

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

SUPPLEMENTAL 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

Passport / ID number: [REDACTED]

(no longer valid)

Date of Birth/Age: 20SEP1959 (60 years old) Nationality: Central African Republic

Ethnicity: Central African

Religion: Muslim

Languages Spoken: French/Arabic/Sango

Languages Written: French/Arabic/Sango

Languages Used in Interview: English and French

Occupation: Imam of LAKOUANGA Mosque, BANGUI

Place of Interview: BANGUI, CAR

Dates and Times of Interview:

[REDACTED]

Names of all persons present during interview:

[REDACTED] Assistant Investigator

Nicholas LEDDY Trial Lawyer

[REDACTED] Interpreter

Signatures:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CAR-OTP-2121-2831



WITNESS STATEMENT

Procedure

1. I was introduced to [REDACTED] and Nicholas LEDDY and told that they are an Assistant Investigator and a Trial Lawyer, respectively, with the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC). I was introduced to interpreter [REDACTED] and told that he is an interpreter with the OTP of the ICC.
2. The investigators reminded me what the ICC is and described its mandate. They reminded of the role and mandate of the OTP within the ICC.
3. The investigators reminded me that they are investigating events that took place in the Central African Republic (CAR) from August 1, 2012 until the present. I was reminded 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 reminded 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.
8. Having understood all the above issues, I confirmed my willingness to answer the investigators' questions.
9. 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.

CAR-OTP-2121-2832



ICC RESTRI

BOEING Mosque

10. In 2013, I was the principal Imam of the BOEING mosque, which was also called Nour Alyaguin mosque. I had two deputies: Hamidou ABBA and Mohammad DOUNGOUS. Ali KAMARA was the muezzin of the mosque.
11. At the time of the events of December 2013, I lived about one kilometre from the mosque. The second imam, Hamidou ABBA, lived closer to the mosque. Based on that, I would generally only come to the mosque for Friday prayers. My deputies would be there more often. There was another guy named Djido who sometimes was also a muezzin.
12. I think the mosque was built around 2003. At first it was a small mosque, and then an NGO named OAD came around and destroyed the small mosque and built this larger one. OAD also built the scientific high school Ben Rashid nearby SOCATEL.
13. The last time I saw the Boeing Mosque was on the Friday before the Anti-Balaka attack of 05 December 2013, which was on a Thursday. On that Friday, I went to the Boeing Mosque for the prayers at 12:30h which lasted until about 13:30h. The mosque was in a good condition on that day. It had a rectangular shape, with a roof, windows, doors, and carpets for prayers. It did not have a minaret, but it had a half moon on the front wall.
14. It is difficult for me to give an exact date on when I learned the mosque was destroyed. As I explained in my previous statement, I fled my home on the day of the 05 December 2013 attack. After the 05 December 2013 attack, Ali KAMARA called me to tell me it was destroyed and that there were no more doors, windows, or roof. I believe Ali KAMARA fled the area because of the 05 December 2013 attack and was informed by his Christian neighbours about the condition of the mosque. I believe Hamidou ABBA also fled Boeing during the events of 05 December 2013.
15. Someone showed me photos on their phone of the Boeing Mosque when only the walls were still standing, but the doors and windows were gone, but I do not remember whom. I have never seen video footage of the destruction of the mosque.
16. We often took pictures of the mosque, especially during the feast of Ramadan, but I do not have the pictures anymore. I lost everything on the 05 December 2013 when the Anti-Balaka forced us to flee and my house was looted and destroyed.
17. The phone numbers of Hamidou ABBA is [REDACTED] The phone number of the muezzin Ali KAMARA is [REDACTED] Since the events, I lost the phone number of Mohammad DOUNGOUS.

CAR-OTP-2121-2833



ICC RESTRICTED

18. Before the trip mentioned below, I had not returned to the location of the Boeing Mosque since the Friday before the 05 December 2013 attack. People talk about its condition today, but it is a difficult subject for me because it triggers bad memories.
19. The people with whom I spent more than thirty years of my life were not honest with me – Muslims and Christians used to all get along when we were children. We were all considered one family. The thing that shocked me the most was that the Christian inhabitants of our neighbourhood were informed in advance of the 05 December 2013 attack, but nobody told me or my family. Instructions were given that all Christian families should put palm leaves in front of their houses. Houses that did not have palm leaves were considered as Muslim houses. A few days before the attack, I saw palm leaves in front of Christian houses. I thought this might have been because of a Christian holiday or celebration. The way we live in Africa with neighbours is that we give each other mutual assistance. Despite 20 years of living together, nobody warned us in advance of the 05 December 2013 attack. As I indicated in my previous statement, I protected others when the Seleka came. But now I see the same did not happen for me and my family.

Displaced Persons from Bangui, Boeing, and Cattin

20. There are lots of Muslims who were displaced in Bangui. I do not have lists of those who were displaced. Many Muslims fled to the Central Mosque in PK5 in Bangui. Those who fled to the Central Mosque were mostly from the MISKINE neighbourhood. Some of them formed associations of displaced persons and they might have kept records. One of the men who coordinated such a group is named Ali OUSMAN. His phone number is [REDACTED]
21. This was an interreligious conflict, in my opinion. Nobody has convinced me otherwise. Everyone knows it was a political issue at first, in the sense of a rebellion against BOZIZE's regime. But for me, from the 05 December 2013, it became a religious conflict.
22. There were two groups of displaced from Boeing and Cattin. The first group was the Muslims who left on or after the 05 December 2013 because they were targeted. It was a mixture of Muslim men, women, and children that fled from these neighbourhoods during the first group. In my opinion, they did not have an alternative but to flee. For example, those who did not place palm leaves on their front doors risked being killed if they stayed. Those who stayed in their houses were not prepared for being attacked. They had no weapons. The majority of them fled to host families (*famillies d'accueil*) in PK5. Some stayed in PK5 and some left. Things have calmed down two or three years later and some might have returned to Boeing and Cattin.

CAR-OTP-2121-2834



ICC RESTRICTED

23. The second group of persons to leave Boeing and Cattin happened two or three months later, when the Anti-Balaka started attacking non-Muslims in acts of banditry. I know a Christian family that could not stay anymore because they were being targeted by the Anti-Balaka.
24. The Muslim traders at the market there were among the first to be killed on 05 December 2013. Ali KAMARA told me about this later on the day of 05 December 2013. After news of this spread, people started to leave. Some left the same day, some left within a few days.
25. I left my compound on 05 December 2013 at around 14h or 15h. I don't know what time others such as Hamidou ABBA and Ali KAMARA left. [REDACTED] is the correct spelling of the name of my younger brother (we have the same father) who fled with me on 05 December 2013. I fled with my wife and children to PK5. MOUSSA, one Muslim trader who lived nearby me, wanted to stay behind himself but because it was not safe, he fled with his family to PK5. I showed the OTP staff the location of this house, which is still destroyed, during the below-mentioned trip.
26. Opposite to my house was a big compound of about five houses, including where my [REDACTED] who himself was not in Bangui on 05 December 2013. When I was in PK5, I got information that the Anti-Balaka were going to attack his compound and others Muslims that remained in the neighbourhood, so I called his daughter [REDACTED] and his cousin [REDACTED] immediately who were living in the compound at the time and told them to leave as soon as possible. On the day I left, 05 December 2013, I told [REDACTED] to leave because I saw that what was happening here and thought it was going to be the same thing that happened in Rwanda. All of the people in the compound across the street left at the same time after I called. They all went to SICA III, they stayed at another house of [REDACTED]. Some of them stayed in Bangui, some have gone to Cameroon and some to Chad.

Visit to Boeing Mosque

27. Despite everything, I agreed to return to the location of the Boeing Mosque with OTP staff to take pictures and GPS coordinates. What is important is that the truth be told so that people know what happened. What encouraged me to give my humble contribution in my statements was so that justice could be done.
28. On [REDACTED] at about 0900h, I met Associate Investigator [REDACTED] and Trial Lawyer Nicholas Leddy, along with a member of the ICC Field Office. I guided them in a vehicle to the former location of the Boeing Mosque. Upon arriving at the location, I saw a church next to the former location of the mosque which was there in 2013.

CAR-OTP-2121-2835



ICC RESTRICTED

29. Along the trip, I also showed the OTP staff the site of the former house in Boeing belonging to MOUSSA, which is still destroyed.

30. I also showed the OTP staff the location of my former family compound, as well as the location of the Boeing Market, including the shops where the Muslim traders used to run their businesses.

Verification of Other Information

31. I do not know the names Yakoub NEMBI and Issa IBAKA.

32. I do not know the phone numbers [REDACTED]

Closing Procedure

33. I was reminded 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 reminded 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.

34. 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.

35. The investigators informed me of the protective measures that may apply during and after the investigation and/or trial proceedings.

36. 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.

37. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.

38. There has not been any form of coercion, duress, threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my account.

39. I have no complaints about the way I was treated during this interview.

CAR-OTP-2121-2836



ICC RESTRICTED

WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This statement has been read over to me in the English language 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: 



ICC RESTRICTED



CAR-OTP-2121-2837



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.
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. [REDACTED]

Signed [REDACTED]

Dated: [REDACTED]

ICC RESTRICTED

CAR-OTP-2121-2838

