



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

THURSDAY, 25 MARCH 2010
9.00 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before the Judges:

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

For Chambers:

Ms Sidney Thompson

For the Registry:

Ms Rachel Irura
Ms Zainab Fofanah

For the Prosecution:

Mr Nicholas Koumjian
Ms Kathryn Howarth
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Terry Munyard
Mr Morris Anyah
Ms Kathryn Hovington

1 Thursday, 25 March 2010

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.00 a.m.]

09:00:16 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning. We'll take appearances
6 first, please.

7 MR KOUMJIAN: Good morning, Madam President, your Honours,
8 and counsel opposite. For the Prosecution this morning, Kathryn
9 Howarth, Maja Dimitrova and myself, Nicolas Koumjian.

09:03:38 10 MR ANYAH: Good morning, Madam President. Good morning,
11 your Honours. Good morning, counsel opposite. Appearing for the
12 Defence this morning are Terry Munyard and myself, Morris Anyah.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: There seem to be no preliminary matters.
14 So, Mr Witness, I'm going to remind you that yesterday you took
09:03:56 15 the oath to tell the truth. That oath is still binding on you
16 today.

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, please continue.

19 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President.

09:04:03 20 WITNESS: DCT-215 [On former oath]

21 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR ANYAH [Continued]

22 Q. Good morning, Mr Vincent.

23 A. Good morning.

24 Q. Before we commence I would like to remind you once again of
09:04:25 25 something I said yesterday and that concerns the interpretation.
26 I would like you to go very slowly today when you speak, to
27 listen carefully to what the interpreter says, to wait for the
28 interpreter to finish before you provide a response to a
29 question. Do you follow that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Yesterday afternoon right before the recess you were
3 telling the Court about how you were at work one afternoon in
4 Bong Mines when the NPFL captured Bong Mines. Do you remember
09:05:05 5 telling us about that yesterday afternoon?

6 A. Yes, I remember that very well.

7 Q. More specifically - and I will read from the transcript,
8 this at page 37966 of yesterday's transcript starting at line
9 21 - Mr Vincent, the Presiding Judge, President of the Court,
09:05:32 10 asked you to repeat your answer and you gave the following

11 response. You said:

12 "Well, I said I was at work on that afternoon of June when
13 the NPFL entered Bong Mines without shooting. We were at work.
14 They called us out of the plant and our hands were raised up in
09:05:52 15 the air. We walked to the bus stop. And that was how Bong Mines
16 was captured, like I said."

17 Now, Mr Vincent, do you remember what day in June this was?

18 A. Yes, I remember that it was on June 4, 1990 [microphone not
19 activated].

09:06:16 20 Q. Yes. And this is a good pace that we should try and
21 maintain throughout the rest of the day, if possible. You said
22 you were at the plant. To which plant are you referring when
23 these events occurred?

24 A. When I spoke about the plant, that is to say, I was in the
09:06:40 25 plant called the Concentrated Department.

26 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked
27 to speak up a little? [Microphone not activated] inaudible.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please pause, Mr Witness. The
29 interpreter wants you to speak louder into the microphone and

1 repeat your answer. He didn't hear. Please repeat your answer.

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, I said it was on June 4.

3 MR ANYAH:

09:07:11

4 Q. You were telling us about the plant that you were working
5 at when these events happened.

6 A. It was the plant called the Concentrated Department. In
7 short, it's CD.

8 Q. What kind of plant was it?

09:07:35

9 A. The plant I'm talking about is where - when the iron has
10 been grind to dust, we'll have to pull it out.

11 Q. How many men and women were working with you at that plant?

12 A. Well, it was a working site. Approximately we were even
13 more than 150 men or more.

09:08:02

14 Q. Were all those persons - or about that number of persons
15 present when the NPFL captured Bong Mines on June 4, 1990?

16 A. Well, it's a work site. People had day outs and other
17 people were at work, so I wouldn't be able to tell whether
18 everybody was present, but I know I was working when Bong Mines
19 was captured. And when he we walked to go to the bus stop and,
20 finally, I ended up saying that Bong Mines was captured that way.

09:08:31

21 Q. Did you encounter any NPFL personnel on that day, June 4,
22 1990?

23 A. Yes. And it was not me alone. It was the entire
24 workforce. When we came to the bus stop, they asked us to form a
25 queue because by then we were civilians. We did not know what
26 they referred to as a queue, but when we got --

09:08:57

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Whenever I do this it means you are
28 beginning to hurry. Please slow down.

29 THE WITNESS: Okay, I understand. Yes. So when we got to

1 the bus stop, we were all asked to form a queue. Whilst we were
2 in the queue, a young man that I met there for the first time who
3 came to me with a threatening face was one Isaac Mongor that I
4 recall. I was not alone. He walked all - everybody in the line.
09:09:48 5 He came to me and asked me, "What is your name?" And I called my
6 name. He said, "What tribe are you?" I said, "I'm a Gola man."
7 He said, "But do you speak Gola?" I said, "Yes." From there he
8 called another Gola guy who was part of them and he said, "This
9 man and I should speak my tribe," and that was how I spoke for
09:10:14 10 him.

11 MR ANYAH:

12 Q. Mr Vincent, let's pause and consider some of what you've
13 just said. You said you were at a bus stop with some men. Were
14 these men, men that worked with you at the iron ore plant?

09:10:29 15 A. Yes, we were all working in the company. The entire
16 company. You know we had various departments, so everybody was
17 there. Our own department was about 150 and other departments
18 were there, and we thought that maybe we were even more than 900.

19 Q. When you got to the bus stop you said you were asked to
09:10:50 20 form a queue or line. Who asked you to form the queue or line?

21 A. Well, it was the fighters. The NPFL fighters. By then
22 they called themselves freedom fighters. They asked us to form
23 the lines and the lines were formed.

24 Q. The person you referred to as Isaac Mongor, did you know
09:11:12 25 that person's name on that day, on June 4, 1990?

26 A. No, I did not know his name, anyway, and I dare not ask him
27 at that time.

28 Q. The person you referred to as Isaac Mongor, to which group
29 did that person belong on June 4, 1990?

1 A. On that day he was amongst the fighters. So on that day I
2 believed that he was an NPFL fighter.

3 Q. You said you were asked about your tribe and asked to have
4 a conversation with somebody else. Can you tell us a little bit
09:11:58 5 more about that.

6 A. Well, when they asked for my tribe, I thought they wanted
7 to get clear confirmation as to whether --

8 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the last bit of the
9 witness's statement was not clear to the interpreter.

09:12:19 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please pause, Mr Witness. The last part
11 of your answer was not clear to the interpreters because this is
12 what you said, "When they asked for my tribe, I thought they
13 wanted to get clear confirmation as to whether." And then what
14 did you say after that?

09:12:34 15 THE WITNESS: Clear confirmation as to whether I'm a Gola
16 man for true.

17 MR ANYAH:

18 Q. Did you on that day in fact speak the Gola language with
19 another person present at the bus stop?

09:12:48 20 A. Yes, it happened.

21 Q. And with whom did you speak?

22 A. No, I do not really recall that man's name and I don't even
23 remember up to this moment. But he was speaking to me the Gola
24 language --

09:13:06 25 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked
26 to be audible.

27 MR ANYAH:

28 Q. Mr Vincent, just listen to me and try and follow the
29 instructions. You need to raise your voice a little bit more and

1 you need to speak a little bit slower. Now, my question --

2 A. Yes, I understand.

3 Q. Thank you. My question was about the Gola man you spoke
4 with at the bus stop. I'm not asking you to recall his name.

09:13:30 5 Was he a civilian or was he part of the group that Isaac Mongor
6 belonged to?

7 A. Yes, he was part of the fighters.

8 Q. And do you know why you were asked to speak Gola with this
9 man?

09:13:50 10 A. Well, I believe that the only reason was that, like I said,
11 to really find out whether I was a true Gola man.

12 Q. Do you know whether you would have suffered any
13 consequences if you could not speak the Gola language?

14 A. Yes, I knew that. And the group that was targeted at that
09:14:19 15 time, if I were not a Gola man I would have been classified to be
16 one of them, whether Mandingo or Krahn.

17 Q. When you say the group that was targeted at that time, to
18 which group or groups are you referring?

19 A. Well, I spoke of the Mandingos and the Krahn ethnic groups.

09:14:45 20 Q. And who targeted the Mandingos and the Krahns?

21 A. Well, the fighters were targeting the Mandingos and the
22 Krahn. The reason they gave to us was that during the
23 administration of the late President Doe, the Gios were being
24 targeted by the Krahn and the targeting of the Mandingo was
09:15:17 25 because the Mandingos gave war support to - that is they put
26 things together and gave to Samuel Doe to fight against them, the
27 rebels.

28 Q. Do you know whether the targeting of Mandingos and Krahns
29 was systemic, that is, throughout Liberia at that time?

1 A. No. It was mainly for that particular ethnic group, the
2 Gios.

3 Q. What do you mean it was mainly for that particular ethnic
4 group, the Gios?

09:15:56 5 A. It was from them, because to me I understood everything to
6 be like something like they were trying to retaliate.

7 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the witness is still
8 running fast.

9 MR ANYAH:

09:16:10 10 Q. Mr Vincent, slow down a little bit. You were saying you
11 understood something about retaliation. Please continue.

12 A. Yes. What I understood was that it was a retaliation.
13 Please, if I'm going faster I don't know, but I have to be
14 somehow - I will take my time. I will try to do my best. When I
09:16:33 15 talk about - please repeat the question.

16 Q. Yes. You were telling the Court about retaliation and one
17 group retaliating against another. Can you continue?

18 A. Yes. I said they were retaliating because when the former
19 President or the late President Samuel Doe was in power, the
09:16:58 20 Krahn were killing the - no, I mean the Gios. And then the
21 second group that got involved in that was the Mandingos. They
22 contributed money and gave to Samuel Doe as support for the war.
23 They said that was the reason why these two tribes were being
24 targeted by the Gios.

09:17:25 25 Q. Now, Mr Vincent, do you know whether there was a policy by
26 NPFL fighters to target Mandingos and Krahns?

27 A. Well, as far as I understand --

28 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, that again is not clear to
29 the interpreter.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please pause, Mr Witness. The
2 interpreter is not getting you, either because you are speaking
3 quietly, not loudly enough, or you are speaking too quickly. The
4 question was, "Do you know whether there was a policy by the NPFL
09:18:07 5 fighters to target Mandingos and Krahs?" He didn't hear what
6 you said, so repeat your answer.

7 THE WITNESS: My answer is, no, it was not the NPFL policy.

8 MR ANYAH:

9 Q. How do you know that?

09:18:25 10 A. Well, the way I understood it at that time, I will give an
11 example. Maybe if you have children in the house and you are the
12 elder brother and a child does something to you without
13 consulting the --

14 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the witness is still
09:18:47 15 running fast.

16 MR ANYAH:

17 Q. Mr Vincent, it's okay. Just take a deep breath and slow
18 down a bit. Okay?

19 A. Yes.

09:18:56 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think it would also help, sir,
21 Mr Witness, if you sat up. Because now you are slouching like
22 this. Sit up, speak into the microphone. We're all on serious
23 business here, including you. We're not just relaxing.

24 THE WITNESS: Yes.

09:19:15 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: So that should help now. Please repeat
26 your answer.

27 MR ANYAH:

28 Q. Mr Vincent, you were giving us an example of children in a
29 house or home. Can you continue?

1 A. Yes. I said the example I gave was that when there are
2 children in the house and you are the elder brother among them,
3 without parents knowing the situation between you and the younger
4 ones and you take action on them before the parents get to know
09:19:52 5 maybe you would have done what you wanted to do.

6 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the witness is still
7 running fast.

8 MR ANYAH:

9 Q. Well, Mr Vincent, in the example you gave you were saying
09:20:08 10 that the senior brother or sisters in the house would do
11 something without the parents knowing. Can you continue and
12 speak slowly?

13 A. Yes. I'm saying it again. Having children in the house
14 and there is an elder brother, without the parents knowing that
09:20:40 15 the younger ones have offended you, the elder one, and without
16 them complaining - without you complaining to the parents, you go
17 about taking your own action and maybe you would act beyond
18 expectation. Then later the parents know and they intervene.
19 That is how I understood the whole situation. That act was not a
09:21:06 20 NPFL policy as far as I'm concerned.

21 Q. In the example you just gave, who would be the parents in
22 the household?

23 A. Well, the parents could be the administrative head. Things
24 would be going on. Things were going on then but they didn't
09:21:28 25 know about it. It was later that they knew about it and they
26 tried to put the situation under control.

27 Q. When you say the administrative head, do you mean the
28 administrative head of the NPFL?

29 A. Yes, that's what I mean. Yes.

1 Q. In the example you just gave, who would be the older
2 brother who takes the action against the children in the house?

3 A. Well, the older brothers were those that felt that they
4 were affected by the Krahn ethnic group. They came and trained
09:22:05 5 the younger ones. What they explained to them, that was what
6 they acted on. That we were in this country, Doe took over but
7 he didn't want us to be in his government, so he started to
8 eliminate us. This was how we fled the country. We went out and
9 now we are back. Now is the time for us, you know.

09:22:37 10 Q. Again, speak slowly as you go along and you are doing
11 better this time, so listen to the next question. Those older
12 brothers you referred to, were they part of the NPFL?

13 A. Yes, they were a part of the NPFL.

14 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he repeat the last bit
09:22:59 15 of the answer.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: What did you say after the word "NPFL",
17 Mr Witness?

18 THE WITNESS: They were part of the NPFL, but mostly from
19 the Nimba ethnic group. The Nimbadians, that is those from Nimba
09:23:16 20 County, because they were affected. Those who were in the
21 country at the time, we really used to see these things going on
22 but we had no power.

23 MR ANYAH:

24 Q. To your knowledge, were there any efforts taken by whom you
09:23:31 25 referred to as the administration of the NPFL to stop the
26 targeting of Mandingos and Krahns?

27 A. Repeat.

28 Q. Yes. To the best of your knowledge, were there any efforts
29 taken by the persons you referred to as the administration of the

1 NPFL to stop the targeting of Mandingos or Krahns by other NPFL
2 forces?

3 A. Yes. And to prove that, it's just that I cannot give some
4 of these guys' names, but later I saw some Mandingos, some Krahns
09:24:14 5 who were working along with the NPFL. So that drew my attention
6 to the fact that the administrative head has put the situation
7 under control and these people are being incorporated into the
8 NPFL. These people were being incorporated into the NPFL and all
9 of us were working together.

09:24:36 10 Q. Again, Mr Vincent, just slow down a bit but we understood
11 that last response. Yesterday before we broke you said the NPFL
12 captured Bong Mines without shooting. What do you mean by that?

13 A. Yes, what I meant was that if at all the NPFL had entered
14 Bong Mines firing, me being a civilian at that time I wouldn't
09:25:13 15 have been seen there. I would have gone into the bush. But
16 because there was no firing that was why we were caught.

17 Q. To your knowledge were any civilians killed when the NPFL
18 captured Bong Mines on 4 June 1990?

19 A. Yes, a civilian died but it was not an ordinary civilian,
09:25:37 20 apart from I think that particular ethnic group that I talked
21 about. They were the civilians affected.

22 Q. Where were the opponents of the NPFL when the NPFL captured
23 Bong Mines, if you know?

24 A. Majority of them were working with the company.

09:26:04 25 Q. Who was the NPFL fighting at this time in Liberia?

26 A. The NPFL was fighting against the AFL. That is the
27 administration of the late Samuel Doe.

28 Q. Were there AFL soldiers in the vicinity of Bong Mines in
29 June 1990?

1 A. Yes, AFL soldiers were deployed there. They even came to
2 recruit in Bong Mines. It was upon this recruitment that they
3 were doing that the NPFL entered there, but at the time they got
4 to know that NPFL had already captured Kakata. That is the road
09:26:46 5 leading from Monrovia or Gbarnga and they branched off to go to
6 the Bong Mines. When they heard that the NPFL troops were in
7 Kakata, the AFL started using other routes. They used the train
8 track to go down to Monrovia.

9 Q. To your knowledge was there any fighting between the NPFL
09:27:12 10 and AFL in June 1990 in Bong Mines when it was captured by the
11 NPFL?

12 A. I've already told you that NPFL entered Bong Mines without
13 firing.

14 Q. The persons you were with at the bus stop when you
09:27:33 15 encountered Isaac Mongor, what happened to them?

16 A. Those who were not part of the enemy groups that I spoke
17 about were all set free.

18 Q. And what happened to you yourself?

19 A. I was set free on that spot. Can I continue?

09:28:01 20 Q. Let me ask you a question. When you were set free, what
21 did you do?

22 A. Yes, that was just what I wanted to talk about. After I
23 had been set free, a week later I was not working and I had no
24 means of income. So I decided that the little money that I had I
09:28:26 25 should go to the villages around Bong Mines to buy pepper, garden
26 eggs and coal to bring to sell and sustain myself. Because
27 actually I didn't have the guts to join the NPFL at that time.
28 That was my desire but unfortunately what gave me the desire to
29 join was that one night I was in my bedroom, some young men came

1 to me - I mean they came to the house, knocked at my window and
2 when I opened, I saw a young man pointing a gun at me, telling me
3 to open my door. I did that, and when they got into the room,
4 every good thing that I had with me, money, including some
09:29:17 5 wearings and other appliances that I had were all taken away.
6 Then I said but I'm no longer a small boy. I would not like to
7 be facing this type of harassment so I would rather be part of
8 this movement wherein I won't be harassed. So I went and
9 reported myself to the NPFL headquarters and when I got there --

09:29:46 10 Q. Mr Vincent, can I stop you there for a second.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You used the word harassment. Who in your opinion was
13 harassing you?

14 A. Well, some of the fighters who wanted to loot from me.

09:30:06 15 Q. And as a consequence of this harassment, you said you
16 joined something. What did you join?

17 A. I went to the NPFL police - I mean MP office headquarters
18 and reported myself. Not that I reported that they harassed me
19 because I was still afraid that I should not complain that I will
09:30:34 20 be harassed by any of these men. When I went there I declared my
21 intention that I wanted to be part of the NPFL. Then I was made
22 to be on stand-by. I was given a single-barrelled gun and
23 assigned to one of the gates.

24 Q. Mr Vincent, you said MP office. Is that Military Police
09:31:03 25 office?

26 A. Yes, Military Police of the NPFL.

27 Q. You said you were given a single-barrel gun and assigned to
28 one of the gates. Who gave you this gun?

29 A. It was a NPFL commander. A NPFL - an MP commander that was

1 in Bong Mines.

2 Q. You said you were made to be "on stand-by". What do you
3 mean by being made to be on stand-by?

09:31:51

4 A. When I talk about stand-by, that means at the time that I
5 got there the MP commander made me to understand that some men
6 have already been recruited and sent to bases - to various bases
7 for training, so they would come back for another group of
8 manpower. So since I had gone and declared myself and declared
9 my intention that I wanted to be part of them, I should have - I
10 should be with them and be deployed at the gate until the time
11 comes when I would be included in the recruiting list.

09:32:17

12 Q. When you say you were assigned to one of the gates, what is
13 the gate you are referring to?

09:32:44

14 A. Gate. If there is anybody here who knows Bong Mines, when
15 you got to the bus stop where the train track crosses, right
16 around there from Camp Benuma - if anybody knows Bong Mines I
17 don't know, but that was the area where I was assigned to, right
18 at the train track and the main road coming from Kakata to enter
19 Bong Mines bus stop.

09:33:07

20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Could we have a spelling of that place,
21 camp something that he said?

22 THE WITNESS: Camp Benuma. I do not know the spelling.
23 Please, if somebody can help me.

09:33:23

24 MR ANYAH: I think it would be - if I understand the
25 pronunciation correct, Benuma would be B-E-N-U-M-A:

26 Q. Mr Vincent, this you gate you referred to, was it a gate to
27 a house, a compound? What sort of gate was it?

28 A. It was a rope that was crossed - put across the road --

29 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he take this aspect

1 very slowly.

2 MR ANYAH:

3 Q. Mr Vincent, it was a rope that was put across what?

4 A. Across the road. Like there was - there were two posts and
09:34:11 5 the rope was tied on one post and crossed to the other. When a
6 car approaches they will drop the rope and the car will pass or
7 the person will pass through.

8 Q. And were you manning one of the posts connected to this
9 rope?

09:34:34 10 A. I was with them. There were plenty of us there as stand-by
11 but the main fighters were doing the job. We were just there -
12 we were just with them waiting for us to be recruited, so we had
13 to be associated with them so that we wouldn't be panic. That
14 was why we were there. But at the time we ourselves were used to
09:34:58 15 be putting down the rope.

16 Q. Would you refer to that rope as a checkpoint, Mr Vincent?

17 A. Well, it was a checkpoint for the NPFL.

18 Q. How long were you assigned to the checkpoint?

19 A. I was assigned there from the time that I stopped selling
09:35:27 20 up to September 8, 1990. September 8, 1990.

21 Q. And the time you stopped selling, was it in June of 1990?

22 A. It was not in June 1990. In June 1990 Bong Mines was
23 captured, as I have said. A week later I started my business.
24 But when the harassment went on, it was in September. It was in
09:36:03 25 this September that the harassment went on. From there, I went
26 to the MP office and gave myself up and that I would want to be
27 part of the NPFL. It was in that same September that I started
28 manning that gate - that checkpoint.

29 Q. How many days or weeks or months did you spend at the

1 checkpoint?

2 A. From the 1st or 2nd up to the 8th. I did not stay there
3 for quite a long time.

09:36:44

4 Q. The single barrel you referred to, the gun, what type of
5 gun was it?

6 A. A single barrel. If I could describe it correctly, it's a
7 simple gun that has something like a pipe. I don't know if there
8 are people here who know about plumbing. That galvanized pipe.

09:37:11

9 It's small in size and it's tied to a stick that the local
10 hunters use to hunt animals. That's the single barrel.

11 Q. In the period of time when you were stationed at the
12 checkpoint, were any civilians killed at that checkpoint?

13 A. At that particular time civilians were not being killed
14 there, no. During the time that I was there, no.

09:37:35

15 Q. During the time when you were at the checkpoints did you
16 see any corpses, bodies of dead people, at the checkpoint?

17 A. No. No.

18 Q. When you were at the checkpoint did you see any human
19 skulls being displayed at the checkpoint?

09:37:53

20 A. No, there weren't any human skulls at the checkpoint but
21 the area - the groups which I said were being executed, some
22 executions were done in the various places. Like the farms where
23 they went to hide, it was going on there. But at that checkpoint
24 there was nothing like human skulls posted there.

09:38:22

25 Q. Do you know who was the head of the NPFL at that time in
26 1990?

27 A. Head of the NPFL? Are you talking about Bong Mines?

28 Q. Let's start with Bong Mines. Who was the head of the NPFL
29 in Bong Mines in 1990 to your knowledge?

1 A. In 1990 after Bong Mines had been captured by the NPFL
2 later one of the Special Forces called Isaac Boayue was deployed
3 there as the commander. Not Isaac - Saye Boayue. He was
4 deployed there as the commander for the NPFL in Bong Mines.

09:39:11 5 Q. Can you spell Saye for us, please?

6 A. S-A-Y-E.

7 Q. Can you spell Boayue for us, please?

8 A. That's an African name. It is an African name. Maybe I
9 will spell it as B-A-R-Y-O-U or something like that.

09:39:39 10 MR ANYAH: I can assist the Court. The spelling would be
11 B-O-A-Y-U-E:

12 Q. Mr Vincent, you referred to this person as being a Special
13 Forces. What to your understanding is a Special Forces?

14 A. Special Forces were those who were trained outside and came
09:40:06 15 into Liberia with the war to come and train their brothers to
16 stage the revolution.

17 Q. You said you remained at the checkpoint until 8 September
18 1990. What happened on 8 September 1990?

19 A. September 8 was the day when I was at my post. I saw a man
09:40:35 20 whom I had been working with in the company, John Kargbo. He met
21 me and I saw him later that day. It was the very day that I saw
22 him. He came up to me and said that he knew me very well and I
23 said, "Yes, I know you. We've been working together." And he
24 said, "Okay, now is the time that I want you to join me", that we
09:41:05 25 were going to carry the revolution to my home. Then I said,
26 "Where?" He said, "Sierra Leone."

27 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat this
28 last bit. It's not clear.

29 MR ANYAH:

1 Q. You were telling us how this fellow John Kargbo said that
2 they were going to carry the revolution to his home, and you said
3 Sierra Leone. Can you continue from there and do so slowly?

4 A. Yes, he said they were taking the revolution to their home.
09:41:39 5 Then I said, "But what do you want me to do?" Then he said, "Oh,
6 I already know you. You are going with me and you are going to
7 be a Special Forces." And I said, "Special Forces for what?" He
8 said, "You see how the Special Forces have power in Liberia? If
9 you join me, when we get down there you will also be the same.
09:42:03 10 The way they are here, you are going to be a senior man who will
11 pass command and people will take your command." So he tapped my
12 head.

13 Q. Let's pause there. This person John Kargbo, you said you
14 knew him before. From where did you know him?

09:42:20 15 A. We were working at Bong Mines.

16 Q. And his nationality was what?

17 A. He was a Sierra Leonean.

18 Q. When you met him on 8 September 1990, where were the two of
19 you physically when you had this discussion?

09:42:43 20 A. He met me at the checkpoint and called me aside. That was
21 where we had this conversation.

22 Q. And what did you understand him to be requesting of you?
23 What was he asking you to do?

24 A. He was asking me - he was telling me that they were going
09:43:12 25 to stage their own revolution in Sierra Leone and that I was to
26 be part of that revolution.

27 Q. Were any promises made to you by him in order for you to be
28 part of that revolution?

29 A. Yes. The promise was that I was going to become a Special

1 Forces. That's the first one. And, secondly, when or if the
2 revolution succeeds, I will work with their government that they
3 will set up. Those are the promises that he made to me. But I
4 did not take him seriously until he told me his head was within
09:44:00 5 there in Bong Mines.

6 Q. Let's pause for a second. When you had this conversation
7 with John Kargbo at the checkpoint, do you know to what group, if
8 any, he belonged at that time?

9 A. I saw John Kargbo. He came as a fighter.

09:44:24 10 Q. A fighter for which group? Can you tell us, please.

11 A. For the NPFL.

12 Q. So at the time you were having this conversation with John
13 Kargbo, he was a NPFL fighter?

14 A. He was an NPFL fighter at that time, yes.

09:44:47 15 Q. Now, you said he told you that his head was with him there
16 in Bong Mines. What do you mean by that?

17 A. His head, that meant the person who was going to launch the
18 revolution as the rebel leader.

19 Q. Did he tell you that person's name?

09:45:13 20 A. No, not until we got to him. When we got to him, that was
21 when he himself confirmed what John Kargbo had told me. He gave
22 me his name as Pa Morlai or Godfather. Those were the two names.
23 We either called him Pa Morlai or Godfather.

24 Q. To which group, to your knowledge, did this Pa Morlai or
09:45:53 25 Godfather belonged at the time you met him in September 1990?

26 A. Pa Morlai was recruiting the RUF at the time, so he was
27 RUF.

28 Q. And, to your knowledge, for which group was John Kargbo
29 recruiting when he met with you in September 1990?

1 A. John Kargbo was recruiting for the RUF too.

2 Q. The nationality of this Pa Morlai, do you know it?

3 A. Pa Morlai was a Sierra Leonean.

4 Q. When you met Pa Morlai you said he confirmed what Kargbo
09:46:37 5 had told you. Can you elaborate or speak some more about that?

6 A. Yes. When I said confirmed, that means the promises that
7 Kargbo had made to me that I was going to be Special Forces and
8 after the government had been set up, I would be - he said when
9 the government is formed I would work in their government.

10 Q. When you met Pa Morlai, were there any other members of his
09:47:03 11 group present on that occasion?

12 A. Yes. I met nine others, so all together we were ten
13 recruited from Bong Mines on that particular day.

14 Q. The nine others you met, do you know who recruited those
09:47:31 15 nine others?

16 A. It was the same John Kargbo, yes.

17 Q. The nine others you met, were they civilians or were they
18 also NPFL members?

19 A. All of them were civilians.

20 Q. Do you know the nationalities of most of these nine persons
09:47:48 21 you met?

22 A. Well, we were all from the two countries, Sierra Leoneans
23 and Liberians.

24 Q. What happened after you were recruited?

25 A. When we were recruited on 8 September, we moved on that
09:48:09 26 particular night to Firestone. We got to Firestone to meet
27 another Sierra Leonean who was an adviser to this Pa Morlai. And
28 this Sierra Leonean's name was Pa Kallon. He was one of the
29 workers at Firestone during the normal days when there was no war

1 in the country.

2 Q. Firestone is in which county in Liberia?

3 A. Firestone? It used to be in Bong County, but it is now
4 Margibi. It is now in Margibi County, but it used to be
09:49:01 5 Bong County.

6 Q. Mr Vincent, when you met this Pa Kallon, what, if anything,
7 did he say to you?

8 A. Pa Kallon, when we met Pa Kallon, he had nothing much to
9 say to me. I told you that he was an adviser to Pa Morlai at the
09:49:29 10 time, so he had nothing to say to us. It was only Pa Morlai and
11 Kargbo who had conversations with us. Only that we passed the
12 night there and on the 9th we took off and we left Firestone and
13 moved to our training site.

14 Q. And what is that training site called?

09:49:55 15 A. The training site was called Crab Hole in Camp Naama.

16 Q. How did you move from Firestone to Crab Hole?

17 A. We were taken there at night in Pa Morlai's vehicle
18 pick-up.

19 Q. What kind of pick-up was this?

09:50:20 20 A. A pick-up? It is something like a cargo carrier that has
21 one seat in front and at the back something like a bucket where
22 people sit or where you carry goods or things from one
23 destination to the other.

24 Q. How many people were inside that truck when you went from
09:50:47 25 Firestone to Crab Hole?

26 A. The ten of us who had been recruited and he himself,
27 Pa Morlai, and John Kargbo.

28 Q. Twelve people in one truck?

29 A. Yes, it was a pick-up. A pick-up can carry more than that.

1 Q. When you went to this place, Crab Hole, did you see anyone
2 there?

3 A. When we got to Crab Hole, we met people who had already
4 been there taking training. On that particular night that we got
09:51:32 5 there, there were people there. When they called for our
6 formation or when they asked us to fall in, we were introduced,
7 then lined up or they queued, and we too formed a line, the new
8 recruits, and we were introduced to them as being part of them.

9 Q. Approximately how many persons did you meet already at the
09:51:56 10 base or place called Crab Hole?

11 A. Approximately the number that I met there could be 150.

12 Q. What nationalities were these persons, if you know?

13 A. They were both Sierra Leoneans and Liberians.

14 Q. At that point in time when you were at Crab Hole, having
09:52:34 15 been recruited by John Kargbo, were you still part of the NPFL?

16 A. Oh, I wasn't part of the NPFL because the NPFL did not
17 train me. I was only on stand-by. It was the RUF that trained
18 me.

19 Q. At the time John Kargbo was with you and the others there
09:53:00 20 at Crab Hole, do you know whether he was still part of the NPFL?

21 A. John Kargbo was not NPFL. When we were recruited he was
22 not NPFL.

23 Q. The persons you met - well, let me ask you to clarify that.
24 You said when you were recruited John Kargbo was not part of
09:53:23 25 NPFL. You've told us before he was NPFL. What do you mean that
26 at this time when you were recruited he wasn't NPFL?

27 A. Yes. What I mean here is that the NPFL came in with the
28 revolution, so whoever at the time that they got - you either
29 went on one side to protect yourself. So through that, John

1 Kargbo only served until he was later recruited by Pa Morlai whom
2 we later knew as Foday Sankoh.

3 Q. You said John Kargbo only served until he was recruited.
4 Do you mean he only served with which group until he was
09:54:10 5 recruited by Pa Morlai?

6 A. I told you that when John Kargbo met me in Bong Mines, he
7 was already a fighter for the NPFL but that he was a
8 Sierra Leonean.

9 Q. And by the time Pa Morlai did his recruiting, to which
09:54:34 10 group did John Kargbo belong?

11 A. John Kargbo now became an RUF.

12 Q. The 100 or more persons you met at Crab Hole, to which
13 group do you know them to have belonged?

14 A. All those whom I met at Crab Hole were all RUF.

09:55:02 15 Q. In which county in Liberia is this place Crab Hole located
16 at?

17 A. Crab Hole is in Bong County.

18 Q. Have you ever been there before this day in September 1990?

19 A. From the time that I was recruited there up to now, is that
09:55:28 20 what you mean? Please repeat your question.

21 Q. Before the day you went there from Firestone at the time of
22 your recruitment to John the RUF, had you ever been to that place
23 before that day?

24 A. Never. I did not ever know there.

09:55:53 25 Q. You mentioned Camp Naama. Is that the same place as
26 Crab Hole or is that another place?

27 A. Yes, it is Camp Naama, but Crab Hole is an area that is far
28 away from Camp Naama itself. That Crab Hole was there like I
29 think a staff quarter. The training camp was on the other side,

1 and it takes you about five minutes' walk from Crab Hole to go to
2 the main training camp in Camp Naama.

3 Q. You said, yes, it is Camp Naama, but Crab Hole is an area
4 that is far away from Camp Naama itself. Was Crab Hole part of
09:56:47 5 Camp Naama or was it another place entirely away from Camp Naama?

6 A. It is Camp Naama.

7 Q. And you said that Crab Hole was five minutes' walk from the
8 main training camp. What do you mean by that?

9 A. What I mean here is that there is some distance. It is a
09:57:15 10 distance away from the main training camp.

11 Q. Can you describe this training camp that Crab Hole was
12 close to? Can you describe it for us? Let's start with its
13 approximate size. How many acres was it, if you know?

14 A. I'm not a surveyor, but Crab Hole - I mean, Camp Naama is a
09:57:47 15 very big area that can be compared to two or three football
16 fields.

17 Q. Did it have different sections or areas that did different
18 things?

19 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat his
09:58:15 20 entire answer.

21 MR ANYAH:

22 Q. Mr Vincent, can you start again?

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: But, Mr Interpreter, I think you also
24 need to focus. I think the witness is doing very well speaking
09:58:27 25 slowly.

26 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, he is doing well, but when he
27 started he was not clear in his answer. I did not want to
28 interpret something I did not understand.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, please repeat your answer.

1 MR ANYAH:

2 Q. Mr Vincent, was Camp Naama divided into different parts?

3 A. I said yes. Divided into three different parts in the
4 sense that they had an area wherein men who have already been
09:59:04 5 trained reside and wait for an assignment to be carried out.
6 Then, secondly, they had an area where the fresh recruits were,
7 where civilians that they took there to be trained were kept.
8 Then, three, they had the main training field; nobody stays
9 there, but they go there for exercises and other things. So that
09:59:23 10 was how Camp Naama was divided.

11 Q. Were the persons that you met belonging to the group RUF
12 the only group present at Camp Naama when you were there?

13 A. Please repeat the question. I have not understood you
14 well.

09:59:52 15 Q. Were all the persons that were at Camp Naama when you
16 arrived there in September 1990 members of the RUF?

17 A. They were not all members of the RUF. The RUF members I
18 saw, I said they were approximately 150 but I did not even go to
19 their side. But it was a training base that was set up for the
10:00:22 20 NPFL especially, not part of the RUF.

21 Q. Are you saying that the NPFL also had fighters present at
22 Camp Naama when you were there?

23 A. No, I did not say that. They had people that had already
24 been trained and were on stand-by, they sent them to one section
10:00:47 25 and they were standing by to send them on an assignment. They
26 had already been trained but they were not fighters. They were
27 fresh recruits. They had graduated from training and they were
28 on stand-by to be sent on an assignment. They were just there.
29 Then had you the fresh recruits, those civilians who were brought

1 there to be trained, they had another camp. Then the third
2 section was where they had the main training field. So that was
3 how Camp Naama was divided. Yes.

4 Q. Were there any NPFL members in the area you call Crab Hole?

10:01:25 5 A. No.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, if you watch me and I do
7 this, it means you are speeding, can you please slow down. I
8 don't want to interrupt every time to tell you, but you are
9 looking at me and not responding, you see.

10:01:45 10 THE WITNESS: I understand.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: [Microphone not activated] slow down,
12 please.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you, I understand.

14 MR ANYAH:

10:01:54 15 Q. Mr Vincent, was there any mixing between the RUF members
16 and the NPFL members at the time you were in Crab Hole?

17 A. No.

18 Q. What was the name that RUF members used to refer to this
19 place Crab Hole?

10:02:24 20 A. What? That's the normal name, Crab Hole. Oh, okay.
21 You're talking about the code name that was given to it? It was
22 called Sokoto.

23 Q. Why was that code name given to Crab Hole?

24 A. This Sokoto name was given by Pa Morlai when we did not
10:02:45 25 know him that he was called Foday Sankoh. The Sokoto name was
26 given so that the people would believe we were trained in
27 Nigeria.

28 Q. Why was it necessary to have others believe that you were
29 being trained in Nigeria?

1 A. Yes, because Pa Morlai too wanted to make us special.

2 Q. And do you understand Sokoto to be a place in Nigeria?

3 A. I understand that Sokoto in Nigeria is a military training
4 camp, so if we had the name that we were trained at Sokoto, we

10:03:39 5 would be respected by people who had not seen us before.

6 Q. This training base you referred to as Camp Naama, if
7 somebody stood on the ground at Camp Naama, would they be able to
8 see the place you referred to as Crab Hole?

9 A. No.

10:04:00 10 Q. And why wouldn't they be able to see Crab Hole?

11 A. There is a piece of bush that is between Camp Naama and
12 Crab Hole. Only the car road - there is only a car road that
13 leads from Camp Naama to Crab Hole.

14 Q. When you stood at Crab Hole, would you be able to see the
10:04:28 15 main training base at Camp Naama?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And why not?

18 A. Because of the same thing that I have said. There is a
19 bush between Camp Naama and Crab Hole.

10:04:45 20 Q. Were the two of them on level ground, that is having the
21 same elevation, that is Crab Hole and Camp Naama?

22 A. No, not the same. Crab Hole was a little bit down and Camp
23 Naama was somehow up. But it was slopey.

24 Q. Slopey as in sloping down or sloping up?

10:05:15 25 A. Crab Hole is down - coming down the hill. Then Camp Naama
26 too is up, but it was sloping down too. Like you are going down
27 a hill. But the whole area was flat. That is, you can stand in
28 one place and see all around Camp Naama, but in Crab Hole - when
29 you stand at Camp Naama you do not see Crab Hole.

1 Q. The road you mentioned between Crab Hole and Camp Naama,
2 did it have any checkpoints on it?

3 A. Yes, we had a checkpoint there. The RUF had a checkpoint
4 there. No RUF member was allowed to leave there to go to Camp
10:06:03 5 Naama. We were under restriction.

6 Q. Did you in fact engage in training when you were at Crab
7 Hole?

8 A. Yes, that was where we did our training from start to
9 finish.

10:06:22 10 Q. What sort of training did you engage in?

11 A. We did guerilla training, we did parade, and we did
12 political ideology for Sierra Leone and the rest, and we also did
13 some arms training.

14 Q. [Microphone not activated] were some of the instructors, if
10:07:03 15 any, that taught you these various sorts of training?

16 A. Well, for the training, we had Rashid Mansaray who taught
17 us guerilla warfare. And we had Mike Lamin who taught ideology.
18 And others like Mohamed Tarawalli too, he was part of the
19 guerilla warfare.

10:07:45 20 Q. The fellow Rashid Mansaray, what nationality was he?

21 A. Rashid Mansaray was a Sierra Leonean.

22 Q. When you met him at Crab Hole, was he already trained, if
23 you know?

24 A. Yes, Rashid Mansaray was a trained man. In fact, he was
10:08:10 25 one of the Special Forces who Pa Morlai introduced to us that he
26 was a Special Forces, but he did not tell us where he was
27 trained. It was only Mohamed Tarawalli whom he told us was
28 trained from Asia.

29 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, correction. The

1 interpreter would like to make a correction. Instead of Asia
2 it's Israel.

3 MR ANYAH:

10:08:45

4 Q. Mr Vincent, was this fellow Mohamed Tarawalli trained in
5 Israel?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Thank you. The fellow you mentioned, Mohamed Tarawalli,
8 what nationality was he?

9 A. He is a Sierra Leonean.

10:08:59

10 Q. The fellow you mentioned, Mike Lamin, what nationality was
11 he?

12 A. A Sierra Leonean.

13 Q. Do you know whether he was trained by the time he taught
14 you ideology?

10:09:15

15 A. Mike Lamin, like John Kargbo, he was recruited by Pa Morlai
16 in the same way too.

17 Q. I'm not asking you how he was recruited. But since you've
18 started on it, tell us how he was recruited, if you know.

19 A. What? Mike Lamin? What I mean that he was recruited by
20 Foday Sankoh. I met him on the base. That's what I'm saying.

10:09:46

21 Q. Do you know whether he was trained militarily before he
22 started teaching you ideology?

23 A. He had military training, yes.

24 Q. The physical training, or what you call guerilla training,
25 what did it entail? What kind of training was it?

10:10:06

26 A. The guerilla training and physical training, these were
27 trainings that we underwent to be able to bear any hardship that
28 we would encounter when the revolution would have been launched.
29 Ways of escaping, ways of being - you know, when in danger, how

1 to escape, manoeuvring, escaping and things like that.

2 Q. And with respect to the arms training you referred to, did
3 you train with any sort of arms?

10:11:01

4 A. At first we started our training with sticks. We were
5 using sticks to train with. But when it came to arms, it was
6 possible. We got one or two or three AKs that the whole group
7 used, hoping to put together and to fire and other things.

8 Q. What were the constituent parts - that is, what was the
9 ideology training about?

10:11:36

10 A. The ideology training: How we were going to launch the
11 revolution in Sierra Leone. We would want to make the people to
12 love us too. The Sierra Leoneans had suffered a lot. They
13 wanted a change, but they were only waiting for someone to start
14 the ball rolling and they will join. So we should not discourage

10:12:03

15 them. We should make them to be part of us. Those were the
16 ideologies.

17 Q. When you say you were told that you would want to make the
18 people to love us, make which people love you?

19 A. The Sierra Leoneans. The Sierra Leoneans.

10:12:23

20 Q. Are you referring to civilians in Sierra Leone or fighters
21 in Sierra Leone?

22 A. The civilians mostly because the fight that we were to take
23 there would not have only depended on the fighters alone.

10:12:49

24 Civilians had to be with us to run administrative activities. So
25 if we had gone in and started doing innocent killings or massive
26 lootings and other things we would find them escaping from us and
27 we wouldn't have anybody being on our side.

28 Q. During ideology training were you told how to deal with
29 civilians in Sierra Leone?

1 A. Yes. Yes.

2 Q. What were you told about dealing with civilians once you
3 went into Sierra Leone?

4 A. We took good care of them. We talked to them like brothers
10:13:25 5 and sisters. We did not harass them. We did not make them to
6 feel bad that would cause them to turn against us. We were only
7 taught that only the civilians that would take up arms against us
8 like the single-barrelled people, those were of course enemies.
9 But those who would receive us and welcome us, we were to treat
10:13:46 10 them like our sisters and brothers. That was what we were
11 taught.

12 Q. Were you taught anything about how to deal with property
13 that belongs to civilians upon entering Sierra Leone?

14 A. Yes. People's properties were to be well taken care of.
10:14:10 15 That is, when we got to our target, our target of attacks were
16 military installations, and when we got into civilians places we
17 should bypass those areas. When the areas are under our control,
18 we should maintain those properties. We only had access to food.
19 It was a matter of must that we should eat.

10:14:37 20 Q. You referred to starting your training with sticks
21 initially and then you said after a while there would be some
22 weapon and you referred to an AK-47. Do you know from where the
23 RUF got such weapons that were used for training?

24 A. Yes. One was that - like I told you, John Kargbo, I met
10:15:08 25 him with the NPFL. When he was recruited, he carried his arm
26 along. So that was one of the ways that we got the arm that we
27 trained with.

28 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat the
29 last bit of his testimony.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, please repeat the last bit of
2 your evidence.

3 THE WITNESS: Yes. I said he asked me how we got the arms
4 and I explained to him that, like John Kargbo, when he met me, he
10:15:42 5 was a former fighter of the NPFL. When he was recruited by
6 Foday Sankoh, whom we knew as Morlai, when we met him initially,
7 he took his arm along. That was how we got some of the arms that
8 we were training with.

9 MR ANYAH:

10:16:00 10 Q. While were you at Crab Hole with the RUF, do you know
11 whether the RUF had any communications equipment?

12 A. No, there was no communication.

13 Q. I'm not asking if there was communication. Do you know
14 whether they had communication equipment?

10:16:24 15 A. No, no, no.

16 Q. Did they have radios?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did they have telephones?

19 A. No.

10:16:42 20 Q. The persons that you were recruited with and that you met
21 at Crab Hole, can you give us some indication of the age ranges
22 of these persons?

23 A. The people whom I met at Crab Hole, their ages could range
24 from at least 10, 11 to about 17 to 35 years, when we were at

10:17:11 25 Crab Hole.

26 Q. Those that were under 17, did any of them engage in
27 training?

28 A. Yes, they were trained.

29 Q. And what sort of training did those under 17 engage in?

1 A. We went - we underwent similar trainings. We trained with
2 sticks. We sat down for arms classes wherein we dismantled the
3 AK and assembled it. We did the same thing.

4 Q. Was the purpose of training those under 17?

10:17:58 5 A. The reason was that they had their big brothers that were
6 the RUF and these people had nowhere to leave them. So leaving
7 them out would have been dangerous for them, so they preferred to
8 take them, train them and to be with them as small boys for
9 domestic work and other things, like taking care of the rear at
10:18:25 10 home when they were on their assignment.

11 Q. You referred to those under 17 having big brothers. What
12 do you mean by that?

13 A. What I mean here is that if I'm here alone, maybe all of my
14 family members have escaped, and I'm going for training and I
10:18:48 15 have my younger brother, I can't leave him behind. He will be
16 with me. We will train. And when I'm going for my assignments,
17 he will stay at home. That was why those young ones were
18 trained, so in case of any danger, they too would know how to
19 escape. They were not just there - they were - not just stay
10:19:09 20 with me and when danger comes, they would not know how to escape.
21 Of course, I will lose them. So they had to undergo that
22 training too to know how to escape in times of danger.

23 Q. Was the purpose of training them limited to them knowing
24 how to escape or were they to be used as fighters?

10:19:30 25 A. Limited to being able to how to escape. Two, they could be
26 fighters, provided they reached the ages required for fighting.

27 Q. What was the ages required for fighting?

28 A. From 18 upwards.

29 Q. While were you at Crab Hole, did the person you referred to

1 as Pa Morlai stay there with you at that location?

2 A. Yes, he was with us throughout. He will just go out,
3 return, go and come. But he was with us throughout. He slept
4 with us; he ate with us. Everything we did together at that
10:20:22 5 time.

6 Q. Mr Vincent, you will have to raise your voice now in the
7 next series of questions because your voice has subsided.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. You said Pa Morlai would go out and come back. Do you know
10:20:37 10 to where he was going when he would go out?

11 A. Well, I told you that Pa Morlai had his adviser at
12 Firestone. He used to go there. And then when he got around
13 there, those areas that he saw Sierra Leoneans or other people
14 who were arrested and put in jail, he would go and negotiate for
10:21:03 15 their release and that was how he was doing his recruitment. Any
16 time he went out, when coming back, he brought with him two or
17 three men. Sometimes he went, four or five men he brought with
18 them, and that was how he was doing his operation.

19 Q. You said that when he went to those areas that he saw
10:21:29 20 Sierra Leoneans or other people who were arrested and put in
21 jail, he would go and negotiate for their release. To whom are
22 you referring when you refer to persons arrested and in jail?

23 A. Mmm, I remember that a few Sierra Leoneans whom he brought
24 to us, he explained the condition under which they were arrested
10:22:00 25 and put in jail, and he said some of them were suspected of being
26 enemies or collaborators or other things. So he would go,
27 negotiate for their release and he brought them to base to join
28 us.

29 One Augustine - he had Augustine Gbao was released that

1 same way. He had Lawrence Womandia, who was released that same
2 way, and some other people. He negotiated for their release and
3 he recruited them, and he would tell them that it will be safe
4 for them to join a particular area, to stay in a particular area
10:22:37 5 because if they are suspected of being spying - of spying or
6 other things, and if they are found out, they were going to see
7 them to be other people. So he said they were supposed to be
8 restricted in particular areas. That was how he brought most of
9 them to us.

10:22:54 10 Q. Are you saying Pa Morlai recruited from the prison
11 population in Liberia?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. When you referred to Augustine Gbao and Lawrence Womandia,
14 were they were prison in Liberia when they were recruited by

10:23:20 15 Pa Morlai?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did Pa Morlai recruit only Sierra Leoneans or did he
18 recruit other nationals in this way?

19 A. He recruited Liberians. He recruited Sierra Leoneans. And
10:23:36 20 I remember that he also released one Ivorian, too, who was with
21 us, from prison.

22 Q. Do you remember that person's name?

23 A. Well, commonly we used to call him Mon Ami.

24 Q. Do you know whether Pa Morlai recruited persons who were
10:24:05 25 members of the NPFL when he would go and come?

26 A. No, no.

27 Q. No means you don't know, or it did not happen?

28 A. To me, it did not happen.

29 Q. Now, the NPFL persons you referred to who were at

1 Camp Naama, did they on any occasion train with those of you RUF
2 at Crab Hole?

3 A. No. They had their separate training area and we had our
4 separate training area. So we were not even there to cross over
10:24:46 5 to them. If they saw us there they would beat us up. That one,
6 no joke about it.

7 Q. Did the two groups ever share any training equipment while
8 were you at Crab Hole?

9 A. No.

10:25:02 10 Q. Who was the commander, if you know, of the NPFL group that
11 was at Camp Naama at the time you were at Crab Hole?

12 A. I don't know exactly who the commander was there, but I
13 remember that that very night we entered, Pa Morlai was arrested
14 by a Special Force. Maybe he was the commander there. I don't
10:25:29 15 know. And even up to this moment, I don't know who he was. He
16 was arrested, tied up, and he did say that he did not know about
17 any other training that was supposed to be going on in that camp,
18 with the exception of the NPFL. So that was how Pa Morlai was
19 arrested. And after three hours, I understood that it was by the
10:25:57 20 intervention of Anthony Mekunagbe that he was released after
21 three hours.

22 Q. Well, let's consider some of what you said. You said
23 Pa Morlai was arrested by a Special Force. To which group did
24 this Special Force belong?

10:26:16 25 A. It was - that Special Force was part of the NPFL.

26 Q. And the arrest, did it take place on the day of your
27 arrival at Crab Hole?

28 A. The same day we arrived. It was at night. That night.
29 When we arrived there, whilst we were on parade, we were standing

1 in line. That was how the arrest came about. When the man was
2 arrested, those of us who went there knew that that day we had to
3 escape. We were hiding around the grasses and bushes around,
4 because we did not know what was going on, what was all that
10:26:54 5 about. It was only later, after three hours, that we saw
6 Pa Morlai being released again. And I heard later that it was by
7 the intervention of Anthony Mekunagbe that he was released.

8 Q. Mr Vincent, you said that he did not know about any other
9 training that was supposed to be going on in that camp. Who is
10:27:24 10 the "he" you are referring to who didn't know about any other
11 training that was supposed to go on in that camp?

12 A. The Special Force who arrested Pa Morlai. That was the
13 understanding after Pa Morlai was released.

14 Q. And who was Anthony Mekunagbe?

10:27:52 15 A. Anthony Mekunagbe was one of the Special Forces.

16 Q. For which group?

17 A. For the NPFL.

18 Q. Do you know how it came to be that he facilitated or helped
19 make the release of Pa Morlai happen?

10:28:21 20 A. Yes. Well, the reason was that I knew that Anthony
21 Mekunagbe and Pa Morlai were friends. They were close. They
22 were closer than any other person that we could think of.

23 Q. Now, this Anthony Mekunagbe, was he high up in the command
24 of the NPFL at the time?

10:28:54 25 A. Yes, he was one of the top people as a Special Force.

26 Q. At the time when you were at Crab Hole, did the RUF members
27 at Crab Hole have the same command as the NPFL members in Camp
28 Naama?

29 A. The same command? By what means? Please, I did not get

1 that clearly.

2 Q. I understand that. Did the NPFL members at Crab Hole
3 follow or receive commands from - I'm sorry, I withdraw that.
4 Did the RUF members at Crab Hole follow or receive commands from
10:29:42 5 any NPFL commander when you were at Crab Hole?

6 A. No. All the command that we received came from Pa Morlai.

7 Q. Do you know whether Pa Morlai issued any commands to the
8 NPFL members that were training in Camp Naama when you were at
9 Crab Hole?

10:30:09 10 A. No, not to my knowledge.

11 Q. During the entire period of time you were at Crab Hole did
12 you ever see Charles Taylor there?

13 A. No, I did not even know him. Not a day.

14 Q. During the time when you were at Crab Hole did you ever
10:30:33 15 hear the name Charles Taylor mentioned?

16 A. Well, from Bong Mines at the time Bong Mines was captured,
17 that was the first time that I started hearing about the name
18 Charles Taylor. And throughout Liberia at that time we used to
19 hear the name. But there was nothing that was made mention of
10:30:58 20 about Charles Taylor at Crab Hole, no.

21 Q. During the time when you were at Crab Hole did you hear of
22 Charles Taylor visiting Camp Naama?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Do you know who Isaac Musa is?

10:31:19 25 A. Well, at the time I understood that Isaac Musa at that time
26 was a battle group or battlefield commander. I don't actually
27 know which right appointment, but I heard that he was the battle
28 group commander.

29 Q. While you were at Crab Hole did you ever see Isaac Musa at

1 Crab Hole?

2 A. No.

3 Q. And to which group was he said to be the battlefield
4 commander of?

10:31:57 5 A. He was the battlefield commander for the NPFL.

6 Q. While you were at Crab Hole did you hear of Isaac Musa
7 visiting Camp Naama?

8 A. No.

9 Q. You said Pa Morlai was arrested at Crab Hole. Was anyone
10:32:17 10 else arrested at Crab Hole while you were there?

11 A. After Pa Morlai was arrested, no. It was only he who later
12 arrested Rashid Mansaray, but he later released him. That is he,
13 Pa Morlai.

14 Q. Pa Morlai arrested Rashid Mansaray. And why did he do
10:32:43 15 that, if you know?

16 A. Well, according to what he, Pa Morlai, told us whilst we
17 were on parade, he told us that Rashid Mansaray had a hidden
18 agenda, that he had an outside group, that, you know - that later
19 after the RUF would have entered they would come over and
10:33:12 20 overthrow the RUF and then he would become the administrator.
21 That was the reason why according to Pa Morlai he said he was
22 arrested.

23 Q. You said after the RUF had entered. You mean enter where?

24 A. Sierra Leone.

10:33:29 25 Q. How long was Mansaray under arrest for?

26 A. No, he was released the same day and he still maintained
27 his position as second to Pa Morlai.

28 Q. Beneath Mansaray, who was third to Pa Morlai at Crab Hole?

29 A. It was Mohamed Tarawalli.

1 Q. And who came underneath Mohamed Tarawalli?

2 A. No, that was what I understood at that time. Because the
3 rest of us, all of us were recruits so nobody could get any
4 higher appointment at that time. They were the only people who
10:34:17 5 were trained, so they had the appointments.

6 Q. The person you mentioned previously as Isaac Mongor, did
7 you ever see that person at Crab Hole when you went there?

8 A. Yes. That very night that we entered Crab Hole was the
9 second time I saw Isaac Mongor at Crab Hole. Isaac Mongor was
10:34:44 10 introduced to us as the demonstrator who was chosen from amongst
11 the recruits by Pa Morlai because he said amongst the recruits he
12 proved to be someone who was very active. So he was a
13 demonstrator.

14 Q. You said, "That very night that we entered Crab Hole was
10:35:08 15 the second time I saw Isaac Mongor at Crab Hole." Was that the
16 second time you had seen him in your life, or was that another
17 occasion within your time at Crab Hole that you had seen him?

18 A. That was the second time I saw Isaac Mongor in my life.
19 That was after Bong Mines was captured and when I got at Crab
10:35:36 20 Hole that particular night.

21 Q. You referred to Isaac Mongor being introduced to you and
22 others as a demonstrator. What is a demonstrator?

23 A. A demonstrator is someone who had been so fast in catching
24 up with the training and then the instructor stands aside and he
10:36:07 25 will call for a particular training to be demonstrated and this
26 person will carry out the demonstration in front of his fellow
27 recruits as example.

28 Q. To your knowledge was Isaac Mongor an instructor at Crab
29 Hole?

1 A. Isaac Mongor was a recruit selected from amongst the
2 recruits to be the demonstrator.

3 Q. To your knowledge did Isaac Mongor train any of the RUF
4 recruits at Crab Hole?

10:36:46 5 A. No, except the demonstration that he did in front of us.

6 Q. When he did those demonstrations in front of you and when
7 you saw him at Crab Hole, to which group, to your knowledge, did
8 Isaac Mongor belong?

9 A. He was still amongst the recruits. We all slept together.
10:37:09 10 We ate together. We did everything together. We take bath
11 together. All the instructors had their separate buildings where
12 they were and he was not in those buildings.

13 Q. When you encountered him the first time in Bong Mines you
14 told us he was with the NPFL. When you encountered him at Crab
10:37:29 15 Hole to which group did he belong, if you know?

16 A. He was RUF.

17 Q. How do you know that?

18 A. Well, Foday Sankoh explained to us that he recruited this
19 man. He said the man was active so he took him to be a
10:37:48 20 demonstrator. He recruited him.

21 Q. How long did your training at Crab Hole last?

22 A. Well, I entered - let's say seven months because it was
23 from September to March. September 1990 to March 1991. Seven
24 months or six, something like that. For me, because I met others
10:38:16 25 there already.

26 Q. What happened in March 1991 at the end of your training?

27 A. The first thing that happened - March 1991 was not the end
28 of our training. In 1991 March, around the 22nd, whilst we were
29 on parade, Pa Morlai came to us and told us that it was a matter

1 of months that we move in to launch the revolution. The plan for
2 that revolution - for the launching of that revolution was to be
3 taking place at about the dry season around March. And between
4 March and September, we knew that time to be rainy season in
10:39:13 5 Liberia from March, June going to July, August. So he said he
6 wanted us to enter during the dry.

7 Q. He wanted you to enter during the dry what?

8 A. During the dry season.

9 Q. Mr Vincent, if you pause there for a second, you were

10:39:35 10 trying to explain that the rainy season in Liberia was between
11 March to September. Is that what you were saying?

12 A. Yes. Yes. From March going towards September, that is the
13 period of rainy season in Liberia. So from there, in 1991 going
14 upwards that time it was the dry season. So he said he wanted

10:40:01 15 the revolution to be launched at that time. But we only entered
16 on 23 March because according to what he explained to us was that
17 he got to understand that the NPFL in Foya at that time went to -
18 on food finding along the Sierra Leonean border and they had an
19 encounter with the SLA and the SLA chased them off and they ran
10:40:32 20 after them until Foya came under an attack by the SLA and
21 therefore the NPFL chased them too and they launched an attack.
22 So we were then forced to enter because they did not want any
23 further delay. But, according to him, that was actually not the
24 right time that he wanted us to enter.

10:40:59 25 Q. Before these events you've described involving the NPFL and
26 the SLA, and we will revisit them shortly- before these events
27 happened what was the time frame for the launching of Pa Morlai's
28 revolution?

29 A. He told us in the dry season of that year. The dry season

1 of 1991. And at that time I understood that the dry season in
2 Liberia started around October.

3 Q. You said the NPFL based in Foya went on a food-finding
4 mission. Where did they go on this food-finding mission to?

10:41:46 5 A. They went somewhere around Koindu. Koindu.

6 Q. In which country is Koindu?

7 A. Koindu is in Sierra Leone.

8 Q. When you refer to the SLA, what does SLA stand for?

9 A. SLA is Sierra Leone Army.

10:42:11 10 Q. What happened when the NPFL went into Koindu?

11 A. Initially I said they went to look for food around. And
12 the SLA spotted them. They chased them until they came and
13 attacked Foya. The NPFL too chased them again and went as far as
14 attacking Koindu. So that was the reason why Pa Morlai came to
15 us and told us that we were now compelled to launch the
16 revolution once and for all, instead of waiting on the time that
17 he had the plan for us to go in.

18 Q. What happened when he told you this?

19 A. Well, that was on the 22nd that he gave us the information.
10:43:15 20 We were then put in formation and we decided to leave Crab Hole
21 for the mission.

22 Q. At the time on 22 March 1991, can you give us an
23 approximate number of the RUF members at Crab Hole?

24 A. Yes. Up to that time the number of people, including he,
10:43:41 25 the leader, who was on the base, it was around 328.

26 Q. Were numbers assigned to those 328 persons?

27 A. Yes. We all carried numbers and the numbers started with
28 him as 001 and I was 190.

29 Q. Of the 328 persons you mentioned, approximately what

1 percentage were Liberians?

2 A. Well, at that time when I did my own calculation, I found
3 out that we, the Liberians, were up to 252 and the rest of them
4 were Sierra Leoneans.

10:44:36 5 Q. Besides the Sierra Leoneans, were any other national s
6 involved or formed part of these fighters?

7 A. I said we had one Ivorian amongst the group.

8 Q. When Pa Morlai told you it was time to launch the
9 revolution, did he tell you anything about himself?

10:44:59 10 A. Yes. It was on that very day that Pa Morlai gave us his
11 actual name, that his name was Foday Saybana Sankoh. So, in
12 fact, that made all of us to have some doubt. We said, "Why has
13 he be hiding his name away from us?" Not until that particular
14 day.

10:45:25 15 Q. After he told you his name and after he said it was time to
16 launch the revolution, what happened?

17 A. Well, when he called his name, it was the time that a truck
18 was made available and the first group was sent on board together
19 with his own pick-up and they moved - they moved. And later he
20 came back with the same pick-up and truck, and I was one of the
21 men in the second group, and I had to move. And then Crab Hole
22 was now made empty.

23 Q. You said the first group was moved with a truck and a
24 pick-up truck. How many persons were moved in the first group?

10:46:39 25 A. I don't know the actual number, but most of the people went
26 in the first group. The remaining group that stayed behind was
27 not that much. We were not many. Because by then, the group was
28 supposed to go with the small, small things that we had with us,
29 food and other things, so most of the people went on the first

1 trip.

2 Q. Which of the two groups were supposed to go with the food
3 and other things you had, the first or the second group?

4 A. No, the last group. The first group were already going to
10:47:22 5 launch an attack, so they wouldn't have been able to go with the
6 food. The last group that stayed behind was supposed to go with
7 those things.

8 Q. Was there a plan for attacking Sierra Leone that was made
9 known to you at that time?

10:47:36 10 A. There was no plan. I'm telling you that the man stated
11 that the revolution that - he said the revolution, he wanted it
12 to be launched in the dry season. So that was just something
13 that coincided with some other thing that happened that made us
14 do the thing before its actual time.

10:47:57 15 Q. The first group that went ahead of your group, to where did
16 they go, if you know?

17 A. Well, the first group was divided into two. One went
18 straight to Koindu and the other went straight heading towards
19 the Bo Waterside area.

10:48:24 20 Q. The group that went to Koindu, do you know who commanded
21 that group?

22 A. The group that went to Koindu, it was Rashid Mansaray,
23 Mohamed Tarawalli. I think John Kargbo, too, was with them. I
24 believe so.

10:48:51 25 Q. The group that went towards Bo Waterside, do you know who
26 commanded that group?

27 A. The group that went to Bo Waterside --

28 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked
29 to repeat the name of that person.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please pause, Mr Witness. The
2 interpreter didn't get you. Can you repeat the name of the
3 location? You said the group that went to Bo Waterside did what?

4 THE WITNESS: Bo Waterside, the head of that group that
10:49:28 5 went to Bo Waterside, Pa Sankoh. Pa Morlai himself was amongst
6 that group.

7 MR ANYAH:

8 Q. Mr Vincent, besides Pa Morlai, who else commanded that
9 group that went to Bo Waterside?

10:49:49 10 A. It's a long time now, but Pa Morlai went with the group.
11 On our side, Rashid Mansaray, and Mohamed Tarawalli I believe was
12 with the group that went towards Bo Waterside.

13 Q. Mr Vincent, you told us a few minutes ago that the group
14 that went to Koindu was commanded by Rashid Mansaray, and you
10:50:17 15 said, "Mohamed Tarawalli and John Kargbo were also part of that
16 group." Is that correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. The group that went to Bo Waterside, you were about to
19 mention the name George Daniel. Is that --

10:50:34 20 A. Yes, okay, George Daniel. George Daniel was with that
21 group and Pa Morlai himself was with that group. Sam Kolleh was
22 with that group. Martin George was with that group. Okay, those
23 are some of the commanders that went with that group.

24 Q. Sam Kolleh, which nationality is he?

10:50:56 25 A. Sam Kolleh is a Liberian but RUF.

26 Q. Martin George, what nationality is he?

27 A. Liberia but RUF.

28 Q. And just let me finish the questions. George Daniel, what
29 nationality is he?

1 A. A Liberian.

2 Q. In which of these two groups was Mike Lamin a part of?

3 A. Mike Lamin should have been with the Kailahun group, that
4 Koindu group.

10:51:41 5 Q. Do you know after they left Crab Hole where this group was
6 divided into two? Which part of Liberia or Sierra Leone they
7 split and divided?

8 A. I understood that the first group that left was divided
9 right in Kolahun and the second group as well was divided right
10 in Kolahun, and the Koindu group headed for Foya and the other
11 group headed towards Bo Waterside.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, did the witness say the first
13 group was divided in Kolahun or Kailahun? What did he say?

14 THE WITNESS: Kolahun. Kolahun.

10:52:32 15 MR ANYAH:

16 Q. And Kolahun is in which country?

17 A. Liberia.

18 Q. And Bo Waterside is in which country?

19 A. Bo Waterside? I have not been to Bo Waterside, but I think
10:52:47 20 Bo Waterside is the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia, but
21 I have not been to Bo Waterside before.

22 Q. When it came time for your group to move, did Pa Morlai and
23 Foday Sankoh move with your group, the second group?

24 A. The second group, Pa Morlai at first went with the first
10:53:15 25 group and he came later for the second group, and at last he
26 headed towards Bo Waterside whilst his second in command, Rashid
27 Mansaray, went with us to Koindu.

28 Q. When you were taken from Crab Hole towards Sierra Leone,
29 where did the two groups split? Your second group, that is.

1 A. It was in Kolahun.

2 Q. And was it the case that Rashid Mansaray returned to
3 command your second group?

4 A. No, no, Rashid Mansaray was already in Koindu with us.

10:53:59 5 Q. How much time passed between when the first group left and
6 when Pa Sankoh came back for your group?

7 A. That was just - it was the 22nd and the 23rd, and it was
8 the 23rd that the real operation of the RUF started. 23 March
9 1991.

10:54:28 10 Q. On that day, 23 March 1991, what role did you play in the
11 operation you are referring to?

12 A. When I got there, I was issued an arm that was captured
13 from Koindu. From there, the troops had already advanced ahead.
14 I stayed in Koindu as the ground commander.

10:54:57 15 Q. You said when you got there you were issued an arm that was
16 captured from Koindu. Before you entered Sierra Leone, did you
17 have any weapon?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Before your group entered Sierra Leone, did most of those
10:55:15 20 you were with have any weapons?

21 A. No, there wasn't any weapons.

22 Q. The weapon you say you received that was captured from
23 Koindu, do you know where in Koindu it was captured?

24 A. These weapons were captured right at the military base. At
10:55:39 25 that time they were using the police office in Koindu. That was
26 where the military base was. So the group that chased the SLA
27 into Sierra Leone went and captured all the supplies that they
28 had; arms, ammunition and everything.

29 Q. This group that chased the SLA in Sierra Leone, were they

1 the group that was commanded by Rashid Mansaray?

2 A. The group that chased the SLA was not commanded by Rashid
3 Mansaray. Rashid Mansaray went and took the command from the
4 group that chased the SLA. Everything, all the activities that
10:56:20 5 were conducted there and all the things that were captured from
6 there were all turned over to the RUF.

7 Q. The military base you referred to, and then you mentioned a
8 police - that the military base was being used by - as the police
9 office in Koindu, was that an SLA military base?

10:56:47 10 A. The SLA - when the war was in Liberia, at that time the SLA
11 came to defend their border and they were based at the police
12 station in Koindu. And it was after the NPFL went looking for
13 food and after they spotted them and chased them, it was at that
14 same time that the NPFL too chased them up to that police station
10:57:17 15 where the military were based and captured all their materials.

16 Q. And how is it that these captured weapons ended up with the
17 RUF?

18 A. Well, they ended up with the RUF because the RUF had their
19 mission. These people only went to look for food, and
10:57:43 20 unfortunately such a thing happened, and they had no cause of
21 being in Sierra Leone; therefore, they were not to come out with
22 the material that was captured from the SLA. Those properties
23 should have been RUF properties. That was how they ended up in
24 the hands of the RUF.

10:57:59 25 Q. Which people are those you referred to as "they had no
26 cause of being in Sierra Leone"? Which people are you referring
27 to?

28 A. The NPFL at the time.

29 Q. When you entered Koindu --

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, what I don't understand, if the
2 witness could explain --

3 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- is these arms that they say the NPFL
10:58:30 5 had taken from the SLA, when the witness's group came to Koindu,
6 were these arms simply donated to them by the NPFL? Or did they
7 capture them? Or how did they take these arms? How did the RUF
8 take these arms --

9 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President.

10:58:54 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: -- from the NPFL?

11 MR ANYAH:

12 Q. Mr Vincent, you understand what the President is asking?

13 A. Very well. Sir, can I go ahead? Yes, what I'm saying here
14 is when the NPFL went at first, when they went to chase the SLA
10:59:17 15 into Sierra Leone, when they got there they captured Koindu,
16 including the military base that the SLA occupied in the police
17 station in Koindu. It was at that time that Foday Sankoh was
18 compelled to launch the revolution. So when he went there those
19 NPFL troops that had captured this material, the arms, ammunition
10:59:45 20 and other things, they handed them over to the command. That is
21 the second in command, Rashid Mansaray. This military material
22 that was captured were handed over to him. So those who entered
23 after - can I continue?

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, continue but slowly.

11:00:06 25 THE WITNESS: Those who entered into Sierra Leone after the
26 SLA had no reason to stay in Sierra Leone, so these materials
27 were turned over to Rashid and some later came back and some
28 remained. But --

29 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked

1 to repeat that last bit.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, you said some later came back
3 and some remained. And then you said something else after that.
4 Please repeat that last bit.

11:00:51 5 THE WITNESS: Yes, I said some looted and came back but
6 some remained.

7 MR ANYAH:

8 Q. And the "some" you referred to, are they NPFL or RUF?

9 A. Some NPFL remained.

11:01:07 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, I think this is a good time to
11 break.

12 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: We'll have a brief break of 30 minutes
14 and reconvene at 11.30.

11:01:22 15 [Break taken at 11.00 a.m.]

16 [Upon resuming at 11.30 a.m.]

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Anyah, please proceed.

18 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President. Just to advise the
19 Court, our side of the Defence bar has been joined by Ms Kathryn
11:33:12 20 Hovington and she's a legal assistant with our team:

21 Q. Mr Vincent, before the break you were trying to explain to
22 us how it came to be that the RUF obtained some arms from a
23 military base that was previously occupied by the SLAs. I want
24 to refer you to the LiveNote transcript at what is my page 61,
11:33:38 25 starting at line 20. It reads - this is an answer you were
26 giving to the Court before the break. You said:

27 "Those who entered into Sierra Leone after the SLA had no
28 reason to stay in Sierra Leone, so these materials were turned
29 over to Rashid, and some later came back and some remained."

1 The persons that you refer to as having no reason to stay
2 in Sierra Leone, were they NPFL or RUF?

3 A. When I said those that had no reason to be in Sierra Leone,
4 they were the NPFL, because that was not their mission.

11:34:23 5 Q. When you said "these materials were turned over to Rashid",
6 what materials are you referring to?

7 A. I'm referring to the military equipment that was captured
8 in Koindu.

9 Q. Are you referring to arms, ammunitions? What exactly are
11:34:43 10 you referring to as military equipment?

11 A. Arms and ammunition.

12 Q. And is it from those arms and ammunitions that you received
13 the gun you told us you received?

14 A. It was from that that I was issued an arm.

11:35:02 15 Q. Do you know why it was the case that the NPFL turned over
16 arms or ammunitions - arms and ammunitions to Rashid Mansaray?

17 A. Yes, because we did not have - we did not have arms at the
18 time. And before we launched an operation like that, we had to
19 be fully equipped. And I had previously informed you that that
11:35:34 20 was not the appropriate time that we were scheduled to enter with
21 the RUF revolution. Our revolution was scheduled for the dry
22 season of 1991, and March was just the starting of the rainy
23 season in Liberia at that time.

24 Q. I appreciate the response, but the question is: Why is it
11:35:58 25 the NPFL give the RUF these arms and ammunition? Why didn't they
26 give it to someone else?

27 A. Because no other authority was on the ground apart from the
28 RUF authorities.

29 Q. Were the two groups, NPFL and RUF, at that time in Sierra

1 Leone fighting the same enemy?

2 A. No. Can I comment?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. The NPFL that went - that followed the SLA and went into
11:36:39 5 Sierra Leone captured this ammunition. That was where they
6 stopped, as far as the NPFL was concerned. That - I told you
7 that they had no reason to go there. So going there to capture
8 arms and ammunition, that was not their duty, but it happened
9 accidentally. That was why we were compelled to launch.

11:37:06 10 Q. But as the NPFL captured these arms and ammunition, why is
11 it that they did not take it back with them to Liberia? Why is
12 it that they gave the RUF?

13 A. Well, the reason is that it was not for them. We were
14 supposed to be in possession of those arms, and if they were -
11:37:33 15 they had been forced to come back with them, we were not going to
16 accept it from them.

17 Q. What do you mean you would not accept it?

18 A. Probably there was going to be some kind of skirmishes,
19 either arguments or some other people would have intervened. But
11:37:53 20 that was the rightful thing to do, to turn them over to the RUF
21 authorities.

22 Q. When you said before the break that some later came back
23 and some remained, are you referring to NPFL or RUF?

24 A. The NPFL came back. Those that remained were there on
11:38:18 25 their own, so I did not consider them as being NPFL. They were
26 on their own.

27 Q. Do you know why it was that some former NPFL members
28 remained in Sierra Leone?

29 A. Yes, the reason was that it was a fresh operation and many

1 of these guys who stayed there wanted to enrich themselves
2 because of the valuable things that they saw when they first
3 entered. So it encouraged them to remain there.

11:39:06 4 Q. Do you recall the names or name of the NPFL commander or
5 commanders who chased the SLA into Sierra Leone and returned back
6 to Liberia?

7 A. Well, I cannot really give you the names. But those that
8 remained there, I can give you the names of some of the
9 commanders that were there, and they were fully taking
11:39:35 10 instructions from Foday Saybana Sankoh at that time.

11 Q. And what are the names of some of those who remained and
12 took instructions from Foday Saybana Sankoh?

13 A. Well, you had: One, John Wisseh; two, James Karweh; three,
14 Charles Timber; and, of course, the overall commander was Sam
11:40:18 15 Tuah.

16 MR ANYAH: I believe Sam Tuah and Charles Timber are on the
17 record. John Wisseh would be John, regular spelling.

18 Q. Mr Vincent, can you spell Wisseh, please?

19 A. Wisseh should be --

11:40:42 20 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he repeat the spelling
21 slowly.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Repeat the spelling, please.

23 THE WITNESS: W-I-S-S-E-H.

24 MR ANYAH:

11:40:56 25 Q. Can you spell James Karweh, the last name for us, Karweh?

26 A. K-A-R-W-E-H. Some do not add the H.

27 Q. Thank you, Mr Vincent. Sam Tuah, you said, remained in
28 Sierra Leone. Was he, when he remained in Sierra Leone, NPFL or
29 RUF as far as you know?

1 A. He remained in Sierra Leone. He was fully not --

2 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he repeat this slowly
3 again.

11:41:41

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please repeat your evidence. The
5 interpreter didn't hear what you said.

6 THE WITNESS: My answer is: One, they remained in Sierra
7 Leone, and they were under the RUF command.

8 MR ANYAH:

11:42:00

9 Q. Did any of them to your knowledge continue to take command
10 from NPFL fighters?

11 A. No. Say that again?

12 Q. These former NPFL that stayed in Sierra Leone, John Wisseh,
13 James Karweh, Charles Timber and Sam Tuah, to your knowledge when
14 they became RUF as you say, did they continue to take instruction

11:42:26

15 from NPFL commanders?

16 A. No.

17 Q. How did you enter Sierra Leone on 23 March 1991, you
18 yourself?

19 A. I entered through the Koindu border.

11:42:47

20 Q. From which town in Liberia did you cross into Sierra Leone?

21 A. From Foya.

22 Q. When you got to Koindu, were other RUF members present
23 there already?

11:43:10

24 A. Yes, there were other RUF members on the ground when we got
25 there. We were the last batch that entered. The first group had
26 already advanced. The group we met there stayed there to wait
27 for us and we left there. They too followed. Those of us who
28 went there lastly took charge of the ground. Like I told you, I
29 stayed there as the ground commander.

1 Q. Mr Vincent, can you slow down a bit.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: And you must learn to speak in sentences.

3 You make a statement, you breathe. You make another statement,

4 pause to breathe. But all your sentences are joined like a

11:43:44 5 string of beans. Nobody can keep up with you speaking like that.

6 Please pause between each statement that you're making, just like

7 the lawyers talking to you or I am talking to you. We stop, we

8 breathe, we pause.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, thank you.

11:44:01

10 MR ANYAH:

11 Q. Mr Vincent, you said you were among the last batch that

12 entered and you said the first group had already advanced. To

13 where had they advanced?

14 A. When I entered, I understood that they had advanced as far

11:44:20

15 as Kailahun.

16 Q. Was that group that had advanced as far as Kailahun

17 commanded by Rashid Mansaray?

18 A. Yes, Rashid was the commander for that particular group

19 that entered.

11:44:41

20 Q. You said that you stayed there as ground commander. Where

21 did you stay as ground commander?

22 A. It was in Koindu.

23 Q. And what were you commanding in Koindu?

24 A. Well, one, I was there to take care of the ground and to

11:45:04

25 establish the training base.

26 Q. Who asked you to remain there and take care of the ground?

27 A. Well, my stay in Koindu was a plan that when we go, as we

28 stay there. So when we went there I stopped there and a message

29 was sent to me by Rashid Mansaray that I should stay there and

1 establish a training base and take over the command of the
2 training base.

3 Q. Did you in fact establish a training base at Koindu?

4 A. Yes.

11:45:52 5 Q. How many persons were on the base you commanded?

6 A. There were so many. Approximately up to 200 to 300.

7 Q. Since the time when you left Crab Hole and you entered
8 Sierra Leone, were there new members who had joined the RUF?

9 A. I said that those who went and attacked Koindu, some of
11:46:25 10 them came back and some remained. And those that followed us
11 were the new members of the RUF included those who had been
12 trained, the new members of the RUF.

13 Q. Besides those NPFL who remained and joined the RUF, were
14 any others recruited to join the RUF when you were in Koindu?

11:46:53 15 A. You mean from Liberia?

16 Q. Let's take Liberia first. From Liberia did any Liberians
17 join the RUF when you were in Koindu?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Were these civilians or were these all former NPFL?

11:47:14 20 A. They were civilians, and those that joined the RUF from
21 Liberia were those who had dual citizenship. Like, they were
22 formerly in Sierra Leone and in Foya. That's the border area
23 where the Kissi tribe where. They were interrelated. That was
24 how some of them left and were trained.

11:47:44 25 Q. Those Liberians who joined the RUF that you referred to as
26 civilians, do you know whether they joined voluntarily, that is,
27 of their own free will?

28 A. Yes. Because when they came, I did my screening and I
29 found out that they were willing to join. And they proved it by

1 taking up assignment and working according to how the assignments
2 were to be carried out, and that alone made me to know that they
3 were willing.

11:48:26 4 Q. At the base in Koindu did Sierra Leoneans join the RUF
5 while you were commander there?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Were they civilians, those that joined?

8 A. Yes.

11:48:44 9 Q. What was the highest number of RUF members that were at the
10 base when you commanded it?

11 A. The head of the RUF, you mean? Please repeat. Please
12 clarify that.

13 Q. At the time when you were commander of the training base at
14 Koindu, what was the largest number of RUF members at that base?

11:49:11 15 JUDGE DOHERTY: Sorry, Mr Anyah, I'm a little confused too.
16 Do you mean what was the largest number at any --

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, yes.

18 JUDGE DOHERTY: Or what was the largest number that joined
19 at any one time?

11:49:24 20 MR ANYAH: I appreciate the distinction:

21 Q. Mr Vincent, what I'm asking is the time you were commander
22 of that base, the total number of people that were with the RUF,
23 what was the largest number at any one time when you were
24 commander at that base?

11:49:41 25 A. When I established the base it started little by little.
26 At last I had 200 and more recruits. They were all Sierra
27 Leoneans and RUF.

28 Q. At the training base in Koindu, did you or any other RUF
29 member have communications equipment?

1 A. No.

2 Q. What were the sources of your arms and ammunition when you
3 were at the training base; that is, where did you get arms and
4 ammunition from?

11:50:24 5 A. All the equipment for the base pertaining to arms and
6 ammunition were sent to me by Rashid Mansaray.

7 Q. And where was Rashid Mansaray when he was sending you these
8 arms and ammunition?

9 A. Rashid Mansaray was on the front line - on the first front
11:50:41 10 line.

11 Q. Do you know from where he obtained the arms and ammunitions
12 that were sent to you in Koindu?

13 A. When they captured Buedu and Kailahun and Pendembu, he took
14 some of the things there and sent them for me. Mobai and the
11:51:05 15 other areas.

16 Q. Were there persons under the age of 18 as RUF members
17 present at that training base when you commanded it?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And what was the purpose of having those under 18 at that
11:51:26 20 base?

21 A. The purpose there was that when the attacks were launched,
22 many of the parents of these children escaped and went and they
23 stayed there. Whenever we brought their big brothers or sisters
24 to train, they would ask that these children should not be left
11:51:56 25 out, meaning that they wouldn't get any support. So until then
26 we had to train them for their own safety as well, so in case of
27 any danger they would be able to get to their people. That was
28 how these people were trained. But we were not using them as
29 fighters. They were there to do domestic works at home, just

1 I like any other person.

2 Q. That was to be my next question; that is, at the time you
3 commanded the base in Koindu in 1991, were any of those under 18
4 used as fighters by the RUF?

11:52:45 5 MR KOUMJIAN: Excuse me, I just want to clarify. The
6 question raises the issue - for the last five minutes or so we've
7 been talking about the base, and it's clear it's after March
8 1991, but we don't know for how long he was at that base, so it's
9 unclear the time period that we're talking about.

11:53:02 10 MR ANYAH: That's a legitimate question:

11 Q. Mr Vincent, how long did you stay at the base in Koindu?

12 A. I stayed on the base in Koindu from March, April and May.
13 In June I moved the base to Kailahun where I opened the actual
14 headquarters, that is, the Kailahun International School Training
15 Base.

11:53:32 16 Q. Now, going back to my question, during the period of time
17 you were commander of the Koindu base, between March through May
18 of 1991, were any of those under the age of 18 used as fighters
19 by the RUF?

11:53:53 20 A. No, they were not used as fighters, but they were used to
21 serve their big brothers who had brought them along to be
22 trained. When the big brothers left and went to the front lines,
23 they remained at home to take care of their things. Let's say
24 just domestic works.

11:54:19 25 Q. During the period of time when you were commander at the
26 Koindu base, were there any NPFL members present amongst your
27 numbers within the RUF?

28 A. No.

29 Q. Did you receive during that period of time any form of

1 assistance as in military equipment, arms or ammunitions, from
2 the NPFL?

3 A. No.

4 Q. During that period of time, March to May 1991, was there,
11:54:57 5 to your knowledge, any form of communication, radio or otherwise,
6 between the RUF and NPFL?

7 A. No.

8 Q. You said you went from the Koindu base and established
9 another base in Kailahun. When did you establish the base in
11:55:21 10 Kailahun?

11 A. It was in May when I left Koindu. I moved with those who
12 had not completed the training and I took them to Kailahun at the
13 international school campus. That was where I established the
14 main headquarters of the training.

11:55:46 15 Q. When we refer to Kailahun, is that Kailahun Town or is that
16 Kailahun District? Which is it?

17 A. Kailahun Town. It's the district name, but the headquarter
18 town is also Kailahun.

19 Q. Now, this training base at the international school campus
11:56:07 20 that you referred to, was that the only RUF training base in
21 Kailahun District at that time?

22 A. No. There were other bases around that other RUF vanguards
23 established on their own when they didn't want to go to the front
24 line. When I discovered that, I dissolved most of them. Let's
11:56:36 25 say all, not even most of them. One was at Dia. One was at
26 Pendembu and another was right in the Kailahun Town itself at one
27 Ahmadiyya school. Ahmadiyya school. I dissolved all of them and
28 I took all of the recruits to the international school campus.

29 MR ANYAH: Madam President, I believe Dia is on the record,

1 but it would seem to be spelt D-I-A. Pendembu is certainly on
2 the record. Ahmadiyya is on the record. It can be found at the
3 transcript of 8 April 2008, so I will not attempt a different
4 spelling. Well, the relevant page for that transcript is 6824:

11:57:30 5 Q. Mr Vincent, why was it the case that other RUF members
6 established these other training bases?

7 A. I thought I gave the reason. You know, in any organisation
8 there are people who like to do their own thing, so I just felt
9 within myself that they just wanted to corrupt the whole system.

11:58:02 10 That is, the training command had been established and someone
11 who was not part of the training command was going to establish a
12 training on their own, so it was not correct. So I had no
13 alternative as a commander but to dissolve those bases, and that
14 was what I did.

11:58:26 15 Q. At the base in Kailahun, when you served as commander, did
16 you see Isaac Mongor?

17 A. Yes, Isaac Mongor was in Kailahun. I did not know for what
18 purpose, but he left the front line, went to the base at
19 Kailahun, and he went to me with the intention of trying to
11:58:54 20 corrupt and take over my command. I disagreed and the two of us
21 had a misunderstanding, and at last he was told that was not his
22 area of operation and that he was to go to the front line. That
23 was how he left me.

24 Q. Who made you commander of the Kailahun base?

11:59:14 25 A. The same who made me commander of the RUF - RUF training.
26 The command for the RUF training was given to me by Rashid
27 Mansaray, not just for the Kailahun base but for the entire RUF.
28 He was the second in command.

29 Q. Are you saying to the Court that Rashid Mansaray made you

1 responsible or in charge of all RUF training during this period
2 you've described from Koindu in March 1991 through your time in
3 Kailahun?

4 A. Yes.

11:59:54 5 Q. For how long did you remain at the Kailahun base?

6 A. I stayed on the Kailahun base from May to almost the end of
7 September when my assignment was later changed from there.

8 Q. And what year are we referring to?

9 A. We are talking about the same 1991.

12:00:19 10 Q. During the period of time May to September 1991, when you
11 commanded a training base, were any members of the NPFL present
12 at that base?

13 A. No.

14 Q. When you served as commander of that base, did you receive
12:00:41 15 any military equipment or supplies such as arms or ammunitions
16 from the NPFL?

17 A. No, I did not. All supplies were given to me by Rashid
18 Mansaray upon my request. When I requested, he gave them to me.
19 And I did not even need much equipment on the base. Only arms to
12:01:05 20 teach the children how to dismantle and assemble them together,
21 and all of the things that we were doing were just for that,
22 because they were all fresh recruits.

23 Q. Were any of those present as RUF members on the base
24 persons below the age of 18?

12:01:29 25 A. The RUF members, you are saying, or recruits?

26 Q. Well, let's take recruits. Was the RUF recruiting persons
27 below the age of 18 when you were commander at the Kailahun base?

28 A. Yes, I told you that. Yes, several times I told you that.

29 Q. Yes, I appreciate you've told us that, but you will

1 appreciate we have to do it base by base. With respect to this
2 base in Kailahun, what was the purpose behind the recruitment of
3 those under the age of 18?

12:02:11 4 A. In my explanation, they all carried on the same thing,
5 because these were people who had - who were with their elder
6 brothers and elder sisters who did not have anywhere to go to.
7 And if your brothers were coming willingly to be recruited and
8 their sisters, they could not leave them to go out. So we had to
9 train them in case of danger or attacks they would know how to
12:02:33 10 manoeuvre and escape for themselves.

11 Q. When you were commander of the training base in Kailahun,
12 to your knowledge, were any persons under the age of 18 used by
13 the RUF to fight in the front lines?

14 A. No.

12:02:49 15 Q. Were such persons used by the RUF to fight anywhere at all
16 in Sierra Leone?

17 A. No.

18 Q. When you were commander of that training base, to your
19 knowledge, did the RUF have any communications equipment?

12:03:09 20 A. When I was at the base, whether RUF had - no. If RUF had
21 had any communications equipment, I would have had one myself
22 because I was the training commander and I needed one, but I did
23 not have it at the time. So the RUF did not have communication
24 equipment at the time.

12:03:27 25 Q. In September 1991 you said you moved from the Kailahun
26 base. Where did you go to?

27 A. When I left the base, I went to Pendembu. I became a front
28 line soldier and my base was Pendembu. I would go to the front
29 line and I'd come back to Pendembu and rest. I go to the front

1 line, I come back to Pendembu and rest. It was at Pendembu where
2 I was based.

3 Q. Mr Vincent, you're doing well, but, again, slow down a bit
4 and also speak up. We can understand you, but let's keep it at
12:04:11 5 this pace. Who was the commander of the base in Pendembu?

6 A. It was Melvin Kerkula known as Big Daddy, but I dissolved
7 that base when I was at the Kailahun base.

8 Q. Which base did you dissolve while you were in Kailahun?

9 A. Pendembu base. Do you mean the training base or the
12:04:45 10 Pendembu itself? Because you are talking about base, so I always
11 think about training base.

12 Q. I appreciate the distinction. When you say you were sent
13 to Pendembu, do you mean to the front lines?

14 A. Yes, I was sent to Pendembu. Pendembu was where I was
12:05:05 15 stationed, but I would go to the front line and come back to
16 Pendembu to take my rest. Pendembu was the headquarters. That
17 was where I was based when I was on the front line.

18 Q. The name you mentioned, Melvin Kerkula, can you spell
19 Kerkula for us?

12:05:25 20 A. Kerkula should be K-E-R-K-U-L-A. Melvin Kerkula, and he
21 was known as Big Daddy.

22 Q. Which base was he commander of that you dissolved?

23 A. He established his own base in Pendembu, a training base in
24 Pendembu.

12:05:52 25 Q. And did you dissolve that base?

26 A. Yes, I did.

27 Q. When you say you were stationed in Pendembu and you would
28 go to the front line and return, the place you were stationed,
29 was it an RUF training base?

1 A. No, I was not on RUF training base any longer. I had left
2 the base from Kailahun. My assignment had changed from the
3 training base, so I had no reason going back to the training base
4 until if I was recalled. But as long as I was not recalled, I
12:06:20 5 had no reason going to issue such a command.

6 Q. Yes. I'm not asking you now about Kailahun and a base in
7 Kailahun. The place you stayed in in Pendembu, when you would go
8 to the front lines to fight, was that place in Pendembu where you
9 stayed at an RUF base or was it somewhere else you just were
12:06:39 10 stationed at?

11 A. It was an RUF base. And at that time, that was where Foday
12 Saybana Sankoh himself was stationed and I was not even living
13 far away from his residence, because he would call upon me at any
14 time. I go there. I get refreshment with him and then I go to
12:07:03 15 the front line and do some other things.

16 Q. Now, who were the RUF fighting at the time you were in
17 Pendembu?

18 A. We were fighting against the SLA.

19 Q. Were there any other armed groups along the Liberian-Sierra
12:07:21 20 Leonean border at that time?

21 A. Are we talking about 1991? In 1991?

22 Q. Yes, late 1991.

23 A. Yes, in late 1991, that was the time we started hearing
24 that about the ULIMO.

12:07:39 25 Q. And do you know who the ULIMO were?

26 A. ULIMO was another faction, a group that was fighting
27 against the NPFL at that time.

28 Q. Was ULIMO a Liberian group or a Sierra Leonean group, to
29 your knowledge?

1 A. Well, I know that the ULIMO forces were formed in Sierra
2 Leone, but they were Liberians who were coming back to fight
3 against the NPFL. Can I continue? And on December 25 at
4 Lalehun, that was where I carried out an operation, an attack, in
12:08:43 5 which I even captured one of the ULIMO soldiers by the name of
6 Donzo. I don't know his first name, but his last name was Donzo,
7 and he even told me that he was a Liberian from --

8 Q. Just slow down a little bit. We will go through it again.
9 This fellow Donzo, you say he told you what?

12:09:07 10 A. Donzo told me that he was a Liberian.

11 Q. December 25, what year are you referring to?

12 A. December 25, 1991. Christmas Day. I attacked Lalehun, and
13 that was where I captured this Donzo and he told me that he was a
14 Liberian.

12:09:29 15 MR ANYAH: Madam President, Lalehun would be spelt
16 L-A-L-E-H-U-N and Donzo, I would take a guess, would be
17 D-O-N-Z-O:

18 Q. Mr Vincent, this ULIMO person you captured, was that the
19 first time the RUF had captured a ULIMO?

12:09:58 20 A. No. Along the Bo Waterside area they had been fighting
21 against ULIMO there, but on our own side in Kailahun, that was
22 the very first time that a ULIMO soldier was captured there.

23 Q. Are you saying that along the Bo Waterside area before you
24 captured this fellow on December 25, 1991, ULIMO was fighting the
12:10:26 25 RUF there?

26 A. ULIMO was fighting the RUF because they wanted to use that
27 area. In fact, they used that area to cross over into Liberia
28 because they had already occupied some parts of Liberia, and the
29 reason for which one - that ULIMO man was captured on that side

1 was that they wanted to use Kailahun also to enter Foya, and that
2 was the first attempt they made and that was the first man that
3 was captured, the Donzo man.

12:11:08

4 Q. You said ULIMO had already used the Bo Waterside area to
5 enter Liberia?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you said ULIMO had already captured some parts of
8 Liberia. Which parts are you referring to?

12:11:24

9 A. Around that Bo Waterside area. Because whatever used to
10 happen, we used to listen to the BBC and we got the information.
11 So I was the first man during my own operation to capture a ULIMO
12 soldier in Lalehun. One, for that matter.

13 Q. The part of Liberia that ULIMO had captured, in what county
14 is that in Liberia?

12:11:47

15 A. It was Grand Cape Mount County.

16 Q. And when you referred to Foya and ULIMO's attempt to enter
17 Foya through where you were based, in which county in Liberia is
18 Foya?

12:12:12

19 A. Foya is in Lofa County. But when I captured this Donzo,
20 that was the information that he gave, that they were finding a
21 route to enter into Liberia through Foya. So he was amongst the
22 SLA who attacked Lalehun on that - that I attacked at Lalehun on
23 that Christmas Day.

12:12:40

24 Q. You just said he was part of the SLA. Was he part of SLA
25 or ULIMO?

26 A. He was among them. The ULIMO soldiers were amongst the
27 SLA. I have said that ULIMO was formed in Sierra Leone, so it
28 was possible for them to join forces with the SLA so that they
29 could get helping hands from the SLA.

1 Q. Did that in fact occur? Did ULIMO join forces with the SLA
2 to receive some form of assistance?

3 A. Yes, because almost all the attacks that we conducted in
4 Sierra Leone and against the SLA, we always saw ULIMO soldiers
12:13:23 5 amongst them, and they were speaking Liberian English. We heard
6 them. When we caught them they were calling their various names,
7 their fighting names.

8 Q. Did the RUF join with any other group to fight ULIMO?

9 A. Yes.

12:13:46 10 Q. What other group did the RUF join with?

11 A. At the later part of that 1991 when the ULIMO attack
12 started getting very serious against us, Foday Sankoh visited
13 Gbarnga at least two or three - three times, something like that,
14 you know.

12:14:16 15 Q. And for what purpose did he visit Gbarnga, to your
16 knowledge?

17 A. Well, the reason was that the forces that were coming, they
18 were not just coming for the RUF; they were coming for the NPFL
19 too. So if only the RUF would be depended upon to fight against
12:14:35 20 ULIMO and fight against the SLA, we wouldn't have been able to
21 make it. So he started visiting Liberia.

22 Q. And who did he, more specifically, visit in Gbarnga,
23 Liberia?

24 A. Well, he met Mr Taylor. He explained to him about the
12:15:01 25 ULIMO attack.

26 Q. And after that meeting what was the nature of the
27 relationship, if any, between the RUF and NPFL in relation to
28 ULIMO?

29 A. Well, in 1992 there was cooperation between the RUF and the

1 NPFL for that particular reason. But then in that same 1992,
2 those who were sent to fight against ULIMO in Sierra Leone
3 decided to misbehave. So around October Mr Sankoh went to
4 Mr Taylor and told him, well, the men you sent over there are
12:15:52 5 misbehaving, so I will not be able to contain them. So they went
6 on until a final time when they were withdrawn when a problem
7 erupted between the NPFL and the RUF in that they started doing
8 things that was not part of our ideology; doing innocent
9 killings, looting things that were not supposed to be looted,
12:16:18 10 doing all type of things. So they started making the Sierra
11 Leone citizens start going against the RUF. So then we had no
12 other alternative but to stage an operation where we could take
13 them out. That was operation Top 20, Top 40 and Top Final. And
14 finally --

12:16:42 15 Q. Let's pause for a second and consider what you've just
16 said. First of all, time frames. Before you spoke of late 1991.
17 Can you tell us exactly when this cooperation between the RUF and
18 NPFL began in relation to ULIMO?

19 A. Yes, it was in April 1992.

12:17:07 20 Q. Is that when it began?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And when did it end when you referred to - Mr Vincent,
23 let's slow down. When did it end when you referred to the period
24 of time where you said the RUF had no alternative but to stage an
12:17:31 25 operation where you could take them out? When did the
26 relationship end?

27 A. The relationship ended around July, September, October.
28 Around that time. But I do not actually remember the actual
29 month, but it was around that time.

1 Q. In which year are you referring to?

2 A. In 1992.

3 Q. When you say some persons were sent to fight against ULIMO
4 in Sierra Leone, who were sent to fight against ULIMO?

12:18:08 5 A. Some NPFL soldiers.

6 Q. And who are you referring to when you say they decided to
7 misbehave?

8 A. The same group that was sent, the NPFL. They decided to
9 misbehave. They went against our ideology.

12:18:31 10 Q. What operation are you referring to as Top 20?

11 A. Top 20 was just an operation that was meant to - I cannot
12 actually give you clear information for the Top 20, but I know
13 that it was an operation that was fixed to get these guys out.

14 Q. These guys, are they NPFL you're referring to?

12:19:09 15 A. They were NPFL. So it became a serious problem until
16 Mr Taylor sent Dopoe Menkarzon to get them out.

17 Q. And did Dopoe Menkarzon actually come to get the NPFL
18 troops out?

19 A. Yes, he did. Even me, he asked me to go with him, but I
12:19:31 20 said no, I would not go back because I was trained for the RUF
21 and it is my cause. I would not betray my cause. So that was
22 how it happened.

23 Q. Why did he ask you to go with him?

24 A. Well, because he thought I was one of those who just came
12:19:48 25 in.

26 Q. Was that because you were formerly in the NPFL?

27 A. What did you say?

28 Q. You say Dopoe Menkarzon thought that you were one of those
29 who had just come in, and I'm asking you was it because you were

1 Liberian or was it because you formerly were with the NPFL?

12:20:32 2 A. No, he saw me as a Liberian, so he thought I was one of
3 those who just went in. But he did not know that I was recruited
4 by the RUF, and he had never seen me in the NPFL as a
5 single-barrel man, so he did not know at all.

6 Q. When Dopoe Menkarzon came and removed the NPFL out, after
7 that period of time did the cooperation between the NPFL and RUF
8 continue, or did it end?

9 A. It ended just like that in that same 1992.

12:20:59 10 Q. After that period of time, to your knowledge did Foday
11 Sankoh make any additional trips to Gbarnga?

12 A. No. I said the cooperation cut off, so he had no reason to
13 make any other trip to Gbarnga. It cut off.

14 Q. When you were in Pendembu and you said you were staying at
12:21:26 15 a place not far from Foday Sankoh's house, were there persons at
16 that Pendembu base that were members of the RUF that were under
17 the age of 18?

18 A. There wasn't any recruits at the Pendembu base any more.
19 When you are talking about training base, there was no longer
12:21:51 20 anybody at the training base. The training was going on in
21 Kailahun.

22 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked
23 to repeat that last bit. He was too fast.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, could you repeat the last bit
12:22:02 25 of your answer.

26 THE WITNESS: It said there was no longer a training base
27 at Pendembu at that time. At that time I had left the training
28 base and the base in Pendembu was already dissolved, and the men
29 were taken to the Kailahun training base and Philip Palmer was

1 now in charge of the training base in Kailahun.

2 MR ANYAH:

3 Q. What is Philip Palmer's nationality?

4 A. Sierra Leonean.

12:22:32 5 Q. Was he one of those who trained with you at Crab Hole?

6 A. Please repeat.

7 Q. When you trained at Crab Hole in Liberia for the RUF, was
8 Philip Palmer there?

9 A. Yes, Philip Palmer was there.

12:22:53 10 Q. Do you recall the names of some of those you trained with
11 at Crab Hole? Can you tell us some of the names?

12 A. Yes, I can give some names. Yes. You had - on the
13 training you had Morrison Kallon, you had Issa Sesay, you had
14 Isaac Mongor.

12:23:26 15 Q. We've talked about Isaac Mongor. You're now referring to
16 training. Was he a trainer?

17 A. Oh, you said those who were trained in Camp Naama. I think
18 that was how I understood it. And Isaac Mongor was one of the
19 trainees. He was only selected from amongst the recruits to
12:23:51 20 serve as a demonstrator, but that did not give him the clearance
21 to become an instructor. He was a mere demonstrator.

22 Q. Thank you, Mr Vincent. We understand you now. You
23 mentioned Morrison Kallon, you mentioned Issa Sesay, you
24 mentioned Isaac Mongor. Who else do you remember that was there
12:24:11 25 as a trainee being trained?

26 A. Yes, Sam Bockarie, alias Mosquito. We had Lawrence
27 Womandia and Philip --

28 Q. Raise your voice a speak a bit slower. You've mentioned
29 Lawrence Womandia and you were about to say Phillip something.

1 A. Philip Palmer, whose name I just referred to, that he took
2 over the training base by the time I had left the Kailahun
3 training base.

4 Q. Who else can you remember?

12:24:53 5 A. I also remember Monica Pearson, Fatamata Gbembo or Fatu
6 Gbembo. That was the name. I remember Big Daddy, Melvin
7 Kerkula. I remember Martin George, Matthew Barbue, Sam Kollieh.
8 You know, there were many, but just a few.

9 MR ANYAH: Madam President, some of the spellings are Fatu
12:25:28 10 Gbembo could be F-A-T-U, G-B-E-M-B-O. Matthew Barbue I believe
11 is on the record. So is Sam Bockarie, Martin George. And I
12 don't know if the witness said --

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Melvin Kerkula or something like that?

14 MR ANYAH: He already spelt Kerkula for us earlier today,
12:26:00 15 the person he referred to as Big Daddy or big something:

16 Q. Now, Mr Vincent, at the base - initially, I should ask you
17 a question. This person you mentioned, Monica Pearson, was that
18 the only woman at the base?

19 A. No, she was not the only woman. I think I referred to Fatu
12:26:26 20 Gbembo, Monica Pearson. There were some other names that I did
21 not refer to in my statement, but they were many. We had also
22 Memunatu Sesay. We had Rebecca Simo [sic]. We had someone like
23 Agnes Mining. They were many, you know. I'm now talking about
24 the women. [Overlapping speakers].

12:26:53 25 Q. Thank you for doing that. You've mentioned Fatu Gbembo, we
26 have that spelt. You've mentioned Memunatu Sesay. The Sesay, is
27 it S-E-S-A-Y?

28 A. Yes, yes.

29 Q. Memunatu, is that M-E-M-U-N-A-T-U?

1 A. Memunatu, yes.

2 Q. You mentioned Agnes Mining.

3 A. Agnes Mining, yes.

4 Q. Is that --

12:27:27 5 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, can the witness wait for the
6 Liberian interpretation before he speaks.

7 THE WITNESS: Something like mining. Mining gold or mining
8 diamonds.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please pause, Mr Witness. The Liberian
12:27:42 10 interpreter is complaining that you're not waiting for him to
11 finish the interpretation. Please do that, wait for the
12 interpretation before you answer.

13 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR ANYAH:

12:27:52 15 Q. Agnes Mining you said it is like mining. Is it spelt like
16 mining?

17 A. Yes, mining like mining gold or mining iron ore. It's the
18 same spelling.

19 Q. Thank you. What nationality is this Monica Pearson?

12:28:14 20 A. Monica Pearson is a Liberian.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Did you spell Rebecca Simo, Sumo or Simo?

22 MR ANYAH:

23 Q. Rebecca would be regular spelling. Mr Vincent, do you know
24 how to spell Simo?

12:28:33 25 A. R-E-B-E-C-C-A, I think.

26 Q. That's Rebecca. And the last name is?

27 A. Smith. Smith. Rebecca Smith. S-M-I-T-H. Something like
28 that.

29 Q. Okay, thank you. Were you on the base at the same time

1 with Monica Pearson? Well, I rephrase that. Were you recruited
2 to the base at the same time with Monica Pearson?

3 A. Monica Pearson met me on the base at Crab Hole.

12:29:19 4 Q. Going now back to Pendembu where you say you were stationed
5 as you fought in the front line in late 1992. From where was the
6 RUF receiving its arms and ammunitions, if you know, when you
7 were stationed or based in Pendembu?

8 A. The RUF, our means of getting ammunition at the time was
9 through ambushes and surprised attacks.

12:29:55 10 Q. When you were stationed in Pendembu, to your knowledge, did
11 the RUF have any communications equipment?

12 A. Yes. At the time I got to Pendembu was the time I saw a
13 radio with Mr Sankoh, and on Christmas Day of 1991 I too captured
14 a radio.

12:30:21 15 Q. From where did you capture this radio?

16 A. I captured the radio from Lalehun.

17 Q. Was this during the offensive when you captured the ULIMO
18 soldier?

19 A. Yes.

12:30:37 20 Q. What kind of radio did you capture?

21 A. It was an SSB communication radio.

22 Q. What kind of radio did Foday Sankoh have that you just
23 referred to?

12:31:05 24 A. Well, it was a military radio, SSB communication. The same
25 type of radio - the same kind of radio that I captured.

26 Q. How big was this radio? Can you describe it for us.

27 A. Well, if anyone knows about SSB communication radio, it is
28 not that big if you compare it to something like a four battery
29 radio. But only that it is a military communications radio.

1 Q. How far was the range of this radio, the one you captured
2 from Lalehun?

3 A. The radio I captured was a long-range radio. Long range.
4 You can communicate to anywhere provided you had the code of the
12:31:59 5 person you wanted to contact.

6 Q. When you say you could communicate to anywhere, could
7 someone in Sierra Leone with that radio communicate with someone
8 in Nigeria?

9 A. Yes.

12:32:14 10 Q. With respect to the radio that you said Foday Sankoh had,
11 what was the range of that radio?

12 A. He used to communicate with his commanders deployed on the
13 various front lines. That I know of.

14 Q. Was it the same kind of radio that you had?

12:32:44 15 A. No, not that I had a radio. I did not have a radio. But I
16 captured a radio and it was the same kind of radio that I
17 captured.

18 Q. The radio you captured, did you turn it over to someone
19 else?

12:32:57 20 A. Yes, I had to present it. I reported it to the battle
21 group by then.

22 Q. And who was the battle group?

23 A. The battle group at that time was John Kargbo.

24 Q. Were there present in Pendembu when you were there any
12:33:15 25 radio operators for the RUF?

26 A. Yes. The operator that I saw in Pendembu with Mr Sankoh
27 was Nya Nisseh.

28 Q. Did he go by any other names besides Nya Nessian?

29 A. No. I only knew his code name. Can I call it? His code

1 name was Courage.

2 Q. Do you know how to spell this Nisseh, or is it Nessian?

3 A. Nisseh, I don't know if it's N-I-S-S-E-H or something, but
4 Nya is N-Y-A.

12:34:08 5 Q. What nationality was Nya?

6 A. Nya was a Liberian. He is a Liberian, not was, because he
7 is still alive.

8 Q. This fellow Nya, do you know whether he was trained as a
9 radio man when he was in Pendembu?

12:34:33 10 A. Well, Nya's training as I heard was that when ULIMO started
11 attacking some parts of Liberia, mostly that Lofa County area, he
12 escaped with his radio and went into Sierra Leone. When he got
13 there, those whom he met, some of our Liberian brothers who were
14 vanguards accepted him. Based upon that, he decided to stay with
12:35:06 15 the RUF and that was how they took him to Mr Sankoh, and they
16 told him that the man was a good radio man and that was the radio
17 that I met with Pa Sankoh when I left the base and went to
18 Pendembu.

19 Q. Let's pause and consider some of what you've said. You
12:35:23 20 said that Nya escaped with his radio and went into Sierra Leone.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. For whom was he operating a radio, if you know, when he was
23 in Liberia and had to escape to Sierra Leone?

24 A. Nya was operating for the NPFL.

12:35:55 25 Q. You said he escaped and you said he escaped when ULIMO
26 started attacking. Do you know what caused him to escape?

27 A. Yeah, it was an information that I heard. Anywhere they
28 attack, if I had been attacked and I knew that there was no way I
29 can go on my people's side, I can escape for rescue. He escaped

1 to seek refuge. That was what he did.

2 Q. You said when he got to Sierra Leone he met some of "our
3 Liberian brothers who were vanguards". The Liberian brothers you
4 referred to that he met in Sierra Leone, were those RUF or NPFL?

12:36:37 5 A. RUF vanguards.

6 Q. You said those vanguards accepted him and he decided to
7 stay with the RUF.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Who decided to stay with the RUF?

12:36:53 10 A. Nya.

11 Q. After he decided to stay with the RUF, to your knowledge,
12 was Nya still an NPFL?

13 A. Once he had decided, no. Once he had decided to stay with
14 the RUF, he --

12:37:15 15 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he be kindly requested
16 to repeat his answer slowly.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, you rushed again. Please
18 repeat your answer a little slower.

19 THE WITNESS: I am saying that when he was attacked or when
12:37:32 20 his area that he was operating came under attack, he was cut off,
21 so he escaped and ran over to Sierra Leone where he encountered
22 vanguards who were Liberians. So he asked the question as to who
23 he was operating for, whether he was operating for NPFL in Sierra
24 Leone. I said, no, because NPFL could not give account of him
12:37:56 25 anymore.

26 MR ANYAH:

27 Q. Do you know whether once Nya joined the RUF and started
28 operating a radio he remained in radio contact with people in the
29 NPFL?

1 A. No, I don't know about that.

2 Q. Did you hear of any such contact between Nya and persons
3 who were with the NPFL?

4 A. No, because I was a field soldier. I was not a radio man,
12:38:35 5 so I can't give an account of that. And as far as I'm concerned,
6 no.

7 Q. That's fair enough. How long did you remain in the front
8 lines in the vicinity of Pendembu?

9 A. I remained on the front line until we were finally flushed
12:38:55 10 out from Pendembu all the way to the Liberian border. That was
11 around 1993 when we were flushed out all the way to the border.
12 We stayed at the border and we started organising jungle
13 movements. That was in the same 1993 Sankoh took a group and
14 went on his own way. We divided the group that way. I went with
12:39:26 15 another group to Kangari Hills, and another group set off to
16 Peyama. So we divided ourselves into three groups. We left the
17 enemy behind and jumped to the centre. That was how we decided
18 to fight them.

19 Q. Mr Vincent, let's consider this. You said sometime in 1993
12:39:50 20 you were flushed out all the way to the border. Who flushed you
21 out?

22 A. It was the SLA. It was the SLA and the ULIMO soldiers.

23 Q. You said you started organising jungle movements and
24 Mr Sankoh took a group and went on his own way. To where, if you
12:40:14 25 know, did Mr Sankoh go with that group?

26 A. Mr Sankoh headed for Zogoda.

27 Q. You mentioned a place called Peyama?

28 A. Peyama.

29 Q. Is that Peyima or Peyama?

1 A. Peyama.

2 Q. P-E-Y-A-M-A?

3 A. Yes.

12:40:53

4 Q. You said another group set off to Peyama. Were you part of
5 that group that went to Peyama?

6 A. No, I was not part of the Peyama group. I was among the
7 group that went to the Kangari Hills.

8 Q. Who was the commander of the group that went to Peyama?

12:41:25

9 A. Peyama group was headed by the one of the junior commandos
10 who trained, Prince Johnson.

11 Q. Foday Sankoh, you said, headed the group to Zogoda. Who
12 headed the group to Kangari Hills?

13 A. It was Mohamed Tarawalli who headed the group to the
14 Kangari Hills.

12:41:43

15 Q. Did Mohamed Tarawalli only answer that name, or did he have
16 another name he was known by?

17 A. We used to call him Zino. That was his code name, Zino.

18 Q. What month and year did you get to Kangari Hills?

12:42:14

19 A. Well, the month - I cannot give the exact month, but all of
20 that operation took place in 1993. 1993.

21 Q. Did you occupy any position within the RUF when you went to
22 the Kangari Hills?

12:42:47

23 A. Yes, when I went to the Kangari Hills, that was where
24 Mr Sankoh called me and instructed that I should take over the
25 training. Because he made me to understand that during my time
26 in training there was an improvement, but the other training
27 commander they had, there was no improvement, so he said I should
28 take back my position. So I took up my position again as
29 training commander for the RUF. So that was the second call for

1 my position.

2 Q. Thank you, Mr Vincent. Just remember to go slower. We are
3 understanding you and you're doing fine, but just keep it up.

4 Who was the other training commander that Sankoh was referring
12:43:21 5 to, the one you said training under that person was not going so
6 well?

7 A. Whose name did I call? Philip Palmer.

8 Q. In Kangari Hills, was that considered to be a training base
9 of the RUF?

12:43:52 10 A. Kangari Hills was an operation zone. But in terms of
11 operation, we needed to recruit men or else the manpower that we
12 had will be reduced. So we needed to add - increase the
13 manpower. That was how we established another base at Kangari
14 Hills.

12:44:11 15 Q. Was training indeed undertaken at the base in Kangari
16 Hills?

17 A. That was jungle training. It only lasted for two weeks,
18 three weeks upward, and the men were prepared to go on the
19 offensive.

12:44:30 20 Q. At Kangari Hills when you were training commander -
21 initially is that fair to say that you were training commander at
22 Kangari Hills?

23 A. I was a training commander. Not only for Kangari Hills,
24 but the training commander for the RUF, for that matter, but I
12:44:54 25 was based at Kangari Hills. So even the base that the RUF
26 established when they entered through the Bo Waterside, the
27 commander that established that base, though I was not in contact
28 with him, but when we joined, came together, he became my deputy.
29 That was Rashid Sandy.

1 Q. So is it the case that you were the overall training
2 commander of the RUF during this period of time?

3 A. Yes.

12:45:37

4 Q. Where did the RUF get its arms and ammunitions during the
5 time period when you were at Kangari Hills?

6 A. From ambushes.

7 Q. You said you went there sometime in 1993. For how long did
8 you remain in Kangari Hills?

12:46:02

9 A. We remained at Kangari Hills until the AFRC took over in
10 Sierra Leone, and we joined with the AFRC and the name RUF was
11 dissolved. We put the name together the People's Army of Sierra
12 Leone.

13 Q. In what year did the AFRC take over as you've said?

14 A. It was in May 1997.

12:46:29

15 Q. So is it the case that from May 1993 until May 1997 you
16 were at Kangari Hills?

17 A. We were at Kangari Hills.

18 Q. During that period of time, 1993 through 1997, where, to
19 your knowledge, did the RUF get its arms and ammunitions from?

12:46:54

20 A. I said we were getting our arms and ammunition through
21 ambushes and surprise attack on military targets.

22 Q. And ambushes of whom are you referring to?

23 A. Ambushes, SLA.

24 Q. Was it only the SLA from whom you received these arms and
25 ammunition?

12:47:21

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. When you were undertaking training at Kangari Hills, did
28 you train any person below the age of 18?

29 A. Yes, always.

1 Q. And for what purpose were people under the age of 18
2 trained?

3 A. These people were trained because - I have always repeated
4 this answer - it was because we did not want them to lose their
12:48:00 5 lives in case there was an attack on our positions. They were
6 trained to get military ideas so that in case of any attack, they
7 would know how to escape and later we would find them and we
8 would get together. Secondly, there were people who were with
9 other bigger people who were taken to us so that they wouldn't go
12:48:26 10 and leave their children with other people. So we trained them
11 so that they would be with them and take care of domestic chores
12 at home.

13 Q. Thank you, Mr Vincent. During the period of time you were
14 in Kangari Hills, 1993 through 1997, did the RUF have radio
12:48:45 15 communications equipment at Kangari Hills?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And were there radio operators present at Kangari Hills?

18 A. We had radio operators. There were radio operators all
19 over in the RUF at that time.

12:49:08 20 Q. Who were some of the radio operators for the RUF at Kangari
21 Hills?

22 A. We had Mortiga there.

23 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can he kindly repeat his
24 answer slowly.

12:49:23 25 MR ANYAH:

26 Q. You're now mumbling. Can you speak up and speak clearly
27 and slow down. You mentioned Mortiga and you were saying
28 something about Mortiga. Please continue, sir.

29 A. Yes, I said we had radio operators like Mortiga. The other

1 fellow's name, I do not know his name, only his code name Dudu
2 Boy. We also had Osman Tolo. We had Nya, the same Nya that I've
3 spoken about, and his fiancée Alice Pyne.

4 MR ANYAH: I think all those names are on the record except
12:50:13 5 this Dudu Boy, and I don't know that I can spell it.

6 THE WITNESS: Because I do not know his real name. Dudu
7 Boy is D-U-D-U B-O-Y.

8 MR ANYAH:

9 Q. Thank you, Mr Vincent. Did you have access to any of the
12:50:34 10 radio communication information that the RUF received or sent
11 while you were in Kangari Hills?

12 A. There were a lot of information. It was only when there
13 was an instruction for all the training bases that comes to me,
14 and if I had any information to pass on to the training base, I
12:50:56 15 would pass that on. Those who were heading the military
16 operations had their own operations that they were concerned with
17 whatever communication that came to them.

18 Q. While you were at Kangari Hills did you ever hear of the
19 RUF having radio communication contact with the NPFL?

12:51:18 20 A. No, not to my knowledge.

21 Q. While you were at Kangari Hills did you see any
22 representative of the NPFL visiting with the RUF?

23 A. No.

24 Q. While you were at Kangari Hills did you hear of the
12:51:40 25 presence of any members of the NPFL within the RUF at Kangari
26 Hills?

27 A. No.

28 Q. Did Mohamed Tarawali remain commander of the Kangari Hill
29 training base?

1 A. Mohamed Tarawalli was not a commander for a training base.
2 He was the overall commander for that particular operation, and
3 at the time Rashid was not there, he became the second in command
4 for the RUF that went with us on that particular operation. His
12:52:22 5 operation commander that he had for the operation that we were on
6 was George Daniel.

7 Q. Let's pause and consider a few things. You said at the
8 time Rashid wasn't there. What do you mean by "at the time
9 Rashid wasn't there"?

12:52:41 10 A. Well, I told you that during the time we were flushed out
11 of Kailahun I did not see him - during the time that we were
12 flushed out of Kailahun, Rashid was arrested by Mr Sankoh and he
13 said that Rashid was an agent, so he ordered his execution.
14 Rashid was then executed. So it was now Mohamed Tarawalli who
12:53:15 15 became the second in command.

16 Q. The Rashid you're referring to, is that the same Rashid
17 Mansaray you told us about in relation to Crab Hole?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You just said Rashid was executed at the time you were
12:53:28 20 flushed out of Kailahun. Did you mean flushed out of Pendembu or
21 Kailahun?

22 A. The whole of Kailahun District, I said we went as far as to
23 the border. He was arrested for collaborating with outside
24 forces against the RUF and Mr Sankoh ordered his execution. He
12:53:49 25 was investigated and executed.

26 Q. Was he the only one that was arrested by Mr Sankoh?

27 A. They were many, but he was the most senior man, together
28 with another vanguard, Richard Heneroe, and many others. That
29 includes some of those whom we trained. If I am not mistaken,

1 the number could be up to 18 men who were executed for that.

2 Q. Richard Heneroe?

3 A. Heneroe.

4 Q. Can you spell that for us, Mr Vincent.

12:54:35 5 A. It is H-E-N-E-R-O-E, something like that. Heneroe.

6 Q. These men who were executed, were they ordered to be
7 executed by Foday Sankoh?

8 A. Yes. Because he said they betrayed the course and it is
9 because of them that we had retreated up to that point.

12:55:08 10 Q. You said Mohamed Tarawalli became second in command. What
11 was his formal title as second in command within the RUF?

12 A. Well, from the training in Crab Hole, I told you that
13 Mohamed Tarawalli and Rashid Mansaray were the only Special
14 Forces whom we had on the base. So when Rashid Mansaray was the
15 second in command, Mohamed Tarawalli was the third.

12:55:32 16 Q. Did anything happen to Mohamed Tarawalli during the period
17 of time when you were in Kangari Hills?

18 A. Yes. What happened to Mohamed Tarawalli was that when
19 Mr Sankoh left Zogoda, before going out on the first peace
12:56:05 20 accord, Mohamed Tarawalli was called to take care of Zogoda.

21 Going to Zogoda - when he went to Zogoda, he left George Daniel
22 in charge of us at Kangari Hills. Then from Zogoda, a mission
23 was planned to be launched at Sierra Rutile. I did not go on
24 that one. Who was the commander for that mission? I did not

12:56:40 25 know. Those who were on that side can give a better information
26 on that. Like we had Sam Kolleh, Martin George, they can explain
27 better what went on on that mission.

28 Q. George Daniel remained in charge at Kangari Hills, you
29 said.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And Mohamed Tarawalli was called to take care of Zogoda.

3 Did he remain in Zogoda, as far as you know?

4 A. Yes, he remained in Zogoda. And later when - while

12:57:25 5 Mr Sankoh was on the peace accord, he told them to call for

6 George Daniel to come to Zogoda, leaving Morrison Kallon in

7 charge of Kangari Hills with Isaac Mongor deputising him. George

8 Daniel and Mohamed Tarawalli left - stayed in Zogoda. They were

9 attacked. Since then we have not seen Mohamed Tarawalli.

12:57:59 10 Whether he was killed or he escaped, up to this day we do not

11 know his whereabouts.

12 Q. During the period of time when you were in Kangari Hills,

13 were there elections held in Sierra Leone?

14 A. Yes, they had elections in Sierra Leone.

12:58:22 15 Q. In what year were those elections held?

16 A. That election was around '96.

17 Q. Did the RUF participate in those elections, to your

18 knowledge?

19 A. The RUF did not take parts in the election and RUF did not

12:58:52 20 even want that election to be held at that time.

21 Q. And why did the RUF not want the election to be held at

22 that time?

23 A. Because the RUF wanted peace before election, so having

24 election before peace was not going to be the right thing. That

12:59:16 25 meant that they won't have the full participation of all the

26 Sierra Leone citizens and the RUF were citizens of Sierra Leone.

27 Q. What was the main political party in Sierra Leone, if you

28 know, during that 1996 election?

29 A. It was Tejan Kabbah and I believe it was the SLPP.

1 Q. To your knowledge, did the RUF try to disrupt that
2 election?

3 A. Yes, RUF tried to disrupt the election.

4 Q. And how did it set about trying to disrupt that election?

13:00:01 5 A. RUF developed a strategy of sabotaging any area that was
6 set up for this election through harassments so that the citizens
7 around those areas would not be brave to go around any polling
8 station to vote for anybody.

9 Q. When you say they set up for this election through - and
13:00:31 10 you said any area that was set up for this election through
11 harassment so said that the citizens who were around those areas
12 would not be brave to go. The harassment you're referring to,
13 what was the nature of that type of harassment?

14 A. The harassment I'm talking about was that Tejan Kabbah knew
13:00:56 15 that there was war in the country and he was forcing election
16 issues. So he deployed soldiers to areas where civilians had to
17 go to vote. So the strategy the RUF developed here was to attack
18 any military target or any military base established for that,
19 for the purpose of the election, to destabilise the whole area so
13:01:22 20 that the civilians would be afraid to go out and vote.

21 Q. Besides military targets, to your knowledge, did the RUF
22 target civilians during the elections?

23 A. Well, there wasn't any special target for civilians, but in
24 times of war, accidents do happen. When we go to military
13:01:50 25 targets, they had their families, they kept them in their various
26 homes. When those places were attacked, civilians would be
27 killed. But it was not the intention or the policy of killing
28 civilians, no.

29 Q. Do you know whether any civilians who attempted to vote

1 were harmed physically by the RUF during that election?

2 A. No.

3 Q. When you say "no", does that mean you do not know or that
4 they never - no civilians were harmed?

13:02:30 5 A. Yes. The reason why I'm saying no, I did not go on these
6 operations, so I cannot actually give you a clearer picture
7 because I did not go there. And there was no report brought to
8 me to say that, "Oh, this civilian was harmed because he was
9 attempting to go and vote."

13:02:50 10 Q. During the election period, did you ever hear of any
11 civilian being amputated when trying to vote?

12 A. Whether they caught civilians? I know that election
13 centres were attacked, attacked in the sense that not just
14 attacking civilians or agents of the election but attacking to
15 get the military who were defending the election areas out, and
16 in the crossfire civilians got hurt. So we got that report. But
17 for someone to come and say, oh, because this person wanted to go
18 and vote, so we just caught this person because he wanted to go
19 and vote and we harmed him, no. But during crossfiring, the
13:03:52 20 bullet would hit them unexpectedly.

21 Q. The fellow you referred to before as Mortiga, who was that
22 fellow?

23 A. Mortiga was the radio operator for the RUF. I don't know
24 what you mean, whether he was - or is there anything further you
13:04:19 25 want me to say about him?

26 Q. Well, just listen to the questions. You've said Mortiga
27 was a radio operator for the RUF. Was he a radio operator -
28 well, you told us he was a radio operator at Kangari Hills. Can
29 you tell us what sort of relationship, if any, you had with

1 Mortiga?

2 A. Yes. Mortiga, just as I told you, Mortiga was one of those
3 who was trained at the age below 18. When Mortiga was trained, I
4 took him to stay with me, so he was with me. I sent him on
13:05:04 5 errands. He took care of my place when I was not there. And
6 until he got to the age that I felt that he was now supposed to
7 be a responsible man, then he will take up his own assignment.
8 That was how I recommended him to become a radio operator. That
9 was how he went and did his radio training under Nya.

13:05:32 10 Q. What age was Mortiga when you first encountered him?

11 A. Mortiga was very small though. I did screen him, but I
12 cannot actually recall now. I did screen him, but he was not up
13 to the age of 18 when I first met him. But when he got to a
14 point now when I felt that he could do operations on his own - by
13:06:01 15 operation I mean the military activities.

16 Q. Where were you? That is, what part of Sierra Leone were
17 you when you first took Mortiga, as you said you took him along?

18 A. At that time I was at the training base in Kailahun.

19 Q. And is that where he took care of your place as you
13:06:26 20 referred to in your previous answer?

21 A. Not just there. Wherever I went to, he was with me until
22 we went to the Kangari Hills. That was where I made him to go on
23 communication.

24 Q. From Kailahun up through the time when you reached Kangari
13:06:52 25 Hills, to your knowledge, did Mortiga partake in any fighting on
26 behalf of the RUF?

27 A. Mortiga never took part in fighting at that time for the
28 RUF. The only thing that Mortiga did was that, whenever there
29 was an attack and the area was put under control, then - the ages

1 we are talking about, below 18 - they would go there and look for
2 our basic needs. Maybe get some food, some ammunition and then
3 they bring it. So those were some of the reasons why these
4 people were used mainly.

13:07:36 5 Q. And was it - I believe you said you recommended Mortiga for
6 radio training. Is that the case?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. From Kangari Hills, where did you go?

9 A. From Kangari Hills?

13:07:55 10 Q. Yes.

11 A. From Kangari Hills, I said when the AFRC took over, we
12 joined with the RUF - I mean, sorry, the AFRC. The first place I
13 went to --

14 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness be asked
13:08:12 15 to repeat the name of that place.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, repeat the name of the place
17 where you went.

18 THE WITNESS: Matele.

19 MR ANYAH:

13:08:26 20 Q. Can you spell Matele for us?

21 A. Matele should be something like that M-A-T-E-L-E.
22 Something like that, Matele.

23 Q. Which month and year, if you remember, did you go to
24 Matele?

13:08:41 25 A. It was in the year 1997 in May. May.

26 Q. You referred to the People's Army previously. How did that
27 term or phrase come into being?

28 A. Well, when the AFRC took over in Sierra Leone, at that time
29 Mr Sankoh was in Nigeria in prison. He communicated to the

1 command on the ground at that time, Mosquito, and he instructed
2 him that all the RUF should come out and join the AFRC to serve
3 the people of Sierra Leone; and therefore, our name, together
4 with the AFRC, was now termed as the People's Army.

13:09:46 5 Q. Following this communication from Mr Sankoh to Mosquito,
6 did the members of the RUF in fact join the AFRC to form the
7 People's Army?

8 A. All of the RUF-controlled territories. All of us joined
9 the AFRC.

13:10:08 10 Q. When you were at Matele did you consider yourself RUF or
11 AFRC, or both?

12 A. We were now People's Army. There was no segregation
13 between us and the AFRC so that name was now being used, People's
14 Army, under the command of Johnny Paul Koroma.

13:10:41 15 Q. How long did you stay at Matele?

16 A. At Matele it was when I came out - when I came out I did
17 not stay there for up two days. Matele is 5 miles away from
18 Matotoka, and from Matele to Makale, where I was based, it was
19 approximately 5 miles distance, so I moved to Makale. That was
20 where I was based.

21 Q. Is Makale near Masingbi?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How far from Masingbi is Makale?

24 A. From Masingbi to Makale is about 7 miles, if I'm not
25 mistaken.

13:11:26

26 Q. And how far from Makale is it to Magburaka?

27 A. From Makale to Magburaka it could be about 10 miles.

28 Q. And how far is Makale from Makeni?

29 A. From Makale to Makeni - because from Makale going to

1 Matotoka - from Matotoka you go to Magburaka, from Magburaka
2 before you go to Makeni. So that is a long distance. So
3 approximately it could be up to 15, 20 miles.

4 Q. And how far from Makale to Matotoka?

13:12:13 5 A. From Makale to Matotoka I said is about 10 miles.

6 Q. Thank you, Mr Vincent. Now can you spell Makale?

7 A. Makale, it should be M-A-K-A-R-A-Y. Something like that.
8 I don't believe I'm right.

9 Q. Would the spelling be M-A-R-K-A-L-Y, Mr Vincent, or
13:12:53 10 something to that effect?

11 A. Very well. It's an African name. It could be spelled in
12 many different ways.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, might you know how this
14 place is spell spelt?

13:13:07 15 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honours, it's M-A-K-A-L-E.

16 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Mr Interpreter:

17 Q. Mr Vincent, from what month and what year did you start at
18 Makale, and what month to what year did you leave Makale?

19 A. Well, in '97 I was in Makale up to around December - let's
13:13:42 20 say around November/December I went to Freetown where an ECOMOG
21 attack was very serious, and all of us escaped where we used
22 boats to escape with even Johnny Paul Koroma and we came - we got
23 to Waterloo. There we were walked and got to Masiaka before we
24 took him to Makeni.

13:14:17 25 Q. Let's pause there. You're telling us between May and
26 December 1997 you were at Makale. What did you do --

27 A. Not '95. I said '97. We are talking about around
28 November, December when I went to Freetown. I was there until
29 the time the ECOMOG attacks became serious. That was the early

1 part of 1998 when we finally left Freetown, and we retreated in a
2 boat with Johnny Paul Koroma and we came to Makeni. We passed
3 through Waterloo. After we came down off the boat, we got to
4 Waterloo and we walked, and that was how we moved up to Makeni.

13:15:13 5 Q. Thank you, Mr Vincent. I'm trying to find out what you did
6 in Makale. Before you get to your trip to Freetown, what was
7 your assignment or mission in Makale in the later part of 1997?

8 A. In 1997 when I came out, it was my area of deployment. I
9 was deployed there as a commander, and my deputy was one SLA
13:15:43 10 Milton Bangura, a lieutenant at that time. So I was taking care
11 of Makale.

12 Q. Again try and speak up, but you're doing well so far. This
13 fellow Milton Bangura, you said, was an SLA. Was that person a
14 part of the AFRC at that time?

13:16:05 15 A. Yes, he was part of the AFRC, but I told you that all of us
16 now became the People's Army. But he was an SLA soldier.

17 Q. Was it the case that throughout most parts of Sierra Leone,
18 RUFs and SLAs or AFRCs were under the same command during the
19 time of the People's Army?

13:16:38 20 A. Yes, we were all there taking commands from Johnny Paul
21 Koroma.

22 Q. And while Foday Sankoh was in prison in Nigeria as you say,
23 who was the commander on the ground in Sierra Leone of the RUF
24 component of the People's Army?

13:16:56 25 A. Sam Bockarie was on the ground taking care of the RUF
26 within the People's Army.

27 Q. Where was Sam Bockarie based --

28 A. He was based in Buedu, and at times he visited Freetown.

29 Q. Was that during the period of the AFRC and People's Army in

1 Freetown?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Where was Johnny Paul Koroma based?

4 A. He was in Freetown.

13:17:34 5 Q. You said you went to Freetown in December 1997. Who was
6 the most senior man in Freetown for the RUF that was part of the
7 People's Army at that time?

8 A. You mean in Freetown?

9 Q. Yes.

13:17:56 10 A. Yes, in Freetown I told you that the senior commander for
11 the RUF at that time was Sam Bockarie, but he used to come to
12 Freetown and return to Buedu. And then in Freetown, the highest
13 command that was there was Issa Sesay. So when he comes down,
14 Issa Sesay would make the report to him, so that was how they
13:18:26 15 were operating.

16 Q. You went to Freetown, you made reference to ECOMOG and its
17 activities in Freetown at that time. Can you tell us what
18 exactly ECOMOG was engaged in at that time?

19 A. When I got there, you know, the ECOMOG came in as an
13:19:00 20 intervention force to flush the People's Army out. So when I got
21 there, I met fighting going on in town. That was what happened.
22 I did not know what happened. But it was a serious attack, and
23 that was the final battle that led us to be taken out of
24 Freetown.

13:19:21 25 Q. Was it the case that ECOMOG was driving out the People's
26 Army from Freetown?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. Who was amongst your group that escaped from Freetown when
29 you said previously that you came off a boat in order to get to

1 Waterloo?

2 A. Please repeat the question.

3 Q. When ECOMOG pushed or chased the People's Army out of
4 Freetown, you mentioned going on a boat. From where did you take
13:20:01 5 this boat and to where did you take it?

6 A. Well, when the ECOMOG started their attack, the first thing
7 they did was that they came down to the area called Benguema
8 Barracks. That is the road moving out of Freetown. That was the
9 first place they started their offensive whilst we were in the

13:20:27 10 centre of the town at Hill Station where we were based. The
11 attack continued until they took over the sports stadium, the
12 State House - they had taken control of the State House. We had
13 to retreat to 7 BM area, the 7th Battalion area. I'm not so
14 familiar with the names of those areas, but we took the road

13:20:51 15 leading towards the 7 BM. We took the road going towards 7 BM,
16 and it was around that area that we got on board a Fante fishing
17 boat. The Fante fishing boat took us down to somewhere and we
18 got to a footpath, where we took a road that led us to Waterloo.

19 And from Waterloo, we decided to use the main road to go to
13:21:19 20 Makeni.

21 Q. While you were leaving Freetown, did you see any RUF member
22 causing harm to civilians as you were fleeing from ECOMOG?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did you hear of any civilians being amputated by members of
13:21:46 25 the RUF as you were leaving Freetown?

26 A. No.

27 Q. During the period of the People's Army's presence in
28 Freetown, did you hear of any civilians sustaining physical
29 injuries such as amputations during that period of time?

1 A. No, not until when we retreated from Freetown. We went and
2 based in Kono. That was where we were when we started an
3 offensive, you know, to regain our positions not to take us out
4 of Kono. It was then that the amputations started. And
13:22:39 5 actually, when we look at the amputation, it was not any member
6 of the RUF that started those amputations. Throughout our
7 struggle in the jungle or wheresoever we were, there was not a
8 day that we received a complaint or that I saw anyone being
9 amputated by an RUF fighter. But when we joined with the AFRC in
13:23:05 10 the People's Army, when things got tough on us that was when this
11 idea of short and long sleeve or short sleeve came on board, and
12 the SLA at that time started this thing. An example of that is
13 that there is a girl now I know, she might still be alive maybe
14 in Makeni or Freetown. They even gave her the name Adama Cut
13:23:40 15 Hand, and that lady still bears that name.

16 Q. This lady you referred to, Adama Cut Hand, was she RUF or
17 was she part of the AFRC or SLA?

18 A. She was an SLA. But when all of us joined together, that
19 was when she started doing these things to civilians.

13:24:02 20 Q. What things was she doing to civilians?

21 A. Cutting off civilians' hands. That I know of. And this is
22 just to prove that they started it and that we were not doing
23 that. The RUF were not doing that. We never even heard of that
24 when we were in the jungle. We never did that.

13:24:25 25 Q. To your knowledge, after this Adama Cut Hand started
26 cutting off the hands of civilians, did members of the RUF
27 partake in such activities?

28 A. Well, in that case I will tell you no, except if it
29 happened in areas that I was not present. But all the areas

1 where I was present, I did not see that happen. Not a day.

2 Q. Do you know whether when the People's Army were based in
3 Freetown they received any kind of military support from a source
4 in Liberia?

13:25:20 5 A. No.

6 Q. When you say "no", does that mean it did not happen or does
7 that mean you do not know?

8 A. Well, I don't know. If I knew, I would have told you. I
9 took an oath here. I'm telling the truth. I will tell you the
10 truth. What I don't know, I don't know. What I know, I know.

11 Q. When you went to Freetown, December 1997, and remained
12 there until the ECOMOG pushed the People's Army out, did you hear
13 of any military supplies or support coming from Liberia to the
14 benefit of the People's Army?

13:26:02 15 A. No.

16 Q. When you were in Freetown during that period of time, did
17 you encounter any Liberians that were sent from Liberia to come
18 and fight together with the People's Army against ECOMOG?

19 A. No. Can I comment?

13:26:29 20 Q. Yes.

21 A. The only Liberian that joined the People's Army in Freetown
22 to fight were those guys they called the STF. They were a group
23 of Liberians who were members of the ULIMO that stayed in
24 Freetown and they named themselves the STF, but I don't know what
25 that STF means. But they joined us. They were Liberians. They
26 joined the AFRC.

27 Q. These Liberians you say were former ULIMO. Is that
28 correct?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. To your knowledge, had these people been in Sierra Leone
2 for long or had they just been sent from Liberia?

3 A. As I told you, the ULIMO was formed in Sierra Leone.

4 Q. That was not my question. I understand what you said,
13:27:29 5 ULIMO was formed in Sierra Leone. These people, the STF, that
6 joined the People's Army, were they in Sierra Leone for a long
7 time, or had they just come to Sierra Leone recently during the
8 period of the People's Army?

9 A. No, they were there. We met them there.

13:27:54 10 Q. We as in you, does that mean you met them in Sierra Leone?

11 A. We, the RUF. The RUF met them there in Sierra Leone when
12 we joined the People's Army, and I told you that in fact they
13 were fighting along with the SLA against the RUF. But when we
14 now joined together, they were compelled to be part of the AFRC.

13:28:18 15 So we were no longer common enemies. We were all together.

16 Q. So at some point you seem to be saying that these STF
17 fought alongside the SLA?

18 A. Yes. At the time we were not together.

19 Q. And at a later point they joined together with the People's
13:28:39 20 Army?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Thank you, Mr Vincent. When you got - you said you went
23 from Waterloo and ended up in Makeni. From Makeni, where did you
24 and the rest go when you were retreating from Freetown following
13:29:00 25 the ECOMOG attack?

26 A. After the ECOMOG had dislodged us in Freetown, they chased
27 us all the way until we went to Kono. And even when we went to
28 Kono, they took us out of there again and then we jumped into the
29 bushes.

1 Q. Where was Johnny Paul Koroma at that time?

2 A. At that time Johnny Paul Koroma was taken all the way to
3 Kailahun in a town called Kangama after Buedu where Mosquito was
4 residing. That is Sam Bockarie.

13:29:44 5 Q. And where was Issa Sesay at that time?

6 A. Issa Sesay too was in Buedu.

7 Q. And you said they chased you even from Kono into the bush.
8 Were you one of those who ended up in the bush?

9 A. Yes. We were in the bushes around Kono.

13:30:09 10 Q. Where was Foday Sankoh at this time?

11 A. Foday Sankoh at that time, he was in jail. It may be that
12 he was in jail or somewhere else, but I can't actually recall.
13 But he was not with us throughout the time we were in Freetown
14 with the junta.

13:30:39 15 MR ANYAH: Yes, Madam President, I see that we're almost
16 out of time.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, I think you have to take it up from
18 here. I'm sure the tape has run out by now. And the proceedings
19 for today have come to an end. We are going to adjourn to
13:30:55 20 tomorrow at 9.30 in the morning.

21 So, Mr Vincent, your testimony continues tomorrow. In the
22 meantime, you are not to discuss your testimony with anyone.

23 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: The proceedings are adjourned
13:31:12 25 accordingly.

26 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 1.31 p.m.
27 to be reconvened on Friday, 26 March 2010 at
28 9.30 a.m.]

29

I N D E X

WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENCE:

DCT-215	37968
EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR ANYAH	37968