



Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

THE PROSECUTOR OF
THE SPECIAL COURT
V.
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

THURSDAY, 22 MAY 2008
9.30 A.M.
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before the Judges:

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

For Chambers:

Mr William Romans
Ms Sidney Thompson

For the Registry:

Ms Rosette Muzigo-Morrison
Ms Rachel Irura

For the Prosecution:

Ms Brenda J Hollis
Mr Nicholas Koumjian
Mr Christopher Santora
Ms Maja Dimitrova

For the accused Charles Ghankay
Taylor:

Mr Terry Munday
Mr Morris Anyah
Ms Sanela Trzin

1 Thursday, 22 May 2008

2 [The accused present]

3 [Open session]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

09:30:33 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Good morning, counsel. Appearances,
6 Mr Koumjian?

7 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, the Prosecution appearances
8 remain Brenda J Hollis, Christopher Santora, Maja Dimitrova and
9 myself Nicholas Koumjian.

09:30:51 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Koumjian. And, Mr Munyard,
11 I see a change on your bar.

12 MR MUNYARD: Indeed. Good morning Madam President and
13 counsel opposite. The Defence are represented this morning by
14 myself Terry Munyard, Morris Anyah and Sanela Trzin which

09:31:12 15 I believe I have correctly pronounced despite the sound.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: If there are no other matters I will
17 remind the witness of his oath. Mr Witness, I remind you that
18 you took the oath yesterday to tell the truth. The oath is
19 binding on you and you must answer questions truthfully. Do you
09:31:32 20 understand?

21 THE WITNESS: Okay.

22 WITNESS: SAMUEL KARGBO [On former oath]

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Again I would ask that because we have
24 interpreters and because what you say is being typed please
09:31:44 25 remember to take it slowly, pause at the end of sentences.

26 Mr Koumjian, please proceed.

27 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR KOUMJIAN: [Cont.]

28 Q. Good morning, sir. I would like to begin by clarifying
29 some matters that I didn't do a good job of clarifying yesterday

1 and going over a few questions and answers, beginning, for the
2 benefit of counsel for the Defence and for your Honours, on
3 page 10500 on line 15. When Johnny Paul Koroma was using the
4 satellite phone and talking to Charles Taylor I asked you, "Do
09:32:31 5 you know of him talking to anyone else with the satellite phone?"
6 You answered on line 19, "Yes he talked to the President in
7 Niger. He talked to the President of Burkina Faso."

8 I didn't ask you what time those calls occurred. Can you
9 clarify when you were giving that answer and talking about the
09:32:53 10 calls to the President of Niger and Burkina Faso, when did Johnny
11 Paul Koroma make those calls?

12 A. He made those calls during the time we were going up to
13 Kabala. We stopped elsewhere and he made the calls.

14 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Do we actually have a time frame for
09:33:23 15 that?

16 MR KOUMJIAN: We have.

17 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Like a month and a year?

18 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes.

19 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: We do?

09:33:32 20 MR KOUMJIAN: I can clarify further:

21 Q. Sir, you talked about the intervention - we talked about
22 the intervention occurring according to the adjudicated fact in
23 mid-February and you talked about meeting Johnny Paul Koroma some
24 time after that. Approximately when was it, how long after the
09:33:48 25 intervention that you were in Kabala when these calls were made?
26 Can you tell us in terms of weeks, or months, or days?

27 A. I cannot tell the exact date now, but it was in the month
28 of February 1998 after the intervention, after we had left the
29 village Magbonkineh and we were going to Kabala.

1 Q. Thank you. Thank you, your Honour. I want to clarify
2 another point in your testimony on page 10497 in line 21. You
3 were talking then about going back to Makeni after the first
4 attempt to take Kono and then I will start reading on line 17:

09:34:47 5 "So Johnny Paul told by then Superman, Akim, Rambo and me,
6 he told us that we should still go and talk to the RUF and the
7 SLA in order to make them move for Kono so that we will capture
8 there so that things will be fine for us. So we moved ..."

9 Then this is the point I want you to clarify. You said:

09:35:14 10 "... because he did not expose - he did not reveal to them
11 that a helicopter would pick him up, but he used to tell us."

12 As you see, Mr Witness, there is a lot of "he"s in those
13 sentences, so can you clarify who was talking when you say - who
14 did you mean when you said, "... he did not expose - he did not

09:35:39 15 reveal to them that a helicopter would pick him up"?

16 A. It was chairman Johnny Paul Koroma.

17 Q. And can you explain what you meant that he did not reveal
18 that a helicopter would come pick him up?

19 A. Well, chairman Johnny Paul Koroma was the one I meant that
09:36:05 20 I said he was saying so, but he did not tell the troops. He told
21 us that we should go and talk to the men, that was myself Rambo,
22 Superman, Akim. That was what I meant. Chairman Johnny Paul
23 Koroma was talking to us, but he did not talk to the troops
24 directly. He said we should talk to them to come down Makeni and
09:36:28 25 we should assemble to go and capture Kono.

26 Q. Well when you said "... he did not reveal to them about the
27 helicopter", who was it that Johnny Paul Koroma did not reveal
28 the helicopter information? To who did he --

29 A. That is the troops that were supposed to go and meet in

1 Kabala. He did not tell them. He only told us. We who were
2 supposed to know, myself, Rambo, who was close to him, we were
3 the only ones who knew that a helicopter was supposed to pick him
4 up, that Mr Ghankay Taylor was to send but he did not send it he
09:37:05 5 said because of the jet raid, so we were the ones he told.
6 Myself, Rambo, we knew about that, but the other men didn't know.
7 Like Akim, Superman and the other troops he did not tell them and
8 he did not tell us to tell them, so we did not tell them
9 anything. We only went there to convince them to come down to
09:37:24 10 Makeni first to go to Kono and capture the place.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Take it easy, Mr Witness, please.

12 MR KOU MJIAN:

13 Q. Just so that we are clear, when you say Rambo in that
14 answer who do you mean?

09:37:41 15 A. That was the chief security officer at that time, that is
16 Moses Kabi a.

17 Q. Thank you. Now, I would like to turn to page 10443 and at
18 that time we were talking about the initial AFRC overthrow.
19 I asked you at the beginning of the page:

09:38:08 20 "Sir, did Johnny Paul Koroma discuss with you and other
21 members of the AFRC why the RUF was being invited to come to
22 Freetown and join you?"

23 You answered:

24 "Yes, the discussion was we needed their support, their
09:38:27 25 manpower and the contacts that they had before."

26 What did you mean when you talk about the contacts that
27 they had before?

28 A. Well the contacts they had through Charles Taylor, who was
29 their godfather, and the total peace that we needed that the

1 government had abandoned that we the soldiers were suffering, so
2 we were asking them to come and join hands with us and for the
3 contacts that they had.

4 Q. Well, what do you mean? Which contacts that they had?

09:39:25 5 What contacts - excuse me, let me rephrase that. What contacts
6 were you aware of that you are referring to?

7 A. Well, at that time the international community did not
8 recognise us and we said where the RUF was fighting that was
9 along the border of Liberia. We knew they had a contact with
09:39:47 10 Charles Taylor, so we needed them to have Charles Taylor on our
11 side. That was why we called the RUF and we got them and they
12 brought the number the chairman used to call Charles Taylor and
13 he spoke to him and he said, yes, he will support us to be
14 together so all of us will be together.

09:40:03 15 Q. Thank you. In your answer you also referred to the
16 manpower of the RUF. Can you tell us during the time that you
17 were in Freetown together, the AFRC junta, can you tell us
18 approximately how the manpower was distributed? In other words
19 were you, the former members of the SLA and the RUF, in equal
09:40:27 20 numbers in the whole country, or did one side have more troops
21 than the other?

22 A. Well with regards to that, yes, there were some places
23 where the SLA were many and there were some other places where
24 the RUF were many and some other places SLA --

09:40:58 25 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness repeat his
26 answer.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just a minute, Mr Witness. What part
28 Mr Interpreter? All of it?

29 THE INTERPRETER: Just after where I stopped, your Honour.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: The interpreter is not able to keep up
2 with you, Mr Witness. You are speaking a bit fast. Please pick
3 up your answer where you said, "... some other places where the
4 RUF were many and some other places SLA --"

09:41:27 5 THE WITNESS: Like some part in Kailahun District the RUF
6 were more in number than the Sierra Leone Army, but in Freetown
7 we, the Sierra Leone Army, were more in number than the RUF.

8 MR KOUMJIAN:

9 Q. I also want to ask you something about the effect on your
09:41:50 10 military capability of the intervention by ECOMOG and the loss of
11 Freetown for the AFRC junta. Did that action, where you had
12 retreated from Freetown, have any effect on the weapons that you
13 possessed, particularly the heavy weapons?

14 A. Yes, we could not retreat with the weapons. We left them
09:42:22 15 at Tombo, because Waterloo was blocked. There was no way for
16 heavy artilleries to cross over.

17 Q. Sir, so in total once the junta had been pushed out of
18 Freetown, you had told us in your answer about the AFRC's desire
19 why you needed the RUF and wanted the RUF. After the
09:42:50 20 intervention, did you still need the RUF? Did you need them
21 more, or less?

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: You have two questions there,
23 Mr Koumjian. The first one is, "Did you need them", and after
24 that it is the scale.

09:43:05 25 MR KOUMJIAN: I am trying to keep it neutral, so giving all
26 three possibilities. I was trying not to lead.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. I withdraw what I said.

28 THE WITNESS: Well, we still needed the RUF and they too
29 needed us.

1 MR KOUMJIAN:

2 Q. Okay, thank you.

3 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Well, could we at least appreciate why
4 they needed them?

09:43:31 5 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes:

6 Q. Sir, can you explain why you needed the RUF and also -
7 well, first explain why did you need the RUF at this time after
8 the intervention?

9 A. We needed the RUF because they had been in the jungle for a
09:43:53 10 long time and we had never stayed in the jungle, so for that
11 reason we needed the RUF for us to be able to cope with the
12 jungle so they can help us to understand how they used to survive
13 in the jungle.

14 Q. A few other follow up questions. You talked about losing
09:44:12 15 heavy weapons. These heavy weapons that were lost, had they been
16 SLA weapons or RUF weapons?

17 A. Well most of the heavy weapons that were in Freetown,
18 especially artilleries, twin barrels and the others, they were
19 the SLA weapons.

09:44:32 20 Q. Once you were pushed out of Freetown, was there any way for
21 the SLAs, the AFRC, I mean the non-RUF component, to obtain heavy
22 weapons to replace those that were lost?

23 A. No, there was no way. The only way that we had was when we
24 would fight and we would capture arms we, together with the RUF,
09:45:05 25 would capture weapons and we used to get ammo from Liberia
26 through Mr Charles Ghankay Taylor.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: If you are moving on to a new subject,
28 Mr Koumjian, I just want to clarify one answer that was on
29 page 5, line 25, of my record and it was a couple of "he"s in

1 there. The question related to contact and he said:

2 "We knew they had contact with Charles Taylor so we needed
3 to have Charles Taylor on our side. We got them ... they brought
4 the number. The chairman used to call and he spoke to him and he
09:45:55 5 said, yes, he will support us." Who is saying "Yes" and who is
6 supporting?

7 MR KOUMJIAN: I am sorry, would your Honour like me to pose
8 the question?

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, please.

09:46:13 10 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you:

11 Q. Sir, in your answer this morning when I had asked you what
12 you meant by part of the reason to invite the RUF was for their
13 contacts you said, "We knew they had a contact with
14 Charles Taylor", and then you went on to say, "And they brought
09:46:36 15 the number that the chairman used to call Charles Taylor and he
16 spoke to him." First of all, when you gave that answer who
17 brought numbers to who?

18 A. Gibril Massaquoi brought the number from Nigeria, from
19 Foday Sankoh.

09:46:57 20 Q. Who did Gibril Massaquoi give the numbers to?

21 A. He gave the number to chairman Johnny Paul Koroma.

22 Q. And just so we are clear, when you say numbers what do you
23 mean?

24 A. Telephone numbers. Telephone numbers.

09:47:19 25 Q. Then you said, "He called Charles Taylor", and you said -

26 Mr Witness, what you said this morning is, "He spoke to him and
27 he said, yes, he will support us to be together so all of us will
28 be together." First, who is having this conversation?

29 A. This conversation happened in the chief of defence staff's

1 office at Cockerill between chairman Johnny Paul Koroma and
2 Mr Ghankay Taylor. He said he was on the telephone. After the
3 conversation he told us that Mr Ghankay Taylor said we should be
4 together and he would support us in whatever situation. Whatever
09:48:06 5 hiccups he should call him. Chairman Johnny Paul Koroma should
6 call him, whatever hiccups occurred between us and the RUF.

7 Q. Thank you. And then you said that in that conversation,
8 "He said, yes, he will support us to be together." Who was
9 offering to support "us" to be together?

09:48:30 10 A. After the conversation, chairman Johnny Paul Koroma told us
11 in a meeting that chairman - sorry, Mr Charles Ghankay Taylor had
12 accepted that we should be together with the RUF and that he will
13 support us. If there are any problems, we should call him. That
14 he explained to us after the conversation.

09:48:50 15 Q. There are still quite a few "he" in your answer and I would
16 ask you to try to use the names. Who should call who if there is
17 a problem?

18 A. Chairman Johnny Paul Koroma said any hiccups between us,
19 that is SLA and the RUF, he said Mr Ghankay Taylor said he should
09:49:14 20 call him.

21 Q. In other words, who should call who, sorry?

22 A. Chairman Johnny Paul Koroma should call Mr Ghankay Taylor
23 in case there were to be any hiccups between RUF and the SLA.

24 Q. Thank you. Mr Witness, also this morning in giving your
09:49:37 25 answer about how the situation changed when you were pushed out
26 of Freetown you talked about the RUF had been in the jungle. Can
27 you explain to us in a little more detail what was the
28 significance of the differences in experience of the RUF and the
29 SLAs after the intervention, their experience outside of

1 Freetown?

2 A. Well, the experience was different between us and the RUF.

3 At first it was not really easy because it was not easy between

4 us. There were hiccups. That was why everybody from the SLA

09:50:26 5 side moved on to Kabala and the RUF moved to Makeni and chairman

6 Johnny Paul Koroma said we should go and talk to them, so

7 everybody will calm down and we will work together. It was only

8 when we --

9 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness --

09:50:40 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Witness, you are going too fast again.

11 Please go slowly, stop at the end of each sentence and pick up

12 where you said, "It was only when". You had said earlier that,

13 "Chairman Johnny Paul Koroma said we should go and talk to them

14 so that everyone will calm down and we will work together",

09:51:06 15 continue from there, please.

16 THE WITNESS: It was only when we had got to Kono and we

17 were staying at Gandorhun Road that he had a meeting with us, he

18 had a meeting with the RUF and the SLAs. He spoke to us and

19 appointed Superman battlefield commander.

09:51:30 20 MR KOUMJIAN:

21 Q. And what did Johnny Paul Koroma say in that meeting about
22 how you should work in relation to the RUF?

23 A. He said wherever an SLA will be in command RUF should

24 deputise and wherever RUF should be in command SLA should

09:51:58 25 deputise.

26 Q. Sir, let me try to rephrase my original question because I

27 don't think I made it clear. Was there a difference in the

28 tactics that you had experience in, the SLAs and the RUF? Do you

29 understand what I mean by that; in the way that your experience

1 in fighting and ways to fight?

2 A. No, there was not much difference. There was no much
3 difference.

4 Q. Thank you. Sir, I want to clarify something you said
09:52:31 5 yesterday on page 10501 and I think you were talking about this
6 same meeting in Koidu Town with Johnny Paul Koroma. I asked you
7 where the meeting took place and you said on line 19, "Outside
8 where Johnny Paul was lodged on Gandorhun Road." I asked, "Is
9 that in or near Koidu Town" and you said it was in Koidu Town.
09:53:06 10 Then you said, "He said that those - the men he said should
11 continue to hold the ground." What did you mean when you said
12 that Johnny Paul Koroma said the men should continue to hold the
13 ground?

14 A. Well, I meant that they were to defend the ground against
09:53:29 15 the enemies, that was Koidu Town and Gandorhun Road, around the
16 area where he too was.

17 Q. On page 10507 at the end of the day you were talking --

18 THE WITNESS: I want to stand up.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please stand. That's fine.

09:53:59 20 MR KOUMJIAN: Perhaps the microphone could be pulled closer
21 to the witness.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Are you feeling more comfortable now,

23 Mr Witness?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, much better. Much better.

09:54:11 25 MR KOUMJIAN:

26 Q. You were talking about Foday, nickname Ndevuyama, forgive
27 my pronunciation, and about his trips to Liberia to bring back
28 SLAs. You said on line 12, "Mosquito sent him. He gave him some
29 money for him to go and bring them back so he did that once."

1 Who gave money to who?

2 A. Sam Bockarie alias Mosquito gave some amount of money to
3 Captain Foday whom we knew as Ndevuyama. He gave him money to go
4 to Liberia to try and get the soldiers to come back who had been
09:54:58 5 in Liberia, who had escaped from the intervention.

6 Q. Okay. Mr Witness, just so you know, the closer you are to
7 the microphone the easier it is for the interpreters to get your
8 voice. So I want to go back now, you've talked about you've
9 arrived - in relating the events that happened to you you've
09:55:21 10 arrived with Johnny Paul Koroma in Buedu. What happened when you
11 arrived in Buedu?

12 A. When we arrived in Buedu some time in March then, that was
13 around the last week of February to early March we were in Buedu.
14 At that time the satellite phone was not functioning any more.
09:55:54 15 Mosquito put us up at his own place and he moved towards where
16 Issa was, because later we learnt that in the morning he would
17 come and say hi to chairman Johnny Paul Koroma. After one or two
18 weeks in the month of March we saw about four to five Land Rovers
19 white in colour and they came without registration plates. I
09:56:23 20 want to use the gents.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please assist the witness.

22 Mr Witness, you sit down or stand up as and when you want.
23 Please proceed.

24 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you, ma'am.

10:04:37 25 MR KOUMJIAN:

26 Q. Mr Witness, I apologise, but I want to take you back for
27 just a second backwards in the sequence of events. You talked
28 about the route to Buedu and you passed through various towns.
29 Can you tell us the names of some of the towns in Kailahun

1 District you passed through before you went to Buedu?

2 A. Yes, I know some, but because I am not that conversant with
3 the route we used in the jungle, but I can remember the town
4 where we went after we had crossed the river. That is Baoma, a
10:05:26 5 big town called Baoma, and from Baoma we walked a little and we
6 met another road and we met vehicles there and they said Mosquito
7 had sent those vehicles to come and pick us up from there. We
8 went through Kailahun and we met a Colonel Gbao. We met him in
9 Kailahun Town. We were there for some time and we crossed over
10:06:01 10 to Buedu. We passed through some other villages, but I can't
11 recall their names now.

12 MR MUNYARD: I am sorry, but before we carry on with this
13 particular journey can we find out where it started and when,
14 because when my learned friend asked the question about the route
10:06:20 15 to Buedu I don't know which particular journey to Buedu we are
16 talking about. Are we starting with the intervention, or some
17 later stage? We keep going back over evidence that was given
18 yesterday and I am afraid I for one am getting very confused by
19 this repeated revisiting of evidence that has already been given.

10:06:46 20 MR KOU MJIAN: I don't propose to go through the whole
21 route. There was several hours of testimony yesterday about the
22 route from the intervention to Buedu.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Counsel has asked where the journey
24 started.

10:06:58 25 MR KOU MJIAN: This was all through the testimony yesterday
26 and, depending on where you want to take the point, he was in
27 Kono, he went to Fogbo and met Johnny Paul Koroma, he went to
28 Magbonkineh, Johnny Paul Koroma's village, he went to Kabala,
29 then they went to Kono, eventually took Kono and from Kono they

1 travelled to Buedu on the route that the witness has described.

2 MR MUNYARD: I am grateful to Mr Koumjian for that. If
3 that is the case, then why I ask - and not merely rhetorically -
4 are we going over it all over again today?

10:07:33 5 MR KOUMJIAN: Is that an objection, your Honour? Your
6 Honour, we want to clarify an issue about who the witness met on
7 the route and he has just given it to us.

8 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Could we have some spellings there.
9 There is Baoma, or something, there is a name, but also there was
10 something, a person I think he named, that was recorded as
11 "indiscernible".

12 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you:

13 Q. Sir, you indicated that you met an individual in Kailahun
14 Town. Can you say that name again?

10:08:03 15 A. Colonel Gbao.

16 MR KOUMJIAN: Gbao, your Honour, is G-B-A-O:

17 Q. Which faction did Colonel Gbao belong to?

18 A. He was in the RUF faction. At that time he was the
19 commander when we were going. In Kailahun Town, we stopped there
10:08:25 20 for some time and we spoke to him before we crossed over.

21 Q. Now, sir --

22 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: And the town - the town Baoma - do we
23 have that? Is that properly spelt in the transcript?

24 MR KOUMJIAN:

10:08:45 25 Q. Can you say the name of the town again, please, sir?

26 A. Baoma. Baoma.

27 Q. Do you know how to spell it, sir?

28 A. Well, it is a Mende word.

29 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay. Your Honour, we believe the spelling

1 is B-0-A-M-A [sic]:

2 Q. Sir, in Buedu you talked about being there for several
3 weeks and then some vehicles coming. Why were you in Buedu? Was
4 there a purpose at that time for why you were staying in Buedu
10:09:26 5 for those week or two?

6 A. Yes, when we had entered the jungle from Gandorhun village
7 and we left - after we had left the vehicles and entered the
8 jungle, we left - we got to --

9 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness repeat.

10:09:54 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Go back, Mr Witness, and repeat what you
11 just said. "After we left the vehicles and entered the jungle we
12 got to ...", please repeat the name of the place and continue
13 from there.

14 THE WITNESS: Gandorhun village. We stopped there. All
10:10:12 15 the vehicles stopped there.

16 MR KOUMJIAN:

17 Q. Sir, my question was: Was there a purpose of your staying
18 in Buedu? Was there something that you were doing, or waiting
19 for?

10:10:33 20 A. When we got to Buedu, in the morning Sam Bockarie came and
21 met Johnny Paul. We were all sitting on the veranda with Johnny
22 Paul, the chairman. He said Charles Ghankay Taylor had said that
23 he will send vehicles to come and pick us up. Johnny Paul Koroma
24 asked Sam Bockarie and said, "When?", and he said that he did not
10:11:02 25 state any time, but when they would be ready he will call for him
26 to meet him. So we were there for one or two weeks in the month
27 of March and one morning we saw the vehicles, about four to five
28 Land Rovers.

29 Q. Okay, thank you, Mr Witness. This evidence is important

1 and I would just ask you to speak slowly and give fairly short
2 answers, but please take your time. So when Sam Bockarie said
3 that he talked to Charles Taylor and they were sending vehicles,
4 where were the vehicles supposed to pick you up and take you to?

10:11:42 5 You said the vehicles were going to pick you up.

6 A. The vehicles were supposed to pick us up from Buedu and
7 take us to Monrovia, Liberia.

8 Q. Okay, thank you. So, what happened the day that these
9 vehicles arrived?

10:12:00 10 A. When the vehicles arrived Sam Bockarie came and told
11 chairman Johnny Paul Koroma, while we were all sitting on the
12 veranda that same morning, that the vehicles had arrived, because
13 we saw the vehicles but we did not see many people. We only saw
14 a few SS and one Colonel Jungle. We saw some other men wearing
10:12:28 15 civilian clothes, but we could not identify them.

16 Q. Can you describe the vehicles that you saw?

17 A. The vehicles we saw were Land Rovers, four to five.

18 Q. You said you saw --

19 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, what is "a few SS"?

10:12:50 20 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you. I was just going to clarify that.
21 Thank you, your Honour:

22 Q. You said you saw "a few SS". What do you mean by that?

23 A. These SS were the ones who were in a uniform, but the beret
24 that they had had no crown. It was a blue combat uniform. They
10:13:15 25 were the Special Security Service to Charles Taylor,
26 Charles Taylor's security forces. They came to pick us up.

27 Q. And then you mentioned --

28 A. Colonel Jungle was seated in the front.

29 Q. Who was Jungle?

1 A. Well, at that time I did not know him and we did not see
2 him having any rank on. It was after everything that I knew him,
3 when Sam Bockarie introduced him to me after I had been released
4 from the prison dungeon.

10:14:02 5 Q. Okay. So just skipping ahead for the purpose of
6 understanding who Jungle is, how did Sam Bockarie introduce you
7 to Jungle? Who did he say he was?

8 A. After they had taken the diamonds away from us and they had
9 beaten us and they had held Johnny Paul hostage in Kangama
10:14:24 10 together with his wife, they put us in a prison - in a dungeon.

11 Q. Sir, we are going to go through all of that. My question
12 now is just how Sam Bockarie introduced Jungle. We will go
13 through everything slowly.

14 A. I met all of them seated just as how the judges are seated
10:14:44 15 now in front of us. They said, "This is Jungle from SSS. This
16 man is General Ibrahim and this one is Abu Keita" - sorry, "This
17 is Mohamed Sekou Toure and this one is Abu Keita and then these
18 other ones are the SSS securities from Charles Taylor who have
19 come to pick you up."

10:15:09 20 Q. Okay, let me go back and we will continue with the story.
21 Sir, just give the answer to each question and then I will ask
22 you the next question.

23 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Please clarify these names before you go
24 back.

10:15:21 25 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, your Honour:

26 Q. You said General Ibrahim - well it would make more sense,
27 your Honour, if you would indulge me, that we will cover these
28 individuals when we get to that point, if that is okay with your
29 Honour, or would you like me to do the spellings now?

1 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: We would prefer the spellings. Some of
2 us keep up with the corrections.

3 MR KOUMJIAN: The name Mohamed Sekou Toure is M-O-H-A-M-E-D
4 Sekou S-E-K-O-U and Toure T-O-U-R-E. I believe the others appear
10:16:07 5 to be spelt correctly in the LiveNote. Your Honour, I have just
6 been corrected that I misspelt Baoma, the town, and the correct
7 spelling is B-A-O-M-A:

8 Q. So, sir, we had got to these vehicles arriving, four or
9 five Land Rovers. What happened then?

10:16:37 10 A. When Sam Bockarie, alias Mosquito, had come to meet Johnny
11 Paul Koroma in the morning and he said the vehicles had arrived,
12 chairman Johnny Paul Koroma told me, Sammy, that I should go and
13 tell the chief security, Moses Kabi a alias Rambo, that we should
14 get ready together with the family and that we were to leave. We
10:17:04 15 were to go to Liberia. So I took my brush and my towel and went
16 to the nearby stream to shower.

17 After I had had a shower, on my way back to the town RUF
18 placed me under gunpoint. Mike Lamin, security, Issa Sesay and
19 Sam Bockarie's securities, had just come from the bush and
10:17:41 20 pointed guns at me, RPG and everything, and they said I had been
21 placed under gunpoint. I said, "What is wrong?" They said,
22 "Master said we should arrest you", because that was how they
23 usually referred to Sam Bockarie, "Master". They said he had
24 said they should arrest me and that we should go to town.

10:18:03 25 On our way coming to town they had flogged me, tore up my
26 clothes, took out magazines hitting my head and there was blood
27 oozing all over my face before we came to the town. As we were
28 coming to town, the very first house that we met going towards
29 Johnny Paul's house that was where we met Issa Sesay, Mike Lamin,

1 Eldred Collins, Morris Kallon - sorry, Morris Kallon was not
2 there that time. Then together with other RUF commanders they
3 were brought to them and they said I should hand over all the
4 diamonds. I said, "What diamonds?" They said, "The ones that
10:18:53 5 you want to take to Liberia." I said, "I don't have any
6 diamonds", and they ordered the security guards to continue
7 flogging me. So they flogged me, but I refused to go
8 unconscious.

9 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness repeat
10:19:18 10 that.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause. "So they flogged me but
12 I refused to go unconscious", please continue from there,
13 Mr Witness.

14 THE WITNESS: So I refused to go unconscious because
10:19:30 15 I stopped the weapons from hitting me, to stop them because
16 I knew they were my colleagues so maybe I thought I could talk to
17 them and convince them I had no diamonds. And they said they
18 should execute me, they should kill me, and they tied me up on a
19 stick and Issa said, "No, untie him".

10:19:52 20 At that time they started shooting right around me and when
21 they were bringing me to where Johnny Paul Koroma was lodged at
22 Mosquito's place he came outside at the veranda. He said, "What
23 is wrong?" Mike Lamin straightaway pointed the weapon at him.
24 After he had pointed the weapon at Johnny Paul Koroma, AK-47 at
10:20:15 25 that time with a long butt, and he said, "Turn over all the
26 diamonds that you want to take to Liberia." Johnny Paul said,
27 "What diamonds are you referring to?" Mike Lamin shot over his
28 head. He fired shots over his head and pointed the weapon again
29 at him and he said, "Climb down the stairs" and Johnny Paul

1 climbed down the stairs and Issa Sesay, together with the other
2 security guards, rushed into Johnny Paul Koroma's room, took his
3 briefcase and put his wife into the room that was in the veranda
4 where I was lodged and brought Johnny Paul Koroma to the steps in
10:21:08 5 the front of Issa - sorry, of Sam Bockarie's place and the
6 security said they should flog us and they flogged us seriously.

7 So they moved Johnny Paul Koroma up together with his wife.
8 They moved them up. So we don't know where they took them. The
9 Land Rover drove towards the military police office. That was
10:21:34 10 where the Land Rover was parked. They moved Johnny Paul to that
11 end. They continued flogging us. Some of the security guards
12 went unconscious and some of the family members of Johnny Paul
13 Koroma went unconscious. At that time I still continued talking
14 to Issa, pleading with him. I said, "Do you know - do you
10:21:57 15 remember that when you were in Freetown I was the very first
16 person to take out a vehicle" --

17 MR MUNYARD: Can the witness go a little more slowly,
18 please.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, again I ask you to go more
10:22:10 20 slowly. We are all following what you say very closely. You
21 know the story, we don't. We are trying to follow it. So if you
22 speak slowly the interpreters and we can keep up. You said, "The
23 very first person to take out a vehicle." This is what you were
24 saying, "I said, 'Do you know - do you remember when you were in
10:22:38 25 Freetown'." Continue from there.

26 THE WITNESS: Yes. I said, "Issa, you know that when I was
27 in the retrieving committee I was the first man who took a
28 vehicle after we had retrieved government vehicles, you did not
29 have a vehicle. I recommended in the committee that I had a

1 vehicle that I had retrieved and was parked at State House and
2 I was the one who recommended that that vehicle be given to you."
3 And he laughed. He said, "Samuel, that is true." He said, "You
4 are the only man who made me to have a nice car in Freetown."

10:23:25 5 And he told his security guards to stop flogging me.

6 So when they stopped flogging me they stopped flogging
7 every other person and he ordered that all of us should be taken
8 to the military police prison dungeon and we were taken there
9 together with the family and Johnny Paul Koroma's security. All
10 of us were taken to the prison dungeon. While we were there, we
11 were there for some time, not even one or two hours, when the MP
12 commander came, the military policeman, and said, "Sammy, Sammy."
13 He opened the door and said, "Come up." So I came up and he
14 said, "Master said I should come and pick you up." So he took me
15 and we went up at the back of the prison - sorry, at the back of
16 the military police office, but a little far off.

17 That was where we met - just how the judges are sitting,
18 that was how we met Sam Bockarie, Mohamed Sekou Toure, General
19 Ibrahim, Abu Keita, Colonel Jungle and other SSS securities who
20 were sitting at their back. So when I got there Sam Bockarie
21 said, "Sammy, do you know why I sent for you? It is because you
22 are the only Supreme Council member there and I know that you are
23 a sufferer." He said, "I want you to know that here where we are
24 on our own side, it's why - I am not saying - I am not talking
25 about anything else but diamonds, cocoa, coffee. And at times
26 even wristwatch, or tape recorders, we will take them from people
27 to get arms and ammunition. That is how we get them from
28 Liberia. You had these sort of diamonds in large quantity and
29 you never turned them in to us" and he said that was why we have

1 treated you this way. "That's why I took you out, because you
2 are a Supreme Council member, for you to know that we did not
3 just give you this treatment for nothing."

4 I said, "Master, can I have a word or two?" He said, "Yes,
10:26:14 5 you are free to speak." I said, "Each and every one of us who
6 were in that town, when we had invited you and now that we have
7 retreated into the jungle none of you would say hadn't a
8 diamond." He said, "Yes, that is correct." I said, "If we had
9 held a forum where it was said that anybody who had a diamond
10:26:38 10 should turn it in, we should have turned ours in because when we
11 were here, that is the only thing that we ourselves should give
12 to you so you would trust us and we would live together." He
13 said, "Yes, that is true" and he told the MP to take me back. So
14 I was taken back to the prison dungeon.

10:26:59 15 I went and met the securities and Johnny Paul Koroma's
16 family were there, but with all the treatment it was only the
17 chief security at that time Moses Kabia, alias Rambo, who nothing
18 was done to.

19 Q. Mr Witness, you started off this account by saying Moses
10:27:26 20 Kabia was - I don't want to put words in your mouth, that all of
21 this started when Moses Kabia was saying something. Is that the
22 same person you say nothing was done to?

23 A. Exactly, yes, sir.

24 Q. What was it that started this whole thing? What was it
10:27:49 25 that Moses Kabia was saying, if you know, or don't you know?

26 A. Issa Sesay told us later that Moses Kabia was grumbling
27 that we wanted to escape with diamonds to Liberia, that we wanted
28 to escape, that if we went to Liberia we wanted to go to escape,
29 that Johnny Paul Koroma had diamonds and even his wife had

1 diamonds too. So all of these diamonds were taken away from me.

2 The one that I had was in a plastic just like this,
3 slightly bigger than this. I had 214 pieces of diamonds in a
4 plastic slightly bigger than this one. Then Johnny Paul Koroma's

10:28:40 5 like a bigger plastic like this where the diamonds were. After

6 they had given us that treatment and he said, "Do you see the
7 diamonds that you want to escape with?" Because everything he
8 had taken from the briefcase - when he took the briefcase he

9 opened it, he prised it open and mine was in a waist bag that we

10:29:03 10 normally put around our thigh, but I tore it on the side and put

11 it into it and I took it to the tailor to sew it, except I tell

12 you that I had something in there but you would not know. But

13 when they flogged me I told them to give me my bag. They gave me

14 the bag and I opened it and there were 214 pieces of diamond

10:29:32 15 belonging to me. The one from Johnny Paul I did not know the

16 quantity, but when Issa came he said, "Look at big diamonds like

17 this", they were really big in size. He said, "Look at these

18 diamonds that you want to escape with."

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: For purposes of record I will note that

10:29:50 20 the witness showed us what I think is called a zip lock small

21 bag, about 3 inches by 2 inches. Would that be agreeable?

22 Plastic.

23 MR MUNYARD: From what little I saw, but if it is an empty

24 plastic bag there is no reason why it shouldn't be formally

10:30:11 25 exhibited as such.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: It might have something in it.

27 MR MUNYARD: Maybe without the contents.

28 THE WITNESS: I just used this as an example. This is

29 where some of my drugs were. I just used it as an example for

1 you to see.

2 MR MUNYARD: I would ask, as it seems to be a commonly
3 obtainable plastic bag, that it be emptied or an identical one be
4 produced so that it can be formally part of the Court exhibits in
10:30:46 5 due course.

6 MR KOUMJIAN: He is welcome to do that in cross-examination
7 if he has a zip lock transparent bag. I don't have one and
8 I don't know if the witness needs that one:

9 Q. Sir, do you need that baggie or can we keep it? Are you
10:31:10 10 using it?

11 A. That was what I said, it's just an example. The one I had
12 was slightly bigger than this. If you don't mind you can use it.
13 I don't have any problem with it, but the one I had was slightly
14 bigger than this.

10:31:28 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: The witness appears to be willing to put
16 the bag in as an exhibit.

17 MR KOUMJIAN: Fine.

18 JUDGE LUSSICK: I just question the value of putting that
19 bag in when it's not the size of the original bag. How does it
10:31:42 20 help us?

21 MR KOUMJIAN: It would be deceiving to say that was the
22 bag. The witness has made clear it is just an example somewhat
23 similar to the bag he saw which was described.

24 MR MUNYARD: If he is able to produce a bag the right size
10:32:01 25 then that can be produced. If he isn't then obviously I agree,
26 there is no point putting in a bag that isn't the same.

27 MR KOUMJIAN:

28 Q. Sir, you've talked about being flogged. Can you explain
29 what happened? What do you mean when you say "flogged"?

1 A. I was beaten up for me to turn the diamonds in by Sam
2 Bockarie's command and even Issa Sesay and other commanders'
3 order, RUF commanders.

10:32:42 4 Q. Taking it slowly how many separate times were you beaten
5 during these events that you just related, related to the
6 diamonds?

7 A. It was only at that time after we had been beaten up we
8 were taken to the dungeon and after some time we were there.
9 I was not beaten up at any other time again. That was the only
10:33:07 10 time. After I had left the stream where I went to have a shower,
11 we were brought to where Johnny Paul was and we were beaten up
12 together with the security guards and Johnny Paul's family
13 members.

14 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, could I just clarify from
10:33:24 15 this witness, he says these were his personal diamonds and Johnny
16 Paul's diamonds were also Johnny Paul's personal diamonds, is
17 that correct?

18 MR KOUMJIAN: Those were the words he used and I will
19 clarify what he means by - that's how it was translated and
10:33:42 20 I will clarify what he means:

21 Q. Sir, when you talk about your diamonds, Johnny Paul
22 Koroma's diamonds, what do you mean?

23 A. Well, those were the diamonds that were in my own
24 possession and the ones that were in Johnny Paul's possession
10:34:02 25 I did not even know about them. It was only when Issa had broken
26 into his briefcase that I knew that Johnny Paul even had such
27 diamonds on him.

28 Q. Talking then about the diamonds you know about, your own
29 diamonds, the 214 diamonds, the ones that were in your

1 possession, where did those diamonds come from?

2 A. I had them from Kono. That was where I did the mining.

3 Q. You talked about your position in Kono in the Government
4 Gold and Diamond Office. Were any of these diamonds from
10:34:45 5 diamonds you obtained through that position?

6 A. Yes, a few of them were there and there were some that had
7 been mined for me before that time.

8 Q. Okay. Can you then distinguish - explain to us what the
9 difference is between the diamonds you say came from your
10:35:12 10 position and the ones you said were mined for you, just so we
11 understand the difference?

12 A. I cannot differentiate them because I just put all of them
13 together, because they were mine. I just counted them and put
14 them into the plastic bag. They were with me.

10:35:35 15 Q. Okay, let me clarify my question. The diamonds that you
16 obtained through your position, who did they belong to?

17 A. I had some while I was in the office when Johnny Paul asked
18 me to go with some material in case we would be able to talk to
19 the Guineans. That was in my possession, so I just added that to
10:36:03 20 mine that I already had.

21 Q. My question is when you obtained diamonds in your position
22 in the Government Gold and Diamond Office, what were you supposed
23 to do with those diamonds?

24 A. We recorded them. The RUF who was in command in Kono, who
10:36:23 25 was representing the RUF together with us, the SLA, we used to
26 record them and turn everything in. They would weigh them and
27 gave it to me because it was in my custody.

28 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness repeat
29 this.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Again, too quick. Start again where you
2 said, "They would weigh them and gave them to me because it was
3 in my custody." Please continue and speak slowly.

4 THE WITNESS: After work in the evening, they would bring
10:37:10 5 everything to the office on the table like this. All of us will
6 sit down, we will weigh them and check everything and we would
7 know how many pieces, and they would turn in everything to me
8 because I was the senior most amongst them and I will keep them.
9 But when the intervention started in Freetown he told me - Johnny
10:37:33 10 Paul told me to go with some of the diamonds and so I took some
11 of them, but I left the remaining to Bio Sesay.

12 Q. Is that initials B0 Sesay?

13 A. His real name was Ibrahim Bio Sesay.

14 Q. Bio I believe is B-I-0. It is not initials, it is a name,
10:38:04 15 is that right?

16 A. That was his name. Ibrahim Bio Sesay.

17 Q. And who was Ibrahim Bio Sesay?

18 A. He was one of the Supreme Council members.

19 Q. I am trying to understand where you were beaten. You
10:38:29 20 talked about coming back from the stream where you first were put
21 under gunpoint. Were you beaten at that point?

22 A. Straight off they stripped me naked, and from the stream
23 you will pass through the bush path and then when I was going the
24 RUF securities came out of the bush and then they put me under
10:38:54 25 gunpoint and they started beating me up. Even before approaching
26 the town they had starting beating me with a magazine, the gun
27 butt, and they flogged me all over my body. Before we could
28 reach where Issa Sesay and others were seated, that is the first
29 house on entering the town, blood was running all over my body.

1 Q. Then you talked about being brought in front of Issa Sesay.
2 Is that correct?

3 A. Yes, that is correct.

4 Q. Who else was present at that time?

10:39:26 5 A. Eldred Collins was there and some other RUF commanders.

6 Q. Were you beaten in front --

7 A. Mike Lamin.

8 Q. Were you beaten at that time?

9 A. Yes. When they brought me after beating me up, when the
10 security had beaten me up, when they brought me in front of them
11 they said I should hand the diamonds over to them. Then I told
12 them I did not have diamonds and they said they should continue
13 beating me, and Mike Lamin said they should tie me up and they
14 should continue beating me up. In fact, they should kill me. He
10:40:10 15 said maybe I swallowed the diamonds and so they said they should
16 force me to vomit it. They said they should continue flogging
17 me. So they continued flogging me and they opened fire all over
18 the place. Johnny Paul came out to know what was happening and
19 Mike Lamin pointed his gun at him and he started shooting over
10:40:37 20 his head.

21 Q. Where was this taking place?

22 A. In Buedu Town in front of Sam Bockarie's house, alias
23 Mosquito.

24 Q. Who was actually beating you?

10:40:58 25 A. Their securities: Mike Lamin securities, Issa's securities
26 and Sam Bockarie's.

27 Q. Can you give the sexes and ages of the people that were
28 beating you?

29 A. There were no women. They were men - gunmen - and some

1 other boys, small boys who were referred to as SBU, Small Boys
2 Unit.

3 Q. When you were being beaten in front of Sam Bockarie's house
4 there in front of Issa Sesay, was anyone else being beaten?

10:41:44 5 A. Johnny Paul's families and Johnny Paul Koroma's securities,
6 Salieu, Twenty, David, Banjah Marrah, the control officer.

7 Q. You indicated you were taken I think to some kind of - you
8 used the word "dungeon". Can you describe what that is?

9 A. It is a kind of hole that they dug and they built a roof
10:42:23 10 over it - a zinc roof over it - and they would put a ladder in
11 there where people will go - will climb down and then sometimes
12 climb up, but in the hole was too dark.

13 Q. So was this completely below the ground, or was it a
14 structure?

10:42:45 15 A. It was under the ground and the structure was up.

16 Q. Was anyone else in the dungeon with you?

17 A. Johnny Paul Koroma's entire family and all of his
18 securities and even myself. All of us who were in the same
19 convoy of Johnny Paul Koroma, save for Rambo and Moses Kabia,
10:43:12 20 alias Rambo, the chief security by then. Save for him and his
21 own family members, they were the only people who were not with
22 us in there.

23 Q. Do you know if Johnny Paul Koroma was beaten?

24 A. Well during the time we were beaten up they moved with him
10:43:33 25 and they took him up to the other side, but we did not know what
26 happened there. We don't know whether he was beaten because we
27 were not there.

28 Q. You said at one point you were stripped. When did that
29 happen?

1 A. From the stream coming towards where Issa Sesay was living
2 and coming towards Mosquito's place, because by then I had been
3 stripped naked. I only had on my undervest and my brief that
4 I had on.

10:44:10 5 Q. After you were beaten in front of Issa Sesay and the others
6 and then placed into the dungeon, you said that you were
7 eventually taken out of the dungeon. How long were you in the
8 dungeon before taken out?

9 A. Well, we were in the dungeon between 48 to 72 hours. That
10:44:39 10 is when Issa Sesay commanded that - ordered that they take us out
11 of there.

12 Q. When you were brought out of the dungeon, where did they
13 take you?

14 A. Well out of the dungeon they brought us, they lined us up
10:44:59 15 and Issa Sesay came and spoke to us. He said they should treat
16 us. He said the medical officer should come and treat us. They
17 went and treated us and then they said we should all go back to
18 our various areas that they will show us for us to lodge, because
19 by then where we were lodged initially they had taken us out of
10:45:20 20 there and so I went to where they asked me that I should lodge in
21 Buedu Town.

22 Q. Okay, I am trying to understand what you had told us and
23 I believe you could clarify something. I thought you said at one
24 point you were taken to the dungeon and then taken to Sam
10:45:39 25 Bockarie. Is that correct?

26 A. Correct, yes.

27 Q. So when you first went to the dungeon and then were taken
28 before Sam Bockarie, how long were you in the dungeon before
29 being taken before Sam Bockarie?

1 A. It was not even up to an hour after taking us to the
2 dungeon when Sam Bockarie sent later for them to come and pick me
3 up from there.

10:46:14 4 Q. And then when you were taken out that time after just less
5 than an hour, where were you taken?

6 A. They took me to Sam Bockarie where they were seated just
7 like the judges are sitting in front of me, like I had explained
8 before.

9 Q. Thank you. Now at that time can you describe your
10:46:30 10 condition, what you looked like, when you were brought before Sam
11 Bockarie and the other people you named?

12 A. Well, blood was oozing all over my body. I was seriously
13 dirty. If you saw me at that time you would not believe it, but
14 I was actually strong enough. I walked and met them.

10:47:01 15 Q. Did you have your clothes back then, or were you still
16 stripped down to your briefs?

17 A. I only had my undervest on and my pants.

18 Q. Now the people that you talked about being there, you have
19 mentioned Jungle and described him. General Ibrahim, who was
10:47:30 20 this General Ibrahim that was present on this occasion?

21 A. Well, General Ibrahim was the man that I had seen before
22 during the AFRC time that we met with during the Magburaka
23 shipment and we met him at Johnny Paul's lodge and we said "Hi"
24 to him. Since then, that was the next time I met with him again
10:47:55 25 that I saw him in Buedu.

26 Q. And who was Mohamed Sekou Toure?

27 A. Mohamed Sekou Toure, that was my first time of seeing him.

28 Q. When you were - do you know his nationality?

29 A. Well, by then I did not know his nationality.

1 Q. When you were brought before Sam Bockarie, what happened?

2 A. Well, when they brought me in front of him he introduced
3 all of them to me. He said, "This is General Ibrahim, Mohamed
4 Sekou Toure, Jungle, Keita", and he said, "These are the SSS
10:48:36 5 securities."

6 Q. What else did Sam Bockarie say?

7 A. Well, just like I explained before, he said diamonds and
8 other things belonged to the movement and he said that those are
9 the things we normally use to get arms and ammunition, so he said
10:48:58 10 somebody will not have it with him then you keep it to yourself.

11 Q. When he said those things which you have explained before
12 and in a bit more detail, were the others present, Jungle,
13 General Ibrahim and the other persons you mentioned?

14 A. They were the ones there, yes.

10:49:23 15 Q. Did they say anything?

16 A. They did not say anything to me.

17 Q. Did they say anything to Sam Bockarie?

18 A. Whilst I was there they did not say anything to me. I did
19 not see them say anything to Sam Bockarie. It was Sam Bockarie
10:49:42 20 who spoke to me and then he said I should be returned to the
21 dungeon.

22 MR KOU MJIAN: Your Honour, I would like the witness now to
23 be shown a document, an exhibit in this trial, D-8. I believe it
24 has been distributed this morning so your Honours should have it.

10:50:05 25 PRESIDING JUDGE: I don't know of anything that was
26 distributed this morning to the judges. What is it? Is it a
27 paper?

28 MR KOU MJIAN: Yes, it's a document.

29 MS IRURA: Your Honour, it was distributed yesterday.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yesterday. There was two papers
2 distributed yesterday, I think.

3 MR KOUMJIAN: It is called a "Verbatim report on a recorded
4 discussion":

10:51:16 5 Q. Sir, I am referring first to paragraph 5 of this document
6 which is a Defence exhibit in this case. This is a report of a
7 discussion between Foday Sankoh and some other individuals upon
8 Sankoh's return from Nigeria in 1999 explaining activities during
9 Sankoh's detention in 1996 to 1999. At paragraph 5 it indicates:

10:51:50 10 "Then of course we had been informing you about some mining
11 programmes that we have undertaken in Kono and Tongo. But Pa
12 Rogers and CO Mike can elaborate more on these points mentioned.
13 So let us start now with number one, diamond received from JP
14 Koroma which was 1,832 pieces in nine plastics."

10:52:22 15 Sir, based upon your knowledge of events between 1996 and
16 1999, do you know what is being referred to when they speak of
17 1,832 pieces in nine plastics, diamonds received from JP Koroma?

18 A. Well, just like I had said I never saw those diamonds
19 except the time Issa took them out and he was showing them to -
10:52:56 20 because by then I was tense, I was under serious pressure, but
21 actually I saw the plastics just like I showed the example of the
22 one I brought today. I saw the plastics.

23 Q. Do you remember approximately how many plastics you saw
24 that were taken from Johnny Paul Koroma? You've just read
10:53:18 25 something that says nine and my question is: Is it consistent or
26 inconsistent with your recollection?

27 A. My Lord, I said it was not an easy thing. I was under
28 serious tension. I did not count them, but I actually saw Issa
29 Sesay holding them in his hands. But to tell you that I counted

1 them, if I say that now in this Court then I will be lying to the
2 Court.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: I will just note for the purposes of
4 record that the witness extended both hands and moved them up and
10:53:57 5 down, apparently indicating something had been held.

6 MR MUNYARD: I am afraid I was looking at the printed
7 page at the time so I didn't see anything at all. Could he do it
8 again.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, please repeat the
10:54:12 10 demonstration you just gave so counsel can see the hand movement
11 you made.

12 THE WITNESS: That was Issa Sesay's hands when he was
13 holding the diamonds in his hands, when he said to us, "You see
14 the diamonds that we took from Johnny Paul: He said, "You see
10:54:34 15 them?" But actually to tell you now that I counted them, no,
16 I did not count them.

17 MR MUNYARD: Thank you.

18 MR KOUMJIAN:

19 Q. Thank you. Now, sir, after your conversation with Sam
10:54:55 20 Bockarie in front of these SS persons from Liberia, where did
21 they take you?

22 A. They took me back to the prison dungeon.

23 Q. Then you have indicated that you were released some 72
24 hours later, two or three days later. What happened then after
10:55:17 25 you were released?

26 A. After we had been released we understood later that the
27 vehicles that came to pick us up, they had returned back to
28 Liberia with Sam Bockarie, alias Mosquito. They told us that all
29 of them went to Liberia. So these vehicles did not take us there

1 any longer. They said the vehicles returned to Liberia with
2 alias Mosquito, Sam Bockarie.

3 Q. When you were released from the dungeon after 72 hours or
4 so do you know where Johnny Paul Koroma was?

10:55:54 5 A. Well, after our release we understood later that he had
6 been taken to Kangama, a place we did not know, but they said it
7 was five miles off Buedu, so they said he was now based there.
8 We later learnt that that was where they had their hostage house,
9 where they used to keep people. So that was where they took him
10:56:26 10 to, together with his wife.

11 Q. So what happened to you after your release?

12 A. When I was released Issa said I should never go to that
13 particular area, or that I should not even go towards the
14 Liberian border and that I should not even attempt to cross in
10:56:50 15 the river going towards Kono. So I was in the Buedu Town up to
16 after one to two weeks when at one morning I came to pay
17 compliment to Issa Sesay, I came to him to tell him good morning
18 for him to know that I never had grudge in mind for him and he
19 told me that they were going to Dawa that particular day and he
10:57:18 20 said he - he volunteered to give me some money because he said he
21 knew that the boys had taken everything from me. So I will use
22 that money to go and buy slippers and other small small things.
23 So I said okay.

24 So by then I rushed home where I was and later came back
10:57:41 25 and I sat with him, I kept company with him and when the time got
26 up then we were all on boarded the vehicle and we went to Dawa.
27 Him, Mike Lamin and some other RUF commanders, CO Lion, Eddie.
28 All of us together with the other commanders, we all went.

29 Q. Who is Eddie?

1 A. Eddie was one of the RUF commanders who were always with
2 Issa Sesay.

3 Q. Do you know his last name?

4 A. No.

10:58:19 5 Q. Who is CO Lion?

6 A. CO Lion was a Liberian who was always with Issa Sesay.

7 They used to call them vanguards.

8 Q. So when you went to Foya what happened?

9 A. When we went to Foya - I mean we have not yet gone to Foya.

10:58:47 10 When we went to Dawa and the market, when we got there in the
11 market they had - on Thursday and Fridays they had marketing
12 days, so I bought my slippers, my toothbrush, my toothpaste and
13 other toiletries. I bought them all. We were there for some
14 time and Issa asked us to move again. By then it was after

10:59:14 15 midday. It was going towards 2 to 3 o'clock.

16 So we moved to Foya. We entered a particular house where -
17 and the place belonged to the police commander by then and
18 I think she was a woman. She cooked for us. We ate food and
19 later went to her restaurant, her bar. We drank there. That was
10:59:39 20 in Foya now in Liberia. We were there up to night, around 8, 9
21 and Issa asked us to move again.

22 So we were about returning when we met a white Land Cruiser
23 parked by the side of the road between Foya and Dawa and it was
24 loaded with ammunition. So when we got there Issa stopped. By
11:00:09 25 then I did not know what was going on. He stopped and he came
26 down the front seat and then he went and saluted. He said, "Good
27 evening, sir." He said good evening and all of us alighted and
28 we saw Sam Bockarie, alias Mosquito, in the front seat together
29 with Jungle and some other SSS who were in the truck loaded of

1 ammunition.

2 Q. Did you ever see the ammunition that was in the truck?

3 A. Yes, it was when we alighted when we went to off-load them
4 that I saw them.

11:00:48 5 Q. What kind of ammunition was it?

6 A. RPG bombs, AK rounds, mortar bombs, G3 rounds.

7 Q. You indicated that you saw this vehicle in Foya in Liberia.
8 Do you know where the ammunition had come from?

9 A. Well, the ammunition came from Liberia because these
11:01:20 10 vehicles that Sam Bockarie had told us Mr Charles Taylor was
11 going to send for them to pick us up. It was in that vehicle
12 that Sam Bockarie, General Ibrahim and the others I have made
13 mention of, they left with those vehicles and went. But on
14 coming back Sam Bockarie brought a Land Cruiser. So I knew that
11:01:46 15 these arms and ammunition were coming from Charles Taylor.

16 Q. Sir, do you know, and if you don't please just tell us - do
17 you know from where - from what part of Liberia, you said Liberia
18 - from what part of Liberia the ammunition had come?

19 A. I don't know exactly, but the uniform Jungle had on as the
11:02:13 20 other SSS securities made me to understand later that those
21 things were directly from Liberia.

22 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, the witness's evidence was
23 this vehicle was parked by the side of the road between Foya and
24 Dawa. I don't know where Dawa is, but I know where Foya is and
11:02:36 25 I am not quite sure exactly where this location is on the road
26 between Foya and Dawa.

27 MR KOUMJIAN:

28 Q. First, sir, what country is Dawa in?

29 A. Dawa was a village on our own side. That was the last

1 village entering across the Liberian border and Foya was - it was
2 on the Liberian side. So coming from Foya now we did not get to
3 Dawa, then we saw the vehicle around that area and that was on
4 the Liberian side.

11:03:13 5 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Also where was this vehicle headed?

6 THE WITNESS: The vehicle was heading for Buedu. We took
7 it there and that was on the Sierra Leonean side, across the
8 Sierra Leone border in Buedu Town.

9 MR KOUMJIAN:

11:03:31 10 Q. When you saw the vehicle you said, if I understood you
11 correctly, that you were involved in some loading or unloading.
12 Is that correct?

13 A. Yes, that's correct.

14 Q. When were you involved in loading or unloading the
11:03:48 15 ammunition?

16 A. I did not load, but I unloaded after we got to Buedu. When
17 we got to Buedu we unloaded the vehicle of the ammunitions,
18 together with the security of the RUF commanders.

19 Q. So, did the ammunition come in the same vehicle that you
11:04:11 20 first saw parked on the side of the road all the way to Buedu?

21 A. Yes, that was what we entered with. We entered with the
22 same vehicle and the one in which we were loaded.

23 Q. Now, you have mentioned Sam Bockarie. Did you recognise or
24 learn the identity of anyone else in that vehicle that had the
11:04:37 25 ammunition?

26 A. Yes, these SSS securities who were in blue and light blue
27 combats and Colonel Jungle. Sam Bockarie was in the front. He,
28 Colonel Jungle and the driver.

29 Q. Do you recall approximately how many boxes of ammunition

1 there were in that vehicle?

2 A. No, all the ammunition had been removed from the boxes. We
3 used to call those things sardine tins. They were now in those
4 tins. They were no longer in the boxes. They had removed them
11:05:28 5 from the boxes. It were only those pans, or those tins, that
6 were packed.

7 Q. Well then the sardine tins, are you talking about something
8 metal?

9 A. Yes, it is metal.

11:05:44 10 Q. Can you describe the dimensions of all of those put
11 together? In other words would they all fit into - can you hold
12 your hands, or point to something in the courtroom, that would
13 give us an idea of the height and width and depth of the
14 ammunition?

11:06:05 15 A. You mean the sardine tin? You mean the sardine tins, the
16 thing that we normally referred to as sardine tins?

17 Q. I am not talking about the individual tin, but all of them
18 put together. Could one person carry all the ammunition? How
19 much ammunition was it?

11:06:22 20 A. Just one person would not be able to carry it, because we
21 packed them in the store and it filled the whole store, a whole
22 room. Where we packed it in the room I can't tell the size of
23 the room, but it was fairly big.

24 Q. Thank you. What happened then after you returned to Buedu
11:06:49 25 with this ammunition? What happened to you?

26 A. Well I was in Buedu, we were all there living as one and at
27 a point in time Sam Bockarie said we were all going to travel to
28 Dawa.

29 Q. Do you remember approximately how long was this after you

1 had unloaded this ammunition that you had taken from Foya back to
2 Buedu?

3 A. Yes, if I can recall, within one to two weeks after
4 bringing them.

11:07:44 5 Q. And what happened on this second occasion?

6 A. Within one to two weeks because by then I was now actually
7 loyal, I paid my loyalty to them. I will go in the morning - the
8 usual mornings - because where Sam Bockarie was living we used to
9 refer to the place as "the mansion", so in the morning we will go

11:08:10 10 and meet him, sit with him at the mansion and we did things in
11 common with him. So one day he told me that, "Sammy, later today
12 we will go to Dawa", and then I said, "Okay, sir." By then I did
13 not move to nowhere any longer, so I was there. I never wanted
14 him warning he was ready for me to call on me, so we were there

11:08:34 15 and we left with about three vehicles to go to Dawa. We went and
16 we parked in the same area where we had parked before and then we
17 went to that police woman commander; that was the Liberian
18 police. We went there again, we sat down there, we drank, we ate
19 food up to night and when we left coming - returning again we met
11:08:59 20 Jungle on the way.

21 Q. How do you know this woman was Liberian police?

22 A. She was normally in uniform. Sometimes if she never had
23 the top on, she will have the trousers on and she always had her
24 communication set on her.

11:09:20 25 Q. What happened after you met Jungle?

26 A. We met him on the road and he said "Hi" to Sam Bockarie,
27 they were speaking and the vehicle was parked by the side and Sam
28 Bockarie said we should climb down to unload and pack the
29 materials into the other vehicle. Then we alighted and we

1 transferred all the materials into the other vehicle. From there
2 Sam Bockarie and Jungle, they spoke for some time and Jungle
3 turned his car and returned to Liberia. Then we came back with
4 the materials, because that was how we used to call the
11:10:03 5 ammunition.

6 Q. So, where exactly was it that you saw Jungle's vehicle?
7 Can you give us your best description of the location?

8 A. Yes, he had crossed Foya. He had crossed Dawa, but he had
9 not entered Buedu. It was along an area where there wasn't
11:10:29 10 actually no village, but it was all over bush. So we stopped
11 there, we unloaded his own vehicle and then we transferred
12 everything onboard our own vehicle and then Jungle left - he
13 went. Then we returned to Buedu. I can say precisely the
14 outskirts of Dawa.

11:10:48 15 Q. Then in which country was it you first saw Jungle? Where
16 was that location?

17 A. That was in our own district in Sierra Leone, Kailahun
18 District.

19 Q. Was Jungle's car pointed in the direction of Buedu, or in
11:11:05 20 the opposite direction, when you first saw him?

21 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: What do you mean "pointed", Mr Koumjian?
22 What is the question?

23 MR KOUMJIAN:

24 Q. Was it headed? In which direction was the car headed? The
11:11:24 25 front, the windshield, was the windshield as opposed to the back
26 of the car?

27 A. The front was headed towards Buedu. The front of the car
28 was headed towards Buedu, we unloaded it and after unloading it
29 he turned the face of the car back towards the Liberian

1 direction.

2 Q. Thank you. Now, can you give us an approximate month for
3 when this occurred? Month and year?

4 A. All of this happened in 1998 around the end of March going
11:12:12 5 into the next month, April.

6 Q. Thank you. I want to ask you about something. In the
7 incident you talked about where you were beaten, you said you
8 were also stripped. Is that correct?

9 A. Yes, but they did not strip me naked. They left me with my
11:12:45 10 underpants and my undervest.

11 Q. As a soldier, did you normally carry a weapon?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What happened to your weapon?

14 A. I had my pistol with two magazines. My M203 and M16 had
11:13:11 15 been disarmed from me because I left it home. I lean it by the
16 wall and by then now it was now with Sam Bockarie. They took -
17 disarmed me of my pistol and then they gave everything to Sam
18 Bockarie and it was later that I realised he was now using it.

19 Q. Who was using what?

11:13:30 20 A. Sam Bockarie was now using my pistol, together with the
21 magazine and the M203. His own bodyguard commander at that time
22 now held it and he was called Shabba [phon]. I had M203 and M16.

23 Q. Well when you were released from the dungeon, were your
24 weapons returned to you?

11:13:53 25 A. No, they did not return anything over to me.

26 Q. Did the RUF give you another weapon?

27 A. No, they did not ever give me weapons again, but whenever
28 we were assigned they will say the RUF who were around there will
29 serve as our securities.

1 Q. After you were released from the dungeon, were you free to
2 go anywhere you wanted to go?

3 A. No, they had areas that they limited me to. They said
4 certain areas I shouldn't go to. I should stay with them but
11:14:38 5 I will only travel with them, but I shouldn't go to Dawa,
6 I shouldn't go to Vahun and I shouldn't cross the river to go to
7 Kono by myself.

8 Q. How do you feel today about your own experience of being
9 beaten, having stripped down to your vest and boxers, and being
11:14:58 10 disarmed as a soldier?

11 A. Well, I felt bad actually. I felt bad. I actually felt
12 bad. Up to this moment when I recall that, I feel bad about it.

13 Q. You mentioned in talking about Magburaka a man - a soldier
14 - named Fonti Kanu who had gotten off the plane. Do you recall
11:15:33 15 that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How well did you know Fonti Kanu?

18 A. I had known him before for a long time. He was my
19 commander in the army.

11:15:46 20 Q. Was your relationship purely professional, or did you have
21 any personal relationship?

22 A. It was a professional relationship. I did not have any
23 personal relationship with him.

24 Q. What happened to Fonti Kanu?

11:16:08 25 A. After staying in Buedu, for some time Fonti Kanu came. We
26 did not actually know where he was, but later we understood. He
27 told us that he walked and came to Buedu from Kono, but at that
28 time I was no longer staying in Buedu. They had given me an
29 assignment to serve as a deputy brigade commander in the

1 1st Brigade, so at one time I saw he came with Issa to my brigade
2 headquarters and that was Pendembu. When he came I saw him,
3 I was so happy, I embraced him and then Issa too told me, "Do you
4 know this is my uncle?", and then I said to them, "Oh, that is
11:17:04 5 fine." So, they were all together and later they returned.

6 After some time, Issa also came and said that he was now going to
7 stay in Pendembu. By then he had given Fonti Kanu a XL motorbike
8 that he was using. He had given Lieutenant Colonel Fonti Kanu an
9 XL motorbike that he was using. But I was on my own duty because
11:17:33 10 most times I concentrated on the front and my brigade
11 headquarters. So I did not used to have much dealing with him,
12 but I used to see him around.

13 At one time I had come from Qui va, I came, I was seated at
14 my house and I saw Issa's bodyguards rush and met me at my house
11:18:03 15 together with Mike Lamin's own bodyguards. But when they came
16 they did not actually harass me. They only told me CO was
17 calling me. I asked them, "Who is CO?" They said, "CO Issa."
18 So I hurried up and then I said, "Let's go."

19 So when we went to where CO Issa was lodged in Pendembu
11:18:29 20 I met Mike Lamin Issa and some other RUF commanders. Fonti Kanu
21 was seated on the ground. So in my mind I started asking myself
22 what is happening? So CO Issa later explained to me and he said,
23 "You see what your SLA commanders are doing?" He said, "Fonti
24 Kanu with all the privileges I have again him", he said he had
11:19:12 25 gone to surrender himself to some UN agent in Vahun. He said
26 that was where the Liberian police called him and they told him
27 that Fonti Kanu went to surrender himself to the agencies in
28 Liberia. So he said that was where they went and arrested him.
29 So that was why they called Issa for Issa to know because Issa

1 had been going there with him and he said that was what he
2 attempted to do. So he said, "Now we have arrested him."

3 So Issa asked me my opinion, what he was to do to him.

4 Then Mike Lamin said there was nothing else to do, it was just to
11:20:06 5 kill him. Then straightaway he shot him in his legs in my
6 presence and I was standing right there. He shot him in his one
7 leg. He shot him in the other leg whilst he was on the ground
8 and then he shot the other again and the other soldiers shot him
9 in the arm. They shot the one arm and they shot him in the other
11:20:27 10 arm and then he was now helpless. He was crying. They ordered
11 the bodyguards to drag him and to take him somewhere and finish
12 with him and they drag him. The bodyguards opened fire at him
13 whilst he was on the ground and then he went cold. And then he
14 said they should go and discharge of him somewhere.

11:20:57 15 Then they went to Pendembu on the way coming from Dawa just
16 after the barri there was a water well that was now dried up,
17 they were no longer using it. They dumped him inside there.
18 Then Issa was now saying this to us, that, "If you see me do this
19 to my own family member, my own tribesman, a Temne man, I warn
11:21:26 20 you if anybody dare try it you will not go scot-free." Then
21 I went home. I actually felt it and then I said, "That is one
22 strong man that is gone, that we have missed" and that was what
23 happened that moment.

24 Q. Sir, when you say you felt it, what do you mean when you
11:21:49 25 say you felt it?

26 A. The kind of way he was killed. When I saw it, I felt it.
27 I felt it so much. But there was nothing else one could do about
28 it.

29 Q. When you say Fonti Kanu was dragged, what do you mean?

1 A. He was now there on the ground and he was dragged up to the
2 pit where he was dumped. They said it was the water well that
3 was no longer in use, so they dumped him in there. Should we go
4 to Pendembu now I will be able to identify the spot.

11:22:32 5 Q. Who actually was shooting Fonti Kanu in the legs and then
6 the arms?

7 A. The first shot was by Mike Lamin and that was followed by
8 Issa and then the bodyguards were commanded to finish with him.

9 Q. You said that Issa told you about Fonti Kanu in Liberia.
11:23:05 10 I want to go over that. Can you go over it again and tell us
11 what did Issa Sesay tell you about how Fonti Kanu had been taken
12 into custody?

13 A. He said with all the encouragement he gave to Fonti Kanu he
14 gave him an XL motorbike, he was his family member, he was his
11:23:35 15 uncle, but Fonti Kanu attempted to go and surrender to the UN
16 agencies in Liberia. And he said it was the Liberian police who
17 called him and when he went there and they arrested Fonti Kanu
18 and they brought him. It was after his return that he was
19 explaining this to me, he Issa.

11:23:59 20 Q. You said the Liberian --

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, I apologise for interrupting
22 you. We are approaching the mid-morning break and I just want to
23 put the parties on notice that we have received a request from
24 WWS to permit the witness to be taken for some medical treatment
11:24:18 25 in the course of the break, so it will be a little longer. I am
26 just putting you on notice, but please proceed with your
27 questions.

28 MR KOUMJIAN:

29 Q. Sir, you said the Liberian police called him. Who did the

1 Liberian police call?

2 A. They called Issa Sesay on the radio set.

3 Q. What did the Liberian police tell Issa Sesay?

11:24:55 4 A. He said late Lieutenant Colonel Fonti Kanu attempted to
5 surrender to the UN agencies in Liberia around the Vahun area.

6 Q. Who actually arrested Fonti Kanu?

7 A. It was Issa Sesay who said it that the Liberian police
8 arrested Fonti Kanu and they called him on the radio set and they
9 turned over Fonti Kanu to him and he brought him to my brigade
11:25:22 10 headquarters in Pendembu.

11 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, I am ready to move on to another
12 topic and I can use the next five minutes for that or if your
13 Honours find it preferable to break now we can do that.

14 JUDGE LUSSICK: Mr Koumjian, we understand that the witness
11:25:42 15 has requested WVS to get him some urgent medical treatment.

16 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: In the circumstances if this is an
18 appropriate time we will adjourn a couple of minutes early and we
19 have received an indication that it is expected that the witness
11:26:01 20 will be back between 12.15 and 12.30. However, we all know the
21 vagaries of these things and I will adjourn the Court until we
22 are alerted to the witness's return. Sorry, we will adjourn
23 until 12.30. Please adjourn court until 12.30.

24 [Break taken at 11.26 a.m.]

12:27:06 25 [Upon resuming at 12.36 p.m.]

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Now, Mr Witness, I notice you're sitting
27 down, so I trust you feel better after your medical treatment.
28 We will proceed on with your evidence. Mr Koumjian.

29 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you:

1 Q. Sir, I want to continue my questions asking you about what
2 happened and your assignments after you were released from the
3 dungeon in Buedu. So let me begin by asking: Can you give an
4 approximate month of when that was that you were released from

12:37:45

5 the prison in Buedu?

6 A. Yes. It was in the same month, just as I said. Within 48
7 to 72 hours I was released and Issa Sesay spoke to us and he told
8 us where and where I shouldn't go.

9 Q. How long then did you stay in Buedu after your release from
10 the dungeon?

12:38:15

11 A. I was in Buedu for about two to three weeks because around
12 the month of April they said I should go and stay with Colonel
13 Gbao in Kailahun Town. They said I should go and stay in
14 Kailahun Town. So I was in Kailahun Town without an appointment,
15 I was just there with Colonel Gbao at his house. That was where
16 I stayed.

12:38:41

17 Q. When you say without an appointment, what do you mean?

18 A. Well, they didn't give me any assignment. They just said I
19 should go and stay with him, I should be with him there, that I
20 should leave Buedu.

12:38:59

21 Q. How long did you stay in Kailahun Town?

22 A. Well, I stayed in Kailahun Town from April, May. Around
23 the second week in May the signal message came. The signaller
24 met me with the message that I have been appointed deputy brigade
25 commander. Denis Lansana, who was also called Monkey Brown, was
26 the brigade commander. He said I should go and deputise. I
27 signed - I read the message and signed it. Then I packed my
28 belongings to go to Pendembu within 72 hours, to the brigade
29 headquarters.

12:39:29

1 Q. Who was Denis Lansana, also known as Monkey Brown?

2 A. He was the brigade commander. He was my boss. He was
3 appointed by Sam Bockarie and that I should deputise him.

4 Q. Was he an SLA, or who was he?

12:40:23 5 A. He was an RUF commander. He was RUF.

6 Q. How long did you stay in that position as the deputy to
7 Monkey Brown?

8 A. Well, I stayed there up to 1999 and up to the time the Lome
9 Peace Accord was signed. I was still the deputy brigade
10 commander at the 1st Brigade.

12:40:51

11 Q. At any time in that period of time that we're talking
12 about, from your release from the dungeon until the signing of
13 the Lome Accord, did you ever undergo any ceremony?

14 A. I want to get it clear. Ceremony like what? What do you
15 mean.

12:41:23

16 Q. Were you ever marked on your body in any way?

17 A. Yes. It was first done when Sam Bockarie left us and went
18 and when he returned he brought a priest - a local priest -
19 called Zopopeh. I do have the mark on my body. He said it is to
20 ward off bullets.

12:41:51

21 Q. Okay. Zopopeh, is that the name you just gave us?

22 A. Yes, they usually called them Zopopeh. They said it's a
23 term in the Liberian dialect.

24 Q. I'll just ask you do you know how to spell it, Mr Witness,
25 or no?

12:42:15

26 A. No.

27 MR KOUMJIAN: Just spelling it phonetically, your Honour,
28 Z-O-P-O-P-E-H:

29 Q. Now you said, "Sam Bockarie left us and returned". Do you

1 know where Sam Bockarie had gone and returned?

12:42:52 2 A. He left and went by the Liberian border area. That
3 happened within 48 hours. He left us one evening. Before the
4 next day in the evening, he came with his people and they were
5 given two houses. They called them Zopopeh.

6 Q. When was this approximately that this occurred?

7 A. This happened just after they had dealt with us, spoken
8 with us and they were now beginning to move with us - move with
9 me up and down. It was just about that time that this happened.

12:43:18 10 Q. I'm sorry, but that's not quite clear to us, or at least to
11 me, what you mean that after they had spoken to you. What are
12 you referring to?

13 A. After they had raised that, because that's the time they
14 used - after they had taken our diamonds from us, they had spoken
12:43:40 15 to us, we had gone for ammunition together with Issa, we went to
16 Foya and came and went and took Sam Bockarie and came, then after
17 that within that week all the ammunition had been there. It was
18 then that Sam Bockarie told us within one to two weeks, after the
19 second shuttle of ammunition, Sam Bockarie told us that he was
12:44:00 20 going and he would come back with some people. It was then that
21 he came with those people within 48 hours.

22 Q. The people that he came back with, do you have a term that
23 you call them?

24 A. That was the common language used to describe them,
12:44:21 25 Zopopeh. When I went there, they also marked my body to ward off
26 bullets.

27 Q. What was the nationality of the people that were marking
28 your body?

29 A. All of them were speaking in Liberian dialects, but I did

1 not get too much conversation with them. We went there in turns.
2 When you went in there they would mark you and they would pass a
3 ceremony on you and you would come out, so we didn't have any
4 talk with them but they were speaking in Liberian dialect.

12:44:56 5 Q. Do you know what Zopopeh means?

6 A. Well, I do not know what that means.

7 Q. Okay, thank you. Can you just - first was anything said to
8 you before you underwent this ceremony by Sam Bockarie?

9 A. Well, when he came with them we just thought that it was -
12:45:27 10 they were for the RUF. We all were sitting there, we the SLAs,
11 we were eating in the morning and then he said, "The Pa has
12 come." He said, "Have you seen people - you've seen people going
13 there and you are not going there?" He said, "So if you think
14 we're going to fight this war, all of us are going to fight this
12:45:46 15 war and so you should go there so that you could be initiated."

16 He said, "The Zopopehs are there", so he directed us to the place
17 and we said, "Okay, we'll go there", because we saw everybody
18 going there.

19 Q. Okay. Can you give us a brief description of what happens
12:46:01 20 with the Zopopeh?

21 A. We were in a queue. When you enter in you will remove your
22 shirt and then you will enter. I don't know if the Court would
23 allow me to do that?

24 Q. Well, you have marks on your body now that you received
12:46:29 25 from that Zopopeh?

26 A. Yes, it's on my body right now.

27 Q. Okay. Can just describe and without - unless someone asks
28 you to do so, without removing your shirt can you just point to
29 where the marks are and describe them?

1 A. Yes. They marked us here, they marked us here, they marked
2 us here and here on our back and they gave us an arrow.
3 Especially those of us who they said were commanders, they gave
4 us an arrow.

12:47:15 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: For the purposes of record, let me hope I
6 can get them all. The witness has indicated the upper right
7 shoulder, upper left shoulder and the upper chest and the back of
8 the neck.

9 JUDGE LUSSICK: Both sides of the chest.

12:47:29 10 PRESIDING JUDGE: Both sides of the chest and the back at
11 the neck.

12 MR KOUJIAN: Yes, and then I believe the witness indicated
13 an arrow he pointed in the left shoulder area.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, and he referred to an arrow on the
12:47:41 15 left shoulder.

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, what exactly does the
17 witness mean "They marked us"?

18 MR KOUJIAN:

19 Q. Sir, how were you marked?

12:47:50 20 A. They had a medicine, a black thing that was mixed with
21 something that I do not know. When that is mixed they had a
22 razor blade, and that is mixed with the medicine and they would
23 mark you and they would put that medicine - they would rub that
24 medicine there. That was what they did on all the sides.

12:48:18 25 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: You mean they cut with you a razor blade?

26 THE WITNESS: They cut me, exactly.

27 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: And then they insert the medicine in the
28 cut?

29 THE WITNESS: Exactly, yes.

1 MR KOUMJIAN:

2 Q. And, sir, your understanding of the purpose of this was
3 what?

4 A. During the time that we were marked they said if we do not
12:48:40 5 believe let us stand, they will test us with a gun, but we
6 refused. We said, "We do not [sic] believe", but some other RUF
7 security guards stood and their guns were cocked and they started
8 shooting and nothing happened. Two times, three times and the
9 weapon got spoiled. Then Sam Bockarie stopped it. He said it
12:49:05 10 should be stopped because nobody should be tested because it
11 damages the weapon. The bullets never had any effect on us.
12 They had the laws that they gave us which we were to abide by.
13 For seven days you should not have sex with a woman, for seven
14 days you shouldn't eat pumpkin, for seven days you should not eat
12:49:32 15 okra. Those were the laws. When you go by those laws then you
16 will be protected.

17 Q. Where was this where this ceremony took place where you
18 were marked?

19 A. In Buedu Town, right at the back house of Mosquito. The
12:49:56 20 other houses, two flats were taken for Mosquito for the Zopopeh's
21 at the back house where he was.

22 Q. Do you know if the Zopopehs went anywhere else besides
23 Buedu?

24 A. Yes, they went to Kono and did the same.

12:50:21 25 Q. Okay, thank you. Sir, you've talked about your assignment
26 as the deputy to Monkey Brown. During the time that you were
27 assigned as a deputy to Monkey Brown, where were you stationed?

28 A. I was stationed at the brigade headquarters in Pendembu,
29 Pendembu Town.

1 Q. During that assignment, were you aware of any ammunition
2 arriving to your - I am sorry, was it a brigade that you were
3 assigned to? The 1st Brigade?

4 A. Yes, I was assigned to the 1st Brigade.

12:51:05 5 Q. Did any ammunition arrive at the 1st Brigade?

6 A. Yes, it used to come many times.

7 Q. And what would happen when ammunition - first of all, do
8 you know where did the ammunition come from?

9 A. It came from the defence headquarters in Buedu. By then
12:51:31 10 Sam Bockarie was the chief of defence there. He used to send
11 them to us so that we can distribute them to the areas where he
12 would have sent a message to that we should distribute them to
13 such and such an area.

14 Q. Were you involved in the distribution of ammunition
12:51:49 15 received from the 1st Brigade?

16 A. Yes, because when they brought them we would find manpower
17 there to carry them. The one that was to go to Kono we would
18 take them up to the river - the Moa River - and those who would
19 be coming from Kono would receive them and take them along. The
12:52:10 20 one that was going to our own battalions we will take them, look
21 for people who will carry them for us and we would distribute
22 them to the various battalions, like the 1st Battalion, my own
23 brigade, the 2nd Battalion, the 3rd Battalion, closer to the
24 Kenema jungle, closer to Kenema Town, which was the Niama [phon]
12:52:33 25 jungle. That is the 3rd Battalion. My own brigade was the
26 farthest side area. By then my brigade commander was unable to
27 go, so he always gave me the task. I would take them and
28 distribute them.

29 Q. Who were the commanders of the battalions that you

1 distributed ammunition to?

2 A. I know the name for the 1st Battalion, my brigade, Colonel
3 Eagle, whose real name I do not know; the 2nd Battalion who was
4 Colonel Amoyape; and the 3rd Battalion who was Lieutenant Colonel
12:53:29 5 Gaddafi who was usually called Stupid.

6 Q. Now, all these battalions that you are mentioning are part
7 of your brigade?

8 A. Yes, they were part of my brigade.

9 Q. And going through the names of the three commanders you
12:53:50 10 mentioned, the first one, Eagle, do you know which - who was he?
11 Was he an SLA soldier, or was he something else?

12 A. He was an RUF. He was an RUF commander.

13 Q. How about CO Gaddafi?

14 A. He was an RUF commander.

12:54:11 15 Q. And the third name if you could please say it slowly again,
16 please. Who was the other commander you mentioned?

17 A. Colonel Amoyape.

18 Q. Was he an SLA, or RUF?

19 A. He was an RUF commander, Commander Amoyape.

12:54:38 20 Q. Do you know how to spell his name?

21 A. No, it's a word in Mende.

22 Q. Is that one name, or is that a first and last name, you
23 just gave?

24 A. That was the name we knew him for, Amoyape.

12:54:57 25 MR KOUMJIAN: Just spelling it phonetically A-M-O-Y-A-P-E.
26 We don't have a spelling of that name:

27 Q. Now, sir, I want to move on to events that happened after
28 the signing of the Lome Peace Accord. At some point after the
29 signing of the Lome Peace Accord, did something happen that

1 caused you to leave Sierra Leone?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Taking this very slowly, can you tell the judges what
4 happened that caused you to leave Sierra Leone after the signing
12:55:52 5 - well, first of all, let me ask you how long after the signing
6 of the Lome Accord did these events begin?

7 A. Just one month after the accord. An exact date is 7 August
8 1999.

9 Q. So starting with 7 August 1999, can you slowly tell the
12:56:16 10 judges what caused you to leave Sierra Leone?

11 A. On 7 August 1999 some of my colleagues by the names of
12 Colonel Junior, CO Alfred, an RUF, Colonel Junior was an SLA,
13 Colonel Junior Sheriff an SLA, CO Alfred RUF, they rode on a
14 Honda bike XL and came to my brigade. When they came I did not
12:56:57 15 know and they went to my brigade commander and my brigade
16 commander gave them one of his securities, Colonel Junior and
17 Alfred. He said I should lodge them and I came. For quite some
18 time I and Junior had not been seeing each other, so we embraced
19 each other and Alfred, whom I had known, a Liberian, but was an
12:57:21 20 RUF, I had known him in town, we hugged each other and we were
21 happy.

22 They brought a monkey and they said my wife should cook
23 that monkey for them. They said they wanted to eat the monkey.
24 That was cooked and ate the soup. They had their bath. When
12:57:46 25 they were about to sleep, about 2.30 going to 3.00, we heard the
26 sound of a vehicle coming from the Kailahun end. It had come
27 from Buedu. So they got up and said, "Oh, CO, we are hearing
28 vehicles approaching." So they said if it was a vehicle then we
29 would go to Buedu. They said, "We can't ride to go to Buedu."

1 They said they were tired. Luckily it was one of Sam Bockarie's
2 securities by the name of Foday who came with that vehicle, a
3 Land Cruiser, that had - it was brownish in colour. So we all
4 stood by the roadside and when it came we stopped him. Then we
12:58:34 5 asked him if he was going tonight and he said he was just
6 dropping off something and he will return to Buedu. He said he
7 had been sent by the master, Sam Bockarie. Then Junior said,
8 "When you are going, we too would go with you, all of us are
9 going." He said, "CO, the Honda bike, the XL, we would leave it
12:59:00 10 with you together with the fuel, in the morning you would ride
11 and meet us in Buedu. We have something for you." So in the
12 morning - early in the morning I took the motorbike and rode to
13 Buedu. But when I got to Buedu one RUF girl who had known me in
14 Buedu, who was there when we were maltreated, as I was
12:59:23 15 approaching she said - as I was about to go down to where Sam
16 Bockarie was, she said, "Don't go down there. There is a problem
17 down there between SLAs and RUFs." She said, "Do not go down
18 there." So I disembarked from the bike and I parked it in the
19 town closer to one of my friends. I parked it there and walked
12:59:51 20 down.

21 So as I was approaching there I saw the Land Cruiser
22 parked. The Land Cruiser was parked there and it had the radio
23 set in it, a white Land Cruiser. I saw Morris Kallon standing
24 there, Issa Sesay and other SLA - some of my SLA colleagues, the
13:00:15 25 Supreme Council members who had run away to Liberia and who had
26 returned, like Sulaiman Turay, Brima Cobra, Lagah, Gomez, Adams,
27 George Adams, all of them were supreme members, I saw them
28 standing closer to the vehicle and their faces were morose. I
29 was wondering what had happened.

1 Then Morris Kallon when he saw me coming he started
2 laughing. He said, "Ha, brigade, come and see what your men have
3 done again." He said, "Those your men at the West Side do have
4 problems." Let me ease myself.

13:01:02 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please escort the witness out. Thank
6 you.

7 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Did the witness say Sulaiman Turay, or
8 Sulaiman Suray? I think you need to go through the spellings at
9 an appropriate time, please.

13:05:06 10 MR KOUMJIAN: The spelling we have for Sulaiman,
11 S-U-L-A-I-M-A-N and Lagah, spelled I believe previously in the
12 testimony of 334, L-A-G-A-H.

13 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Sulaiman had a surname. That's the
14 disputed pronunciation.

13:05:49 15 MR KOUMJIAN:
16 Q. Witness, before you begin to continue your account we just
17 want to go over some names and make sure we understood. You
18 talked about some of the persons that were present. One of them
19 was Sulaiman. Do you know the second name?

13:06:05 20 A. Sulaiman Turay.

21 Q. Okay. Then we have Brima Cobra, is that one person or two
22 people?

23 A. Brima Kamara, alias Cobra.

24 Q. Lagah, is that a nickname, or what kind of name is that?

13:06:23 25 A. It's a nickname.

26 Q. Do you know Lagah's real name?

27 A. No.

28 Q. And then you mentioned Gomez, is that correct?

29 A. Yes, PL Gomez.

1 MR KOUMJIAN: Are there any other questions regarding the
2 names, your Honours, that I've missed? No. Okay:

3 Q. So, sir, just to help you pick up where you left off,
4 someone told you - Morris Kallon saw you and was laughing and he
13:07:01 5 said, "Come and see what your men have done." He said, "Those
6 your men at the West Side do have problems." Can you please
7 continue to tell us what happened then.

8 A. Yes. So he saw me approaching and as I was getting closer
9 they were all by the Land Cruiser that had the radio set. Morris
13:07:23 10 Kallon was laughing and swings his hand like this [indicated].
11 He said, "Come and see what your men have done again, brigade."
12 He said, "They have arrested the UNOMSIL at West Side." He said,
13 because they were not signatories to the accord, that nothing had
14 been mentioned about them, the AFRC. He said they have arrested
13:07:41 15 the UNOMSIL and that they want them to free Johnny Paul. He said
16 Johnny Paul is in prison. He said, "You come and talk to them
17 because you've been with them for long." He said, "Come and talk
18 to them."

19 So they gave me the mic to the radio set and I called
13:08:11 20 them --

21 Q. Called who, sir?

22 A. I called the West Side men. Their call sign by then was
23 Bravo 33 and I started talking to Ibrahim Bazy. Then he said,
24 "Talk to your man, your brother, Tito."

13:08:30 25 Q. And then what happened?

26 A. He said talk to your brother Tito. So Tito was talking to
27 me, he was speaking in Limba to me. He was asking me exactly in
28 Limba if Johnny Paul was there. He had died. He's deceased now.
29 He said if Johnny Paul - Johnny Paul was there, but I refused to

1 talk to him in Limba because I was not in a comfortable
2 atmosphere for them not to say that I was saying something
3 different because none of them spoke - none of them there spoke
4 Limba, so I continued to talk Krio to him so that we can
13:09:39 5 understand each other. I said Johnny Paul was there and even I
6 myself was a deputy brigade commander there. I said the
7 atmosphere was comfortable, but he continued talking to Limba to
8 me. He said, "But you know that the accord is not in our
9 favour." He said, "None of us is a signatory to the accord." He
13:10:02 10 said, "Why didn't Johnny Paul go?", and I told him to calm down.
11 I told him to calm down. I said everything would be fine, but he
12 refused. He still wanted to continue speaking Limba. So I went
13 off the mic, the set, so that the brothers would not have
14 anything against me. So straightaway, as we were standing there,
13:10:30 15 the signaller, one of Issa's radio men - because by then Mosquito
16 was not on the ground, that is Buedu - he said, "Master, they are
17 calling you on the phone, the satellite phone." So he went and
18 took the satellite phone. He talked to the person who was
19 calling him on the satellite phone. They spoke. When they spoke
13:10:55 20 I heard "yes, sir", "yes, sir", "yes, sir", "yes, sir". From
21 there Issa told us, he said Charles Ghankay Taylor says they
22 should take the satellite phone and the radio set so that we can
23 go to Johnny Paul in Kangama. So all of us boarded the vehicle
24 and drove off to Kangama. As we got to Kangama the phone rang
13:11:32 25 again. When the phone rang Issa answered, "Yes, sir, yes, sir",
26 and he handed over the receiver to Johnny Paul. So Johnny Paul
27 spoke and when he had spoken he continued saying "yes, sir",
28 "yes, sir", "yes, sir", "no problem", "no problem". Then Johnny
29 Paul gave the receiver to Issa. Then he said they should call

1 the men, the West Side men. So they called Bravo 33 and they
2 responded. He too spoke to them. He said he is talking to them
3 for them to calm down. Everything will be fine. He tried to
4 console - encourage them. He spoke to them, but they were still
13:12:22 5 angry. In fact, they wouldn't listen.

6 Q. Who is this now that's speaking to who?

7 A. Johnny Paul Koroma was talking to Bazy who was the West
8 Side commander by then. He was talking to him on the radio set.

9 So Bazy was referring to the noise behind him and other men

13:12:43 10 behind him were intercepting. They were saying that, "We were

11 not going to listen to anything from you, except you move from

12 that place with our colleagues, we the Supreme Council members

13 who were there with our families, to Liberia or Ghana." He said,

14 "Then we too should come and see you." He said, "Apart from that

13:13:05 15 we are not listening to anything, we will not release these men."

16 So he tried to negotiate with Bazy and the other commanders for

17 them to release the UNOMSILs, but they refused. They didn't do

18 it.

19 So the satellite phone rang again. Issa took up the

13:13:27 20 satellite phone and handed it over to Johnny Paul Koroma. He

21 spoke on the satellite phone and after he had spoken all of us

22 boarded the vehicle and we came back to Buedu. When we came to

23 Buedu the satellite phone continued ringing and it was handed

24 over to Johnny Paul. So Johnny Paul was saying, "No problem, we

13:13:54 25 will go. No problem, we will go." So he put down the receiver

26 then Issa came up on the radio set and he was talking to the

27 other stations which I did not know.

28 So from there Johnny Paul told us - said

29 Mr Charles Ghankay Taylor said that we should go to Liberia with

1 the families and you, the supreme members. He said but he was
2 going to leave his family behind so that they could go and solve
3 this problem. So all of us were eager to go, we the supreme
4 members. I, the witness, Brima Kamara, George Adams, Sulaiman
13:14:40 5 Turay, all of us were eager to go. So Issa said we should go and
6 dress up for us to leave. So for me it was on that street that I
7 changed my wearings and we - my clothes and we drove to Foya. We
8 drove off to Foya. The helicopter came. The helicopter that
9 landed in Foya had Sam Bockarie, who alighted from the helicopter
13:15:11 10 together with Colonel Jungle and other SSS securities who were
11 not even up to five. Sam Bockarie came along with a lot of
12 luggage. He alighted the helicopter, then Jungle came. He said
13 Mr Taylor said that only four people should go to Monrovia,
14 Johnny Paul and three other people. Then Issa said, "Well,
13:15:45 15 Sammy, you will be one of those who will go because you've been
16 with us for a long time and you know what the problem is. So you
17 are one of them who will go." So Johnny Paul appointed one
18 Mr Jumu Jalloh, who was a personal assistant, a former SLA
19 captain and Brima Kamara, alias Cobra. So the three of us, plus
13:16:09 20 Johnny Paul and Jungle and the SSS securities, were flown to
21 Monrovia. We landed in Paynesville airfield.

22 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. I want to go over what you just
23 told us and ask a few questions to clarify it. First of all, you
24 said Sam Bockarie came along with a lot of luggage, that Sam
13:16:40 25 Bockarie alighted from the helicopter and then later you said
26 Jungle came. How did Jungle come?

27 A. Jungle and the SSS securities, who were not up to five, and
28 Sam Bockarie, all of them came in the helicopter.

29 Q. Now, the group from Buedu that came to Foya, who was in

1 that group? You said eventually there was a decision that only
2 four would travel, but how many of you had travelled from Buedu
3 to Foya?

13:17:21 4 A. I and my Supreme Council members, my colleagues whom I have
5 mentioned: Sulaiman Turay, George Adams, Brima Kamara, alias
6 Cobra, and other SLA colleagues like Lagah, PL Gomez. RUF, we
7 had Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and other commanders. All of us
8 took that trip to Foya.

9 Q. What about Johnny Paul Koroma's family?

13:17:46 10 A. All of them stayed because at the initial stage he himself
11 said his family will stay behind whilst they go to solve the
12 problem. He said his family should stay.

13 Q. Who said that?

14 A. Chairman Johnny Paul Koroma himself.

13:18:04 15 Q. Did Johnny Paul Koroma say that before talking on the
16 satellite phone, or after talking on the satellite phone?

17 A. After he had spoken on the satellite phone and when he said
18 that, "Mr Taylor says we should go to Liberia", that was when he
19 said his family will stay because that was the request made by
13:18:25 20 the men in the West Side, that we should move together with his
21 entire family.

22 Q. You've talked about the men at the West Side. Can you
23 briefly tell us who are the men at the West Side?

24 A. Ibrahim Bazy Kamara, Salifu Mansaray, alias Tito, and
13:18:54 25 other commanders who were at the West Side.

26 Q. When you say the West Side, is that a location?

27 A. Well, yes. It was a place that was around Okra Hill.

28 Q. The persons that you mentioned, let's start with Tito, was
29 Tito an army officer?

1 A. Yes, he was an SLA soldier.

2 Q. How about the other persons that were in the West Side?
3 Was this is a mixed group, or was it a group predominantly or
4 exclusively of one group or faction?

13:19:45 5 A. It was a group that was by itself. In fact, they were
6 SLAs. Only one RUF called Stragger was there when I got there.
7 All of them who were there were SLAs.

8 Q. And let me clarify one thing: At the time of the events
9 that you're talking about, where you go to Foya and get in the
10 helicopter, up to that point had you ever been with these people
11 on the West Side around Okra Hills?

12 A. No, I was never there. It was afterwards that I joined
13 them.

14 MR KOUMJIAN: The spelling of Stragger, your Honour, is
13:20:37 15 S-T-R-A-G-G-E-R:

16 Q. So what happened, sir, when you boarded the helicopter in
17 Foya?

18 A. Well, when we got into the helicopter in Foya we were flown
19 and we landed at the Princeville [phon] airfield in Monrovia
13:21:02 20 City. Then a vehicle picked us up on which it was written "Guest
21 7". We were taken to the guesthouse which was close to
22 Mr Charles Ghankay Taylor's residence in Congo Town.

23 Q. Where was it written "Guest 7"?

24 A. The registration plates that the car was using at the time,
13:21:42 25 a black Ultima car.

26 Q. And what happened once you went to this guesthouse?

27 A. We went to the guesthouse. They showed us where we were to
28 lodge. There was a room that had a radio set owned by the RUF.
29 A girl by the name of Memuna was the radio woman on the set at

1 the time.

2 Q. This Memuna, do you know her nationality?

3 A. Yes, as we continued to stay there I was made to understand
4 that she was a Temne by tribe and a Sierra Leonean.

13:22:36 5 Q. Did you learn what her job was, or why she was in that
6 house?

7 A. Yes, she was the radio woman. We got it hot with her
8 because she was saying we should not get into the radio room, but
9 I told her that was the reason why we were brought here, so we
10 should get there to know what was going on. So whenever I wanted
11 to go there she would lock the room, until Johnny Paul came and
12 wanted to talk to the West Side guys. That was the time we had
13 access to the room.

14 Q. How long did you stay in that guesthouse?

13:23:21 15 A. Well, I was there from August, around September,
16 mid-September, after the UNOMSIL had been released.

17 Q. Have you been to Monrovia since that trip?

18 A. That was my first time of going to Monrovia.

19 Q. Okay. Sorry, I lost my train of thought.

13:24:05 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, he didn't actually answer the
21 question. You asked, "Have you been to Monrovia since that
22 trip?", which I understood to mean subsequently.

23 MR KOUJIAN:

24 Q. That was your first trip. Have you taken any other trips
13:24:19 25 to Monrovia, sir?

26 A. No. I never went to Monrovia after that. That was my
27 first time and since I left there I've never been there.

28 Q. Sir, earlier this morning we looked at some photographs and
29 you identified an individual by the name of Banao. Was that

1 yesterday? Can you tell us, sir, again, where was that
2 photograph taken?

3 A. Yes, it was taken in Monrovia.

4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Which one of several?

13:25:07 5 MR KOUMJIAN: The photograph with Mr Banao, the one with
6 the four individuals depicted, tab 8, which was marked for
7 identification as --

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: There was no application to mark it for
9 identification and it wasn't marked.

13:25:25 10 MR KOUMJIAN: I see. Okay, thank you. Let's ask that that
11 be shown to the witness again then, please:

12 Q. Okay, sir, showing you this photograph, the second person
13 you've identified as Banao. Where exactly is this photograph
14 taken?

13:25:59 15 A. This photograph was taken in the guesthouse where we were
16 lodged. When we went, within the shortest time Banao joined us.

17 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay. I'd ask that this photograph be marked
18 for identification and that the next photograph perhaps also, the
19 other one that was shown yesterday, A and B next in order; A
13:26:26 20 being the photograph with four individuals.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: This is a one page photograph, it shows
22 four individuals identified by the witness and it becomes
23 MFI-18A, and the second photograph that was shown to the witness
24 yesterday on which he identified two individuals will be MFI-18B.

13:26:56 25 MR KOUMJIAN:

26 Q. Did you learn what Mr Banao was doing in Monrovia, or not?

27 A. I didn't know because he was too close to Johnny Paul
28 Koroma. Whatever they discussed, they used to discuss that in a
29 room. I didn't know anything.

1 Q. Thank you. What happened while you were in Monrovia?

2 A. When we got to Monrovia within a week the West Side
3 commander, who was Ibrahim Bazy Kamara by then, Hassan Bangura
4 alias Papa, Junior Lion, John Humpar, Bobson, Hussein Fawaz
13:28:17 5 [phon], all these were SLA soldiers and others whom I cannot
6 recall. They were many. They came and we went and received them
7 at the airport. We drove to the house where we were staying.
8 They came along with their position statement. They brought it
9 and gave it to the Pa, chairman Johnny Paul Koroma. They said
13:28:52 10 they would like Mr Ghankay Taylor to know about it. By then 50,
11 whom I heard them call "Short Man", met us at the lodge and
12 greeted all of us, so he said he will go and tell the Pa that the
13 men have come.

14 The next day in the evening he came again and said a
13:29:24 15 meeting has been prepared for the next day. He gave us the time
16 and told us they will come to pick us up. They came - 50, they
17 came and picked us up.

18 Q. I will just ask you a question about this person you call
19 50. What was his nationality?

13:29:46 20 A. He spoke more of the Liberian language and the SSS who were
21 with us said he was a close aide to Mr Charles Ghankay Taylor,
22 but we did not know his appointment.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, I regret that we're up to
24 time now. Mr Witness, it is now time for the normal lunch break
13:30:13 25 and so we are going to adjourn until 2.30. Please adjourn court
26 to 2.30.

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

28 [Upon resuming at 2.30 p.m.]

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed, Mr Koumjian.

1 MR KOUMJIAN:

2 Q. Before going back to Monrovia, sir, I want to just ask you
3 one thing about your earlier evidence. You had indicated that
4 your weapons were taken away from you in Buedu at the time the
14:31:04 5 diamonds were taken from you. Did the RUF ever give you back or
6 give you another weapon, or give you back the weapons that were
7 taken?

8 A. No, they did not give me any weapon to protect me
9 officially.

14:31:25 10 Q. At some point were you able to obtain a weapon?

11 A. Yes, at one time at the 1st Battalion around Qui va when the
12 Nigerians came and attacked we chased them off, so the SLA
13 soldiers who were there at that time, one of them captured a
14 weapon and brought it to the battalion commander. I was there
14:32:00 15 and I requested that they should give it to me for me to be using
16 it, so I took it and gave it to my bodyguard, Idrissa Kargbo,
17 alias Churchill.

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Sorry, who came and attacked and was
19 chased?

14:32:21 20 THE WITNESS: The Nigerian force.

21 MR KOUMJIAN:

22 Q. Thank you. Sir, going back to where we left off before the
23 lunch break, you said that 50 came to the lodge. Was 50 in a
24 uniform?

14:32:44 25 A. No, he wore a civil dress.

26 Q. Was he with anyone else in uniform?

27 A. Yes, he was with the SSS security. They had a blue combat
28 - light blue combat and the securities who were with us at the
29 lodge, whenever he will come they will all pay homage to him.

1 Q. The uniforms that you describe as blue combat, can you give
2 us any further description of the colour of the uniform?

3 A. It was mixed, deep blue and light blue. It was a combat,
4 but if I can see it I can identify it.

14:33:41 5 Q. Thank you. So what happened after 50 arrived at the lodge?

6 A. He greeted us, we interacted for a short time and he made
7 an appointment that he will send the following day for us to be
8 picked up and go to Mr Charles Ghankay Taylor at the mansion. He
9 gave us the time that we should be ready the following day and

14:34:11 10 the following day they came and picked us up and we went to the
11 mansion. We were driven up to the mansion, with the guests and
12 the other --

13 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness stop there.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: What is the problem, Mr Interpreter?

14:34:28 15 THE INTERPRETER: Just continue from where he stopped. He
16 should slow down, your Honour.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter is trying to
18 keep up with you. Please pick up where you said, "We were driven
19 up to the mansion with the guests" and speak slowly, please.

14:34:44 20 THE WITNESS: We were driven to the mansion wherein the
21 Guest 7 vehicle that was given us to us and they too were in
22 their own car that was given to them. From the hotel where they
23 were lodged they drove up to us and met us at our own guesthouse.
24 From there we drove in a convoy to go to the mansion.

14:35:14 25 MR MUNYARD: I'm sorry, we are getting a lot of "they"s
26 again and I losing the thread.

27 MR KOUMJIAN:

28 Q. Mr Witness, I am going to ask you to clarify who it was
29 that went in the car with you to the mansion, first of all?

1 A. I was there, Johnny Paul Koroma was there, Brima Kamara too
2 was there, Jumu Jalloh, we were there in our own car Guest 7 and
3 the driver who was given to us. And Bazzy - Bazzy and the others
4 who had gone with the delegation together with Hassan Papa

14:35:59 5 Bangura were in the other vehicle.

6 Q. Okay, and when you talk about the delegation with Hassan
7 Papa Bangura are those the West Side Boys you described earlier?

8 A. Exactly.

9 Q. Do you recall approximately how many of them went to that
14:36:16 10 meeting at the mansion?

11 A. All of those who came who went, they were in two groups and
12 us made it up to three.

13 Q. Okay, Mr Witness, if you could proceed to tell us about
14 what happened at the mansion, pausing every sentence or two so
14:36:40 15 the interpreters could catch up and trying again to avoid "he" or
16 "they" and use the names if you can, please?

17 A. Okay. We entered the mansion. I could not recognise the
18 person, but the man was dressed in black coat. He received us
19 downstairs and took us upstairs and placed us in a small room.

14:37:18 20 It's a small room with window curtains right round. While we
21 were there a man in a green uniform with the Liberian crown and
22 badges on him opened one of the curtains and met us and greeted
23 us and we too responded. We were there for not too long when
24 Mr Charles Ghankay Taylor came out from the same direction where
14:37:53 25 the man had come from. He took the front seat, sat down and
26 folded his legs.

27 Q. Can you describe the seating arrangement?

28 A. We who went were sitting on the wall like this, we were
29 sitting by the wall like this, and Mr Charles Ghankay Taylor came

1 and sat in front of us.

2 MR KOUMJIAN: May I try and describe the motion, your
3 Honour, for the record?

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, please do.

14:38:31 5 MR KOUMJIAN: The witness indicated "we sat" and he made a
6 motion of a semicircle behind him and then pointed to the centre
7 and said, "Charles Ghankay Taylor came and sat in front of us":

8 Q. Is that accurate, Mr Witness?

9 A. Exactly, sir.

14:38:50 10 Q. Do you remember now anything about how Mr Taylor was
11 dressed?

12 A. Yes. He had a black coat and dark eye glasses and white
13 shirt and a blue/black coloured tie, neck tie, with a black pair
14 of shoes.

14:39:22 15 Q. Now, please continue and tell us what you can remember
16 about what happened at the meeting?

17 A. The commander of the West Side, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara,
18 presented the position statement they had brought to Mr Taylor.
19 After the presentation Mr Taylor started talking, giving us words
14:39:53 20 of encouragement that we should all see each other as one and
21 that the accord was in our favour. He said a lot of things. I

22 cannot remember all of them now. He folded his legs and put - he
23 crossed his arms over his knees like this, talking to us, giving
24 us words of encouragement, telling us that the accord was in our
14:40:18 25 favour. He kept on talking after that and Johnny Paul Koroma

26 himself responded, saying one or two things to him, and
27 afterwards Mr Taylor ordered the man who was in uniform who was
28 standing by him, he took the briefcase, opened it up and took out
29 a package, a brown envelope, and gave it to chairman Johnny Paul

1 Koroma and took out the other one and gave it to Bazzy and he
2 said that was for us. From there he shook hands with us and we
3 left. We came out and Mr Taylor went to his office.

14:41:03 4 Q. To clarify something, you said Mr Taylor took out a
5 package, a brown envelope, and gave it to the chairman, Johnny
6 Paul Koroma and took out the other one. What do you mean by the
7 other one?

8 A. He took out another envelope of the same type, like the
9 other, and gave it to Bazzy, but when we went to the hotel when
14:41:25 10 we had left - accompanied chairman Johnny Paul Koroma to his
11 house, we went back to the hotel, we asked Bazzy what was in the
12 envelope and Bazzy said he opened it and he said Mr Taylor had
13 given us \$5,000 to be shared amongst us.

14 Q. Did you see the money?

14:41:48 15 A. Yes, I saw the money.

16 Q. Did you receive any part of that \$5,000?

17 A. Yes, yes, I received about \$700.

18 Q. When you say dollars, what currency are you talking about?

19 A. \$700 in \$100 bills.

14:42:17 20 Q. There are a few different countries that use a currency
21 called dollars, so do you know which country's currency those
22 dollars were?

23 A. United States US dollars, 700 in \$100 bills.

24 Q. After the meeting, did you all leave together, all of you
14:42:37 25 from Sierra Leone, leave the mansion?

26 A. Yes, we all left the mansion together.

27 Q. How long did you stay in Monrovia?

28 A. After the meeting the men spent some short time, that was
29 not up to a week, and chairman Johnny Paul told them to return.

1 They were accompanied to the airport and they returned. They
2 returned to Freetown. We remained there.

3 Q. Okay, I am a sorry, but it is a little bit confusing who
4 left and who stayed in Monrovia. First of all yourself, did you
14:43:30 5 yourself stay in Monrovia, or did you go and leave Liberia?

6 A. The four of us who had gone, chairman Johnny Paul Koroma,
7 Brima Kamara, myself, Jumu Jalloh, four of us stayed in Monrovia.
8 All the other men whom Bazzy Kamara, Hassan Papa Bangura and
9 others who had come, they returned. We stayed, the four of us.

14:43:59 10 Q. How long did you, Johnny Paul Koroma and the other two
11 stay?

12 A. We were there for about a week. After the men had returned
13 Johnny Paul Koroma continued to talk to them over the set to
14 release the hostages and thankfully they released all of the

14:44:22 15 hostages and we continued to stay there one to two weeks, or
16 three weeks time. We were having complaints that the men were
17 saying they were not happy that we were still in Monrovia, so one
18 night Idrissa Kamara, alias Leather Boot, called and he spoke to
19 one of my colleagues, Brima Kamara, alias Cobra, at the lodge

14:44:49 20 where we were. He said the men were about to change leadership
21 if Johnny Paul did not move from there. He was to come and talk
22 to them, or to go to Ghana, that the men were about to change
23 leadership. Exactly what he said, when Brima Kamara told us, he
24 said he heard them pronouncing the name Dark Angel, Dark Angel.

14:45:19 25 They wanted him to be the leader because Johnny Paul did not want
26 to facilitate anything for --

27 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness repeat what
28 they were saying.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, the interpreter asks that you

1 repeat what was said. Pick up where you said, "They wanted him
2 to be the leader because Johnny Paul did not want to facilitate
3 anything", and continue from there. As counsel has said, pause
4 at each sentence, please, so the interpreter can keep up.

14:45:49 5 THE WITNESS: So Idrissa Kamara, alias Leather Boot, called
6 one night just about when we were to go to bed. He said he had
7 heard intelligence report that the men wanted to change
8 leadership because Johnny Paul Koroma did not want to move fast
9 to revisit the accord and for the AFRC to be a signatory to the
14:46:35 10 accord, that he made to understand that the leader who they
11 wanted to choose he heard them pronouncing the name Dark Angel,
12 Dark Angel. He said he did not know the leader whom they wanted
13 to choose. He gave the message - he said in the morning they
14 will discuss it, because at that time chairman Johnny Paul Koroma
14:46:56 15 had already slept and in the morning we explained to him. We
16 said it would be good if somebody would go as early as possible,
17 at least one of us will go, to explain to these men about the
18 moves that we were undertaking, because the man - the men said
19 they made to understand that the family which had gone were
14:47:22 20 supposed to come back and they made to understand that the
21 families had not returned. So somebody should go who knew what
22 had happened and why the families did not come when the
23 helicopter went to pick them up and then Issa did not allow the
24 helicopter to land. So he suggested that I go to explain and I
14:47:48 25 was selected to go to explain all of this to the men. It was
26 only with some patience that those things would happen, that I
27 should go and calm them, that he was making efforts that nothing
28 could be achieved in haste. So I should go and meet them. He
29 bought a ticket for me, I flew to Freetown, Lungi airport. I

1 I landed there, called the men, they picked me up just after the
2 helicopter had dropped me at Aberdeen. They took me to where
3 they were lodged, Solar Hotel. I met Bazzy there.

14:48:49 4 Q. Thank you sir. Do I understand you correctly to say that
5 you travelled by yourself from Monrovia to Freetown?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. When you left, Johnny Paul Koroma was still in Monrovia?

8 A. Yes, with the other two.

9 Q. Okay, thank you very much.

14:49:14 10 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, it is not very clear. This
11 witness has given a very big piece of evidence with a lot of
12 people he is referring to that it is not very clear who these
13 people are. He has talked about families, I don't know what
14 families are. Who are the families? Could you just look at the
14:49:30 15 evidence and see if we can't get clearer, please.

16 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, I am just trying to avoid complicating
17 it further:

18 Q. Sir, when you talk about the families, whose family or
19 families are you talking about in your answer?

14:49:48 20 A. Johnny Paul Koroma's family. When Bazzy came with the
21 delegation they said his family should join him, but he said he
22 had said they should stay, but he had made an arrangement now,
23 with the proposal that the men had brought, that they were to go
24 and pick them up.

14:50:05 25 Q. Okay, try to avoid, sir, again using the word "he".

26 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: And again, Mr Koumjian, he said Leather
27 Boot received an intelligence report that the men wanted to
28 change leadership. What men?

29 THE WITNESS: The West Side men said they wanted to change

1 Leadership, because Johnny Paul was not moving things fast. When
2 Leather Boot called over the phone at night, Brima Kamara Cobra
3 picked the call and spoke to him. Brima Kamara explained this to
4 me.

14:50:44

5 MR KOUMJIAN:

6 Q. And when you say change the leader, who is the person that
7 they wanted to replace, according to Leather Boot?

8 A. According to the information given to us by Leather Boot,
9 he said he heard they were calling the name Dark Angel, but he

14:51:04

10 did not know who was Dark Angel. The West Side men were talking.
11 He said the information he had was that they were going to change
12 their leader and the new leader would be Dark Angel. They did
13 not know who the Dark Angel was.

14 Q. Thank you. But my question is: From what you understood
15 that was told to you, who did Leather Boot say Dark Angel would
16 replace? Dark Angel was to replace who?

14:51:29

17 A. According to my understanding when I went there, Dark Angel
18 was a call sign that during the time of the AFRC Bazy Kamara was
19 called Dark Angel. That was his call sign, but I don't know how
20 Leather Boot got the information that they want to change the
21 leadership, that the leader was to be called - or the leader was
22 to be Dark Angel.

14:52:01

23 Q. Okay, who is Leather Boot?

24 A. One of our SLA colleagues.

14:52:17

25 Q. Do you recall his real name?

26 A. Idrissa Kamara.

27 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you. I would like the witness to be
28 shown tab 5, please. This is a document, for the record, with
29 the ERN stamp on it 00008208 through 8219:

1 Q. Showing you the first page, sir, of the document, which is
2 entitled:

3 "Minutes of the family reunion aimed at reconciling
4 chairman Foday Saybana Sankoh and chairman Johnny Paul Koroma,
14:53:52 5 held at the office of the Deputy Minister of Labour, Social
6 Security and Industrial Relations, New England, on 7 April 2000."

7 Sir, the ninth name listed in the attendees is Mr Samuel T
8 Kargbo.

9 A. Yes.

14:54:27 10 Q. Do you recognise the document or do you recall this event?

11 A. Yes, I recognise it well.

12 Q. Turning now to page 8214, page 9 of the document, it
13 indicates at bottom "Brigadier Samuel T Kargbo" and then says:

14 "For Brigadier Kargbo this family reunion was overdue. He
14:55:14 15 strongly believes that the two camps have respect for their two
16 leaders. He admonished members of the two bodies to accept their
17 individual and collective mistakes and to make apologies where
18 necessary" and then are a few other sentences.

19 Do you recognise what I have just read as something that
14:55:47 20 you said?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. The title there is Brigadier Samuel T Kargbo. Can you
23 explain the title brigadier?

24 A. Yes, at that time when we were in the Kailahun end the RUF
14:56:13 25 commanders did not give any position to - what I mean, title.
26 They were not giving any titles to the SLA and I was a victim and
27 since I was the deputy brigade at that time they gave me the
28 title major and the brigade commander at that time was a colonel.

29 So when I crossed over and joined these brothers of mine

1 Bazy declared that all of us who were Supreme Council members
2 and were present there, we were all brigadiers. So any time we
3 would go to a meeting we should enter our names as brigadier.
4 Nobody should say he is a major or colonel. So I joined them for
14:57:16 5 things to work well. That was what - that was how I got the
6 title, Brigadier Samuel Kargbo.

7 Q. When you say you joined them, who did you join?

8 A. When I joined the West Side men after the accord when all
9 of us were in town.

14:57:40 10 Q. I would like to show you --

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, before we jump off this
12 document, I personally am lost. I don't know what this document
13 has to do with when this witness left Monrovia to go and appease
14 the people in the West Side. I don't see any foundation. I know
14:58:01 15 the witness has spoken to the document, but I don't know how it's
16 linked. You have said does he recognise the document, he says
17 yes, he does. Then he doesn't say what the document is or what
18 this occasion was.

19 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay.

14:58:16 20 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I don't see the connection at all.

21 MR KOUMJIAN: I don't claim that this is related to the
22 trip to Monrovia, your Honour. It is dated April 2000.

23 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Not the trip to Monrovia, unless you have
24 moved on.

14:58:28 25 MR KOUMJIAN: I have moved on. I'm sorry if it wasn't
26 clear.

27 THE WITNESS: This was in 2000 when all of us were in
28 Freetown. There was a Government of National Unity in place
29 already. When Idrissa Kamara, alias Leather Boot - all of us

1 were together but he then was at the RUF side. He was fortunate
2 for Foday Sankoh to recommend him to be deputy minister of social
3 welfare. Yes, social welfare. But with that he was not feeling
4 comfortable because we were pushing away from him, because he had
14:59:22 5 broken away from the Sierra Leone Army and he was with the RUF
6 and in this meeting we were trying to see how we could broker
7 peace between Foday Saybana Sankoh, just as the title of the
8 document says, together with Johnny Paul Koroma. That is the
9 Supreme Council of the AFRC and the RUF high command and in this
14:59:48 10 document now all of us were in Freetown.

11 Q. Thank you, sir.

12 A. In 2000.

13 Q. Please wait for the next witness. One question to
14 understand the context of this document: It is dated April 2000.
15:00:05 15 Where was Sam Bockarie, if you know, in April - well, was
16 Sam Bockarie, if you know, in Sierra Leone in April 2000?

17 A. Well, yes, at that time he was in the Kailahun District,
18 but I was made to understand he had hiccups with his leader at
19 that time, Foday Saybana Sankoh. We were not relating that much,
15:00:40 20 but we were monitoring them on our set.

21 Q. Thank you, sir. Your recollection is that Bockarie was in
22 Sierra Leone in April 2000?

23 A. Well, just as I said, we hadn't any link with them, but we
24 used to monitor them. At around that time there was a problem
15:01:02 25 between Sam Bockarie and chairman Foday Saybana Sankoh.

26 Q. Thank you. Going to page 4 with the ERN stamp 8210, I want
27 to ask you about part of what is attributed as the contribution
28 of Brigadier General TAB Yaya and referring to about eight lines
29 up from the bottom it indicates:

1 "He re-echoed the adage, 'unity is strength', emphasising
2 therefore that we can only achieve God's assigned mission of
3 returning lasting peace to our beloved country if we are united
4 to fight the common enemy for the general good of the people."

15:02:04 5 My question is can you help us to understand who was the
6 common enemy that was being referred to in this meeting?

7 A. At that time it was the SLPP.

8 Q. Then I want to go first - first, sorry, can you tell us who
9 was Yaya?

15:02:35 10 A. I cannot recall this Yaya name. I cannot recall it.

11 Q. Very well, thank you. I now want to go to page 6 with the
12 ERN 8212 to a contribution which is attributed to honourable Mike
13 Lamin and it indicates in the last paragraph:

14 "The honourable urged his colleagues to be more vigilant as
15:03:22 15 the dangerously tribalistic civil militia the Kamajors led by
16 Hinga Norman and Momoh Pujeh will never accept to see the RUF/SLA
17 marriage succeed."

18 The next paragraph on the next page:

19 "In conclusion honourable Lamin intimated participants that
15:03:51 20 we were running great risks of demolition by the common enemy if
21 we didn't make haste to look in the same direction."

22 Again who did you understand Mike Lamin to be referring to
23 when he referred to the common enemy?

24 A. It was the SLPP government which had the backing of the
15:04:20 25 Kamajors.

26 Q. And the SLPP government was the common enemy of who?

27 A. It was the common enemy for us, the RUF and the AFRC.

28 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you, your Honour. No further
29 questions.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Koumjian.

2 MR KOUMJIAN: I would ask that these last two documents be
3 marked for identification. The first was tab 1.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just let me deal with the witness,
15:04:57 5 Mr Koumjian, then I will come back to those. Yes, Mr Witness?

6 THE WITNESS: I want to use the gents.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: And in the interim, Mr Koumjian, we will
8 deal with these two documents you wish to mark for
9 identification. The first I gather is the minutes of the family
15:05:12 10 reunion, is that right?

11 MR KOUMJIAN: That is correct.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: So that is a 12 page document and it is
13 headed "Minutes of the family reunion aimed at reconciling
14 chairman Foday Saybana Sankoh" et cetera and that becomes MFI-19.

15:05:32 15 [In the absence of the witness]

16 The other document you referred me to, Mr Koumjian?

17 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, the last document that we were just
18 reading.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Is that the unofficial translation
15:05:46 20 document?

21 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, I believe so, your Honour, although I
22 have lost it for a moment.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: That is a 16 page document. I have a
24 note here that it is a copy of exhibit D-8.

15:06:01 25 MR KOUMJIAN: I am sorry, it has already been - that's
26 correct.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is an exhibit already and there have
28 been no amendments to it during the course of the evidence.

29 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you.

1 MR MUNYARD: I think it is D8, is it not, your Honour?

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: According to what I have been advised it
3 is exhibit D-8.

4 [In the presence of the witness]

15:08:56 5 Mr Munyard, are you taking cross-examination of this
6 witness?

7 MR MUNYARD: I am, thank you, your Honour, yes.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed.

9 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR MUNYARD:

15:09:50 10 Q. Mr Kargbo, I am going to be asking you some questions that
11 will take us the rest of the afternoon. If at any time you are
12 in discomfort would you please let me know and we will stop and
13 you will have an opportunity to make yourself more comfortable.
14 Will you do that?

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

16 Q. Thank you. Two other things. If I ask you a question
17 which is not clear to you, will you ask me to put it again in
18 different language so as to try and make my questions clear to
19 you? Will you do that?

15:10:29 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Thank you. Finally, some of us walk very fast, some of us
22 talk very fast. I think you fall into the latter category. Can
23 you try to speak reasonably slowly, because the interpreters have
24 to interpret and some people are writing down what you say. Do
15:10:53 25 you follow?

26 A. Yes.

27 Q. Thank you very much. Right. Now, while we are dealing
28 with this, even though it is not in the time sequence that I
29 really want to follow, can we have a look at a bit more of the

1 documents we have just been talking about and the first one is
2 the one that is headed, "Minutes of the family reunion", and it
3 has just been marked for identification and given a number that I
4 have already managed to mislay, but I will be told.

15:11:27 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: MFI-19, Mr Munyard.

6 MR MUNYARD: I am very grateful, thank you:

7 Q. Have you got a copy in front of you, Mr Kargbo?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can I just clarify one thing. You went to school, you told
15:11:40 10 us when you began your evidence yesterday, up to year 3 of
11 secondary school and at what age, therefore, did you leave
12 school?

13 A. I left school when I was 19 years.

14 Q. At the age of 19 you could clearly read and write English,
15:12:55 15 is that correct?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. I am simply establishing that so that when I ask you to
18 look at documents on the screen we all know that you can follow
19 the written documents.

15:13:08 20 Now, this "Minutes of the family reunion" document, are you
21 able to tell us who actually prepared those minutes? Who wrote
22 them?

23 A. These minutes - I too have a copy that was from Idrissa
24 Kamara, alias Leather Boot, in whose office we held this meeting
15:13:40 25 and he prepared these documents after one or two weeks. After
26 one or two weeks he issued out these documents.

27 Q. Are you saying that you still have a copy of that?

28 A. Yes, now as I speak to you it is in my bag, in my document
29 bag in Sierra Leone.

1 Q. Right. Can you help us with what the need was for
2 reconciliation between Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul Koroma in
3 April of 2000?

4 A. Yes, from the time when all of them came to town, Johnny
15:14:34 5 Paul Koroma did not go to Foday Sankoh's lodge, neither did Foday
6 Sankoh go to Johnny Paul Koroma's lodge. We the SLA, the --

7 Q. Sorry, I am going to stop you there. When you say "from
8 the time when all of them came to town", what time is that that
9 you are talking about?

15:14:57 10 A. From the time Johnny Paul came to town and even Foday
11 Sankoh came to town, Foday Sankoh did not go to Johnny Paul and
12 Johnny Paul in turn did not visit Foday Sankoh.

13 Q. Can you give us a date?

14 A. That was, if I can recall rightly, it was 1999. 1999. I
15:15:21 15 cannot recall the exact month now that all of them came to town,
16 Johnny Paul Koroma and Foday Sankoh. Right up to 2000 and even
17 this time for the meeting, that used to happen. There wasn't any
18 good relationship between us, the AFRC supreme members, and the
19 RUF.

15:15:38 20 Q. We are going to come back to that in a moment. I am just
21 trying to establish with a little more precision, if we can, when
22 it was that these two men came to town. What part of 1999, can
23 you now remember? Beginning, middle or end?

24 A. Well, I should say within the last four months of 1999.

15:16:08 25 Q. And they travelled together back to Freetown from their
26 discussions in Monrovia, did they?

27 A. No, I don't know how they travelled, because at that time I
28 was at the West Side when the SLPP government forced us out of
29 Solar Hotel, so we went to the West Side. There I was when we

1 heard that Johnny Paul had come. I don't know how he came.

2 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: What is "town"? "Town" means where?

3 MR MUNYARD: Your Honour, I had put Freetown.

4 THE WITNESS: When they came back to Freetown, Sierra

15:16:59 5 Leone. When Johnny Paul Koroma and Foday Sankoh came back to
6 Freetown, Sierra Leone, we were at West Side, Okra Hill, when we
7 heard that Johnny Paul had come to Freetown, Sierra Leone, but we
8 did not know how they came.

9 MR MUNYARD:

15:17:23 10 Q. You had been in Monrovia taking part in these discussions
11 that involved Foday Sankoh, Johnny Paul Koroma and the West Side
12 Boys, hadn't you?

13 A. No, I was not present when Johnny Paul Koroma and Foday
14 Sankoh were in any meeting. I was not even there when Foday
15:17:51 15 Sankoh came there. At that time I had already come to Sierra
16 Leone.

17 Q. Right, but were you aware that Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul
18 Koroma had met together in order to try to work together when
19 they were in Monrovia?

15:18:21 20 A. I only came to know that when they came to town and the
21 government allowed us to come out of West Side and Johnny Paul
22 requested that he wanted to see me when he came to the lodge.
23 That was where and how I came to know that.

24 Q. Sorry, Johnny Paul requested that he wanted to see you when
15:18:55 25 he came to the lodge. Which lodge and in which city?

26 A. That was where he was lodged when he had returned. That
27 was at Juba Hills.

28 Q. In Freetown?

29 A. In Freetown. Yes, in Freetown at his residence.

1 Q. So this is when he came back from Monrovia, is it?

2 A. Yes, at that time we had come and met him at the lodge,
3 together with the other colleagues.

4 Q. And this is in the last few months of 1999, yes?

15:19:35 5 A. Within the last four months of 1999.

6 Q. Right. Did Johnny Paul Koroma tell you that he had joined
7 together with Foday Sankoh and they were now calling themselves
8 the Alliance for Peace?

9 A. No, Johnny Paul never said that to me. Even for me to know
15:20:08 10 that he and Foday Sankoh were in the meeting and they spoke, it
11 was when we were having some privileged conversations with my
12 colleagues, that was how I knew that Johnny Paul and Foday Sankoh
13 had a meeting in Monrovia.

14 Q. Well, were you not aware, as a member of the Supreme
15:20:33 15 Council, that Johnny Paul Koroma and Foday Sankoh made an
16 announcement on 2 October, on the day that they were returning to
17 Freetown, describing themselves, the RUF and the AFRC alliance,
18 as the Alliance for Peace?

19 A. I was never aware of that.

15:21:04 20 Q. Where were you on 2 October 1999, Mr Kargbo?

21 A. I was in the West Side. That is Okra Hills.

22 Q. And why were you in Okra Hills in the West Side on that
23 particular date?

24 A. As I have said before, the government forced us out of the
15:21:29 25 Solar Hotel at that time. The SLPP government, they said we were
26 to go back to the jungle and I told them that I was not going
27 back to the jungle, let them send me back to Liberia. They said
28 they hadn't money to do that, let me join my colleagues to go to
29 the Okra Hills, because that is what Johnny Paul had said.

- 1 Q. When you say "the government forced us out of the Solar
2 Hotel" and said that you were to go back to the jungle, is this
3 the Government of National Unity that you were telling us about
4 when you were answering the last few questions put to you by my
15:22:08 5 I learned friend, Mr Koumjian, opposite?
- 6 A. No, at that time they had not formed that government yet.
- 7 Q. So when did they form the Government of National Unity?
- 8 A. It was after Johnny Paul and Foday Sankoh had come. That
9 was when they formed that government.
- 15:22:33 10 Q. Right. It was certainly in place by April of 2000, wasn't
11 it, the Government of National Unity?
- 12 A. Yes, it was in place then.
- 13 Q. And just so that we are all clear, the Government of
14 National Unity comprised which particular groups?
- 15:23:00 15 A. Well, it comprised more of the RUF and the SLPP government.
16 The only single person that was accepted from the AFRC was Jumu
17 Jalloh, who was appointed minister of tourism.
- 18 Q. Right. Did you feel aggrieved about that, you personally?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 15:23:36 20 Q. Is that why you became involved in a coup attempt against
21 the SLPP government in 2003?
- 22 MR KOUMJIAN: Well, that question presumes something that
23 has not been asked of the witness yet.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think counsel is entitled to put that
15:23:56 25 question in cross-examination, Mr Koumjian.
- 26 THE WITNESS: No, I was never involved in any coup attempt.
27 It was an allegation by the SLPP.
- 28 MR MUNYARD:
- 29 Q. Well, let us just explore your grievance for a moment

1 before we come back to the allegation of your involvement in a
2 coup attempt. You were angry, were you, that only Jumu Jalloh
3 from the AFRC had been appointed to the Government of National
4 Unity?

15:24:49 5 A. Yes, but me being angry did not make me to be part of any
6 coup plot. I only made sure that I was loyal to my boss, Johnny
7 Paul Koroma, and keep away from the RUF leadership.

8 Q. Well, why would you keep away from the RUF leadership when
9 we are looking in this document at "Minutes of a family reunion"
10 in the year 2000, the family being the RUF and the AFRC, wasn't
11 it?

12 A. Yes, when the deputy minister at this time Idrissa Kamara,
13 Leather Boot, was trying to bring us together because he was a
14 one time colleague in the army. We were taking up appointment
15 from Foday Sankoh as deputy minister of social welfare and
16 security - of labour - social security, sorry.

17 Q. All right, but help us with this: We have been presented
18 with this document and we have been shown some extracts from it.
19 What was this meeting really all about, the family reunion on 7
20 April in the year 2000?

21 A. As you have the minutes in your hands you can go over and
22 you will see that this was something we were doing to put our
23 grievances aside and see each other as one. If you go over - if
24 you read the documents you will see it.

15:26:49 25 Q. So you were trying to put your grievances aside. Did you -
26 you personally - put your grievance with the RUF aside as a
27 result of this meeting?

28 A. Well, after that we tried to put it aside just so that our
29 people would have peace, but that did not work because the RUF

1 did not comply, because we made one or two attempts to go and see
2 Foday Saybana Sankoh himself together with my colleagues,
3 Santigie Borbor Kanu, Tamba Alex Brima, Bazy Kamara, Abdul Sesay
4 and others who were members of the Supreme Council. We went and
15:27:43 5 saw Foday Sankoh and told him that, "You yourself have to make
6 moves to make sure that you and Johnny Paul Koroma see each
7 other" and we met with Johnny Paul Koroma and talked to him. He
8 went to chairman Foday Sankoh's lodge once or twice, but chairman
9 Foday Sankoh never returned his visit.

15:28:05 10 Q. And so when you say, "We tried to put it aside so that our
11 people would have peace but that did not work", what happened as
12 a result of your not being able to reconcile your differences
13 with the RUF? What was the outcome as far as peace for the
14 people of Sierra Leone was concerned?

15:28:30 15 A. Well, chairman Foday Saybana Sankoh never went to chairman
16 Johnny Paul Koroma and chairman Johnny Paul Koroma himself
17 decided to stay put and we too decided not to go there again,
18 because any time they will see us close allegations will start
19 flying about on the RUF side.

15:28:50 20 Q. Now by April 2000 you didn't just have grievances with the
21 RUF. You also had a grievance against the SLPP, didn't you, the
22 governing party of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah?

23 A. Well, my only grievance was when I decided not to go close
24 to them because they had dismissed me, they made me to lose my
15:29:19 25 job and I suffered. Later I came to know that I --

26 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, can the witness slow down
27 and repeat.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, you have run ahead of the
29 interpreter there, so if you speak more slowly please and pick up

1 where you said, "Later I came to know that I --", continue from
2 there, please.

3 THE WITNESS: Later when I was dismissed and I lost my job
4 and we had taken over the AFRC we went to the check-in desk where
15:29:50 5 there was a big book and I checked my salary and rice was
6 running. I made to understand that the SLPP was only seizing
7 advantage on me. So my grievance was I decided to stay away from
8 them and be loyal to chairman Johnny Paul Koroma.

9 MR MUNYARD:

15:30:06 10 Q. Are you a man who nurses grievances over the years?

11 A. I am a Christian. I always pray for forgiveness.

12 Q. Now answer the question, please?

13 A. I don't nurse grudges. I always pray for forgiveness.

14 Q. Yes, now answer the question. Are you a man who nurses
15:30:34 15 grievances over the years?

16 MR KOUMJIAN: Asked and answered.

17 THE WITNESS: If you can break it down for me so that I can
18 understand it better, maybe I can --

19 MR MUNYARD: I will break it down for you.

15:30:47 20 PRESIDING JUDGE: There has been an objection, Mr Munyard.
21 Counsel for the Prosecution says it has been asked and answered.
22 I am just trying to look at the answer, because I do recall the
23 witness saying, "My only grievance was..." Then he says, "I
24 don't nurse grudges." So it has been answered.

15:31:02 25 MR MUNYARD: He did say, "I don't nurse grievances. I
26 always pray for forgiveness." I asked the question again because
27 the answer doesn't seem in fact to tie in with what he just said
28 before about when he was dismissed and he lost his job. So I am
29 going to go back to that part. I won't pursue it in exactly the

1 same terms, but I will pursue it.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well.

3 MR MUNYARD:

4 Q. Now, Mr Kargbo, let's just go back to what you said a
15:31:26 5 moment ago before praying for forgiveness. You told us this -
6 when I asked you about your grievance with the SLPP you said:

7 "My only grievance", presumably with them, "was when I
8 decided not to go close to them because they had dismissed me.
9 They made me to lose my job and I suffered later."

10 15:31:53 Now when did they dismiss you and make you to lose your
11 job?

12 A. 1996, three months just --

13 Q. I'm sorry if I spoke over the witness. Let me just check.
14 In 1996 they made you to lose your job and in the year 2000 you
15:32:18 15 are still steering clear of them or, to put it in your words,
16 your only grievance against them was that they had made you lose
17 your job in the year 1996. So you are a man who nurses
18 grievances over the years, aren't you?

19 A. No.

15:32:39 20 Q. Your position, I suppose, is that all you do is you spend
21 your time praying for forgiveness for those who do you wrong. Is
22 that right?

23 A. Yes, I spend the time.

24 Q. And is that an honest answer, Mr Kargbo?

15:32:59 25 MR KOUMJIAN: Well, that's argumentative.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: What is your answer?

27 MR MUNYARD: I'm sorry, me or the witness?

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: "Yes, I spend the time" was the answer.

29 "Is that an honest answer?" What does that mean, Mr Munyard?

1 MR MUNYARD:

2 Q. Is that the truth? Sorry, I thought I was obvious, but is
3 that the truth?

4 A. I did not get it clear. Say that again.

15:33:25 5 Q. When you say, "Yes, I spend the time" in answer to my
6 question, "All you do is spend your time praying for forgiveness
7 for those who do you wrong", is that the truth that instead of
8 nursing a grievance you simply spend the time praying for
9 forgiveness?

15:33:47 10 MR KOUMJIAN: Counsel has misquoted the witness in the
11 answer in the question.

12 MR MUNYARD: I will move on:

13 Q. Well, I will move on by going to back to April of 2000 - I
14 am sorry if you find it amusing, Mr Kargbo. We are talking about
15:34:01 15 your truthfulness here. The year 2000, 7th April?

16 MR KOUMJIAN: Again, your Honour, I am objecting to counsel
17 making remarks to the witness that are not questions. It is
18 argumentative to the Court.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Munyard, if we can avoid facetious
15:34:21 20 remarks, please. Mr Witness, this is a Court. Please take it
21 seriously.

22 THE WITNESS: Okay.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed, Mr Munyard.

24 MR MUNYARD:

15:34:32 25 Q. In April 2000 you are at something called a family reunion
26 with these two groups who are part of a Government of National
27 Unity?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. Present at this meeting, amongst others, number 24 on the

1 first page, 8208, is Mrs Susan Lahai. Have I pronounced her name
2 correctly?

3 A. Yes, you called the name correctly.

4 Q. What faction did Mrs Lahai belong to?

15:35:18 5 A. RUF. RUF faction.

6 Q. And what was the RUF's attitude to the SLPP who they were
7 in government with?

8 A. I can't tell what their attitude was, because I wasn't
9 close to them.

15:35:40 10 Q. Mr Kargbo, you were at this meeting. What was the attitude
11 of the RUF members at this meeting, for which you still have a
12 copy of the minutes in your bag at home, towards the SLPP with
13 whom they were in partnership in government?

14 A. Well, personally I did not know anything, but when they
15:36:10 15 came to the meeting at that time what like for instance Mike
16 Lamin said, he spoke as though he had grudges against them. But
17 personally I did not know because I was not close to the RUF.

18 Q. Well, you were part of the same family reunion on 7 April,
19 weren't you?

15:36:36 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Well, let's have a look at first of all Mrs Susan Lahai.
22 Can you turn, please, to page 8213. Do you have that page in
23 front of you?

24 A. Yes.

15:37:04 25 Q. Two-thirds of the way down the page the honourable Susan
26 Lahai - why is she the honourable? Can you help us with that?

27 A. Well, it was the SLPP. It was the RUF that appointed her
28 as a minister or so, but I did not know clearly at that time.

29 Q. So she is not an honourable because of her position in a

1 group, she is an honourable because she is a minister. Is that
2 right?

3 A. Well, I don't know how they gave themselves titles.

15:37:58

4 Q. All right. Well, let's have a look at what she is recorded
5 as saying:

6 "In her contribution Mrs Lahai asked the gathering to join
7 her in prayers for unity and reconciliation if we were really
8 prepared for that. She told her colleagues that the demon of
9 strife was gaining ground in our midst. And for Mrs Lahai that
10 demon of strife is the bunch of corrupt politicians who are the
11 cankerworms of our society."

15:38:18

12 Now isn't Mrs Lahai one of the politicians in the
13 government?

15:38:38

14 A. Well, she was one of the politicians in the government that
15 Foday Sankoh appointed.

16 Q. "Mrs Lahai told participants that we have ourselves to
17 blame for what is happening to us. For her, people continue
18 branding us as rebels and villains because we are not united.
19 She urges all and sundry to bury the hatchet and open a new
20 page."

15:39:06

21 Do you see that?

22 A. Yes.

15:39:18

23 Q. And then it goes on: "She outlined the following reasons
24 why we should come together" and then there is a series of bullet
25 points. The first is, "To bring lasting peace to our people."
26 Then over the page on page 8214 the next point, "To console our
27 colleagues ex-combatants who are the victims of our disunity."
28 Then, "To enhance our credibility vis-a-vis the international
29 community who continue to be misinformed by the SLPP government."

1 Can you help us with this, because you were present at that
2 meeting: What was the misinformation being given to the
3 international community by the SLPP government?

4 A. If Mrs Lahai were here it would have been better for her to
15:40:13 5 answer that because she can say best, but I did not know what she
6 was trying to say. These were some of the contributions she
7 made.

8 Q. Right, so you have no idea at all what she was referring to
9 when she said that the SLPP government were misinforming the
15:40:30 10 international community?

11 A. She knows better what her contributions were. I cannot
12 know that.

13 Q. The next point, "To be in readiness to counter any devilish
14 ploys by the Kamajors and SLPP evil agents." Have you any idea
15:40:56 15 what she meant by that?

16 A. Go over that again.

17 Q. Would you look at it on the screen as I read it out so that
18 you can follow it, "To be in readiness to counter any devilish
19 ploys by the Kamajors and SLPP evil agents."

15:41:22 20 A. Well, she knew, just like I said, she knew what she had in
21 her mind when she made these contributions.

22 Q. But have you any idea what devilish ploys were being dreamt
23 up by the Kamajors and SLPP evil agents?

24 A. I don't have any idea, because by then we were not
15:41:51 25 together. That was why they were fighting to bring us together.
26 She knows better, because she gave her contributions.

27 Q. You were together because it was a family reunion. Do you
28 know what reunion means, Mr Kargbo? It means getting together
29 again.

1 A. They stated that in the meeting, but the reunion itself did
2 not hold and even after the meeting we were still not together.

3 Q. Well, let's carry on on that page. I will ignore the last
4 bullet point and we will go to Dr Pallo Bangura. Can you help us
15:42:33 5 with who Dr Pallo Bangura was, or is?

6 A. Well, during the AFRC he was one of our ministers. After
7 we had come after the accord, we met them in town. He was now on
8 the RUF side.

9 Q. Well, if we go back to the first page, 8208, we can see him
15:43:06 10 at number 8, immediately above your number 9, as the honourable
11 Alimamy P Bangura. That is Dr Pallo Bangura, is it?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Right. Well, let us look at what he said, "Dr Pallo
14 Bangura thanked the organisers" - that must be "of the meeting",
15:43:33 15 "and buttered" - I think that may be a word we are familiar with
16 now, buttressed. Do you think that should mean buttressed,
17 rather than buttered what most of the previous speakers had
18 advanced?

19 A. I don't know what you mean, except you break it down for
15:43:55 20 me.

21 Q. I think it is likely to mean he, "buttressed what most of
22 the previous speakers had advanced as responsible for our
23 discomfiture." He was backing up the previous speakers, wasn't
24 he? Backing them up, rather than buttering them up.

15:44:13 25 I want to ask you about the following sentence, in fact,
26 "He pointed out that though what the enemy is planning cannot be
27 outrightly underrated or dismissed, he was of the opinion that
28 what was more important for us was what we should embark on doing
29 to consolidate our hard-won peace", that presumably means. Who

1 is the enemy that Dr Pallo Bangura is talking about?

2 A. Well, we can't say that we were not enemies to them,
3 because they and us were no longer together, so I don't know what
4 enemy he was referring to, be they the AFRC, or the SLPP.

15:45:08 5 Q. So, Dr Bangura appears, at this family reunion taking place
6 at the time of the Government of National Unity to be describing
7 either your group, the AFRC, or the SLPP, with whom you were all
8 in government, as the enemy. Is that what you are saying?

9 A. Well, according to his speech or his contributions, maybe
15:45:39 10 he was trying to say that, but I don't know, because the things
11 he said came from his own brain. I did not make them. I don't
12 know what he was talking about when he said a common enemy, be it
13 the AFRC or the RUF, I don't know, or the SLPP, so I don't know
14 because he didn't state it there.

15:46:03 15 Q. And so this is the state of affairs in April of 2000, is
16 it, between the various parties to this Government of National
17 Unity, one group describing the others as "the enemy" or "evil
18 agents", words of that sort? Is that the real picture of this
19 Government of National Unity?

15:46:32 20 A. Well, as I always say, I did not used to see them, in fact
21 they were not close. The only one that used to see us at that
22 time was Idrissa Kamara. He used to talk to us to come down to
23 see each other together. When he decided to schedule this
24 meeting in his office, as you can see the minute now, the RUF
15:46:52 25 were more in number than the AFRC.

26 Q. Well, let's have a look at a couple more of the points that
27 were being made at this reunion. We have had a look at some of
28 what Mike Lamin said to the meeting. Can we go back to him,
29 please, page 8212. Now, a passage was read to you earlier by

1 Mr Koumjian from the foot of that page. I want to go to the
2 sentence immediately above that, please, "The honourable Lamin
3 regrettably confessed to the gathering that General Mosquito was
4 responsible for most of the frictions that took place between the
15:47:49 5 RUF and the SLA." Now, do you agree with that proposition that
6 Mike Lamin was making at this meeting?

7 A. No.

8 Q. In what respect do you say he is wrong?

9 A. Because he was also a high command, but he also contributed
15:48:17 10 greatly to see those problems happen, the problems of us seeing
11 ourselves apart.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: We have got a few "he"s in there,
13 Mr Munyard.

14 MR MUNYARD: I am going to try and disentangle them:

15:48:36 15 Q. He was also a high command. You mean Mike Lamin was also a
16 high command?

17 A. Yes, Mike Lamin.

18 Q. Right, "but he also contributed greatly to see those
19 problems happen", also meaning Mike Lamin contributed to see
15:48:55 20 those problems happen, is that correct?

21 A. It is correct.

22 Q. So Mike Lamin, in your view, was one of the people who was
23 responsible for the divisions between the RUF and what I will
24 call SLA/AFRC?

15:49:18 25 A. That is correct.

26 Q. What was it that Mike Lamin had been doing to contribute to
27 the problems between you?

28 A. Like I have explained, in my presence Mike Lamin pointed
29 his gun at my leader, by then chairman Johnny Paul Koroma, and

1 shot over his head and he instructed him to climb the step and
2 come down. So that was one of the great contributions.

3 Q. Mr Kargbo, I am going to stop you there on that point for a
4 moment because I can assure you I am coming back to the question
15:50:04 5 of you and Johnny Paul Koroma with the diamonds hidden on your
6 persons in rather more detail. Can you point to any other
7 example in which Mike Lamin contributed greatly to the problems
8 between you?

9 A. Yes, Mike Lamin even fought against me whilst I was deputy
15:50:35 10 brigade commander at my brigade headquarters at Pendembu. He
11 went there and fought against me. He asked me to give him some
12 single barrel rounds that Sam Bockarie had given to me and he
13 said he wanted to go and kill monkeys and I told him that that
14 was not what the chief of defence staff told me, "You sent people
15:50:55 15 yesterday and I gave some to you and now you are sending your
16 boys again to give you some", and when I said that to him that
17 went against him and he decided to fight against me and so when I
18 sent that message to the chief of defence staff, Sam Bockarie,
19 and then Sam Bockarie told me I am healthier than the man so I
15:51:17 20 should beat the man up, but I decided that because I was a
21 responsible commander I said no. So he decided to bring his boys
22 to fight against me. It was Leather Boot, Idrissa Kamara, who
23 stopped us. He even cocked his gun against me and I also wanted
24 to blow him off, but Idrissa Kamara spoke to me and so many times
15:51:38 25 he had taken advantage over me.

26 Q. Are we talking about the year 1999 here, or earlier?

27 A. Early 1999, exactly, before the accord.

28 Q. Right, before the Lome Accord I presume?

29 A. Thank you, before the Lome Accord.

1 Q. What about in the previous year, after the intervention,
2 when the AFRC/RUF junta is driven out of Freetown by ECOMOG
3 forces, what about during that period of time? How was Mike
4 Lamin behaving towards the AFRC then?

15:52:29 5 A. Most of the things I cannot say because I was not present
6 when it happened, but the complaints were many, because the
7 report came and people did not take action, because sometimes the
8 SLA, who had low ranks, who decided to stay with us in the
9 jungle, the treatment that was given to them and even the death
15:52:50 10 of Fonti Kanu, he was the person that gave them the first shot
11 and he did - he never apologised for that and that happened in my
12 presence.

13 Q. Yes, you told us a great deal about the death of Fonti Kanu
14 earlier. I am not going to go over that at all, but can you just
15:53:09 15 remind me when that was?

16 A. That particular event took place in 1998. It was in the
17 rainy season.

18 Q. Right. For the benefit of those who may not know, the
19 rainy season runs from what? About May to September/October? Is
15:53:43 20 that, roughly speaking, the rainy season?

21 A. Well, around May/April I had gone and taken up my
22 appointment and around June - I think it was around July/August
23 1998. July/August, around that time.

24 Q. So Mike Lamin, who is one of the very top figures in the
15:54:08 25 RUF, is causing a lot of discord between the RUF and the AFRC by
26 the middle of 1998, is he?

27 A. Especially the one I explained to you. For some others,
28 like I explained, I was not present, but we got complaints from
29 the other low ranking SLAs, but I was not present there. So what

1 we did always was to console them for them to accept things as
2 they were and that things will be over very soon.

3 Q. Well, let's just carry on with the final part of Mike
4 Lamin's contribution to this family reunion. Page 8213, please,
15:55:04 5 top of the page:

6 "In conclusion the honourable Lamin intimated participants
7 that we were running great risks of demolition by the common
8 enemy if we didn't make haste to look in the same direction. He
9 said the enemy is using us to neutralise ourselves, in other
15:55:26 10 words, they are using the theory of divide and rule against us."

11 Who is the common enemy that he is talking about there?

12 A. Well, I don't actually know what he meant, because the
13 translator did not actually put what he said to divide us and to
14 rule against us. So I don't know what he meant, because the
15:55:54 15 translator did not even put that to me.

16 Q. I'm sorry? The translator didn't put what to you?

17 A. The last area, the divide and rule against us, I don't know
18 what that means. The translator did not say something about that
19 and so I don't know what Mike Lamin said there.

15:56:19 20 Q. You mean the interpreter here --

21 A. The interpreter, yes.

22 Q. -- didn't interpret "divide and rule" into Krio, is that
23 what you're saying?

24 A. He did not interpret it to me. I did not hear it at all.

15:56:31 25 Q. In all your years at school in learning, reading and
26 writing English, are you saying you have never heard the
27 expression "divide and rule"?

28 A. The interpreter did not translate that into Krio for me to
29 hear it from my mic.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, do you mean the interpreter
2 here in this Court, rather than the person who interpreted the
3 minutes of the meeting?

4 THE WITNESS: No, I see it right in front of me at the end
15:57:12 5 of this statement that the lawyer is reading. I saw it, but the
6 interpreter did not translate to me about divide and rule against
7 us and being that he did not interpret it, I cannot answer
8 anything about that.

9 MR MUNYARD: I will just ask my question one more time. I
15:57:36 10 don't want to spend a lot of time on this:

11 Q. Are you saying you don't know what the English expression
12 "divide and rule" means?

13 A. I said the interpreter did not translate the last side to
14 me.

15:57:54 15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, please answer the question.
16 It has been asked twice. Do you know the English expression
17 "divide and rule", what it means?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, my Lord.

19 MR MUNYARD:

15:58:05 20 Q. So what's the problem? Just because the interpreter didn't
21 interpret it for you doesn't mean to say that you can't answer my
22 question?

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Munyard, in fairness he didn't get
24 that part of the question at all. So in fairness if you wish to
15:58:31 25 pursue it put the question again.

26 MR MUNYARD: If that is the case I will happily put it
27 again.

28 THE WITNESS: Thank you, my Lord. Thank you, my Lord.

29 MR MUNYARD:

1 Q. The questions, Mr Kargbo, was this: I read the passage and
2 I will read the passage again, I'm afraid.

3 "In conclusion the honourable Lamin intimated participants
4 that we were running great risks of demolition by the common
15:58:58 5 enemy if we didn't make haste to look in the same direction. He
6 said the enemy is using us to neutralise ourselves, in other
7 words they are using the theory of divide and rule against us."

8 Who is the common enemy that he is talking about?

9 A. At that time I did not know, because that was the first day
15:59:30 10 we went for that family reunion meeting. I did not know whether
11 he was referring to us or the SLPP, being the AFRC or the SLPP.
12 I did not know what she meant.

13 Q. Right. She meant, or he meant? We are on Mike Lamin. We
14 have moved off Mrs Susan Lahai whose name appears on the same
15:59:53 15 page, but we are still on Mike Lamin. Do you follow?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But, in any event, the common enemy is either you or your
18 other partners in government, the SLPP, yes?

19 A. Yes.

16:00:19 20 Q. Let's have a look at what Brigadier Bazy Kamara had to
21 contribute to the family reunion. The same page and I am going
22 to ask you about the last two sentences in his contribution:

23 "He pointed out that their long experience with the gun
24 coupled with their better professional training than the SLPP
16:00:49 25 civil militia (Kamajors) should always serve them to neutralise
26 the latter. He therefore appealed to participants to reflect
27 their minds on the original intentions of the rebellion in making
28 their contribution."

29 Now there when he was talking about "them" he is referring

1 back to AFRC ministers and other senior executive officers?

2 A. Well, he knew what he was talking about. I did not know
3 what he meant. I was another contribution in the meeting.

16:01:34

4 Q. What was the problem with the SLPP's civil militia, the
5 Kamajors, in the year 2000 when you are supposed to be in a
6 Government of National Unity with them?

7 A. Go over that.

16:02:00

8 Q. What was the problem with the SLPP's civil militia, the
9 Kamajors, when you are actually meant to be in a Government of
10 National Unity working alongside them?

11 A. Well, we did not have any problem with them. Those of us,
12 the AFRC, we never had problems with the Kamajors. They were on
13 in their own areas and we were in our own areas. We did not have
14 problems with them. When we were all in Freetown everybody went
15 about his or her own business. We did not have problems with
16 them.

16:02:27

17 Q. Right. Let's move on to page 8217, the contribution of
18 Mr Abdul Sesay at the top of that page please:

16:02:57

19 "Mr Sesay pointed out that chairman Sankoh's mistake was
20 his failure to invite Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma to
21 hold discussions before and after the Lome peace talks."

16:03:24

22 Now, Mr Kargbo, the Lome peace talks concluded with the
23 signing of the Lome agreement on, I think, 7 July 1999. I will
24 be corrected if I have got the date wrong, but it was certainly
25 July of 1999. This is a family reunion taking place the better
26 part of a year later on 7 April 2000. Is it the position that
27 the AFRC were still angry almost a year later about the failure
28 of Foday Sankoh to involve Johnny Paul Koroma in the Lome talks?

29 A. Yes, Mr Sesay was right.

1 Q. All right. Just a couple more points on this, please. At
2 the foot of that page we have just been looking at Mr SYB Rogers
3 makes a contribution and I want to take you over the page where
4 his contribution is continuing. It is the second line down from

16:04:29

5 the top:

6 "According to Mr Rogers former AFRC chairman Lieutenant
7 Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma and his former chief secretary of
8 state Colonel SAJ Musa did not work as a team."

9 Now would you agree with Mr SYB Roger's opinion as
10 expressed there?

16:04:50

11 A. No, they were working as a team.

12 Q. They did work as a team. Is there anyone in particular who
13 SAJ Musa did not get on with when you were all in the junta
14 together?

16:05:15

15 A. No, we were all together. It was only that we were not
16 together with the RUF, but those of us, the SLA members, starting
17 from Johnny Paul and all the other supreme council members were
18 all together.

19 Q. Right. We were not together with the RUF. I was asking
20 you about the junta period. That in the junta period the RUF
21 were governing jointly with the AFRC, weren't they?

16:05:34

22 A. Yes, we were all together, but we were not too close.

23 Q. Not too close. Is that an understatement, by which I mean
24 are you suggesting that you were actually very divided even
25 though you were sharing power for those nine months?

16:06:01

26 A. No, not all the nine months, especially since the time the
27 Iranian saga took place. They said it was SAJ Musa who
28 engineered to investigate to dismiss their senior commander who
29 was Issa Sesay. So with that we were not together.

1 Q. And we know from your earlier evidence that this Iranian
2 embassy saga was on 1 January 1998, yes?

3 A. Yes.

16:06:47

4 Q. So certainly by the beginning of 1998 relations between the
5 RUF faction and the AFRC faction in the ruling junta were
6 deteriorating badly, would you agree?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And in particular SAJ Musa was the target of hostility from
9 his RUF colleagues in the junta government, would you agree?

16:07:14

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And would this be right: That SAJ Musa and Sam Bockarie in
12 particular did not get on at all by that stage?

13 A. Yes, they were not getting close.

16:07:40

14 Q. I will put it another way. They were very far apart,
15 hostile to each other, weren't they?

16 A. Well, not that --

17 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, that area is not very clear
18 to the interpreter.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause, Mr Witness, please.

16:07:58

20 Mr Interpreter, do you mean the question is not clear or the
21 witness's answer?

22 THE INTERPRETER: The witness's answer, your Honours.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well. Mr Witness, please start your
24 answer again and repeat it slowly for the interpreter.

16:08:10

25 THE WITNESS: When we had called on the RUF, we the AFRC,
26 and we called SAJ Musa from overseas and he came and met us and
27 SAJ Musa was made chief secretary of state, right from there we
28 saw SAJ Musa to be the second person to Johnny Paul Koroma. So
29 the RUF were strongly against that and they said that position

1 was meant for Foday Sankoh, but being that he had not been
2 released from Nigeria we had called on SAJ Musa and we had made
3 him number two man. So that did not go down well with them at
4 all.

16:09:04 5 MR MUNYARD:

6 Q. Right from the beginning of the AFRC/RUF junta government,
7 yes?

8 A. After the appointment had come out.

9 Q. When was the appointment?

16:09:28 10 A. Well, I can't recall the actual date or month, but it was
11 in 1997.

12 MR MUNYARD: If your Honours will bear with me for a
13 moment, I think there is actually a document behind one of the
14 tabs that announces the appointments. Well, I will find it

16:10:14 15 later. I am not going to waste time now by looking for it:

16 Q. Just help us with this, Mr Kargbo: SAJ Musa was called
17 back from abroad from which country?

18 A. He came from England, London.

19 Q. And what was it that he was doing in England, London?

16:10:39 20 A. Well, I was not there. I did not know what he was doing
21 there, but I was made to understand that he was studying.

22 Q. And do you know what it was he was studying?

23 A. Like I said earlier to you, I was not there, I was not
24 present there. I was made to understand that he was studying.

16:11:00 25 Q. Mr Kargbo, we all understand you weren't there. I am just
26 trying to find out did anyone tell you what it was that SAJ Musa
27 was studying in London when he was called back to serve as number
28 2 in the government of the junta?

29 A. Nobody told me what he was studying there. I only knew

1 that he was overseas and he was studying there. That was all I
2 knew.

3 Q. Nobody ever told you he was studying law, did they?

4 A. Nobody ever told me that.

16:11:36 5 MR MUNYARD: If we go to tab number 4, it has already had
6 an MFI number. It is the one where your Honour read out "secret"
7 and I read out "secretariat". I say it has got an MFI number, I
8 am assuming it had one.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: It is MFI-16.

16:12:03 10 MR MUNYARD: Thank you:

11 Q. This is the minutes of the first meeting of the AFRC, dated
12 19 July 1997. That lists, at number 2, Captain SAJ Musa, chief
13 secretary of state, but of course he and the ministers were
14 appointed before July, weren't they?

16:12:38 15 A. Well, the date that is here is correct.

16 Q. Well, that is the first meeting, but the actual ministerial
17 appointments, when were they made?

18 A. I cannot tell the exact date.

19 Q. Have you any rough idea?

16:13:00 20 A. I can't tell the exact date.

21 Q. I will find it in another way. SAJ Musa, was he a trained
22 soldier?

23 A. Yes, he was a trained soldier.

24 Q. With which army?

16:13:15 25 A. The Sierra Leone Army.

26 Q. Now, as well as falling out with members of the RUF, did
27 SAJ Musa also fall out with members of the AFRC?

28 A. I want you to make that clear. Do you mean Freetown?

29 Q. I mean at any time from SAJ Musa being recalled from his

1 studies in London in 1997, to his death in the beginning of 1999,
2 did he have a falling out not just with members of the RUF, but
3 also members of his own group, the AFRC?

4 A. No, he did not ever fall out with anybody within the AFRC.

16:14:23 5 Q. Are you sure?

6 A. I can't recall that at any point in time he fell out with
7 anybody within the AFRC.

8 Q. All right. Now, back to where we broke off, page 8218, the
9 next paragraph of SYB Roger's contribution starts with the

16:14:50 10 following - I am sorry, Madam Court Officer. I hadn't realised
11 that the document wasn't on the witness desk.

12 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: We are back to MFI-19?

13 MR MUNYARD: We are, your Honour, yes:

14 Q. The second paragraph starts with this sentence,

16:15:33 15 "Senior military officers, from whom much was expected, betrayed
16 the cause." Which senior military officers betrayed the cause,
17 Mr Kargbo?

18 A. I don't know what Mr SYB Rogers meant when he made this
19 contribution in the meeting.

16:16:03 20 Q. Are you saying this contribution by him was a complete
21 mystery to you and that you had no idea what it was he was
22 talking about?

23 A. I was in the meeting. I heard him the same way I see it in
24 front of me, but what Mr SYB Rogers meant, I did not know.

16:16:28 25 Q. Were you aware of any senior military officers betraying
26 the cause?

27 A. Well, yes, some of them when we were retreating they did
28 not join us. They decided to go to Guinea. They arrested them,
29 they brought them, they tried them and executed them. Some

1 defected, they went and joined forces with the SLPP government,
2 and some of them are still serving, but what Mr SYB Rogers meant
3 here I don't know, because senior military officers, that
4 included even Johnny Paul, they were with us, but I did not know
16:17:11 5 what actually he meant.

6 Q. Where was it that you and Johnny Paul were heading when you
7 were both arrested and found to be in possession of large amounts
8 of diamonds, in your case sewn into the waistband of your
9 trousers?

16:17:44 10 A. It was through the call of the godfather of the RUF,
11 Charles Ghankay Taylor, when he called us and he said we were to
12 go and he will send a helicopter to convey us, that when we got
13 to Kono, but even from Kono Mosqui to convinced us to go to Buedu
14 and whilst we were on our way to Liberia the godfather of the
16:18:02 15 RUF, Mr Charles Ghankay Taylor, the RUF razed us and they took
16 all our items from us and then that was done by Sam Bockarie,
17 alias Mosquito, and the others who came.

18 Q. Were you trying to escape from Sierra Leone and make off
19 with a stash of diamonds of your own?

16:18:33 20 A. Well, I can't refer to it as escape per se, but if anybody
21 had told me, in fact, that I would have to go to Kailahun
22 District I would have said no, but it was through command. Just
23 like I said I was loyal to Johnny Paul Koroma, that was the
24 reason why I joined him to go to that area, because the godfather
16:18:51 25 of the RUF had called him, that was Charles Ghankay Taylor, that
26 he should come for them to get a better plan and that was what he
27 also believed in. He thought we were going to discuss something
28 that will help us push things go fast and that did not happen.
29 It was only after they had rid us of our diamonds and the

1 vehicles returned to Liberia that we, together with the people
2 who came with the vehicles, including Mosquito and others, they
3 went and later we stayed in the Kailahun District with those same
4 people, but if somebody had told me that I was to go there, if I
16:19:23 5 knew I was going to be treated in that kind of way I would not
6 have gone there.

7 Even if I had wanted to escape, I would have done so,
8 because I am a trained soldier. I would have got a way to get
9 out of that area, but I tried to maintain my grounds until such a
16:19:43 10 time that I go to Freetown for me to see my people again. Others
11 in fact did it, they escaped, like the control officer, Banjah
12 Marrah; the chief security officer, Moses Kabia; Salieu; Twenty,
13 they all escaped and they went. I am also a trained man.

14 Q. Mr Kargbo, when you were making your way eastwards across
16:20:10 15 Sierra Leone with Johnny Paul Koroma, he wasn't making satellite
16 phone calls to Charles Taylor at all, was he? You and he were on
17 your way out of the country, each with a stash of your own
18 diamonds? That is right, isn't it?

19 MR KOUMJIAN: Well, that is two questions, I believe, or
16:20:31 20 three.

21 MR MUNYARD: Well, I will break them down.

22 MR KOUMJIAN: There were questions about the phone call and
23 then the diamonds I thought were separate.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

16:20:41 25 MR MUNYARD: All right, I will break them down into those
26 two:

27 Q. The story that you have told this Court about making your
28 way to Kailahun District with Johnny Paul Koroma and him making
29 satellite phone calls to Charles Taylor is total nonsense, isn't

1 it?

2 A. No, it was not nonsense.

3 Q. I suggest that you have made that up to disguise the fact
4 that you, and quite possibly Johnny Paul Koroma as well, were
16:21:20 5 simply trying to get out of Sierra Leone shortly after the
6 intervention, with a stash of diamonds that you could then live
7 on once you left that country. What do you say to that?

8 A. It is not true.

9 Q. You had to escape Sierra Leone again in 2003, didn't you?

16:21:56 10 A. Yes, because of threat on my life by the SLPP government at
11 that time.

12 Q. Just help us with this: What was this allegation, as you
13 put it, of your involvement in a coup in 2003?

14 A. If I can explain that briefly. From 2002, during the
16:22:24 15 elections, my colleagues Tamba Alex Brima, alias Gullit, Santigie
16 Bobo Kanu, alias Five-Five, Abdul Sesay, they convinced me for us
17 to go to the running mate, that is during the last 2007 election,
18 Momodu Koroma. They said he wanted to see us, but I did not know
19 who was that Momodu Koroma. We went there at the time the

16:22:59 20 elections were drawing nearer in 2002. Of course we went to his
21 house, he tried to convince us for us to join the SLPP and by
22 then I had a car. I transported them, because I was the only
23 person with a vehicle, so they convinced me. They said I should
24 give them ride for us to go. When I went there he tried to

16:23:17 25 convince me to join to SLPP, but I said no and I even told them,
26 "If I had known that you were calling me for such a rubbish thing
27 I wouldn't have come here", and then I asked them, "What does
28 this man mean?" And at that time Gullit was trying to console
29 me. He was telling me to calm down. I told them, "Look, if you

1 had told me that I would not have come here, I would never have
2 joined the SLPP." I said to them, "Instead of joining the SLPP I
3 would go and join the RUF", but they tried to calm me down. I
4 exercised some patience and after which we all loaded on board
16:23:50 5 the vehicle again and then we went. So since then I was not with
6 them.

7 Immediately after the elections, before 2003, January, they
8 went to my house more than ten times searching my place with high
9 police security, alleging that I had arms and ammunitions that I
16:24:09 10 had buried in my house, but as God could have it, almost all the
11 times they came they did not meet me home. Any time they came, I
12 was not home. They will search and they will not find anything
13 and that was in 2003, January. At this time I had a call saying
14 that the police were saying that they were going to arrest me and
16:24:36 15 right from that moment I decided to find a way to leave the
16 country to find somewhere I can conceal myself.

17 Q. Mr Kargbo, I am sure it's just me, but I haven't quite
18 understood what it is that you say led to your house being
19 searched for buried weapons - yes, arms and ammunitions. What
16:25:03 20 was it that you say led to that? It wasn't the fact that you
21 refused to join the SLPP, was it?

22 A. Exactly. They said I was one of the loyalists to Johnny
23 Paul Koroma.

24 Q. Let me try again. You refused to join the SLPP and
16:25:34 25 therefore the government send the police into your house claiming
26 that you have got buried arms and ammunitions because you
27 wouldn't join a political party. Is that what you're saying?

28 A. Exactly.

29 Q. And so they made, in effect, an allegation of treason

1 against you for refusing to join their party, is that it?

2 A. Well, I did not know what they actually meant, but in my
3 mind I only thought that because I refused to join them they
4 decided to build up an allegation against me.

16:26:30 5 Q. Well, they were accusing you of taking part in an attempted
6 coup, weren't they, or preparing for a coup against the
7 government because you wouldn't join their political party? Is
8 that it?

9 A. No, I never had plans to take over government. Neither did
16:26:58 10 I have plans to attempt a coup.

11 Q. We understand you say that this is completely untrue. What
12 I am trying to understand from your evidence is are you saying
13 that the SLPP in effect accused you of preparing to overthrow the
14 government by force because you wouldn't join their political
16:27:19 15 party?

16 A. No, I did not know whether that was their plan, but I did
17 not have such a plan.

18 Q. No, we know you say you didn't have such a plan. Are you
19 saying that you have never said that you were accused by the SLPP
16:27:43 20 and the Sierra Leone police of being involved in an attempt to
21 overthrow the SLPP government in 2002/2003?

22 A. Well, they made a delegation, but I did not have such a
23 plan.

24 Q. No, answer the question?

16:28:03 25 MR KOUMJIAN: Excuse me, can I just ask the interpreter -
26 it wasn't clear whether he said "delegation" or "allegation"?

27 THE INTERPRETER: That was what the witness said.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Actually I find the question a little
29 confusing myself, Mr Munyard.

1 MR MUNYARD: All right.

2 MR KOU MJIAN: It is not clear. Is the interpreter saying
3 the witness used the word "delegation" with a D.

16:28:30

4 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the witness used the word
5 "delegation".

6 MR KOU MJIAN: Thank you.

7 MR MUNYARD: Thank you.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am on a different track, Mr Koumjian.

9 I am watching the time also, Mr Munyard.

16:28:37

10 MR MUNYARD: Yes, your Honour, I will ask it one last time

11 I hope in a clearer way:

12 Q. You saying, Mr Kargbo, that you have never suggested that
13 the SLPP and the Sierra Leone police claimed that you were
14 involved in an attempt to overthrow that government at the time

16:29:01

15 we are talking about?

16 A. Well, yes, because I heard the news when it was being read
17 where I was hidden. That is the government and the Sierra Leone
18 police, the SLPP.

16:29:24

19 MR MUNYARD: I fear both that that doesn't answer the
20 question and that we don't have time for me to put it in a third
21 way, but we will come back to it in just over a week.

16:29:47

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well, Mr Munyard. I must concede
23 that I find it obscure. Mr Witness, we are now adjourning for
24 today. However, we will not be resuming Court tomorrow. As the
25 parties know the judges have to attend a plenary meeting in
26 Sierra Leone. We will not be resuming until Monday 2 June and I
27 again remind you, Mr Witness, as I have done before, that whilst
28 you are under oath until all your evidence is finished you should
29 not discuss it with anyone else. Do you understand?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

2 MR MUNYARD: Your Honour, before the witness goes, and I
3 appreciate the tape may not be running, but just so that the
4 parties and the Court is aware of this: We have been looking at
16:30:21 5 MFI-16 I think, the minutes of the family reunion. The witness
6 says that he has a copy himself of this. The document we have
7 got starts with what appears to be page 1 on 8208, page 8209 is
8 page 2 of the minutes at the bottom and page 8210 is page 4 of
9 the minutes and so it goes on. In other words, page 3 of the
16:30:52 10 minutes is clearly missing. I wonder if during the time that the
11 Court is not in session if the witness, because he says he has a
12 copy himself of these minutes, if it's possible for someone to
13 find missing page 2 of the document.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: The witness did say, if I recall, that
16:31:12 15 his copy is in Sierra Leone.

16 MR MUNYARD: Yes, but the Special Court in Sierra Leone, as
17 you are aware and will certainly be aware by this weekend, has
18 many facilities for transmitting faxes and the like.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: The Prosecution has heard the
16:31:30 20 application.

21 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, I frankly do not believe it's
22 practical since we cannot contact the witness at this point.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, this could be a difficulty. The
24 Prosecution is not permitted to contact the witness.

16:31:44 25 MR MUNYARD: The Prosecution needn't be involved. There is
26 a battery of staff at the Special Court, many of whom have a
27 neutral position, neither being on the side of the Defence nor
28 the Prosecution, and I would be quite content for staff in that
29 position from any department of the Court to see if this document

1 can be obtained. It's a very simple procedure. I would have no
2 objection to the witness being spoken to about this particular
3 matter. In fact, even by the Prosecution about this particular
4 matter, because it is simply a question of housekeeping.

16:32:44 5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, counsel for the Defence has
6 remembered that you have said you have a copy of this document,
7 the minutes of the reunion, at home. Are you willing to direct
8 someone at home to produce a copy and have it sent to the Special
9 Court? That is what counsel for the Defence is asking.

16:33:00 10 THE WITNESS: No, I will give you the document, but only
11 when I am there, but nobody else will have access to where it is.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: If it is not going to be done
13 voluntarily, Mr Munyard, then there will have to be some sort of
14 application and procedure in accordance with the rules.

16:33:24 15 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, I do understand that the witness
16 saying he can get it when he returns, but he does not have
17 another person he can direct. I don't want to ask him any more
18 questions about that, but we will - after he finishes his
19 testimony we will ask him to produce it. I understand that it
16:33:40 20 hinders the current cross-examination, but ask him to produce it
21 for us.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

23 MR KOUMJIAN: We will also search, because sometimes we
24 have multiple copies of documents we will search to see if by
16:33:54 25 chance we have a complete copy of this document.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well.

27 MR MUNYARD: My last point is simply to invite the witness
28 to reconsider and see if there is someone in his family who could
29 go to wherever the document is and take it to the Special Court

1 and hand it over to a member of the Registrar's staff.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, you have heard counsel for
3 the Defence asking you to reconsider and that's all I am going to
4 leave it with. We will adjourn court until 9.30 on 2 June.

16:34:24 5 Please adjourn court.

6 [Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 4.34 p.m.
7 to be reconvened on Monday, 2 June 2008 at 9.30
8 a.m.]

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I N D E X

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EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR KOUMJIAN	10509
CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR MUNYARD	10590