have control over the entire
14:53:27 25 mining operations.

26 MR BANGURA:

27 Q. You said mining operations. Who was conducting mining
28 operations in Tongo Field at that time?

29 A. At that time the Government of Sierra Leone was in control

1 of Tongo Field.

2 Q. And when I say "at that time" I am talking of the time
3 since Sam Bockarie took over command in the Peyima jungles.

4 That's the question. So the question is who was conducting

14:54:13 5 diamond operations, or mining operations, in the Tongo area at
6 that time within the period that Bockarie was in control?

7 A. Please, sir, are you referring to the mining operation
8 behind the rebel lines, or in Tongo Field itself?

9 Q. I am referring to areas covered by the Peyima jungle, which
14:54:41 10 includes Tongo Field. Is that not your evidence?

11 A. Please, sir, I know of Pa Abdul as a mining commander at
12 that time for the RUF who was based at Peyima at that time.

13 Q. What was Pa Abdul's position in Peyima?

14 A. He was the miners' commander, you know, at Peyima.

14:55:22 15 Q. And what did Pa Abdul - what were his duties specifically?

16 A. He was in charge of the miners who were mining for the RUF.
17 Whenever he had any diamond, he reported that to the higher
18 authorities. At the time of Sankoh - at the time of Sankoh, he
19 used to give it to Mosquito then to Sankoh. This was exactly
14:56:04 20 what was happening at the time of his rule.

21 Q. Who were the miners that Pa Abdul was the commander over?

22 You said he was the commander for mining and that there was
23 mining going on. Who were the miners? Who were actually
24 carrying out mining?

14:56:31 25 A. Most of these miners were civilians, but some soldiers were
26 also part of that group.

27 Q. Now, you mentioned that Pa Abdul would hand over diamonds
28 to Bockarie, is that correct?

29 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. And who would Bockarie hand over those diamonds to, as far
2 as you know?

3 A. At the time when Sankoh was behind the rebel lines, I said
4 to Sankoh.

14:57:16 5 Q. And how did you know that this was the process by which
6 diamonds were handled which came from the mining activity?

7 A. Before Mosquito's withdrawal to even come to take over in
8 the Kailahun District, Pa Abdul brought diamonds to Sam Bockarie
9 in my presence and I saw this channel of command.

14:57:54 10 Q. Where was this? When you say in your presence, where?

11 A. This happened in Buedu.

12 Q. Your evidence is that Sam Bockarie was commander at Peyima
13 and the question here is about the handling of diamonds that were
14 mined in Peyima. Your evidence further is that Pa Abdul, during
14:58:29 15 this time, was commander and would get diamonds and hand them
16 over to Sam Bockarie. So where was Sam Bockarie - where would
17 Sam Bockarie receive diamonds from Pa Abdul?

18 A. At this particular time - this particular time that I'm
19 referring to was the time that Mosquito, I mean Sam Bockarie,
14:58:59 20 came and took control over the RUF after his appointment. That
21 was the time Pa Abdul, who was with him across the Moa River to
22 Peyima, he asked him to give whatever he had, in the form of
23 diamonds that he brought, to him and that happened in my presence
24 in Buedu.

14:59:24 25 Q. Now, just to be clear, what did you see Pa Abdul give to
26 Sam Bockarie?

27 A. Diamonds, sir.

28 Q. And do you know what Sam Bockarie did with those diamonds
29 that were given to him by Pa Abdul?

1 A. At that particular time that I'm referring to, I never knew
2 what he did with the diamonds.

3 Q. And when you say at that particular time you are referring
4 to, what time was this? Can you be clear again about the time
15:00:09 5 that you saw Pa Abdul give diamonds to Sam Bockarie in Buedu?

6 A. This was in late 1996, sir, when he had now been appointed
7 as the battle group commander for the RUF.

8 Q. And was this the time that Sam Bockarie had withdrawn from
9 Peyima?

15:00:37 10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Now, when Sam Bockarie was in Peyima from about early 1996
12 up until the time that he withdrew, do you know what the position
13 was regarding mining operations that were going on in Peyima, or
14 in the Peyima jungles?

15:01:06 15 A. He was in charge of the target at that time where this
16 mining was going on and these miners fell directly under his
17 command.

18 Q. Do you know whether any proceeds came from the mining
19 operations that went on there at that time?

15:01:33 20 A. That one was not really to my knowledge at that time.

21 Q. When you say that diamonds which were given to Sam Bockarie
22 were handed over to Foday Sankoh at the time that he was leader,
23 what time are you referring to?

24 A. That was the time that Sam Bockarie was in charge at
15:02:05 25 Peyima. I made mention of that as a sort of, you know, the
26 control channel - I mean the command channel.

27 Q. When this happened was it at a time that Foday Sankoh had
28 gone - was it before Foday Sankoh went for the first time to
29 Abidjan for peace talks, or was it after?

1 A. Well, when I spoke of Sam Bockarie in Peyima at that time
2 with Pa Abdul, that was the time Sankoh was still in Zogoda in
3 Sierra Leone.

15:03:03 4 Q. To be clear, this time that we're talking of, when Bockarie
5 handed diamonds to Foday Sankoh, was before Foday Sankoh left for
6 the peace talks in Abidjan?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Is that right?

9 A. Yes, sir.

15:03:18 10 Q. Apart from the instance which you have mentioned where Pa
11 Abdul brought diamonds and handed them to Sam Bockarie in Buedu,
12 do you recall any other situation where this happened?

13 A. As far as Pa Abdul was concerned, that was the only time
14 that I saw him handing over diamonds to Sam Bockarie.

15:03:57 15 Q. Were you aware of any other situations where diamonds were
16 handed over to Sam Bockarie not in your presence?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. What did you know about the handing over of diamonds to
19 Bockarie that you were not present at?

15:04:30 20 A. There were other commanders who also had - who had also
21 been appointed as mining commanders. They used to also bring
22 diamonds to Sam Bockarie.

23 Q. Do you recall any one of those mining commanders that were
24 later appointed?

15:05:03 25 A. Later on during the course of the AFRC, you know, there was
26 a time that I saw others bringing diamonds to him, like one of
27 his bodyguard commanders from Tongo, Mohamed Kanneh, brought
28 diamonds. Alpha Touray was also another commander and at one
29 time he also brought diamonds to him.

1 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness, we shall get to that point shortly.
2 I am at this point still talking about Buedu and at the time that
3 Sam Bockarie had been appointed as the battlefield commander.
4 Apart from this one time, were there any other times that you
15:05:55 5 heard about diamonds or you knew about diamonds being handed over
6 to Sam Bockarie by mining commanders?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. Thank you. Now, you said Foday Sankoh came and made this
9 appointment of Sam Bockarie. He made him battlefield commander.

15:06:29 10 How long was Foday Sankoh back in RUF territory for on this
11 occasion that he came?

12 A. He spent just about a week, then he returned.

13 Q. Now after Foday Sankoh went back - where did he go back to?

14 A. At that time we heard of Abidjan in Ivory Coast.

15:07:07 15 Q. And about what time was this?

16 A. Well, this second time that he went back to Ivory Coast it
17 was late in 1996.

18 Q. Now after Bockarie was appointed as the battlefield
19 commander, did any changes take place in your appointment, in
15:07:40 20 your duties that you used to perform, at that time?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. What were the changes that took place?

23 A. At that time I was appointed as a clerk to him.

24 Q. Who appointed you as a clerk to Bockarie?

15:08:06 25 A. At that time it was Brigadier Issa Sesay that made the
26 appointment, sir.

27 MR MUNYARD: Madam President, before we move on can I just
28 ask for one point of clarification. My learned friend has just
29 been asking the witness about the appointment of Sam Bockarie as

1 battlefield commander. We've heard of his being appointed battle
2 group commander and --

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I recall that.

4 MR MUNYARD: I'm just looking it up on the - no, I've
15:08:48 5 collapsed my computer. I want to know - as I understand it there
6 is a distinction between battlefield commander and battle group
7 commander and, as I started to look this up, I can see a
8 reference to - it looks like page 88, line 19, "How long did you
9 continue to serve him as a ground commander at Buedu?" "I
15:09:20 10 remained as his close - I mean, his ground commander in Buedu
11 until 1996 when Sam Bockarie was appointed as battle group
12 commander for the RUF." Now can we clarify, please, are we
13 talking about Bockarie being given two different appointments, or
14 are we using two different terms here for the same appointment?

15:09:39 15 MR BANGURA: Your Honours --

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Yes, Mr Bangura, I think the
17 point is clear.

18 MR BANGURA: It is clearly my error and I meant clearly to
19 refer to the appointment which the witness referred to in his
15:09:55 20 earlier answer.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: For the purposes of the record we will
22 just have him repeat the appointment.

23 MR BANGURA: I will do that, your Honour:

24 Q. Mr Witness, just to be clear and for the records what was
15:10:06 25 the appointment that Foday Sankoh gave to Sam Bockarie when he
26 came from Abidjan?

27 A. Sam Bockarie was appointed as the battle group commander.

28 MR BANGURA: Thank you. Your Honours, I hope that
29 clarifies the position.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, thank you.

2 MR BANGURA:

3 Q. My question I think before that, before the point of
4 objection was raised there or clarification was raised there, was
15:10:46 5 whether your duties had changed and you said you were now made a
6 clerk to Sam Bockarie. Do you recall that?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Where was Sam Bockarie based after this appointment had
9 been made; I mean after he had been made battle group commander?

15:11:15 10 A. At this point in time he was based in Buedu.

11 Q. And when you were made or appointed a clerk of Sam
12 Bockarie, where were you based serving Sam Bockarie as his clerk?

13 A. I was with Sam Bockarie. When I talk of a base it does not
14 mean that he had an office he was staying in, but that was where
15:11:50 15 his family was.

16 Q. When you say "where his family was", where are you
17 referring to?

18 A. His wife, children and some other relatives close to them,
19 they were now moved to Buedu.

15:12:14 20 Q. And who are you referring to here when you say "his"? Who
21 is he?

22 A. When I said "his" I'm referring to Sam Bockarie, sir.

23 Q. Apart from Sam Bockarie, who you say had his family in
24 Buedu, did any other commander have their family in Buedu?

15:12:45 25 A. Yes, sir, Brigadier Issa Sesay also was based in Buedu and
26 Peter Vandi was also based in Buedu at that time and others.

27 Q. Thank you. Yourself, as clerk to Sam Bockarie, you were
28 based in Buedu?

29 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. What became your duties working with Sam Bockarie?

2 A. I used to prepare short notes for him, like when he wants
3 to send orders I help him to write these orders. You know, I
4 used to have a list of things that he used to, you know, have to
15:13:40 5 keep his documents. Sometimes I would take minutes of some
6 important meetings and also some important events that happened
7 during the course of his administration at that time I used to
8 take jottings about them. These were some of my responsibilities
9 that I had.

15:14:02 10 Q. Now, do you remember what sort of activities Sam Bockarie
11 was engaged in as the battle group commander at this time?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. What do you recall?

14 A. At the time that he was given this appointment the RUF was
15:14:34 15 almost on the run. What I mean here is that the government
16 soldiers in collaboration with the Kamajors were attacking our
17 positions very seriously. So what he said to the entire RUF at
18 that time was that he said his position was not to sit in an
19 office, but to get on his feet to make sure that he put the
15:15:02 20 situations under control.

21 Q. Now how did Bockarie communicate this position to the
22 entire RUF, as you have said?

23 A. He did it at a forum level with his fellow officers and
24 also at formation level to the ordinary soldiers.

15:15:30 25 Q. When you say, "He did it at a forum level", can you explain
26 what you mean?

27 A. I am referring to the official meeting held by the RUF
28 authorities at that time.

29 Q. So, specifically what did Sam Bockarie do?

1 A. Well, at that time that I was with him he started his work
2 as a battle group commander by first of all trying to reinforce
3 the RUF with the RUF soldiers who fled from Zogoda into Liberia
4 through the Pujehun District. That was one of the goals he
15:16:25 5 started with. Secondly, he was trying to negotiate with the
6 ULIMOs along the Liberian borders in order to get ways and means
7 to get arms and ammunition from them to reinforce the various
8 front lines. So, this was what he started with really.

9 Q. You said that he was - one of the first things he tried to
15:16:57 10 do was to reinforce the RUF with RUF soldiers who fled from
11 Zogoda into Liberia through Pujehun District. Can you explain
12 much more what was the situation that led to this?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Please go on.

15:17:19 15 A. When Zogoda fell, most of the RUF fighters were forced to
16 retreat through Pujehun District in the southern part of Sierra
17 Leone. They crossed into the ULIMO controlled areas in Liberia;
18 that is the Grand Cape Mount area. He was trying to negotiate
19 with the ULIMO commanders, you know, so that they can release his
15:17:54 20 men that were in Liberia at that time to come and join the RUF in
21 the Kailahun District.

22 Q. Now when you say he was trying to get the ULIMO commanders
23 to release his men, what do you mean? Were they captured?

24 A. No, sir. From what I understood at that time, the RUF
15:18:18 25 fighters went and surrendered to them because they were running
26 away from the attacks of the Kamajors.

27 Q. Thank you. Was this eventually - did this eventually
28 materialise?

29 A. Yes, sir, this happened later.

1 Q. And when you say "later", about what time was this
2 possible?

3 A. The coming of most of these RUF fighters who were at that
4 time with the ULIMO only came during the AFRC where I recognised
15:19:07 5 some of them that were at that time in Liberia.

6 Q. Thank you. You also mentioned that Sam Bockarie was trying
7 at this time to get arms and ammunition to reinforce the RUF
8 position at various front lines. Is that correct?

9 A. Yes, sir.

15:19:36 10 Q. How did he go about this?

11 A. Well, at that time since the shortage of arms and
12 ammunition was a main problem that led to this massive retreat,
13 you know, the only option he said was since there was disarmament
14 going on in Liberia he must negotiate with some of these ULIMO
15:20:13 15 fighters along the borderline to exchange their weapons with
16 whatever he had, so that we can reinforce our front lines.

17 Q. About what time are we talking of here, Mr Witness?

18 A. This time was almost in 1997.

19 Q. Did Sam Bockarie pursue this intention with ULIMO forces on
15:20:51 20 the Liberian side?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Can you explain how he went about it?

23 A. Yes, sir. In Koindu one afternoon he wrote a letter, with
24 some other items that he gave to us to go and try and find ways
15:21:22 25 and means to talk with the soldiers at the checkpoints at
26 Mendekoma in Liberia, so that we can give the letter to the
27 soldiers to give to the immediate target commanders along the
28 border, that we needed peace between us. The items he gave to us
29 were, you know, to serve as a sort of a present to them.

1 Q. What sort of items did Sam Bockarie give to you together
2 with the letter?

3 A. Well, on that first day that we carried this letter we
4 carried things like a carton of cigarettes, we carried a combat
15:22:20 5 uniform, a suit with a pair of boots and a big tape recorder for
6 the commander, the immediate commander that we would meet at the
7 border.

8 Q. Who did Sam Bockarie give these items to? You said "we",
9 so did that include yourself?

15:22:45 10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And who else was with you?

12 A. We were about a squad; I mean about 15 in number, you know,
13 armed. We carried this letter.

14 Q. Can you describe what happened when you took the letter
15:23:08 15 across to - did you say Mendekoma?

16 A. Yes, sir. When we arrived at Mendekoma, as we learnt we
17 had to bypass - I mean we had to bypass the checkpoint of the
18 ULIMOs who were serving guard towards the Sierra Leonean side.
19 They set an ambush to defend --

15:23:43 20 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness repeat this
21 area.

22 MR BANGURA:

23 Q. Mr Witness, you have to go a bit slower in your answers.
24 The interpreters are having difficulty coping with you. Can you
15:24:01 25 go back and explain what happened when you went across with the
26 letter and the items.

27 A. As I was trying to say, you know, we had the rest of the
28 other men to disguise themselves to protect themselves. I and
29 one of my friends whom they said should present the letter to the

1 people we would meet at the checkpoint. To cut matters short,
2 during - within a short time of misunderstanding, later we came
3 to understand that we came for peace. We gave the letter to the
4 soldiers we met on guard.

15:25:00 5 Q. Did this effort yield any results eventually?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. What were the results that came out of this effort?

8 A. The soldiers receiving the letters and the message were
9 very happy. They said they were disarming now, but their worry

15:25:28 10 was for the RUF, but since they have received such a message,
11 they were very happy and they welcome the RUF for us to be in
12 peace.

13 Q. So following this understanding between yourselves and the
14 ULIMO forces, did anything happen?

15:25:54 15 A. Yes, sir. The next day Sam Bockarie was invited to see the
16 commander and he and a group of us followed him and went with him
17 as far as Foya, Foya in Liberia.

18 Q. Mr Witness, at the end of all of this exercise did anything
19 happen? Did you start getting the material that you wanted from
15:26:26 20 the ULIMO fighters?

21 A. Yes, sir. The ULIMOs started bringing in arms and
22 ammunition to the RUF and in turn the commanders compensated them
23 with whatever they had for them at that time.

24 Q. How were they compensated?

15:26:55 25 A. Well, instruction was given by Sam Bockarie to all their
26 commanders to contribute whatever they had in the form of
27 materials like tape recorders, other machines, wearings for the
28 --

29 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the witness is not very

1 clear. Can he repeat his answer?

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter finds the
3 answer unclear so will you - is it the entire answer,
4 Mr Interpreter?

15:27:37 5 THE INTERPRETER: Towards the tail end of it.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Repeat the last part of your
7 answer, please, Mr Witness. "They had in the form of materials",
8 explain that. Repeat it, or explain it a little better.

9 THE WITNESS: I said things like tape recorders, clothing,
10 were exchanged for guns and ammunition that were brought by
11 individual ULIMO soldiers to the RUF.

12 MR BANGURA:

13 Q. Mr Witness, what were your duties at this time? As you now
14 started having material coming in, what became your duty?

15:28:40 15 A. At this time I was still serving as a personal clerk to
16 Mosquito by doing some of those specific duties that I had
17 mentioned: Writing small letters for him, keeping records. Like
18 most of these ammunition coming to him, taking records of them
19 and also taking notes of important meetings and notes from other
15:29:05 20 authorities.

21 Q. Are you able to tell who was the ULIMO commander at this
22 time on the Liberian side?

23 A. Yes, there were many of them, but the ones that I can
24 remember at that time was one General Farah Aidid [phon], who was
15:29:36 25 introduced as the area commander for the Lofa - the Foya area.

26 They used to call him the AC. We also had other commanders like
27 Colonel Kromah and we had also at that time Varmuyan Sherif who
28 was also one of the ULIMO commanders.

29 Q. Now, up to what time was Bockarie based in Buedu as battle

1 group commander?

2 A. Well, Bockarie was in Buedu until when the AFRC overthrow -
3 I mean when the juntas overthrew the Kabbah government, the Tejan
4 Kabbah government at that time.

15:30:40 5 Q. And when was this?

6 A. I think that was in early 1997, some time in April.

7 Q. Did anything happen after this incident, the overthrow of
8 Kabbah's government?

9 A. Well, there was another development within the RUF because
15:31:24 10 before this time it is important to note that at that time Sankoh
11 had already been arrested in Nigeria. He was in Nigeria. So Sam
12 Bockarie told the authorities that he had been called by the
13 junta leader at that time, who was Johnny Paul Koroma, that they
14 welcomed the RUF to join them to form their government and that
15:32:07 15 Sankoh had already approved of that.

16 Q. How do you know that Bockarie had been called by Sankoh
17 about the coup in Freetown?

18 A. Well, at that time I did not know about any link or the
19 medium of communication that they used, but he said that the Pa,
15:32:42 20 I mean Sankoh, had already approved of it and that they should go
21 ahead to join the brothers, like he called them at that time, to
22 form the government.

23 Q. Did anything happen after Bockarie received these
24 instructions?

15:33:06 25 A. Yes, sir.

26 Q. What happened?

27 A. There was a ceasefire declared between the government - I
28 mean the AFRC at that time - and the RUF, and Mosquito instructed
29 his commanders to go and join the juntas.

1 Q. And do you know who of these commanders went to join the
2 juntas?

3 A. Yes, sir. Before this time the RUF had retreated at that
4 time before - during the time Sam Bockarie, Mosquito, was
15:34:16 5 appointed battle group commander. A small group of the RUF were
6 still existing along the Western Area and they were led by
7 Superman, so Superman was instructed to join the junta where he
8 was based and in the Kailahun District various target commanders,
9 around Pendembu and other areas, were also instructed to join
15:34:43 10 them and Mosquito, together with all the delegations like Issa
11 Sesay and many other authorities that I cannot make mention of
12 here now, moved and joined the junta.

13 Q. Do you recall what time these commanders - RUF commanders -
14 moved to join the junta?

15:35:10 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. When was this?

17 A. After the announcement of the overthrow, this happened
18 within a week.

19 Q. And did you say that Sam Bockarie himself went to Freetown
15:35:38 20 to join the juntas?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. What about yourself?

23 A. I went along with him, sir.

24 Q. Do you know how long Sam Bockarie was in Freetown?

15:35:59 25 A. Yes, sir.

26 Q. How long was he there?

27 A. He spent about a month in Freetown.

28 Q. And what happened after that one month period?

29 A. He decided to withdraw from Freetown to come and be based

1 in Kenema in the eastern part of the country.

2 Q. Now during the time, the one month period, that Sam
3 Bockarie was in Freetown, did you continue to serve him as his
4 clerk?

15:36:46 5 A. Well I was his clerk when we entered Freetown, but a few
6 days later I reported to him that I cannot continue to work as
7 clerk to him because of the level of administrative
8 responsibility I saw and I was not brave or chanced to enter most
9 of the areas he entered, so my assignment was changed. Somebody
10 else took my responsibilities.

11 Q. Who took your responsibilities at this time?

12 A. One Sandy took the responsibility. I will call his name
13 later.

14 Q. Did he - did the responsibilities that he carried have a
15 particular position, or title? This Sandy who took over from
16 what you were doing, was there any title to the position that he
17 took?

18 A. Yes, sir, he was the secretary to Sam Bockarie at that time
19 and to give the full name of the person now he was Rashid Sandy.

15:38:24 20 Q. In military terms, as the secretary to Sam Bockarie, how
21 was that position described?

22 A. He was an adjutant.

23 Q. You said that Sam Bockarie returned from - he moved out of
24 Freetown after a month. Did he come straight to Kenema? You
15:38:55 25 said he came to Kenema, but did he come straight to Kenema?

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. When he came to Kenema, did he settle himself there?

28 A. Before settling he conducted some other activities actually
29 before he finally settled down.

1 Q. What activities did he conduct?

2 A. Even before he left Freetown he complained about the
3 absence of the Kamajors in the government at that time and he
4 said they were to get on their feet to ensure that the Kamajors -
15:39:58 5 that most of the important areas the Kamajors had occupied must
6 be - they must be removed from there. That was where his
7 activities started before he finally moved to Kenema.

8 Q. And when you said that he said they should get on their
9 feet, who was he referring to that should get on their feet?

15:40:23 10 A. At that time he was referring to the AFRC government
11 generally.

12 Q. And you talk about the most important positions Kamajors
13 occupied and you said that was the activity that he finally -
14 that he started before he finally moved to Kenema. What exactly
15:40:49 15 do you mean?

16 A. Well the Kamajors were threatening to recapture some key
17 areas like Bo and they were also occupying some other key areas
18 like between Zimmi and Bo Waterside and also Tongo Field, so he
19 put his own men together to fight the Kamajors to free all those
15:41:19 20 areas before he finally settled down.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, I find the previous answer a
22 little confusing. He said that before he left he complained
23 about the absence of the Kamajors in the government at that time,
24 which implies to me that he wanted the Kamajors in the
15:41:35 25 government, and then he went on to say about them being removed
26 from the areas that they occupied. I find that juxtaposition
27 somewhat contradictory.

28 MR BANGURA: Thank you, your Honour. I will get him to
29 clarify:

1 Q. Mr Witness, you said that Sam Bockarie - first of all, you
2 said he complained about the absence of Kamajors in the
3 government at that time. Can you explain what you mean? Why was
4 he complaining?

15:42:07 5 A. Yes, sir. When we went down to Freetown, during those
6 times we were there every morning we would have to go - move from
7 Benguema barracks, to Freetown, to Cockerill where they referred
8 to as the military headquarters at that time. Mosquito used to
9 always complain that the RUF had come and that they heard that
10 the Kamajors too were to join the AFRC, but he said he was not
11 seeing any sign of them and so he said it was like they did not
12 want to join the government. He said he was always receiving
13 complaints of attacks by Kamajors in different areas, so that was
14 his worry when I talked about the absence of the Kamajors.

15:43:01 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, that is clear to me now.

16 MR BANGURA: Thank you:

17 Q. You have said that Mosquito, Sam Bockarie, went about - he
18 set his own men and he took on the Kamajors, fought the Kamajors,
19 in different locations that they were. Do you recall that?

15:43:29 20 A. Well, he started his fight against the Kamajors from the Bo
21 area. He also fought the Kamajors in trying to clear the highway
22 which was blocked at that time between Bo and Kenema, and he also
23 took up missions in pursuing the Kamajors from Zimmi as far as
24 the Bo - I mean the Gendema area, the Mano River bridge towards
15:44:01 25 the Liberian border in Pujehun District. He also left there and
26 came and also conducted a similar operation against Tongo Field,
27 which was at that time occupied by the Kamajors, and they were
28 all successful at that time.

29 Q. Now in relation to Tongo Field, after the operation which

1 you have described as successful what was the position there?

2 Who was in occupation there after this operation?

3 A. Well, the AFRC - I mean, the Sierra Leone Army and the RUF
4 were combined mining diamonds in Tongo Field at that time.

15:44:59 5 Q. And Sam Bockarie himself you said he then settled in
6 Kenema. Is that correct?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Now just before we move on, apart from the complaint about
9 Kamajors not being present in the government which Bockarie made,
15:45:23 10 did he give any other reason why he moved from Freetown to settle
11 himself in Kenema?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. What other reason did he give?

14 A. One of the reasons was that the AFRC officers were not even
15:45:48 15 recognising most of the recommended RUF officers. By that I mean
16 that some positions in the military that he expected the RUF too
17 to take over, they used to take the officer's rank within the RUF
18 as a self - like something they did not deserve. Secondly, he
19 also complained about position - the position that was left, that
15:46:28 20 is the vice-chairmanship of the AFRC, which according to him was
21 left open for Foday Sankoh, and that if he occupied that space
22 they were definitely going to play low on the release of Foday
23 Sankoh. So, those were some of the things that made him decide
24 to leave Freetown to go further in the east.

15:46:52 25 Q. If I understand you correctly, Mr Witness, the position of
26 vice-chairmanship of the AFRC was accorded to somebody, is that
27 what you're saying?

28 A. Yes, sir.

29 Q. Who was it accorded to?

1 A. It was open for Foday Sankoh.

2 Q. And what happened in the event?

3 A. At that time Sam Bockarie just decided to leave that
4 position vacant, because they were convincing him to take over
15:47:35 5 the vice-chairmanship since Sankoh was already under arrest.

6 Q. But you said he did not. Why did he not take it?

7 A. Well, according to him, if he had occupied that position at
8 that time they wouldn't have paid much attention to the release
9 of Sankoh.

15:48:05 10 Q. When Sam Bockarie moved from Freetown and based himself in
11 Kenema, what about the other RUF commanders with whom he had
12 moved to Freetown? What happened to them?

13 A. Well, later people like Brigadier Issa Sesay was working
14 with the AFRC in Freetown and Peter Vandi, Eldred Collins, they
15:48:43 15 were all in Freetown. They gave all of them responsibilities in
16 the government. And Superman as well, he was also in Freetown.

17 Q. Now, in Kenema where Bockarie - well, where exactly in
18 Kenema was he based?

19 A. Bockarie was based in the centre of Kenema at a place
15:49:20 20 called Dama Road in one of the buildings of the NIC. They called
21 it the National Insurance Company quarters. He occupied one of
22 them.

23 Q. Now, were you - where were you when Bockarie moved to
24 Kenema?

15:49:51 25 A. I was in Kenema as well.

26 Q. And what did you do in Kenema at this time, or what were
27 you doing?

28 A. Well, at some point in time I was staying in a different
29 quarter in some area, but I was one of his soldiers, so I used to

1 come during the day for any assignments.

2 Q. When you say for any assignment, what sort of assignments
3 did you get from Bockarie at this time?

15:50:43

4 A. Well, sometimes, once at a point in time when he was going
5 on patrol, I will join his convoy to go and on two occasions I
6 came to Kailahun to get some logistics for him, like fuel,
7 petrol, rice and some other condiments that he needed.

8 Q. Now first of all talking about being in his convoy, where
9 did you go to on these occasions that you were in his convoy?

15:51:23

10 A. I can remember I made a trip with him to Tongo Field and
11 also I also made a trip with him, for the first time, when he
12 joined the AFRC and we went to Kailahun, we visited Kailahun
13 District.

15:51:51

14 Q. After Bockarie left Freetown and came to Kenema, do you
15 know whether he made any other visits to Freetown during the
16 course of the junta rule?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Were there many of such visits, or was it only one that you
19 recall?

15:52:11

20 A. There were not many visits, but I can remember after the
21 Kamajor operations, on those areas I have mentioned, Zimmi, Tongo
22 at that time, whilst he was heading for Freetown again, most
23 times I will obtain permission from him to go and see my mother
24 and other family members in the Kailahun District.

15:52:43

25 Q. Now, you've mentioned that you were also part of his convoy
26 on a visit to Tongo. Do you recall that?

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. What was the purpose of that visit?

29 A. Well, Tongo was the main mining area at that time in the

1 Kenema District and he had men mining for him there.

2 Q. When you say "he had men mining for him there", were they
3 mining for him in a personal capacity?

15:53:35

4 A. Well, as a leader at that time - I don't think diamonds at
5 that time were for personal use actually, but he appointed some
6 people to mine and report to him.

7 Q. Who did he appoint to mine in Tongo at that time that were
8 reporting to him?

15:53:59

9 A. Well, there were other commanders actually, but to be
10 specific I knew his bodyguard commander, Mohamed Kenneh, as one
11 of the officers who was in charge of his mining.

12 Q. Was he the only one who you knew that Bockarie had
13 appointed to operate in Tongo?

15:54:35

14 A. No, sir. Like I told you earlier there were many others,
15 but to be specific I knew of Mohamed Kenneh.

16 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, I see the name Mohamed Kenneh
17 come up spelt - can I ask the witness to spell it:

18 Q. Can you spell Kenneh, please, Mr Witness?

19 A. Yes, sir. Kenneh is spelt as K-E-N-N-E-H.

15:55:16

20 Q. Thank you. Now, you said earlier that after Bockarie had
21 moved or evicted the Kamajors from Tongo, this was earlier on
22 before he settled down in Kenema, the AFRC, as well as the RUF,
23 had their people in Tongo who were involved in mining activity.
24 You have just given us the position regarding the RUF. You said
25 Bockarie had Mohamed Kenneh there who represented him amongst
26 others. What about the AFRC? Did they have people there that
27 you recall?

15:55:46

28 A. Yes, sir.

29 Q. Who do you recall that was there representing the AFRC?

1 A. I can remember one honourable Eddie Kanneh. He was also
2 based in Kenema, but he had his men in Tongo. Akim Turay was
3 also in Tongo at that time. He was also an AFRC officer.

15:56:49 4 Q. Now, you said Mohamed Kenneh was there representing Sam
5 Bockarie. Do you know whether there were any transactions
6 between Kenneh and Bockarie relating to diamonds during this
7 time?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. What do you recall?

15:57:15 10 A. I can remember at one time Mohamed Kenneh came with a
11 parcel of diamonds and gave it to Sam Bockarie in his residence.

12 Q. Were you there when this parcel of diamonds was handed over
13 to Sam Bockarie?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15:57:40 15 Q. Where did this take place?

16 A. This took place at the residence of Sam Bockarie in Kenema.

17 Q. Is it the same place as the NIC quarters which you
18 mentioned earlier?

19 A. Yes, sir.

15:58:07 20 Q. Now, you talk about a parcel. Did you see the diamonds
21 themselves, or was it just the parcel that you saw?

22 A. At this point in time I only saw a parcel given to Sam
23 Bockarie.

24 Q. Do you know what happened to that parcel of diamonds that
15:58:40 25 Sam Bockarie received from Mohamed Kenneh?

26 A. No, sir.

27 Q. Was this the only time that you knew that Mohamed Kenneh
28 came with diamonds from Tongo to Sam Bockarie?

29 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. How did you know that it was diamonds that were in the
2 parcel?

3 A. When he handed them over to Sam Bockarie - I mean when he
4 handed the parcel over to Sam Bockarie, he came and started
15:59:28 5 saying that the parcel would make Sam Bockarie happy.

6 Q. Who said that?

7 A. Sam Bockarie was saying that, sir. Sorry, I mean Mohamed
8 Kenneh was saying that, sir.

9 Q. When Mohamed Kenneh said this, was it in the presence of
15:59:52 10 Sam Bockarie?

11 A. No, sir. He had already left the room and he was now
12 discussing it with the other friends outside; I mean the sitting
13 room.

14 Q. Now, during the period that Sam Bockarie was in Kenema do
16:00:39 15 you know whether he received diamonds from any other sources
16 apart from Mohamed Kenneh?

17 A. I am not aware of others giving diamonds to him in my
18 presence.

19 Q. Now, you said that you at some point ran some errands for
16:01:14 20 Sam Bockarie. Do you recall that?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Where did you run these errands? Where exactly did you go?

23 A. The only errand I can remember at this time that I ran for
24 Sam Bockarie was that at one time he gave some money to his
16:01:44 25 bodyguard commander, Mohamed Kenneh, and he asked us to go and
26 buy some fuel - I mean diesel, gasoline and food in Kailahun on
27 the Guinea border. And there was a second trip and that order
28 was given to me alone, and I went for similar items and I brought
29 them.

1 Q. Now, you have said that about this time you were no longer
2 serving Sam Bockarie as a clerk or secretary, but you still
3 served him as one of his men and you could do errands for him.
4 Can you describe your relationship with Sam Bockarie?

16:02:52 5 A. Well, at that time I was considered to be one of his
6 soldiers around him and whenever he needed to send somebody, like
7 the errand I have just made mention of, I would do that. But I
8 was not absent away from him completely.

9 Q. Now, during the period that Sam Bockarie was in Kenema, do
16:03:42 10 you know whether he was in communication with anyone outside of
11 the territory of Sierra Leone?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Who do you know that he was in communication with at that
14 time?

16:04:06 15 A. At that time I monitored communication between him and one
16 of the radio operators in Liberia. I later came to know his name
17 as Sunlight.

18 Q. Now, when you say you monitored communication, can you
19 explain exactly what form of communication that you monitored?

16:04:42 20 A. To be specific, at one point at Bo Waterside - I mean
21 Gendema, the Sierra Leonean side on the border of Liberia, during
22 the Kamajor operations we had a radio set. It was there that he
23 communicated with Sunlight and he gave us feedback about what was
24 happening in Liberia.

16:05:15 25 Q. Now when you say "at one time", what time specifically are
26 you referring to that he made this radio communication with
27 Sunlight?

28 A. As I told you earlier, before he settled down in Kenema he
29 went on an operation in Zimmi to fight against the Kamajors and I

1 was in the group. It was there that he was communicating about
2 even the election that went on in Liberia and that Charles Taylor
3 won the elections and, secondly, that most of the Kamajors were
4 running away from his attacks and that they were scattered all
16:06:04 5 over Liberia and he even made mention of some ECOMOG - some
6 Sierra Leone ECOMOG - who were in Monrovia. He said they said
7 there was a kind of misunderstanding between the ECOMOG - the
8 ECOMOGs, the Sierra Leone ECOMOG and the other regiments of the
9 ECOMOG - and that evening he was even trying to --

16:06:30 10 Q. Mr Witness, I was going to pause - I was going to interrupt
11 you. My question was about the radio communication that you had
12 talked about, you had mentioned, but here you talk about Sam
13 Bockarie being in communication with Sunlight from Zimmi?

14 A. Yes, sir.

16:06:58 15 Q. You go on to say "he said" and "he". Who was saying all of
16 these things? You talk about somebody talking about the
17 elections in Liberia and you talk about the Kamajors running away
18 from the fighting and you talk about ECOMOG. Can you be very
19 clear about who was saying what to who?

16:07:29 20 A. According to what I understood from him at that time, he
21 said they had an operator in Liberia --

22 Q. When you say "he", can I interrupt you.

23 A. I'm referring to Sam Bockarie, please.

24 Q. Yes, continue please.

16:07:48 25 A. Sam Bockarie said at that time that he was in conversation
26 with a radio operator by the name of Sunlight in Liberia.

27 Q. Now was it a case of Sam Bockarie telling you of a radio
28 communication he had with Sunlight, or was it a case of you
29 listening on a communication that Bockarie was having with

1 Sunlight? Can you be clear?

2 MR MUNYARD: Well, I rise to interrupt because that's
3 effectively giving the witness one of two choices when in fact
4 there could be a whole host of different means by which he could
16:08:31 5 have come by this information and it amounts in effect to a
6 leading question.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think that's a valid point, Mr Bangura.
8 There are other options and you are in effect leading the
9 witness. Please rephrase the question.

10 MR BANGURA: I take the point, your Honour:

11 Q. When you talk about the communication that went on, what
12 exactly happened? Can you just say what happened during this
13 time in Zimmi?

14 A. As I told you earlier, Sam Bockarie told us that he was in
16:09:16 15 communication with Sunlight from Monrovia.

16 Q. Where did Sam Bockarie tell you this?

17 A. At this time we were at Gendema, along the Liberian border.

18 Q. And what did Sam Bockarie tell you that he had been
19 discussing with Sunlight in Liberia?

16:09:53 20 A. He told us about the elections won by Charles Taylor at
21 that time in Liberia.

22 Q. What else did Sam Bockarie say about the elections?

23 A. Do you mean any other thing about the election, sir?

24 MR MUNYARD: Well again he hasn't said, unless I've missed
16:10:25 25 it, that Sam Bockarie said anything else about the elections.
26 The question, the way it's put, implies that the witness has
27 indicated that he said more than one thing about the elections.
28 I haven't spotted anything else in the witness's earlier answers.
29 I may have missed something.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: I don't recall anything else. He
2 referred to the elections, Mr Bangura, and this part about who
3 won is a new aspect and so rephrase that also.

4 MR BANGURA: I meant to actually say, "What else did he say
16:10:56 5 apart from the elections?" I am sorry about that:

6 Q. What else did Sam Bockarie say apart from the elections?

7 A. He also talked about the Sierra Leone ECOMOG who were
8 having some problems at that time within the ECOMOG group.

9 Q. And did he talk about anything else that had transpired in
16:11:26 10 his communication with Sunlight?

11 A. He also made mention about - he said most of the Kamajors
12 had crossed over into Liberia and he said they were seeing them
13 there, but actually these were the main points that I can talk
14 about just to verify the communication that went on between Sam
16:12:03 15 Bockarie and Sunlight at Gendema at that time.

16 Q. Now just before we move on to further contacts that may
17 have been there, Gendema and Zimmi, which part was Gendema? You
18 seem to have mentioned those two names as - are they one and the
19 same places?

16:12:31 20 A. No, sir. Zimmi is one of the bigger towns towards the
21 Liberian border in the Pujehun District, but Gendema is right at
22 the crossing point on the Liberian border.

23 Q. And in which district is Gendema?

24 A. Gendema is also in the Pujehun District.

16:13:01 25 Q. Thank you. Now, you mentioned Sunlight as a person with
26 whom Bockarie was communicating. Who exactly was Sunlight, as
27 far as you know?

28 A. Well, at that time Sam Bockarie described him to be one of
29 the radio operators assigned with Benjamin Yeaten at that time

1 who was working with the Charles Taylor government.

2 Q. Now, you said that the first time you knew about these -
3 about communication with Sam Bockarie was in Gendema. Did you
4 learn about - between Sam Bockarie and somebody outside Sierra
16:13:58 5 Leone was in Gendema. Did you learn about any other
6 communications later?

7 A. Well I did not monitor any other communication directly
8 with any other person, but I knew that there were communications
9 outside Sierra Leone.

16:14:23 10 Q. Now, did you know of any other form of contact that Sam
11 Bockarie had with anyone outside Sierra Leone during the junta
12 period?

13 A. Yes, sir, I can verify this from the coming of Jungle in
14 late 19 - I can say early 1998.

16:14:57 15 Q. Now, who is Jungle?

16 A. The Jungle I'm referring to here was one of the SSS - I
17 mean the Special Security Service who were part of the
18 Charles Taylor security forces in Liberia, but he had been with
19 the RUF since 1994.

16:15:36 20 Q. Now, you said he'd been with the RUF since '94. Can you
21 explain how or in what circumstances he came to be with the RUF
22 since '94?

23 A. Yes, sir. If you can recall when I spoke of the time the
24 NPRC government pushed the RUF along the borders, some NPFL
16:16:04 25 soldiers who were also in the Lofa County had also been cut off
26 by ULIMO and so that group of NPFL fighters who remained and who
27 were forced to join the RUF along the Pumbudu axis that I made
28 mention of today were commanded by this Jungle at that time.

29 Q. Now do you know how long Jungle remained in Sierra Leone -

1 on Sierra Leone territory after he had been cut off, himself and
2 his troop had been cut off, by activities on the border?

3 A. Yes, sir, he almost - he took about a year with us in the
4 jungle and later he crossed through Guinea and entered into
16:17:02 5 Liberia.

6 Q. And do you recall what time he went back - he crossed
7 through Guinea and entered Liberia?

8 A. The only time I saw him was the time I was referring to,
9 1998.

16:17:25 10 Q. The question was whether you knew about what time he went
11 back into Liberia, the time you said he went back through Guinea
12 and into Liberian territory. Do you recall when this was?

13 A. To be specific, sir, I can't recall the month or the date,
14 but he spent some time with us in the jungle before he left.

16:17:56 15 Q. The next time you saw him you say was in 1998. Is that
16 correct?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Where did you see him?

19 A. I saw him in Kenema at Sam Bockarie's house.

16:18:14 20 Q. And do you know why he had come to Sam Bockarie in Kenema?

21 A. Well the only message I heard from him was that he brought
22 some ammunition and that the truck got stuck close to Buedu, but
23 that he came ahead to inform Sam Bockarie.

24 Q. Did he say where he was coming from with the ammunition?

16:18:57 25 A. Well at that point in time I knew that he was coming from
26 Liberia, but he did not say that he was coming from anywhere
27 else.

28 Q. How did you know that he was coming from Liberia?

29 A. Since the time he left us in the jungle and went to

1 Monrovia I knew that he had been there all along and that he was
2 part of Charles Taylor's securities.

3 Q. Did you know who gave him the ammunition that he was
4 bringing to Sam Bockarie?

16:19:52 5 A. Well at that point in time I was not actually taking good
6 record about how, where or who gave - who directly gave him the
7 ammunition that he brought at that particular time, but I knew
8 that he wouldn't have had ammunitions all by himself in Liberia
9 rather than getting it through the orders of Charles Taylor.

16:20:27 10 Q. You said he reported that he was coming along with this
11 ammunition but the truck got stuck at a point before Buedu.

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. When he reported this to Sam Bockarie, what particularly
14 was he asking to be done about this situation?

16:21:06 15 A. That question is not that clear to me, sir.

16 Q. Did Sam Bockarie do anything about the ammunition that
17 Jungle said he brought and was stuck somewhere before Buedu?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. What did he do?

16:21:30 20 A. At the time Jungle came with the information coincided with
21 the time I was just about to travel to Daru to visit my sick
22 father and whilst in Daru I heard that Sam Bockarie's convoy
23 passed through and went to that direction and I believed that
24 they were going for those ammunitions, sir.

16:22:01 25 Q. Did you get any information about whether they got the
26 ammunition at all?

27 A. No, sir. At that particular point, no, sir.

28 Q. Do you know how long Jungle stayed in Kenema on this visit?

29 A. No, sir.

1 Q. Were you there when Jungle - did he leave Kenema at any
2 point?

3 A. Well, at the time I was like almost trying to obtain
4 permission to go and visit my sick father, that was the same time
16:23:00 5 he too was giving some parcel to take it back to Liberia, but I
6 didn't know whether he left on that particular day and at that
7 particular time.

8 Q. Now, just to be clear, about what time after Jungle's
9 arrival was he given parcels that you just mentioned?

16:23:28 10 A. I'm referring to 1998.

11 Q. Okay. The question is how long after he had arrived in
12 Kenema and reported that he had brought a truck full of
13 ammunition which was stuck before Buedu, how long after that did
14 he get, or was he given, a parcel of diamonds - a parcel.

16:24:04 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: A parcel.

16 MR BANGURA: A parcel. I'm sorry, your Honour.

17 THE WITNESS: I heard of his arrival let's say like last
18 night and I met him in the afternoon when that happened.

19 MR BANGURA:

16:24:20 20 Q. So was it the next day?

21 A. Exactly, sir.

22 Q. Now, you said he was given a parcel. Who gave him a
23 parcel?

24 A. Sam Bockarie gave him the parcel.

16:24:37 25 Q. And did you know what this parcel contained?

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. What did it contain?

28 A. It contained diamonds, sir.

29 Q. How did you know that the parcel contained diamonds?

1 A. Well, at that particular time the diamonds were always
2 referred to as - a parcel of diamonds were always referred to as
3 a parcel and I saw the parcel myself whilst we were waiting and
4 he was discussing with Sam Bockarie and I was there waiting to
16:25:25 5 obtain my permission to go and see my father.

6 Q. Were you present when the parcel was handed to Jungle?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Did Sam Bockarie say anything when he handed the parcel to
9 Jungle?

16:25:53 10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. What did he say?

12 A. He said, "This is what I have now for the old man."

13 Q. And when he said "the old man" who was he referring to?

14 A. When he was dealing with Jungle at that time he was
16:26:18 15 referring to Charles Taylor at that time.

16 Q. How did you know this?

17 A. I knew that earlier, beyond the rebel lines, and we used to
18 refer to Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor as Papay, or the old
19 man.

16:26:41 20 Q. Now, when Bockarie handed this parcel to Jungle and said
21 this was for the old man, did Jungle say anything?

22 A. I cannot remember any word actually, but I think it was
23 appreciated.

24 Q. Now, this person called Jungle, did you know him by any
16:27:12 25 other name?

26 A. Yes, sir. He was Daniel. I think Daniel Falla [phon].

27 Q. You said that at the time that the diamonds - that the
28 parcel was given to Jungle, you were also trying to seek
29 permission to go somewhere. Is that correct?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Where were you trying to go to at that point?

3 A. At that time --

16:28:04

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: He's made that clear. It's Daru to see
5 his sick father.

6 MR BANGURA: I take the point, your Honour:

7 Q. You said you were going to see your sick father. Did you
8 eventually go?

9 A. Yes, sir.

16:28:22

10 Q. How long were you away for seeing your sick father?

11 A. Well, unfortunately when I arrived I stayed there until the
12 AFRC overthrow - I mean the ECOMOG brought back Tejan Kabbah to
13 power.

16:28:58

14 MR BANGURA: Your Honour, I'm about to embark on a
15 completely new area.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Indeed, Mr Bangura, we're just onto time,
17 so that would be convenient to adjourn. Mr Witness, we are now
18 going to adjourn for today. It's 4.30. We will resume court
19 tomorrow at 9.30. I again remind you, as I did yesterday, that
20 while you're under oath you should not discuss your evidence with
21 any other person. Do you understand?

16:29:17

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Please adjourn court until
24 tomorrow at 9.30.

16:29:35

25 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.30 p.m.
26 to be reconvened on Thursday, 10 July 2008 at
27 9.30 a.m.]

28

29

I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION:

TF1-388	13240
EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR BANGURA	13240