

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

Last Name:

[REDACTED]

Gender:

[REDACTED]

First Name:

[REDACTED]

Father's Name:

[REDACTED]

Other names used:

Mother's Name:

[REDACTED]

Place of Birth:

Bangui, C.A.R.

ID No:

Date of Birth/Age:

[REDACTED]

Nationality(s): C.A.R.

Ethnicity:

[REDACTED]

Religion: Christian

Language(s) Spoken:

[REDACTED]

Language(s) Written:

[REDACTED]

Language(s) Used in Interview: French

Occupation:

[REDACTED]

Place of Interview:

[REDACTED]

Bangui

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Names of all persons present during interview:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Signature(s):

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[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 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 translated into French. I fully understand and speak French.
5. The investigators explained to me that I do not have to answer to their questions.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The investigators have explained to me the reasons and importance of keeping my contacts with the OTP confidential, which I fully understand.
9. Having understood all the above issues, I confirmed my willingness to answer the investigators' questions.
10. 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

ICC RESTRICTED

Page 2 of 12

CAR-OTP-2053-0063



experienced or seen myself and what I have heard or learned about from someone else.

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.

Background

12. I was born in Bangui but grew up mainly in [REDACTED] which is where I started my primary education. I returned to Bangui when I was about [REDACTED] living in [REDACTED] where I continued with my education [REDACTED] I live with my [REDACTED]

Seleka

13. When the Seleka came to Bangui in 2012/2013 we were not directly affected because of the fact that we were living in [REDACTED] an area where my father had [REDACTED] We were not living too close to the main population so the area was mainly quiet.
14. In Boeing market there was a number of Muslim traders conducting their business there and as a result the Seleka began to interact with the traders and the influence of the Seleka began to spread. I became more aware of the Seleka being in the area and imposing themselves upon the local population, both Christian and Muslim.
15. An example of the Seleka imposing themselves upon the community was for instance if there was a dispute between traders, the Seleka would be called in to resolve it. My friend [REDACTED] and I saw such a dispute between two traders. There was a big crowd gathering and the Seleka came, about five or six vehicles in total. It was difficult to estimate how many Seleka elements there were, but they appeared as if they were prepared to use force rather than dialogue. They fired their weapons in the air to disperse the crowd, so [REDACTED] and I decided to get out of the area.
16. As a family we were mainly unaffected by the presence of the Seleka because of where we lived and where we frequented, such as [REDACTED] although I was aware of problems affecting other areas through the news media and rumours. The owner of the [REDACTED] had four vehicles stolen by the Seleka and had had all her possessions pillaged from her house and loaded onto the vehicles.

Anti-balaka

17. I was aware of rumours that the Anti Balaka were growing in strength and the result of this was that the Seleka became much more active in our area. Because [REDACTED] was mainly a Christian area, the Seleka were conducting kidnappings of young people who they believed were involved with the Anti Balaka. I was aware of this through rumours from my [REDACTED] who were involved with the Anti Balaka and reports in the media but I had no direct knowledge of this. I was not involved with the Anti Balaka at all. That would not have been possible at all because my father would not have permitted it. My family are of [REDACTED] so had no political affiliations. In our neighbourhood there was a large Gbaya population, who are of the same ethnicity as the former President Francois Bozize. As a result [REDACTED] was an area that was strongly supporting the arrival of the Anti Balaka.
18. I know that the Anti Balaka came to Bangui on the 5th December 2012. In my neighbourhood it was generally known that the Anti Balaka were to arrive that day. People were fleeing the neighbourhood fearing a confrontation between the Seleka and the Anti Balaka. My father and step mother were in the countryside away from [REDACTED] but I was with my friend [REDACTED] and we decided to flee to Mpoko airport where we slept on the runway with a large number of other people who had fled the area. This was against my father's wishes but I wanted to stay with my friend and be close to the capital. We stayed there for almost a week, relying upon the small amount of money I had to be able to buy food.
19. I returned to my neighbourhood and the family house because my father had returned to the house to look after it. My [REDACTED] remained in the countryside, but my father feared our house would be plundered if he did not remain to look after it. There were many groups of young people running around the area and stealing from unattended houses. I decided to stay with my father and support him and prepare food for him.
20. The neighbourhood appeared to be calm but potentially precarious. The Anti Balaka were visible but when there was confrontation with the Seleka the Anti Balaka fled and the local population would suffer the consequences at the hands of the Seleka. The Seleka would conduct searches of houses and take away young people who they suspected as Anti Balaka.
21. After about three weeks I was aware that the Anti Balaka had established a base at Yamwara school, but the neighbourhood was still very tense and volatile with people still living in the countryside. I visited my [REDACTED] at my father's instruction and when I returned after several days I found out from [REDACTED]



[REDACTED] by the Anti-Balaka

22.

[REDACTED]

23.

[REDACTED]

24.

[REDACTED] The situation appeared to be tense and we could hear gun shots around the area and we were trying to [REDACTED]

25. However because of the security situation and it not being safe in particular after dark it was decided that the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

26.

[REDACTED] They were armed with



AK47's, machetes and knives. It was obvious to me that they were Anti-Balaka by the way they were dressed, a combination of some in military uniform and some wearing the traditional gris-gris. [REDACTED]

27. [REDACTED]

28. [REDACTED]

29. [REDACTED]

30. [REDACTED]

31. [REDACTED]

ICC RESTRICTED

Page 6 of 12

CAR-OTP-2053-0067



32.

[REDACTED]

33. At that time it was not possible to identify if any one person was in charge as there was a lot of shouting and confusion [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

34.

[REDACTED]

The school was composed of four separate buildings all of which were used as class rooms. There was also a house nearby that was used by the directors of the school but separate from the other school buildings. The school was not walled and surrounded by small dwellings. There was however a school yard and a full sized football pitch in the middle.

35.

[REDACTED]

armed with machetes, AK47's and rocket propelled grenades. Several of them were wearing military uniform and others were of a bizarre appearance, wearing little clothing and gris-gris around their necks. Gris-gris is a traditional protection against enemies worn by both the Seleka and the Anti Balaka. I knew these were Anti Balaka because we were in an Anti Balaka controlled area.

36.

[REDACTED]

37.

[REDACTED]

ICC RESTRICTED

Page 7 of 12



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

38.

[REDACTED]

39.

[REDACTED]

40.

[REDACTED] I was aware of a man arriving who appeared to be in charge as he was spoken to respectfully by those who were

[REDACTED]

41.

[REDACTED]

42.

[REDACTED]

43.

[REDACTED]

ICC RESTRICTED

Page 8 of 12

CAR-OTP-2053-0069



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

44.

[REDACTED]

45.

[REDACTED]

46.

[REDACTED]

47.

[REDACTED]

Coeur de Lion was nearby but [REDACTED]

48.

[REDACTED]

ICC RESTRICTED

Page 9 of 12

CAR-OTP-2053



[REDACTED]

49. [REDACTED]

50. [REDACTED]

51. [REDACTED]

52. [REDACTED]

53. The boxes marked C represent the [REDACTED]

54. The only [REDACTED] is marked as D.

55. The X by the side of the Box marked A is the spot where we were [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

56. For several days afterwards the Anti Balaka patrolled [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Anti Balaka elements

57. [REDACTED]

ICC RESTRICTED

Page 10 of 12

CAR-OTP-2053-0071



Annex

Annex A – Sketch plan of 

Closing Procedure

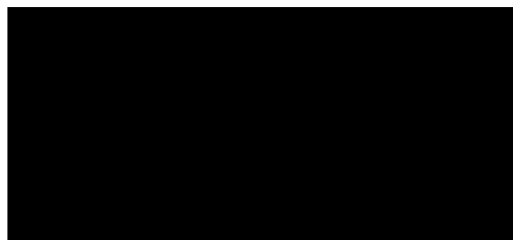
58. I was informed that individuals, who according to the judges, qualify as victims will be entitled to participate in future Court proceedings and potentially to receive reparations. I was informed of the existence of the Victims' Participation and Reparation Section and its function, as well as of the procedure for applications. I consent to my personal data being shared with the Victims' Participation and Reparation Section.
59. 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.
60. The investigators informed me of the protective measures that may apply during and after the investigation and/or trial proceedings.
61. 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.
62. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.
63. There has not been any form of coercion, duress, threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my account.
64. 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

ICC RESTRICTED

Page 11 of 12



International Criminal Court and that I may be called to give evidence in public before the International Criminal Court.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

1. I, _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this statement.
5. _____ 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: _____

