



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

FRIDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 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 Simon Meisenberg
Ms Sidney Thompson

For the Registry:

Ms Rachel Irura

For the Prosecution:

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

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Terry Munyard
Mr Morris Anyah

1 Friday, 8 February 2008

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

09:28:43 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. I note a change of
6 appearance on the Prosecution side, Mr Werner.

7 MR WERNER: Good morning, Madam President. Good morning,
8 your Honours. For the Prosecution this morning, Brenda J Hollis,
9 Nicholas Koumjian, Alain Werner and Maja Dimitrova.

09:29:04 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Mr Munyard.

11 MR MUNYARD: Good morning, Madam President. Good morning,
12 your Honours. On the Defence side there's myself Terry Munyard
13 and Morris Anyah.

14 Can I start by apologising to the Court and also to my
09:29:17 15 learned friend Ms Hollis. Yesterday I was meant to tell the
16 Court that Mr Griffiths was unable to return to court today to
17 deal with the outstanding issues in relation to matters that were
18 placed before the Court for information and I'm terribly sorry.
19 Because of the pace at which things went yesterday, a lot quicker
09:29:42 20 than we thought, I was suddenly in court concentrating on other
21 matters and it simply slipped by mind and I didn't tell you. He
22 will be here on Monday. So I'm afraid we're not going to be able
23 to deal with those matters today and I do apologise.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: I thank you for that, Mr Munyard.

09:30:04 25 Ms Hollis, you have heard what Mr Munyard has told you. I'm not
26 sure if you are here solely for that purpose of tendering or --

27 MS HOLLIS: Not solely for that purpose, Madam President,
28 and we have heard what Defence counsel said about that and short
29 of moving forward without Mr Griffiths then of course that matter

1 must wait until his return.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. I will put my bundle aside
3 and if there's no other matters I will remind the witness of his
4 oath.

09:30:33 5 Mr Witness, you recall that you have promised to tell the
6 truth yesterday. That oath is still binding on you and you must
7 continue to answer truthfully. Do you understand?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, I heard you.

9 WITNESS: TF1-548 [On former oath]

09:30:54 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, please proceed.

11 MR WERNER: Madam President, your Honours, I would like to
12 start by referring the witness to one judicially noticed fact and
13 I have provided my learned friend with a copy. It is fact L.

14 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR WERNER: [Continued]

09:31:19 15 Q. Good morning, Mr Witness.

16 A. Good morning.

17 Q. Mr Witness, it is a judicially noticed fact for this Court
18 that there was an armed conflict in Liberia from about 24
19 December 1989 until about 17 August 1996. Now do you recall

09:32:10 20 where you were on about 24 December 1989, at the beginning of
21 this conflict in Liberia?

22 A. I was in Tripoli at that time.

23 Q. And when did you first learn about this conflict in
24 Liberia?

09:32:50 25 A. During the beginning of the war I know - I knew that the
26 war had started.

27 Q. Now, Mr Witness, to your knowledge where was Charles Taylor
28 on about 24 December 1989?

29 MR MUNYARD: Well, Madam President, how does he know?

1 We've just had the judicially noticed fact put before him in my
2 submission as an obvious attempt to try to give him a framework
3 of reference for his evidence. If that judicially noticed fact
4 is indeed judicially noticed and we all know what it means how
09:33:38 5 can this witness possibly know if he's sitting there in Tripoli?

6 MR WERNER: Your Honours, it's a fact in front of this
7 Court and I was just simply asking the witness first where he was
8 when this conflict started. Now I'm just asking if to his
9 knowledge --

09:33:59 10 MR MUNYARD: I didn't object to asking him where he was.
11 What I objected to was him being asked where to his knowledge
12 Mr Taylor was. How could he possibly have any knowledge unless
13 he's got a sixth sense of some sort?

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, it implies knowledge on the
09:34:25 15 part of the witness that we have not ascertained. It's leading
16 and it's taking a judicial fact further than a judicially noticed
17 fact. You will have to rephrase that question.

18 MR WERNER:

19 Q. Mr Witness, again where were you when you heard about the
09:35:01 20 beginning of the conflict in Liberia?

21 A. At that time I was in Libya.

22 Q. And who told you about that, Mr Witness?

23 A. I heard the news of the war through radio and my leader, my
24 leader Dr Manneh.

09:35:24 25 Q. And what did Dr Manneh tell you about that, Mr Witness?

26 A. What he told me was Liberia's leader who is in Libya,
27 Charles Taylor, they are the one who started the war in Liberia.

28 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now, Mr Witness, yesterday I asked
29 you if after seeing Charles Taylor in Mahtaba you saw him again

1 and you said that after you saw him two times in Libya before
2 they left to come to Burkina. Now when did you see
3 Charles Taylor again in Libya before he left to Burkina?

09:36:41 4 A. To ascertain these people that [indiscernible] Libya and
5 Burkina was away, even our leader Dr Manneh was going and coming.
6 But when they came they stay in Mahtaba. They lodge in Mahtaba.

7 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I'm sorry, Mr Werner, I don't understand
8 the interpretation. To ascertain that these people did what?

09:37:03 9 MR WERNER: I didn't - I do not think the witness answered
10 the question. I was going to put the question again:

11 Q. Mr Witness, you told us yesterday that you saw
12 Charles Taylor two times about the time you told us about
13 yesterday. The question was when did you see him again in Libya,
14 Charles Taylor?

09:37:29 15 A. I saw him in the year --

16 MR MUNYARD: I'm sorry to interrupt again but I'm finding
17 this very hard to follow because it's being put to the witness
18 that yesterday he said he'd seen Mr Taylor twice. He's now being
19 asked when did you see him again in Libya. I don't know whether
09:37:47 20 he's being asked about one of those two occasions or a third
21 occasion. The question isn't clear and it's also again coming
22 close to leading.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I agree with that, Mr Werner. I
24 think your original question was a little clearer actually.

09:38:10 25 MR WERNER: Your Honours, maybe it would be helpful if I
26 read, I have the transcript and I have copies for my learned
27 friend. If a copy can be put on the overhead that can help.

28 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: The issue is not what he said yesterday,
29 Mr Werner. The issue is what you asked him today. Are you

1 asking about the second of those two times or are you asking
2 whether the witness saw Mr Taylor any time after those two times?
3 The question is ambiguous.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: It's the use of the word "again".

09:38:46

5 MR WERNER:

6 Q. So, Mr Witness, how many times did you see Charles Taylor
7 in Libya?

8 A. I said I saw him two times in Libya.

09:39:11

9 Q. And when was the second time that you saw Charles Taylor in
10 Libya?

11 A. Actually I cannot mention the month or the day I saw him,
12 but at that time I was not remembering, I did not have any
13 record, I cannot tell you the month or the day.

14 Q. And where did you see him?

09:39:39

15 A. I said I saw him in Mahtaba. I saw him in Mahtaba, Libya,
16 Tripoli.

17 Q. And what if anything happened when you saw him in Mahtaba
18 the second time?

09:40:08

19 A. What happened, how? What happened, I said my leader is one
20 who introduce him to me. I don't know him personally. My leader
21 introduced him to me as the leader of the Liberian group in
22 Libya.

23 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you testified that you saw Charles Taylor
24 two times in Libya. Do you know what was Charles Taylor doing in
09:40:32 25 Libya at that time?

26 MR MUNYARD: Again I'm sorry, it's got to be specific to
27 what he saw Charles Taylor doing. Asking a question as open as
28 that is inviting the witness to either speculate or guess or give
29 first, second or third hand hearsay.

1 MR WERNER: Very well:

2 Q. So, Mr Witness, did you hear what Mr Taylor was doing in
3 Libya?

4 A. Yes, I knew what he was doing in Libya. He used to come
09:41:20 5 there because there are some of his still - people still in
6 Libya. I also knew that what my leader told me, Dr Manneh, that
7 he came there to look for some support for weapons, because Libya
8 is a place where he gets support.

9 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now you told us yesterday that you
09:41:51 10 saw Foday Sankoh in Mahtaba and you said that that was the first
11 time that you saw Foday Sankoh in Mahtaba. Did you see Foday
12 Sankoh again in Libya?

13 A. After that time I don't see both of them, but only my
14 leader who used to go to them. When I saw them that time I did
09:42:27 15 not see them again.

16 Q. And were Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor together when your
17 leader introduced them to you in Libya?

18 MR MUNYARD: That's leading as well.

19 MR WERNER: I withdraw that question, your Honours:

09:43:00 20 Q. Mr Witness, you testified that you saw Charles Taylor in
21 Libya, you testified that you saw Foday Sankoh in Libya. Did you
22 see them separately?

23 A. Yes, I saw them separately. I did not see them together.

24 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you testified yesterday that Charles
09:43:31 25 Taylor and his people left Libya to Burkina and then you said he
26 left with Liberians to Burkina. Do you know the names of any of
27 the Liberians who left Libya with Charles Taylor to go to Burkina
28 Faso?

29 A. I said maybe I knew some people, but presently where I am

1 it's possible that I will forget some. But I can remember a
2 person that I used to see him, I used to see him in Libya before
3 I came to Burkina.

4 Q. Do you know the name of that person, Mr Witness?

09:44:27 5 A. At that time I was not very much acquainted with these
6 people, but after I started knowing their names one by one,
7 because I was not acquainted with the Liberian groups I did not
8 know them very well, we were not very close.

9 Q. And later what were the names that you learned, Mr Witness?

09:44:59 10 A. I remember the one who was deputising him who was --

11 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, can the witness repeat the
12 name of the person?

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter asks you to
14 repeat the name of the person once more. I heard you saying the
09:45:23 15 one who was deputising him.

16 THE WITNESS: I said - I said when I came to Liberia I met
17 a person who was deputising him, but that time I saw him in Libya
18 before I came to Liberia, who is Isaac Musa.

19 MR WERNER: Your Honour, Isaac Musa, I-S-A-A-C and M-U-S-A:

09:46:03 20 Q. Mr Witness, you said that he was deputising him. What did
21 you mean by that?

22 A. When I came to Liberia, at that time he was acting - that
23 time he was the vice-president of Charles Taylor.

24 Q. And did you learn any other names?

09:46:31 25 A. Well, this is a long time ago, I cannot remember all of
26 them, but I can remember some but I cannot remember some.

27 Q. Which one can you remember?

28 A. At this moment I cannot remember anybody. Maybe if you
29 give me time later I might remember.

1 Q. Now yesterday you said as well that Foday Sankoh also left
2 with a Sierra Leoneans group to Burkina. Now do you know the
3 names of any members of the Sierra Leonean group who left Libya
4 with Foday Sankoh to go to Burkina Faso?

09:47:37 5 A. Sierra Leoneans, really I don't know these people. I am
6 not very much close to these people.

7 Q. Finally you said yesterday that Dr Manneh and his group
8 also left Libya to Burkina and I was not among. Do you know the
9 name of anyone who left Libya with Dr Manneh to go to Burkina
10 Faso?

09:48:06 11 A. Yes, I can remember some of the names. One of them is
12 Jackson alias Jokuday. I can remember Mustapha Jallow was among
13 the people. I can also remember Musang Yai was among those
14 people. I also remember - I also remember Famara Colley was
09:49:16 15 among. Just to name a few.

16 Q. Just pause there, Mr Witness. Jackson was given yesterday
17 and his Gambian name Jokuday was given yesterday, J-U-K-U-D-A-Y.

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I think it was J-O-K-U-D-A-Y.

19 MR WERNER: You're right, your Honour. I apologise for
09:49:45 20 that. Mustapha Jallow, I gave the spelling yesterday. Musang
21 Yai, I believe the name was given yesterday. Famara Colley would
22 be F-A-M-A-R-A and C-O-L-L-E-Y:

23 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you testified yesterday about the group
24 with Charles Taylor going to Burkina Faso, group with Foday
09:50:36 25 Sankoh going to Burkina Faso, group with Dr Manneh going to
26 Burkina Faso. If you know to what location in Burkina Faso did
27 these groups go?

28 A. I said I did not go with these people together, but what I
29 knew was what my leader told me and when I came to Burkina what I

1 knew, that is the group - the people of this group, they were in
2 - because we were given a compound, each group have its own place
3 in Burkina where we host.

4 Q. And where in Burkina Faso, if you know?

09:51:26 5 A. I said Ouagadougou. The capital. The capital Ouagadougou.

6 MR WERNER: Ouagadougou would be O-U-A-G-A-D-O-U-G-O-U:

7 Q. Mr Witness, yesterday I asked you what happened in the
8 conversation with Dr Manneh in Libya and you said, "During our
9 discussion after he saw me he wants to use me as his intelligence
10 man." What did you mean when you said that?

09:52:00

11 A. That is he want to make me as his - the person who --

12 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, can the witness slow down.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, you're going a little bit
14 fast for the interpreter. If you could speak more slowly,

09:52:33

15 please. Start again, Mr Witness.

16 THE WITNESS: Okay. I said he want to use me as his - the
17 person he use as a [inaudible] so that I can mobilise for him.

18 Also his aim was to send me to Gambia to check the security
19 situation in The Gambia for him and also to mobilise for him some
20 people in The Gambia, soldiers who were retired in the army to
21 mobilise them and bring them to Burkina. That's what he told me.

09:53:41

22 MR WERNER:

23 Q. Mr Witness, the word was not transcribed on the screen.

24 You said, "He want to use me as" and it's inaudible. How did Dr
25 Manneh want to use you in Libya, could you say that again?

09:54:18

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Was it Libya that he wanted to use him?

27 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Interpreter, you must be careful to
28 interpret everything that the witness says, please. There was a
29 word you did not say properly. The witness said he wanted to use

1 me as something and then we didn't hear what you said.

2 Mr Werner, please ask this question again so we get the
3 full answer.

4 MR WERNER: Yes, your Honours:

09:55:08 5 Q. When Dr Manneh spoke with you in Libya and you said that
6 Dr Manneh told you that he wanted to use you as intelligence what
7 did he tell you exactly?

8 A. To use me as intelligence person, this is what I am talking
9 about. He wanted to use me as somebody who would mobilise - to
09:55:55 10 mobilise people for him within Libya itself and again he wanted
11 to send me down Gambia in our own home so that I can under study
12 the security situation there and again try to bring soldiers
13 together who were already retired so that I could mobilise them
14 for him and then if I was able to get any of them I should bring
09:56:52 15 them over to Burkina.

16 Q. How long did you stay in Libya, Mr Witness?

17 A. I said I was in Libya since 1991. In the year 1991, the
18 beginning of 1991 I left Libya to come to Burkina.

19 Q. Mr Witness, were you in Libya since 1991 or were you in
09:57:31 20 Libya until 1991?

21 A. I said - I said I was there up to 1991.

22 Q. And can you remember the part of the year in 1991?

23 A. The beginning of the year. I think the beginning of the
24 year. The fourth month of the year 1991, I think.

09:58:13 25 Q. And, if anything, what happened to you after?

26 A. That year when I came to Burkina, at that time the people
27 we had in Libya was about 16 people. Those people, they also did
28 some training in Libya. I and those people left - me and
29 Dr Manneh and those people at that time, he left Burkina to come

1 to Libya all the time that was his way, me and him and the 16
2 people left there. We came to Burkina Faso.

3 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Werner, that is absolute nonsense. It
4 doesn't make sense, this interpretation that came through.

09:59:29 5 MR WERNER: I will try to clarify that, your Honour:

6 Q. So, Mr Witness, when you - just listen to my question,
7 Mr Witness. When you left Libya to go to Burkina Faso who, if
8 anybody, came with you to Burkina Faso?

9 A. Tell him that myself and Dr Manneh, Kukoi Samba Sanyang,
10:00:15 10 and 16 other people, we all left together from Libya and we came
11 to Burkina Faso.

12 Q. And, if anything, what happened when you went to Burkina
13 Faso?

14 A. When we arrived in Burkina he told me that I should go to
10:00:58 15 Gambia to study the security situation there and also to mobilise
16 some people for him who did some soldier training.

17 Q. Mr Witness, you testified before that --

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Werner, who is "he"?

19 THE WITNESS: I mean Dr Manneh, Kukoi Samba Sanyang.

10:01:46 20 MR WERNER:

21 Q. Thank you for that, Mr Witness. Now you told us that a
22 group of Gambians left Libya to Burkina Faso before your
23 departure from Libya. Did you see any of these people in Burkina
24 Faso?

10:02:17 25 A. Yes, I met some people in Burkina Faso. We saw one another
26 in Burkina Faso.

27 Q. If anything, what were they doing there?

28 A. I said Burkina was our base before. That was our host.
29 That was the place where we came - when we came they gave us a

1 compound in the place where we hosted. That's our host.

2 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Werner, I don't know what question was
3 put to the witness. The question I think you asked was did he
4 see the people from Gambia in Burkina and he says he met some
10:03:16 5 people, whatever that means, that is the answer he gave, some
6 people. Obviously he's not answering the question you asked.
7 Then he compounds that. You say what, if anything, were these
8 people doing there and then he talks about himself and his
9 people.

10:03:33 10 MR WERNER: I will try to clarify that, your Honour:

11 Q. So, Mr Witness, when you say that you met some people in
12 Burkina Faso who are you talking about?

13 A. I mean our Gambian people, the one you are asking me. I
14 can even name some of these people. I can remember some of their
10:03:59 15 names.

16 Q. That's fine, Mr Witness. Then just try to, as much as you
17 can, answer precisely the question. Then I asked you these
18 Gambians, what were they doing in Burkina Faso when you went
19 there?

10:04:19 20 A. I said that was our host. When we left Libya Burkina was
21 our host. They gave us a compound where we stayed and at that
22 time when the war was in Liberia our people used to leave Liberia
23 and come to Burkina and they also go back to Liberia. The place
24 was our host to make it such.

10:05:03 25 Q. When you say that they gave us a compound who are you
26 talking about?

27 A. The government of Burkina gave us a compound.

28 Q. And when you said that they used to leave Liberia and come
29 to Burkina and they also go back to Liberia who are you talking

1 about?

2 A. I mean the Gambians and Liberians. I saw some people going
3 and coming. Even the man sitting down, Charles Taylor, he used
4 to go and come.

10:05:40 5 Q. Go and come where, Mr Witness?

6 A. Coming from Liberia, coming to Burkina.

7 Q. Now so you said that the Gambians used to go from Liberia
8 to Burkina, from Burkina to Liberia. Why did the Gambians do
9 that?

10:06:19 10 A. I said what I knew, that is my leaders - what I heard from
11 my leader, what he told me, sometimes maybe you can see it in my
12 statements, I said my leader told me that he and Charles Taylor
13 and Foday Sankoh, they made a meeting in Burkina that they will
14 help him in his war. If he succeeds he will also help them in
10:07:23 15 their war, because at that time we are very powerless.

16 Q. Mr Witness, when you said, "My leader told me that he and
17 Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh, they made meeting in Burkina
18 that they will help him", who are the they?

19 A. That is we the Gambians will collaborate with him and
10:07:56 20 Sierra Leoneans will collaborate with Charles Taylor to help him,
21 his Liberian war.

22 MR MUNYARD: Can we have a date for this latest piece of
23 hearsay, please?

24 MR WERNER: I do not think the witness had finished his
10:08:22 25 answer anyway.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Let the witness finish first, please.
27 Continue with your answer, Mr Witness.

28 THE WITNESS: He said we should help Charles Taylor in his
29 war. If he succeed and sit as - if he succeed in his war he will

1 also help us in return so that we can also go back to our
2 country, because we are people who are very powerless at that
3 time. In terms of human resources, in terms of money, we were
4 not very powerful.

10:09:24

5 MR WERNER:

6 Q. Mr Witness, just to be clear, you say, "If he succeeds in
7 this war". Who is the he?

8 A. I mean Charles Taylor.

9 Q. "And he will also help us in return", who are us?

10:09:52

10 A. I said we the Gambians and Sierra Leones for our war, to
11 make it clear.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, you haven't dealt with the
13 time, Mr Munyard's --

14 MR WERNER: Yes, I was going to clarify that now:

10:10:24

15 Q. Mr Witness, when did this meeting take place?

16 A. Interpreter, I said this meeting was held before I came to
17 Burkina. He said they did the meeting in Burkina. That was
18 their agreement.

19 Q. And were you told when this meeting took place?

10:11:06

20 A. The meeting was held in Burkina in Ouagadougou.

21 Q. The question was when. Not where, but when this meeting
22 took place?

23 A. No, I cannot remember the day and the month because that
24 time I was not there.

10:11:36

25 Q. So, Mr Witness, what, if anything, happened after that?

26 A. I left and went to The Gambia. The 16 people I left with
27 from Libya to Burkina. I went to The Gambia. I was - I went to
28 accomplish the mission to mobilise people, to read the security
29 situation. I left Ouagadougou, I can say 19 - in the year of

1 1991, in the middle of the year.

2 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you talk about the 16 people you left with
3 from Libya to Burkina. Did they come with you to The Gambia?

10:13:22

4 A. I left alone Burkina Faso and went to The Gambia to
5 mobilise people.

6 Q. And what, if anything, happened when you went to the
7 Gambia?

10:13:54

8 A. When I went to The Gambia what he told me, the assignment
9 me gave me was what I have accomplished. I read the security
10 situation and I also mobilise the ex-soldiers, about five people.
11 I came with them from The Gambia.

12 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness repeat
13 the last bit of his statement?

10:14:38

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause, Mr Witness. The interpreter
15 has asked if you could please repeat the last part of your
16 answer. Starting where, Mr Interpreter?

10:15:32

17 THE WITNESS: Burkina Faso. I went - I said I went to The
18 Gambia. I mobilised the soldiers who left army, five of them.
19 The security situation also I read it. I left with those five
20 people from The Gambia to come to Burkina Faso.

21 MR WERNER: Sorry, your Honour, but my screen doesn't show
22 anything any more.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mine says the data has been lost.

24 MR MUNYARD: So does mine, your Honour.

10:16:02

25 MS IRURA: Your Honour, there appears to be a problem with
26 the LiveNote. I will confirm --

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Perhaps it would be wise to wait a
28 little, Mr Werner, if we're not getting any record.

29 MS IRURA: Your Honour, I'm informed that it should be

1 working now.

2 MR MUNYARD: Your Honour, can I just ask through the Court
3 Management service, I'm still getting the icon saying that the
4 data has not been saved. Can we find out whether or not that's
10:17:21 5 correct. Have we lost all the data so far or am I misreading
6 that? I don't claim to be technically --

7 MS IRURA: Your Honour, what normally happens is that if
8 the data is not on the LiveNote screen in front of you it is
9 recorded in the audio and the stenographers are able to
10:17:48 10 transcribe it at the end of the day to the transcript because
11 they have the audio. And their machine is working perfectly,
12 they have all the data. Apparently it is only in the Courtroom
13 where we are experiencing this problem.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Ms Irura. That's as
10:18:02 15 satisfactory as we can --

16 MR MUNYARD: Thank you, Madam President.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, please resume your
18 cross-examination. I meant your examination-in-chief, Mr Werner,
19 I apologise.

10:18:30 20 MR WERNER: Sorry, your Honour, because mine is still
21 frozen so I'm trying to --

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: It would appear some are working and some
23 are not, Mr Werner. We're just checking again.

24 MS IRURA: Your Honour, a technician is with me to just
10:19:30 25 take a look and see, because the machines in the booth are
26 working perfectly.

27 MR MUNYARD: Thank you, we're working over here now.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed, Mr Werner.

29 MR WERNER: Thank you, your Honour:

1 Q. So, Mr Witness, just tell us again what happened when you
2 went to The Gambia?

3 A. I said --

10:22:57

4 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the witness's mic is not
5 on.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Madam Court Attendant, could you please
7 put on the witness's mic, please.

10:23:42

8 THE WITNESS: I said when I went to The Gambia I - the
9 soldiers who left army already, I mobilised five of them in The
10 Gambia and also I understudied the security situation also.
11 Then after that I left with the five people from The Gambia to
12 Burkina.

13 MR WERNER:

10:24:11

14 Q. And what, if anything, happened when you went back to
15 Burkina, Mr Witness?

10:25:14

16 A. When we came to Burkina the 16 people I left there, I did
17 not find them there and what we have discussed with our leader
18 was that we should do the communication training at Burkina.
19 When we do the communication training at Burkina our people who
20 have joined Charles Taylor's people at Liberia will have to come
21 back to Burkina so that we could go to The Gambia. But it was a
22 surprise to me. When I returned to Burkina I did not find the
23 16 people I came with from Libya. I ask him the whereabouts the
24 16 people, then he told me, Dr Manneh, our leader, that
25 Charles Taylor came to Burkina. He went with those 16 people to
26 Liberia.

10:26:25

27 Q. Now, Mr Witness, what happened after that?

28 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Werner, I think you need to get - I
29 don't know if you're reading your LiveNote. Some of these

1 answers don't just make sense. I don't know if it's the
2 interpretation, but, speaking for myself, some of these answers
3 don't make grammatical sense to me.

4 MR WERNER: I will try to clarify, your Honour:

10:27:38 5 Q. So, Mr Witness, please tell us again when you came back to
6 Burkina Faso what was the situation that you observed?

7 A. Tell him that I said when I got to Burkina from Gambia the
8 16 people that I left behind that I travelled with from Libya to
9 Burkina, I did not see them again in Ouagadougou in Burkina.

10:28:39 10 That became a surprise to me and when I came and asked our
11 leader, and that is Dr Manneh, he told me that Charles Taylor
12 came to Burkina and he has travelled with these 16 people.

13 Q. To where, Mr Witness?

14 A. He took them to Liberia.

10:29:29 15 Q. And did Dr Manneh tell you why Charles Taylor took these 16
16 people to Liberia?

17 A. He went with the 16 people to Liberia. As I told you
18 before, we were supposed to do communication training at Burkina,
19 but when I arrived - the time I arrived at Burkina I found that
10:30:32 20 he has already decided to give those 16 people to Charles Taylor
21 to go with them to Liberia and said they were going to do their
22 communication training there.

23 Q. Mr Witness, when you say, "He has already decided to give
24 those 16 people to Charles Taylor", who are you talking about?

10:30:59 25 A. That is Dr Manneh our leader who gave those 16 people to
26 Charles Taylor.

27 Q. Did Dr Manneh tell you why he had decided to give these 16
28 people to Charles Taylor to go with them to Liberia?

29 A. Just as I told you before, and that is I said these three

1 Leaders, Dr Manneh, Foday Sankoh, Charles Taylor, had a meeting
2 at Burkina that we were going to help him, we are going to help
3 Charles Taylor. When Charles Taylor succeeds in his war he will
4 also help us. And also he told me that these people were going
10:32:35 5 to do their communication training at Liberia.

6 Q. Who told you that, Mr Witness?

7 A. I said our leader, Dr Manneh, Kukoi Samba Sanyang, was the
8 one who told me that.

9 Q. And after that conversation, Mr Witness, what, if anything,
10:33:04 10 happened to you?

11 A. Yes, we were there. I think we had three weeks in Burkina,
12 I and the five people. Charles Taylor came to Burkina. On that
13 evening Dr Manneh came to the residence where we were and told us
14 that we were going to do our communication training at a place
10:34:09 15 called Camp Poh around the Ivory Coast border, but he has now
16 decided that we were also going to join our people who are with
17 Charles Taylor in Liberia.

18 MR WERNER: So, your Honours, I will try to clarify it, but
19 first Camp Poh, the name of the camp, would be Camp and P-O-H:

10:34:52 20 Q. Now, Mr Witness, who came that evening to the residence
21 where you were?

22 A. Tell him that it was our leader Dr Manneh who came there.

23 Q. You said that, "He has now decided that we were also going
24 to join our people who are with Charles Taylor in Liberia." Who
10:35:23 25 is the he, who decided that?

26 A. It was Dr Manneh our leader who told me that word.

27 Q. And when did that happen, Mr Witness, if you can remember?

28 A. This happened in 1991.

29 Q. Can you remember which part of the year?

1 A. Tell him it was almost at the tail end of the year. It was
2 about October, November.

3 Q. Now, Mr Witness, what, if anything, happened after that?

4 A. When he told us that - when he told me that in that evening
10:36:41 5 when Charles Taylor came there, the following morning we saw him
6 come back there with his car.

7 Q. Just pause there, Mr Witness. Pause there. So who told
8 you that evening when Charles Taylor came there? Who are you
9 talking about?

10:37:16 10 A. Our leader Dr Manneh was the one who told me this word.

11 Q. When you say that you saw him come back with his car who
12 are you talking about? Whose car?

13 A. The same leader Dr Manneh I am referring to.

14 Q. What happened after that, Mr Witness?

10:37:56 15 A. On the following morning our leader Dr Manneh came to our -
16 came and met us at our residence and told us Charles Taylor was
17 supposed to return to Liberia on that day. When Dr Manneh told
18 us that, the same Dr Manneh told us we should be ready to go with
19 Charles Taylor to Liberia, we are going to do our communication
10:38:53 20 training at Liberia.

21 Q. Just to be completely clear --

22 MR MUNYARD: Sorry to interrupt, but entirely for my own
23 clarification where are we? Are we in Camp Poh? That was the
24 last address that we were given, but I'm not sure if I've missed
10:39:11 25 something.

26 MR WERNER: Let me clarify that:

27 Q. Mr Witness, did you ever going Camp Poh in Burkina Faso?

28 A. We did not go there again.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, when he says "again" what does

1 he mean?

2 MR MUNYARD: I'm sorry, I just don't remember, because of
3 the series of names, where all this is supposed to be happening.

4 MR WERNER: I can clarify that with one question:

10:39:54 5 Q. Did you ever go to Camp Poh in Burkina Faso, Mr Witness?

6 MR MUNYARD: Well, if he just asks him where all this is
7 happening rather than if he ever went somewhere.

8 MR WERNER:

9 Q. When you said that on the following morning your leader
10:40:18 10 Dr Manneh came and met you at your residence, where did that
11 happen, Mr Witness?

12 A. The place I am telling you is Ouagadougou, the capital of
13 Burkina Faso. Let me tell you that, to clear the statement for
14 you, we did not go Camp Poh for training any more. Our leader
10:41:11 15 Dr Manneh was the one who told us that Charles Taylor came there.
16 On the following morning the same Dr Manneh came and told us that
17 we were supposed to go with Charles Taylor to Liberia. We were
18 going to do our communication training there.

19 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness, for that clarification. Now what,
10:41:44 20 if anything, happened after that, Mr Witness?

21 A. Let me tell you on that same morning I can say around 10 to
22 around about 11 Dr Manneh came back to me and told me that we
23 should take our belongings and put them in a vehicle because then
24 Charles Taylor was ready to go back to Liberia. Then Dr Manneh
10:42:45 25 boarded us in the vehicle and took us up to the Burkina airport,
26 Burkina airport.

27 Q. When you say that, "Dr Manneh boarded us in the vehicle and
28 took us up to the Burkina airport", who are you talking about?

29 A. That is myself and the five people I left with from The

1 Gambia, the ex-soldiers.

2 Q. And then what, if anything, happened after that,
3 Mr Witness?

4 A. At the time we arrive at the airport with our leader
10:43:46 5 Dr Manneh then Charles Taylor and his delegation did not arrive
6 at the airport. We were taken to the reception. We were waiting
7 for him at the reception until he and his delegates came.

8 Q. Who did you see coming, Mr Witness?

9 A. I said we were sitting at the reception until we saw
10:44:37 10 Charles Taylor and his delegation arrive and our leader was among
11 those people who is Dr Manneh.

12 Q. And what, if anything, happened after that, Mr Witness?

13 A. When Charles Taylor and our leader arrive at the airport
14 they met us at the reception. Then we got up from the reception,
10:45:28 15 we went to stand aside at - in the reception. Then I saw our
16 leader talking with Charles Taylor. He pointed to us and said to
17 him these were my people that you were to go with.

18 Q. Who pointed to you?

19 A. Our leader Dr Manneh.

10:46:07 20 Q. When you said "him", who is the him?

21 A. That is I and the five ex-soldiers who left The Gambia.

22 Q. And when you said, "These were my people that you were to
23 go with", what did you mean?

24 A. That is my - that is myself and the five ex-soldiers who
10:46:50 25 came from The Gambia, he was showing us to Charles Taylor.

26 Q. And what, if anything, happened after that, Mr Witness?

27 A. While we were at the reception we saw Air Burkina arrive at
28 the terminal. We saw Charles Taylor and the soldiers who came
29 together there were taking things out and taking them to the

1 plane.

2 Q. When you say that the soldiers who came together, who were
3 these soldiers?

4 A. These were his - members of his delegation. I don't know
10:48:16 5 how to say it. His protocol were among those people. The senior
6 soldiers were among those delegates. Junior soldiers were also
7 among his delegation with whom he came from Liberia, he
8 Charles Taylor.

9 Q. And when you said that they "were taking things out and
10:48:51 10 taking them to the plane" what are you talking about?

11 A. I said at first where we were standing we did not know what
12 things were, but when we were coming out going to the plane, when
13 his people were taking things on board in the plane we joined
14 them to take those things to the plane. This was then I came to
10:49:46 15 know these were guns, arms and ammunitions, because I and the
16 five other people helped them to take those arms and ammunitions
17 to the plane and among us some Burkina soldiers were at the
18 airport at the time.

19 Q. Mr Witness, when you say, "When his people were taking
10:50:22 20 things on board in the plane", his people, whose people?

21 A. These were Charles Taylor's people who he came with.

22 Q. What, if anything, happened after that, Mr Witness?

23 A. When we take these things to the plane Charles Taylor
24 himself came with his delegation and boarded the plane. After we
10:51:24 25 also joined them in the plane.

26 Q. And what, if anything, happened after that, Mr Witness?

27 A. After that the plane took us to a country called Cote
28 d'Ivoire to an airfield in the provinces called Man.

29 MR WERNER: Man, your Honours, M-A-N, and Cote d'Ivoire the

1 country:

2 Q. And what happened, Mr Witness, when this plane landed in Man
3 in Cote d'Ivoire?

10:52:48

4 A. When the plane landed at Cote d'Ivoire in Man I and the
5 five ex-soldiers, we joined Charles Taylor's soldiers to take out
6 the arms and ammunitions from the plane and put them in a truck.

7 Q. What, if anything, happened after that, Mr Witness?

10:53:53

8 A. When we put the arms and ammunitions in the truck, after we
9 finished doing that then the plane and some of the Burkina
10 soldiers who escorted the plane returned back with the plane and
11 we joined Charles Taylor's convoy and went with him to Liberia.
12 We went by Danane, it's a village called Danane in Cote d'Ivoire.
13 When we left Danane we came to Luguato border which was the
14 border between Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire.

10:54:41

15 MR WERNER: Just pause there, Mr Witness. So Danane,
16 D-A-N-A-N-E with an accent on the E and Luguato would be
17 L-U-G-U-A-T-O:

18 Q. And, Mr Witness, what, if anything, happened after that?

10:55:34

19 A. After that we continue with Charles Taylor's convoy to his
20 town where - the town he was in control which was his
21 headquarters, which --

22 Q. Mr Witness, do you know the name of these headquarters?

23 A. His headquarters was at Gbarnga. This was central part of
24 Liberia.

10:56:19

25 MR WERNER: Gbarnga I believe was spelled before with
26 G-B-A-R-N-G-A.

27 Q. So what happened, if anything, Mr Witness, when you went to
28 Gbarnga?

29 A. On our arrival at Gbarnga this was around in the evening,

1 around after the midday prayer. General Jackson, a Gambian, if I
2 could remember I told you his name Jokuday, he boarded us in a
3 vehicle and took us to General Yank's compound.

4 MR WERNER: Jackson and Yank were spelled before:

10:57:45 5 Q. Mr Witness, if you can remember when did that happen?

6 A. This was - this happened around at the end of 1991.

7 Q. And then what happened when you boarded this vehicle and
8 were taken to General Yank's compound, what happened after that
9 if anything?

10:58:25 10 A. Let me tell you that was where we were lured, that was
11 where we were. I think we spent three - the fourth day we were
12 called and told that we were supposed to have a meeting in
13 General Domingo's compound. Let me tell you that this General
14 Domingo is also a Gambian. We had a meeting at General

10:59:19 15 Domingo's. We were shown to the members of the group, our SOFA
16 group. And also we were told that we the Gambians, whoever is
17 working for Charles Taylor, we will all have to work under triple
18 S, SSS.

19 Q. Just pause there. So you said that you were told that all
11:00:16 20 the Gambians should work under the SSS. Who told you that?

21 A. At that time our group, SOFA, we have our own chief of
22 staff. When it comes to about our group - I'm not saying about
23 Liberians, but our - particularly our group, we have our own
24 chief of staff whose name is Abdulai Bah.

11:01:29 25 MR WERNER: Abdulai Bah, A-B-D-U-L-A-I B-A-H.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: I don't know that I have got an answer to
27 the question who were you told by.

28 MR WERNER: You're right, your Honour. I was going to come
29 back to that. You're perfectly right.

1 Q. Mr Witness, you told us that in a meeting you were told
2 that all the Gambians were under the SSS and my question was who
3 told you that?

11:02:12

4 A. I said our chief of staff Abdulai Bah told us at that
5 meeting.

6 Q. And, if you can remember, who was present in this meeting?

11:02:58

7 A. At this meeting we were many who were present, but I can
8 remember the name of some elders. Musang Yai was among, he was a
9 general. Jackson was present who was a general and a bodyguard
10 to Charles Taylor. General Domingo was also present. Ibrahim
11 Bah was present. Lamin Campaore was present, to name a few for
12 you.

13 MR WERNER: Your Honours, I believe that all the names were
14 spelled before except Ibrahim Bah, I-B-R-A-H-I-M B-A-H.

11:03:55

15 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you told us that during this meeting you
16 were told that all the Gambians should be under the SSS and then
17 you said as well that the Gambians had their own chief of staff.
18 What do you mean about that when you said that?

11:04:26

19 A. When it comes to about Liberians under Charles Taylor's
20 government we were all going to work under SSS. But about our
21 society which is SOFA, I am telling you about our chief of staff
22 who is Abdulai Bah, because we have our own - because we have our
23 own group which was different from Liberian group. We were there
24 to help them in their war.

11:05:18

25 Q. And when you said that, "When it comes to about Liberians
26 under Charles Taylor's government", what did you mean about that?

27 A. Sorry, I said when it comes under the government of
28 Charles Taylor we were all under SSS. But when it comes to our
29 own group - when it comes to our own group - when it comes to our

1 own society our chief of staff Abdulai Bah, we selected him to be
2 our leader in our society.

3 Q. Now, Mr Witness, when you say SSS do you know what SSS
4 stands for?

11:06:31 5 A. SSS, I know it - I know how Liberians call it there,
6 Special Security Service, who were - I can say they're the elite
7 forces among the soldiers, the high class, the ones who work with
8 the president.

9 Q. And just to come back once again, you said again that,
11:07:21 10 "When it comes under the government of Charles Taylor". What was
11 your understanding of the government of Charles Taylor at that
12 time?

13 A. Let me tell you this was not a government, it is a
14 government that was put in place by Charles Taylor himself. Then
11:08:02 15 there was a rebel war, not a government that was elected by
16 people. But during the war Charles Taylor formed a government
17 because he has ministers, has protocols and many other things,
18 senior army leaders.

19 Q. Mr Witness, you said that Charles Taylor has protocols.
11:08:47 20 Who were his protocols?

21 A. Let me tell you, I can remember the senior protocol officer
22 whose name is Musa Cisse. Among the protocols I know another
23 person, another lady whose name is Lydia. He has many protocols,
24 but these were the ones I can remember, I can remember their
11:09:30 25 names.

26 MR WERNER: Just pause there, Mr Witness. Musa Cisse,
27 M-U-S-A and Cisse in Liberia is spelled C-I-S-S-E:

28 Q. And, Mr Witness, did you say Lilia?

29 A. Lydi a. Lydi a.

1 MR WERNER: That would be L-Y-D-I-A:

2 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you said as well that Taylor had senior
3 army leaders. Who were those senior army leaders?

4 A. I will start with our own people, our Gambia - among our
11:10:33 5 Gambia people. General Jackson was among, he was a special
6 bodyguard to Charles Taylor himself. General Musa was among.
7 Musang Yai, he is also a special bodyguard to Charles Taylor.
8 These were all Gambians. General Abdulai Bah, he was a senior
9 soldier. General Yeatem. Now I will go to the Liberians. He
11:11:28 10 was then SSS chief of staff.

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Is this the same Yeaten spelling that
12 we've had before?

13 MR WERNER: Yes, I was just going to clarify:

14 Q. General Yeaten, do you know his first name? I believe,
11:11:56 15 your Honour, it's the same spelling, Y-E-A-T-E-N.

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Can you say the name again, please,
17 Mr Witness?

18 THE WITNESS: I said my speaker is not working. It's not -
19 I said General Yeatem.

11:12:24 20 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: It sounds like Yeatem with an M at the
21 end. I thought that's what the witness said.

22 MR WERNER:

23 Q. Mr Witness, would you be able to spell in English this
24 name?

11:12:36 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: I thought I heard the witness say his
26 speaker wasn't working.

27 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Can you please spell the name Yeatem.

28 THE WITNESS: I will try and spell it but I don't know
29 whether I would be able to spell it correctly. Y-E-A-T-E-M,

1 Yeatem. Benjamin Yeatem.

2 MR WERNER:

11:13:29

3 Q. Now, Mr Witness, just to clarify that you said you were
4 talking about the Gambians and you said all of them are Gambians
5 and then you said General Abdulai Bah and then you said, "I will
6 go to the Liberians". Did you know the nationality of Abdulai
7 Bah?

11:14:09

8 A. This Abdulai Bah is a member of our SOFA group. But his
9 nationality, he was born in Casamance, the southern region of
10 Senegal. But this Abdulai Bah, just because Casamance and The
11 Gambia has a relationship, this Abdulai Bah has relatives in The
12 Gambia, just to clear things for you.

13 MR WERNER: Your Honours, Casamance would be
14 C-A-S-S-A-M-A-N-C-E:

11:14:47

15 Q. Mr Witness, I asked you about the army leaders and you gave
16 names of Gambians and then you said that you were going to give
17 names of Liberians and you talked about Benjamin Yeatem. Did you
18 know any other Liberians, army leaders?

11:15:12

19 A. Let me tell you I know some names and I will tell you those
20 names. General Dopoe Menkarzon. I know General Dopoe Menkarzon.
21 I know Isaac Musa who was then a general. I know Montgomery,
22 deputy to Yeatem. I know another called Jackal [phon] Point,
23 known as Ghankay Point, and many others who I cannot count.

11:16:36

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: So Dopoe Menkarzon was spelled before.
25 The spelling we gave was D-O-P-O-E M-E-N-K-A-R-Z-O-N. Isaac Musa
26 was spelled before. I'm not familiar with the other names. I
27 will ask the witness to assist if he can.

28 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: The deputy to Yeatem is who?

29 MR WERNER:

1 Q. Mr Witness, can you help us, what was the name you gave
2 again, the deputy of Benjamin Yeatem?

3 A. Montgomery.

4 MR WERNER: Your Honour, that would be M-O-N-T-G-O-M-E-R-Y
11:17:39 5 and I believe that the witness gave another name:

6 Q. Mr Witness, you said that you another man called Jackal
7 Point?

8 A. I said Jackal Point commonly known as Ghankay Point.

9 MR WERNER: I have no idea how to spell that:

11:18:08 10 Q. Do you know, Mr Witness, how to spell that name?

11 A. Let me tell you his Ghankay - I can spell his Ghankay name,
12 but I cannot spell his other name because it was a funny name.
13 His Ghankay name, G-H-A-N-K-A-Y. Point, P-O-I-N-T.

14 Let me tell you why he is called that name, because he was
11:19:19 15 somebody - somebody trusted by Charles Taylor, he is
16 Charles Taylor's right hand. This Ghankay name was taken from
17 Charles Taylor himself. If you could remember in my statements
18 Charles Taylor has a name - Charles Taylor has a name Charles
19 Ghankay Taylor.

11:20:05 20 Q. Witness, you said that, "I can spell his Ghankay name, but
21 I cannot spell his other name because it was a funny name". His
22 Ghankay name, what do you mean?

23 A. You know, I said his first name was Jackal Point, but this
24 Jackal Point, sometimes I cannot spell that, it's a funny name.

11:21:00 25 Maybe they are Liberian and they can say it. But his second name
26 is Ghankay Point. That Ghankay Point is what I can spell for
27 you. That is what I told you.

28 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now you said that Ibrahim Bah was
29 in the meeting, now who was Ibrahim Bah?

1 A. Ibrahim Bah is a member of SOFA kafoo group, but he and
2 Abdulai Bah are the same people. He is also a citizen of
3 Casamance. But when it comes to relationship, he has relatives
4 in The Gambia. He is also somebody who joined this group since
11:22:24 5 Libya, just to sort in the statement for you.

6 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you said that, "Ibrahim Bah is a member of
7 SOFA kafoo group"? What is kafoo?

8 A. SOFA is a group, it's a society. He was a member of the
9 society. It was a revolutionary society. It's a society which
11:23:02 10 has a leader who is Dr Manneh.

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Could we have the spelling of that word
12 kafoo and the meaning as well?

13 MR WERNER:

14 Q. Mr Witness, I do not think you answered the question. Now
11:23:17 15 it may be a translating issue, but we have here that you said
16 that, "Ibrahim Bah was a member of SOFA" and then you added a
17 word kafoo. Can you help? What is kafoo?

18 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, it's a mistake on the part
19 of the interpreter. The interpreter simply used the Mandinka
11:23:46 20 word and the word "kafoo" means "group" in Mandingo, and then he
21 used group and at the same time kafoo. So that is a mistake,
22 your Honours.

23 MR MUNYARD: Your Honour, before we move on can I just ask
24 for a clarification because on the transcript it's got Ibrahim
11:24:03 25 Bah and Abdulai Bah and the same person. I heard "are the same".
26 As I understood it, he was saying it's two names for the same
27 man. Before the transcript disappears, if I could have that
28 clarified.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: That was my understanding as well,

1 Mr Munyard. I do recall they were used interchangeably in an
2 earlier part of the evidence.

3 MR WERNER:

4 Q. Mr Witness, you said that he, and you were talking about
11:24:34 5 Ibrahim Bah, and Abdulai Bah are the same. What did you mean
6 when you said that, could you explain to us?

7 A. What I was saying is that Abdulai Bah - a person of his
8 own, he's also a human being. He's a member of SOFA. He was the
9 one who was acting as SOFA's chief of staff. Ibrahim Bah was a
11:25:14 10 member of SOFA, he is also a member of kafoo. He is also a
11 member of SOFA. These two people, these two people are all
12 citizens of Casamance, but they have relatives in The Gambia.
13 These two people were all members of SOFA group in Libya. I am
14 giving you two names of different people.

11:26:06 15 Q. Thank you for that clarification, Mr Witness. Now at the
16 time of this meeting, the Gambian meeting, if you know what, if
17 anything, was Ibrahim Bah doing in Liberia?

18 A. Let me tell you, then Ibrahim Bah, he used to go to Sierra
19 Leone and come back, Ibrahim Bah, when Foday Sankoh started his
11:27:01 20 war in Sierra Leone. He was a citizen of Gambia who was given by
21 Charles Taylor to join the war in Sierra Leone. This was then I
22 know that Ibrahim Bah used to go to Sierra Leone. He used to go
23 there, spend some time there and comes back to Liberia.

24 MR WERNER: Pause there, Mr Witness. I'm mindful of the
11:27:50 25 time. I have some follow-up questions on what he's said. I'm in
26 your hands. It will take some time.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: If it will take a long time we'll adjourn
28 now as there's only about a minute and a half or two minutes on
29 the tape. So we will adjourn and resume at 12 o'clock.

1 [Break taken at 11.29 a.m.]

2 [Upon resuming at 12.00 p.m.]

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, please proceed.

4 MR WERNER: Thank you, Madam President:

11:59:27 5 Q. Mr Witness, before the break you told us about meeting five
6 people in the Gambia and they were ex-military men, and they came
7 with you to Burkina Faso and then they went with you to Liberia.
8 Do you remember that?

9 A. Yes, I am aware of that.

12:00:01 10 Q. Then you told us as well, before the break, that there was
11 a meeting in Liberia with the Gambians, when you arrived in
12 Liberia. Do you remember that?

13 A. Yes that is true.

14 Q. My question is: Were these five men at the meeting with
12:00:26 15 the Gambians in Liberia?

16 A. Yes, they were present.

17 Q. And do you recall the names of any of these five men?

18 A. Yes, I can call their names.

19 Q. Please do so, Mr Witness.

12:00:56 20 A. One of them's name, Joseph Mendoza, that is the name he is
21 called in Liberia, but his Gambian name is Dodou Sanyang.

22 MR WERNER: Just pause there, Mr Witness. Your Honours,
23 Joseph Mendoza, Joseph J-O-S-E-P-H, Mendoza M-E-N-D-O-Z-A and
24 Dodou Sanyang, D-O-D-O-U S-A-N-Y-A-N-G:

12:01:42 25 Q. Yes, Mr Witness, do you remember any other names?

26 A. The other one's name - the other is called in Liberia
27 Michael Denba, Mike.

28 Q. Do you know his Gambian name?

29 A. His Gambian name is Wandil Colley.

1 MR WERNER: Your Honours, Mike and Denba, D-E-N-B-A, and
2 Wandi Colley, W-A-N-D-I, Colley C-O-L-L-E-Y:

3 A. The other one's name is called David Compare. That is the
4 name he is called in Liberia.

12:02:38 5 Q. What is the Gambian name?

6 A. His Gambian name is Dauda Nyassi.

7 MR WERNER: Your Honours, David like David, Compare
8 C-O-M-P-A-R-E. Dauda Nyassi, D-A-U-D-A, Nyassi N-Y-A-S-S-I:

9 Q. Can you remember anyone else, Mr Witness?

12:03:16 10 A. The other one, Liberia, is called Sar Babalah.

11 Q. Do you know his Gambian name?

12 A. His Gambian name, his Gambian name is Lamin Daboe.

13 MR WERNER: So Sar Babalah would be S-A-R and Babalah would
14 be B-A-B-A-L-A-H. Lamin Daboe would be L-A-M-I-N, Daboe

12:04:00 15 D-A-B-O-E:

16 THE WITNESS: The other one is called John Denba, that is
17 his Liberian name.

18 Q. Do you know his Gambian name, Mr Witness?

19 A. His Gambian name is Goof Dampha.

12:04:25 20 MR WERNER: Your Honours, John, current spelling, and
21 Denba, D-E-N-B-A, and the Gambian name would be Goof, G-O-O-F,
22 and Dampha, D-A-M-P-H-A:

23 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now, before the break as well you
24 told us about someone called Ghankay Point and you said that that
12:05:13 25 was somebody trusted by Charles Taylor and Charles Taylor's right
26 hand. What was the gender of that person?

27 A. It is a man. It is a general. He is also a member of
28 Charles Taylor's special force who came from Libya - or Liberia.

29 Q. And did he have --

1 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Was that from Libya or Liberia?

2 THE WITNESS: He came with them from Libya. He is a
3 special force to Charles Taylor.

4 MR WERNER:

12:06:02 5 Q. In Liberia did he have any role?

6 A. Myself, or who?

7 Q. The same person we are talking about, Ghankay, Ghankay
8 Point?

9 A. I know that he is a general in his army, but then I don't
12:06:36 10 know his functions.

11 Q. Did you know his age at that time?

12 A. He is an elderly man. I believe he can be 50 to 60 years
13 old.

14 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Can I just have one second your
12:07:03 15 Honours? Now, before the break you said that Ibrahim Bah --

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Werner, this man, is he 50 to 60
17 today, as of the time we are speaking, or in 1990?

18 MR WERNER: Thank you, I apologise for that:

19 Q. Mr Witness, you said that - Mr Witness, just wait for my
12:07:39 20 question. You said that he was an elderly man and you believe
21 him to be 50 to 60 years old. Did you mean at the time when you
22 first came to Liberia, or today?

23 A. I said when I was going to Liberia, not now. Now he is an
24 old man. I said the time I went to Liberia.

12:08:21 25 Q. Now, Mr Witness, before the break you said that Ibrahim Bah
26 used to go to Sierra Leone and come back. Now, how do you know
27 that?

28 A. Let me tell you, Ibrahim Bah is a member of our group, our
29 group. There was no secret between us and Ibrahim Bah, what he

1 told me, he told me that he was working at Sierra Leone in Foday
2 Sankoh's people and not only Ibrahim Bah, because one of our
3 members also goes to Sierra Leone and comes back, whose name is
4 Lamin Compare. He is also part of the people who started the war
12:09:33 5 in Sierra Leone. These were the people of SOFA group who
6 Charles Taylor assigned to go and join Sankoh to start the war in
7 Sierra Leone.

8 MR WERNER: Now, your Honours, I think that Lamin Compare
9 is the same name that was spelt before.

12:10:02 10 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: We have a fundamental problem here.
11 I don't know if it is the interpretation, but this testimony
12 relates to the here and now. These people are going and coming
13 as we speak. Is that the evidence of this witness?

14 MR WERNER: I will clarify that, your Honour.

12:10:20 15 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: You had better get these tenses
16 straightened out.

17 MR WERNER:

18 Q. Mr Witness, you said that Ibrahim Bah and Lamin Compare
19 were assigned by Charles Taylor to Sierra Leone with Foday
12:10:45 20 Sankoh. When did that happen?

21 A. I said, I said these people, Lamin Compare, Ibrahim Bah,
22 these were working in Sierra Leone for Foday Sankoh. These were
23 the people who first went to Sierra Leone to start the war, but
24 these people used to go to Sierra Leone and come back to Liberia
12:11:27 25 because they have their wives and children in Liberia. They go
26 to Sierra Leone and spend some time there and then come back to
27 Liberia. This was in the year of 1991 when I went there.
28 I found them doing that work.

29 Q. Can you assist us, when in 1991? Are you able to say?

1 A. I said I went there at around the end of 1991. I was at
2 that meeting. It was Gambian meeting that I told you we have
3 done. These two people, Ibrahim Bah and Lamin Compare, came from
4 Sierra Leone to attend this meeting.

12:12:29 5 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. At the time of the meeting with the
6 Gambians at which Ibrahim Bah was present, if you know, what was
7 Ibrahim Bah's position at that time?

8 A. At that time I know that Ibrahim Bah was a lieutenant
9 colonel.

12:12:58 10 Q. In which group?

11 A. NPFL, the group of Charles Taylor, lieutenant colonel.

12 Q. Do you know what NPFL stands for?

13 A. NPFL, that is National Patriotic Front of Liberia.

14 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. During the same meeting, this
12:13:38 15 meeting with the Gambians in Liberia, did you have a military
16 rank?

17 A. Yes, during the first meeting we, the five people, there
18 was no-one who has a rank. We were not giving ranks.

19 Q. What about after the meeting?

12:14:10 20 A. After the meeting I was given a captain rank. I was a
21 captain.

22 Q. How long after the meeting were you given that rank?

23 A. This was not more than two weeks and when our - when
24 Jackson took our names and gave them to General Yeaten, this was
12:14:41 25 the time they come back to us and told us our ranks, who we are.
26 Myself, I was a captain at that time.

27 Q. And when you said Jackson, do you refer to the same Jackson
28 you told us about before?

29 A. Yes, it is the same. It is the same Jackson I am talking

1 about who is known as Jokuday Nyassi, the Gambian.

2 Q. Did you say General Yeaten, or General Yeatem?

3 A. I said General Yeaten, Benjamin Yeaten.

4 Q. Now, you told us before about the headquarters of

12:15:37 5 Charles Taylor in Gbarnga. Where in Gbarnga were these
6 headquarters, if you know, Mr Witness?

7 A. At that time Charles Taylor's mansion was in Gbarnga
8 administrative buildings. It was behind Gbarnga's administrative
9 building. If you stand behind the administrative building it has

12:16:15 10 a small hill. If you stand at that hill you can see the mansion
11 there.

12 Q. At that time did you go there yourself?

13 A. Let me tell you, when we came for the first time, the first
14 day I arrived at Gbarnga we were taken there. After then Jackson

12:16:49 15 came and took us from there to Yanks. This was then the first
16 place I know in Gbarnga.

17 Q. When you were there, if anybody, who did you see?

18 A. Can you clarify that? When I was at Gbarnga, or when I was
19 in the mansion?

12:17:21 20 Q. When you went to the mansion. When you arrived in Gbarnga
21 you said that you were taken to the mansion. If anybody, who did
22 you see there?

23 A. I saw Gambians. I came with Jackson. I saw General
24 Domingo there. We found him there. I found some Liberia

12:17:56 25 generals, but then I don't know them, but at the latter part
26 I came to know them because I saw Momoh Gibba there, Cassius
27 Jacobs, General Yeaten there. I saw another man whose name is
28 Moses Blah. He is also a member of Charles Taylor's special
29 force. I saw so many people there. It was after that I came to

1 know their names because at that time I don't know their names.

2 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness.

3 MR WERNER: Momoh Gi bba, M-O-M-O-H G-I -B-B-A. Cassius
4 Jacobs, C-A-S-S-I -U-S, Jacobs, J-A-C-O-B-S:

12:19:06 5 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you said - we have on the transcript here
6 Moses Bl ack.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: I thought it was Moses Bl ah.

8 THE WITNESS: Let me tell you, his name is Moses Bl ah,
9 Moses Bl ah.

12:19:34 10 MR WERNER: Thank you, Mr Witness. Moses would be
11 M-O-S-E-S and Bl ah, B-L-A-H:

12 Q. Mr Witness, after that meeting, two weeks later you became
13 a captain and did you receive an assignment?

14 A. Then I was not given a job, but at end of that week I met -
12:20:08 15 I went with Mustapha Jallow to Lofa. Then he was assigned at
16 ATCO. He was assigned at Lofa, ATCO company.

17 MR WERNER: So, I believe he said ATCO company which should
18 be A-T-C-O and Mustapha Jallow the spelling - I gave the spelling
19 before:

12:20:34 20 Q. Mr Witness, before you said that all the Gambians were
21 under the SSS, so were you at that time under the SSS?

22 A. Yes, I was then under SS.

23 Q. Then you said that you went with Mustapha Jallow to Lofa.
24 Lofa, what do you you mean? What do you mean when you say to
12:21:06 25 Lofa? Could you explain what you meant?

26 A. Lofa, L-O-F-A. I went with Mustapha Jallow. He was then
27 assigned at Lofa.

28 Q. Is it a town, or is it a county as far as you know?

29 A. Lofa is a county, is a division of its own, Lofa County.

1 Q. So where to Lofa County did you go, which town?

2 A. We went to a village called Zorzor.

3 MR WERNER: Your Honours, Zorzor, Z-O-R-Z-O-R:

12:22:22

4 Q. Wait one second, Mr Witness. Why were you requested to go
5 to Lofa County, to Zorzor, with Mustapha Jallow?

6 A. Then Mustapha was assigned in there. He was the only one
7 there.

8 Q. When you say you were - wait one second, Mr Witness. When
9 you say he was assigned there, who assigned him there?

12:22:54

10 A. Let me tell you, Charles Taylor assigned him there but the
11 command came from SS, but then at that time there were two
12 companies near Zorzor named ATCO and FATCO. These two companies,
13 Mustapha was responsible for the security of these two companies.
14 He was assigned there to take the security of those two

12:23:32

15 companies.

16 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. You said that the command came from
17 SS. Before you told us about SSS, so is SS and SSS the same
18 body?

12:23:59

19 A. Let me - I said SSS. It is the same, triple S, which
20 Benjamin Yeaten was responsible for.

21 Q. When you say the security of these two companies, which
22 kind of companies --

23 MR WERNER: Sorry, before that, sorry, your Honours.

12:24:30

24 I think he said FATCO, would it be F-A-T-C-O, and before he said
25 ATCO, which I believe was the name of the other company:

26 Q. Now, these two companies, which kind of companies were they
27 as far as you knew?

28 A. These two companies were logging companies. They are
29 logging companies. They chop down big trees and export them to

1 Ghana.

2 Q. Who, Mr Witness, if anyone, were the owners of these
3 companies?

12:25:15

4 A. These companies, I know that they belonged to the white
5 men, but I can remember the name of FATCO company, his name,
6 I can remember his name.

7 Q. What was his name, Mr Witness?

8 A. FATCO company, at that time the one responsible was a white
9 man, but then the way we know it he was a German. His name is
10 Gus.

12:25:36

11 MR WERNER: Your Honours, we believe Gus to be G-U-S:

12 Q. Do you know his last name?

13 A. No, I know him as Gus.

12:26:05

14 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you said that you went there with Mustapha
15 Jallow. What was your job there, what were you doing?

16 A. My first trip to that place, I did not spend much time
17 there. I and Mustapha spent two weeks there, then we were called
18 over the radio and said we should - Mustapha should return us to
19 Gbarnga because at that time we were supposed to have another
20 assignment.

12:26:44

21 Q. You didn't answer my question. During these two weeks what
22 did you do there in Zorzor?

23 A. I was Mustapha's assistant.

24 Q. Thank you. During these two weeks --

12:27:09

25 MR MUNYARD: With respect, that doesn't tell us what he
26 did. It tells us --

27 MR WERNER: I accept that:

28 Q. So as Mustapha's - when you say Mustapha's assistant, are
29 you talking about Mustapha Jallow?

1 A. Yes, I say Mustapha Jallow. I was Mustapha Jallow's
2 assistant to help as these two companies' security.

3 Q. Thank you. Now, at that time, during these two weeks,
4 what, if anything, did you observe in Lofa County? What was the
12:28:04 5 situation in Lofa County?

6 A. At that time when I was going to Lofa County there was only
7 peace there and at that time there was other soldiers, NPFL
8 soldiers, who were responsible for the other villages in Lofa
9 County. They have commanders who were also NPFL commanders.

12:28:44 10 These commanders were all - were under Mustapha because he was
11 the one who was from the special force. He was then the one with
12 the highest rank at Lofa County.

13 Q. When you say special forces, what did you mean?

14 A. Special forces were people who came with Charles Taylor
12:29:22 15 from Libya to Liberia, so anyone who came from Libya to Liberia
16 were the ones called special forces.

17 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now, you told us about Mustapha
18 Jallow and you told us about Ibrahim Bah and you told us that
19 both of them were Gambians. As far as you know, did they know
12:29:53 20 each other?

21 A. Yes, these two people knew each other. In our group these
22 two people were closer to each other. They are the friends.

23 Q. Who are you talking about?

24 A. I said Mustapha Jallow and Ibrahim Bah.

12:30:23 25 Q. What happened when you came back from your two weeks
26 assignment in Lofa County, if anything, what happened?

27 A. I said when I came from Lofa I was taken to Gbarnga. It
28 was at that time I was given an assignment to go and introduce
29 Cobra Base.

1 Q. Just wait a minute. Cobra, C-O-B-R-A, Base. Mr Witness,
2 what was Cobra Base?

3 A. Cobra Base was a camp where they wanted to do the soldiers'
4 advanced commando training, the soldiers who were recruited in
12:31:45 5 Liberia at that time and had no advance training. This base was
6 introduced so that they can go there and do their advanced
7 training there.

8 Q. When you say this base was introduced, what did you mean?

9 A. That is Charles initiated this base so that he could take
12:32:31 10 soldiers there, the fighters, so that they can have their
11 advanced commando training.

12 Q. Mr Witness, when you said Charles, who are you talking
13 about?

14 A. I said Charles Taylor.

12:32:53 15 Q. As far as you know, where was Cobra Base?

16 A. Cobra Base was in - when you were coming from Gbarnga,
17 going to Monrovia, there is a village called Gbatala. That
18 Gbatala village, behind it has a village. When you are going out
19 of the village there is a hill. That is where this Cobra Base
12:33:34 20 is.

21 MR WERNER: Your Honours, Gbatala would be G-B-A-T-A-L-A.

22 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Werner, I am sorry to interrupt again.
23 The witness said, "I was given an assignment to go and introduce
24 Cobra Base." I am not sure I understand what that is exactly.

12:34:07 25 MR WERNER:

26 Q. Mr Witness, could you come back and explain specifically
27 which assignment was given to you?

28 A. I said I was a training instructor at that base. We - all
29 the Gambians who were there were all training instructors.

1 I myself was a training instructor at that base.

2 Q. Who gave you this assignment?

3 A. Our Chief of Staff, the Gambians Chief of Staff, who was
4 appointed Chief of Staff: Abdulai Bah. He was the one who took
12:34:58 5 us to that base, but what he told us was that Charles Taylor
6 initiated this base. The order came from General Yeaten, so that
7 we can go there and be training instructors at that base.

8 Q. And when did you go there for the first time?

9 A. This was in 199 - the beginning of 1992.

12:35:45 10 Q. And when you went there, what, if anything, did you
11 observe?

12 A. When I went there we, the Gambians, are there, Liberians
13 were there, but the Liberians who were there - the one we found
14 there as the base commander whose name is Joseph Kato, he was the
12:36:28 15 base commander at that time and his rank was a major.

16 MR WERNER: Pause there, Mr Witness. So Joseph Kato,
17 J-O-S-E-P-H, Kato K-A-T-O:

18 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you said that Joseph Kato was the base
19 commander. Did he report to anyone?

12:37:09 20 A. Yes, Kato, the Liberians with whom we were there were under
21 EMG. EMG is a branch of its own. It is a military branch named
22 EMG, but we were - we the Gambians were under SSS, triple S.

23 MR WERNER: I will try to clarify that, your Honour:

24 Q. So you said that the Gambians were under SSS. Do you
12:37:52 25 talk - do you mean the Gambian instructors?

26 A. Yes, I am referring to we, the Gambian instructors. We
27 were under SSS.

28 Q. Now, you said that the Liberians were under EMG. Do you
29 mean the Liberian instructors?

1 A. Yes, these were also Liberian instructors. They were under
2 EMG.

3 Q. Mr Witness, EMG, do you know what EMG stands for?

4 A. EMG is Executive Mansion Guard.

12:38:48 5 Q. And, if anyone, who was in charge of EMG?

6 A. At that time the Chief of Staff was Cassius Jacobs.

7 Q. And, if anyone, did Cassius Jacobs report to anyone?

8 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Is Cassius Jacobs the one in charge of
9 EMG? Is that the answer?

12:39:20 10 MR WERNER: Yes, your Honour. Cassius Jacobs was spelt
11 before:

12 Q. Did Cassius Jacobs report to anyone?

13 A. Cassius Jacobs himself, he was EMG's Chief of Staff. His
14 office was in Charles Taylor's mansion at Gbarnga.

12:39:52 15 Q. Did he report to anyone?

16 A. He reports directly to Charles Taylor.

17 Q. Now, you said that you went to Cobra Base, Gbatala, to work
18 as a Gambian instructor under the SSS, so what, if anything,
19 happened when you went there?

12:40:28 20 A. This I know, when we were there we recruit - they used to
21 bring soldiers who fight, not those who do not know about gun,
22 but the ones that they bring there were all ex-fighters in the
23 bush. They are the ones that they used to bring there, so that
24 they could have their advanced commando training at the base.

12:41:05 25 Q. Who were these recruits at Cobra Base in Gbatala?

26 A. These recruits comes from different battalions. They come
27 from different battalions and sent to - for recruiting, not from
28 one battalion, from different sectors: EMG, SSS itself, SBU,
29 these things, Army Division, Strike Force Marine, different

1 divisions in that sense, people there for training.

2 Q. When you say SBU, what did you mean?

3 A. Small Boys Unit.

4 Q. What was Small Boys Unit?

12:42:17 5 A. These are small soldiers.

6 Q. What do you mean when you say small soldiers?

7 A. These are young people who come there, not any one of
8 them's age is more than 16 years. Their ages are 15, 14, 13
9 years.

12:42:53 10 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: What is this Force Marine, something
11 Force Marine? I didn't quite catch that.

12 MR WERNER: Yes, your Honour. He gave two names: Army
13 Division and Strike Force Division.

14 THE WITNESS: Marine.

12:43:18 15 MR WERNER:

16 Q. Mr Witness, how long did you stay at that time? How long
17 did you stay at Cobra Base?

18 A. Cobra Base was my assignment. That was my permanent
19 assignment, but some time I go out for TDY. I do have TDY
12:43:54 20 assignments, but Cobra Base was my permanent assignment.

21 MR WERNER: Your Honour, TDY is the letters:

22 Q. Mr Witness, could you describe your work as an instructor
23 under the SSS at Cobra Base? What did you do there?

24 A. I personally, what I was doing, I do weapon training, foot
12:44:37 25 drill, close combat and topography. These were the lessons that
26 I used to do.

27 Q. You said that there were recruits coming to Cobra Base
28 battalion from different divisions. What were the nationalities
29 of these recruits, if you know?

1 A. Let me tell you, Liberians used to come there, Sierra
2 Leoneans used to come there.

3 Q. Any others?

12:45:38

4 A. I know the nationalities of these two countries who comes
5 there for training.

6 Q. And what language did you use to talk to these recruits
7 from Liberia and Sierra Leone?

12:46:17

8 A. I did not have a higher education, but I am a high school
9 product. I speak English and French. I cannot write in French,
10 but I do speak. For English I used to write. It is just that
11 I don't have higher education, but I am a high school product.

12 Q. So in which --

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am not sure, Mr Werner, if that answers
14 your question.

12:46:38

15 MR WERNER: It doesn't:

16 Q. Which language did you speak with the recruits from Sierra
17 Leone and Liberia?

18 A. I speak to them in English.

12:47:01

19 Q. Now, Mr Witness, what was the procedure which was followed
20 at Cobra Base, Gbatala, when recruits came to the base?

21 A. Let me tell you, these people when they come there they -
22 how they come, under different battalions. That is the way we
23 used to take their lists. Whoever comes from any battalion we
24 write his - we write a list for each battalion, the number of
25 people that come from that battalion and when they are leaving
26 the base we used to dispatch them according to the way they came.

12:47:55

27 Q. And did the procedure include written record?

28 A. Yes, we used to record, we used to record. We do the
29 weekly record. Also we report weekly about the activities during

1 the week.

2 Q. Mr Witness, why did you keep such records?

3 A. We used to - we do that so that the way the lessons came
4 are different and they are supposed to have three weeks - months
12:49:04 5 with us and whatever they are to do within these three months,
6 whatever they are to do within these three months, we, the
7 instructors, should make sure that they have that lesson. This
8 was why we used to keep the record and also from the battalion
9 they came from we can know these are the number of people that
12:49:29 10 this battalion brought, this battalion also brought this number
11 of people.

12 Q. To whom, if anyone, were these records provided?

13 A. In many occasions the battalions that came for training at
14 that base we used to record the number of people from that
12:50:03 15 battalion, a copy is sent to SSS Commander Yeaten and a copy -
16 another copy is sent to the battalion you came from, the
17 battalion you came from, the commander of that battalion. The
18 other copy is kept in the base.

19 Q. Do you know why such records were sent?

12:50:46 20 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, can the counsel repeat --

21 THE WITNESS: Let me tell you, whatever came to this base
22 for training, our leader General Yeaten should be informed about
23 it. This was why we used to do that.

24 MR WERNER:

12:51:12 25 Q. How do you know that, Mr Witness?

26 A. Let me tell you, we did the training instructors. Every
27 one of us has a company that you teach and this company list we -
28 used to be given to the base commander, who was Joseph Kato, and
29 Joseph Kato also used to give it to the adjutant. The adjutant

1 used to put it into three copies and when they are sending
2 reports there is never anything hidden from us, and this is
3 something that is under our administration.

4 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now, you said that there were SBUs
12:52:21 5 coming from Gbatala Cobra Base and you said that some were 13
6 years of age. During your time at Cobra Base, how many of them
7 did you see undertaking training there?

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Do you mean how many 13 year olds?

9 MR WERNER: Yes, your Honour.

12:52:56 10 THE WITNESS: It was many because when we train them for
11 three months we used to disperse them and the other three months,
12 other people will come. The number of people who came for FB
13 training are many. I cannot say all that number.

14 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I am not sure that the witness answered
12:53:20 15 your question. He is talking about people and you asked for
16 SBUs.

17 MR WERNER: Yes, your Honour.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: 13 year old SBUs.

19 MR WERNER: Yes, your Honour:

12:53:33 20 Q. Mr Witness, I will ask you the question again.

21 A. I said --

22 Q. Let me ask you the question again, Mr Witness. How many -
23 I am talking now specifically about these SBUs and you said that
24 some of them were as young as 13 years of age. My question was:

12:53:54 25 During your time at Gbatala, Cobra Base, how many of them did you
26 train?

27 A. I said you should tell him these SBUs who used to come for
28 training at Gbatala, Cobra Base, I don't know their number
29 because they are many, not only one time the company came there.

1 Mostly when they are coming there they come by a company level.

2 I can estimate a company to be 240, 230. The company I trained
3 there are many. I cannot say that at the moment actually.

12:54:55

4 Q. When you say that - when you are talking about a company,
5 they were companies coming there up to 240, 230, are you talking
6 about companies of SBUs?

7 A. I am referring to the SBU company, SBU company that came
8 there for training. I cannot say their number.

12:55:18

9 Q. And to clarify, what were the age group of these SBU
10 companies?

11 A. The youngsters that came there, the commander of SBU,
12 Supoon, was not more than - at the time I know him, his age was
13 not more than 16 years. These people, these SBUs, many - in many
14 occasions their age is 15 years, 14 years, 13 years. That is
15 what my estimate can give me.

12:56:01

16 MR WERNER: Your Honour, the witness talked about someone
17 called Supoon:

18 Q. Mr Witness, do you know how to spell Supoon?

12:56:34

19 A. I will try. I don't know whether I will be able to do it
20 correctly, but I will try: S-U-P-O-O-N, Supoon.

21 Q. Again, who was Supoon?

22 A. He was SBU's commander. He was the SBU commander. He was
23 working at the mansion ground, Charles Taylor's mansion ground.

12:57:20

24 Q. When did you meet - sorry, I will rephrase. When did you
25 see Supoon for the first time?

26 A. When I know Supoon was 1991. The first time I arrived in
27 Liberia I know Supoon.

28 Q. And, if any, what was his rank at that time?

29 A. He was at that time called brigadier general.

1 Q. How old was he when you met him, when you saw him for the
2 first time?

3 A. I believe he could be 15 to 16 years, but I don't think he
4 is 16 years old.

12:58:12 5 Q. Did he report to anyone, Supoon?

6 A. Supoon was at Charles Taylor's mansion ground and I believe
7 Supoon's report used to be given to Charles Taylor himself, to my
8 belief, because Supoon is a commander of his own and at that time
9 wherever Charles was going, Supoon used to be among his convoy.

12:58:55 10 MR MUNYARD: Madam President, before we move off this the
11 transcript at the moment is saying, "When I know Supoon was 1999,
12 the first time I arrived in Liberia". As I understand it, this
13 witness is saying that he arrived in Liberia in 1990. Can we
14 clarify that before we move off this subject.

12:59:16 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: I thought I heard 1991, but let us
16 clarify this, Mr Werner, and have the record corrected if
17 necessary.

18 MR WERNER: Yes, your Honour:

19 Q. Mr Witness, when did you see Supoon for the first time in
12:59:28 20 Liberia?

21 A. I said I went to Liberia 1991, maybe it could be the
22 statement recorder's mistake. I went to Liberia in 1991. That
23 was the time I knew this Supoon.

24 MR MUNYARD: I think you were right. I was slightly
12:59:57 25 misquoting him.

26 MR WERNER:

27 Q. And, Mr Witness, you told us about companies of SBUs coming
28 for training to Cobra Base, Gbatata. Are you able to tell us
29 what percentage of these recruits within the SBU companies were

1 14 years of age and under?

2 A. Yes, the 14 years, 13 years, even 10 years old children
3 were among them, even 9 years when they took a gun. Some of them
4 when they hung an AK-47 gun on their shoulders, AK-47 used to
13:01:00 5 touch the ground. I believe their age could be 10 or 9 years.

6 Q. And talking now about the SBUs at Cobra Base, Gbatala, what
7 type of training did they receive?

8 A. We train them like the other - the training the other
9 soldiers used to have, but sometimes they do have an exemption
13:01:33 10 because when we come to obstacle crossing these children, some of
11 these children cannot do that. They cannot cross the obstacle
12 training. They are forgiven part of the training. They just
13 look at how elders used to do it. We used to forgive them for
14 those parts and the WACs, the women soldiers who used to come
13:02:06 15 there. We used to forgive them part of the training because
16 there are things that they cannot do.

17 Q. Mr Witness, you used the word "WAC", what did you mean when
18 you used that word?

19 A. That is women soldiers group which is called WACs, W-A-C' s.
13:02:49 20 Women Army Company.

21 Q. Did you see them in Gbatala at Cobra Base, the WAC unit?

22 A. I trained them, that is why I am telling you. They came
23 there. I saw them and they used to come there.

24 Q. How old were the recruits in the WAC unit?

13:03:25 25 A. These people that come there are much old girls because
26 their breasts are - I believe they are all much older women.

27 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Werner, was the earlier testimony of
28 this witness that the women were also exempted from the obstacle
29 training?

1 MR WERNER: I am going to clarify that:

2 Q. You told us that some of the SBUs, because of their age,
3 were exempted from some of the training and you mentioned the
4 obstacles. What was the situation for the recruits in the WAC
13:04:05 5 unit?

6 A. These women and SBUs, I said during our training part of
7 the training used to be exempted. They just stand and look at
8 how men are doing because they cannot do it. There are difficult
9 things that a woman cannot cross, or you cannot cross a child. A
13:04:38 10 child cannot do it, but they can stand and look at how people do
11 it.

12 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. You spoke earlier about the
13 nationalities of the recruits coming. I would like to ask you
14 about the SBU unit. When you were a trainer at the Gbatala,
13:05:08 15 Cobra training base, did you know the nationalities of the
16 recruits within the SBU unit?

17 A. These SBUs, majority of them are Liberians. There used to
18 be Sierra Leoneans among the SBUs, but not many. Liberians were
19 the majority on the side of SBUs.

13:05:48 20 Q. Now, how were the recruits organised in Cobra Base camp -
21 sorry, in Cobra Base?

22 A. We used to form them into companies, platoons and sections
23 because every company used to be composed of four platoons. Four
24 sections used to be a platoon. These were the - this was the
13:06:32 25 way - this was in the formation they are. Normally the people
26 who used to do the training together, we train one battalion at a
27 time. That is four companies, or five companies.

28 Q. You said before that the training lasted for three months.
29 Now, you just said that you train one battalion at a time, so

1 what, if anything, happened in the base, in Gbatala base, at the
2 end of the three months training?

13:07:45 3 A. In many occasions before these recruits are passed out we
4 used to inform our leader, General Yeaten, SSS commander. When
5 we inform him he used to inform Charles Taylor. Charles Taylor
6 used to come to the base to visit the recruits. Their passing
7 out day, he used to bring - he used to bring cattle and some food
8 for the recruits and when they are passing out he used to attend
9 the passing out parade and that is Charles Taylor. He used to
13:08:23 10 talk to the recruits.

11 Q. How do you know that, Mr Witness?

12 A. I said I was a training instructor in the base. What
13 happens in the base is what I am telling you.

14 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Werner, what is it that Mr Taylor used
13:08:49 15 to bring for the recruits exactly? Was it cattle and food?

16 MR WERNER: I will attempt to clarify that:

17 Q. Mr Witness, just before you go on can you go over that
18 again and explain during the passing out day what did Mr Taylor
19 used to bring to the recruits?

13:09:14 20 A. I said he used to bring - he used to give us cattle,
21 sometimes two, three. He used to bring it to the base. He used
22 to bring rice also, oil, onion, were to be used to cook, for
23 cooking. Some time when he is coming he used to come advance
24 commanders badge, which he was going to give to the various units
13:09:47 25 and he attends the passing out parade that used to be there.

26 I mean Charles Taylor himself used to be present and he used to
27 speak to the children before we disperse - dispatch them to their
28 various units.

29 Q. Mr Witness, I asked you how did you know that and you said

1 that you were a training instructor at the base and that what
2 happened there, that is what you are telling us. Did you see
3 Charles Taylor at Cobra Base, Gbatala?

13:10:42 4 A. On many occasions, not three times, four times, five times,
5 because the battalions we train at that base was more than ten.

6 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, correction interpreter.
7 The area we were talking about with regards cattles, it is
8 supposed to be cows, two or three cows. He used the word mizi
9 [phon] and mizi in Mandingo I know is cow, it refers to cows. So
13:11:14 10 he used to bring two or three cows while the passing out was
11 going on.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, interpreter.

13 MR WERNER:

14 Q. You said you saw Charles Taylor many times yourself at
13:11:26 15 Gbatala during the passing out, so what did you see exactly?

16 A. He comes there. When Charles Taylor comes there, when do
17 the parade for him, after the disperse of the parade already he
18 used to address the children, the recruits, Charles Taylor and he
19 does not only address them. He used to bring along badges which
13:12:12 20 are distributed between the children which were used to be - to
21 stick to their uniforms. Because of happiness, because of
22 happiness we used to sing songs and dance and, in fact,
23 Charles Taylor himself sometimes danced with us. After when he
24 goes home, then various unit commanders will come and take their
13:12:51 25 people to their units.

26 Q. Before you told us about SBUs. Now, when you spoke about
27 Charles Taylor coming there you said that he used to address the
28 children. What did you mean when you said the children?

29 A. The children are the recruits that were recruits at the

1 base. Those are the ones I am referring to.

2 Q. To which unit did they belong?

3 A. I told you earlier these children used to come from
4 different units. Some used to come the Army Division, Strike
13:13:44 5 Force Marine, Delta Force, Army Divisions Unit. There are many,
6 many units. They come from various units.

7 Q. Just one clarification, you talked about a passing out.
8 Could you explain what you meant when you said passing out?

9 A. Passing out is the recruits who were trained already and
13:14:22 10 supposed to go back to their battalions. This is what we call
11 passing out: The day that we were going to pass them out to send
12 them back to their battalions. That day we organised a ceremony
13 and that day is called passing out.

14 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Now, once the training was done
13:14:51 15 where were the recruits trained for advance training at
16 Cobra Base, Gbatala, where were they sent?

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think he has already answered that. He
18 said the commanders came and took them to their different units.
19 When you say advance training you mean a different training?

13:15:15 20 MR WERNER: No, it was my mistake:

21 Q. So you said that they were sent to their various units.
22 Where were these units, as far as you know?

23 A. Battalions in different places in the country. They are
24 not in the same place. They are in different places in the
13:15:42 25 country. Those - some came from Kakata, Bong County, Lofa,
26 Bassa, Nimba, various place, many counties. They come from
27 various counties. These battalions are not at the same place.

28 Q. Mr Witness, just to make things clear and it can well be my
29 mistake, but now we are talking about after the passing out when

1 these recruits are sent back to their battalions and you
2 explained the locations of some of these battalions. Were all
3 the battalions in Liberia?

13:16:43 4 A. Yes, these battalions are in Liberia, but some of them who
5 had training there - I can remember on two occasions the people
6 had training there, the people came for them but they took them
7 to Sierra Leone.

8 Q. When you said that "the people had training there", what
9 did you mean?

13:16:59 10 A. I said the recruits that had the training at the base.
11 I can remember two - somebody came and took people there and the
12 general is 245. Then he was assigned at Lofa around the Sierra
13 Leone border. He came and took them to that place.

14 Q. You talked about someone and we have here - well, we don't
13:17:39 15 have anything here, but I understood 245. Is that what you said,
16 Mr Witness, the name of that person who came to the base?

17 A. I said 245 is the general and it is a woman, but her battle
18 name was 245.

19 Q. To which unit, if any, did she belong, General 245?

13:18:22 20 A. She was a member of NPFL soldiers, he is a Liberian. To my
21 knowledge at that time he was under the Army Division.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, you said "he". Are we
23 still talking about the same general who is described as a woman?

24 THE WITNESS: Tell him it is a woman. She used to be
13:19:06 25 called 245. She is a general.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, it is important to take
27 care with these matters, please. Please continue, Mr Werner.

28 MR WERNER: Thank you, Madam President:

29 Q. You said that General 245 belongs to the Army Division.

1 Did she report to anyone in the Army Division?

2 A. Yes, I believe she used to report to the Army Division of -
3 army Chief of Staff.

4 Q. Who was the army Chief of Staff?

13:20:00 5 A. The army chief of division staff, One Man One.

6 MR WERNER: One Man One would be O-N-E M-A-N O-N-E:

7 Q. Did you see, yourself, General 245 coming to Cobra Base in
8 Gbatala?

9 A. Yes, I said I have ever seen her naked - have ever seen her
13:20:40 10 my eye. The day she came there to collect people was in my
11 presence.

12 Q. When was that, if you can remember?

13 A. This could be in the year 1992.

14 Q. How many times did she come?

13:21:18 15 A. I saw her there on two occasions.

16 Q. What happened, if anything, when she came there the first
17 time she came there?

18 A. On the first occasion she came there she went with two
19 companies that I can remember. She took them to the border of
13:21:49 20 Sierra Leone.

21 Q. Earlier you said that she took recruits to Sierra Leone and
22 now you said that she took recruits to the Sierra Leone border.

23 Where exactly did she take recruits from the Cobra Base, Gbatala?

24 A. 245 at that time she was assigned at Lofa, the border
13:22:23 25 between Sierra Leone and Liberia, but the information we have was
26 these recruits were going to Sierra Leone. They are at a place
27 called Daru. This was the knowledge I have, that these recruits
28 were going to that place.

29 MR WERNER: Your Honour, Daru would be D-A-R-U:

1 Q. Now, you said that that was the knowledge you had, how did
2 you learn about that?

3 A. Let me tell you, the people who he took - she took two
4 groups, but these two groups that he went along with, when she
13:23:21 5 was --

6 MR MUNYARD: Is it a he, or is it a she? We are lapsing
7 back into mixed gender.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, I again urge you to be
9 careful in distinguishing between he and she when describing any
10 witness, or any person. Please continue with the interpretation.
11 Sorry, Mr Witness, perhaps you should continue with your answer.

12 THE WITNESS: Tell him this woman, the general, when she
13 took people from there she was assigned at Lofa, Sierra
14 Leone/Liberia border. The two groups she went with that I can
13:24:19 15 remember, before she went with them the soldiers she went with,
16 among them there are some that told me that they were going to
17 Sierra Leone and among these two groups that she went with there
18 were people among them who go from Liberia to Sierra Leone. At
19 that time, Liberia, I can say NPFL - RUF is a brother to NPFL.
13:25:17 20 They go and come. She took some soldiers to Sierra Leone who
21 went and came. We used to chat with them and they told us. This
22 was my knowledge.

23 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you spoke about two groups of recruits
24 taken from Cobra Base, Gbatala, by General 245. Now, talking
13:26:02 25 about the first group, if you know, what were the nationalities
26 of the recruits in the first group who left with General 245?

27 A. Tell him that the first group, they were from two
28 companies. These two companies, the Liberians and the Sierra
29 Leoneans were all mixed in them. The second time she came to the

1 base, at that time she went with one company, but among the
2 company it was also a company that was mixed up. Both Liberians
3 and Sierra Leoneans were amongst.

4 Q. How long between the first time she came and the second
13:27:20 5 time she came? Do you know how long was it before these two
6 times, if you can remember, that General 245 came --

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: I don't quite understand that question,
8 Mr Werner. Do you mean what is the time difference between the
9 two groups, or when --

13:27:42 10 MR WERNER: Let me try by another means:

11 Q. You told us when General 245 came to take the first group.
12 Do you remember?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. When was it that General 245 came to take the second group?

13:28:15 15 MR MUNYARD: With respect, I don't think that is the issue
16 that your Honour was raising. It is how long after the first
17 group rather than when. I think we will get the answer more
18 quickly within the time that the tape has left.

19 MR WERNER:

13:28:30 20 Q. How long after the first group, she took the first group,
21 did she come to take the second group?

22 A. The first - after the first group it did not take a month.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Werner, if this is a convenient point?
24 I think we have run out of time.

13:29:02 25 MR WERNER: It is.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. As this is Friday we will not
27 be sitting this afternoon. We have now reverted to our normal
28 practice.

29 Mr Interpreter, we are now adjourning court - sorry,

1 Mr Witness, I apologise. We are now adjourning court. We do not
2 sit on Friday afternoon, we have other work to do, and we will be
3 resuming court on Monday morning at 9.30. Between now and the
4 time all your evidence is finished you should not discuss your
13:29:35 5 evidence with anyone. Do you understand?

6 THE WITNESS: Tell him [indiscernible] I am also with them.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please adjourn court.

8 [Whereupon the Court adjourned at 1.30 p.m. to
9 be reconvened on Monday, 11 February 2008 at
13:30:18 10 9.30 a.m.]

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:

TF1-548	3435
EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR WERNER	3435