

Statement of [01/18] PRV

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

Last Name: [01/18] PRV Gender: Male
First Name: [01/18] PRV Father's Name: [01/18] PRV
Other names used: [01/18] PRV Mother's Name: [01/18] PRV
Place of Birth: [01/18] PRV ID No: [01/18] PRV
Date of Birth/Age: [01/18] PRV Nationality(s): C.A.R.
Ethnicity: [01/18] PRV Religion: Catholic

Language(s) Spoken: [01/18] PRV

Language(s) Written: French, Sango

Language(s) Used in Interview: French

Occupation: [01/18] PRV

Place of Interview: [01/18] PRV Bangui

Date(s) and Time(s) of Interview: [01/18] PRV

Names of all persons present during interview: [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV
[01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV

Signature(s): [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV



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Procedure

1. I was introduced to [01/18] PRV and [01/18] PRV 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 [01/18] PRV 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. 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.
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.

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10. 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

11. I began primary school in the [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

SELEKA

12. On 24th March 2013, the SELEKA entered Bangui and seized power. Shortly afterwards, DJOTODIA proclaimed himself President.

13. Following this, there was a period of instability when SELEKA had control of the country. They killed civilians, looted homes, stole vehicles and sent them to Chad. They spent 9 months in Bangui and it was a blood bath. For example, [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

I heard from friends and neighbours about the violence. I did not witness much myself because I stayed inside as much as possible to avoid trouble. I heard gun shots day and night.

14. I often saw SELEKA travelling in vehicles with barrels of ammunition. I saw them whipping civilians using a "chicotte" as they were driving through the streets. I knew they were SELEKA because they were carrying firearms and only SELEKA were allowed to carry guns. The Gendarmerie and FACA, who might have had firearms, were not operating in Bangui at that time.

15. I had a neighbour called [01/18] PRV. He was [01/18] PRV and couldn't leave his compound. His children said he should flee because of the violence, but he refused. The SELEKA entered his house and cut his throat. I learned this from my neighbours.

16. I also heard from neighbours that the SELEKA cut the throat of a Christian at kilometre 5.

17. I often witnessed SELEKA firing their weapons into the air in my neighbourhood. It was a way of intimidating the civilian population.

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ANTI-BALAKA

18. In December 2013 the ANTI-BALAKA arrived in Bangui, to put an end to the SELEKA's actions. I lived in the [01/18] PRV and when the ANTI-BALAKA took over, they too began robbing the civilians, both Christian and Muslim.
19. Because the ANTI-BALAKA had little ammunition, they would sometimes flee against the SELEKA. The civilians that remained would pay the price for this. The SELEKA would burn down houses and pillage as punishment for the ANTI-BALAKA resistance. These were civilians that had nothing to do with ANTI-BALAKA. They were just innocent victims. I spoke with people who had been subject to these reprisals but I cannot provide specific names.
20. My [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV He was FACA and killed by ANTI-BALAKA for being a Goula Muslim. He was hacked to death in Ouango. I heard this [01/18] PRV I do not know anything more of the circumstances.
21. [01/18] PRV when the ANTI-BALAKA arrived. They attacked the Goula in her neighbourhood and she had to flee to [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV house. She has remained there ever since. I heard this from [01/18] PRV
22. During the period of SELEKA and ANTI-BALAKA conflict I had [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV and played no part. I was like any other [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV Saint Cyr LAPO N'GOMAT

23. It was 24th December 2013. [01/18] PRV
[01/18] PRV
24. [01/18] PRV
25. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV had decided to return to their houses. Security was a big problem at the time and it was safer for them to be home before dark. Saint Cyr, [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV

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26. They were all stopped by ANTI-BALAKA elements only a few hundred metres [01/18] PRV Saint Cyr showed them his FACA identity card, but they did not want to know about it. They stole his military identification, some money and his phone. I was told this by [01/18] PRV that were with Saint Cyr at the time; [01/18] PRV

27. Somebody, I know him but cannot recall his name [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV the group had been taken. [01/18] PRV Saint Cyr was FACA, he would be able to sort things out and be released. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV

28. [01/18] PRV were taken to ROMBOT's base, a school in the Boeing neighbourhood called YANWARA.

29. The men and women were apparently separated and placed in different rooms. I learned this later [01/18] PRV

30. [01/18] PRV

31. [01/18] PRV that had been with Saint Cyr; [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV but they later told me they had been beaten. I was not told how or by whom they were beaten.

32. [01/18] PRV BRAI also known as "BOUDJOS" and COEUR DE LION, now deceased. All three men were [01/18] PRV ROMBOT or COEUR DE LION [01/18] PRV I learned from [01/18] PRV ROMBOT. COEUR DE LION was well known to [01/18] PRV who had been taken, and both ROMBOT and he were [01/18] PRV

33. ROMBOT [01/18] PRV "BOUDJOS" and COEUR DE LION. [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV by many elements armed with machetes, clubs and home-made weapons. Some, who had military training, carried Kalashnikov rifles.

34. [01/18] PRV "BOUDJOS" because he had [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV, before the conflict.

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35. [01/18] PRV

36. ROMBOT, BOUDJOS and COEUR DE LION [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

37. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

Saint Cyr was military like them, [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

38. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

in particular

[01/18] PRV

are from the

North East of C.A.R. and were being blamed for the overthrow of BOZIZE and the rise of SELEKA. [01/18] PRV

was also a Muslim, as were many other

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

repeating the same

questions.

39. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

Saint

Cyr, as he was [01/18] PRV ROMBOT's custody.

40. [01/18] PRV

He told me that the other captives

[01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV ANTI-BALAKA elements all around him.

41. I learned that [01/18] PRV was released [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

42. There was an ANTI-BALAKA element referred to by [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

speaking to [01/18] PRV

and it seemed to me that [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

It is only my opinion, but I think this is why [01/18] PRV was not moved with the others.

[01/18] PRV

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43. [01/18] PRV he was holding a war council and could not be seen.

[01/18] PRV

44. [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV, it was clear to me that things had become even more dangerous [01/18] PRV

[01/18] PRV

45. We decided we had to leave [01/18] PRV My wife, children and I packed what belongings we could and left our home. I have never returned to it. We moved to a relative's home and then later rented somewhere in [01/18] PRV

46. [01/18] PRV via [01/18] PRV [01/18] PRV She intervened and the captives, other than Saint Cyr, were freed 3 or 4 days after their abduction. I was not present when this happened and cannot recall where they were released from.

47. [01/18] PRV

I wanted to wait until things improved. [01/18] PRV e

[01/18] PRV

48.

[01/18] PRV

49. ROMBOT is now a serving politician. His complete name is Alfred "ROMBOT" YEKATOM.

Closing Procedure

50. 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

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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.

51. 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.
52. The investigators informed me of the protective measures that may apply during and after the investigation and/or trial proceedings.
53. 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.
54. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.
55. There has not been any form of coercion, duress, threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my account.
56. 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 International Criminal Court and that I may be called to give evidence in public before the International Criminal Court.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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Statement of **[01/18] PRV**

INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

1. I, **[01/18] PRV** 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 **[01/18] PRV** 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 **[01/18] PRV** who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this statement.
5. **[01/18] PRV** 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: **[01/18] PRV**

Dated: **[01/18] PRV**

[01/18] PRV

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