



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF  
THE SPECIAL COURT  
V.  
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

MONDAY, 7 JULY 2008  
9.30 A.M.  
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

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Before the Judges:

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

For Chambers:

Mr William Romans  
Ms Carolyn Buff

For the Registry:

Ms Advera Nsiima Kamuzora  
Ms Rachel Irura

For the Prosecution:

Ms Brenda J Hollis  
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay  
Taylor:

Mr Courtenay Griffiths QC  
Mr Terry Munyard

1 Monday, 7 July 2008

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

09:30:58 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. Appearances please, I see  
6 there are some changes.

7 MS HOLLIS: Morning, Madam President, your Honours,  
8 opposing counsel. For the Prosecution this morning: Maja  
9 Dimitrova and myself, Brenda J Hollis.

09:31:14 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

11 MR GRIFFITHS: Good morning, Madam President, your Honours,  
12 counsel opposite. For the Defence today: myself, Courtenay  
13 Griffiths; my learned friend, Terry Munyard; and Scott Schaeffer,  
14 an intern with us.

09:31:29 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is this Mr Schaeffer's first appearance?

16 MR GRIFFITHS: [Microphone not activated].

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Griffiths. We welcome  
18 Mr Schaeffer to the Court. If there are no other matters I will  
19 remind the witness of his oath. However, I will first check that  
09:31:47 20 we are in private session because, Ms Hollis, you hadn't  
21 completed your examination-in-chief relating to security issues.

22 MS HOLLIS: That is correct, your Honour.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Could you please confirm we are in  
24 private session?

09:31:59 25 [At this point in the proceedings, a portion of  
26 the transcript, pages 13011 to 13034, was  
27 extracted and sealed under separate cover, as  
28 the proceeding was heard in private session.]

29

1 [Open session]

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

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed, Ms Hollis.

4 MS HOLLIS:

10:40:48 5 Q. Mr Witness, you have testified that in 1999 you went to  
6 Spriggs field in Monrovia when Mosquito left Monrovia for Sierra  
7 Leone, you testified that the helicopter he flew in was a  
8 camouflage colour and you testified that there was ammunition in  
9 that helicopter. Now after that occasion, during the time you  
10:41:15 10 were in assignment number 1, did you get any information about  
11 Sam Bockarie, also known as Mosquito?

12 A. Yes. After Sam Bockarie had returned to Freetown and when  
13 Foday Sankoh too had gone to Freetown, Sam Bockarie went directly  
14 to Buedu and after some time Jungle, Daniel Tamba, came to me at  
10:42:00 15 my assignment area. He came to me and told me that Sam Bockarie  
16 had arrived, but that he came with a good number of manpower and  
17 there were soldiers fighting together with him. He said he had  
18 brought them and they had gone to the Pa, Charles Taylor. He  
19 said when they arrived to Charles Taylor Mosquito told  
10:42:38 20 Charles Taylor that the manpower that he had brought he wanted  
21 the manpower to be recruited into the ATU to undergo training, so  
22 he said the Pa agreed. So from there Mosquito said the Pa,  
23 Charles Taylor, had agreed to take a house for Mosquito in  
24 Monrovia, so all the other manpower that came with Sam Bockarie  
10:43:20 25 to Monrovia all of them went to be trained as ATU. So, that was  
26 the message I received.

27 Q. Now, to your knowledge, at this time do you know were the  
28 ATU members being paid anything?

29 A. Yes, at that time the ATU, after they had undergone the

1 training, like in the case of the private who hadn't any  
2 promotion they were paid 150 dollars US. Those who were officers  
3 they had more than that, but I don't know the amount. Whilst the  
4 other troops that Mosquito brought they enrolled them into the  
10:44:21 5 SSS and some other people, they also received pay. Their own pay  
6 was up to 300 to 400 US.

7 Q. Now this 150 for the ATU, how often did they receive that  
8 150 US?

9 A. After every month.

10:44:53 10 Q. And the money that those in the SSS received, how often did  
11 they receive that?

12 A. It was the same thing that applied to them. They were paid  
13 each month.

14 Q. Now, you indicated that you had been told that  
10:45:17 15 Charles Taylor had taken a house for Mosquito in Monrovia. What  
16 do you mean by that?

17 A. When Mosquito went to Monrovia, he never had a place. He  
18 had his family with him, his wife, his children and other family  
19 members, so Charles Taylor gave him a place. The place was  
10:45:48 20 called Chief Compound and it was around the ELWA Junction area.  
21 That is where you take the branch to go to Chief Compound area.  
22 That was where Charles Taylor took a place for Sam Bockarie and  
23 his family members.

24 Q. Did you ever learn why Sam Bockarie left the RUF and came  
10:46:09 25 to Monrovia?

26 A. Yes, Sam Bockarie left the RUF and came to Liberia and he  
27 said it was because Issa Sesay and others did not want to agree  
28 on what he had proposed to them. He said he had told them that  
29 before ever they could disarm the RUF they were supposed to have

1 established a Government of National Unity, but they did not  
2 accept that and so he said he was not going to disarm, he said,  
3 because that might as well be a plan by the UN to arrest him.  
4 So, he said that was the reason why he refused to disarm and so  
10:47:04 5 he came over to Liberia.

6 Q. And how did you learn this?

7 A. I knew this through Jungle. It was Jungle who used to come  
8 and tell me. Anything that went on, Jungle would come to my  
9 assignment area and explain to me.

10:47:27 10 Q. If you know, who did Sam Bockarie have contact with after  
11 he came to Monrovia?

12 A. When Sam Bockarie came to Monrovia, he had contact with  
13 Benjamin Yeaten even before they went to Charles Taylor.

14 Q. To your knowledge, did Sam Bockarie have any contact with  
10:47:55 15 Charles Taylor after he came to Monrovia?

16 A. Yes, he had contact with him. They went to him; himself,  
17 Benjamin Yeaten and Jungle.

18 Q. And do you have any knowledge of how often that would  
19 happen?

10:48:18 20 A. When Mosquito was in Monrovia, he used to go and see  
21 Charles Taylor at all times. Jungle used to tell me that.

22 Q. Now during the time that you were in assignment 1, did you  
23 learn of any incident in Sierra Leone involving peacekeepers?

24 A. Yes, I later knew that the RUF soldiers had captured a  
10:49:12 25 large number of UN peacekeepers in Sierra Leone. I later  
26 understood that.

27 Q. After you understood that, what did you do?

28 A. After I got that understanding I went to Foya for me to be  
29 able to go to Sierra Leone, but at that time Benjamin Yeaten was

1 based in Foya. He was there to coordinate the missions that they  
2 were running out there in Liberia and Guinea. So when I went  
3 there I met him, Benjamin Yeaten, and I told him that I was going  
4 to General Issa Sesay, so he provided a vehicle for me and one of  
10:50:11 5 his bodyguards called Junior Bayalo [phon] escorted me, but on my  
6 way going I met Junior Vandi and Daf, that is Dauda Fornie. They  
7 were in some UN vehicles. So he said it was CO Issa who had sent  
8 them to Benjamin Yeaten so that the word will be sent over to his  
9 dad Charles Taylor. So we returned to Foya.

10:50:48 10 After our return to Foya Junior Vandi and others called  
11 Benjamin Yeaten and told him that Issa Sesay sent them and he  
12 said that the word should be taken to the Pa Charles Taylor that  
13 they had captured so many UN troops with guns from them. So the  
14 Pa Charles Taylor, they needed advice from him.

10:51:18 15 So after Junior Vandi and Daf had given the message to  
16 Benjamin Yeaten, Benjamin Yeaten responded that his dad  
17 Charles Taylor will immediately know about that. So I went with  
18 Junior Vandi and others back to Sierra Leone and when I went and  
19 met with CO Issa Sesay, he told me that he will give me one  
10:51:50 20 vehicle, a pick-up from the same UN vehicles, so that my  
21 operations will be fast tracked for me to be able to be taking  
22 the arms and ammunition. So he gave me the vehicle. So I went  
23 with this vehicle to Monrovia.

24 When I arrived in Monrovia it did not take long when  
10:52:17 25 Benjamin Yeaten told me and that time Benjamin Yeaten told me  
26 that I should try and call Issa Sesay and that his dad  
27 Charles Taylor wanted to see him urgently, so I sent. Issa Sesay  
28 came. He came to Monrovia. When they arrived in Monrovia they  
29 went and met the Pa Charles Taylor. After they had gone there

1 and held a meeting with him, from there when Issa Sesay and  
2 others returned home he was telling me that to his surprise when  
3 they went to the Pa Charles Taylor they met Sam Bockarie there  
4 and he said the Pa said he wanted to negotiate between them for  
10:53:13 5 the things that happened in Sierra Leone so as to enable Mosqui to  
6 to go back.

7 But the two of them had serious argument. Sam Bockarie  
8 complained that it was Issa Sesay who made him to leave Sierra  
9 Leone to come to Liberia and Issa Sesay too was saying that he -  
10:53:32 10 it was he who did not listen to the Pa. So there was a heated  
11 argument between the two of them. From there he said the Pa  
12 Charles Taylor went angry and he said, "Benjamin Yeaten, take  
13 Issa Sesay back." So he said they came to the guesthouse and he  
14 left Mosqui to there. So those were some of the things that  
10:53:55 15 happened.

16 Q. If I could just ask a few questions. You said you  
17 travelled from Monrovia to Foya. How did you travel from  
18 Monrovia to Foya?

19 A. At the time I was going I went on board a helicopter.

10:54:18 20 Q. Whose helicopter?

21 A. It was Charles Taylor's helicopter that was combatted and  
22 it had the inscription ATU.

23 Q. You said that on the way from Foya to Sierra Leone you met  
24 two people in UN vehicles. You mentioned two names, one of those  
10:54:43 25 names was Daf. Who was the other person that you met?

26 A. Junior Vandil. He was a Black Guard.

27 Q. Did you learn why Issa Sesay was seeking advice from  
28 Charles Taylor?

29 A. Yes, after I went and met Issa Sesay he told me it was

1 because Charles Taylor was our big revolutionary father, so he  
2 said he went to him for him to give him advice.

3 Q. Tell us what advice he received, if he know?

4 A. Well, after Issa Sesay met the Pa Charles Taylor, he said  
10:55:46 5 he told him that he, Charles Taylor - he would request for the UN  
6 peacekeepers arrested by the RUF, for them to be released. So he  
7 said that will serve as a help to him to show to the world that  
8 when he says anything that thing will happen.

9 So after he returned the UN peacekeepers were released  
10:56:20 10 through Charles Taylor's command. All of them came to Foya and  
11 from Foya they were airlifted to Spriggs field.

12 Q. When Issa Sesay left Monrovia to go back to Sierra Leone,  
13 how did he travel from Monrovia?

14 A. They travelled on board a helicopter to go to Foya. It was  
10:56:49 15 at Foya that the helicopter dropped him and from there he took a  
16 vehicle to return to Sierra Leone.

17 Q. If you know, whose helicopter was it?

18 A. It was Charles Taylor's helicopter.

19 Q. Did Issa Sesay take anything back with him to Sierra Leone?

10:57:10 20 A. Yes, when Issa Sesay was going he took with him ammunition,  
21 but I can't recall the quantity that he took with him.

22 Q. How do you know that he took ammunition with him?

23 A. When Issa Sesay used to come to Monrovia, I will be with  
24 him for all the time until his return. I went with him to  
10:57:46 25 Spriggs field, I entered the helicopter and I saw the materials.  
26 That was how I came to know that he went with ammunition.

27 Q. Do you know from whom he received this ammunition?

28 A. At all times when ammunition were given Benjamin Yeaten  
29 will say that it is his dad Charles Taylor who provided them.



1 Q. You testified earlier that you met Varmuyan Sherif in  
2 Liberia. Where in Liberia did you meet him?

3 A. Varmuyan Sherif, I met him in Liberia around Congo Town  
4 area and I also met him at various front lines. Those were the  
10:58:52 5 areas I used to meet with him.

6 Q. When you say Congo Town, where is Congo Town located?

7 A. Congo Town is around the Tubman Boulevard Highway and  
8 Varmuyan Sherif was on a road that was called the back road in  
9 Congo Town.

10:59:24 10 Q. In what city is Congo Town located?

11 A. It is in Monrovia.

12 Q. If you know, when you met Varmuyan Sherif in Monrovia where  
13 was he working?

14 A. Varmuyan Sherif was working at the Executive Mansion and at  
10:59:46 15 the same time he was working at the front lines.

16 Q. How do you know he was working at the front lines?

17 A. When I used to meet him he used to tell me, he himself, and  
18 some of the RUF soldiers who had crossed over were with him.

19 Q. What do you mean "RUF soldiers who had crossed over"?

11:00:15 20 A. Some RUF soldiers who were there during those fightings,  
21 like in the case of the Guinea fighting, the Lofa fighting, who  
22 used to come to Monrovia, some used to stay with him.

23 Q. You said during the Guinea fighting. Who were the RUF  
24 fighting against at this time?

11:00:43 25 A. The Guinea fighting at that time, it was Benjamin Yeaten  
26 who used to coordinate everything. At that time he was - the  
27 position he carried was a joint chief of staff, chairman chief.  
28 And he was in control of all the other generals. He was the  
29 head. So he went and based in Foya in order to coordinate and

1 the RUF troops that were supposed to come from Sierra Leone to  
2 meet him there and the other militia and the ATU, they were  
3 supposed to come together as combined forces to go and attack  
4 Guinea, so that was how the operation was going on.

11:01:35 5 Q. What time period was this?

6 A. This happened in - it happened in 2000, late 2000.

7 Q. And for how long did the RUF stay there fighting with  
8 Benjamin Yeaten?

9 A. RUF soldiers were there up to the time when the war came to  
11:02:33 10 an end.

11 Q. What war came to an end?

12 A. RUF - some RUF soldiers stayed in Liberia up to the time  
13 the disarmament took place.

14 Q. The disarmament took place where?

11:02:51 15 A. In Liberia.

16 Q. Do you recall what year that was?

17 A. I can't recall the year now.

18 Q. Did you know the names of any of the RUF commanders who  
19 were in Liberia fighting with Benjamin Yeaten?

11:03:22 20 A. Superman went there. He was an RUF commander. He went  
21 there, he fought there. Eagle, he went there, he fought there in  
22 Liberia, and so many others that I cannot recall now.

23 Q. Who was Eagle?

24 A. Eagle was one of the commanders in the RUF.

11:03:59 25 Q. Do you know him by any other name?

26 A. No, I can't recall his name now.

27 Q. What was his nationality?

28 A. He was a Sierra Leonean.

29 Q. Where was he trained, if you know?

1 A. He was trained in the Pujehun area as a junior commando.

2 Q. Do you know what assignments he held before he was sent to  
3 Liberia?

11:04:44

4 A. Yes, he was a front line commander. He was a front line  
5 commander.

6 Q. To your knowledge, during the time the RUF were there in  
7 Liberia fighting with Benjamin Yeaten, what communication  
8 capability did they have?

11:05:13

9 A. At the time the RUF were with Benjamin Yeaten fighting, the  
10 communication went on through long range radio communication.  
11 There was another radio operator who was an RUF radio operator.  
12 He also came to Liberia with Benjamin Yeaten and he was called  
13 Mortiga.

14 Q. What were his duties inside Liberia?

11:05:35

15 A. His duty was that Benjamin Yeaten was on the front line and  
16 if any - if there was any message for Benjamin to send to the RUF  
17 controlled zone for him to receive immediate manpower, he was  
18 there with him so that he will send the message fast because he  
19 knew the RUF frequencies, the RUF radio frequencies. That was  
20 the reason why he was with him.

11:06:08

21 Q. Did you ever meet Mortiga while Mortiga was in Liberia?

22 A. Yes, I used to meet Mortiga at Benjamin Yeaten's house.  
23 Mortiga too used to come to my assignment area and I also used to  
24 meet him on the farm, Charles Taylor's farm.

11:06:39

25 Q. Tell us again where that farm is located?

26 A. That farm was in the Gbarnga area, in Bong County.

27 Q. When you met Mortiga at Benjamin Yeaten's house, in what  
28 part of Benjamin Yeaten's house did you meet him?

29 A. When you get to Gbarnga the farm is on the right-hand side.

1 Q. I am sorry, excuse me for interrupting, but I am talking  
2 about Benjamin Yeaten's house in Monrovia. In what part of  
3 Benjamin Yeaten's house in Monrovia did you meet Mortiga?

4 A. Benjamin Yeaten's house was at the back of White Flower.

11:07:38 5 Q. And where in that house did you meet Mortiga?

6 A. At all times when I used to meet him I will meet him in the  
7 signal office and the signal office was a bit separated from the  
8 house. That was where I used to meet Mortiga.

9 Q. The signal office, can you tell us about it? You said it  
11:08:05 10 was a little separated from the house. What do you mean?

11 A. The signal office, they just built a one room structure  
12 whilst Benjamin Yeaten's house was on the other side and it was  
13 not actually joined to the house.

14 MS HOLLIS: At this time I would ask that the witness be  
11:08:35 15 shown some photographs. These photographs are unsigned versions  
16 of photographs that are found in tab 25 and I will be asking that  
17 the witness be shown 25F, 25G, 25H and 25J. If the witness could  
18 be shown the unmarked version of the photograph at tab 25F. The  
19 ERN ends in 672:

11:09:49 20 Q. Mr Witness, do you recognise anyone in this photograph?

21 A. Yes, I know people there.

22 MS KAMUZORA: Your Honour, the AV booth is requesting  
23 whether they can display the photographs.

24 MS HOLLIS: There is no problem with these photographs,  
11:10:10 25 your Honour.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Ms Hollis. You have heard the  
27 message.

28 MS HOLLIS:

29 Q. Could you tell us who you recognise in this photograph,

1 please?

2 A. The person in the red clothing, with the combat jacket with  
3 a combat helmet on his head and the AK-47 rifle, is Benjamin  
4 Yeaten. The person at his back with the gun is Jungle. That is  
11:10:48 5 Daniel Tamba. They are the only people that I recognise in this  
6 photograph.

7 Q. And the person behind him with the gun, is that person  
8 facing towards Benjamin Yeaten?

9 A. Yes, he is called Jungle. Daniel Tamba.

11:11:13 10 MS HOLLIS: If the witness could be shown the unmarked  
11 version of the photograph that is found at tab 25G. The ERN  
12 number ends in 772:

13 Q. Do you recognise anyone in this photograph, Mr Witness?

14 A. Yes, the person in the white is General Ibrahim Bah. The  
11:11:45 15 person in the middle is Daniel Tamba. He is in the gown. The  
16 other person by the other side is Daf, Dauda Fornie.

17 Q. Do you know where this photograph was taken?

18 A. Yes, this photograph was taken at the time when Jungle went  
19 to meet us in Lome, Togo. That was the time this snapshot was  
11:12:15 20 taken.

21 MS HOLLIS: If the witness could be shown the unmarked  
22 version of the photograph that is at tab 25H. The unmarked  
23 version ends in 774:

24 Q. Mr Witness, do you recognise this person?

11:12:39 25 A. Yes, this person is General Ibrahim Bah. He took this  
26 snapshot in a hotel in Lome. Hotel [indiscernible].

27 Q. And this was taken in Lome during what period?

28 A. That was at the time the peace talks were going on, the RUF  
29 peace talks.

1 MS HOLLIS: Now, this next photograph the witness will be  
2 shown is an unmarked version of the copy at tab 25J. This  
3 photograph is already in evidence as P-122F:

4 Q. Mr Witness, do you recognise anyone in this photograph?

11:13:41 5 A. Yes, the people shaking hands I only recognise one person  
6 there, that is Charles Taylor. The person at his back is  
7 Bulldog. At that time he was his aide-de-camp. The other person  
8 by my right-hand side in this corner is Joseph Montgomery. He  
9 was 52 in the SSS service.

11:14:15 10 Q. Now, would you be able to go over and point to us - you  
11 said that you recognise one of the people shaking hands as  
12 Charles Taylor. Could you point to us who you recognise.

13 A. This is Charles Taylor. He is shaking hands with this  
14 person, but I don't recognise this other person. The person at  
11:14:45 15 his back --

16 Q. Just wait a moment, please. Just wait a moment, please.  
17 So you pointed to the man shaking hands that has what appear to  
18 be sunglasses and he is facing towards the right of the  
19 photograph. Is that correct?

11:14:57 20 A. Yes, he is the one I am talking about.

21 Q. Now, you were pointing to the person behind?

22 A. This person is Momoh Gibba. He was aide-de-camp to  
23 Mr Taylor at that time.

24 Q. Now, just a moment please. Did you know Momoh Gibba by any  
11:15:23 25 other name?

26 A. Yes, he was called Bulldog.

27 Q. And then if you could point to the person you have  
28 identified as Joe Montgomery?

29 A. This person is Joseph Montgomery. He was 52 in the SSS

1 service.

2 Q. And this is the person at the very far right edge of the  
3 photograph. Is that correct?

4 A. Yes.

11:15:54 5 Q. Mr Witness, can you tell us how long Issa Sesay was the  
6 leader of the RUF?

7 A. Issa Sesay became leader for the RUF since the time - since  
8 the time he took over up to the time the elections took place.

9 Q. Do you recall what year that was that the elections took  
11:16:50 10 place?

11 A. In 2002.

12 Q. What did he do after the elections took place, if you know?

13 A. Well at that time I was in Monrovia and they were in  
14 Freetown, so during the elections at that time I did not know  
11:17:20 15 after what happened.

16 Q. Now, I would like to direct your attention to the year 2003  
17 and ask if you learned about anything happening to Issa Sesay in  
18 2003?

19 A. Yes, I had the understanding that the Special Court for  
11:17:55 20 Sierra Leone had indicted him and so he was going to be arrested.

21 Q. How did you learn that?

22 MR GRIFFITHS: I wonder if I can interrupt just to seek  
23 some clarification. I am looking at page 42 of the transcript at  
24 line 24. The question was, "Mr Witness, can you tell us how long  
11:18:14 25 Issa Sesay was the leader of the RUF?", and the answer came,  
26 "Since the time he took over to the time the elections took  
27 place." "Since the time he took over ..." really doesn't assist  
28 a great deal and I wonder what time that was.

29 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, I believe the witness has already

1 testified that after Foday Sankoh was arrested Issa Sesay took  
2 over. I believe that is in the evidence.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: That was mentioned earlier this morning,  
4 but when exactly did that happen?

11:18:45 5 MS HOLLIS:

6 Q. Mr Witness, do you recall for us the year in which Foday  
7 Sankoh was arrested?

8 A. In 2000. That was the time it took place.

9 Q. Do you remember the month?

11:18:57 10 A. It was in May, but I can't recall the date.

11 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. Mr Witness, can you tell us how you  
12 learned that Issa Sesay was arrested?

13 A. I heard that over the BBC.

14 Q. Now at the time you heard about Issa Sesay being indicted  
11:19:26 15 and that he was to be arrested, did you learn about anyone else  
16 who had been indicted?

17 A. Yes, I heard that Sam Bockarie too of the RUF was indicted.

18 Q. And did they say anything else about Sam Bockarie at that  
19 time?

11:19:48 20 A. Yes, they did say that they indicted Sam Bockarie also.

21 Q. After you heard that Sam Bockarie had been indicted, did  
22 you learn about anything happening to Sam Bockarie?

23 A. Yes, after the news came out at that time I was in Liberia.  
24 I was in an area called Nimba County. Sam Bockarie and some

11:20:55 25 others were in Ivory Coast fighting and later I got the  
26 understanding that Sam Bockarie had returned with his group.

27 Later I got an understanding from one RUF soldier, who was  
28 assigned with Benjamin Yeaten and he was called Salami, he came  
29 to me and told me that, "Well, they have killed Sam Bockarie



1 together with his family and beaucoup other soldiers."

2 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, your Honours, and so many other  
3 soldiers.

4 THE WITNESS: So I said, "What happened actually that Sam  
11:21:42 5 Bockarie was killed?" He said Benjamin Yeaten told him that  
6 Charles Taylor gave the order that they should kill Sam Bockarie  
7 so as to destroy evidence against him, he said, because they had  
8 accused Charles Taylor and have related him to the RUF business,  
9 so he said that was the reason why they should kill

11:22:06 10 Charles Taylor [sic] and that was the reason why Charles Taylor  
11 passed the order for him to be killed. He said that was why they  
12 killed Sam Bockarie, they killed his wife, they killed his  
13 children and so many other soldiers who were Sierra Leoneans. He  
14 said that was the reason. That was how I knew that Sam Bockarie  
11:22:29 15 had been killed.

16 Q. Did Salami tell you how it was that Salami knew this  
17 information?

18 A. Salami said they themselves undertook the operation. He  
19 said it was in Nimba County in a particular area in Nimba County.  
11:22:55 20 He said he too took part in the operation. He said all of them  
21 carried out the operation and he said it was Benjamin Yeaten who  
22 told them that the instruction came from the Pa, Charles Taylor.

23 Q. Now, who was Salami?

24 A. I knew Salami since 1998 and he was with Sam Bockarie. He  
11:23:24 25 was a driver to Sam Bockarie, but when they came to Liberia in  
26 Monrovia, Salami, I later saw him with Benjamin Yeaten and he too  
27 was one of the men who was now working with the SSS.

28 MS HOLLIS: At this time I would ask that the witness be  
29 provided with a copy of a photograph that is P0000822. This

1 photograph has been disclosed to the Defence and there are copies  
2 for distribution. Madam Court Attendant, have those copies been  
3 distributed? Yes, yes. Does Defence counsel have a copy?

4 MR GRIFFITHS: I am waiting for it to be put on the screen.

11:24:34 5 I am sure I have it.

6 MS HOLLIS:

7 Q. Mr Witness, do you recognise the person in this photograph?

8 A. Yes, I know this person. This was the Salami who gave me  
9 the information. This was the Salami who was assigned with

11:25:03 10 Benjamin Yeaten. He told me that all of them took part in the  
11 killing of Sam Bockarie and his family members.

12 MS HOLLIS: Your Honours, I would ask that this photograph  
13 be marked for identification.

14 MS IRURA: Your Honour, that will be MFI-5.

11:25:28 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a photograph showing a male  
16 person and it is - and one other person to the right. It is  
17 MFI-5.

18 MS HOLLIS: Your Honours, while we are about it --

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just a moment. Mr Griffiths?

11:25:42 20 MR GRIFFITHS: I wonder if we can clarify which of the two  
21 figures in this photograph is the Salami being referred to,  
22 please.

23 MS HOLLIS: Of course, thank you:

24 Q. Mr Witness, could you be provided that photograph again and  
11:25:55 25 could you tell us which of the two individuals shown in that  
26 photograph you referred to as Salami.

27 A. This is Salami.

28 Q. So, you are talking about the person standing on the left  
29 of the photograph as you look at it. Is that correct?

1 A. Yes, that is him.

2 MS HOLLIS: Your Honours, while we are marking for  
3 identification I would also ask that two series of photographs be  
4 marked for identification.

11:26:32 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: When you say "two series", Ms Hollis, do  
6 you want them as a sort of related ABC type?

7 MS HOLLIS: That would be correct, your Honour. I would  
8 ask for one number with A - for the first ones it would be A  
9 through I and I am talking about the photographs at tab 24A

11:26:53 10 ending in 775, tab 24C --

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: I will deal with them one at a time,  
12 Ms Hollis. So, 775 becomes MFI-6A and it is a photograph showing  
13 four male persons standing and one male person crouching.

14 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, the second would be the photograph  
11:27:20 15 found at tab 24C and it ends in 780.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a photograph of a vehicle with a  
17 house in the background identified by the witness. There are -  
18 there is one male person standing and one or possibly two persons  
19 sitting in a vehicle. That will be 6B.

11:27:42 20 MS HOLLIS: The next one, your Honour, would be the  
21 photograph at tab 24E and that ends in 784.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a photograph identified by the  
23 witness of a male person standing on some steps and two male  
24 persons in the background. It becomes MFI-6C.

11:28:07 25 MS HOLLIS: Next, your Honour, would be tab 24F ending in  
26 785.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a picture of a male person  
28 sitting with a radio in front of him identified by the witness.  
29 It becomes MFI-6D.

1 MS HOLLIS: Next, your Honour, is tab 24H ending in 777.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a picture identified by the  
3 witness of three male persons with a vehicle in the background  
4 and it becomes MFI-6E.

11:28:48 5 I am just watching the time, Ms Hollis. I think the tape  
6 is close to running out, but perhaps if we can be alerted when it  
7 runs out and please keep going until then.

8 MS HOLLIS: Thank you, Madam President. The next one is  
9 tab 24J ending in 781.

11:29:05 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a photograph identified by the  
11 witness showing one male person who seems to be reclining on a  
12 piece of furniture which I cannot recognise and that becomes  
13 MFI-6F.

14 MS HOLLIS: The next one, your Honour, is an unmarked  
11:29:28 15 version of the photograph found at tab 25B. The unmarked version  
16 ends in 627.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a photograph showing five male  
18 persons identified by the witness. It becomes MFI-6G.

19 MS HOLLIS: The next one, your Honour, is an unmarked  
11:29:54 20 version of the copy found at tab 25C and the unmarked version  
21 ends in 629.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: These are all one batch, are they,  
23 Ms Hollis?

24 MS HOLLIS: Yes, they are.

11:30:16 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes. This is a photograph showing three  
26 male persons on a dirt road with some greenery in the background.  
27 It becomes MFI-6H.

28 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, the photograph found at tab 25D  
29 ending in 633 --

1           PRESIDING JUDGE: I think we are just out of tape, but as  
2 long as it is recorded. This is a photograph identified by the  
3 witness. It shows a vehicle with two male persons standing and  
4 another male person identified by the witness and behind them  
11:30:52 5 several other members of the public in the background. That will  
6 become MFI-6I. I am afraid we will have to stop there, Ms Hollis.

7           Mr Witness, we are now going to take the mid-morning break.  
8 We will be starting court again at 12 o'clock. Please adjourn  
9 court until 12.

11:31:13 10                                   [Break taken at 11.31 a.m.]

11                                   [Upon resuming at 12.00 p.m.]

12           PRESIDING JUDGE: Ms Hollis, when you're ready, please  
13 proceed.

14           MS HOLLIS: Thank you, Madam President. I have one other  
12:01:17 15 set of photographs I would ask be marked for identification and  
16 also this would be a composite exhibit.

17           PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, please proceed.

18           MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, the first would be the unmarked  
19 copy of the photograph at tab 25F and it ends in the numbers 672.

12:01:40 20           PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a photograph identified by the  
21 witness. It shows a male person in military fatigues with a red  
22 shirt in the foreground and other persons, one of whom has been  
23 identified by the witness, in the background. It becomes MFI-7A.

24           MS HOLLIS: The next, your Honour, would be the unmarked  
12:02:05 25 copy of the photograph at tab 25G and this photograph ends in the  
26 number 772.

27           PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a photograph identified by the  
28 witness showing three male persons. It becomes MFI-7B.

29           MS HOLLIS: The third, your Honour, is the unmarked version

1 of the photograph at tab 25H and this photograph, the unmarked  
2 photograph, ends in 774.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a photograph showing a male  
4 person seated. He's wearing a blue gown. It becomes MFI-7C.

12:02:52 5 MS HOLLIS: Thank you, Madam President:

6 Q. Mr Witness, you have testified that you learned that Issa  
7 Sesay had been indicted by the Special Court and so was to be  
8 arrested and you also learned that Sam Bockarie had been  
9 indicted. Could you tell us how long was it after you heard

12:03:16 10 about these indictments that Salami told you about the killing of  
11 Sam Bockarie?

12 A. After I had heard about the indictment of Sam Bockarie, it  
13 was not long. It didn't take that long. It was at that time  
14 that Salami told me that Sam Bockarie had been killed.

12:03:51 15 Q. Can you give the Court an estimate about how much time  
16 passed between your learning those two things?

17 A. It was more - it was more than one month.

18 MS HOLLIS: I have no further questions.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Ms Hollis. Mr Griffiths, the  
12:04:28 20 end of examination-in-chief. Have you questions of the witness?

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR GRIFFITHS:

22 Q. Now, you were born in Pendembu. That's right, isn't it?

23 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, I would ask that perhaps this  
24 identifying information not be done in open session.

12:05:00 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think that evidence of his antecedents  
26 were in private session. I would need to check my record.

27 JUDGE LUSSICK: But there must be many people born in  
28 Pendembu. I can't see how that goes to the identification of  
29 this witness unless you plan to take it any further,

1 Mr Griffiths.

2 MR GRIFFITHS: Your Honour is exactly right. I do not  
3 intend to take it any further. I was about to show the witness a  
4 map and deal with other general matters with no further  
12:05:31 5 identifying characteristics.

6 MS HOLLIS: In that event the Prosecution would have no  
7 objection.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Please proceed.

9 MR GRIFFITHS: I wonder if the witness could be shown,  
12:05:48 10 please, a map which I think is S19 which everyone should have.

11 It should be in the bundle of maps and looks like this. I hope  
12 that everyone has that. I wonder, please, Madam Court

13 Administrator, whether we could highlight the part of the map

14 which shows that part of Sierra Leone which juts into Liberia by

12:07:26 15 Lofa County. Could we then magnify it, please, that area just to  
16 the right, it's going off the map now, the area which includes  
17 Koidu and Kailahun. Could we highlight that area, please.

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Counsel, I'm afraid none of the judges  
19 has this map. You've got it?

12:08:16 20 MS HOLLIS: It should be S19, your Honours.

21 MR GRIFFITHS: I think it was handed out loose, your  
22 Honours. It was handed out loose after the bundle of maps had  
23 initially been distributed. Yes, I am grateful:

24 Q. Now, Mr Witness, you're a Mende by tribe, is that right?

12:09:33 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. The part of the map which I've highlighted you see Pendembu  
27 there, don't you?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. Which is where you were born, is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And Pendembu, are the areas surrounding Pendembu areas  
3 occupied predominantly by people who belong to the Mende tribe?

4 A. Yes.

12:10:17 5 Q. And those people, the Mende, they're also to be found  
6 across the border in Liberia, aren't they?

7 A. I don't know about that.

8 Q. Are there no Mends to be found in Lofa County across the  
9 border in Liberia?

12:10:50 10 A. I don't know about that.

11 Q. Are you saying that the Mende tribe is only to be found in  
12 Sierra Leone?

13 A. Yes, that is what I know.

14 Q. Is that really the case? Do you not have Mende relatives  
12:11:17 15 who live in Liberia?

16 A. I don't know about that.

17 Q. In any event let's move on, shall we. Having been born in  
18 Pendembu you went to school where?

19 A. In Kenema.

12:11:44 20 Q. Now, if we look on the map we see that Kenema is to the  
21 southwest of Pendembu. Do we see it on the map?

22 A. Yes, I'm seeing it.

23 Q. And did you stay with relatives in Kenema whilst you were  
24 at school?

12:12:15 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. And are the people who live in and around Kenema also  
27 members of the Mende tribe?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. So that as far as this map is concerned then, the Mende



1 tribe extends at least from Pendembu down to Kenema, is that  
2 right?

3 A. Yes.

12:13:03

4 Q. Now, it's whilst you were in Pendembu in May 1991 that the  
5 RUF captured Pendembu?

6 A. I have not got that question clearly. Repeat it.

7 Q. In May 1991 the RUF captured Pendembu and captured you as  
8 well, is that right?

9 A. Yes.

12:13:31

10 Q. And you were trained for two months in Pendembu, is that  
11 right?

12 A. They trained me in Pendembu vocational training school  
13 compound.

14 Q. And that's located in Pendembu, is that right?

12:14:02

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Now thereafter you guarded Foday Sankoh's mansion which was  
17 also in Pendembu, is that right?

18 A. Please repeat that.

12:14:30

19 Q. Following your training you were one of 25 trainees  
20 selected to become mansion guards for Foday Sankoh, is that  
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that mansion was based in Pendembu?

24 A. Yes.

12:15:00

25 Q. Now in May of 1991 when you say you were captured, does  
26 that mean that you were forced to join the RUF against your will?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. At that time you had no desire whatsoever to become a  
29 fighting member of the RUF?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did there come a time when your attitude towards joining  
3 the RUF changed?

12:15:53

4 A. I want you to clarify that properly to me. I do not  
5 understand it.

6 Q. Let me try. You were at age 16 captured and forced against  
7 your will to become a member of the RUF, is that right?

8 A. Yes.

12:16:16

9 Q. Thereafter you were appointed a bodyguard to Foday Sankoh  
10 within a couple of months, is that right?

11 A. He selected me to become a mansion guard at first.

12 Q. And then you were later selected as one of five people who  
13 became his bodyguards, is that right?

14 A. Yes.

12:16:37

15 Q. How soon after your capture were you one of the five  
16 selected to be his bodyguard?

17 A. I have not got that clearly.

18 Q. You were captured in May 1991. When in 1991, if it was  
19 1991, did you become Foday Sankoh's bodyguard?

12:17:18

20 A. It was in August.

21 Q. So we can take it then that you, who was forced against his  
22 will to become a member of the RUF, within a couple of months was  
23 so trusted to be appointed a bodyguard, one of five, to Foday  
24 Sankoh, is that right?

12:17:52

25 A. Repeat that.

26 Q. You were captured against your will in May. By August, a  
27 couple of months later, you had gained sufficient trust to become  
28 one of five bodyguards to Foday Sankoh, had you?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. So, a reluctant recruit to the RUF gained such trust within  
2 a few months. Can you help us as to how that came about?

3 A. Yes, that one happened after the five of us had been  
4 appointed when we had been with Foday Sankoh. He appointed me to  
12:18:43 5 be taking care of his food, especially his tea. So during that  
6 time when I was taking care of his food issues, it was at that  
7 time that he liked me. It was at that time that he trusted me.  
8 So, it was during that time.

9 Q. And do I take it, given that you were recruited against  
12:19:12 10 your will, that you were always anxious during that period to  
11 leave and return to the bosom of your family?

12 A. Yes, I was anxious.

13 Q. So help me, why didn't you leave?

14 A. At that time they had already told me at the base that if  
12:19:39 15 anybody attempted to escape he would be killed, so that fear was  
16 in me.

17 Q. But you were living within the midst of your own Mende  
18 tribe. Are you saying that despite that you couldn't leave?

19 A. At that time in Pendembu the soldiers were everywhere. If  
12:20:14 20 you attempted to escape to go anywhere, if you were noticed you  
21 will be killed. That was why I didn't make any attempt.

22 Q. And the reluctant recruit remained a bodyguard to Foday  
23 Sankoh from August 1991 until Foday Sankoh was indicted, is that  
24 right?

12:20:43 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. So you remained his bodyguard from 1991, was it until 2003?

27 A. I was as a bodyguard from '91. In 1992 again he changed  
28 the bodyguards to Black Guard.

29 Q. Yes, I'm interested in the duration of your service as

1 bodyguard. You remained his bodyguard until what year?

2 A. Up to the time that - I was as a bodyguard from '91 to '92.  
3 So it was from '92 that he changed the bodyguard to Black Guard  
4 unit.

12:21:38 5 Q. Yes, I appreciate all of that. What I'm asking you is very  
6 simple. You remained his bodyguard until what year, please?

7 A. From '91 to '92 they used to call us bodyguards. From '92  
8 they called us Black Guards to - from '92 until the time he was  
9 arrested.

12:22:15 10 Q. When he was arrested in Nigeria, or in Sierra Leone?

11 A. I am talking about Sierra Leone.

12 Q. And help me, please, what year was that?

13 A. They arrested him in Sierra Leone in 2000.

14 Q. So we can take it then that the reluctant recruit remained  
12:22:47 15 and became a prominent member of the Black Guard from 1992 for  
16 eight years up until 2000, is that right?

17 A. Say that again.

18 Q. Even though you'd been recruited into the RUF against your  
19 will, you remained a bodyguard to Foday Sankoh and a Black Guard  
12:23:23 20 from 1991 until the year 2000. Is that right?

21 A. Say that again. I have still not got that clearly. I have  
22 not understood it properly.

23 Q. Even though you were captured and forced to become a member  
24 of the RUF, you nonetheless remained with him as a bodyguard and  
12:24:09 25 later as a Black Guard until 2000, didn't you?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. And during that nine year period are you telling us that  
28 you never had an opportunity to escape?

29 A. Well, at that time, because I had been with the RUF leader,

1 if I had attempted to escape, if I was found out they would kill  
2 me. That was my fear.

3 Q. My question was different and I'll try it again. During  
4 that nine year period did you never have any opportunity to  
12:25:09 5 escape?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Even when you were in Monrovia?

8 A. Even when I was in Monrovia I hadn't a chance to escape  
9 because I had an assignment there.

12:25:38 10 Q. Even when you left the country to attend peace talks  
11 abroad, you didn't have an opportunity then?

12 A. No, at that time we were being guarded by UN. The UN was  
13 with us when we were going, so at that time I didn't have the  
14 opportunity to escape.

12:25:58 15 Q. But surely the very presence of independent UN soldiers  
16 gave you the opportunity. Why didn't you take it?

17 A. Because it was always in my mind that if I attempted to  
18 escape and I was caught, I will die.

19 Q. Now, the Black Guard had been specifically formed by Foday  
12:26:51 20 Sankoh, hadn't it?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And did the Black Guard have a special role within the RUF?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What was that role?

12:27:15 25 A. The role, when Foday Sankoh trained the Black Guards in the  
26 Revolutionary United Front Sierra Leone, was that he trained the  
27 Black Guards to be responsible for going to the front lines to  
28 sensitise the combatants, that is the soldiers, on the atrocities  
29 committed by soldiers at the front lines. For instance, a

1 soldier was not to rape, he was not to burn a house, he was not  
2 to loot. He said it was the responsibility - those were the  
3 responsibilities of the Black Guards: To sensitise the soldiers.

12:28:17

4 Q. In effect, the Black Guard were the principal defenders of  
5 the principles of the revolution, would you agree?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You were to be the guardians of the ideology of the RUF.  
8 That's right, isn't it?

9 A. Yes, we were to preach them to the soldiers.

12:28:41

10 Q. And you had to, in effect, ensure that the soldiers on the  
11 front line kept to the spirit of the revolution?

12 A. We were to go to the front lines and give the instructions  
13 that the leaders had given us, to spread the message to the  
14 soldiers. If it was continuing, it was our place to report back  
15 to the leader.

12:29:16

16 Q. And given that you had been a reluctant recruit to the RUF,  
17 did you have any difficulty in that evangelical role?

18 A. I had no problem any more.

12:29:49

19 Q. Because on the one hand you tell us that you were forced to  
20 join the RUF, yet within a short while you were one of those  
21 charged with spreading the ideology of the RUF. Had you become  
22 converted?

23 A. That was why I had said from the beginning that Foday  
24 Sankoh, when he trained us as Black Guards he trained us, he told  
25 us what we were to say at the front lines to the soldiers. It  
26 was that same message that we took to the soldiers.

12:30:17

27 Q. Because you had been converted to the ideology of the RUF,  
28 is that right?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. You had come to believe that the mission upon which the RUF  
2 had embarked was the right and proper thing to do, is that right?

3 A. Well, the leader, the person who brought his war, that is  
4 Foday Sankoh, he told us that the war that he had brought was not  
12:31:16 5 to intimidate or kill civilians, so we too in the Black Guards  
6 were to guard the revolution. So the message that he gave us, we  
7 were to spread among the soldiers for them to know.

8 Q. My question was different and I'll ask it again. Despite  
9 the fact that you'd been forced to join the RUF, did you become  
12:31:45 10 converted to its ideology?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you came to believe that what the RUF was doing was  
13 right, didn't you?

14 A. Yes. At that time, because I was young, the things that  
12:32:12 15 they told me, I believed they were the right things.

16 Q. And you remained so converted until peace came to Sierra  
17 Leone, didn't you; you remained committed to the RUF?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And the philosophy that you were committed to and the one  
12:32:39 20 which the leadership of the RUF, in the person of Foday Sankoh,  
21 was trying to spread was, for example, not to rape, is that  
22 right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. It was not to loot, is that right?

12:32:58 25 A. Yes, that was what he used to tell us.

26 Q. It was not to kill civilians, is that right?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. It was not to burn their homes, is that right?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. And where such things happened, you as a Black Guard had  
2 the responsibility of reporting it to the leadership, didn't you?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you also had the responsibility of taking disciplinary  
12:33:29 5 action against those who committed such crimes?

6 A. It was not my duty to discipline anybody. He sent me to  
7 the front line to go and spread the message that soldiers should  
8 not do that. If they continued doing it, it was my duty to write  
9 a report against that soldier or that commander. He was the one  
12:33:54 10 who was to take the action, the leader.

11 Q. Now, let's be quite clear about this. The leader, Foday  
12 Sankoh, and indeed the senior command in the RUF were opposed to  
13 raping, looting, killing and burning people's houses, weren't  
14 they?

12:34:17 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But it was not always possible to stop undisciplined troops  
17 on the front line committing such crimes. It wasn't always  
18 possible to prevent it, was it?

19 A. When these things were happening we used to send the  
12:34:41 20 reports to the leader. Sometimes he took action and for some  
21 others he did not take any action.

22 Q. My question is different and I'll try it again. Although  
23 the leadership of the RUF were committed to the philosophy that  
24 there should be no rape, killing of civilians and so on, that  
12:35:04 25 didn't prevent undisciplined troops at the front line committing  
26 such crimes, did it?

27 A. I have not got that clearly.

28 Q. Let me try again. Do you agree that the philosophy of the  
29 leadership of the RUF was against rape, looting, burning,



1 killing? Do you agree?

2 A. Yes, the leadership was against that.

3 Q. But because the leadership weren't always at the front line  
4 it was sometimes difficult to control ill-disciplined troops at  
12:35:55 5 the front line, wasn't it?

6 A. But he had command.

7 Q. I'm sorry, I'm sure it's my fault, I don't understand that  
8 answer. Who had command?

9 A. It was Foday Sankoh who had command for all the front  
12:36:36 10 lines.

11 Q. Let me try my question just once more, please. You've  
12 already agreed with me that the leadership of the RUF was opposed  
13 to crimes such as rape, looting, killing of civilians, burning of  
14 people's homes. Do you still agree with that?

12:37:19 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But it was not always possible, was it, to control front  
17 line troops who were sometimes ill-disciplined, would you agree?

18 A. That used to happen at the front lines - what?

19 Q. Now - pardon?

12:38:03 20 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I'm not sure, what used to happen?

21 Mr Witness, what used to happen?

22 THE WITNESS: It used to happen at the front lines. There  
23 were soldiers who killed the civilians, who raped, who burnt  
24 houses. Our own duty as Black Guards was to send a report so  
12:38:25 25 that the leadership - sometimes the leadership would take action  
26 and at some other times it won't.

27 MR GRIFFITHS:

28 Q. But there was a system of discipline in place to try and  
29 prevent such crimes, wasn't there?

1 A. Yes, there was discipline.

2 Q. And sometimes the imposition of such discipline caused  
3 difficulties for commanders, didn't it?

4 A. It did not make it difficult for commanders.

12:39:21 5 Q. Let me put it in this - let me put it differently. Do you  
6 recall an occasion when you tell us you were in Tubmanburg and  
7 Sam Bockarie was under threat of arrest for killing an NPFL  
8 soldier caught raping a Sierra Leonean woman? Do you remember  
9 that?

12:39:47 10 A. Yes, I can remember that.

11 Q. And he had got in trouble with who for taking such  
12 disciplinary action?

13 A. He - according to when we went to Tubmanburg, we got the  
14 information that Sam Bockarie had executed an order whereby  
12:40:13 15 someone raped and that he had killed the person. So he too the  
16 NPFL soldiers wanted to kill him, so he had some problems with  
17 the NPFL.

18 Q. That's why I asked the question, you see? He was a  
19 commander who got in trouble for taking, or almost got in trouble  
12:40:35 20 for taking, disciplinary action. That's right, isn't it?

21 A. At that time he was an RUF strong fighter. At that time I  
22 did not know if he, Mosquito, had any position in that area.

23 Q. Very well. I want to ask you a few more details about that  
24 incident. Now, RUF soldiers were in Tubmanburg at that time  
12:41:11 25 because they had retreated from Pujehun. That's right, isn't it?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. They'd been forced out of Sierra Leone by the Sierra  
28 Leonean army?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. And I wonder - I'm sorry to trouble the Court Administrator  
2 again, but I would just like us to take a moment so that we  
3 understand the geography of this, please. Now, you will see just  
4 to the left of the map the name Pujehun. Can you see it? Can  
12:42:43 5 you see it?

6 A. I have not seen it yet. Yes, I've seen it. Yes.

7 Q. Now, if you look - if we could just move the map over,  
8 please, to your left, Madam Court Administrator, so that we can  
9 see Bomi Hills in the bottom right-hand corner of this map in  
12:43:21 10 Liberia. No, no, we need to move it in the opposite direction,  
11 please. Now, witness, do you see Bomi Hills in Liberia? Do you  
12 see that? The bottom right of the map as we look at it.

13 A. Yes, I've seen it.

14 Q. Now when the RUF had been pushed out of Pujehun, they had  
12:44:21 15 set up camp somewhere near Bomi Hills, hadn't they?

16 A. Well, when Foday Sankoh and I went to Tubmanburg in Bomi  
17 Hills we met the RUF soldiers there in Tubmanburg.

18 Q. Now it's that meeting that I want to ask you about, because  
19 you've told us that it was Sam Bockarie who was under threat of  
12:45:05 20 arrest at that time for executing an NPFL soldier for rape. Is  
21 that correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Are you sure it wasn't Mike Lamin who had been in fact  
24 arrested and detained by the NPFL for executing NPFL soldiers in  
12:45:31 25 Sierra Leone caught raping?

26 A. I don't know about that one. What I know about is what I'm  
27 trying to talk about. When we went to Tubmanburg, Foday Sankoh  
28 took Mosquito from Tubmanburg to take him to Gbarnga so that he  
29 can go to Kailahun because Mosquito had killed an NPFL soldier

1 for raping. So the NPFL too were about to kill him, so that was  
2 why Foday Sankoh took him to Kailahun.

3 Q. But do you not recall at that time following the retreat  
4 from Pujehun that Mike Lamin was under arrest for executing NPFL  
12:46:19 5 soldiers for rape? Weren't you aware of that?

6 A. I did not get that information at all.

7 Q. Do you know who Mike Lamin is?

8 A. Yes, I know who Mike Lamin is.

9 Q. Was he - do you recall him being in detention in Tubmanburg  
12:46:47 10 at that time and Foday Sankoh having to secure his release?

11 A. When we went to Tubmanburg the only person whom I knew had  
12 a problem with the NPFL soldiers was Mosquito, Sam Bockarie. I  
13 did not have information about Mike Lamin's problem, no.

14 Q. Did you meet Mike Lamin in Tubmanburg at that time?

12:47:18 15 A. No.

16 Q. Did you meet Philip Palmer in Tubmanburg at that time?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Philip Palmer was a senior commander within the RUF at that  
19 time, wasn't he?

12:47:49 20 A. I met Philip Palmer in Tubmanburg. Foday Sankoh told me  
21 that Philip Palmer was in charge of the other soldiers who - with  
22 whom he had retreated to Tubmanburg, that he was in charge. That  
23 was what he told me.

24 Q. At the time of that retreat from Pujehun the only part of  
12:48:19 25 Sierra Leone which the RUF controlled was an area of Kailahun  
26 province around Pendembu, is that right?

27 A. After the RUF had retreated from Pujehun area, Kailahun  
28 District was where the RUF were.

29 Q. And it's the only location where the RUF were, is that

1 right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And in order for the RUF soldiers who had retreated from  
4 Pujehun to join up with their comrades in Kailahun they had to  
12:49:17 5 travel through Liberia, didn't they?

6 A. Say that again.

7 Q. The RUF members who had retreated from Pujehun to  
8 Tubmanburg, in order for them to join up with the RUF in Kailahun  
9 they had to travel through Liberia, didn't they?

12:49:44 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Now can we look again, please, at the map and that area  
12 around Pujehun where there is that Sierra Leone projection into  
13 Liberia. Now, witness, the part of the map that we can see, you  
14 see where Kailahun appears, do you?

12:50:59 15 A. Yes, I've seen it.

16 Q. And you see Koindu in the top corner of that projection of  
17 Sierra Leone into Liberia? Do you see it?

18 A. Yes, I've seen it.

19 Q. And you appreciate that that yellow line which is twisting  
12:51:22 20 above Kailahun and above Koindu, that's the border between Guinea  
21 and Sierra Leone, isn't it?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And then the yellow line which comes down between Koindu  
24 and Foya, that's the Liberian-Sierra Leonean border, isn't it?

12:51:51 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. And we know that to the right of that border in Liberia is  
27 Lofa County. That's right, isn't it?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. And we also know, don't we, that the area bounded by the

1 Guinean frontier and the Liberian frontier, that area was  
2 captured by the RUF from early 1991, wasn't it?

3 A. Say that clearly. Which area are you talking about?

4 Q. This area which is bounded - which looks like a finger  
12:52:34 5 pointing into Liberia and Guinea, that part of - witness, if you  
6 look at me for a moment, this part of the map where we see this  
7 projection of Sierra Leone here. I'm just talking about that  
8 little area there.

9 A. Yes, I've seen it.

12:53:05 10 Q. That part of Sierra Leone was captured fairly early on by  
11 the RUF, wasn't it?

12 A. Well, the understanding that I got, in 1991 what - at that  
13 time after I had been with them, with the RUF leader, I never had  
14 information that the RUF had gone towards Guinea. The only  
12:54:01 15 information that I knew of was that RUF was in control of some  
16 part of Sierra Leone.

17 Q. That's all I'm asking about, witness. I'm just asking you  
18 about this part of Sierra Leone which projects into Guinea and  
19 Liberia. That was captured by the RUF in 1991. The area of  
12:54:27 20 Kailahun, Koindu, Manowa and so on, on that map, was captured in  
21 1991 by the RUF, wasn't it?

22 A. Yes and the way they were fighting at that time in 1991,  
23 when RUF attacks sometimes the government soldiers will come and  
24 re-attack the area and dislodge the RUF. That was what used to  
12:55:05 25 happen.

26 Q. The point I'm trying to establish here, witness, is fairly  
27 straightforward. This part of Sierra Leone was like an RUF  
28 stronghold from 1991 until virtually the end of the war, wasn't  
29 it?

1 A. The place that they used to call RUF stronghold was in  
2 Kailahun District.

3 Q. Let me try again. This part of Liberia remained under the  
4 control of the RUF from 1991 until the end of the war, didn't it?

12:55:58 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, are you referring to the  
6 part of Kailahun District, because that's Sierra Leone, not  
7 Liberia.

8 MR GRIFFITHS: My mistake:

9 Q. I'm talking about Kailahun District in Sierra Leone.

12:56:19 10 Mr Witness, can I just ask you to look at me for a moment. Can  
11 you see my map from where you are?

12 A. Yes, I'm seeing.

13 Q. You see this bit of Sierra Leone here? Do you see what I'm  
14 pointing to? Yes?

12:56:41 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. That part of Sierra Leone remained an RUF stronghold from  
17 1991 until the end of the war in 2002, didn't it?

18 A. What I know, Kailahun District was an RUF stronghold.

19 Q. Now, that part of Sierra Leone which I've just indicated on  
12:57:38 20 the map is primarily controlled by Mende people, isn't it?

21 A. Not just Mende people. We have Kissis and Mendes.

22 Q. But is it a predominantly Mende area?

23 A. Yes, in Kailahun District Mendes dominate that district.

24 Q. Even before the war there was a lot of movement across that  
12:58:24 25 border between Sierra Leone and Liberia, wasn't there?

26 A. Yes, I am aware of that.

27 Q. Because historically there was a lot of trade, buying and  
28 selling, going on across not only the Liberian-Sierra Leone  
29 border in that area, but also the Guinean-Sierra Leonean border.

1 There was a lot of trade across that area, wasn't there,  
2 backwards and forwards?

3 A. Yes, it used to happen.

4 Q. And even when the civil war broke out in Liberia in  
12:59:06 5 December 1989 there was still trade going on across those  
6 borders, wasn't there?

7 A. Repeat that. At what time?

8 Q. 1989/1990 there was still trade going on across those  
9 borders, despite the war in Liberia. That's right, isn't it?

12:59:36 10 A. Please, I want you to make a difference in the times  
11 because you are talking about two times here. I can hear you  
12 talking about 1990 and 1998.

13 Q. All right. Between 1998 and - let me start again. Are you  
14 aware that a civil war broke out in Liberia in December 1989?

13:00:11 15 A. Well, I do not know the time any more, but I knew that  
16 there was a war going on there.

17 Q. You knew that forces had invaded Liberia calling themselves  
18 the NPFL. You knew that, did you?

19 A. I used to hear that on the BBC.

13:00:37 20 Q. And even after that happened there was still trade going on  
21 across that Liberian-Sierra Leonean border. That's right, isn't  
22 it?

23 A. I can't talk about that because I was not going to the  
24 borderline.

13:01:01 25 Q. Wasn't it the case that looted items like television sets,  
26 fridges, generators, motor vehicles, were being traded across  
27 that border after the war broke out in Liberia?

28 A. Well, the only thing that I saw, because I was in Pendembu  
29 when the war started, I used to see a lot of civilians coming in.



1 They said they were afraid. I saw soldiers in vehicles coming.  
2 They said they were afraid because of the war. But I never saw  
3 anybody come with something to say it's a looted item and that he  
4 was selling it. I did not see that.

13:02:00 5 Q. What I'm trying to establish through you is the fact that  
6 there was always, throughout this decade long period, lots of  
7 movements of contraband goods across that Liberian-Sierra Leonean  
8 border. That's the truth, isn't it?

9 A. What I'm trying to say, what I saw or heard is what I'm  
13:02:45 10 talking about. During that time, or before the war entered in  
11 Sierra Leone, I was not at the border, so I can't tell you that I  
12 saw so and so coming in. What I saw was that I saw civilians in  
13 trucks and soldiers who came to Pendembu saying they were afraid  
14 of the war. I did not know that something was going there or  
13:03:18 15 coming in at the border.

16 Q. Would it be fair to say that there had long been  
17 trafficking of arms and ammunition across that border before the  
18 invasion of the RUF?

19 A. Say that again for me to get it clearly.

13:03:50 20 Q. Is it fair to say that in that area I've highlighted there  
21 had been for a long time a traffic in arms and ammunition across  
22 that border?

23 A. What I know about arms and ammunition, I only knew about  
24 arms and ammunition transaction at the time that I joined the RUF  
13:04:22 25 leader, Foday Sankoh. It was at that time that we used to go to  
26 Liberia in Gbarnga. We came with arms and ammunition. That was  
27 the only time I knew about that. But before the war I never knew  
28 whether any type of transaction in that nature was going on.

29 Q. Very well. Staying with the map, you've told us that

1 following your training you were a mansion guard in Pendembu.

2 That's right, isn't it?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. For how long did you remain as a mansion guard in Pendembu?

13:05:26 5 A. 1991 to 1992.

6 Q. Now during that period, if I understand your evidence  
7 correctly, you made two trips to Gbarnga with Foday Sankoh,  
8 didn't you?

9 A. Yes.

13:06:07 10 Q. Returning after each trip to Pendembu, is that right?

11 A. The first trip that we went on, we came back. The second  
12 trip was the time we went to Tubmanburg and came back to Gbarnga  
13 and returned.

14 Q. Returned to where?

13:06:48 15 A. We returned to Pendembu in Sierra Leone.

16 Q. Now again if I understand your evidence correctly, after  
17 that second trip to Gbarnga when you returned to Sierra Leone via  
18 Tubmanburg it was after that that an operation was launched to  
19 capture Kono. Is that right?

13:07:18 20 A. Say that again.

21 Q. Was it after your second trip to Gbarnga with Foday Sankoh  
22 that a mission was launched to capture Kono?

23 A. That was after the second trip when we had gone to  
24 Tubmanburg, collected Sam Bockarie, came back to Gbarnga and  
13:07:48 25 continued the trip to Pendembu. It was after that that Foday  
26 Sankoh gave the mission to Sam Bockarie to capture Kono.

27 Q. Now if we look at the map again, please, and on this  
28 occasion - the mission which was led by Sam Bockarie to capture  
29 Kono which you told us about, firstly what year was that?

1 A. That was in 1992.

2 Q. What part of 1992? Beginning, middle or end?

3 A. That was in the middle.

4 Q. If I understand your evidence, the mission began with Sam  
13:09:42 5 Bockarie capturing Gandorhun. Can you see Gandorhun on the map?

6 A. Yes, I've seen it.

7 Q. And thereafter Kono was captured, was it?

8 A. The first mission, Sam Bockarie went to Gandorhun. During  
9 the first launch he did not capture. During the second one he  
13:10:15 10 captured and from then on he advanced on Koidu.

11 Q. And was that at the end of 1992?

12 A. Well, I can't remember that time now.

13 Q. In any event, did you at some stage go to Kono?

14 A. Yes, after Sam Bockarie had captured Koidu I went together  
13:10:54 15 with Foday Sankoh to Kono.

16 Q. And how long did you stay in Kono on that occasion?

17 A. When we got to Koidu, together with Foday Sankoh, Foday  
18 Sankoh spent a month and then he returned.

19 Q. Returned to where?

13:11:24 20 A. He returned to Pendembu while I stayed there to take his  
21 belongings along.

22 Q. And how long did you stay in Kono?

23 A. I stayed there up to the time the enemies dislodged us from  
24 Koidu, so I took his belongings from Gandorhun.

13:11:58 25 Q. And how long did you --

26 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, correction. To Gandorhun,  
27 not from.

28 MR GRIFFITHS:

29 Q. How long did you stay in Kono?

1 A. I spent up to two months there.

2 Q. Did you then return to Pendembu?

3 A. I said after we had retreated from Koidu I stayed for a  
4 while in Gandorhun.

13:12:27 5 Q. Now around Koidu, is that again an area where there are a  
6 lot of Mende people?

7 A. I cannot talk about that, because I was not born there and  
8 so I can't talk about that.

9 Q. So, you're not in a position to help me at all as to the  
13:13:04 10 tribal make-up of the people who live around Kono?

11 A. What I know is that in Kono it's the Kono people that are  
12 there, the Kono tribe, but I do not know the others around there.  
13 I do not know the other tribes. I only know about the Kono  
14 tribe.

13:13:36 15 Q. Now after you brought Foday Sankoh's belongings to  
16 Gandorhun, how long did you stay there for?

17 A. I did not tell you that I went along with Foday Sankoh. I  
18 said Foday Sankoh left me in Koidu and they went to Pendembu.  
19 Whilst we were retreating from Koidu, we went to Gandorhun and  
13:14:02 20 based there together with Mosquito.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, that's not what you were  
22 asked. You were asked after you brought Foday Sankoh's  
23 belongings to Gandorhun, how long did you stay in Gandorhun, was  
24 it, Mr Griffiths?

13:14:20 25 MR GRIFFITHS: That is precisely right, your Honour.

26 THE WITNESS: I stayed there up to the time Foday Sankoh  
27 sent a message to Mosquito saying that he had received an urgent  
28 message from his brother Charles to go and meet him in Gbarnga.  
29 So later another message came saying that his brother had

1 provided all the materials, but the ULIMO forces were on the  
2 road, but he will help him - he will help him to provide manpower  
3 for him to clear the road. Later he got to Kailahun and from  
4 there I moved with Sam Bockarie with all Foday Sankoh's  
13:15:08 5 belongings to Kailahun.

6 MR GRIFFITHS:

7 Q. Let me try again. How long did you stay in Gandorhun?

8 A. I cannot remember the time now.

9 Q. Are we talking about weeks, months, years, or what?

13:15:31 10 A. It was more than a month.

11 Q. And after that where did you move to?

12 A. From there I went to Kailahun. Kailahun Town.

13 Q. And for how long did you remain in Kailahun Town?

14 A. I was in Kailahun Town for some time. From there the enemy

13:16:21 15 - from there the enemies pushed Mosquito and others from

16 Gandorhun, so we were - Foday Sankoh went to one town called

17 Sandaru. That was where he was based.

18 Q. How long did you stay in Kailahun at that time?

19 A. We were there up to 1993.

13:17:01 20 Q. So we're talking about you staying there for, what, a year  
21 or so?

22 A. We were in Kailahun for - we were in Kailahun for over four  
23 months.

24 Q. And then where did you go?

13:17:34 25 A. From there we went to one village called Sandaru.

26 Q. How far is that village from Kailahun? Can you find it on  
27 the map?

28 A. Let me check.

29 Q. Can we find Kailahun first of all, please.

1 A. Yes, I have seen Sandaru. This is Kailahun. Foday Sankoh  
2 came and based here.

3 Q. And is that in the jungle?

4 A. No, this is not in the jungle. It's a town.

13:19:07 5 Q. And help me, how long did you remain in Sandaru?

6 A. In Sandaru we stayed there from 1993 to the ending when  
7 finally ULIMO closed the road between Sierra Leone and Liberia.  
8 The ULIMO entered Foya, Kolahun and Voinjama. From there the  
9 leader took another option to go and hit the enemy from the rear.

13:19:50 10 Q. How long did you remain in Sandaru?

11 A. '93, 1993, months, to September.

12 Q. When you say 1993, did you give a month?

13 A. I am talking about September.

14 Q. Yes, from when in 1993 until September? From which month?

13:20:34 15 A. From 1993, it was in September that we left Sandaru to go  
16 towards Koindu.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, we're talking about when you  
18 arrived in Sandaru.

19 THE WITNESS: That was - I can't remember the month, the  
13:21:01 20 month that we went to Sandaru, but I can remember the month that  
21 we left there.

22 MR GRIFFITHS:

23 Q. And when you left where did you go to?

24 A. When we left Sandaru, at that time the enemy was pushed -  
13:21:20 25 was pushing us. We went towards Koindu.

26 Q. Which enemy?

27 A. The government forces. At that time it was the NPRC  
28 government, at that time.

29 Q. And at that time ULIMO controlled Lofa County, didn't they?

1 A. Say that again. I've not got you clearly.

2 Q. At the time when you were forced back to Koindu ULIMO  
3 forces were controlling Lofa County, weren't they?

4 A. Yes.

13:22:07 5 Q. And they had cut the supply route from Liberia to the RUF.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And that supply route remained cut for many years, didn't  
8 it?

9 A. Yes.

13:22:36 10 Q. Up until when?

11 A. From 1993 to 1998 that I know of.

12 Q. Now, let me try and put that together, shall we. 1991/1992  
13 the RUF were receiving supplies from Liberia of arms and  
14 ammunition, is that right?

13:23:29 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And as a consequence of that were able to conquer a large  
17 part of eastern Sierra Leone, is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Government forces then forced the RUF out of Pujehun and  
13:24:03 20 they took refuge in Liberia at Tubmanburg, is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. That occurred some time in 1992, is that right?

23 A. Yes, it was in '92.

24 Q. When RUF forces were forced from Pujehun, the only part of  
13:24:29 25 Sierra Leone controlled by the RUF was in Kailahun province, is  
26 that right?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. The forces who had been forced out of Pujehun managed to  
29 get back to Kailahun province, is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Where they joined up with the RUF forces already there, is  
3 that right?

4 A. Yes.

13:25:10 5 Q. For a brief period the RUF were able to conquer Kono, is  
6 that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But then government forces forced the RUF back towards  
9 Koindu and that part of Sierra Leone, is that right?

13:25:36 10 A. I have not got that clearly.

11 Q. Government forces then forced the RUF to retreat towards  
12 Koindu, is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. The RUF were at that point caught in a pincer movement,  
13:25:58 15 because not only were the government forces advancing and pushing  
16 them towards Koindu, but at your rear ULIMO had cut your supply  
17 routes to Liberia. That's right, isn't it?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. As a consequence the RUF, for a period from about late 1992  
13:26:24 20 up until 1998, were forced to fight a guerilla war. That's  
21 right, isn't it?

22 A. Yes, that happened.

23 Q. And during that period from late 1992 until 1998, so we're  
24 talking about six years or so, the RUF were dependent on arms  
13:26:55 25 from those they were able to capture in ambushes and those they  
26 were able to trade for across the Guinean border. That's right,  
27 isn't it?

28 A. Well, I did not know that the RUF used to buy ammunition  
29 from the Guinea border. I was not in the Kailahun District at



1 that time. I knew that at that time we used to capture arms and  
2 ammunition which we used to fight, but I did not know that RUF  
3 used to buy arms and ammunition.

13:27:34 4 Q. But put differently: During that period from '92 until '98  
5 when ULIMO controlled Lofa County, the RUF were not receiving  
6 arms from Liberia, were they?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Is that yes they were, or yes my proposition is correct?

13:28:08 9 A. From the time the ULIMO cut off the road in 1993, RUF was  
10 not getting arms and ammunition from Liberia up to the time in  
11 1998 when I was with Sam Bockarie. It was from that time that I  
12 knew that arms and ammunition were coming into Sierra Leone from  
13 Liberia.

14 Q. So during that period from about 1993 until 1998, were you  
13:28:40 15 in Sierra Leone?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Based where?

18 A. 1993, the leader and some of us went to the jungle. We  
19 established Zogoda. From there we went to Rutile, then from  
13:29:11 20 there we went to the western jungle. It was in the western  
21 jungle that I was up to 1997 when AFRC took over and we came to  
22 town. I was in the western jungle.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, I note the time. Would  
24 this be a convenient point to adjourn for the lunchtime  
13:29:32 25 adjournment?

26 MR GRIFFITHS: It's as convenient as any, your Honour.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Mr Witness, we are now going  
28 to take the break for lunchtime. It's one hour and we will be  
29 resuming court at 2.30. Please adjourn court until 2.30.

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

2 [Upon resuming at 2.30 p.m.]

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, when you are ready to  
4 proceed, please.

14:29:45 5 MR GRIFFITHS:

6 Q. Before we adjourned for lunch, I was asking you about that  
7 period when the RUF was isolated and penned in in Kailahun  
8 District. Do you recall that?

9 A. It was in 1993.

14:30:25 10 Q. That is the detail that I want to return to now. What I  
11 want your assistance with is the time when this period of  
12 isolation began. Do you understand me? Do you understand?

13 A. Yes, I understand. I am thinking about it.

14 Q. Now, in order to assist you, can I mention a couple of  
14:30:59 15 phrases to you and see if you appreciate what they mean. Do you  
16 know of an event called Top 20?

17 A. Yes, I did know.

18 Q. What is it?

19 A. Top 20 happened in 1991 to '92 when the NPFL soldiers, who  
14:31:38 20 had come from Liberia to Sierra Leone, were killing civilians and  
21 the junior commandos, so it was that mission that they called Top  
22 20. It was at that time that it happened.

23 Q. And what did Top 20 actually involve?

24 A. Top 20 - Top 20, we just used to hear it from the NPFL,  
14:32:31 25 Dopee Menkarzon and others.

26 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, he has used a name that is  
27 not clear. Can he repeat it.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Pause, Mr Witness, please. The  
29 interpreter asks that you repeat a name that you gave, not Dopee

1 Menkarzon. Was it a different name?

2 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honour, Karway [phon].

3 Something Karway.

4 THE WITNESS: There was Dopoe Menkarzon and James Karway.

14:32:56 5 So they formed this Top 20 to kill the Sierra Leoneans, civilians  
6 and junior commandos.

7 MR GRIFFITHS:

8 Q. What about Top 40? What was that about?

9 A. Top 40 too was the same thing that they were doing to kill  
14:33:26 10 civilians and junior commandos.

11 Q. Who is "they"?

12 A. Top 40 too it was Dopoe and James Karway and other NPFL,  
13 most of them whose names I cannot recall now. They formed that  
14 group to kill the Sierra Leoneans.

14:33:56 15 Q. And what is Top Final?

16 A. Top Final was the mission which the RUF junior commandos  
17 and the - the RUF junior commandos and the RUF vanguards did to  
18 drive away these people who were killing, these NPFL soldiers who  
19 were killing the Sierra Leonean civilians and the junior  
14:34:38 20 commandos.

21 Q. And Top Final resulted in the NPFL being driven from Sierra  
22 Leone, is that right?

23 A. Not all of them went. Those who were causing the trouble,  
24 they were the ones that were driven away. Those who did not  
14:35:07 25 cause trouble stayed in the RUF.

26 Q. Now, Top Final took place in May 1992, didn't it?

27 A. I know that it was in 1992, but I cannot remember the  
28 month.

29 Q. And is it not the case that the RUF's period of isolation

1 began with Top Final in 1992?

2 A. I have not got that clearly.

3 Q. The period of isolation when the RUF was cut off from  
4 Liberia, that began with Top Final in 1992, didn't it?

14:36:07 5 A. They cut RUF - the cut off between RUF and Liberia happened  
6 in 1993.

7 Q. That is what I am disputing with you, you see. What I am  
8 suggesting is that it actually happened in 1992, that is the  
9 truth, isn't it, when the NPFL were driven from Sierra Leone?

14:36:31 10 Isn't that the case?

11 A. What I am trying to say is that Top Final happened in 1992.  
12 The ULIMO cut off between Liberia and Sierra Leone in 1993.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just before you go on, Mr Griffiths, you  
14 said when the NPFL was driven from Sierra Leone. Now, the  
14:37:00 15 witness had previously said not all the NPFL went. Are you  
16 putting to him that all went?

17 MR GRIFFITHS: No, no, let me clarify it. I am grateful,  
18 Madam President:

19 Q. Can I pause for a minute just to clarify one matter. It is  
14:37:18 20 right, isn't it, that not all NPFL soldiers were driven out of  
21 Sierra Leone in 1992. Some remained behind, didn't they?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. People like Denis Mingo, Superman, he was a Liberian,  
24 wasn't he?

14:37:39 25 A. Yes.

26 Q. And there were other people like Denis Mingo, Liberians,  
27 who stayed behind and fought with the RUF until the bitter end?

28 A. Yes, that was why on that day I said that those who caused  
29 the problem, those who formed the Top 20 and Top 40, were the

1 ones who the RUF drove into Liberia. Those who did not cause  
2 trouble stayed.

3 Q. And not only were there Liberians who stayed behind and  
4 fought for the RUF, there were also Liberians fighting for the  
14:38:19 5 Sierra Leonean forces, the army, wasn't there?

6 A. I have not got that clearly. Which of the armies?

7 Q. The Sierra Leonean army also had Liberians amongst their  
8 ranks, didn't they?

9 A. Yes, I knew that during the time that we joined the AFRC.  
14:39:03 10 I saw a group who called themselves STF, but they were not many.

11 Q. But the STF were Liberians, weren't they?

12 A. Yes, I used to hear them speak the Liberian language, but  
13 they were not many.

14 Q. And the Liberians fighting for the STF were opposed to  
14:39:30 15 Charles Taylor, weren't they?

16 A. Well, I did not know about that.

17 Q. But they were fighting against the AFRC/RUF, weren't they?

18 A. Yes, at that time. Later we came together.

19 Q. You see the picture - the true picture - is this, isn't it:  
14:40:00 20 What happened in Sierra Leone wasn't a clear-cut situation.

21 There were Sierra Leoneans fighting in Liberia, Liberians  
22 fighting in Sierra Leone, there was a great deal of confusion in  
23 that sense, wasn't there?

24 A. What I know of is that when I was in the RUF in Sierra  
14:40:33 25 Leone I saw Liberians fighting alongside the RUF. When I went to  
26 Liberia, I saw at that time in 1998 up to the time I was there,  
27 whatever manpower they needed they used to ask the commander who  
28 was in charge of the RUF and he will send the manpower to Liberia  
29 to go and fight.

1 Q. Yes, and then there were Sierra Leonean members of the  
2 Anti-Terrorist Unit in Liberia, weren't there?

3 A. Yes, that was the group that Sam Bockarie went with. That  
4 was the group that Sam Bockarie took and put them into the  
14:41:36 5 Anti-Terrorist Unit.

6 Q. And then you have already mentioned the Liberians fighting  
7 with the STF in Sierra Leone, so my point that there was a great  
8 deal of confusion is right, isn't it?

9 A. There was not a lot of confusion.

14:42:04 10 Q. It was not a straightforward situation, was it?

11 A. It was straight, because they were with - the STFs, they  
12 were on the side of the government. They had their own command.

13 Q. But in any event, is it not right that supplies of arms and  
14 ammunition to the RUF stopped after Top Final in 1992?

14:42:50 15 A. What I know of is that the supply stopped when in 1993 - it  
16 was in 1993 that the road was cut off.

17 Q. Forget about the road. In terms of supplies of arms and  
18 ammunition from Liberia, that stopped after Top Final, didn't it?

19 A. Yes, after that Top Final supply stopped.

14:43:32 20 Q. And the supply stopped up until 1998. That's right, isn't  
21 it?

22 A. What I know of is that it was in 1998 when I had been with  
23 Sam Bockarie in that Buedu area, it was at that time that I knew  
24 that arms and ammunition were coming in.

14:43:56 25 Q. Now we'll come back to the truth or otherwise of that last  
26 statement in a moment, but just to confirm what your account is  
27 so far, after Top Final until 1998 the RUF did not receive arms  
28 and ammunition from Liberia. That is right, isn't it?

29 A. What I know about is what I am talking about. Issa Sesay

1 and others were in Kailahun. They were there. I do not know if  
2 they were receiving materials. I said it was in 1998 that I knew  
3 that arms and ammunition were coming from Liberia.

14:44:48 4 Q. Between Top Final and 1998 there were no supplies of arms  
5 and ammunition from Liberia, was there?

6 A. I am not aware of that.

7 Q. My fault. What does that answer mean?

8 A. I do not know that during that time arms and ammunition  
9 were coming from Liberia.

14:45:14 10 Q. You have no knowledge of such traffic during that period,  
11 is that what you mean?

12 A. Yes, because I was not in the Kailahun District.

13 Q. Now talking about that, apart from two trips - no, let me  
14 start again. There came a time when you received assignment

14:45:42 15 number 1 in Monrovia. You understand what I mean by that phrase,  
16 don't you?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you give me the date when you began assignment number  
19 1, please, the year?

14:46:05 20 A. It happened in 1999.

21 Q. Can you give me a month in 1999 when that assignment  
22 commenced?

23 A. I cannot remember the month, but it was in '99.

24 Q. Was it rainy season or dry season?

14:46:34 25 A. It happened in the rainy season.

26 Q. Do I take it then it was some time in mid-ish 1999?

27 A. I cannot remember the month.

28 Q. But just roughly would it be round about mid-1999?

29 A. It was during the rainy season, but I cannot remember the

1 month.

2 Q. And when did that assignment finish? Let's begin with a  
3 year.

4 A. You mean the time it finished?

14:47:25 5 Q. Yes, please.

6 A. Well, it finished in 2001.

7 Q. And was it in 2001 that assignment number 2 began?

8 A. Assignment number 2 happened in 2002.

9 Q. And lasted for how long?

14:48:00 10 A. It ended in 2002. Later I joined Benjamin Yeaten.

11 Q. So assignment number 2 only lasted for a few months?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you be more precise as to the number of months it  
14 lasted?

14:48:46 15 A. It lasted for ten months.

16 Q. Now between 1991 and 1999 when assignment 1 began, you  
17 spent the vast bulk of that period in Sierra Leone, didn't you?

18 A. I want you to distinguish the question. 1991 was the last  
19 time?

14:49:22 20 Q. You were captured by the RUF, you tell us, in May 1991.

21 You began assignment number 1 in 1999. Between your capture and  
22 the beginning of assignment number 1, you were in Sierra Leone  
23 for most of that time, weren't you?

24 A. This question is complicated.

14:50:05 25 Q. Let me try again. We know by way of example that you  
26 accompanied Foday Sankoh on two occasions to Gbarnga in 1991/92,  
27 is that right?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. We also know that you went to Lome for the peace talks, is



1 that right?

2 A. I went to Lome. It happened in 1999.

3 Q. Apart from those trips, or those kind of trips, between  
4 1991, May, and 1999 you were in Sierra Leone, weren't you?

14:51:08 5 A. I have still not got that clearly, because two questions  
6 are coming in one. That's why I can't - I want you to divide the  
7 question.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, what do you mean "two  
9 questions are coming in one"?

14:51:27 10 THE WITNESS: You are trying to ask about 1991 and you are  
11 including 1999 at the time that I took - at the time that I took  
12 up the other operation.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Counsel is saying in all those years  
14 between '91 and the new assignment in '99 most of that time you  
14:51:54 15 were in Sierra Leone, is that correct, or not correct? Is that  
16 paraphrased properly, Mr Griffiths?

17 MR GRIFFITHS: That is perfectly right, your Honour, yes.

18 THE WITNESS: Well, from 1991 to 1992 it is true that I was  
19 going to Gbarnga. 1999 before - 1999 before I took up the  
14:52:32 20 assignment I was in Sierra Leone.

21 MR GRIFFITHS:

22 Q. Just let me try once more. In 1999, May, you were captured  
23 by the RUF, is that right?

24 JUDGE LUSSICK: 1991.

14:52:52 25 MR GRIFFITHS: 1991, sorry, my fault:

26 Q. For the remainder of 1991 following your capture you spent  
27 the bulk of that time in Sierra Leone, did you?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. The year after '91 is '92. In '92 where did you spend most

1 of the time?

2 A. In Sierra Leone.

3 Q. The year that comes after is 1993. Where did you spend  
4 most of 1993?

14:53:33 5 A. In Sierra Leone.

6 Q. In 1994 did you spend most of your time in Sierra Leone?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was it the same for '95?

9 A. Yes.

14:53:46 10 Q. Was it the same for '96?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was it the same for '97?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was it the same for '98?

14:54:01 15 A. Which one do you mean, '98?

16 Q. '98, please.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can we take it then that between 1991 and 1999 you spent  
19 the bulk of your time in Sierra Leone?

14:54:20 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. At last. Now, in terms of that time that you spent in  
22 Sierra Leone, much of that was spent in the area of Kailahun,  
23 Pendembu, Koindu, wasn't it?

24 A. Yes.

14:54:43 25 Q. So that for that something like eight year period, you  
26 spent that amongst your own people in that part of Kailahun  
27 county. That is right, isn't it?

28 A. Well, it was not just in Kailahun District. We came to  
29 Western Area again.

1 Q. Not for a long time. The most of the time you spent in the  
2 area where you were born. That is right, isn't it?

3 A. During the war, no.

4 Q. Between 1991 and 1999, you spent most of that time in and  
14:55:36 5 around the area where you were born, didn't you?

6 A. No, from 1991 to '93 I spent that in Kailahun District.  
7 From '93 to 1997 I spent that in another area.

8 Q. Which area was that?

9 A. From Zogoda, that is in the Kenema District, from there,  
14:56:04 10 '94, we went to Zogoda; from there, '95, Rutile; '96 to '97  
11 Western Area.

12 Q. Help me with this and I wonder, please, if the witness  
13 could once again be shown the map. I want you to help me,  
14 please, by identifying the location of Camp Zogoda.

14:57:46 15 A. It is around this area, Kenema District, Blama. Kenema  
16 District, Blama area. Between here and there. There is a town  
17 there called Gbandawo, this town. It is around this town that  
18 Camp Zogoda was. This is a town close to which we were. It was  
19 close to this town that Camp Zogoda was, in the bush.

14:58:54 20 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I am sorry, Mr Griffiths, but this town  
21 Gbandawo, or something, it is not the town that the witness is  
22 pointing to. The town he is pointing to is named something else.

23 MR GRIFFITHS:

24 Q. I wonder if you could indicate again for all our assistance  
14:59:14 25 where you say roughly Camp Zogoda is. What is the nearest town?  
26 What is the name of the nearest town.

27 A. Gbandawo.

28 Q. Can you help us with a spelling?

29 A. No, I don't know how to spell it.

1 Q. What is the nearest large town or city to Gbandawo?

2 A. It is the only big town close to it, Gbandawo. All the  
3 other towns are small towns.

4 Q. Is it anywhere near Blama?

15:00:37 5 A. Well, Gbandawo is in a little going towards Joru, because  
6 Blama, it is on the main road.

7 Q. Can you help us any more as to where it is on this map?

8 A. Well, the only thing that I can say is Zogoda was in the  
9 bush between Blama and Gbandawo. It was between those areas.

15:01:52 10 Q. I don't know if anyone can assist me as to Gbandawo on the  
11 map? I can't find it.

12 MS HOLLIS: There is a Gbandawo on the map. If you look to  
13 the south of Blama it is the second town that is marked on the  
14 road going south of Blama.

15:02:16 15 MR GRIFFITHS: Yes, that is with a "G". I am most grateful  
16 to my learned friend:

17 Q. Witness, put your pen on Blama. Madam Administrator, can  
18 you help him, please. If we move south along the road from  
19 Blama, do you see the second little town is Gbandawo just below  
15:03:09 20 where your pen is now? Below just below a bit. Do you see it?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Right. Now that you have found that, where is Camp Zogoda?

23 A. Camp Zogoda is between Blama and Gbandawo. It is in the  
24 bush.

15:03:40 25 Q. And that is where you spent how many years?

26 A. From 1994 to 1994.

27 Q. And the people in that area, are they Mende too?

28 A. Yes, they are Mendes.

29 Q. So for that period you were amongst your own people?

1 A. We were in the bush.

2 Q. I now want you to help me with some other matters. You can  
3 leave the map now. Firstly, how many times during that period of  
4 your evidence from 1991 until let us say 2003, how many times did  
15:05:08 5 you physically see Charles Taylor?

6 A. When - it was in 1992 that I saw Charles Taylor in person,  
7 but I used to see his pictures.

8 Q. No, how many times during that period from 1991 to 2003 did  
9 you physically see Charles Taylor in the flesh?

15:06:08 10 A. I saw him many times.

11 Q. If I understand what you have told us, your evidence, you  
12 only saw him in the flesh twice: Once in Gbarnga and once in the  
13 Executive Mansion in his pyjamas. Isn't that the case?

14 A. What I was trying to say about that was that at the time  
15:06:41 15 that I was with Benjamin Yeaten I used to see him, but what the  
16 reason I said that at that time, because at that time that I went  
17 to the Executive Mansion we sat face to face. We sat face to  
18 face and spoke. At the time that I was with Benjamin Yeaten I  
19 used to see Charles Taylor, but I did not have access to go and  
15:07:07 20 talk to him.

21 Q. Very well, let me ask the second question then. On how  
22 many occasions did you speak to Charles Taylor?

23 A. It was only once that it happened.

24 Q. And was that the occasion you told us about when, following  
15:07:43 25 the shooting incident at Spur Road, you were invited to the  
26 Executive Mansion?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. And can you confirm that on your account you never spoke to  
29 him on any other occasion?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Is it also right that that was the only occasion when you  
3 were sat face to face with him?

4 A. Yes.

15:08:25 5 Q. On your account on all other occasions when you saw him you  
6 only saw him because you happened to be in company with, for  
7 example, Foday Sankoh or Benjamin Yeaten?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Does it follow from what you have told us that you have  
15:08:55 10 never given diamonds to Charles Taylor?

11 A. Yes, I did not meet Charles Taylor face to face to give  
12 diamonds to him, but Foday Sankoh told me --

13 Q. I'm sorry, witness, I am not interested for now in what you  
14 were told. I am interested in what you did and what you saw and  
15:09:25 15 the fact is you as an individual never, ever gave diamonds to  
16 Charles Taylor. That's right, isn't it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Even when you were on assignment number 2, when effectively  
19 you were a representative, you did not --

15:09:55 20 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, I am going to object to that in  
21 open session. I am going to ask that "you were a representative"  
22 be redacted. He is moving into an area that is very unique for  
23 this witness.

24 MR GRIFFITHS: He could be a representative of a US oil  
15:10:15 25 company for all we know.

26 MS HOLLIS: He is not talking about --

27 MR GRIFFITHS: Can I finish? I deliberately put it in an  
28 anodyne way to avoid the necessity of going into private session  
29 and it seems to me there is nothing about the question that I

1 have asked which will in any way identify this witness.

2 MS HOLLIS: He is not talking about oil companies, he is  
3 talking about diamonds, he is talking about second assignment, he  
4 is talking about a representative and the Prosecution suggests  
15:10:41 5 that this should not be done in open session.

6 [Trial Chamber conferred]

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: We consider the question is sufficiently  
8 unspecific to be put in its present form, however you will bear  
9 in mind the reservations of counsel, Mr Griffiths.

15:11:16 10 MR GRIFFITHS:

11 Q. During the period when you were on assignment number 2,  
12 part of your responsibilities, as I understand it, was diamonds,  
13 wasn't it?

14 A. Yes.

15:11:35 15 Q. And even during that period you never gave diamonds to  
16 Charles Taylor, did you?

17 A. No, I myself did not give diamonds to Charles Taylor, but  
18 from the earlier stages I had instructions not to see Charles  
19 Taylor. There will be somebody in between us to see Charles  
15:12:06 20 Taylor.

21 Q. Next point: You have never physically witnessed anyone  
22 giving diamonds to Charles Taylor, have you?

23 A. No, no.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: There is a double negative there. Are  
15:12:43 25 you agreeing with counsel, Mr Witness?

26 THE WITNESS: The point is I did not see someone give  
27 diamonds to Charles Taylor face to face, but when they did it  
28 they used to inform me.

29 MR GRIFFITHS:

1 Q. Understand I am not interested in what you were told. I am  
2 merely asking about what you saw or did. You never, ever  
3 witnessed such a transaction, did you?

4 A. I did not see it happen face to face.

15:13:20 5 Q. That's good enough for me. Next question: You were never  
6 present in the same room whilst Foday Sankoh spoke to Charles  
7 Taylor, were you?

8 A. No.

9 Q. You were never present in the same room when Sam Bockarie  
15:13:53 10 spoke to Charles Taylor, were you?

11 A. No, but there was a reason for me not to be there.

12 Q. We will come back to the reason in a moment. You were  
13 never present in a room when Issa Sesay spoke to Charles Taylor,  
14 were you?

15:14:22 15 A. No.

16 Q. You were never in a room when Johnny Paul Koroma spoke to  
17 Charles Taylor, were you?

18 A. No.

19 Q. You were never in a room when Benjamin Yeaten spoke to  
15:14:44 20 Charles Taylor, were you?

21 A. I was only there at the time that he collected me to go to  
22 the mansion.

23 Q. But on no other occasion were you present in the same room  
24 as Charles Taylor - with Charles Taylor as he spoke to Benjamin  
15:15:11 25 Yeaten. That's right, isn't it?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. Consequently it follows from everything you have just told  
28 me that everything you have told us about Charles Taylor and  
29 diamonds is information given to you by others. Is that right?



1 A. Yes, but it happened at the time when I was on the first  
2 assignment. It was an agreement between Foday Sankoh and Charles  
3 Taylor and Benjamin Yeaten. It was from that time that Foday  
4 Sankoh told me that when you were here you wouldn't be able to  
15:16:07 5 see Charles Taylor directly. Whatever was happening between RUF  
6 and Charles Taylor, Benjamin Yeaten would be the mediator between  
7 us. It should pass through him, because Charles Taylor had other  
8 things to do and you are just a security. You are not to see  
9 him. So it was from that time that he gave me the instruction.  
15:16:27 10 So me too, I did not care when somebody was going to see Charles  
11 Taylor. I was not bothered to go there.

12 Q. But the answer to my question, "Everything that you tell us  
13 about Charles Taylor and diamonds is what was told to you by  
14 others", the answer to that question is yes, isn't it?

15:16:55 15 A. Yes, what people told me.

16 Q. Likewise, everything you have told us about Charles Taylor  
17 directing and sending arms to Sierra Leone, that's information  
18 told to you by others, isn't it?

19 A. They were information - pieces of information from the  
15:17:25 20 security commander. Whatever arms and ammunition that were to  
21 go, he was the one who came back to me and told me that his dad  
22 Charles Taylor has agreed to give the arms and ammunition. He  
23 told me that, because earlier they had told me that Benjamin  
24 Yeaten was the mediator.

15:17:45 25 Q. I think the answer to my question is yes. Everything you  
26 know about arms and ammunition being transported to Sierra Leone  
27 from Charles Taylor, that's information given to you by other  
28 people. That's right, isn't it?

29 A. So far as far as I was concerned, I knew that whatever arms

1 and ammunition that were coming from Benjamin Yeaten and he  
2 himself told me, I knew that they were from Charles Taylor.

3 Q. Did you - let me put it differently. Did you ever hear  
4 Charles Taylor tell anyone, "Take these arms from me to Sierra  
15:18:34 5 Leone"? Did you ever hear that?

6 A. I did not hear his voice, but that was why his security  
7 commander was there. Whatever happened, he informed me.

8 MR GRIFFITHS: Now I wonder if the witness, please, could  
9 be shown - I wonder if the witness could be shown Defence exhibit  
15:19:13 10 15 which is at tab 2:

11 Q. Now do you recall during your evidence-in-chief being shown  
12 this document?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And can we turn to the second page of the document, please.  
15:20:57 15 You can confirm, can you not, that that is the signature of Foday  
16 Sankoh?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. When we go back to the first page of the document, you see  
19 that this document is dated 26 June 1996. Do you see that?

15:21:28 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you see that it is addressed from Foday Sankoh to  
22 brother Mohamed Talibi?

23 A. Yes, I am seeing it.

24 Q. Do you see that below the name brother Mohamed Talibi  
15:21:45 25 appears these words, "Libyan Arab People's Jamahiriya"?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. Given your position as a close bodyguard of Foday Sankoh,  
28 can you help us as to who brother Mohamed Talibi was, or is?

29 A. Yes, brother Mohamed Talibi, during the time that Foday

1 Sankoh introduced me to him, he was the one who was at the Libyan  
2 embassy in Monrovia. Foday Sankoh told me that Mohamed Talibi,  
3 at the time that they were doing their training in Libya they  
4 used to help them greatly to undergo their training. That was  
15:22:46 5 what he told me.

6 Q. You say that he was the Libyan - he worked at the Libyan  
7 embassy in Monrovia?

8 A. Yes, he was the ambassador.

9 Q. You will see that this document is addressed to him in  
15:23:04 10 Accra in Ghana.

11 A. What I am trying to talk about is that in 1999, when I was  
12 in Monrovia, Foday Sankoh introduced Mohamed Talibi to me. He  
13 was the Libyan ambassador in Monrovia at that time.

14 Q. Now, were you aware of the existence of this document  
15:23:40 15 before it was shown to you by investigators for the Prosecution?

16 A. Well, this document, at the time that it was written I was  
17 not with Foday Sankoh.

18 Q. I know you weren't with Foday Sankoh, but you were, given  
19 your position, privy to a lot of information, weren't you?

15:24:19 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So I wonder if we could go through the document and if you  
22 can help us as to whether or not its contents sound authentic to  
23 you, given your knowledge. Firstly it says:

24 "I want to thank you and the other brothers back home again  
15:24:40 25 very much for the half a million United States dollars which I  
26 received through you for the purchase of needed material to  
27 pursue the military mission."

28 Can we pause there, please. Can you help us as to who the  
29 "other brothers back home" might be?

1 A. Well, what I am trying to say, I had seen this document,  
2 but at the time that Foday Sankoh wrote this document I was not  
3 with him. I was in the jungle.

4 Q. I appreciate that, but I am asking you in light of your  
15:25:20 5 position and in light of the information that you had access to,  
6 help us, please, if you can, when this document refers to "other  
7 brothers back home" have you any idea who your leader, Foday  
8 Sankoh, is talking about?

9 A. I don't know.

15:25:49 10 Q. What about this sum of half a million US dollars? Were you  
11 aware of Foday Sankoh receiving such sums in 1996 from a Libyan?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Now the letter goes on:

14 "However, I wish to let you all be informed that my  
15:26:20 15 business partners for these materials are here with me and we  
16 have had extensive discussions on this subject. Attached to this  
17 letter you will find a list of materials (arms and ammunitions)  
18 and their costs for your serious and urgent attention. I now  
19 need one and a half million United States dollars in order to  
15:26:51 20 purchase twice the listed materials for effective and smooth  
21 operation."

22 Pause there. Help us, who were your leader Foday Sankoh's  
23 business partners in June 1996?

24 A. I am still trying to say that when Foday Sankoh went to  
15:27:23 25 that - during 1996 when he went to Abidjan, I did not go with  
26 him, so I did not know who the other business partners were. The  
27 person I knew in 1991 was Charles Taylor. He was the only one I  
28 knew at that time and so this document, I do not know who Foday  
29 Sankoh was talking about.

1 Q. Now you see it goes on:

2 "My representative, Captain Philip S Palmer, will elaborate  
3 on this all important and urgent mission as he is expected to  
4 travel, along with my business partners, somewhere for these  
15:28:13 5 materials ..."

6 Pause there. You do know a Captain Philip Palmer, don't  
7 you?

8 A. Yes, I know Captain Philip Palmer. At that time all of  
9 them joined Foday Sankoh in Abidjan for that peace accord.

15:28:31 10 Q. Now, Captain Philip Palmer was one of the so-called  
11 external delegates, wasn't he?

12 A. They went.

13 Q. Philip Palmer was one of the external delegates, wasn't he?

14 A. Yes.

15:28:52 15 Q. He was later arrested and imprisoned by Sam Bockarie,  
16 wasn't he?

17 A. Yes, I heard of that.

18 Q. No, you did more than hear of that. You would have been  
19 present in Kailahun province when he was a prisoner there,  
15:29:10 20 weren't you?

21 A. At the time that he was arrested, I was not there. I was  
22 in the western jungle.

23 Q. And he had been arrested at some stage along with other  
24 members of the RUF who had attempted to overthrow Foday Sankoh,  
15:29:34 25 weren't they?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. In fact, following Foday Sankoh's arrest in Nigeria in 1996  
28 for possession of arms, they went on the radio and made an  
29 international broadcast that they were now in charge of the RUF,

1 didn't they?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And Philip Palmer was the leader of that attempted coup,  
4 wasn't he?

15:30:11 5 A. Well, after the announcement Sam Bockarie sent a message to  
6 us, those of us who were in the west end. He said he would not  
7 agree to that, for Philip Palmer to become the leader.

8 Q. My question was slightly different. Philip Palmer was the  
9 leader of that coup, wasn't he?

15:30:48 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But at this stage, according to this document, he appears  
12 to be engaged in an attempt to purchase arms for the RUF, doesn't  
13 he? That is what it appears from this document, doesn't it?

14 A. That is what the document is saying, but I don't know  
15:31:19 15 because I was not there. I can't tell.

16 Q. Now when we go on, it continues:

17 "... if and only if the above mentioned amount is  
18 available. These materials will be given to me at discount rates  
19 and to the requested amount, plus the one already at hand. Will  
15:31:44 20 cover in addition all transportation costs for airlifting these  
21 materials."

22 Now, help me. In 1996, given your position within the RUF,  
23 what were the available facilities for airlifting arms and  
24 ammunition to the RUF?

15:32:19 25 A. Like I told you earlier, since we were cut off in 1993 I  
26 did not know about any other arm transaction from anywhere else  
27 to come into Sierra Leone, into the RUF territory. We only  
28 survived on the arms and ammunition we captured from the enemies  
29 from 1993 up to 1998, when I later understood again that arms and

1 ammunition were coming from Liberia.

2 Q. If we go over to the second page of this document we see  
3 this:

4 "The airlifting of these materials to our controlled  
15:33:08 5 territory will be done before any payment for this mission is  
6 done by me."

7 Taking matters in stages, in 1996 what territory did the  
8 RUF control?

9 A. The RUF was in control of Kailahun District, RUF controlled  
15:33:39 10 some parts in the north and some part in the western.

11 MR GRIFFITHS: I wonder, please, if the witness can once  
12 again be shown the map:

13 Q. We will be coming back to that document shortly, but I  
14 would like your assistance, please, in indicating to us, just in  
15:34:06 15 rough terms, the areas under RUF control in June 1996 at the time  
16 of this letter. I wonder if we could move the map, Madam Court  
17 Administrator, so we can see the border with Guinea and Liberia.  
18 I am grateful. Can you just indicate now, please, in June 1996  
19 at the time of this letter, what areas were controlled, just  
15:35:13 20 roughly, by the RUF?

21 A. Okay, at that time the RUF controlled Kailahun, some parts  
22 of Kailahun District, Kailahun District and Kangari Hills. RUF  
23 controlled the area around Kangari Hills and coming back to the  
24 Western Area around Rotifunk.

15:36:07 25 Q. I think you will find that Rotifunk if we look in box 4B.  
26 Madam Court Administrator, I am indicating. Do you see it?  
27 There is Freetown there, there is that square, it is in the  
28 middle of the adjoining square, 4B. Can you see it? Madam  
29 President, can you see where I am indicating?

1           PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I can see it, thank you,  
2 Mr Griffiths, and I think my colleagues can also see.

3           MR GRIFFITHS:

4 Q.     Do you see that? Yes, there you go.

15:37:11 5 A.     Yes, we were around this area in the western. We were in  
6 the bush around Rotifunk.

7 Q.     So we can put the map to one side now. So those were the  
8 areas controlled by the RUF in June 1996, yes?

9 A.     Yes.

15:37:40 10 Q.     Now help me, please. Going back to the second page of that  
11 letter, where in any of those three areas then controlled by the  
12 RUF were there facilities for airlifting in arms and ammunition?

13 A.     Well, at that time when I was in the western Rotifunk area  
14 I never heard about airlifting of arms and ammunition to those  
15:38:26 15 areas, those controlled areas.

16 Q.     My question is different. Were there to your knowledge any  
17 facilities in any of the three areas you have indicated where  
18 arms and ammunition could have been airlifted in?

19 A.     Yes, there were places, because Kailahun had the field and  
15:39:08 20 there were some other areas, but I did not see them and I did not  
21 hear about it.

22 Q.     Can you help me with this: Do you have any idea from who  
23 these arms and ammunition were to be purchased that your leader  
24 is talking about in this letter?

15:39:50 25 A.     I don't know, because I was not present when they wrote it.  
26 I don't know where they discussed it. I can't tell.

27 Q.     But would you agree that this letter appears to be an  
28 attempt by your former leader to get money from a Libyan to buy  
29 arms from an unknown individual or individuals? Would you agree



1 with that?

2 A. What? I did not get that.

3 Q. Would you agree that in this letter your leader appears to  
4 be begging a Libyan for money?

15:40:55 5 A. Yes, according to the letter.

6 Q. And would you agree that he wants that money to buy arms  
7 from unnamed individuals?

8 A. Well, it is likely that he would have received the money to  
9 do something else even if he did not purchase arms and  
10 ammunition.

15:41:27

11 MR GRIFFITHS: Would your Honour give me a moment?

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

13 MR GRIFFITHS: I need to find a document, I'm sorry. Would  
14 your Honour give me a moment? I think I may have to come back to  
15 this point after some research.

15:42:52

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well, Mr Griffiths.

17 MR GRIFFITHS:

18 Q. Now the period when you say you became aware of supplies of  
19 arms and ammunition coming from Liberia to Sierra Leone was after  
20 1998, is that right?

15:43:26

21 A. It was in 1998.

22 Q. And for what period of time were you aware of arms being  
23 shipped from Liberia to Sierra Leone?

24 A. From 1998 to 2001.

15:43:58

25 Q. And during that period you were on assignment 1, weren't  
26 you?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. And, if I understand your assignment, you were in a very  
29 good position to know about the movement of arms and ammunitions,

1 weren't you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You've told us about ULIMO and you were aware of ULIMO's  
4 activities in Lofa County, weren't you?

15:44:49 5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Those activities effectively only ended shortly before the  
7 presidential elections in Liberia in July 1997, didn't they?

8 A. It was at that time that what happened? I did not get that  
9 clear.

15:45:17 10 Q. ULIMO were active fighting against Charles Taylor in Lofa  
11 County and elsewhere in Liberia up until about July 1997, weren't  
12 they?

13 A. Well, I don't know the time ULIMO stopped fighting because  
14 at that time I was not in the Kailahun District for me to be able  
15:45:46 15 to know around that 1996 to 1997.

16 Q. But surely you were listening to the BBC and other news  
17 broadcasts?

18 A. Well, I can't recall that now.

19 Q. Very well, let's move on. Does the acronym LURD mean  
15:46:12 20 anything to you?

21 A. That was another group, or some other fighters who were in  
22 Liberia.

23 Q. Where did they come from?

24 A. Well, we understood about them that they were from Guinea  
15:46:40 25 and they entered Liberia.

26 Q. And they entered Liberia to do what?

27 A. Well, they entered Liberia to fight against the Taylor  
28 government.

29 Q. They were attempting to overthrow the Taylor government,

1 weren't they?

2 A. Yes, they were trying to fight and remove Charles Taylor  
3 from power.

4 Q. And you would have been in Monrovia at the time that LURD  
15:47:14 5 launched their offensive against Liberia on your evidence. You  
6 would have been in Monrovia, wouldn't you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. When did LURD launch their offensive from Guinea?

9 A. When the LURD forces started attacking Liberia, they were  
15:47:46 10 coming from Guinea, they will come and attack Voinjama or Kolahun  
11 and the NPFL soldiers - sometimes Benjamin Yeaten used to tell me  
12 to send message that the Pa Charles Taylor said Issa Sesay should  
13 send some RUF boys to come and fight and that used to happen.  
14 The RUF used to come and fight in the --

15:48:17 15 Q. Let's try my question. When did the LURD offensive begin?

16 A. It happened in 2000.

17 Q. Wasn't that in 1999?

18 A. In 1999 I knew of a group that came that referred to  
19 themselves as Mosquito Spray. The Mosquito Sprays entered and  
15:49:07 20 after they were repelled it was in 2000 now that we heard about  
21 another group that was called the LURD forces.

22 Q. Yes, and the LURD forces like ULIMO came to control Lofa  
23 County, didn't they?

24 A. Yes.

15:49:36 25 Q. Including that area where the borders of Liberia and Sierra  
26 Leone meet by Koindu?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. And LURD were, as you accept, opposed to the Charles Taylor  
29 government, weren't they?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So help me, please. After LURD took control of Lofa County  
3 how did arms shipments get from Liberia to the RUF, according to  
4 you?

15:50:29 5 A. When the LURD forces used to enter Liberia, we always  
6 coordinated. Benjamin Yeaten was always there for that. As the  
7 orders given to him by Charles Taylor came, the RUF troops will  
8 come from Sierra Leone and his own troops will join together to  
9 clear off the road between Voinjama, Kolahun and Foya. And after  
15:50:58 10 that if any shipment was to take place, that is arms and  
11 ammunition to go to Sierra Leone, we could use the road, or if  
12 Benjamin Yeaten was based in Foya we will use helicopter to drop  
13 the arms and ammunition in Foya and from there vehicles will  
14 collect them from there and take them to Sierra Leone.

15:51:16 15 Q. But LURD controlled the border, so help us. How were arms  
16 being got to the RUF by road during that period after LURD  
17 attacked?

18 A. LURD used to come and attack and later both the RUF and  
19 Charles Taylor's troops will go and clear off the forces. That  
15:51:53 20 led to the issue that Benjamin Yeaten said his dad, Charles  
21 Taylor, asked that we should attack Guinea to ease the pressure.  
22 That was the reason why they brought the whole manpower together  
23 to go and attack Guinea, so that they could free up the area.

24 Q. Are you saying that during that period after 1999 when LURD  
15:52:25 25 attacked that every time you wanted to get arms to the RUF  
26 effectively a path had to be cleared through Lofa County to get  
27 through?

28 A. If the road was not clear, that was the reason why Charles  
29 Taylor had helicopters. We would load the arms and ammunition in

1 there and then they will fly it straight to Foya and if Benjamin  
2 Yeaten was not there, if there was another commander there like a  
3 commander who was called Amphibian Father, he will be there to  
4 organise to see that the ammunition moves across to meet Issa  
15:53:19 5 Sesay in Sierra Leone.

6 Q. Well, I am sorry, but it is a matter of some importance, so  
7 I will have to press you on this. Foya is in Liberia, isn't it?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And what is the distance from Foya to the Sierra Leonean  
15:53:43 10 border?

11 A. There is a little bit of long distance. It is a little bit  
12 far. It is far.

13 Q. And Foya is also very close to the Guinean border from  
14 whence LURD attacked, isn't it?

15:54:10 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So arms being airlifted into Foya would risk falling into  
17 the hands of LURD, wouldn't they?

18 A. No. Before the airlift would move, the securities on the  
19 ground would be deployed and they would deploy manpower and they  
15:54:34 20 will send information to Monrovia ensuring that the ground was  
21 safe before the airlifting will happen.

22 Q. But even once the arms and ammunition have been airlifted  
23 into Foya, they still have to travel by road to get across the  
24 border, don't they?

15:54:58 25 A. Yes, securities were deployed by day, because there is a  
26 river between Guinea and the Sierra Leone border in that area, so  
27 before ever a vehicle could travel there would be securities by  
28 the river bank, so if enemies were to cross over there, the  
29 securities must know about it.

1 Q. During the period when you were on assignment 1, which  
2 began in 1999 you tell us and lasted until - it began in 1999 and  
3 lasted until 2001, how many shipments of arms do you say went  
4 from Liberia to Sierra Leone?

15:56:09 5 A. It was a large amount. I cannot actually tell the quantity  
6 now.

7 Q. Let's pose the question differently. How many shipments  
8 would there be per month?

9 A. They did not send arms and ammunition per month, but at any  
15:56:38 10 time Issa Sesay needed ammunition he will send a message to me  
11 and I will in turn pass over the message to Benjamin Yeaten and  
12 in return he will pass it to Charles Taylor. Sometimes in a  
13 month it will happen four times. It was not actually stagnant.

14 Q. Well, can you help us, how many in a year?

15:57:09 15 A. It was plenty. I can't recall the amount. I can't.

16 Q. And which route was normally taken for the shipment of  
17 these arms and ammunition? Can you help us with a route?

18 A. At the time enemies will not be present on the way, when I  
19 took the ammunition, if I were to take the ammunition along at  
15:57:40 20 the time I had now got the pick-up, I will go through Gbarnga,  
21 from Gbarnga I will take the route to Zorzor, from Zorzor I will  
22 go to Voinjama, Kolahun, Kolahun, from there I go to Foya and  
23 from Foya I will go to Koindu, from Koindu I will go to Buedu,  
24 Buedu I will go to Kailahun. That was the route I used to take.

15:58:06 25 Q. And can you help us, please, and it is important, for what  
26 period of time were you able to drive that particular route?

27 Let's start with did that start in 1999, you driving that route?

28 A. No, it happened in 2000. It was in 2000 that I used to  
29 drive there.

1 Q. Up until that point how were the arms being transported to  
2 Sierra Leone?

3 A. Before what time?

4 Q. Before the time in 2000 when you were driving a pick-up  
15:58:57 5 along the route you have just described, prior to that how were  
6 arms being transported to Sierra Leone?

7 A. Well, during 1998, when I had known that arms and  
8 ammunition were coming from Liberia into Sierra Leone, I used to  
9 see Jungle and others using vans and trucks to take arms and  
15:59:27 10 ammunition.

11 Q. When you say you saw them, did you in fact travel with  
12 them?

13 A. No, I did not travel with them.

14 Q. So can I take it then that so far as 1998 and 1999 is  
15:59:51 15 concerned, you personally never transported arms to Sierra Leone?

16 A. No.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Sorry, Mr Griffiths, we have got the two  
18 negatives again, "never" and "no". I think he is agreeing with  
19 you, but --

16:00:16 20 MR GRIFFITHS: Let's clarify:

21 Q. Is it that you are agreeing with me that during 1998/1999  
22 you personally did not transport arms to Sierra Leone? Are you  
23 agreeing with me?

24 A. Yes.

16:00:31 25 Q. So you only began physically yourself transporting arms to  
26 Sierra Leone in 2000, is that right?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. Which month in 2000?

29 A. I can't recall the month, but that was after Issa Sesay had

1 taken over the RUF leadership, but I can't recall the month.

2 Q. And when did you personally stop transporting arms to  
3 Sierra Leone?

4 A. It stopped in 2001.

16:01:16 5 Q. So would this be fair then: You can only speak from your  
6 own experience as to arms shipments for a period of a year or so  
7 between 2000 and 2001, is that right?

8 A. Yes, it was at that time that I personally used to take  
9 arms and ammunition to Sierra Leone. That is in 2000/2001.

16:01:54 10 Q. For a period of about a year, is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you at no stage ever transported arms to the RUF when  
13 Sam Bockarie was in charge of the RUF.

14 A. No.

16:02:16 15 Q. You only ever transported arms to the RUF during the period  
16 when Issa Sesay was in charge.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And during that period that you were transporting arms for  
19 the RUF according to you, where was Sam Bockarie?

16:02:51 20 A. Sam Bockarie was in Monrovia.

21 Q. And did you see Sam Bockarie on a regular basis during that  
22 period?

23 A. Yes, I used to see him in Monrovia.

24 Q. Was he staying at the guesthouse?

16:03:17 25 A. No, because he had a problem with the RUF and so when he  
26 came to Monrovia, Charles Taylor gave him a house there. That  
27 was where he was living.

28 Q. Now, you told us this morning about two occasions when you  
29 went to Roberts International Airfield in the early hours of the



1 morning, with Benjamin Yeaten, when aeroplanes landed loaded with  
2 arms and ammunition. Do you remember telling us that?

3 A. Yes.

16:04:13 4 Q. On one of those occasions, the first occasion I think, the  
5 container of arms was taken to a warehouse in Monrovia, is that  
6 right?

7 A. They took it to White Flower in Charles Taylor's warehouse.

8 Q. Where did the second consignment which came into Roberts  
9 International Airfield go?

16:04:46 10 A. The second consignment, Benjamin Yeaten told the ATU  
11 securities to unload them and transport them into a house that  
12 was guarded by the ATU. He said they should pack everything  
13 there and from there we went back to Monrovia.

14 Q. Now, those two shipments of arms which went to White Flower  
16:05:16 15 and a house controlled by the ATU respectively, what happened to  
16 those arms?

17 A. What I know is that the first consignment that was in the  
18 20 feet container was taken to White Flower and it was off-loaded  
19 there into the warehouse and the one that was at the Lungi  
16:06:00 20 International Airport, controlled by the ATU, after we had  
21 unloaded everything from there we came back to Monrovia. I did  
22 not know after that what happened to it.

23 Q. Let me ask you bluntly then. As far as you are aware, did  
24 either of those two shipments of arms end up in Sierra Leone?

16:06:35 25 A. When any message came from Sierra Leone for me to take  
26 along arms and ammunition and when I told Benjamin Yeaten to tell  
27 his dad, Charles Taylor, he would say in response that his dad  
28 said there is no problem. So I used to receive ammunition from  
29 White Flower. I used to receive ammunition from the mansion and

1 I used to receive ammunition from the farm and I know that I used  
2 to take arms and ammunition along.

3 Q. I am sorry to interrupt you, witness. I am asking you  
4 about two specific shipments of arms which came into Roberts  
16:07:23 5 International Airfield by aeroplane. To your knowledge, did  
6 either of those two shipments end up in Sierra Leone?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Which ones?

9 A. The one that went to White Flower.

16:07:52 10 Q. Well, help me then, when did that shipment come in? Give  
11 me a date.

12 A. I can only recall the year, but I can't remember the month.  
13 It was in 2000 that it happened.

14 Q. Help us, please, was it near the beginning of the year, the  
16:08:14 15 end of the year, or what?

16 A. It was in the middle of the year.

17 Q. And help me, please. So far you have told us about it  
18 being transported from the airfield to White Flower. How soon  
19 after it arrived at White Flower did it end up in Sierra Leone?

16:08:52 20 A. After we had taken the consignment to White Flower it did  
21 not take up to a month that Issa Sesay requested for ammunition,  
22 so I went to Benjamin Yeaten and he later told me that his dad  
23 had approved to give the ammunition. So I went to White Flower  
24 together with him and he gave me the ammunition for me to carry  
16:09:25 25 it.

26 Q. How do you know that the ammunition you were given - and I  
27 am basing my question purely on what you have told us. How do  
28 you know that the ammunition you were given came from that  
29 airlift?

1 A. How I managed to know, at that time even before they came  
2 with that huge amount of consignment I used to go with Benjamin  
3 Yeaten to the place and the material present there was not  
4 plenty. So when Benjamin Yeaten - when that material came and  
16:10:10 5 Benjamin Yeaten opened the container I saw in there and it were  
6 those same materials that he gave me to be taken to Sierra Leone  
7 from that consignment.

8 MS HOLLIS: Before we go any further, I am going to ask for  
9 two redactions and they go to areas that are unique and specific  
16:10:30 10 that were brought up in private session. Now on my screen the  
11 first area of redaction I would like from the public record is at  
12 my page 121, starting at line 14, "When any message came from  
13 Sierra Leone" and then in that paragraph it goes on to say, "I  
14 used to receive ammunition from", and it gives the location,  
16:10:59 15 White Flower, the mansion, the farm, "and I used to take arms and  
16 ammunition along".

17 Now that specific information concerning a unique role was  
18 the reason that we went into private session and I would ask that  
19 be redacted from the public record.

16:11:18 20 And if I might cite the second one as well and it is at my  
21 page 122 and on my lines it begins on line 16 to 18 and it says,  
22 "So I went to White Flower together with him and he gave me the  
23 ammunition to carry it". I ask that be redacted from the public  
24 record for the same reasons.

16:11:59 25 MR GRIFFITHS: Madam President, I don't want to appear  
26 blasé at all about this, but it does seem to me somewhat  
27 difficult to see how any member of the public reading that  
28 passage of the transcript would be able to specifically identify  
29 this witness merely from the passages quoted by my learned friend

1 and I am anxious that we not keep from the public material when  
2 it's unnecessary to take that step.

3 [Trial Chamber conferred]

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: The Bench is of the view that both  
16:13:19 5 sections are insufficiently concise or personal to the witness to  
6 identify him and the application is refused.

7 MR GRIFFITHS: I am grateful, Madam President:

8 Q. Can I move on to another related topic of diamonds, please.

9 At one stage you yourself were involved in diamond mining,  
16:13:56 10 weren't you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. When?

13 A. That happened after Sam Bockarie had come from Freetown and  
14 based in Kenema when we had captured Kenema. That was in 1997.

16:14:27 15 Q. And for how long in 1997 were you involved in diamond  
16 mining?

17 A. When we entered Tongo I can't recall the month now, but it  
18 was in the rainy season that we entered Tongo Field. So we were  
19 there up to the time - up to the time the ECOMOG pushed us out  
16:15:01 20 from there, from Kenema.

21 Q. Now during that period you had people mining for you,  
22 didn't you?

23 A. Yes, the soldiers who were with me did it.

24 Q. But just so that we are clear, what diamonds they found  
16:15:34 25 were given to you as their employer effectively, is that right?

26 A. The diamonds - the big diamond that they ever got was about  
27 just a carat and the others were small ones.

28 Q. That's not my question. Let me try my question again.

29 They were effectively mining for you as their employer, weren't

1 they?

2 A. No, it didn't mean that I employed them. They were my  
3 soldiers. They were with me, so they were doing the mining -  
4 they were doing the mining, so if we got the diamonds I, as the  
16:16:41 5 boss who was amongst them, I will go and sell the diamond and  
6 then when I come back and then I share with them.

7 Q. So you were the boss?

8 A. Yes, for those soldiers.

9 Q. How many soldiers?

16:16:58 10 A. There were five.

11 Q. So you had five people mining for you?

12 A. Yes, because at that time we were not paid in the RUF, so  
13 we were trying hard to get our own living.

14 Q. And you would have been aged 22 in 1997, wouldn't you?

16:17:27 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So a young man of 22 had five people mining for him and you  
17 would go off and sell everything they found in Kenema, would you?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Were they forced labour?

16:17:55 20 A. Amongst my group they were soldiers. It was not forced  
21 labour.

22 Q. Were people being forced to mine at that time where your  
23 men were mining?

24 A. I don't understand. Do you mean the ones who were mining  
16:18:22 25 for me, the soldiers?

26 Q. Let's forget you for the minute. We had mining going on in  
27 this area where you were located, the people who were doing the  
28 mining in that area for the most part, were they being forced to  
29 do it?

1 A. Yes, when we were in Tongo Field there was a mining that  
2 went on that they called government mining. In that civilians  
3 were forced to go and do the mining.

4 Q. Are you saying there was also some private enterprise  
16:19:15 5 mining going on by RUF soldiers, combatants?

6 A. Yes, it used to happen.

7 Q. And effectively that was a means by which the soldiers  
8 could pay themselves?

9 A. Yes.

16:19:41 10 Q. And they would sell those diamonds privately on the market,  
11 would they?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Who would they sell them to?

14 A. This diamond mining that went on, there was government  
16:20:08 15 mining that went on. In that case when they mined, if they got  
16 diamond that would be handed over to Sam Bockarie. But in the  
17 case of the soldier mining, if they mined, if they got anything  
18 there were people in Tongo Field that we referred to as  
19 jewellers, they would buy the diamonds. Or sometimes some people  
16:20:29 20 would travel with it to Kenema to sell them to the Lebanese.

21 That was how it used to happen.

22 Q. And help me. This was going on in an RUF controlled  
23 territory, so where would those privately sold diamonds end up?  
24 Where would they be exported to, do you have any idea?

16:21:00 25 A. No.

26 Q. Would they be exported to Freetown, for example?

27 A. Well, I don't know. If the soldiers got any small diamond  
28 or a big one they would go and sell to the Lebanese or to the  
29 Mandingo people that were called the jewellers. That was what I

1 knew, but I did not know the people who bought the diamonds, the  
2 places they took it to.

3 Q. Did they go to Monrovia, for example?

4 A. I don't know.

16:21:43 5 Q. But later you were involved personally in the diamond  
6 business, weren't you?

7 A. Yes, that was the time I was in Togo. I did not have any  
8 other way of getting my living except I did the mining.

9 Q.

16:22:00 10 [Redacted]

11

12 MS HOLLIS: Your Honour, I am going to once again object.

13 These are not isolated facts on the record. They are facts that  
14 are building, building, building. I think that is appropriate

16:22:26 15 for private session. You cannot just take these in isolation and  
16 they will lead to the identity of this witness. I would object  
17 to that in public session and I would ask that be redacted.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, your response to the  
19 objection?

16:22:47 20 MR GRIFFITHS: Well, through an excess of caution I will  
21 accept that objection because of the testimony of the witness  
22 regarding his association with that particular individual.

23 [Trial Chamber conferred]

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: We agree and by consent the objection is  
16:23:13 25 upheld. It's part of the - it's really a question, Ms Hollis.

26 On my transcript it is page 128, line 3 and line 4.

27 MS HOLLIS: That is what I am looking at, your Honour,

28 [Redacted]

29 That question is the one I was

1 talking about.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is the bit that starts on line 3 of  
3 my copy and so that particular question would be redacted, Madam  
4 Court Attendant, please, and if there is anyone here in the  
16:23:51 5 public gallery or among the monitors who has heard that question,  
6 it is not to be repeated outside the precincts of this Court.  
7 Mr Griffiths, in the light of that order are you pursuing a line  
8 of questioning in relation to this particular part of the  
9 evidence?

16:24:10 10 MR GRIFFITHS: I will approach the matter differently,  
11 Madam President, and it may be that if I go into any further  
12 detail tomorrow, which is likely, then I will embark on that in  
13 private session.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. We will entertain that  
16:24:33 15 application when it arises, but if you can assure us that the  
16 questions can be now put without concern being raised.

17 MR GRIFFITHS: Yes:

18 Q. In 1999 you have indicated that you went on an assignment,  
19 do you agree?

16:25:05 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. From the commencement of that assignment, the first one,  
22 until the conclusion of the second assignment, can you help us as  
23 to the number of occasions you were aware of diamond transactions  
24 taking place? Is that question clear enough for you?

16:25:36 25 A. Yes, it is clear.

26 Q. And can you help me as to a number?

27 A. The time I was at assignment 1, that happened in 2000 - '99  
28 to 2001. Issa Sesay took diamonds there. Issa Sesay took  
29 diamonds there once. Eddie Kanneh took diamonds there two times.



1     Gibriil Massaquoi took diamonds there once. So at that time I  
2     recall it happened four times that I know about.

3     Q.     So four times, yes?

4             JUDGE SEBUTINDE: The destination of the diamonds is not  
16:26:58 5     indicated. I don't know if this is something you should say in  
6     open session, but I personally am not sure. Took them where?

7             MR GRIFFITHS: I think we can deal with it in open session  
8     without it causing any difficulties:

9     Q.     Now, on the four occasions that you have told us about,  
16:27:21 10     what was the destination of those diamonds, please?

11     A.     These diamonds, when they brought them they will meet - we  
12     used to meet General Ibrahim. We will all sit and arrange and  
13     some of the diamonds will go to Charles Taylor whilst some will  
14     be sold to get some other items like satellite phones, like  
16:27:59 15     computers, or some other things that I cannot recall now.

16     Q.     So, just so that I am clear, a portion of those diamonds,  
17     if I understand you, would go to Charles Taylor for safekeeping,  
18     is that right?

19     A.     Yes.

16:28:24 20     Q.     A portion of those diamonds would be sold independently by  
21     Ibrahim Bah to buy materials for the RUF, is that right?

22     A.     The type of materials I am trying to talk about are not  
23     arms and ammunition. They are like computers, satellite phones,  
24     or some other food items that the soldiers would need.

16:28:58 25     Q.     But Ibrahim Bah was effectively working as an agent for the  
26     RUF, was he?

27     A.     Yes.

28     Q.     What nationality is he?

29     A.     He was from Burkina. Burkina Faso.

1 Q. As far as you are aware, did he conduct his business  
2 operations in Burkina Faso?

3 A. Well, what I know about General Ibrahim is that when he was  
4 in Monrovia, whatsoever thing he did, according to he and  
16:29:47 5 Benjamin Yeaten, Charles Taylor knew about it. He knew about his  
6 presence in Monrovia and that was what he told me.

7 Q. Let me try my question again. Did Ibrahim Bah, who was you  
8 tell us from Burkina Faso, conduct his business operations in  
9 that country?

16:30:21 10 A. The business operations that he undertook, he will go to  
11 Burkina and come back. At the same time he used to go to Charles  
12 Taylor.

13 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, we need to take care of this  
14 redaction before the time goes.

16:30:37 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think we are up to time actually.

16 MR GRIFFITHS: I think we are.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: We may have to deal with this redaction  
18 in Chambers. We are not entirely - we are ad idem at the part  
19 that is in question, it is just that the particular order does  
16:30:56 20 not appear to - or we need to check if it conforms to --

21 MR GRIFFITHS: I no difficulty with it taking place in  
22 Chambers, your Honour, because I think all parties are aware of  
23 the particular offending passage.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the time is up for this  
16:31:12 25 afternoon. I realise you were answering a question when you were  
26 interrupted. We are now going to adjourn until tomorrow morning  
27 at 9.30. I again remind you, as I have done in the past, that  
28 you are not to discuss your evidence with any other person until  
29 all your evidence is finished. Do you understand?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, Madam President.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please adjourn court until tomorrow  
3 morning at 9.30.

4 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.30 p.m.  
16:31:49 5 to be reconvened on Tuesday, 8 July 2008 at  
6 9.30 a.m.]

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