

Statement of [REDACTED]

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

Date of Birth/Age: [REDACTED]

Nationality(s): Central African Republic

Ethnicity: Gbaya

Religion: Christian

Language(s) Spoken: French, Sango

Language(s) Written: French

Language(s) Used in Interview: French with English

Occupation: [REDACTED]

Place of Interview: Bangui, CAR



WITNESS STATEMENT

Procedure

1. I was introduced to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I was told that they are an investigator and analyst with the Office of The Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC). I was introduced to [REDACTED] and I was told that he is an interpreter for the ICC.
2. I had given a primary statement to Investigators [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] with Interpreter [REDACTED] in January 2018. This is a second interview with the OTP.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. I agreed that the interview would be conducted in French. I fully understand and speak French.
6. The investigators explained to me that this interview is voluntary and that I may end it at any time.
7. Before I was questioned, the investigators explained to me that the OTP is in possession of information that gives them grounds to believe that I have been associated with an armed group, the Anti-Balaka, that committed crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court. This information includes my admitted membership of the Anti-Balaka armed group.
8. I was informed that I have the following rights under Article 55(2):
 - a. The right to remain silent, without such silence being a consideration in the determination of my guilt or innocence;



Statement of [REDACTED]

- b. The right to legal assistance of my choosing, or, if I do not have legal assistance, to have legal assistance assigned to me, without payment by me in any such case that I do not have sufficient means to pay for it; and
 - c. The right to be questioned in the presence of my counsel unless I voluntarily waived my right to counsel.
- 9. I agreed to the interview without the presence of legal counsel and signed a Waiver of Right to Counsel form (See Annex A).
- 10. I was informed that the Prosecutor of the ICC will not present for trial at the ICC all the persons who might have committed crimes in relation to Central African Republic. The investigators explained to me that, as a matter of policy, the Prosecutor of the ICC aims to prosecute those persons who appear to be the ones most responsible for the crimes committed, were notorious perpetrators or have committed particularly grave crimes. I was further informed by the investigators that, based on the information the OTP possesses to date, I am not amongst the group of those likely to be prosecuted and that I am being interviewed merely as a witness of events under investigation.
- 11. I declined to have the interview tape recorded and agreed instead to a written record of my statement being taken.
- 12. 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. The investigators have explained to me the reasons and importance of keeping my contacts with the OTP confidential, which I fully understand.
- 15. Having understood all the above issues, I confirmed my willingness to answer the investigators' questions.
- 16. 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 or do not understand the question. I



Statement of [REDACTED]

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.

17. 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.

The [REDACTED] in BODA

18. OTP Investigators during the [REDACTED] interview asked me to [REDACTED] during the events in BODA. I have shown the OTP a [REDACTED] from my time in the Anti-Balaka. The OTP scanned the original [REDACTED] and returned the original to me (see Annex B). The [REDACTED] is a record of events in BODA. [REDACTED] which happened in or around BODA from April 2014 onwards in this [REDACTED] we knew that eventually peace would come and those committing these acts would have to face the consequences of their actions.

19. We called this [REDACTED] [REDACTED] OTP Analyst added page numbers to a hard copy of the notebook for ease of reference (see Annex C).

20. [REDACTED]

21. [REDACTED]

22. [REDACTED]



Statement of [REDACTED]

23. [REDACTED] I expected those who committed crimes would eventually face the truth. [REDACTED] from people and some events we witnessed with our own eyes. [REDACTED]

24. [REDACTED] people who registered and paid to get the Anti-Balaka identification badge. [REDACTED] Some paid more because they also paid for their relatives. I will explain the purpose of the badges later.

25. [REDACTED]

26. [REDACTED]. Prior to this meeting there was no official Coordination, just a provisional one. Meetings of the provisional Coordination were not proper meetings and information was just passed mouth to mouth.

27. [REDACTED] the Anti-Balaka Coordination in BODA was officially put in place. [REDACTED]

28. [REDACTED] considering there was no law or institutions present in BODA at the time. The Anti-Balaka Coordination was made up of both military personnel and civilians. [REDACTED]

29. [REDACTED] right-hand corner, describes an incident where [REDACTED] an Anti-Balaka



Statement of [REDACTED]

element, reported that he killed a Peuhl male who was herding cattle. [REDACTED] committed the crime and came proudly to report it. It was considered a source of pride to kill a Peuhl or Muslim. If he had killed him in a remote area, he would chop off the Peuhl's hand to show us, as proof that he killed him. He received no reward for this, but people would celebrate it. [REDACTED] the event took place in GBAORO neighbourhood in the 3rd arr. of BODA.

30. [REDACTED] but other people would celebrate that somebody did something good for the group by killing a Muslim. At the time Muslims were also killing Christians so when the killing of a Muslim was reported, it was celebrated. [REDACTED]

31. [REDACTED]

32. [REDACTED] incident that occurred in BOLAYE 1 on [REDACTED] 2014. [REDACTED] was killed in this incident. An Anti-Balaka element, [REDACTED] killed a pregnant lady and a child. [REDACTED] was arrested at the scene of the crime and brought to the Anti-Balaka Coordination, based near the Church where he was questioned. [REDACTED] claimed that the lady bewitched his child. [REDACTED]

33. It was the Anti-Balaka Coordination that decided this. No form of justice existed at the time. [REDACTED] the fine was a form of justice and evidence if he ever faced the courts. The idea was not to kill people like him. The purpose was to kill Muslims, but not to [REDACTED]

34. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The top man was Habib SOUSSOU at the time, he coordinated everything and he had the last word. [REDACTED]

35. [REDACTED]



Statement of [REDACTED]

meeting as in BODA. The items on the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

36. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. We knew that those who were committing evil would face justice later, and even be taken to the ICC. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] it is quiet in BOGANDA. [REDACTED] not to kill cousins who are Muslim. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] relates to an issue with a witch lady. Witchcraft was causing a lot of harm in the area.

37. Our "cousins who are Muslim," means our Christian sisters who married Muslims and had children. Those children are also our cousins. Some Anti-Balaka did not like the Christian women who married Muslims, and even killed them. That is why [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] they would not be killed. [REDACTED]
villages where there were Anti-Balaka already established; the Muslims had already fled. In all the villages [REDACTED] there were no Muslims; they had all fled.

38. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] similar to BODA and BOGANDA. It was a meeting to raise awareness. There were Anti-Balaka there already and all the Muslims had fled.

39. [REDACTED]

40. [REDACTED]

issue with the Anti-Balaka. [REDACTED] he killed the child of the village chief of [REDACTED] The issue was not resolved there [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The following day the Anti-Balaka killed [REDACTED]

41. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the death of three persons killed in BOLAYE. The three people were from BERBERATI, but when they arrived to BOLAYE, the Anti-Balaka thought the vehicle was bringing provisions for Muslims, so they killed the three people and set the vehicle on fire. This happened in BOLAYE. '8' ('Huit', known as WILITE) killed these people.

Statement of [REDACTED]

42. [REDACTED] is a record of a man killed by SANGARIS. An airplane came to BODA to pick up and evacuate the Muslims. NGANE-MON shot at the plane so Sangaris shot him. NGANE-MON was an Anti-Balaka and WILITE's relative.
43. [REDACTED] Anti-Balaka badges which were for identifying genuine Anti-Balaka members. There were young people who formed groups and did anything in the name of the Anti-Balaka, so to distinguish them from the real Anti-Balaka, [REDACTED]. These young people would commit any crime and claim to be Anti-Balaka. If they wanted to join the Anti-Balaka, they had to get gris-gris as the first step. The non-genuine Anti-Balaka did not have gris-gris.
44. The idea for these badges came from the National Coordination. [REDACTED] did not have the equipment [REDACTED] brought money to NGAISSONA in BANGUI and he had the badges [REDACTED]. NGAISSONA had a secretary that coordinated this. This was done across the country where there were Anti-Balaka. The cost of the badge was determined by the National Coordination. [REDACTED]
45. [REDACTED] went to the provinces in order to issue the elements with badges. [REDACTED]. When the badges came back, elements had to carry the badge. Even now they still carry them. Elements carrying out crimes, like SONGOLET, were not issued badges. SONGOLET, WILITE, and "2Giga" (his proper name is Isaie DOLET) did not have badges since they did not want anything to do with the National Coordination. They did not want peace.
46. SONGOLET and DOLET ("2Giga") were recently sentenced by the National Court in BANGUI to 20 years for their crimes. WILITE has been charged, but not arrested yet.
47. The two sets of numbers refer to the badge number and to the number of Anti-Balaka registered.
48. [REDACTED] It relates to a Muslim, named [REDACTED] who gave us the [REDACTED] long time ago because it has nothing to do with the Anti-Balaka. [REDACTED] is a Cameroonian and his name was given to us by [REDACTED] left BODA before the war and called [REDACTED] in BODA. Many people did this. Many Muslims did this, but only those who were not part of the revolution. They worried that the youth who were not part of the Anti-Balaka would destroy their property, [REDACTED]. They have not paid for the protection because they are still away, [REDACTED].



Statement of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] specifically to protect their property. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

49. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] All the towns [REDACTED] already had an Anti-Balaka presence in them. The Muslims had already left these places by the time the meetings took place. Only the women who were Christian married to Muslims stayed behind. These women were scared and would be married off to Anti-Balaka.

50. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] They had gris-gris, but couldn't afford the badges, yet they would still be considered Anti-Balaka.

51. The middle of the [REDACTED] "WILLITE Alias 8.8" and the 27 houses that caught fire in BAORO - we spoke about this in the previous statement. WILLITE set these houses on fire. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] had a problem with the Anti-Balaka, but [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

52. [REDACTED] there was no state, no authorities, and no order in BODA. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

53. [REDACTED]. It relates to the death of Mr. MBAI, father of Sonia, who was killed by WILLITE. The story is related to diamonds and settling of scores.

54. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

55. [REDACTED] The registration of Anti-Balaka members was not done [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Not all the Anti-Balaka were registered [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

56. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

57. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Statement of [REDACTED]

58. [REDACTED] was that foreigners came into the country and the population rose up, like David fighting Goliath. [REDACTED] incident where an Anti-Balaka element stole from a fisherman. The Anti-Balaka caught the thief and fined him 50,000 CFA for his actions.

59. [REDACTED] towns near BODA along different roads. Some of these are very small villages. The [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
by motorbike because the road was not good.

60. [REDACTED] mission order to move from one place to another. Without a mission order, you would be arrested along the way. [REDACTED] Habib was the BODA Coordinator [REDACTED] Any element wanting to travel would have to get the order signed by their ComZone. [REDACTED] It was not necessary to have the signature of someone in BANGUI as well.

61. [REDACTED] check with the local village chief if there were Anti-Balaka based there [REDACTED] established local Anti-Balaka Coordinations which [REDACTED].

62. [REDACTED] what the local village chief was saying, as well as what the Anti-Balaka thought. The Chief said he was working with the youth and the crimes decreased, but people need to change their behaviour and we need to settle these matters as family. [REDACTED] that the village chief has no credibility in the village. The people respected more the Anti-Balaka chief than the village chief so [REDACTED] respect the village chief as well. [REDACTED] The Chief only had power before because the Muslims paid him, but now without the money and Muslims gone, he had less power.

63. [REDACTED] KENENGUE is 68 km from BODA. It was the [REDACTED] at the bottom



Statement of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] states that many people died from witchcraft. [REDACTED] the opinion of [REDACTED] who claimed that the Anti-Balaka are thieves. SONGOLET had taken money from them.

64. [REDACTED] KPONGBO village and witchcraft is mentioned here too. In places such as KPONGBO, no Muslims were present and the Anti-Balaka were there. The local population wanted to settle scores. If someone claimed that you put a bad spell on somebody and they died, you would be considered to be a sorcerer and would be killed. In my opinion, it was just a way to settle scores because it is very difficult to prove that someone is a sorcerer. Most people died this way.
65. There is another example of a lady who died in the morning. She had a headache in the evening and died around 5:00 in the morning. People said that her mother bewitched her and that is why she died. So they took the mother and slit her throat and buried them together. [REDACTED]
66. [REDACTED]
67. [REDACTED] SOSSILISSO was killed [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The incident took place in NGOTTO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] SOSSILISSO was caught in BAGOUA and killed in NGOTTO. SOSSILISSO was brought to the Anti-Balaka and questioned by a gendarme who was also an Anti-Balaka. SOSSILISSO tried to escape so the Anti-Balaka shot him and killed him. It was said he killed a lot of people and that is why he was brought to the Anti-Balaka. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] which was taken by the Anti-Balaka. They took his belongings because they claimed he was a witch who killed a lot of people. So to punish him they ransacked his place and took his belongings.
68. [REDACTED]
69. [REDACTED] there was no Anti-Balaka presence. [REDACTED] was the Youth President in that area. Every little village had a Youth President. [REDACTED] is located in another sub-prefecture, but [REDACTED] used to go there to loot. [REDACTED] someone goes there to steal claiming to be Anti-Balaka, they should kill that person. The point was to scare people so it would not keep happening. They did not actually kill anyone, but SONGOLET went to BAMBIO and killed a pigmy. The pigmy was coming out of the bush with his catch and SONGOLET wanted to take it by force. The pigmy refused to hand it over and tried to stab SONGOLET who then killed him with his gun.



Statement of [REDACTED]

70. [REDACTED]

71. [REDACTED] the Anti-Balaka attacked a villager in an attempt to take away his weapon. [REDACTED] Because it was a local Anti-Balaka Chief involved, [REDACTED] the weapon back to the owner. There is no telephone network in [REDACTED]

72. [REDACTED] of Anti-Balaka and the civilians who were killed in or around BODA during the conflict. Coeur de Lion died on 4 February 2014 [REDACTED]

73. [REDACTED] the death of the Mayor of BOBOUA which we discussed in my last statement. Before [REDACTED] I checked if the information was correct. We all knew each other and if we heard someone died, we would check with their friends and family.

74. [REDACTED] occurred after MISCA told the Anti-Balaka not to shoot their weapons at night, otherwise they would arrest all the Anti-Balaka elements found at the scene. The Anti-Balaka were drunk and started firing their weapons around 1:00 in the morning. MISCA went to tell them to stop, but the Anti-Balaka started shooting at the MISCA contingent, which fired back. Two Anti-Balaka were killed in this incident. One of the elements who died had a flag of the Central African Republic and the captain of MISCA who was there set the flag on fire. We heard the captain from MISCA was later arrested for this.

75. [REDACTED] incident occurred at CAMP-GOUM. CAMP-GOUM is a small village that SONGOLET, MALOUM, ESAI, CHIEN MECHANT, and Sylvain BOCK went to in order to extort money from the local population. The locals did not have any money so this group of Anti-Balaka set the village on fire. The village is a mining site with lots of diamonds. Sylvain BOCK [REDACTED] deceased. MALOUM is also deceased.

76. [REDACTED]

77. [REDACTED] deals with the period when peace started being restored. A gendarme commander [REDACTED] in BODA and [REDACTED] the gendarmerie to keep and maintain peace and restore the rule of



Statement of [REDACTED]

law. This was around October or November 2014. [REDACTED]

78. [REDACTED] after they left during the revolution. They left food supplies behind when they fled. The people whose [REDACTED] give them food supplies. [REDACTED] When the NGO staff returned, [REDACTED]

79. [REDACTED] everything that happened in the area. Seleka came, but did not commit crimes in BODA, they only stole vehicles from the Catholic priest. They did not harm the population. 72 hours after the Seleka left, around 29 January 2014, the Muslims from BODA attacked us. There was a discussion between a Muslim and a Christian following which war broke out. In the beginning it was a revolution and more than 750 people died in BODA and in the surrounding areas and 1450 houses were burnt.

80. The French intervened to stop the revolution. When the SANGARIS came, they drew a red line between Christians and Muslims. The second uprising occurred on 20 or 24 August 2014 when Muslims crossed the red line and killed 13 people (women, children and elderly).

81. The Congolese MISCA contingent and SANGARIS killed around 85 Anti-Balaka in total, in all the attacks, and nearly 240 Anti-Balaka died in all the fighting. The same [REDACTED] told the government that we cannot be reconciled with the Chadian and Sudanese Muslims, and they need to go back to their countries because they are the reason why our city was destroyed. We Central Africans from BODA, all we want is all the Chadians and Sudanese Muslims to go home. We are mine diggers and want to rebuild our city which had been destroyed. [REDACTED]

82. The Chadian and Sudanese Muslims were originally from Chad and Sudan but came to the Central African Republic a long time ago and lived together in villages with



Statement of [REDACTED]

us. They had lived in BODA a long time which is why it hurt us when they attacked us.

83. In BODA it was different from other places because the Seleka never killed anyone or took anything from anyone, except the priest's vehicles. But the Muslims originally from Chad and Sudan were the ones who did bad things and destroyed the city, even though they lived in the Central African Republic well before our independence. Some of them were even friends of our fathers and we used to call them "daddy", we grew up together and played together. That is why what they did hurt more. I do not know why they did it, although the reason they gave is religion.

84. When the Seleka left, the Muslims who stayed behind said "although the Seleka left, we are also armed so we can fight you." I think the Muslims got their weapons from the Seleka. They harboured them and did things together. I do not know if the Christians had weapons at this time because [REDACTED]

85. [REDACTED] the death of BALEKOSSI. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] COOPI, an Italian NGO. [REDACTED]
together and put in place this project. People, including the youth had lost their property and were traumatised so the youth had to be trained and cared for. CRS, COOPI, Plan International, and other NGOs worked with the youth in BODA. The NGOs were based in MBAIKI because it was calm there.

86. Children Without Borders and their Coordinator, named Brice Kevin KAKPAYEN, worked with children in MBAIKI to help them forget the bad experiences with the armed groups and to send them back to school. I have shown the OTP a [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

87. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] they were looking for children associated with the armed conflict. [REDACTED] looking for children between ages 8 to 14 in BODA and neighbouring villages. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] they had no documentation due to many of their houses had been burned. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

88. [REDACTED] The children were never reintegrated and they remained in BODA. The coordinator never came to



Statement of [REDACTED]

BODA. Afterwards he became the President of the Economic Council for LOBAYE. [REDACTED]

89. [REDACTED]

90. [REDACTED]

91. [REDACTED]

leadership in BANGUI, although the leadership in BANGUI was aware of the events in BODA. [REDACTED] crimes committed by SONGOLET; the death of BELEKOSSI; and death of KECHEROU. [REDACTED] come to BANGUI, we informed them [REDACTED]

92. [REDACTED]

There is a [REDACTED] who recorded everything that was happening on both sides of the conflict. His name is [REDACTED] I do not have his phone number although he is well known in BODA.

93. The current Prosecutor for BODA is ZANPAYEKE, but he has only been in that function for 5 or 6 months. I do not have his phone number. He only stays in BODA for 2-3 days and is normally in BANGUI.

94. The previous Prosecutor was MBOMBO and his phone number is [REDACTED] He speaks English very well and is a former English teacher. When the youth did not behave properly, [REDACTED] Now he is the Tribunal President of MOBAYE and lives in BANGUI, although he has not assumed his new post yet.

95. [REDACTED]



Statement of [REDACTED]

Annexes

Annex A: Signed Waiver of Counsel form

Annex B: Electronic scan of the [REDACTED]
copied)

Annex C: [REDACTED]

Annex D: Photo of [REDACTED]

Closing Procedure

1. 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.
2. The investigators informed me of the protective measures that may apply during and after the investigation and/or trial proceedings.
3. At the beginning of each day of interview, I was reminded of and I confirmed of my free will the following:
 - a. My willingness to continue the interview;
 - b. That I had no difficulties with the interpretation;
 - c. That I had the right to remain silent, without such silence being a consideration in the determination of my guilt or innocence.
 - d. That I had the right to stop the interview and have legal counsel present at any time during the interview.
4. 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.
5. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.
6. There has not been any form of coercion, duress, threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my account.
7. I have no complaints about the way I was treated during this interview.



Statement of [REDACTED]

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.

Signed:

Dated:

[REDACTED]



Statement of [REDACTED]

INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

1. I, [REDACTED] certify that:
2. I am 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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this statement.
5. [REDACTED] 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: [REDACTED]

Dated: [REDACTED]
