

Statement of [REDACTED]

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

[REDACTED]

Nationality(s): Central African Republic

Religion: Christian

Language(s) Spoken: French, Sango

Language(s) Written: French, Sango

Language(s) Used in Interview: French and English

[REDACTED]

Place of Interview: Remote Interview through [REDACTED]

OTP Investigators: THE HAGUE, The Netherlands

Witness: BANGUI, CAR.

[REDACTED]

Statement of [REDACTED]

Names of all persons present during interview: Investigator [REDACTED] Investigator
[REDACTED] Interpreter [REDACTED] and witness [REDACTED]

Signature(s): [REDACTED]

WITNESS STATEMENT

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 with the OTP of 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 interpreted into 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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Statement of [REDACTED]

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. The investigators explained to me that the OTP is currently using [REDACTED] software (with the required security features) to conduct some of its interviews because of the travel and other limitations imposed by the COVID-19 situation. I agreed that the interview is conducted this way and, that at the end of the interview, the investigators will produce a written statement which I will be asked to sign.
11. 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.

[REDACTED]

12. I was interviewed by OTP investigators in [REDACTED] I now wish to add the following to my previous statement.

13. In my previous statement ([REDACTED]

14. [REDACTED]

15. At the time of the OTP interview I was unable to [REDACTED] to give to the investigators.

16. [REDACTED]

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Statement of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This was the only document in the folder.
I signed and dated the folder and it is attached to my statement as Annex A.

17.

[REDACTED]

18.

[REDACTED]

signed and dated the document and it is attached to my statement as Annex B.

19. I handed over the yellow folder (Annex A) and the copy of the document (Annex B)
to Investigator [REDACTED] in BANGUI, CAR.

20.

[REDACTED] YEKATOM did
[REDACTED] He was
involved from the very beginning in this process. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21. [REDACTED] an UNICEF assessment was made from
information that was [REDACTED] in coordination
with the Anti-Balaka Zone Commanders (ComZones). The information was collated
from the villages of PISSA, MBATA, BATALIMO and MONGOUMBA in the
OMBELLA MPOKO and LOBAYE areas. It was the total number of children who had
been identified as being associated with the Anti-Balaka.

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Statement of [REDACTED]

22.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and I believe that YEKATOM was informed because the Anti-Balaka had a reporting system.

23. I know that some of these children were known personally by YEKATOM as they were in his group. He used to feed them and they moved with him. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

24.

[REDACTED]

elements to catch the boy and beat him up. By this time all the children should have gone to MBAIKI but this child was on his own and YEKATOM believed that he was a deserter. He was caught by YEKATOM's men but before they could do anything to him [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

25.

[REDACTED]

26.

[REDACTED]

Annexes

27.

[REDACTED]

28.

[REDACTED]

Statement of [REDACTED]

Closing Procedure

29. 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.
30. The investigators informed me of the protective measures that may apply during and after the investigation and/or trial proceedings.
31. 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.
32. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.
33. There has not been any form of coercion, duress, threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my account.
34. I have no complaints about the way I was treated during this interview.

WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This statement has been read over to me 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 [REDACTED]

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Statement of [REDACTED]

INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

1. I, [REDACTED] certify that:
2. I am duly qualified to interpret from the English language into the French language and from the French language into the English 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]

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