



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

FRIDAY, 13 JUNE 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

For the Registry:

Ms Rachel Irura

For the Prosecution:

Mr Nicholas Koumjian
Mr Mohamed A Bangura
Ms Kirsten Keith

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Courtenay Griffiths QC
Mr Morris Anyah

1 Friday, 13 June 2008

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused not present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

09:23:39 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. I note some changes of
6 appearance.

7 MR BANGURA: Good morning, your Honour. For the
8 Prosecution this morning Nicholas Koumjian, Mohamed A Bangura and
9 Kirsten Keith.

09:31:04 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Good morning, Mr Griffiths.

11 MR GRIFFITHS: Good morning, Madam President, your Honours
12 and counsel opposite. Representation today is myself Courtenay
13 Griffiths, my learned friend Mr Morris Anyah and Shannon Torrens.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. We have been advised that
09:31:26 15 there are some matters relating to the witness that counsel wish
16 to bring to the attention of the Court.

17 MR GRIFFITHS: It was at my suggestion, your Honour,
18 consistent with the order that the witness's identity remain
19 anonymous. In order to preserve that fact my learned friend
09:31:49 20 Mr Bangura has put together a list of names associated with the
21 witness's testimony so to enable the witness to refer to the
22 particular person by number rather than name during the course of
23 his testimony.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is persons other than the witness
09:32:07 25 himself?

26 MR GRIFFITHS: Other than the witness himself, but who by
27 association with him might lead to his own identification and it
28 was just to inform the Court that that's the procedure we are
29 intending to adopt.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: So what steps will be taken? Will this
2 list be circulated?

3 MR BANGURA: That is correct, your Honour. I thank my
4 learned friend for ably putting the position to the Court. I
09:32:35 5 have already handed over to my colleague on the other side one of
6 these lists that I intend to have circulated and the witness will
7 have a copy of it with these names and they are numbered and each
8 time in his testimony that he wishes to refer to any of the names
9 he would rather refer to the number than the name.

09:32:58 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: And the number is a TF number or just a
11 random number?

12 MR BANGURA: Just an ordinary number. Just a number.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see.

14 MR BANGURA: The position at issue perhaps before we move
09:33:15 15 on would be - my suggestion would be that the document, the
16 paper, that has been handed out be admitted subject to agreement
17 with my learned friend - be admitted in evidence at once so that
18 your Lordships can follow, because the witness is only going to
19 be referring to numbers and every time he refers to a number your
09:33:39 20 Lordships will have before you a copy of that sheet with the
21 number and you will know what name the witness is referring to.

22 Can I ask Madam Court Manager to --

23 [Trial Chamber conferred]

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: We have considered the submissions of
09:40:37 25 counsel. We accept the suggestion in principle. However, there
26 must be evidence of: (1) the witness's knowledge of the person
27 and (2) his concerns for security, et cetera, to determine if a
28 pseudonym can be allowed by the Court. Therefore, we will hear
29 this in private session to determine if it is appropriate that a

1 number rather than a reference to the person by name is adduced
2 in the course of evidence. So if the witness can be brought in,
3 I will remind him of his oath and we will go into private session
4 and deal with that matter first, Mr Bangura, Mr Griffiths.

09:41:20 5 Counsel, I should remark that this was a procedure that we have
6 adopted in the past.

7 MR GRIFFITHS: Very well, your Honour.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. If the witness can be brought
9 in, please, and please go into private session for purposes of
09:41:37 10 public record and the rules. We are having a short private
11 session for reasons of security of the witness and possibly,
12 possibly, other witnesses. So at first all the blinds will be
13 down so the witness can be brought in, then the side blinds will
14 be lifted, but there won't be any sound.

15

16 [At this point in the proceedings, a portion of
17 the transcript, pages 11739 to 11747, was
18 extracted and sealed under separate cover, as
19 the proceeding was heard in private session.]

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

1 [Open session]

2 MS IRURA: Your Honour, we are in open session

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

4 MR BANGURA: Thank you:

10:03:32 5 Q. Mr Witness, we shall now continue with your testimony from
6 where we left off yesterday.

7 A. Thank you, sir.

8 Q. When we broke off yesterday you were telling this Court how
9 you left Kenema and had travelled through Segbwema, Daru and on
10:03:49 10 to Bomaru. I believe we were at a point where you had just
11 crossed the border?

12 A. We were in Bomaru trying to go across the border, sir.

13 Q. Thank you. Now can you describe what was the situation at
14 Bomaru when you got there?

10:04:09 15 A. Well, in Bomaru, sir, there were thousands of refugees from
16 Kenema and the surroundings trying to go across the Sierra
17 Leone-Liberia border.

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, could you speak up and
19 clearly, please, because I think the transcribers are finding
10:04:26 20 difficulty in picking up some of your words.

21 THE WITNESS: Thank you, ma'am.

22 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Please speak up.

23 THE WITNESS: Thank you. In Bomaru there were thousands of
24 refugees from the surroundings of Kenema and elsewhere who were
10:04:41 25 also trying to go across the Sierra Leone-Liberia border and
26 there were hundreds of RUF rebels and the AFRC soldiers. We were
27 there, we were detained, we were searched, some of our properties
28 were taken away from us and at some times people have to give
29 money before you could go across, though there were thousands of

1 people wanting to go across.

2 MR BANGURA:

3 Q. Did you eventually get across the border?

4 A. Yes, sir, I did.

10:05:17 5 Q. Where did you go to on the other side of the border?

6 A. On the Liberian side of the border we managed to cross
7 there, sir, and we met again another checkpoint on the Liberian
8 side. This time they were Liberian soldiers there.

9 Q. And what was the situation at that checkpoint?

10:05:38 10 A. It was similar as the Bomaru checkpoint on the Sierra Leone
11 side, sir. On the Liberian side there were thousands of refugees
12 also before the checkpoint and there were Liberian security
13 forces there. They too were taking properties from people,
14 demanding money from us before we could go across. But then, as
10:05:59 15 I said before, my wife was pregnant and she was having problem
16 with it, so we used her situation to go across.

17 Q. This place where the checkpoint was, did it have a name?

18 A. Well, the name of the village I could not recall, sir, but
19 it was in Liberia, on the Liberian side.

10:06:27 20 Q. And did you move from that point eventually?

21 A. Yes, sir, we did. We later got help from an NGO, the ICRC,
22 and we went to Vahun. In Vahun we were lodged at the chief's
23 house, because we were fortunate to be with her niece from Daru
24 which I have given up hell from there. We were in Vahun for
10:07:00 25 about a week, sir.

26 Q. And what was the situation in Vahun during that one week
27 you were there?

28 A. The situation in Vahun was tormenting. There was a lot of
29 harassment and intimidations. Security forces both from the RUF,

1 AFRC and the SOD from Liberia, the Special Operation Division of
2 the Liberian police, and other security members of the Liberian
3 police and armed forces were there. They usually come around and
4 get at civilians, able men, women, and forced them to go to their
10:07:37 5 places. So one day I was arrested.

6 Q. Just before you move on, you said to force them to go to
7 their places, what do you mean?

8 A. To their headquarters, their offices, sir.

9 Q. Whose offices are you talking about?

10:07:51 10 A. The Liberian police, the RUF, because in Voinjama both the
11 RUF, AFRC, the SOD, the other police department, they all housed
12 in one building, sir, so whenever people were arrested they take
13 you to this building.

14 Q. So they were all housed in one building?

10:08:14 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: What is SOD? Have we got that name yet?

17 MR BANGURA:

18 Q. Can you tell the Court what SOD means?

19 A. SOD is the Special Operation Division of the Liberian
10:08:26 20 national police, sir.

21 Q. Thank you. Yes, continue. You said one day you were
22 yourself arrested.

23 A. So one day I was arrested and detained and later I was
24 asked to go for a meeting. It was on 27 February 1998. I

10:08:47 25 refused after I was released to go to that meeting, so the next
26 day we left Voinjama - Vahun for Voinjama - for Kolahun, sorry.

27 Q. Was there a reason why people were being arrested, or
28 harassed across at Vahun?

29 A. Yes, sir. The reason was one - both the RUF, the Liberian

1 police, or the Liberian security forces were forcing people to go
2 back to Sierra Leone, especially if you were a man or a young
3 person from both gender, you could be forced to go back in Sierra
4 Leone to go and fight, or be used in any other form that could
10:09:28 5 benefit them. So while we were this was going on and we were
6 forced to leave Voinjama - Vahun to Kolahun.

7 Q. And you yourself, why were you arrested, do you recall?

8 A. I was arrested for the same purpose, sir. It was for the
9 same reason.

10:09:50 10 Q. And you said that --

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Bangura, the witness keeps mixing up
12 Voinjama, Vahun, Kolahun. Where was he coming from, where was he
13 going?

14 MR BANGURA:

10:10:01 15 Q. At this point, Mr Witness, where were you when you were
16 arrested?

17 A. I was in Vahun.

18 Q. Okay. Just be careful not to lead us to a point where you
19 were not at this time.

10:10:15 20 A. I am sorry.

21 Q. You said you were arrested and you were asked to go to a
22 meeting. Did they tell you, the persons who arrested you, did
23 they tell you what the meeting was going to be about?

24 A. No, I was not need to be told, sir, because I have been in
10:10:35 25 Voinjama for a week now and --

26 Q. We are not in Voinjama.

27 A. In Vahun, sir. I am sorry, sir. I am very sorry. I have
28 been in Vahun for a week now and I understood the situation that
29 was there, so after I was released, then it was a clear

1 indication that Vahun was not a safe place for us to stay. So --

2 Q. Did you leave Vahun eventually?

3 A. Yes, sir, the next day.

4 Q. And where did you go?

10:11:03 5 A. We went from Vahun and we went to Kolahun. Our destination
6 was really Kolahun, sir, but when we reached to Kolahun again we
7 met thousands of refugees who were also trying to go to Voinjama
8 and so --

9 Q. Okay, just before you move on, when you say "we", who are
10:11:23 10 you referring to?

11 A. Me and my family, sir.

12 Q. Okay. So you went to Kolahun and from there did anything
13 happen at Kolahun?

14 A. Yes, sir. After we met these so many refugees in Kolahun,
10:11:39 15 we were also trying to on board the trucks that we were in and so
16 we were discouraged to get down in Kolahun, sir, and we decided
17 immediately to go to Voinjama.

18 Q. Now, you travelled from Vahun to Kolahun by what means?

19 A. By truck. By vehicle.

10:12:06 20 Q. And how long was that distance?

21 A. Well, we took about four to five hours, sir, because the
22 road was very bad.

23 Q. And you say at Kolahun you were discouraged to get down;
24 discouraged by what?

10:12:20 25 A. I was discouraged by the people we met there. We all
26 shared the same identity, they were refugees like us, and they
27 were tell us that there was a lot of violence and harassment in
28 Kolahun and we knew what we were running away from and so it was
29 not a good idea to stay in Kolahun where we could face the same

1 problem we had in Vahun. So we decided to go to Voinjama which
2 was said to be the capital city of Lofa County and we thought we
3 could meet civilisation there.

4 Q. So you continued on your journey to Voinjama?

10:12:59 5 A. Yes, sir, I did.

6 Q. And was it on a different day, or --

7 A. It was on the same day.

8 Q. And how long was that journey to Voinjama from Kolahun?

9 A. The journey also took about four or five hours, sir.

10:13:18 10 Q. And can you describe what happened when you arrived at
11 Voinjama?

12 A. When we arrived in Voinjama we met some local NGO and some
13 other international NGO workers there who were receiving people,
14 giving blanket, food, and some civilians, and we also met some
10:13:36 15 Sierra Leonean refugees who had been there before us. There was
16 a place selected by some of these NGO, which was an old school
17 building, or something, where people were taken, but fortunately
18 for me and my wife we met this lady, the person named number 1,
19 and she gave us help, water and my wife was feeling pain, so she
10:14:02 20 took her home and gave her aid.

21 Q. So you met this person named number 1 on the list before
22 you?

23 A. Yes, sir. She was a Liberian.

24 Q. And did she render further assistance to you?

10:14:22 25 A. Yes, sir, she did.

26 Q. What kind of assistance did she continue to render to you?

27 A. She was our host. She was our mother. She - after two
28 days while we were with her to her compound, her house, so she
29 rent a place for us, but this place was very uncomfortable for

1 us, sir, especially my wife. She was pregnant and there was
2 steps without any protection and so my wife finally stayed with
3 her until she delivers. After some weeks I got another place at
4 the other side of Voijnama Town, which was the Mandingo quarter,
10:15:02 5 because Voijnama was divided into two areas, distinctive areas,
6 sir.

7 Q. You said Voijnama was divided, what do you mean?

8 A. I mean in Voijnama there were two different sections, major
9 sections. On the other side is the Mandingo ethnic groups and
10:15:22 10 they are Muslims. On the one side was the Loma ethnic group.
11 Most of them are Christians. So these two distinctive tribes
12 have differences, both political and cultural.

13 Q. Now, you just mentioned Loma. Can you spell that? Loma
14 ethnic group, you said. Can you spell that?

10:15:48 15 A. L-O-M-A.

16 Q. Thank you. You said they had political and cultural
17 differences. What was the political difference, if you know?

18 A. Well, the political differences was that the Loma people,
19 most of them were in support of the former NPFL regime, or the
10:16:12 20 Taylor administration, and the Mandingo people were supporters of
21 the former ULIMO and Alhaji Kromah of the ULIMO.

22 Q. Thank you. Now, how did you get by in Voijnama when you
23 arrived there? How did you survive?

24 A. Well, in Voijnama it was really tough, sir, at the
10:16:43 25 beginning, but we had some amount of money when we came there and
26 Voijnama - there used to be a market there in Voijnama almost
27 every Friday, or every two Fridays, so this money we had we
28 started buying cigarettes and other small, small market business
29 to do, so we opened a cigarette box like and we started selling

1 these cigarettes. Later this business expanded to a kiosk and we
2 used to sell cigarettes, palm wine, beer, stout and plenty
3 commodities were there. It was established and became very, very
4 popular in Voijnama.

10:17:40 5 Q. Where was your business located?

6 A. My business was located at the centre of Voijnama and
7 Voijnama is a very strategic place, if I could try to describe
8 the area how Voijnama was. Voijnama was the capital city of Lofa
9 County in the north of Liberia and it has three major roads. One
10 of the roads was coming from - if I could try to write something
11 and so the Court could get a better picture of it.

10:18:07

12 Q. Is it possible to explain without trying to write
13 something?

14 A. Yes, yes, of course.

10:18:23

15 Q. Please try and explain without writing.

16 A. Thank you. One of the major roads was coming from
17 Monrovia, Gbarnga, to Zorzor, from Zorzor you could come to
18 Voijnama and there was another road leading from Voijnama to
19 Guinea, and on the other side of the junction there was a road
20 coming from Voijnama to Kolahun and from Kolahun you could take
21 another road which has another leg going to Foya and from Foya it
22 could lead you to Sierra Leone. On the other side of the legged
23 road you could go to Vahun, which could also lead you to Sierra
24 Leone. So it was a very, very strategic business and other
25 important business, sir.

10:18:49

10:19:16

26 Q. Mr Witness, I would like for us to go over this again much
27 more clearly. Now, you initially said that there were three
28 different roads that came to Voijnama. Perhaps if you try and
29 explain from within Voijnama where these roads lead to, that

1 might be much easier and better. So let us take them one at a
2 time.

3 A. Thank you, sir.

10:19:45

4 Q. First of all you said your business was in the centre of
5 Voinjama, is that right?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Now, where did these three roads that you talk about, where
8 did they meet?

10:19:57

9 A. The three roads were junctioned very close to my kiosk and
10 by the kiosk there was a church, a very big church, and I had
11 this kiosk there.

12 Q. Now, let me take you through. Now, tell us about these
13 three roads, one at a time?

14 A. Thank you.

10:20:12

15 Q. You said one of them - you talked about Monrovia. Tell us
16 about the one that leads to Monrovia, or comes from Monrovia, but
17 take it from Voinjama.

10:20:32

18 A. Okay. I had my kiosk at the centre of Voinjama and where
19 the parking ground was. This parking place, all the roads were
20 junctioned there and one of this road from the parking, very
21 closer to my kiosk, was going to Zorzor. From Zorzor you could
22 go to Gbarnga and in Gbarnga you could take the main highway to
23 Monrovia, sir.

10:20:55

24 Q. Okay. What about the second one of those three roads,
25 where did it lead to?

26 A. And the second one of these three roads, which was very
27 much closer to my kiosk too, as I said before, was leading to
28 Kolahun and in Kolahun there was a two legged road, a junction
29 there, which one of it could lead you to Foya and from Foya you

1 could go direct to Sierra Leone. The other junction of the road,
2 or the other leg of the road, could lead you from Kolahun to
3 Vahun and from Vahun to Sierra Leone.

4 Q. And did you use one of those roads to get to Voinjama?

10:21:39 5 A. Yes, sir, both of the roads lead to Voinjama and if I may
6 come to the third road in Voinjama, sir?

7 Q. Yes, go on.

8 A. Thank you. The third road in Voinjama could lead you
9 directly to Guinea and it was very much shorter, about two hours
10:21:58 10 - one hour 30 minute walk from Voinjama to the Guinea side of the
11 border.

12 Q. All right, thank you. Now, you mentioned that your
13 business expanded, so who were the kind of customers that your
14 business attracted?

10:22:17 15 A. Well, my business was attractive to every type of customer,
16 sir. Both the refugees, civilians, the travelers, the security
17 forces, police, SOD, SSS, the ATUs, the immigration, the custom
18 officers, the Liberians. Everybody in this community, sir.

19 Q. Now you just mentioned a few names here by acronym. You
10:22:47 20 mentioned SSS. Who were the SSS?

21 A. The SSS were part of - were the Special Security Services,
22 a paramilitary force in Liberia.

23 Q. And you mentioned the ATU. Who were the ATU?

24 A. The ATU were also the Anti-Terrorist Unit and the leader
10:23:18 25 was - the ATU was - the leader was Chucky Taylor, the son of the
26 President of Liberia, but it was also a Liberian security forces.
27 A very powerful unit in Liberia.

28 Q. And you mentioned other groups. You mentioned immigration
29 and customs and were these also forces that were present in

1 Voi nj ama?

2 A. Yes, sir, they were. They were all forces of the Liberian
3 government.

10:23:53

4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Bangura, is it possible to have a time
5 frame for Voi nj ama at least?

6 MR BANGURA: Thank you, your Honour:

7 Q. Now, Mr Witness, let me just take you back to when did you
8 arrive in Voi nj ama, first of all, on your trip from --

9 A. On 27 February 1998.

10:24:11

10 Q. So how long was your journey from the time you left Kenema
11 until the time you arrived in Voi nj ama?

12 A. It was about two weeks, sir. I spent a week travelling
13 from Kenema to Liberia. I took a week in - about a week in Vahun
14 and on 27 February 1998 I left Vahun for Kolahun which I

10:24:38

15 continued to Voi nj ama, sir.

16 Q. Now, how long after your arrival in Voi nj ama were you able
17 to set up your business to this level?

18 A. It was within a month, sir, to two, because as soon as we
19 came in Voi nj ama so we started buying and selling cigarettes. It
20 was there we started our business. As I have said before,

10:25:06

21 Voi nj ama is a town that hosts marketing every one or two Fridays,
22 so it was a very big opportunity for us to be buying and selling
23 goods that people would want later.

24 Q. Now, you have mentioned various units of the security
25 forces in Liberia that were present in Voi nj ama. How were you
26 able to distinguish between these different groups?

10:25:30

27 A. Well, all these groups have a very clear identification,
28 sir. For example, the SODs, they were well dressed in black
29 overall like with their rifles all the time and the SSS were

1 dressed in a blue camouflage like or uniform like. The
2 immigrations and the custom officers, of course they were dressed
3 in civilian dress. That was how they were dressed. The ATU were
4 dressed in this American like camouflage and the - I don't know
10:26:32 5 if I have mentioned the RUF when I was naming these security
6 groups because they too were part of the security there. They
7 were also - they were having half camouflage and half civil
8 shirt, but they could be identified by the way they speak because
9 they are all Sierra Leoneans, most of them. All of them were
10:26:57 10 Sierra Leone and they speak most of the Sierra Leonean tribes,
11 Mende, Temne, any of the different tribes in Sierra Leone. They
12 were very, very simple to identify.

13 Q. Thank you. Now the ATU, did they have any other unit or
14 sub-unit within them that you were aware of?

10:27:13 15 A. Yes, sir. I later found to understand that they have a
16 different group within the ATU that were called the Demon forces
17 and these were the Special Forces for Chucky Taylor, their
18 commander Chucky Taylor.

19 Q. Can you give us that name again. What forces was it?

10:27:39 20 A. He is really Charles Taylor Junior, but that Chucky Taylor
21 was the name that was famously used.

22 Q. No, not that, Mr Witness, the name of the sub-unit within
23 the ATU?

24 A. The Demon forces. This was how they called it.

10:27:57 25 Q. Are you able to spell that for us?

26 A. D-E-M-O-N F-O-R-C-E.

27 Q. Demon forces?

28 A. Demon or something. I am sorry for the pronunciation.

29 That was how they used to call them.

1 Q. Now apart from running a shop did you engage yourself in
2 any other activity?

3 A. Yes, sir, I did. [Redacted] - I'm sorry.

4 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, the witness has just mentioned a
10:28:29 5 name. May I respectfully ask that that be stopped from the
6 record.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes. The name mentioned by the witness,
8 it is on page 20, line 5, should be redacted. Thank you.

9 MR BANGURA:

10:28:43 10 Q. You were going to mention somebody's name, Mr Witness. If
11 you just try to go by the names on the list before you.

12 A. Sorry, sir.

13 Q. Yes, go on.

14 A. The person named number 1's boyfriend was a driver and he
10:29:01 15 was driving for an NGO called Action Faim. So he invited me to
16 be his assistance driver by then and I answered yes to that
17 particular opportunity. So I was with that truck too, with him
18 working together with the NGO. So while on this truck we used to
19 go to Monrovia, Gbarnga - from Voinjama to Monrovia to collect
10:29:38 20 the implement that Action Faim was using to dig holes or water
21 well for displaced people and refugees. So I was engaged on this
22 particular truck, sir.

23 Q. So apart from going down to Monrovia, were you able to move
24 around the area of Voinjama?

10:29:58 25 A. Yes, sir, we do. Not only Voinjama. We used to go to
26 Kolahun, Foya to deliver these pump articles.

27 Q. Thank you. Now what --

28 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Is Action Faim spelt properly?

29 THE WITNESS: Pump, P-U-M-P. Water pump.

1 MR BANGURA: Your Honour, I think it's a French name.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I think that is correct.

3 MR BANGURA:

4 Q. Can you describe what was the atmosphere like in your
10:30:39 5 business in the shop that you ran. You said you sold palm wine,
6 you sold drinks as well. What normally was the atmosphere there?

7 A. Well, really, sir, my kiosk, it began with a very small
8 table and developed to a very big or medium like business.
9 People of all these backgrounds used to come there, buy palm
10:31:07 10 wine, cigarettes, beer, stout, whatever they could meet on that
11 particular place. So it was like a place where people could come
12 and interact. Security forces used to come to this place and it
13 was a very - it was a place where people got all type of
14 information, because when anybody come, business people, security
10:31:28 15 forces, civilians who are working, every type of people when they
16 come, they discuss their present situation or the present
17 situation that was going on there.

18 So during, for example, when I was - when people, the
19 security forces or the SODs, or it could be the ATU, the SSS, the
10:31:54 20 SOD, the AFRC, RUF, when they come there they explain about the
21 situation that is in Sierra Leone. The security forces of
22 Liberia explains about the situation that is happening in Sierra
23 Leone, that had happened in Sierra Leone and that is going to
24 happen in Sierra Leone and the surroundings. So it was a very,
10:32:19 25 very, very common place to get any type of information.

26 Q. Now when you say they explained, who did they explain this
27 to, these sorts of matters to?

28 A. They could discuss it within themselves and they could
29 discuss it with us. I could have access to these informations,

1 because sometimes when these security forces came there they
2 command a lot of respect by explaining the issues that was going
3 on. And when they come, for example if they want to drink palm
4 wine or have a beer they could just force them to get it and when
10:32:53 5 we are going - when you ask them for payment you could be beaten,
6 or at the end of the day. So to avoid this type of harassment
7 sometimes we offered - I offered them and when I offered them
8 they start explaining about situation that is going on, or that
9 will happen, or that had happened. So this was how I used to
10:33:17 10 have most of the information.

11 Q. So in the course of your business what sort of information
12 came to your knowledge?

13 A. A lot of information, sir. For example, about if - for
14 example, there was a time before - there was a time when a man
10:33:42 15 came who was an RUF commander. His name was CO Victor. When
16 Victor came I was at a friend's tailoring shop and he asked us to
17 go and get some palm wine and have some discussion. But it was
18 around 9 o'clock in the morning, so we went and bought the palm
19 wine. We came very closer to my friend's tailor shop and we sat
10:34:12 20 there. He started talking. He told us that he is here to
21 recruit people to go and train in Gbarnga for four weeks and
22 everybody could have - everybody who signed to this particular
23 mission will have from about 500 to \$1,000 and this money - half
24 of this money will be paid to you before you go for this training
10:34:44 25 and after the training you could get your balance money.

26 So after the meeting - of course most of the discussion was
27 about Sierra Leone war, how the war was going on and what they
28 have intended doing, et cetera, et cetera. But Victor told us
29 before we could sign to this particular contract we have to meet

1 with the President's son who was Chucky, the man I called Charles
2 Taylor Junior, sir, but I could have called him Chucky in this
3 case.

4 Q. Yes, continue.

10:35:21 5 A. So --

6 Q. He said you had to meet with Chucky?

7 A. Yes, we have to meet with Chucky Taylor to sign the
8 contract and it should have happened within a month.

9 Q. Now, who was present on this occasion that you had a
10:35:38 10 meeting with Victor, CO Victor?

11 A. CO Victor was with some ATU members, I cannot remember
12 their names, and there was another officer called CO Vandl from
13 the RUF, some SODs, of course, and their men.

14 Q. Now CO Victor, what nationality was he?

10:36:01 15 A. CO Victor was a Sierra Leonean, sir, and CO Vandl was a
16 Sierra Leonean. Both of them were RUF commanders.

17 Q. Now, were they the only RUF personnel that you had seen in
18 Voinjama?

19 A. No, sir, there were a lot of RUF members coming and going
10:36:23 20 from Voinjama, sir. For example, after CO Victor have visited,
21 because CO Victor usually come to Voinjama and there were a lot
22 of RUF there of course, so any time General Mosquito came from
23 Sierra Leone - for the first time I saw him in Voinjama and when

24 he came, he went to Monrovia. After he came - after he went to
10:37:02 25 Monrovia - because CO Victor has promised us that Chucky Taylor
26 will come and those people who are going to sign the contract, we
27 have to meet with Chucky Taylor first. So after General Mosquito
28 went to Liberia on that same trip, when he was coming he was with
29 Chucky Taylor and there was another AD called Campare, they said

1 he was AD to the President, Charles Taylor, and many other
2 people. There were some Arab people like and they came in some
3 jeeps, some SUV and some trucks.

10:37:46

4 Q. Can I pause for a while. First of all you said that at
5 some point you saw Mosquito. Do you recall when you saw him for
6 the first time in Voinjama?

7 A. Yes, sir, it was in September of 1998.

8 Q. Right. You said he was heading somewhere. Where was he
9 going?

10:38:01

10 A. He was coming from Sierra Leone and going to Monrovia, sir.

11 Q. How did you know this?

12 A. Well, I knew this before he could come to Voinjama,
13 because, as I have said before, when these security forces, these
14 security personnel, come to my kiosk to drink or buy something,
15 they have to explain everything that was going on. So I have got
16 this information before he could come and that day in the
17 evening, when they were coming with their convoy, I saw Mosquito.

10:38:19

18 Q. Now, who was Mosquito, as far as you know?

19 A. Mosquito was the - well, the leader of the RUF, sir, by
20 then.

10:38:43

21 Q. You said he went to Monrovia and how long after that did
22 you see him come back to Voinjama?

23 A. Well, it was within one or two weeks, sir, when they came.

24 Q. And you said that on his return he came now in the company
25 of a number of people.

10:39:02

26 A. Yes, sir, they came with a convoy. It was a convoy.

27 Q. Can you just say again who were in this convoy that he came
28 with?

29 A. In the convoy was Chucky Taylor and Campare, some Arab

1 guys, I don't know their names, some ATU. This was the first
2 time I really saw this - the demon forces of the ATU. This is
3 how they call them, so if I use the name demon forces, I hope you
4 can understand it. The demon forces, the special security group
10:39:37 5 that always moved together with Chucky Taylor and some SODs, some
6 SSS, different security personnel, RUF were there, some members
7 of the AFRC and RUF, all these groups were there and these Arab
8 looking guys.

9 Q. How many of the Arab looking guys did you see?

10:39:57 10 A. I saw two Arab guys, sir. Two of them.

11 Q. Now, you mentioned --

12 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Bangura, this Campare, we don't have a
13 spelling, but also he appears in the transcript as described as
14 an AD to the President. I don't know what AD stands for in the
10:40:17 15 transcript.

16 MR BANGURA:

17 Q. You mentioned a name Campare.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I hope I am pronouncing it correctly. What was the name
10:40:21 20 again?

21 A. He was Campare, sir.

22 Q. Can you help the Court with a spelling, please? You don't
23 have to write on that document.

24 A. Okay.

10:40:32 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Does the witness require a piece of paper
26 to assist his memory of the spelling?

27 MR BANGURA: I don't think so, unless he specifically says
28 so, your Honour. Your Honour, we have a spelling, but I would
29 rather have the witness give a spelling because pronunciation

1 might be slightly different.

2 A. C-A-M-P-A-R-E, but I would love the Court to have this,
3 that the way I spell it may probably be the wrong way, but I
4 spell it C-A-M-P-A-R-E, Campare.

10:41:09 5 Q. And you say who was Campare?

6 A. Campare was a special protocol officer, the AD they used to
7 call him, but I don't really understand, but he was said to be
8 some.

9 Q. Special protocol officer. When you say AD --

10:41:24 10 A. Yes, sir, A-I-D-E.

11 Q. Aide?

12 A. Yes, aide.

13 Q. And who was he a special protocol officer to?

14 A. To the President of Liberia then, Charles Taylor,
10:41:34 15 Mr Charles Taylor.

16 Q. How did you know this?

17 A. I knew this because when he came, most of their personnel,
18 their securities, that they came along with, within the two weeks
19 they were within Voinjama they used to go to my kiosk and get
10:41:47 20 drinks and so I got to know this information: The individuals,
21 what was going on, what they were there for and everything, sir.

22 Q. And you say within the two weeks they were there. Were
23 they there for a period of two weeks?

24 A. Yes, they were there for some weeks, because they were
10:42:07 25 there for more than one week, sir. So they were there for about
26 two weeks.

27 Q. Do you know why they were there for two weeks?

28 A. Well, they were there really, sir, to recruit people to go
29 and get trained, undergo commando training in Gbarnga, and then

1 go to Sierra Leone. This was their major reason for being there,
2 sir.

3 Q. How do you know this?

10:42:35

4 A. I knew this because they have confronted me several times
5 and there were some refugees, some people in Voinjama I knew
6 personally who signed this contract and went for this training.
7 They had the money, as Victor has said before, and they come to
8 my kiosk and bought drinks, bought things they would love to.
9 They left some money with their relatives before they could go.

10:42:54

10 So I get to know all this there and I saw it.

11 Q. When you say you saw them, at what time did you see them?
12 Was it before they went, after they had signed the contract? At
13 what time after they signed the contract did you see them?

10:43:17

14 A. When this - before - when they got the money, when by then
15 these officers were in Voinjama during these weeks.

16 Q. It is not clear. Your answer is not clear. At what time
17 after they had signed this contract did you see them, those ones
18 who signed up to go for training and to go into Sierra Leone? At
19 what point did you see them?

10:43:36

20 A. Before they could go for the training, sir, after they have
21 signed the contract, they gave the money during these days, the
22 days they come to my kiosk to buy drinks and other things. So I
23 saw them and they did not just come and buy drinks. They even
24 come with foreign cigarettes, rums, to my kiosk. I bought these
25 rums and cigarettes from them. I was part of the things they
26 gave to them. So after then they went and since they went I
27 could never see them.

10:44:00

28 Q. When you say you could never see them, do you mean you did
29 not?

1 A. No, I did not see them again.

2 Q. Thank you. Now, you said that you saw Mosquito and Chucky,
3 Campare and others, in Voinjama again when Mosquito was coming
4 back from Monrovia. Where exactly did you see them in Voinjama?

10:44:36 5 A. I saw them the last day after they have spent weeks in
6 Voinjama. That day they were walking from the Mandingo quarter
7 of Voinjama, because they were coming down the road that could
8 lead you to Mandingo quarter, going down to the road that could
9 lead you to Kolahun which could also take you to Sierra Leone.

10:44:58 10 Their cars were parked very closer to my shop area, my kiosk, and
11 down this road, while they were walking, their securities were by
12 their sides. General Mosquito, Chucky Taylor, Campare, all of
13 them were - Victor and other important people of the

14 organisations were walking down the road towards their cars and
10:45:21 15 on the way they were talking to people who were curious, like
16 myself, looking at them to try to identify who these guys were.
17 So Mosquito was talking to some of the Sierra Leone people. It
18 was really that time I saw them walking and they went into their
19 cars, their jeeps, and they drove towards Sierra Leone, sir.

10:45:43 20 Q. How do you know they were driving towards Sierra Leone?

21 A. Because that is the road that could lead you to Sierra
22 Leone.

23 Q. Okay. Now, apart from - you mentioned CO Victor as
24 somebody who came before you saw Mosquito in Voinjama. He came
10:46:05 25 and invited you and talked to you about signing up to go and
26 fight. Apart from that, did he do anything else in Voinjama?
27 Was he doing anything else in Voinjama?

28 A. Yes, sir. CO Victor's primary responsibility was to
29 recruit people to go - come to encourage people to go. Sometimes

1 they encourage you, sometimes they forced people to go. In
2 Sierra Leone they could arrest anybody. So after that particular
3 incident, which was the first and the last one I saw when they
4 come and offer money to people, the rest was forced.

10:46:44 5 Q. When you say the rest was forced, what do you mean?

6 A. The other times the security forces, they used to just
7 arrest people and take them to Sierra Leone, so they used to
8 force people to go.

9 Q. Which security forces are you referring to here?

10:47:01 10 A. I am referring to the SOD, sir. The SOD, the Liberian
11 police soldiers, the RUF, et cetera.

12 Q. How do you know that they were actually forcing people to
13 go to Sierra Leone, how did you know this, arresting and forcing
14 people to go?

10:47:22 15 A. I was in Voinjama and I had this place and I knew a lot of
16 people who come there. Like I had influence over people, my
17 business clients and so on, so there were - we are Sierra
18 Leoneans and I was respected among our fellow Sierra Leoneans,
19 sir, and when anything was going on, I could hear it. People
10:47:46 20 could come and say, "What is going on?" Myself have been a
21 victim of this several times. They have engaged this wickedness
22 on me. So sometimes when this thing is happening people spread
23 the information to others that they are arresting people, so we
24 were able to hide ourselves until the tension has cooled down,
10:48:07 25 before coming around.

26 Q. Now, you said yourself you were a victim. They engaged
27 this wickedness on you. What do you mean?

28 A. I have been arrested, my brother has been arrested, I have
29 been harassed, I have been humiliated, because when Victor came

1 for the first time when he was looking for people, those people
2 who signed the contract and went for this training, after we
3 could not see them we the rest refused to be a part of this
4 particular system. We were subjected to contest molestation,
10:48:39 5 looting, beating, arrest, detention, et cetera. So I was a
6 victim of this particular situation and anything that was going
7 on, it was absolute I could not ignore it, sir.

8 Q. Now, apart from the fact that the RUF were in Voinjama to
9 recruit, or to force Sierra Leoneans to go back and fight in
10:49:05 10 Sierra Leone --

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Bangura, the witness did not say
12 forced to go back and fight. He said to go back. To me it could
13 mean forceful repatriation, because they are foreigners in
14 someone's country.

10:49:19 15 MR BANGURA: I take the point, your Honours:

16 Q. Mr Witness, when CO Victor made this proposal, this
17 suggestion, the proposal to you that you should sign up on a
18 contract, what was the focus of you being trained for if you
19 signed up?

10:49:38 20 A. Well, the objective was people who signed to this contract
21 will go to Gbarnga and have a commando training for four weeks
22 and after the four weeks they would go to Sierra Leone and fight.
23 This was their objective. We that refused to sign this
24 particular - to go on this particular mission, we were subjected
10:50:04 25 to constant - when I say constant, it was basically a daily
26 intimidation. They will come to you, they will provoke a system
27 that you will be arrested and when you are arrested sometimes we
28 don't see people that were arrested. You could never see them.
29 They will force people in their house, they will force people

1 anywhere and take them to Sierra Leone to fight.

2 Q. Thank you. Now, apart from forcing people to go train and
3 to go and fight in Sierra Leone, did the RUF come to Voinjama for
4 any other reason?

10:50:41 5 A. Yes, sir. The RUF were almost like any other security
6 forces in Liberia and, for example, in Voinjama there is a grassy
7 field there, there was an airfield, a local airfield. This
8 airfield, it was at this airfield they usually come with
9 logistics for RUF and so when they come some days they could be
10:51:06 10 around when they got this - when they got these logistics. It
11 could be ammunition - arms, ammunition and any other thing that
12 they could need. When they got them from the airfield there,
13 then they could take it to Sierra Leone.

14 Q. Now, when you say "they", they could bring logistics, who
10:51:26 15 are you referring to as "they"?

16 A. I am referring this to the member of the Liberian security
17 and the RUF. I am talking about Liberia, sir, the situation that
18 was happening in Liberia.

19 Q. Yes, but how were these logistics brought to - you have
10:51:45 20 mentioned the airfield and the grassy airfield. How was it
21 brought to the airfield?

22 A. On one occasion, sir, I was in the truck coming. On that
23 particular day there was an aeroplane with two propel wing.
24 Inside this aeroplane there was a truck, some RUF cars, jeeps,
10:52:05 25 off-loading these boxes, these ammunition boxes and other things
26 that they had. They have explained it before, I knew it in
27 Voinjama and every time this aeroplane comes people know, I
28 usually know maybe. When these things are happening I sometimes
29 hear about it two days, or three days, or even a week before it

1 laps.

2 Q. Okay, can I just pause you. You said - this is what has
3 come up. You said there were jeeps inside the aeroplane. There
4 was a truck there were jeeps and off-loading boxes?

10:52:42 5 A. No, not inside the aeroplane. At the airfield I said, I
6 mean.

7 Q. At the airfield. Now the aeroplane that you saw, was it in
8 motion when you saw it, or was it standing there at the airfield?

9 A. The aeroplane was standing at the airfield and the trucks
10:53:05 10 were by the aeroplane, off-loading these boxes from the aeroplane
11 into the RUF vehicles at the airport, sir.

12 Q. And you said these were logistics. How did you know what
13 was in these boxes?

14 A. The same group who were responsible for this, for the
10:53:30 15 transportation of these things, have been in my kiosk, they have
16 explained about what is coming to happen and it was this same
17 group that was receiving these logistics, as I have said, and it
18 was these same people I saw there and they would take this
19 logistics to Sierra Leone. That was the object.

10:53:52 20 Q. How do you know that they took them to Sierra Leone?

21 A. Because they loaded - they have said it before it happened,
22 before the aeroplane has come, and when they have loaded it they
23 would drive it towards Sierra Leone. I was not a secret, sir.

24 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Bangura, what does "logistics" mean?

10:54:13 25 MR BANGURA: Your Honour, I will get him to explain again,
26 but I believe in earlier part of his testimony he had given some
27 examples of what logistics were:

28 Q. What were the logistics that you refer to?

29 A. When I say "logistics" I mean the arms and ammunition, or

1 the other things the RUF could need in Sierra Leone.

2 Q. Do you know of any other things that they needed or that
3 came through these means?

10:54:47

4 A. Yes, they used to call it morale booster and that means
5 something like alcohol, cigarettes, or any other thing that they
6 could give to the soldiers, or that they could use for any
7 operation.

10:55:12

8 Q. Thank you. Now apart from this one occasion when you saw
9 an aircraft standing at the airfield in Voinjama, do you know of
10 other occasions when that aircraft, or an aircraft, brought
11 logistics to that airfield?

10:55:35

12 A. Well, really, sir, that was the last time and the first
13 time I saw this aeroplane. But on other occasions I could hear
14 aeroplane that - aeroplanes coming with weapons for Sierra Leone
15 and the guys who will come, the RUF fellows, or the SODs, or the
16 SSS who were responsible for this particular operation, when they
17 come and I could see the vehicles going back to Sierra Leone. So
18 that was the last time I saw - I physically saw the aeroplane and
19 the people off-loading those goods from there.

10:56:00

20 MR GRIFFITHS: Can I just enquire, your Honour, when the
21 witness says he heard, does that mean that he physically heard
22 aeroplanes, or he was told by others about aeroplanes landing?

23 MR BANGURA: I shall clarify, your Honour:

10:56:21

24 Q. Mr Witness, you just mentioned that - the question was
25 apart from the one time that you saw an aircraft at the airfield,
26 whether you knew of any other occasions that the aircraft came
27 there and your answer was that you heard about the aircraft, I
28 believe.

29 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: No, Mr Bangura, don't give evidence.

1 Read the script.

2 MR BANGURA:

3 Q. Can you just go over your answer again about what you heard
4 when the question was was this the only occasion? Can you just
10:56:54 5 say again what you --

6 A. Okay, thank you. When asked if that was the only time I
7 saw the aeroplane, or I saw, I said I physically saw the
8 aeroplane once, but I heard that the aeroplane - an aeroplane is
9 coming with logistics for Sierra Leone and I never see the
10:57:20 10 aeroplane any other time, but sometimes if you are in the very
11 small community and there comes an aeroplane you could hear the
12 noise of it and I would hear some of the security guys saying
13 that there is an aeroplane that would come with logistics and
14 when they come they are taking the supply to Sierra Leone. They
10:57:46 15 could say that at my kiosk.

16 Q. Now when you say you could hear the aeroplane, what did the
17 sound that you heard indicate to you?

18 A. The sound of the plane, you will hear it.

19 Q. Okay, thank you. Now apart from the time that you saw
10:58:21 20 Mosquito come into Voinjama en route to Monrovia and when he
21 returned, apart from that did you see him on any other occasion
22 in Voinjama?

23 A. No, those two times were the last time I saw Mosquito, but
24 in March of 1999 I heard, it was a rumour - it was in May of 1999
10:59:07 25 I heard that Mosquito was fired, was shot, and he was in Gbarnga
26 for medication. And by then Chucky Taylor was in Foya. Foya is
27 the last big town that is very close to Sierra Leone and Liberia,
28 that he was in Foya with weapons for Sierra Leone and Guinea. By
29 then Mr Mosquito was fired, but they said it was a minor injury

1 and he was in Gbarnga for medication, sir.

2 Q. Did you see him on this occasion?

3 A. No, sir, I never saw him.

4 Q. Now you mentioned earlier that when in your business in the
10:59:55 5 shop if you did not - the security forces who came there
6 sometimes would take --

7 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Sorry, Mr Bangura, sorry to interrupt,
8 but when the witness says, "He was in Foya with weapons for
9 Sierra Leone", he is referring to Chucky Taylor?

11:00:11 10 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. Chucky Taylor.

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Thank you.

12 MR BANGURA:

13 Q. You mentioned something about security forces coming to
14 your shop and taking things without paying. Is that right?

11:00:27 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. How frequently did this happen?

17 A. Almost every day, sir. Almost every day. Almost every
18 day. Sometimes they call it war effort. So when they come to
19 the kiosk if they don't have money they would drink just the same
11:00:48 20 as when they have money and they could only pay sometimes if
21 there are other people who could ask them to pay, you see. And
22 if you refuse giving them these things then it could be a licence
23 for them to arrest you, take you to the police station or their
24 base and you will be punished.

11:01:12 25 Q. Now, you said you had been a victim of harassment by the
26 security forces. Is that right?

27 A. Yes, sir.

28 Q. On what occasions were you harassed by them?

29 A. I have been harassed for so many times and some of these

1 harassments were not just because they wanted to come and harass
2 me. Some of this harassment was because of - on several
3 occasions because when they come to get people to go to Sierra
4 Leone, when there is tension in Sierra Leone, when there is war
11:01:42 5 in Sierra Leone, they will hunt civilians and when they hunt you
6 down, or sometimes they will come and try to encourage people,
7 because this was - as I have said before, this was the primary
8 responsibility of Victor. Always when Victor comes sometimes he
9 encouraged people, sometimes they could just arrest anybody on
11:02:02 10 the street and take you to Sierra Leone. Sometimes they will
11 encourage people to go and get a training to go to Sierra Leone.
12 So we that refused to this particular idea, we were under
13 constant intimidation and I have suffered that a lot, you see.
14 So on most occasions when these things are happening I have to go
11:02:25 15 in hiding.

16 So there was a time in February, it was just about some
17 days after my birthday, they came to my kiosk, they really came
18 there to arrest me, but I was not there. My younger brother was
19 there and he was arrested. They looted my shop. They took away
11:02:46 20 everything that I had there, my money, my businesses, everything,
21 and took my brother away. My brother was at the police station.
22 So my wife contacted me to where I was living, I was sleeping by
23 then. So she went there and she told me I should not go home. I
24 should not go to the kiosk. I said why. She said a lot of
11:03:10 25 securities are around today and they have went there, they have
26 arrested my brother.

27 So I told her to go and call the person named 1 on this
28 list so that she could help us, because she was our - she was
29 like our mother in everything. So she came, my wife came with

1 her and we explained the situation to her. She went and asked
2 her uncle and they went to the police station. There they met
3 the officers - the deputy officer who was in charge at that
4 particular moment and negotiated the release of my brother, but
11:03:56 5 before that could happen they demanded me. They said my brother
6 would never be released except I have to go to Kailahun or Sierra
7 Leone to go and fight in Kenema. So I could not come there
8 because they told me - I knew if I go there I will be forced to
9 go to Sierra Leone.

11:04:16 10 So what they did after all the conversation, all the
11 negotiations, was that we could give money for the release of my
12 brother, which we did, and the next day I gave my brother
13 transport and he left for Monrovia. Then myself - me and my
14 sister-in-law's boyfriend, went to Kolahun and we stayed at the
11:04:43 15 Kolahun refugee camp too because it was very much safer there for
16 us.

17 Q. Now, the boyfriend of your sister-in-law, is he one of the
18 persons named on the list?

19 A. Yes, sir.

11:04:54 20 Q. What number is he?

21 A. He is number 2 on the list in front of me here.

22 Q. Now, which of the security forces arrested your brother?

23 MR GRIFFITHS: I wonder - and I hesitate to interrupt my
24 learned friend, but the evidence to date regarding this incident
11:05:18 25 when the witness's brother was arrested is that it occurred in
26 February, days after his birthday. It would be helpful to know a
27 year.

28 THE WITNESS: It was in the year of 1999, sir.

29 MR GRIFFITHS: I am grateful.

1 MR BANGURA:

2 Q. Now, which of the security forces had arrested your brother
3 on this occasion?

11:05:55

4 A. Well, on this occasion it was the - when the person - the
5 person number 1 on this list went, they went to the regular
6 police and it was the deputy police officer who was there. So he
7 could have been arrested by the Liberian police.

8 Q. Thank you. Now, you said after this incident you yourself
9 and the person named number 2 left Voinjama. Is that right?

11:06:22

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Where did you go to?

12 A. We were forced to leave Voinjama because of the present
13 situation that was there. So we went to Kolahun and we were
14 living at the refugee camp there, Camp 2, in Kolahun.

11:06:40

15 Q. Did you say Camp 2? Is that the name of the camp?

16 A. Yes, it was the name of the camp. There were two camps
17 there. They had Camp 1 and Camp 2.

18 Q. Okay. And how long were you at the camp in Kolahun?

11:07:07

19 A. Well, we were there until Voinjama was attacked, sir. 7
20 April is my daughter's birthday, so we were - me and my - me and
21 the person named number 2 was in - I was in Voinjama to celebrate
22 my daughter's birthday. So we were there about some days. We
23 went back to Kolahun. So a week later Voinjama was attacked and
24 while in Kolahun that morning hearing this news, so we managed to
25 get a car and we came towards Voinjama. There was a village very
26 closer to Voinjama and there we met our family and they were
27 fine. So we decided to go back to Kolahun, but other people, the
28 group, we argued and my wife said we should go to Monrovia, not
29 Kolahun, so we get a truck, one WFP truck that were carrying food

1 and people by then, with thousands - plenty of people who were in
2 Voinjama after the attack forcing their way out, so we all on
3 boarded this truck towards Gbarnga, sir. On that same day --

4 Q. Just before you move on --

11:08:33 5 A. Thank you.

6 Q. -- you mentioned that there was an attack on Voinjama.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you know who attacked Voinjama?

9 A. No, they were unknown armed men. I never knew who they
11:08:46 10 were. I could not know.

11 Q. And did you know how long this attack lasted?

12 A. Well, according to my wife she said it was in the morning
13 they heard firings, serious firing, and the attack took place
14 from then to about 8 to 10 o'clock in the morning, because
11:09:06 15 according to her, after the rebels who had come with this firing
16 in Voinjama, some security forces in Liberia went and start
17 fighting against them with some RUF rebels. So after the war was
18 over in Voinjama, it was then we had the opportunity to pass
19 through Voinjama and go to Monrovia, sir.

11:09:37 20 Q. Earlier you mentioned after your shop was raided you and
21 your brother were arrested, you left Voinjama and moved to
22 Kolahun and that was because you felt safer in Kolahun. Why did
23 you feel safer? Why did you think you would feel safer in
24 Kolahun?

11:09:56 25 A. Well, in Kolahun refugee camp there were a lot of NGOs
26 there, sir, and according to my understanding then it was
27 established to the Liberian security that the refugee camp should
28 be respected and they never went to the refugee camp that openly
29 to arrest people there and there were thousands of refugees

1 there, more than hundreds of thousands of people, Sierra Leonean
2 refugees, so it was very safe to be among people that you could
3 identify yourself with. While in Voinjama we were subjected to
4 all this humiliation, so it was very, very peaceful for me living
11:10:44 5 there and doing my business, sir.

6 Q. Did you register as a refugee?

7 A. Yes, sir, I was. I was registered with the UNHCR.

8 Q. At what point did you register with the UNHCR?

9 A. I was registered from the beginning. From the day we
11:10:59 10 entered into Liberia I registered to the organisations that were
11 taking care of refugees and I was in Kolahun refugee camp. I
12 registered there as a refugee. I was a registered refugee since
13 then.

14 Q. Thank you. Now, you said that the decision was taken not
11:11:19 15 to go to Kolahun, but instead to go to Monrovia and you boarded a
16 truck, a WFP truck, to go to Monrovia. Can you describe what
17 happened along the way?

18 A. Well, there were thousands of people fleeing the conflict
19 in Voinjama, sir. In that truck there were so many people that
11:11:43 20 the truck could carry, of course, because people were fighting to
21 just leave that place and that day we slept to Zorzor. There is
22 a town called Zorzor. It is between Voinjama and Gbarnga on the
23 Monrovia Highway. We came in the morning and we spent the whole
24 night travelling and we had a break for some time in Zorzor.

11:12:12 25 So after Zorzor, in the morning I was - we on boarded the
26 truck and we were heading towards Monrovia Highway, the road that
27 could lead to Gbarnga. So that morning, when we came at the St
28 Paul River bridge, there was a checkpoint there, some kilometres
29 to Gbarnga city, and at that checkpoint we were detained, because

1 when you reached the checkpoint everybody has to get down the
2 truck, or the car, or whatever means you are travelling with and
3 go through security personnel s.

4 So at this checkpoint we were asked, we the men, to go on
11:13:01 5 one way, the women and children one way, the people who were more
6 elderly people, or above 40s, or something, or 50s, they were
7 asked to go another way. They mostly concentrated on young
8 people above 10 years and so. So when we went to this checkpoint
9 we were detained there. So some of us, they carried us behind
11:13:31 10 the Military Police office. We were there and among we that were
11 there, some people, some security, will come and try to - were
12 asking some people that could return back to Voinjama, or some
13 people who could volunteer to go and fight, or something. So we
14 - me and/or we that refused returning back to Voinjama, we were
11:14:00 15 placed behind this MP office.

16 Q. Okay, let me just pause you, Mr Witness. You said that you
17 were taken behind the Military Police office and you said some
18 security personnel came. Can you be very clear what they were
19 proposing to you? It is not all that clear.

11:14:24 20 A. Yes, sir, they were asking - because we were plenty. We
21 were so plenty. So you have to go through the line and any
22 individual who meets these guys, they ask you this question that
23 you should go back to Voinjama, because you are going to Voinjama
24 area, when you go there this is the same campaign they have been
11:14:46 25 running since I was in Voinjama, sir. The security people will
26 not ask you to go and get them water. They ask you to go and be
27 a part of the fight or the campaign they were engaged in. We
28 knew that very well. So if you refused going there it means you
29 are like an opposition to them, so you will be subjected to any

1 type of cruelty.

2 Q. Yes, but on this occasion they would ask you or they asked
3 you if you wanted to - if you were going back to Voinjama and if
4 you said no what happened to you?

11:15:18 5 A. Then they will force you, or they push - we that refused
6 going there. For example, when I told them I have my wife and my
7 younger brothers and my daughter so we are going to Voinjama - to
8 Monrovia, they said, "No, you are going back to Voinjama." "No,
9 sir, I am going to Monrovia, sir. I have my family. I must go
11:15:39 10 with them." "Okay, then you could go and sit over there with the
11 other people." So everybody in that particular group had the
12 same story about not going back to Voinjama.

13 Q. Now, the group in which you were, could you say roughly how
14 many of you were there in that group?

11:15:56 15 A. There were plenty people there, sir. More than - we were
16 plenty. We were more than 50. I could not estimate the number.

17 Q. And did anything happen after you had been screened and put
18 in one group? Those of you who decided not to go back to
19 Voinjama, did anything happen to you?

11:16:16 20 A. Yes, sir, a lot of things happened, sir. So while we are
21 sitting on the ground behind this office, after some time there
22 came three Range Rover jeeps and one jeep, one SUV jeep. So
23 inside there was Chucky Taylor and his Demon boys. So they came,
24 Chucky Taylor was - he seems to be very, very angry. He was
11:16:47 25 dressed in his combat trouser and having some muffler tied on his
26 head. In his hand was a very large pistol, a silver pistol I
27 could remember well, and we were all seated, me, my friend, the
28 person named number 2 and so many other people and two more
29 people I could - three more people I could recognise - two more

1 people I could recognise from this list were among this
2 particular group.

3 Q. Who were they?

11:17:22

4 A. The person named number 3, the person named number 4. The
5 person name numbered 5, I later saw him in Gbarnga at the
6 detention place, the police station where they took us later, but
7 before I go there, sir, I would love to explain what happened at
8 the checkpoint.

11:17:38

9 Q. Yes, sir, okay. So at this point at the checkpoint you had
10 with you the persons named number 2, 3 and 4. Is that correct?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Thank you.

11:17:58

13 A. And at this checkpoint when Chucky came he was very angry,
14 so he was having the pistol in his hand and he was walking across
15 the people. We were seated at the back of the MP office, but
16 there were a lot of women around, our wives, our sisters, our
17 relatives, people that were in that particular group, the men
18 that were in that particular group, the relatives of us. So they
19 were there waiting for our release.

11:18:20

20 So when Chucky came he was angry and he started shouting
21 against the soldiers that he doesn't want to see these women
22 around, they should drive them away. So they pushed them off,
23 they drive them off and we that were sitting on the ground, he
24 came - he went directly to us and he stood in front of us and

11:18:41

25 said he heard that there are rebels and Kamajors among us and
26 that for your best you should stand out of this group. You know,
27 it was like intimidating us, trying to terrorise us, or trying to
28 get something from us. And by proving his anger or --

29 Q. Can you just pause. Can you go over again what he said?

1 A. He said, "I have heard that there are Kamajors and rebels
2 among you guys here and for your best just stand outside of the
3 group." So he was trying to psyche, or something, people from
4 within this group we were sitting.

11:19:29 5 Q. Okay. And then did anything happen after that?

6 A. So there was no movement. Nobody could get outside. So
7 then he pointed out four people, including the person named
8 number 2 on this paper in front of me, and he shot them with his
9 pistol on their head. Then all of them were lying down dead in
10 front of the group. So we were all panic and my dear friend was
11 one of them that was killed. So after some time he asked his men
12 to take away the corpse and they took them down the bridge, the
13 St Paul bridge, to the very big river. So they took them, they
14 cut the head off the guys and brought the heads - one of the
11:20:22 15 heads was hanged on the car and the other on the checkpoint.

16 So --

17 Q. Now just before you move on, you said when he asked that
18 those who were Kamajors or rebels amongst you, when he asked them
19 to step out, step forward, and nobody did, he then pointed to
11:20:47 20 four people?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And after he pointed at these four people, what happened
23 before - up to the point that he shot them?

24 A. The people, he just pointed his fingers on them and called
11:21:01 25 them outside of the group. So when they came they were in front
26 - they were kneeling down in front of him, so he shot them. This
27 was a demonstration for us, the rest, to know how serious he was,
28 sir, and it was very, very frightening.

29 Q. Now you said he shot them on their head. Did he shoot all

1 of them on their heads?

2 A. Yes, he killed them, yes, sir, in front of us.

3 Q. And you said the corpses were taken down the bridge, the
4 river, and the heads were --

11:21:36 5 A. Were cut off and they hung the heads on the checkpoints and
6 one of them on one of the cars.

7 Q. Now you said one of your friends got killed. Which one of
8 these friends?

9 A. The person named number 2, sir, on this list in front of
11:22:01 10 me.

11 Q. Thank you. Did anything happen after this?

12 A. Yes, sir. While they have done this and he asked his men
13 to tie the rest of us and we were then - we were then stripped
14 naked and we were tied on both arms. Like, for example, they
11:22:22 15 tied the one hand with a rope and they have to force this hand
16 behind your back so that it could meet with the other hand. And
17 they would tie both hands so that your chest would get outside
18 like the way I am demonstrating here and you could be in this
19 position while both elbows have touched each other at the back.

11:22:45 20 And when they tied you in this form, then they have to tie your
21 feet from the ankle and when they tie it from the ankle they
22 would take that feet and bring it to your neck. They will force
23 them to your neck and the rope that is connected from your ankle
24 will pass through under the rope that is connected on your elbow
11:23:11 25 and they will extend that same process to the top of your arm
26 towards your shoulder. We called this type of tie a tie-bay in
27 Sierra Leone or in Liberia. This is the local way we call it,
28 tie-bay.

29 So they will tie-bay you and then you would be in this

1 circle form where your foot - your feet would be on your shoulder
2 and your hands would be together like this. Then you would be in
3 this uncomfortable position until later like this, sir.

4 Q. Just before you move on, this word "tie-bay" - your

11:23:49 5 Honours, I am not sure whether it has been spelt in this Court
6 before, but are you able to spell it?

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: We have had a reference but I don't think
8 it has been spelt and I don't recall hearing it in this context.

9 MR BANGURA:

11:24:04 10 Q. Are you able to spell it?

11 A. It's T-A-I-B-Y, something like that. Tie-bay.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: And also the witness was demonstrating.

13 I will try and record it. He had his elbows or his arms akimbo

14 and to the side and towards the back and his chest was protruding

11:24:29 15 and he also indicated the back of his neck where his feet were
16 brought.

17 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, may I just clarify the position
18 of the feet?

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, please.

11:24:39 20 MR BANGURA:

21 Q. You said the feet would be tied at the ankle and they would
22 be brought up to your shoulder. Are you saying they were brought
23 up forwards or backwards?

24 A. No, no, backwards. They would force them behind your back

11:24:52 25 so you would be in this circle form. So your head would be like
26 - you would be --

27 Q. In this state - are you able to stand up by yourself in
28 that state?

29 A. No, you could no. You could not able to stand up. You

1 could not able to sit. You have been circled. They have tied
2 you. They have made you to become an O form or a Q form. So,
3 you could not able to sit. You could not able to do anything.
4 You could - you have to be in this type of position that you
11:25:31 5 cannot even know how you are feeling.

6 Q. Okay. You said you were tied. Apart from you the other
7 people - you said there were quite a number of you. Were the
8 others tied as well?

9 A. Yes, sir, everybody, most of the guys that were there. We
11:25:53 10 were more than ten or 15 that were tied and they loaded us - they
11 packed us inside the vehicle, because they have to throw us
12 inside the vehicles, and they drove us away to Gbarnga, sir, the
13 police station in Gbarnga. When we reached Gbarnga they put us
14 in the cell in Gbarnga, but the rope that were tied on our feet
11:26:23 15 we were loosing and they also slacked the rope on our elbow, but
16 you could still have your arm - your elbow closer still in this
17 position as I am demonstrating, you see.

18 Q. You then got to Gbarnga. What was the situation when you
19 arrived at Gbarnga?

11:26:52 20 A. When we reached Gbarnga, as I have said, they released the
21 rope a bit and we were taken to the cells and there were so many
22 other Sierra Leoneans, this time both men and women, girls, small
23 boys, in these cells. Some of the cells were very, very small
24 cells with more than ten or 15 people, or more than 20 or 50
11:27:27 25 people in one of the cells. So we were there until in the night
26 and in the night after Chucky came, this time he came with
27 Campare and with three or more jeeps or as usual. They took us
28 outside.

29 Q. Now it is not clear when you say "as usual". You wanted to

1 tell us about jeeps, but then you say "as usual". What is usual?

2 A. Okay. What I mean by "as usual" was the way they took us
3 from St Paul bridge to the Gbarnga police station, sir. So after
4 they came, because the ropes on our feet were loosing and they
11:28:10 5 forced us to go across the road, the main highway that could lead
6 you to Monrovia from Gbarnga, where the vehicles they were inside
7 were standing. So when we reached across the road, we went
8 across the road towards the vehicle, so they started tying people
9 again and I start fighting against.

11:28:28 10 So it was the time Chucky Taylor came and hit me. They
11 forced me on the ground. Then he tied me himself. He tied me on
12 my - as they did, the same way with the same rope that they used
13 to tie me with because they just slacked the rope, something like
14 that. So - and they loaded us again inside their jeeps. Then
11:28:57 15 they drove us to this camp that I could call the Gbatala camp.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry, Mr Bangura, but we have been told
17 the tape is now more or less finished and we should take the
18 mid-morning adjournment.

19 Mr Witness, we have an adjournment now of half an hour. We
11:29:18 20 will resume court at 12 o'clock.

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please adjourn court until 12.

23 [Break taken at 11.30 a.m.]

24 [Upon resuming at 12.00 p.m.]

12:00:12 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, when you are ready please
26 proceed.

27 MR BANGURA: Thank you, your Honour:

28 Q. Mr Witness, we shall continue with your testimony. Now we
29 were at a point where you had been loaded up on a jeep, you had

1 boarded a jeep or vehicles at the police station at Gbarnga, and
2 you were heading out of that area to somewhere else. Is that
3 correct?

4 A. Yes, sir. Thank you.

12:00:54 5 Q. And you said Chucky Taylor had come to the police station
6 along with Campare, is that right?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Now, let me just ask you about Campare. Did you get to
9 know what his nationality was?

12:01:09 10 A. Well I later understood that he was a Gambian, sir.

11 Q. Thank you. Now after you had boarded these vehicles, where
12 did you go to?

13 A. They took us to Gbatalla base, sir.

14 Q. And how did you know that that was the place that you were
12:01:39 15 taken to?

16 A. Well that night, that night when they already were in
17 Gbatalla, sir, Chucky Taylor told his men - they took us from the
18 jeeps and we were all seated on the ground, but still we were
19 tied. They loosened the ropes on our feet and Chucky said to his
12:02:10 20 men that they should take us to the cave and - they should take
21 us to the cave and they should show us how it is when we refuse
22 to do what they want us to do.

23 Q. But the question was - your Honours, I see "cave" coming up
24 spelt something quite different.

12:02:36 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is the witness using the ordinary
26 geographical phenomena - not phenomena, but thing called a cave?

27 MR BANGURA: That is what I understand, but let the witness
28 clarify.

29 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, the cave. It is like a pit, sir.

1 MR BANGURA:

2 Q. Now when you use the word, the word you used where Chucky
3 said you should be taken to, what is that?

4 A. They should take us to the pit. Put us in the pit.

12:02:58 5 Q. You used the word "cave"?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Can you spell that?

8 A. Yes, sir, C-A-V-E.

9 Q. Thank you. Now, my question really was how did you know
12:03:08 10 that this place where you were taken to was Gbatala base? You
11 said you were taken to Gbatala base. How did you know it was
12 Gbatala base?

13 A. Yes, sir, I never knew the place was called Gbatala, but
14 when we were taken to the pit in the swamp, in the swamp there
12:03:25 15 was a pit there. This pit there was dug, cemented inside and it
16 was a deliberate place to keep people. Inside this pit it was
17 like the - the pit was dug in a rectangular form with about three
18 feet depth, two and a half inches deep and three feet wide and
19 the length was about three feet, so a bath tub like so --

12:04:13 20 Q. Let's be clear. You were trying to give a description of
21 the pit which you first called a cave, but it actually was a pit,
22 is that right?

23 A. Yes, sir, it was a pit.

24 Q. And you said the pit - you were describing the size of it,
12:04:27 25 is that right?

26 A. Yes, sir.

27 Q. And you said it is rectangular in shape?

28 A. Yes, sir.

29 Q. And what is the length that you gave?

1 A. The length was about three and a half feet something. It
2 was a half grave form, a half grave form, just like the bath tub
3 where you can take bath. So, inside it the length was about
4 three and a half feet and then the size of it - the width of it -
12:05:00 5 is about two and a half inches and then the depth of it is about
6 two.

7 Q. Are you talking about inches, or feet, in terms of the
8 width?

9 A. Well I am talking about feet, sorry. It is a place that
12:05:15 10 was built so that you could not sit inside comfortably, because
11 it was a very small place and inside there it was cemented. It
12 has a bar, or a door like form. On this door, or bar, that
13 covered the pit there was barbed wire on top of it, so if you sit
14 inside there you could not able to lift your head up as you could
12:05:40 15 sit - as I am sitting inside this chair, so this barbed wire will
16 have to touch your head and you will be forced to be in this form
17 while I was tied. So - and inside there there was dirty water,
18 very smelly or nasty water, and inside this pit there were human
19 remains inside - dead people. Of course, there were dead people
12:06:05 20 outside the area where this pit were. There were many, many
21 pits. So we were forced inside this place, sir.

22 Q. Now, how many of these pits did you notice?

23 A. Well I could not count, but it was many. It was many.

24 Q. And you were placed in one of these ones?

12:06:32 25 A. Yes, I was placed in one of these pits together with the
26 other men. By that night we were about 10 to 15 - I don't know
27 exactly how many in number, but we were about that - and it was
28 night so we had to hold on ourselves while going down this swamp
29 area so when we reached every individual has to go inside a pit.

1 During this time we were still beaten. They were chucking us
2 with our guns.

3 Q. Now, what do you mean when you say "chuck"?

12:07:10

4 A. It was like forcing us with their guns. Sorry, forcing us
5 with their guns.

6 Q. What part of the gun was used to force you?

7 A. The muzzle. The muzzle of the gun.

8 Q. The muzzle?

9 A. Yes, sir.

12:07:23

10 Q. And this place where you were taken to where you said there
11 were the caves, in relation to the point where the vehicles
12 stopped and where you were taken off the vehicles, how - what is
13 the distance from the pit, the cave, to where the vehicle stopped
14 and you got of?

12:07:46

15 A. It could be about 150 metres, sir. It could be about 150.
16 It was outside the camp to the place where the vehicles were. We
17 had to walk and go into the swamp, across the swamp, almost
18 within the edge of the swamp where the pits were, so when we
19 reached there it was a very open place and everybody - they
20 forced every one of us into individual pits.

12:08:13

21 Q. Were you alone in the pit in which you were put?

22 A. Yes, I was alone, but there was a dead body inside, a
23 skeleton, or human remain, was inside rotting and there was water
24 inside. In this pit I was tied. Since I came I was tied and
25 when I lay down inside I could not able to stretch my feet and
26 I was in this form. Then there was water, some very nasty water
27 and the water could stop on top of my chin or something like
28 this.

12:08:33

29 Q. Where, up to what level did the water rise?

1 A. Up to this level to my face. I could have to lift my head.
2 If I don't do that then I could drink the water.

12:09:08

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: For the purposes of record the witness
4 has indicated with his hand on his neck to indicate the water
5 level.

6 MR BANGURA: In the half lying position.

12:09:29

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, because, as I have said before, the pit
8 is just like when the bath top - we could take bath with inside
9 here, so if you put water in and you lie down that water has to
10 be on this level if you are lying down, or you are in this form
11 lying down. It is not a circle pit or cylinder pit. It was a
12 triangle form like pit.

13 MR BANGURA:

14 Q. Did you say "triangle"?

12:09:40

15 A. I am sorry.

16 Q. Did you use the word "rectangle" before?

17 A. A rectangle form, sorry.

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, did you say the word
19 "bathtub" or "bath top"?

12:09:54

20 THE WITNESS: Bath top, B-A-T-H T-O-P.

21 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: What is that? What's a bath top?

22 THE WITNESS: Like in the toilet, in the bathroom there
23 are --

12:10:14

24 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Do you mean the big container where you
25 take a bath?

26 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am, something like that.

27 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: It's a tub. It's a bath tub.

28 MR BANGURA: [Overlapping speakers].

29 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, maybe I am using my --

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Don't be concerned, Mr Witness. We
2 understand now what you're saying. I just want to check if
3 Defence counsel have been able to see the various gesticulations
4 made by the witness.

12:10:38 5 MR GRIFFITHS: I have, your Honour, yes.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Proceed.

7 MR BANGURA:

8 Q. So what happened after you had been put into the pit that
9 night?

12:10:53 10 A. Well, that night we are still receiving punishment from the
11 guards. Every one of them who came around have to beat us, stand
12 on top of us, do a lot of things. The next day --

13 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Sorry, I don't understand. While you are
14 in the pit they were doing this?

12:11:15 15 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am. While in the pit
16 they have to come, because the pit, you have to be inside and it
17 has a door like form with bar across on top of it and this bar,
18 they will open it and close it and there were barbed wire on top
19 of it in this form, so nobody - you could not able to open it for
12:11:37 20 yourself, or you could not just get up out of the pit and go. So
21 they have another bar that they pass through this place. It was
22 a well-organised pit that was arranged to keep people inside.

23 MR BANGURA:

24 Q. Now the bar that you described, could it be lifted from
12:12:00 25 inside the pit if you were inside?

26 A. Yes, if you are inside --

27 Q. [Overlapping speakers] from inside?

28 A. Yes, if you could able to - if your hands are free you could
29 able to draw one of the bar, because it was bar that were on this

1 side, three bars, for example. So if you are lying down like
2 here then you could be able to force the bar and go out, then you
3 could be able to lift the door and get out of the pit.

4 Q. What kind of bars are these?

12:12:30 5 A. It was iron. They were made of iron.

6 Q. Metal bars. So you said while you were in the pit you were
7 subjected to some other form of treatment?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. What exactly?

12:12:48 10 A. They could come - they have their guns, so they will push
11 the gun like this and hit you with it.

12 Q. Now, did anything else happen that night?

13 A. Until the next - we continued receiving this punishment
14 until the next day. So in the night they usually go, because the
12:13:14 15 place was very uncomfortable I believe for themselves to be
16 there. There were dead people and flies were all over the place.
17 So they could only come and punish us and later go.

18 So the next day when they came - for example, they will ask
19 who want to eat something. If you say you want to eat something
12:13:37 20 then they will bring this cassava stem. They will put that stem
21 in hot - the stems could be so hot that when - they will force it
22 into your mouth. You have said you want to eat something, they
23 will force that stem into your mouth so it will burn the inside
24 of your mouth, all your - that type of thing. And the next
12:14:01 25 day --

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause. There has been several
27 "they"s. If we can clarify.

28 MR BANGURA: I realise that, your Honour:

29 Q. I will just ask you to say exactly what happened. Did you

1 yourself ask that you wanted to eat something?

2 A. Yes, I answered to the question that I want to eat
3 something and that was the food they gave to me.

4 Q. And what did they give to you?

12:14:28 5 A. The cassava stem. You know cassava. Not the real cassava
6 itself, but they will put that cassava into hot water, or fire so
7 it could be very, very hot and when you say you want to eat
8 something they will give you that particular cassava and you must
9 eat it.

12:14:51 10 Q. When you say "they", who are the they that would give you
11 this?

12 A. The ATU. The ATU. Now we are in Gbatala and this Gbatala
13 is controlled by ATU.

14 Q. Now, did you look around - were you able to observe
12:15:07 15 something about your surrounding the next morning, the next day?

16 A. Yes, the next day - we made an escape the next day, me and
17 the person named number 3 on this paper in front of me. So he
18 came from his pit. He was a little bit larger guy with muscles
19 and when he came he was standing asking that he has - telling us
12:15:33 20 that he has opened his pit and he is outside and who is ready to
21 go. So I heard him and I told him to come and open my own place,
22 "I will join you escape." So we made an escape.

23 Q. Just before you move on, what time of the day was this?

24 A. It was the next day in the night. By then the security, or
12:15:56 25 the ATUs have gone. So it was then that the person named number
26 3 on this list came, opened his place, came and started shouting
27 that he has opened the place and his gate and he is going away,
28 who could follow him. So I told him, "Come open my own place.
29 I will join you, we will go." So we made that escape.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, the witness said "the next
2 day night". Does that mean the next day early in the morning
3 when it was still dark, or does it mean the following night?

4 MR BANGURA:

12:16:36 5 Q. Mr Witness, you have heard the question. You arrived on a
6 particular night and you spent that night, is that correct?

7 A. Yes, sir. We spent that night. We were there for the rest
8 of the day, then in the night of the second day.

9 Q. Thank you. That was the night that the person named number
12:17:01 10 3 came to you and told you that he could help you to go out?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Now, just before we go on to what happened after that,
13 during the day of your second day, during the day, did anything
14 happen?

12:17:21 15 A. Yes, sir. We have been beaten. They were melting - the
16 food they came with inside those plastic - those rubber plates,
17 after we have eaten it - they were forcing them to eat. One of
18 the spoon - no, it was not that day, but they were melting -
19 after we ate it they melt that plastic on us. You know, they
12:17:47 20 would light it while they stood on top of this door like - they
21 have to melt this plastic on us while they were beating us. So
22 when the person named number 3 on this list in front of me came
23 that night and asked who is ready to join him to escape, so
24 I asked him to open my gate, or the door. He did.

12:18:13 25 Q. Let's still talk about - you talked about plastic being
26 melted and food. First of all, you said you were given food, is
27 that correct?

28 A. Well, they asked who want to eat. I said I want to eat,
29 but I cannot say that cassava stem is a food.

1 Q. When you talk about food do I understand you to mean
2 something else?

3 A. Yeah, we were hungry of course. I wanted to eat, because
4 since we were arrested we have had no food, no water, anything of
12:18:49 5 such. So when they ask who want to eat something, I answered
6 that I want to eat. Others answered. So we that answered, that
7 was the food they give to us.

8 Q. Now, you said plastic then was melted and can you explain
9 exactly what they did to you?

12:19:07 10 A. Yes, those plastics were melted on us while we were still
11 lying inside this pit.

12 Q. How was it melted on you?

13 A. They put fire on it, this rubber plate form, plastic plate.
14 So they have to put fire on it, they light it then they would
12:19:28 15 manage it until fire is on it, then they will start dropping it
16 on our skin. I have all these marks all on my body.

17 Q. Then this was on the second day during the day, is that
18 right?

19 A. Yes, sir.

12:19:41 20 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, are you saying that on these
21 plates was not real food?

22 THE WITNESS: No, ma'am, it was not real food.

23 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: But they made you eat these sticks?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am, they forced us to eat it and it
12:19:56 25 was so hot that when you put them into your mouth it burnt inside
26 your mouth. It burst all your tongues and every part. Your
27 mouth will be swollen and the rest of it.

28 MR BANGURA:

29 Q. Apart from the plastic plates that were melted and dropped

1 on you, did anything else happen before you escaped on the night
2 of that day? Did anything else happen?

3 A. Yes, the beating continued and that night - that day it was
4 just the punishment that we were subjected to until the next
12:20:49 5 day - the night we made an escape, me and the person number 3 on
6 this list.

7 Q. Now how was it possible that this person number 3 on the
8 list, how is it possible that he came out and was able to get you
9 out that night?

12:21:12 10 A. Well, he was in his own pit, a different area, I could not
11 tell directly, but he managed to open his own gate, the door to
12 his pit, he managed to open it and when he got outside it was
13 then he shouted, or he asked who - he told us, "No bodi no de
14 ya", for example, in Krio and said --

12:21:41 15 Q. What did he say again in Krio?

16 A. He said, "No bodi no de na ya. Den don go. A don lus mi
17 sef. So udat want fo fala mi." It was the person on this number
18 3 that said so.

19 Q. So what did that mean?

12:21:59 20 A. It means, "They have gone, nobody is here, who wants to
21 escape with me. I am going, I have opened my own pit." So I was
22 inside my own pit and I told him, "Okay, come and open my own
23 gate." Then he did and I asked him to loose my rope, or to untie
24 me, so he did. Then we made an escape.

12:22:20 25 Q. When he said nobody was here, that they had gone, who was
26 he referring to?

27 A. He was referring to the securities, the ATU guys who were
28 guarding, who were around.

29 Q. Do you know why they left?

1 A. It was raining and the place was very smelly, as I said.
2 They themselves, they could not stay there for long.

3 Q. And what happened after you were released?

4 A. Well, we made an escape. We travelled for the rest of the
12:22:51 5 night, but we were just going around the camp. We were just
6 going around the camp until we were arrested the next - the
7 morning - for the rest of the night we were just travelling. We
8 were hoping that we could reach somewhere where we could make a
9 successful escape, but we were unfortunate and we were arrested
12:23:17 10 again that morning. So they took us back to the camp and by then
11 they took us to Chucky Taylor.

12 Q. Now just before you continue, who arrested you?

13 A. The ATUs.

14 Q. And then you were brought to Chucky Taylor, you said?

12:23:37 15 A. Yes, sir, we were brought back to the camp. We were naked
16 and they were beating us, every part of our body. They beat us
17 so much that I could hardly see. My eyes were swollen. They
18 brought us to the camp and we were seated in front of Chucky, and
19 when he came he asked his men to go and get all the other guys
12:24:04 20 from the pit and that he is coming to teach us lesson. It was
21 then that it happened for me to know the name of the place. So
22 when they came with other guys he was addressing us that this
23 Camp Gbatala nobody could make an escape and if anybody made an
24 escape you could be killed, and that he is coming to kill the
12:24:29 25 person - he is coming to kill the person named number 3. So,
26 whilst standing they were still beating us, the others came out
27 of the pit. They stood in front of us. We were like this two of
28 us and the other guys were about - behind us.

29 Q. Mr Witness, when you say you were like this what are you

1 trying to say?

2 A. We were in front of the other guys. We were in front of
3 him, very closer to him, then the other guys were behind him and
4 he was standing in front of us.

12:25:07 5 Q. Were you standing up?

6 A. No, we were not standing up. We were all lying down on the
7 ground.

8 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: By "him" you mean the person number 3, or
9 Chucky? Closer to who?

12:25:20 10 THE WITNESS: No, the person number 3 and I was the one
11 that made the escape, ma'am, and after they arrested us again
12 they brought us to Chucky and Chucky asked his men to go and take
13 all the other prisoners from the pit.

14 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I understand that. I am just asking when
12:25:38 15 you said, "We were standing very close to him", you mean who?

16 THE WITNESS: We were standing in front of Chucky, ma'am,
17 your Honour.

18 MR BANGURA: Thank you:

19 Q. And what happened next?

12:25:51 20 A. And when they came with the other guys, the other
21 prisoners, the others from the pit, so it was then Chucky said -
22 it was then he mentioned the name of this camp and he said
23 anybody that made an escape from this camp they are going to kill
24 them and that they were going to kill [redacted] because
12:26:13 25 [redacted] --

26 Q. Mr Witness --

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Redact that name, please, from the
28 record. That is page 75, line 22. Please use the number,
29 Mr Witness.

1 MR BANGURA:

2 Q. Mr Witness, look at the numbers and use them.

3 A. I am sorry.

12:26:35

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please continue, Mr Witness. We have
5 dealt with the matter.

6 MR BANGURA:

7 Q. So, he was going to kill the person named number 3?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Right. So, did anything happen next?

12:26:48

10 A. Yes. So one of the ATU soldiers was standing and when he
11 cocked his gun to shoot the guy it was then Chucky said, "No",
12 they are going to cut the head off him and they should cut the
13 head from the neck to the face. So, it was how they killed
14 [redacted].

12:27:13

15 Q. Mr Witness, you have to look at the list and call the names
16 by numbers.

17 A. Please can I have some moments? I am not okay.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, we understand. When you say "some
19 moments" do you mean you just want to sit there quietly, or do
12:27:35 20 you --

21 THE WITNESS: I want to walk outside, please.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please assist the witness. How long do
23 you require, Mr Witness?

24 THE WITNESS: 10 minutes, ma'am.

12:27:46

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: How much?

26 THE WITNESS: 10 minutes. Five or 10 minutes, please.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Bangura, have a seat. If it is five
28 to 10 minutes, first of all the screens will have to go down and
29 I think the Bench will retire. Please adjourn the Court

1 temporarily and we will check on the witness after five minutes.

2 [Break taken at 12.28 p.m.]

3 [Upon resuming at 12.46 p.m.]

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: I hope you are feeling a bit better,

12:46:58 5 Mr Witness.

6 THE WITNESS: Yes, Madam, thank you very much. I am very

7 sorry.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: There is no need to apologise. If you

9 are not feeling well you must inform us.

12:47:11 10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11 MR BANGURA: Thank you, your Honour:

12 Q. We shall continue, Mr Witness. We stopped at a point where

13 Chucky said no, not to shoot at this person named number 3.

14 A. Yes, sir.

12:47:33 15 Q. So what exactly happened to this person named number 3?

16 A. So he asked them to behead him and they did. They cut his

17 head from the neck towards the face.

18 Q. Who did, who cut the neck?

19 A. One of the ATU soldiers. They were having a very big gun

12:47:53 20 and a large knife and that was the knife they used to behead the

21 person named number 3.

22 Q. Before they beheaded this person named number 3, did he say

23 anything?

24 A. Yes, sir, he did.

12:48:05 25 Q. What did he say?

26 A. He pleaded for his life. He begged. We were all crying.

27 We were all begging. He told Chucky that he would do anything he

28 wants us to do and we said that, we begged, but they killed him.

29 Q. After this incident did anything happen?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. What happened?

3 A. When they killed the person named number 3, they cut his
4 head and we were still being beaten and later they took us back
12:48:46 5 to the swamp. It was then he called the place name and he told
6 us that anybody who made an escape, or attempt to make an escape,
7 when they catch you you will face the same destiny as the person.

8 Q. Who said that?

9 A. Chucky Taylor.

12:49:04 10 Q. Then the rest of you, did anything happen to you?

11 A. Yes, sir. They took us back to the swamp where the pits
12 were and we were then put into the pits. This time it was me and
13 the person named against number 4 on my list. We were together.
14 They put us inside the same - similar pit. Not the same pit

12:49:26 15 I was inside, but a different pit. So they tied our hands
16 against the barbed wire that was inside. So we were there and
17 they were still punishing us.

18 Q. When you said they tied your hands against the barbed wire
19 that was inside, can you explain? Was there barbed wire inside
12:49:56 20 the pit?

21 A. No, the barbed wire that they make the door like with, on
22 top of the pit. When they put you inside then they have to close
23 that particular gate like and our hands were above it. It was a
24 cuff like - a plastic cuff like they could brace your hands with.
12:50:25 25 So if you move your hand, the more you shake your hand, or you
26 try to release it, the more it will tighten. So that day the
27 spoon that felt - one spoon --

28 Q. Just before you go on to that, when you say your hands,
29 there are two of you. Talking about yourself first, was it both

1 hands?

2 A. No, not both hands this time. One of my arm with one of
3 the person named number 4 on this list in front of me and we are
4 like this together so you could not - so you could have one free
12:51:04 5 hand. One of us could have a free hand, but we are like this
6 inside. The other fellow was like this.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just for purposes of record the witness
8 first demonstrated that his and the other person's hands were
9 together and he put one hand above the other and he then

12:51:28 10 demonstrated his hand and arm curved above his head. Is that an
11 adequate description, counsel?

12 MR GRIFFITHS: Your Honour, yes.

13 MR BANGURA: Thank you:

14 Q. So just before you were sent back into the pit did you have
12:51:48 15 an opportunity of looking around this whole area where these pits
16 were?

17 A. Well, that day when they were taking us to the pits for
18 this time it was daylight so you could see around while we were
19 taken there and you could not - when we were inside this pit you
12:52:12 20 could not see the surroundings because you are inside this hole,
21 so - but we could able to talk. If somebody is talking - if
22 somebody is from that other area you could talk and then you
23 could hear his voice.

24 Q. But on this day you were able to look around?

12:52:29 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. What was your observation of this area?

27 A. Well, there was cassava farm, something like cassava plants
28 were around and it was like a swamp area, a wetland. So we were
29 inside that and you could see dead bodies around. There were

1 flies all over the place on the dead bodies. Plenty of them.

2 Q. So once you were back inside the pit did anything happen?

3 A. Yes, that day in the night - the next night they came with
4 some prisoners. One of them was an ULIMO - former combatant, a
12:53:21 5 ULIMO officer, but he was a police officer by then.

6 Q. Just before you continue, you said "that day" and then you
7 said "the next night". Can we be clear about what time period
8 you're talking about?

9 A. Yes, sir.

12:53:34 10 Q. What was it? When was this? Can you just be clear about
11 what you are saying?

12 A. The night of that day.

13 Q. That is the day you were caught. The day that number 3 was
14 killed. Is that correct?

12:53:47 15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Thank you. And you say on that night what happened?

17 A. On that night they came with some other prisoners. One of
18 them was the person named number 6.

19 Q. All right. You said this person was - you started talking
12:54:09 20 about somebody being a ULIMO former combatant?

21 A. Yes, sir, and he was a police by then, so they came with
22 him and his toes were chopped off. So when they came, after that
23 night --

24 Q. Now just before you continue, how did you know these facts
12:54:31 25 about this person; that he was a ULIMO former combatant and a
26 police officer?

27 A. I knew it after something was to happen. That was when he
28 explained about himself.

29 Q. Okay, continue then.

1 A. So that next day in the night when they came it was when
2 the securities have gone, so it was the time he was out of his
3 own pit and he was asking, "Who are the Freetown guys?", or
4 something like that, because in Liberia they call Sierra Leoneans
12:55:10 5 Freetown guys, Freetown men. So, he was asking that and he said
6 when they were taking him along the commander and - the commander
7 and Chucky are coming - the commander and Chucky were
8 communicating that these guys are good for nothing and they
9 should kill us. We should be terminated. So when he get
12:55:39 10 outside, by then me and the person named number 4 on this list
11 have taken this spoon to the --

12 Q. Now just before you even go there, let's be clear about
13 what this person said and what you say he heard.

14 A. He said he heard the commander and Chucky were discussing
12:56:03 15 us, that they should terminate us. We are good for nothing.

16 Q. And when you say terminate you?

17 A. It means they should kill us. They should kill us, sir.

18 Q. And he said he heard that?

19 A. Yes, sir.

12:56:15 20 Q. And then he - at this point he had released himself from
21 his pit?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. And was --

24 A. He was outside.

12:56:25 25 Q. Right.

26 A. So me and the person named number 4 we were tied together,
27 but there was a spoon in the pit. It was a metal like spoon, so
28 we managed to break that spoon. So before this person named
29 number 6 could come outside we have been trying to cut this cuff

1 on our hand, so after he came we managed to cut this thing and we
2 asked him to open the gate for us. So he did, because he was
3 telling us that if we stayed there when Chucky and Campare are
4 coming from Monrovia they are coming to kill us.

12:57:06 5 Q. Now, you said that there was a metal spoon in your pit.
6 How did it get there?

7 A. They brought some food, so --

8 Q. Who brought food?

9 A. The ATUs.

12:57:14 10 Q. Right.

11 A. So it was - when they were giving us that food, it was then
12 the food fell down - the spoons fell down into the pit and so
13 they never took it back from us.

14 Q. But how were you fed with the food that they brought?

12:57:32 15 A. We were lying down. This pit, as I have said, as I have
16 described this pit, it was a very small, tight place, and one of
17 my friend was on me while I was on the other side. So when they
18 put - they used that spoon to put that food in our mouths, so it
19 was when that food fell down they never requested for it.

12:57:57 20 Q. What fell down?

21 A. The spoon.

22 Q. So, you are saying you were fed and you did not feed
23 yourselves directly?

24 A. Yes, we were fed.

12:58:08 25 Q. Thank you. What happened then? You were --

26 A. Then we used that spoon. We broke the spoon into two and
27 inside this pit it was cemented so we were able to sharpen the
28 edge of the spoon we had broken, and it was the spoon, the half
29 of it, we managed to cut this cuff on our hand.

1 Q. And the cuff was of what material?

2 A. It was plastic - a plastic like. So after we released our
3 hands, then the person number 6 opened - drew the bars from the
4 gate so we get outside and we made an escape, but he could not
12:58:51 5 make it because his toes were chopped up.

6 Q. When you say his toes were chopped up, what do you mean?

7 A. They cut the toes - the ten toes - of his foot. They cut
8 them off and so he was having - he was having that pain. He
9 could not able to walk as we could, so while we were making this
12:59:15 10 escape through the swamp into the forest and after some distance,
11 because during our escape I don't know if they were around, or
12 whatsoever, so they started chasing us, we were running, so he
13 could not make it like we could then. So we heard him shouting
14 and we heard some gun shot and so he was killed, I believe that,
12:59:47 15 and we continued our journey. We travelled that whole night. We
16 hid ourselves in the forest - the rubber plantation forest - and
17 so after we heard no noise we continued our journey in the bush.
18 So - and this time we were just going around this camp. We were
19 just going around this camp until daybreak. For the rest of the
13:00:14 20 day we were there around in the afternoon, or evening.

21 Q. At daybreak did you do anything?

22 A. Yes, so we were still trying to escape. We were on our
23 escape route now. Our mind - because we knew if we were caught
24 then we are going to be killed and so we were trying to take our
13:00:37 25 time, but we don't know the place and we are just going around
26 the camp until we just - there was a road. We tried to go across
27 the road, because we were following this bush path, and we just
28 met the group of soldiers, the ATUs. They rushed on us, arrested
29 us again and started beating us. So my friend was fighting

1 against - the person named number 4, he was fighting against them
2 until they stripped us naked and took us again to the camp.

3 So when we went to the camp by then Campare was there and
4 Chucky and all the other guys, so they started beating us. They
5 started beating us mercilessly. Everyone was kicking us,
6 stepping on us, all these things, so Campare wanted to kill us.

7 So it was then that I saw another man - another soldier - who was
8 coming around saying to them that, "A message from Papay." So,
9 Chucky received the message and came towards Campare. He was

10 very, very angry and said, "Papay want to see these men." When
11 he said "Papay", he was referring to Charles Taylor of course.

12 So, he said he want to see these men. So, it was then they
13 started beating us, they started melting candle wax on us, on our
14 privates, on our buttocks and so on.

15 Q. Can you just be very clear. They started melting what
16 again?

17 A. Candle on us.

18 Q. Candle wax?

19 A. Yes, candle wax, on our buttocks, on our privates, and the
20 cigarettes they were smoking they were inflicting on our skin.

21 Q. What exactly did they do?

22 A. The cigarette they were smoking they put it on our skin
23 after.

24 Q. They burned your skin with it?

25 A. They burned our skin with it and this candle plastic,
26 putting this candle - they will light the candle and then they
27 will have to put it on our feet so that it could inflict some
28 pain in us.

29 Q. What was put under your feet?

1 A. The candle. They will light it and the flame of it they
2 have to put it under your feet so you could feel that burning
3 pain on yourself, and the candle was also melted on us. So while
4 they were crazy beating us this time it was then Chucky said they
13:03:27 5 should go and take the other men, but it was only one man they
6 came along with and it was the person named against number 5 on
7 this list.

8 Q. So, they came back with the person named number 5?

9 A. Yes.

13:03:40 10 Q. Now just before we move on from that point, you described
11 various acts that they performed, various things they did to you.
12 They burnt candle and dropped the wax on your body. They burnt -
13 they lighted the candle and burnt your feet, the soles of your
14 feet. Apart from that, what other parts of your body were
13:04:11 15 affected by these marks?

16 A. All over my body. I was even stabbed on my leg. I was
17 stabbed by Chucky with a bayonet on my left leg here.

18 Q. You were stabbed by?

19 A. By Chucky. I still have the mark there.

13:04:27 20 Q. During that period?

21 A. Yes, during that period. And one thing I could say also is
22 that the day me and the person named number 3 on this list made
23 the escape, or the day they took us to the place, that night they
24 were firing behind us and so we were plenty, but that day when we
13:04:49 25 escape when they brought these other guys who were with us there
26 were just a few people.

27 Q. It is not so clear. You are talking now of the person
28 named number 3?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. That was the first attempt at escaping you are talking
2 about?

3 A. Yes. So I am trying to explain something that when we came
4 the group, because we were plenty. I have said we were more than
13:05:12 5 10 to 15 people. So that day the person named number 3, when me
6 and him made the first escape, after they brought the other guys
7 to see where they were going to execute him so they were just few
8 people. And this time after we made escape, me, the person named
9 number 4 and the person named number 6, so the person named
13:05:34 10 number 6 they killed him during the time we were making the
11 escape, me and the person named number 4. So when they arrested
12 us and brought us, me and the person named number 4, we two were
13 the ones that they were beating when this message came so that
14 Papay wanted to see us in Monrovia. And they were crazy, beating
13:05:59 15 us, melting this plastic on us, this candle and other things,
16 cigarettes, so it was then that they tied us again and blind
17 folded us and loaded us inside the jeeps to Monrovia.

18 Q. Now, you just said - I think you have said that twice now -
19 that the person named number 6 was killed?

13:06:25 20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. How do you know he was killed?

22 A. While we were escaping we heard him crying, shouting, you
23 know? They arrested him. We were not far, it was just because
24 it was dark so we could be able to hide ourselves that they never
13:06:41 25 saw us, and they shot him. After that he could no longer shout
26 or cry because he was killed, and we were told that he was killed
27 that day and so after we came to the camp they did all the arrest
28 things on us and they tied us and loaded us into the jeeps.

29 Q. You were told that he was killed. When were you told he

1 was killed?

2 A. They were saying it when we were arrested before they could
3 take us to Monrovia.

4 Q. And who was saying it?

13:07:10 5 A. The soldiers, the ATU guys who arrested us, that they were
6 coming to kill us too.

7 Q. Now, what was the reaction in the camp when there was news
8 among the ATU soldiers? When news came that they had caught you,
9 what was the reaction amongst them?

13:07:33 10 A. They were happy. They were happy. Every one of them were
11 coming to see. They are coming to see us and they came and they
12 beat us, every one of them, everybody.

13 Q. Now, you said you were then to be taken to --

14 A. To Monrovia.

13:07:54 15 Q. To Monrovia. How did this go?

16 A. After the message came that Papay wanted to see us in
17 Monrovia, it was then they did all the beating, the plastic, the
18 candle burning on us, all these things, and they tied us as they
19 usually do. They tie-bayed us again, the same position, and we
13:08:18 20 were loaded on the jeeps and then taken to Monrovia.

21 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, for the record the word
22 "tie-bay", although it has been spelt by the witness, the
23 Prosecution has actually adopted a spelling and, subject to
24 argument by my learned friend, we would wish to offer a version
13:08:39 25 that we normally use and that is T-I-E hyphen B-A-Y, tie-bay. It
26 is one word, hyphenated.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: It would appear you are invited to give a
28 comment.

29 MR GRIFFITHS: I am totally neutral on this, Madam

1 President.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Again it's a word we're not
3 used to so we will accept that spelling.

4 MR BANGURA: Thank you:

13:09:15 5 Q. So after you had been tie-bayed what happened next?

6 A. There was a hood that they blindfolded us with after they
7 tie-bayed us and loaded us into the jeeps to Monrovia. We were
8 going then to Monrovia.

9 Q. Apart from being blindfolded did they do anything else?

13:09:35 10 A. Yeah, they've tied us.

11 Q. Apart from that, anything else?

12 A. The punishment was still going on. We were loaded on the
13 car. They were still punishing us, beating us, inflicting all
14 this pain on us.

13:09:50 15 Q. Were you able to cry out as a result of all of this?

16 A. Yeah, we were crying but sometimes you were not able to
17 cry.

18 Q. At some point was anything done to your mouth?

19 A. Yes, my mouth - as I said, my mouth was almost swollen and
13:10:09 20 all these things.

21 Q. What happened then?

22 A. Then they took us to Monrovia. We went directly to the
23 President's compound, Charles Taylor's compound in Monrovia in
24 Congo Town.

13:10:27 25 Q. How did you know that you were at his compound?

26 A. I knew that after we were in BTC and when we were going
27 there.

28 Q. Say again. You knew that after you were in BTC?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. What do you mean, what is BTC?

2 A. BTC is Barclay Training Centre, the headquarter of the AFL.

3 It was a barracks, a military barracks.

4 Q. Where was that?

13:10:58 5 A. A military garrison in Monrovia. But before we could go to
6 BTC.

7 Q. Okay. So you said you were taken to Charles Taylor's
8 compound?

9 A. That's correct.

13:11:06 10 Q. Where was this compound?

11 A. In Congo Town.

12 Q. And what happened?

13 A. So when we reached Congo Town they opened the gates and
14 Chucky and Campare, they were ahead of - they went inside the
15 compound and they were directing the car inside. So when they
16 went inside both of them - by then my own hood, the bag like or
17 something that they blindfolded me with, has gone off while we
18 were travelling on the road, so I could able to see around, and
19 after some time Mr Charles Taylor himself came outside with some
13:11:24 20 other people, some other officials.

21 So they came and - because our mouth was Sellotape. So he
22 walked directly to us and when he came it was then he asked one
23 of the soldiers, one of the ATU soldiers who were guarding us
24 inside the car that they should take this Sellotape from our
13:11:48 25 mouths. So he did and after he did Mr Charles Taylor said if we
26 are the guys that refuse to go to our country to fight when we
27 are most needed and we never said anything.

28 Q. He asked you?

29 A. Mr Charles Taylor was asking us this question.

1 Q. If you were the guys who?

2 A. Who refused to go and fight in our country when we are most
3 needed. So we could say nothing. After some moments then he
4 asked if we are the Kamajors that are sent to come and overthrow
13:12:54 5 his government. So during this time of the first - second
6 question I was trying to say - I said no - I was trying to say
7 something and we were looking ourselves, we were three, so later
8 I said - we said we are refugees and we are registered refugees,
9 we don't know anything about what he is saying.

13:13:23 10 Q. You were not so clear about who said - you said "I" and
11 then you said "we". So who answered back about being registered
12 refugees?

13 A. We were three.

14 Q. All three of you answered?

13:13:39 15 A. All three of us were Sierra Leonean refugees.

16 Q. No, it's not that. It is a question of who answered.

17 A. I answered, then my fellows gave the same answer. So we
18 gave that answer that we are registered refugees and we do not
19 know what he is talking about.

13:14:00 20 Q. Did anything happen after that?

21 A. Then he said, "Well, if you are refusing to say the truth
22 they are going to take you guys to the beach and we kill you and
23 they are not going to fire you, they are going to use the knife
24 to cut your head." So after some time Campare was standing by
13:14:23 25 his side and the other officers were standing by the other -
26 behind them, like this by the side. So he tapped Campare on the
27 shoulder. So it was the time Campare and Chucky and the other
28 guys - we were still inside the car, we were trying to go out of
29 the gate. So it was then one of the officers that were standing

1 said the killing - they should not kill us, "The killing should
2 have been done where they are coming from, not here. We need to
3 have information from these guys." So the vehicles slowed down
4 and they told them to take us to BTC.

13:15:14 5 Q. Just before you move on, you said one of the - did you say
6 one of the officers said the killing --

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. That you should not be killed?

9 A. Yes, sir.

13:15:28 10 Q. When you say officers, do you mean one of the soldiers
11 there?

12 A. No, no. It was the defence minister. I could recognise
13 him after - when they came to release us, that was the time.
14 Because when I saw him when he uttered the word, so I knew he was
13:15:50 15 Daniel Chea and when he came it was then that he introduced
16 himself to us that he is Daniel Chea.

17 Q. At that stage where this person spoke and said that you
18 should not be killed, that is where we are at the moment. So, as
19 you said, this was one of the officers and you say - he wasn't a
13:16:11 20 soldier, was he?

21 A. No, he was not.

22 Q. And he said you were not to be killed and what was the
23 reason again?

24 A. Yeah, because he said they should get information from us.

13:16:24 25 Q. And he said if you were to be killed, can you go over that
26 again?

27 A. He said if we were to be killed the killing should have
28 been done where we were coming from and they should take us to
29 BTC so that they could get information from us.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Before you go on, Mr Bangura, the witness
2 said "three of us", at page 91, line 18. But I had earlier heard
3 number 4 on the list and the witness. I am not clear if there is
4 two or three.

13:17:02 5 MR BANGURA:

6 Q. Mr Witness, how many of you came from - were brought from
7 Gbatala to Monrovia?

8 A. We were three. It was me --

9 Q. When you say three, name the three.

13:17:15 10 A. It was me and the person named against number 4 that made
11 the escape, after the person number 6 was killed. So we were
12 just two when this message came. So before they could take us to
13 Monrovia they asked - Chucky asked his men to go and collect the
14 other men. So it was only the person named against number 4 that
15 they came along with so he joined us --

13:17:39 16 Q. Say again.

17 A. The person named number 5. The person named against number
18 5 was the only person that they took from the pit and he was the
19 only person that joined us and we were then three.

13:17:54 20 Q. So you were yourself, the person named number 4 and the
21 person named number 5?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Thank you. Can you tell us what the nationalities of these
24 persons were, the person named number 4 and the person named
13:18:08 25 number 5?

26 A. They are all Sierra Leoneans and we were all refugees.

27 Q. What about the nationality of the person named number 6?
28 Did you know?

29 A. The person named number 6 was a Liberian and he was the

1 former ULIMO and a former police officer by then.

2 Q. Thank you. Now, let us go back to the place where you were
3 taken to. You said the residence of Papay?

13:18:45

4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Bangura, sorry to interrupt. The
5 person who said, "Well, if you are refusing to say the truth they
6 are going to take you guys to the beach and we will kill you and
7 they are not going to fire you, they are going to use the knife",
8 who said that?

9 MR BANGURA: I will get the witness to say, your Honour.

13:19:00

10 THE WITNESS: It was Mr Charles Taylor, ma'am.

11 MR BANGURA: So he said that:

12 Q. Now, can you describe this place where you were taken?

13 A. BTC.

13:19:21

14 Q. No, not BTC. Your Honours, just a moment. This place at
15 Congo Town?

16 A. Yes, Congo Town was where the President was living, his
17 residence in Monrovia.

18 Q. How did you know that that was where he was living?

13:19:41

19 A. Well, we were told it was Congo Town because - and that
20 area when we were there we could hear the sea, the noise of the
21 sea, and it was Congo Town. I never knew it was Congo Town
22 before, but after we - they were taking us to the place, we knew
23 it was Congo Town.

24 Q. When did you know that this was where the President lived?
25 Was it before you were taken there or after?

13:19:59

26 A. After we were taken there.

27 Q. Now, that evening did you have any sense of time, about
28 what time you got there?

29 A. It was late in the night, because we travelled from

1 Gbatala, it was around in the evening when we left Gbatala to
2 Monrovia. So before we could reach to Monrovia it was dark.
3 I don't know, but it was late in the night, midnight or
4 something.

13:20:30 5 Q. Can you say anything more about what you observed about
6 this place you were taken to, this residence?

7 A. Yeah, it was a compound. The building was fenced with
8 high - there was a big gate and it was fenced right around.
9 Inside you could see some of the securities around and you could
10 hear the ocean.

13:20:50

11 Q. Now, Mr Taylor himself, when he came out, in what - how did
12 he appear, in what attire was he?

13 A. He was having some casual dress, some evening dress. He
14 was not officially dressed with coat and tie or something, no.

13:21:15 15 Q. And you said he came out with some officials, is that
16 right?

17 A. Yes, that's correct.

18 Q. Were there many of them?

19 A. Yes, sir. There were more than four.

13:21:24 20 Q. This person who said that you should not be killed, was he
21 one of them?

22 A. Yes, he was one of them. He was standing behind the
23 President and they were standing like this. He was very closer
24 to him. The other side of the President was Campare who was
13:21:44 25 standing there and Chucky was around, so I could able to see him,
26 recognise him by then, and it was him probably who saved our
27 life.

28 Q. You said this person you later came to know as Daniel?

29 A. Daniel Chea.

1 Q. Chea?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And who was he, what position did you know him to be
4 holding at that time?

13:22:10 5 A. He was the then defence minister of Liberia.

6 Q. Now, after he intervened what happened?

7 A. Well, they took us to BTC instead of taking us to the beach
8 to be killed. So they took us to BTC. When we reached BTC --

9 Q. And BTC is, as you have said, Barclay --

13:22:38 10 A. Barclay Training Centre, something like that.

11 Q. Thank you. Continue.

12 A. When they took us to BTC so we were out of the jeeps and
13 the Chucky, Campare and the other ATUs, they went into the
14 station like where the MPs were and in that building was where

13:23:11 15 the cells were, so when they went inside they took us. So the MP
16 commander then said no - because they took us there to put us
17 inside the cell, the MP commander refused to take us. He said,
18 "You should take these guys to where they are coming from, where
19 they have been all along." So there was a serious confrontation
13:23:33 20 between the MPs and the ATU boys. They beat the commander
21 mercilessly. He was seriously beaten.

22 Q. You said "the MP commanders". Who were the MP commanders?

23 A. The MP commander - the chief of that particular place by
24 then he was the commander. That was how I learned it to know
13:23:56 25 that he was the commander of that particular post, or cell, or
26 something.

27 Q. When you say "MP", do you know what that word means?

28 A. Military police, sorry.

29 Q. Thank you. So, what happened following the argument?

1 A. They started beating him when he refused to receive us.
2 They started beating and they were fighting, so the MPs and the
3 ATU guys were fighting among themselves. So by then we have been
4 outside, out of the car, and we were at the corner while the
13:24:36 5 fighting was going on, so later on after the fighting has already
6 ceased then the MP was having some blood and they beat him with
7 guns, everything. You know, it was a serious fighting among
8 themselves.

9 Q. You yourselves, did anything happen to you after you were
13:24:53 10 brought to the --

11 A. Yes, I am coming. They put us at one corner. We were
12 sitting there in one corner. At this time we were not able to do
13 anything. I could hardly walk because my feet - under my feet
14 were swollen and my hands. I could not able to do anything with
13:25:06 15 my hands. If you could see my hand, I still have these marks on
16 my hand. All over my body - if I could take my body all over my
17 body I had swelling legs. My arms were bigger, like my legs, so
18 I could not able to see better, my eyes were swollen, my mouth,
19 everything. All of us. So, they later put us in the cell.

13:25:34 20 Later when they came and put us in the cell, there were more than
21 30 to 50 prisoners in a very small cell. This cell you could
22 only see - on top of the door you could only see some space there
23 where people would come and stand and catch air. So when we
24 entered in the cell inside the cell there used to be some
13:25:56 25 leadership among the prisoners in the cell, so if any prisoner
26 come the leader of that particular cell will ask you a lot of
27 questions about what brought you to that particular place. So we
28 were explaining, but they never understood that we had this type
29 of problem, you know?

1 And in the cell there used to be a place, a corner, where
2 the prisoners will urinate, or toilet in a bucket, an open
3 bucket, and so that was our own place because we were the most
4 junior prisoners. We were the last prisoners to come and so that
13:26:32 5 was our own position. It was the rule of the prison, or the
6 cell.

7 So in the morning after everybody have woken up, it was
8 then they saw how the condition of our body, or our conditions,
9 so they started asking us, "Where are you guys coming from?" So
13:26:55 10 when we told them we were arrested by Chucky and taken away to
11 the base, so the guys said --

12 Q. Which base?

13 A. Gbatala. They said, "We knew Gbatala, but we never knew
14 how evil this place was", they said. So, during this time the
13:27:15 15 guys started to say, "No, you guys are not coming from Gbatala.
16 Nobody could go to Gbatala and come from there, because Gbatala
17 is a notorious place. It is where they take any prisoner -
18 anybody they take to Gbatala you are going to be killed." So we
19 said, "Well, we are coming there and our condition could prove.
13:27:33 20 We were in the cell for about two weeks without food, without
21 water, without anybody asking us, except the prisoners." We
22 said, "Sometimes when some of the prisoners if they got food then
23 they could manage to give us a pinch of that food."

24 So we were there until one day, because every morning the
13:27:53 25 most junior prisoner or the last person to enter inside the cell
26 is the person that has the responsibility to take out the toilet
27 bucket to go and waste it together with some securities, or MPs.
28 So we were supposed to do that, but we could not because we were
29 not able to to do anything with our hands and other people did

1 it.

2 So about two weeks then while we were there without
3 anything, so one day this prisoner - our fellow prisoner - he
4 started grumbling that, "No, this is not fair", you know, talking
13:28:32 5 a whole lot of things, so when this - one of the MP came to take
6 this toilet out of the toilet with a prisoner, it was then they
7 started quarrelling. They started fighting. They said they
8 should take us from this place because we were dying. We were
9 rotting. Just imagine this was a cell where people go to toilet
13:28:54 10 in a bucket and you could see the toilet, people could stand by
11 the wall and urinate on the wall, a very dirty place, and they
12 were still grumbling that we were smelling, they said. So, after
13 that fighting it was then that the MPs took us to the hospital.

14 MR BANGURA: Your Honours, I see the time. This is
13:29:15 15 probably convenient, your Honours.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I note the time, Mr Bangura. I was
17 just going to alert you to that. Is this a convenient point?

18 MR BANGURA: It is, your Honour.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, this is now the time we
13:29:26 20 normally adjourn for the lunchtime adjournment. However, today
21 is Friday and on Friday the Court does not sit in the afternoon
22 as we have other work to do. Therefore, the Court will be
23 adjourning from now until Monday morning at 9.30. I again remind
24 you that you are under oath and you must not discuss your
13:29:48 25 evidence with any other person. Do you understand?

26 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am, I do.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you very much. We will now
28 adjourn. Please adjourn court until Monday at 9.30.

29 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 1.30 p.m.]

1 to be reconvened on Monday, 16 June 2008 at
2 9.30 a.m.]
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION:

TFI -590	11748
EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR BANGURA	11748

EXHIBITS:

Exhibit P-139 admitted	11748
------------------------	-------