

Statement of Salehou NDIAYE

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

Last Name: NDIAYE

Gender: Male

First Name: Salehou

Father's Name: [REDACTED]

Other names used: N/A

Mother's Name: [REDACTED]

Place of Birth: BANGASSOU

ID No: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 20/09/1959

Nationality(s): Central African Republic

Ethnicity: Central African

Religion: Muslim

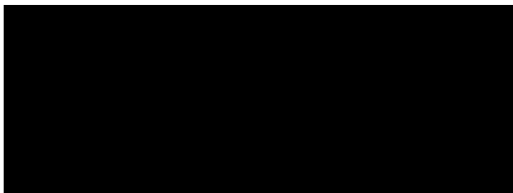
Language(s) Spoken: French/Arabic/Sango

Language(s) Written: French/Arabic/Sango

Language(s) Used in Interview: English and French

Occupation: Imam of LAKOUANGA mosque, BANGUI

Place of Interview: BANGUI, CAR



CAR-OTP-2048-0757

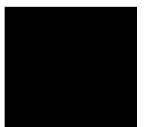




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Procedure

1. I was introduced to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I was told that they are Investigators with the Office of The Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC). I was introduced to [REDACTED] and I was told that she is an interpreter for the ICC.
2. The investigators explained to me what the ICC is and described its mandate. They explained the role and mandate of the OTP within the ICC.
3. The investigators explained to me that they are investigating events that took place in Central African Republic from 1st August 2012 until present. I was informed that the OTP is contacting me because they believe I may have information relevant for establishing the truth.
4. I agreed that the interview would be conducted in English and French. I fully understand and speak French.
5. The investigators explained to me that I do not have to answer to their questions. The investigators explained to me that they are seeking to find out the truth. I agree to tell the truth and that my answers to their questions are as complete as possible and reflect the best of my knowledge and recollection.
6. I was informed that any information I give to the OTP, including my identity, may be shared with the parties of the proceedings at the ICC; in particular the Judges, Accused persons, the Counsel of the Accused and the legal representatives of the victims.
7. The investigators have explained to me the reasons and importance of keeping my contacts with the OTP confidential, which I fully understand.



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8. Having understood all the above issues, I confirmed my willingness to answer the investigators' questions.
9. The investigators explained to me how the interview was going to be conducted. I was told that I needed to be as accurate as possible in my account and that I should state when I do not know the answer to or do not understand the question. I understand that I need to distinguish between what I have experienced or seen myself and what I have heard or learned about from someone else.
10. I was told that at the conclusion of the interview, I would be asked to sign a written statement after having had the opportunity to review it, make any corrections, or add additional information.

Background

11. I was born in BANGASSOU, CAR on 20th September 1959. I attended Primary School in BANGUI from 1966 to 1969. In 1969 I moved to BANGASSOU where I completed my Primary education. I returned to BANGUI in 1977 and completed my Secondary education in 1979.
12. In 1985 I travelled to SAUDI ARABIA to study Religious Science. I completed my studies in 1991 and returned to BANGUI, CAR. On my return I was approached by the Imam of the LAKOUANGA mosque, BANGUI to be his deputy. I turned down his offer at the time as I felt that I was still too young to take up a position with such a big responsibility. In order to become an Imam a person must have a very good knowledge of the Koran and the prophet's teachings. A person must be invited to become an Imam.
13. In 2005 I became the Imam of the Nour Alyaguin mosque in BOEING. This mosque serves the communities in both BOEING and CATIN. CATIN does not have its own mosque. I held this position until we were chased away by the Anti-Balaka in 2013.
14. I have also worked as a Director at the Transport Aérien de Centrafrique (TAC) and later at the Société de Transport et de Commerce International (STCI) to supplement my income. As an Imam I do not receive any remuneration.
15. I am presently an Imam at the LAKOUANGA mosque, Avenue Barthélemy Boganda, BANGUI. The mosque was destroyed during the violence. I was not in LAKOUANGA at the time the mosque was destroyed but I understand that it was one of a number of mosques that were destroyed by the Anti-Balaka. In 2015 Christians from LAKOUANGA now living in France collected money to assist in the rebuilding of the mosque. There is a Facebook page that shows the destruction and the reconstruction of the mosque with additional photographs being posted



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every Friday. The committee to oversee the reconstruction is made up of both Muslims and Christians.

Events before the 5th December 2013

16. In 2013 I was living with my family in a rented house in the CATIN neighbourhood. The house is located opposite [REDACTED] I lived in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There were four houses in the family compound. Christians and Muslims lived together in cohesion in the neighbourhood and there were no problems. There were around 100 Muslim families in CATIN and BOEING and about 50 disciples that would regularly attend the morning prayers on a daily basis in the Nour Alyaguin mosque. The mosque was actually located near the BOEING market and those from CATIN that lived closest to this mosque would attend there. There is a mosque in KINA in the 3rd Arrondissement and some would attend this mosque.

17. I have been shown by investigators a satellite image and have marked the image as follows. Figure A is the location of my family compound and my rented house. Figure B is the location of the Nour Alyaguin mosque and Figure C is the location of the Mosque in KINA. Figure D is the location of BOEING market. I attach this satellite image as Annex 1 of my statement.
18. I have been shown another satellite image which I recognise as being a close up showing the family compound in detail. I have marked the location of my rented family home as Figure A. I have marked the limits of the family compound as Figure B. I attach this image as Annex 2 of my statement.
19. I have produced a Sketch Plan detailing the locations of the family compound, Figures A and B. Figure C is the DAMECA carpentry factory and Figure D is my rented house. I attach this as Annex 3 to my statement.
20. The Seleka arrived in BANGUI during March 2013. I cannot recall the date. The following day at around 20:00 the Seleka arrived at my family's compound. There were approximately eight men and they wore uniforms and were armed. They travelled in a White Toyota Hilux 4x4 Double cab vehicle and three motorcycles. I do not recall if there were any markings on the vehicle. Their leader was called "Ben Laden". He asked me to show them the house of Mr. LAGUEREMA, the former Director General of the Tax office. I told him that I did not know him and as I was not the Chef de Quartier I did not know all the people living in the neighbourhood.



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He insisted that I give him the information and pointed a firearm at my temple. I told him again that I could not assist them as I did not know Mr. LAGUEREMA. They then threatened to kill my nephew who they forced to lay on the ground. I knew Mr. LAGUEREMA but did not want to tell them as I was concerned that they would harm him and steal all his things. He was an old man and retired.

21. The Seleka then searched the house of my neighbour. She was a teacher and the younger sister of former President SAMBA-PANZA. They did not find anything and left.
22. I became aware of the threat of an Anti-Balaka attack on BANGUI at least a month before the events of the 5th December 2013. Since I was the Imam in the neighbourhood people trusted me and would share information with me concerning the Anti-Balaka in general terms. A young man known to me as Jerome, told me that Anti-Balaka from BOSSANGO had arrived in DANA, a village situated near BANGUI. The Anti-Balaka was receiving training here in preparation of an attack on BANGUI. Other groups were gathering at the MPOKO River. He told me that the Anti-Balaka elements would enter BANGUI in groups of 2-3 to scout and familiarise themselves with the area as most of them were not from BANGUI.
23. Jerome lived in BOEING. He was between 18-22 years old. He was later killed in clashes between the Anti-Balaka and Seleka in BOEING. I do not believe that he was part of either of these groups and was an innocent victim. I got the information of Jerome's death from Omar. He is a young Muslim from BOEING. He left BANGUI and joined the Seleka group of Ali DARASS in BAMBARI. I have not seen him since.
24. On the 4th December 2013 at 22:00, Jerome came to my house and told me that the Anti-Balaka had held their last meeting and were ready to launch an attack at any time on the Muslims. He was not able to give the exact date of the attack but said that the Anti-Balaka had received instructions to be ready.
25. I do not know where this meeting was held or the names of the persons who attended the meeting. Jerome told me that members of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and the Gendarmerie participated in the meeting. He did not tell me their names. He told me that the Anti-Balaka elements were given firearms, grenades and gas canisters. They were told to attack all Muslim houses.
26. I decided to evacuate my family as soon as possible to KM5 as I feared for their safety. I had heard through the media that the Anti-Balaka were killing Muslims in BOSSANGO and knew that the same Anti-Balaka had come to attack BANGUI. I however could not move my family at the time because of the curfew that was put



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in place by the Seleka Government. I do not know why the curfew was put in place but I believe it was because of the bad security situation. I decided to evacuate my family early the following morning.

Anti-Balaka attack on the 5th December 2013

27. On the 5th December 2013 at around 04:30 I woke up and heard gunshots from the area of the Nour Alyaguin mosque in BOEING. This is the time when Muslims usually get ready to go to the mosque for prayers. I later heard that the Anti-Balaka attacked the BOEING market area and that seven Muslim traders were killed. My house is situated [REDACTED] the mosque and the market. I could not see what was happening at the mosque but heard the rapid fire of Kalashnikovs' for several minutes followed by single shots.
28. I called Ibrahim MACOLE, an elder from the area, to find out what was happening. He told me that the area was attacked by the Anti-Balaka and that seven Muslim traders were killed. MACOLE fled to ZONGO where he later died.
29. The Muslim traders owned little shops in the market and also lived in the market. They were of Chadian origin. The Seleka would sometimes visit the market and talk to the traders but I do not know if they had any direct link other than they were Chadian. I later heard that HASSAN one of the traders and his younger brother whose name I do not know were amongst those killed. HASSAN used to live very close to the Nour Alyaguin mosque and that was how I knew him. I do not know the names of the other victims.
30. At around 07:00 I saw many Anti-Balaka walk past my house going in the direction of KM5. On their way to KM5 the Anti-Balaka clashed with Seleka at the site of the CATIN company [REDACTED] The neighbourhood CATIN takes its name from the company name of CATIN, a coffee processing factory. The fight lasted for more than an hour. The Anti-Balaka retreated and returned to their bases in the BOEING area. As they were walking past my house they were shouting that first they would kill DJOTODIA and then they would come back to kill all Muslims. Some of the Anti-Balaka elements were posted on the street corners. They occupied the whole neighbourhood and we could not leave our house. I watched them from a hole in the wall of our compound.
31. Between 08:00-09:00 the Anti-Balaka chased a Muslim man and caught him in the road in front of my house. The attackers were shouting "This is an Arab". I could hear the man pleading for help but the Anti-Balaka beat him up and killed him. I did not witness the killing but later saw four Anti-Balaka elements standing next to his body. They were armed with a Kalashnikov and three machetes. I saw the body



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of this man lying in the road and he had sustained wounds all over his body. I did not recognise this man.

32. I knew that the attackers were Anti-Balaka as they were armed with machetes, knives and iron bars. They wore fetishes (gris-gris) and bands around their heads. In the main I believe that the bands were red but I recall that they wore bands of other colours. The bands were sometimes tied around their upper arms as well as their heads. They spoke Sango. They were on foot and were followed by a crowd of locals who were encouraging the Anti-Balaka.
33. I later learned that the Christians were warned of the impending attack by the Anti-Balaka and were told to place a branch from a palm tree in front of their home to indicate that it was a Christian home. I saw this about 3-4 days before the attack but did not understand the meaning of it. I thought it was part of a Christian religious celebration.
34. I was calling everywhere for help to get my family safely out of the neighbourhood. I tried calling the African forces, MISCA and even the Seleka but nobody responded. I was even prepared to pay for any assistance. The situation I was in reminded me of the film on RWANDA. I feared for the safety of my family and I was desperate to get them out to a safe location.
35. At around 11:00-12:00, I saw my Christian neighbour and her two children leaving. I asked her why she was leaving and she said that her husband called her and told her to leave immediately. He had heard that the attack of the Anti-Balaka had failed and that they were now planning to return and kill all Muslims in the area.
36. I then realised that I had no other option but to approach my Christian neighbour, [REDACTED] for help. He had been our neighbour for 15 years. He agreed to assist us and provided a ladder so that my family and I could climb over a 3 metre wall and seek shelter in his compound. My family consisted of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A total of 11 persons.
37. My friend, [REDACTED] called me and told me that he was not able to find anyone to come and assist us so he had decided to come and fetch us. I told him not to do so as he had a family and it was too dangerous to come to my neighbourhood. My friend is a trader and lives in KM5. He hung up and called me some time later asking where we were as he was parked in front of my house. I told him to wait there as I did not want to expose [REDACTED]. We all climbed over the wall back into our property and some left with [REDACTED] and others with me in my car. We did not have the time to take any of our possessions with us because we were fleeing for our lives.



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38. I still had the idea to drop my family off in KM5 and then return to my house to look after our property. [REDACTED] advised me however not to return. KM5 was the only safe place to go as the majority of the population were Muslim.
39. I believe that we had no other option but to flee from my neighbourhood. The consequence for staying in the house would have been us all being killed.
40. The other members of my family who were living at my older brother's compound in CATIN managed to flee the area approximately 3 to 4 days later when the French Sangaris were present in the area. The Anti-Balaka retreated and it gave these family members and other local Muslims an opportunity to leave the area safely. My extended family fled to KM5 [REDACTED]
41. My brother-in-law, Youssouf Gaston KOYATORO, was a Muslim convert. He was of Yacoma ethnicity. He was a civil servant in the Ministry of [REDACTED] GRIMARI. On the 5th December 2013 when we fled from our neighbourhood he was not at the compound but found refuge at the nearby DAMECA carpentry factory.
42. He managed to visit us after the 5th December in KM5 and wanted to return to the neighbourhood. We pleaded with him not to go but he said that he was getting acquainted with some of the Anti-Balaka and returned to the house he was renting. I told him to call me if he was in any trouble and to use the code word "Kadounga" if he was in danger.
43. I do not recall the date but think it was sometime between the 12th and 17th December 2013 when Jerome called me and told me that Youssouf had been captured by the Anti-Balaka. I asked Jerome to follow their movements and to keep me informed. He called regularly over the next few hours to give me updates on the situation. I offered to pay a ransom for Youssouf's release. I would have been able to collect between 1-2 million Francs, from my savings and other family members. Jerome told me that the Anti-Balaka did not accept my proposal saying that Youssouf was Muslim. I had asked Jerome to find an adult to put this proposal to the Anti-Balaka. I do not who passed the message on. Jerome told me that the Anti-Balaka warned whoever it was who passed the message on to stop or they would suffer themselves.
44. The Anti-Balaka accused Youssef of being a Muslim as they saw a mark on his forehead. He had a small abrasion on his forehead caused by his head being in contact with a prayer mat when he prayed. Youssouf was also accused of being the brother-in-law of an Imam. The Anti-Balaka from BOSSANGO did not know me so I suspect that a local person gave them this information.



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45. Jerome called me and told me that Youssouf had been taken to the College de la Paix, behind BOEING where he was interrogated and killed within two hours of being taken there. Jerome told that was beheaded and his body was buried behind the school. There is only one school located in this area. I do not know why he was taken to this school. We have not made any attempt to locate the grave or find his body. I have looked at a satellite image of the area but have been unable to locate the school.
46. Youssouf was married to [REDACTED] for more than 18 years and they have a daughter. [REDACTED] are now living in [REDACTED] His rented house in CATIN was looted by the Anti-Balaka.
47. Approximately two weeks after the 5th December 2013 a neighbour called me and told me that all our homes had been looted. I had earlier learned that the Nour Alyaguin mosque had been pillaged and subsequently destroyed. I learned this from the deputy Iman of the mosque, HAMID ABBA and the 'Muezin' ALI KAMARA
48. My family and I lived with my friend in KM5 for a month. I had some cash and savings and contributed to the cost of hosting us. Around the 3rd to 4th January 2014 I took my family to [REDACTED] and ensured that they settled in. I took them outside of the country because I feared for their continued safety in this country. I rented a house and enrolled my children in a school. My family is [REDACTED] I do not see a clear future for us as Muslims in the Central African Republic country and I believe that the problems are not over and our personal safety is at risk. In June 2014 I returned to BANGUI via CAMEROON.
49. On my return I found things still tense. All Muslims had fled from the BOEING neighbourhood. We had to disguise ourselves so as not be identified as Muslims. It meant that we could not wear our traditional clothing or symbols. We also needed UN escorts to move around in certain areas of BANGUI. After the BANGUI Forum we were able to move more freely but there are still areas where we cannot travel, for example in BOY RABE, FOUH, GOBONGO and COMBATTANTS. There are still incidents that cause the tension to rise. Recently a pastor in KM5 was killed and the people were calling out that an Imam must be killed as revenge. MINUSCA had to protect the mosque to prevent any incident. In 2016 a military officer was killed in KM5. As soon as the Christians heard about the incident they stopped a Muslim who was on his way to the hospital with his wife and daughter and killed him in their presence. He had no involvement with the killing of the military officer, it was purely a reprisal killing.



Rombhot YEKATOM

50. I believe that General Rombhot YEKATOM is responsible for the crimes committed by the Anti-Balaka. He was controlling the Anti-Balaka in CATIN, BOEING and all the way to BIMBO. He was in charge of the Anti-Balaka that attacked BOEING on the 5th December 2013 and this group were responsible for killings and the looting of houses. Muslims were forced to leave their homes. Those who stayed behind risked being killed like Youssouf and the seven traders from the BOEING market.

51. This is public knowledge and everyone knows that he was in charge of the Anti-Balaka in [REDACTED] neighbourhood. He is well-known to us as he grew up in the neighbourhood. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have known him since he was a teenager and for at least 15 years. He used to be called "YEKATOM's son" but we later found out that YEKATOM was actually his uncle. I know he was in the military but I do not know his rank or any details of his career in the military.

52. He is now a Member of Parliament. It is very difficult to see a person who is responsible for so many crimes that were committed now representing people in Parliament.

[REDACTED]

53. I returned to my family's compound in [REDACTED] on the 26th December 2016 to find it totally looted and mostly destroyed. I took photographs of the compound and have provided 17 photographs to the investigators. The photographs were transferred to the Investigator's laptop and then saved on a SD card and is attached as at Annex 4 of this statement

54. The compound belonged to my [REDACTED]. He bought the property in 1980. The property is approximately 120 metres x 50 metres. There were several houses in the compound and were occupied by family members.

55. The first house consisted of three apartments. The following family members lived in the house:

- a. Apartment 1 [REDACTED]
apartment.
- b. Apartment [REDACTED]
apartment.
- c. Apartment [REDACTED]
apartment.



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The remains of this house can be seen in photographs 20161226_103710; 20161226_103901; 20161226_104254; 20161226_104312 and 20161226_104320.

56. Another house was used by my [REDACTED]. I used to live in this house before [REDACTED]. There was a smaller house next to [REDACTED] house where another [REDACTED]. The remains of these houses can be seen in photographs 20161226_103952 and 20161226_104106.

57. Another house was situated near the [REDACTED]

58. [REDACTED]

59. Photograph 20161226_103716 & 20161226_721: The road running next to the wall is the border of our compound. A Christian neighbour's house can be seen in the distance. The house next to the vehicle is situated on our compound.

60. Photograph 20161226_104037: The building on the left with the rusted metal roof is the DAMECA carpentry factory. The house that I rented is situated at the end of the road. My older brother's house is located on the right. The house further along the road on the right belongs to the former President BOZIZE.

61. Photograph 20161226_104125: The DAMECA carpentry factory can be seen on the right upper corner of the photograph. The ruins of a house and a mosque used for family prayers can be seen in the foreground.

62. Photograph 20161226_103840: There was a well situated behind the tanker. The community would collect water from this well. The well was later blocked with rocks and cannot be used. There were a variety of fruit trees growing in this part of our compound. The Anti-Balaka deliberately cut down all the fruit trees. I do not know why this was done, I can only assume it was an act of vandalism to convey a message that we could not return there.

63. I believe the compound was initially damaged and looted of all the valuables by the Anti-Balaka and then later the local population came and looted the buildings.

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64. I am not able to even estimate the financial loss to our family. I believe my brother [REDACTED] will be in a better position to provide this information. I am more interested to see that justice is done. My family and I have not been able to return to our compound. I spent a large part of my life there and have fond memories of the place. We have been uprooted and our history destroyed by the Anti-Balaka.

ANNEXES:

65. Annex 1: Satellite image showing locations of family compound, the Nour Alyaguin mosque, the mosque in KINA and BOEING market
66. Annex 2: A close up satellite image showing location of my rented house and family compound.
67. Annex 3: Sketch plan showing locations of houses within the family compound.
68. Annex 4: The SD card with photographs of the destruction to the houses within my family compound.

Closing Procedure

69. I was informed that individuals, who according to the judges, qualify as victims will be entitled to participate in future Court proceedings and potentially to receive reparations. I was informed of the existence of the Victims' Participation and Reparation Section and its function, as well as of the procedure for applications. I consent to my personal data being shared with the Victims' Participation and Reparation Section.
70. I was informed that I may be called to testify before the Court. It was brought to my attention that ICC trials are held in public and explained to me that, as an exception to the principle of public hearings, the judges may apply protective measures to those testifying if circumstances require.
71. The investigators informed me of the protective measures that may apply during and after the investigation and/or trial proceedings.
72. I have nothing to add to the above statement nor do I have anything to clarify. I am available to be contacted in the future for clarifications or questions on topics not covered during this interview.
73. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.

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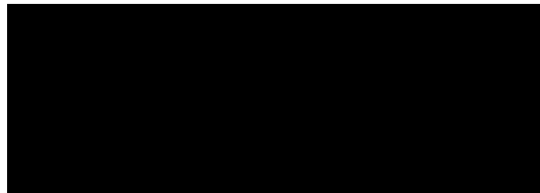


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74. There has not been any form of coercion, duress, threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my account.
75. I have no complaints about the way I was treated during this interview.

WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This statement has been read over to me in the English with interpretation in French and (it) is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have given this statement voluntarily and I am aware that it may be used in legal proceedings before the International Criminal Court and that I may be called to give evidence in public before the International Criminal Court.



INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

1. I, [REDACTED] certify that:
2. I am duly qualified to interpret from the French language into the English language and from the English language into the French language.
3. I have been informed by Salehou NDIAYE that he speaks and understands the French language.
4. I have orally translated the above statement from the English language to the French language in the presence of Salehou NDIAYE who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this statement.

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5. Salehou NDIAYE has acknowledged that the facts and matters set out in his statement, as translated by me, are true to the best of his knowledge and recollection and has accordingly signed his signature where indicated.

Signed:

Dated:

[REDACTED]

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