

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

Last Name: [REDACTED]

Gender: Male

First Name: [REDACTED]

Father's Name: [REDACTED]

Other names used: [REDACTED]

Mother's Name: [REDACTED]

Place of Birth: [REDACTED]

Passport / ID number: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth/Age: [REDACTED]

Nationality(s): CAR

Language(s) Spoken: [REDACTED]

Language(s) Written: [REDACTED]

Language(s) Used in Interview: English and French

Occupation: [REDACTED]

Place of Interview: [REDACTED]

Date(s) and Time(s) of Interview: 20/06/2016; 09:15 – 13:00
21/06/2016; 11:00 – 13:00
23/06/2016; 09:20 – 14:35

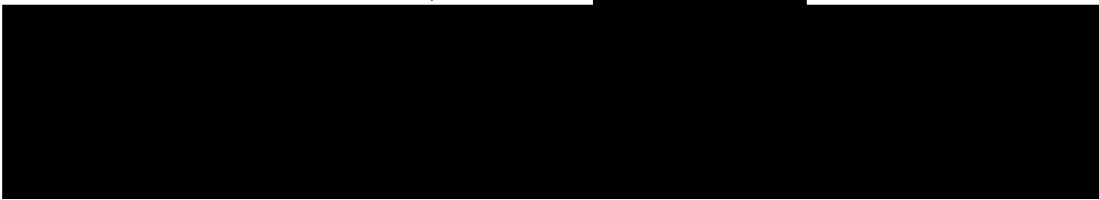
Names of all persons present during interview:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CAR-OTP-2031-0190





WITNESS STATEMENT

Procedure

1. I was introduced to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and told that they are investigators with the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC). I was introduced to [REDACTED] and told that he is an interpreter with the OTP of the ICC.
2. They 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 the Central African Republic from 1 August 2012 until the present day. I was informed that the OTP is contacting me because they believe I may have information relevant for establishing the truth.
4. I was told that I have the right to be questioned in a language that I fully understand and speak. I confirm that French is a language that I fully understand and speak. I confirm that the language used by the interpreter in this interview is French.
5. The investigators explained to me that this interview is voluntary and that I may end it at any time.
6. I was informed that any information I give to the OTP, including my identity, might become subject to disclosure to 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. I was informed that I might 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.



8. I am currently willing to appear as a witness in Court, if called to testify. I understand that disclosure of my identity and information I have provided may take place whether or not I am called to testify.
9. The possible security implications resulting from my interaction with the OTP were discussed with me. The investigators have explained to me the reasons and importance of keeping my contacts with the OTP confidential, which I fully understand.
10. Having understood all the above issues, I confirmed my willingness to answer the investigators' questions.
11. The investigators explained to me how the interview was going to be conducted. I was told by the investigators that it is important that I am as accurate as possible in my account; and that I state when I do not know 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.
12. 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

13. I am of MANDJA ethnicity. My parents are originally from [REDACTED] which is situated past SIBUT on the way to DAMARA. My parents later moved to BANGUI. I was born on [REDACTED] BANGUI, CAR.

14. [REDACTED]

15. In 2002 the BANYAMULENGE (BEMBA's rebel group) soldiers arrived in the [REDACTED] area and looted the mosque and the surrounding area. The rebels also killed some people. At that time I was living in [REDACTED] and I would travel to the mosque in [REDACTED] every Friday for prayers. I would stay at the mosque during the Ramadan. I was advised by the President of Islamic Community not to return to [REDACTED] for security reasons.

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SELEKA

18. Before the events of 2013 life was normal in Bangui. Everyone could travel freely and no distinction was made between the different religions. Religion was not an issue.
19. I do not recall the exact date but believe it was around the end of 2012 when the SELEKA entered BAMBARI and committed atrocities against the Christian inhabitants. They attacked Christian churches and pastors. From that moment on I could see a change in the behaviour of the Christians and they were saying things like "lawa-lawa" meaning that they would take revenge. The SELEKA used Islam as a pretext to commit crimes.
20. At the end of 2012 at a time when SELEKA attacked BAMBARI, President Francois BOZIZE made a speech in Sango at the PK Zero roundabout during which he said that the Muslims wanted to enter BANGUI and take over the country. He also said that Muslims had weapons in their compounds and that Christians should enter the Muslim compounds and take the weapons. Christians started to rebel, particularly after the speech of BOZIZE. When the SELEKA attack took place in Bangui people realised that BOZIZE was right. The speech was broadcasted by the Central African National Radio (Radio Centrafrique). I was listening to the speech on the radio and I don't have any knowledge as to who was present during the speech.
21. In March 2013 SELEKA entered BANGUI. I left my house in [REDACTED] and went to the Avenue de l'Indépendance to watch their arrival. The first SELEKA arrived on vehicles carrying some large weapons on them. The vehicles were 4 wheel drive pickups and they were travelling back and forth carrying more SELEKA soldiers into BANGUI. Some of the vehicles were white and others had camouflage print on them. The majority of the SELEKA were wearing uniforms but some were only wearing T-shirts and military trousers. Some were wearing military style boots and others sandals (flip-flops). The SELEKA were armed with AK's and MAS36's. They were shooting into the air as they were passing by. The SELEKA consisted of a mixture of people, including some locals that were known to us and many strangers. Some of the local people were applauding them. As a Muslim I saw them and thought that they are going to cause a lot of troubles for us. One brother who was standing next to me said they have come to free us from the BOZIZE's regime,

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but I thought they would put us 10 years back. The SELEKA came to Bangui claiming to be on the side of Islam, but they have not built even a single Mosque. Islam was just an excuse to cover their real objective, which was to govern the country. They are still trying to do that, even today. When the newly elected President recently appointed four Muslim ministers, they were not happy, they wanted more and it shows they want to gain more seats in the government.

22. I heard that Colonel Nourredine ADAM was the 2nd highest person in the SELEKA and one of the founders of the movement. After the SELEKA took over in BANGUI, the 4th Arrondissement became their first target of attack. I believe the SELEKA targeted the 4th Arrondissement because BOZIZE and his supporters lived in this area. They looted the area, took people's possessions and occupied their houses. They would sometimes beat people up. They were mainly targeting the Christians, but would also occasionally target a Muslims if they knew he had money. This caused the change of attitude of the Christians towards Muslims. The situation got worse from that point on and the SELEKA started attacking other areas in BANGUI. The SELEKA would also target churches as they knew that money and valuable goods were kept there. Being a Muslim I was not directly affected by the SELEKA but I know many of my Christian brothers were victims of looting and beatings by SELEKA soldiers. I do not know of any killings or sexual related crimes committed by these soldiers.
23. On 25 December 2013 the Chadian soldiers conducted an operation in the 4th Arrondissement and were shooting indiscriminately in the area. I was not injured [REDACTED] The same group shot a person in the street near [REDACTED] do not know the name of the victim. I saw the soldiers in their vehicles through the gaps in my house. They had heavy 12,7mm calibre weapons mounted on the vehicles. The soldiers had a Chadian flag on the right upper arm of their uniforms.

The Anti - Balaka

24. The situation gradually changed and our Christian brothers started planning and thinking of ways to fight the SELEKA and to take revenge. I do not recall the date but it was before the attack on BANGUI in December 2013.
25. The people in BANGUI heard that some people were starting to fight back against the SELEKA in BOSSANGO and BOUCA. The young people of the 4th Arrondissement started to discreetly organise themselves and made arrangements to go to BOSSANGO to join this movement of self-defence. I am not able to identify any of these youths. They could not travel in large groups because of the SELEKA blockades on the roads, so would travel in small groups of 3 to 4 persons.

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They would later return to BANGUI to continue the fight against SELEKA. This self-defence movement became known as the ANTI-BALAKA.

26. A large number of BOZIZE's Presidential Guards joined the ANTI-BALAKA. When BOZIZE was overthrown he fled to CAMEROON following the road towards MBAIKI. We call this road from BANGUI to MBAIKI the 4th parallel. From MBAIKI he went north along the road to GAMBOULA on the Cameroonian border. A number of his Presidential Guards followed him to CAMEROON. Some refused to go with BOZIZE and crossed the river to ZONGO, DRC. A third group returned to their homes in the provinces in CAR. They joined the self-defence groups in their areas.

The attack on Bangui on the 5th of December 2013

27. On the 5th of December 2013 between 04:00 and 05:00 am the ANTI-BALAKA attacked BANGUI. I was in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the time but could hear the gunshots and explosions. I heard from others that they attacked the SELEKA base near the National Assembly at BSS (opposite the Fidel OBROU camp). The SELEKA retaliated and drove the ANTI-BALAKA back. The ANTI-BALAKA fled into the neighbourhoods where they started attacking the Muslim community. They regarded any Muslim as being a SELEKA member. At first the ANTI-BALAKA attacked BOY-RABE area and started looting and destroying Muslim homes. Many Muslims were attacked and killed with machetes. From BOY-RABE the ANTI-BALAKA moved to other neighbourhoods including FOU, GOBONGO, COMBATTANTS and other locations like BEGOA. It became a real catastrophe.
28. On the 5th of December 2013 my family and I were hiding in my house in [REDACTED]. We were not even able to go to the toilet outside so we had to use a bucket in the house and then empty it in the toilet at night. My house was not attacked by the ANTI-BALAKA but I later heard that other Muslims were attacked in [REDACTED] and they had to flee to the Jean XXIII Centre to hide.

Structure of ANTI-BALAKA – after 5th December 2013

29. Approximately 3 weeks after the attack on BANGUI the ANTI-BALAKA had Zone Commanders in place in the different areas. The Zone Commanders (Comzones) were the chiefs of the areas and would give orders to the men on the ground, who would obey and execute the orders. The Zone Commander of the 4th Arrondissement was a man called MOKOM. He was a member of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA). I do not know his first name. He is between 40 and 45 years old, slim and approximately 1,75 m tall. At the time he was wearing "gri-gri" and had long hair, but once Minister of Defence BINDOMI assigned FACA to man the checkpoints in the 4th Arrondissement, MOKOM cut his hair short to

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disguise himself. MOKOM lived in the GOBONGO area. The ANTI-BALAKA used his house as a base and would have meetings in an open area in his compound. MOKOM used to call for meetings depending on the situation on the ground. The investigators asked me to draw a sketch showing the location of MOKOM's house which is attached as Annex A. MOKOM's zone covered the axis from NGOUBAGARA, 4th Arrondissement -GOBONGO - PK10 - PK12 - road towards DAMARA to PK45.

30. MOKOM had three deputies, namely Yvon KONATE, TEXE and MOKPEM. My [REDACTED] told me that MOKOM would task his deputies, and that they would report back to him. They learned about this when they walked past MOKOM's house and tried to get an update of the security situation in the area from the people that were present at his house.
31. Yvon KONATE [REDACTED] was a member of FACA. He used to live in his family house in Cite Jean XXIII area. I don't know where he lives now. KONATE's area of responsibility was from NGOUBAGARA, 4th Arrondissement to PK10.
32. TEXE used to live behind the hill in the VOUDAMBALA village near SASSARA, PK12. His area of responsibility in the ANTI-BALAKA was from PK10 to PK45. He also used the house in VOUDAMBALA village as his base. The village is situated approximately 2 km from SASSARA and is on a hill which provides a good view of anyone approaching the area. The road to VOUDAMBALA passes between two hills and before reaching the village you have to cross a stream. The investigators requested me to draw a sketch showing the location of the VOUDAMBALA village, which is attached to this statement as Annex B. I also pointed out the location of the village VOUDAMBALA on a satellite map. The printouts of the maps are attached to the statement as Annexes C and D.
33. It was public knowledge that people were killed at [REDACTED] village. The ANTI-BALAKA would take anyone suspected to be a Muslim, SELEKA or a traitor to this place to be executed. I heard that the [REDACTED] and his son were executed there. I heard from [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) who is from the village of [REDACTED] and his men took the Chief and his son to [REDACTED] where they were executed. I also heard that the [REDACTED] tried to intervene and negotiate with the ANTI-BALAKA to have the Chief and his son released but that she failed to do so successfully.
34. The ANTI-BALAKA would dispose of the bodies by cutting them up into smaller pieces and burying the remains behind the village. These killings started in late December 2013 or early January 2014. The ANTI-BALAKA would take people away and they would never return. I know of a man called [REDACTED] who was taken

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from his house and we never saw him again. We don't know where he was taken but suspected that he was taken to [REDACTED]. At the time he was taken his wife [REDACTED] was present. She now lives at her mother's place behind the [REDACTED].

35. MOKPEM would operate in the same areas as KONATE and TEXE. He did not have his own base, but he had his own men and he would move around with them.
36. MOKOM also had several "chefs de postes" who acted like middle commanders between the ComZone (MOKOM and his deputies) and the elements on the ground. They would pass orders down to the ground level. They were also responsible for the smaller operations of the ANTI-BALAKA, for example they would set up the blockades on the roads and demand money from people passing through their checkpoints. If a person could not pay this money he would be punished. A Christian would have to perform some tasks but a Muslim would be beaten and even killed. I do not recall any names of the "chef de postes" as they were changed regularly on the ground.
37. The ANTI-BALAKA used to meet often at night at MOKOM's house from around 7pm onwards. I did not see the meetings myself but I know about it because some of [REDACTED] would go to find out whether there was any danger of attacks. I don't know the exact number of the members of the MOKOM's group, but it is a very high number.
38. After the ANTI-BALAKA entered BANGUI in December 2013, NGAISSONA made several speeches on Radio Ndeke Luka, mostly in Sango, stating that he was the leader and National Coordinator of all the ANTI-BALAKA in CAR. He lived in BOY-RABE and if a person wanted to meet with him an appointment had to be made with his Chief of Protocol, I do not know his name. He also had guards in front of his house. We wanted to meet NGAISSONA, as he was the National Coordinator, in the hope that he would be able to stop the atrocities committed by the ANTI-BALAKA against the Muslims in our area, but we were prevented by the Chief of Protocol to meet with him. That's how we gained the information of the existence of the Chief of Protocol.
39. I believe that the ANTI-BALAKA received financial support as they would not have been able to organise themselves for the attack on BANGUI without money. I did not see any financial transactions taking place but did notice that some of the youths in the 4th Arrondissement suddenly had access to cash and would be spending it on food and drinks. I saw them using 5000 and 10000 XAF notes to buy these goods. These youths were all unemployed at the time and had no income. I recognised one of these youths as ARDY, one of MOKOM's men and the deputy of MOKPEM.



ANTI-BALAKA crimes

40. I heard that MOKOM would give orders to his men to commit crimes, but I have never seen him doing so. I know it because his men were on the ground and were committing crimes and he would not punish them, so it means that the orders must have come from him or he approved of their behaviour. There was even a delegation from GOBONGO community who met with MOKOM towards the end of 2014 to inform him of the criminal behaviour of his men at the GOBONGO market, where they would set up check points and rob and beat people. [REDACTED]

41. Sometime in 2014, I cannot recall the date, I was told by locals from the area who had converted to Islam that the ANTI-BALAKA killed [REDACTED] in front of his house. The [REDACTED] was renting a house opposite the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was working on his computer when the ANTI-BALAKA knocked on his door asking for water. He told his daughter to give them water and as she opened the door two of the ANTI-BALAKA entered the house and grabbed [REDACTED]. They wanted to tie him up and take him to SASSARA, PK12 but he resisted and fought back. They managed to drag him out of the house into the street where he started shouting for help. One of the ANTI-BALAKA then shot him and they ran away leaving his body lying in front of the house. The body of [REDACTED] was later buried by the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wife witnessed this incident and later told me that one of the attackers was [REDACTED]. He was a member of [REDACTED].

42. I recall another incident where a Muslim man called [REDACTED] was killed. The man and his wife, who was Christian, had an argument and the wife reported it to the ANTI-BALAKA. They came to their house and shot the husband. His body was buried [REDACTED].

Detention

43. On the 29th of June 2014, the first day of Ramadan, the Muslims from my area wanted to get together to pray. The ANTI-BALAKA National Coordinator NGAISSONA had announced on the radio that in the time of fasting the ANTI-BALAKA should leave the Muslims in peace. The surviving Muslims from the area first gathered in front of my house and then went to the [REDACTED] to clean it as it was damaged. I later went to the mosque to see what they were doing.

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Near the mosque I was stopped at an ANTI-BALAKA checkpoint. They called me over and started beating me immediately. They then called [REDACTED] who arrived on his motorbike. [REDACTED] was an ANTI-BALAKA leader under the command of [REDACTED]. He is from [REDACTED] well built and of average height. He took me on his motorbike, with one of his men sitting behind me, to his house in [REDACTED]. The house is situated on the left of the road going towards [REDACTED]. He was using a house initially rented [REDACTED], and it was also used as an [REDACTED]. I [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which is attached to the statement as Annex E.

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47. In the meantime my family collected money to pay towards my release. They managed to raise 50 000.00 XAF and paid it over to [REDACTED]. He released me at around 5pm and took me back to my house on his motorbike.

48. After I was released I was not able to leave the house in order to go to the hospital, so I used painkillers and traditional medicine to treat my injuries.

49. At the end of 2014 at around 6 p.m. [REDACTED] was shot and killed by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] neighbourhood and he was on his way home when he was confronted by [REDACTED]. I did not witness this incident and do not know what exactly happened but [REDACTED] allegedly shot [REDACTED] in the chest and fled on his motorbike. I later took a photograph of the deceased, as we were preparing his

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body for burial. I have handed over a photograph of the deceased, which is attached to the statement as an Annex F.

50. I was shown a screening note of the meeting I had with representatives of the OTP on 08 July 2015 with reference number CAR-OTP-2011-0003 to 2011-0008. The investigator asked me to clarify the date reflected on page 2011-0006 where I mentioned that the Chadian soldiers conducted an operation in the 4th Arrondissement. I wish to clarify the date 25 December 2014 is incorrectly reflected in the note and should read 25 December 2013.

ANNEXES

ANNEX A: [REDACTED]

ANNEX B: A sketch showing the location of the [REDACTED] village.

ANNEX C: Printout of the map pointing out the location of the village [REDACTED] on a satellite map.

ANNEX D: Printout of the map with coordinates of the village [REDACTED] on a satellite map.

ANNEX E: [REDACTED]

ANNEX F: [REDACTED]

ANNEX G: Consent form for the release of phone data, dated 23/06/2016.

Closing Procedure

51. 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 on the procedure for applications. I consent to my personal data being shared with the Victims' Participation and Reparation Unit.
52. 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.
53. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.
54. There has been no threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my account.
55. 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 French 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.

[REDACTED]

Dated: 23/6/2016

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 [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]

[REDACTED] RICTED

