

Trial Hearing

(Open Session)

ICC-02/04-01/15

1 International Criminal Court
2 Trial Chamber IX
3 Situation: Republic of Uganda
4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen - ICC-02/04-01/15
5 Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt, Judge Péter Kovács and Judge Raul Pangalangan
6 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 3
7 Tuesday, 30 January 2018
8 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.29 a.m.)
9 THE COURT USHER: [9:29:03] All rise.
10 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
11 Please be seated.
12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:29:24] Good morning, everyone.
13 Good morning, Madam Witness.
14 Could the court officer please call the case.
15 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:29:43] Thank you, Mr President.
16 The situation in the Republic of Uganda, in the case of The Prosecutor versus
17 Dominic Ongwen, case reference ICC-02/04-01/15.
18 And we are in open session.
19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:29:54] I ask for the appearances of the parties,
20 please, Prosecution first.
21 MR ZENELI: [9:29:59] Good morning, Mr President. I'm Shkelzen Zeneli
22 appearing on behalf of the Prosecution today. With me in Court is Sanyu Ndagire,
23 Ben Gumpert, Julian Elderfield, Colin Black, Pubudu Sachithanandan,
24 Jasmina Suljanovic and Ramu Bittaye.
25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:30:16] Thank you.

1 And for the Legal Representatives of the Victims, Mrs Massidda first.

2 MS MASSIDDA: [9:30:22] Good morning, your Honour. For the Common Legal
3 Representatives team Jane Adong at the location where the witness will testify. In
4 courtroom today Orchlon Narantsetseg, Caroline Walter and I am Paolina Massidda.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:30:38] And the other team of the Legal
6 Representatives of the Victims.

7 MS SEHMI: [9.30.44] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. Anushka
8 Sehmi and Mr James Mawira.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:30:49] Thank you.

10 And for the Defence, Mrs Bridgman.

11 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:30:52] Good morning, Mr President and your Honours. For
12 the Defence we have lead counsel Krispus Ayena Odongo, Chief Charles Achaleke
13 Taku, Thomas Obhof, Tibor Bajnovic, Morganne Ashley, and myself Abigail
14 Bridgman, and our client Mr Ongwen is in court.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:11] Thank you very much.

16 The Prosecution is now calling P-374 as its next witness. Before commencing, the
17 Chamber notes briefly that protective measures are granted to this witness by virtue
18 of decision 612 and that the VWU recommends no further protective measures.

19 As counsel have already been informed, the VWU has also determined that certain
20 special measures are necessary to assist the witness in her testimony.

21 Madam Witness, you are going to testify before the International Criminal Court.

22 On behalf of the Chamber I would like to welcome you to the courtroom because the
23 video-link location where you are is an extension of this courtroom.

24 There should be a card in front of you, Madam Witness, with a solemn undertaking to
25 tell the truth. Could you please make this undertaking by reading the card aloud.

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1 WITNESS: UGA-OTP-P-0374

2 (The witness speaks Lango)

3 (The witness gives evidence via video link)

4 THE WITNESS: [9:32:20] (Interpretation) I solemnly, I solemnly declare that I will
5 tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:32] Thank you very much, Madam Witness.

7 I will now explain to you the protective measures that the Chamber has put in place
8 for your testimony.

9 First of all, face distortion, that means that nobody outside the courtroom can see
10 your face during your testimony. Secondly, we will use a pseudonym. In
11 accordance with that we all will refer to you as "Madam Witness", as I am doing at the
12 moment, to make sure that the public does not know your name.

13 And when you answer questions that will not give away who you are, we will do so
14 in open session; open session means that the public can hear what is said in the
15 courtroom.

16 When you are, on the contrary, asked to describe anything that relates specifically to
17 you, facts that might reveal your identity, we will do this in private session, and in
18 private session there is no broadcast and no one outside the courtroom can hear your
19 answer.

20 Before we start, we have a few practical matters to discuss. First of all, you know
21 that everything is written down and interpreted, what is said here in the courtroom.

22 It's therefore important to speak clearly, at a slow pace, to allow for the interpreters to
23 follow.

24 If you have any questions yourself, please raise your hand so we know that you wish
25 to say something.

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1 Have you understood all that, Madam Witness?

2 THE WITNESS: [9:34:13] (Interpretation) Yes, I have understood.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:15] Thank you. We will then start your
4 testimony.

5 Mr Zeneli.

6 MR ZENELI: [9:34:22] Thank you, Mr President. If I may, with your leave, start
7 in private session.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:28] Private session.

9 (Private session at 9.34 a.m.)

10 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:34:32] We are private session, Mr President.

11 QUESTIONED BY MR ZENELI:

12 Q. [9:34:52] Good morning, Madam Witness.

13 A. [9:34:53] Good morning.

14 Q. [9:34:55] Can you please tell the Court your full name?

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 Q. [9:36:20] What country is that in?

22 A. [9:36:26] It's in Uganda.

23 MR ZENELI: [9:36:30] Mr President --

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:36:32] Open session, yeah.

25 (Open session at 9.36 a.m.)

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1 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:36:38] We are in open session, Mr President.

2 MR ZENELI: [9:36:53]

3 Q. [9:36:54] Madam Witness, I understand that before coming to testify today you
4 were able to review your statement because someone read it back to you in Lango; is
5 that correct?

6 A. [9:37:19] Yes, it was read to me.

7 MR ZENELI: [9:37:20] May I ask the court officer to please open a document in
8 tab 1, that's UGA-OTP-0263-0023. It's a redacted version, confidential, not to be
9 displayed to the public.

10 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:37:58] (Via video link) The witness currently has
11 document UGA-OTP-0263-0023 before her.

12 MR ZENELI: [9:38:09]

13 Q. [9:38:10] Madam Witness, the document that is in front of you titled
14 "Witness Statement", it has your names on the first page, that page that you are seeing
15 in the screen in front of you. Do you see that document?

16 A. [9:38:30] Yes, I am seeing.

17 Q. [9:38:37] Now, at the bottom of that page next to where it says "Signatures"
18 there is also a signature. Do you see that signature?

19 A. [9:38:58] I have seen.

20 Q. [9:39:00] Whose signature is that?

21 A. [9:39:10] My signature.

22 MR ZENELI: [9:39:13] Can I ask the court officer to move to the next page of the
23 same document, the last four digits 0024.

24 Q. [9:39:30] Scroll down, if you may, at the bottom where the initials are shown.

25 Now, Madam Witness, do you also see at that page the initials? Do you know

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1 whose initials those are?

2 A. [9:40:06] It is mine.

3 Q. [9:40:14] May we move to the page before last, that's the last four digits, 0046.

4 And please scroll down to the last paragraph of that page.

5 Now, Madam Witness, at that paragraph in front of you just above the handwritten
6 date, which is 20 May 2016, there is a signature. Whose signature is that?

7 A. [9:41:04] That is my signature.

8 Q. [9:41:09] Madam Witness, is this your witness statement?

9 A. [9:41:20] Yes, that is my statement which was written down.

10 Q. [9:41:25] Now, when you gave this statement were you telling the truth?

11 A. [9:41:37] Yes, I was telling the truth.

12 Q. [9:41:43] When you gave this statement, was the information you provided to
13 the best of your knowledge and recollection?

14 A. [9:42:03] What I stated, which was written down, was what I know and what I
15 saw with my own eyes that happened.

16 Q. [9:42:17] Madam Witness, the Judges may use this statement as evidence in
17 these proceedings when they decide on this case, but they can only do so if you do
18 not object to that.

19 So do you have any objections, Madam Witness?

20 A. [9:42:47] I have no objection.

21 MR ZENELI: [9:42:52] Mr President, unless you otherwise instruct me I think
22 (Overlapping speakers)

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:42:57] No. No, no, it's absolutely okay.
24 Please move on.

25 MR ZENELI: [9:43:04]

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1 Q. [9:43:05] I have a few questions for you, which should not take long, and first
2 I'd like to show you a document.

3 And for the court officer that's tab 2, UGA-OTP-0263-0050, also confidential and not
4 to be displayed to the public.

5 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:43:51] (Via video link) Your Honours, the witness is
6 currently being shown document UGA-OTP-0263-0050.

7 MR ZENELI: [9:44:05]

8 Q. [9:44:06] Madam Witness, without giving us the names, can you tell us what
9 that document is, the one you see on the screen.

10 A. [9:44:24] That is my birth certificate.

11 MR ZENELI: [9:44:31] Court officer, you may move the document from the screen.

12 Q. [9:44:34] Now, Madam Witness, I'd like you to focus your mind on the
13 recollection of -- on your recollection of the people in Sinia during your time in the
14 bush. In paragraph 46 of your statement you have told us this: There were around
15 500 people in Sinia, and that the person in charge of Sinia was called Odomi.
16 So my question is this: How many of these 500 people in Sinia would you estimate
17 were wives and ting tings?

18 A. [9:45:48] I estimate that wives and ting tings could be in the age range of
19 200 to 300.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:46:11] I think we understand when it's called --

21 MR ZENELI: Age range.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [09:46:15] Yeah, it suggests itself, but it is a figure
23 that she has put on the record so I think we can move on. Because 200 to 300 is not
24 an age range, but I think we understand it because it refers directly to what you have
25 asked.

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1 MR ZENELI: [9:46:32] Very well, your Honour. Thank you.

2 Q. [9:46:34] Before I ask the next question, because we're in public session as the
3 Judge instructed you, please avoid mentioning the name of the person to whom you
4 were given as a forced wife. So let's just call him for the moment your forced
5 husband. Is that okay with you?

6 A. [9:47:07] Yes, I've understood.

7 Q. [9:47:09] So in paragraph 49 of your statement you also tell us that when you
8 arrived at the house of your forced husband there were three women and three girls
9 living there. How many wives and ting tings would a commander in Sinia usually
10 have in his household?

11 A. [9:47:58] I, I cannot recall the number of wives and ting tings that were in that
12 household, but the wives that were in that household -- I beg that you repeat the
13 question.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:48:23] I think, I think to ask generally how
15 many wives, that might have differed between different persons, different
16 commanders. So perhaps be more specific or simply move on to another pointer. I
17 think it's not so important because you won't get a general answer to that.

18 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:48:46] And, your Honours.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:48:47] Yeah.

20 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:48:48] Before my colleague continues I just would like to place
21 on the record an objection about his language or choice of words about forced
22 husband and forced wife. This is not something that the witness said in her
23 statement and I think another choice of words could be used to refer to the person
24 whom she was distributed to, if that's okay with your Honours.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:49:13] If Mr Zeneli has enough fantasy to find

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1 another word for that, I would not object. I don't know how you continue that.

2 MR ZENELI: [9:49:24] Your Honour, I will make adjustments. I thought the use
3 of the wording is appropriate to the facts and the statement of the witness.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:49:33] I would --

5 MR ZENELI: [9:49:34] But I would (Overlapping speakers)

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:49:37] If you continue like that, I would not
7 object, I would not sustain the objection, but if you find another solution it's also good.
8 Because I would not sustain it because it -- I would not sustain it because it follows
9 what the witness has said.

10 So, Mrs Bridgman, the witness has of course a description in the statement that again
11 is already on the record now via Rule 68(3) and Mr Zeneli is simply draw a
12 conclusion out of this statement, so to speak.

13 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:50:09] Much obliged, your Honour, but we would prefer to be
14 using "person 1" like we've always done it previous --

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:50:20] Perhaps this is a good idea, "person 1", so
16 we avoid further discussions about that. And also we come, when we use the word
17 "forced" we come close at least to some legal terms. That is perhaps the idea behind
18 your objection.

19 So simply ask her "person 1" or "person 2", if you continue.

20 MR ZENELI: [9:50:43] Well, first, I just wanted to say, your Honours, that I will be
21 guided and move on, not ask the question again. I think that's the proper course of
22 action.

23 Q. [9:50:53] And, Madam Witness, I wanted to thank you for asking me to repeat
24 the question. Please do so again if you don't understand it. That's very good.

25 And just to sum up, the next time instead of saying "forced husband", we will say

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1 "person 1". Is that okay?

2 A. [9:51:22] I have understood.

3 Q. [9:51:26] Now, Madam Witness, at paragraph 122 of your statement you also
4 told us that you saw Odomi face to face when you took food to his home. Can you
5 tell us a bit more about this event. Why did you take food to Odomi's home?

6 A. [9:52:01] Most times when I was still in the bush the big people, the bosses
7 would eat together. Their food was prepared separately from -- their food was
8 prepared separately where they stay within the homestead with the housewives.

9 But their food was taken to the particular place where they would go and eat from.

10 So at the time when I took food (Redacted) and I had taken his

11 food. That was a point where Kalalang's group had met with Odomi's group. So

12 I was made to take Kalalang's food to the table or to the point, place where the

13 commanders sit to eat together. That is the point when I saw Dominic face to face.

14 Q. [9:53:16] Was the person you were distributed to, person number 1, was he
15 there when you took the food?

16 A. [9:53:29] He was not present.

17 Q. [9:53:48] And who was the most senior of the commanders there at Odomi's
18 house, who was the most senior commander?

19 A. [9:54:11] There were two groups, Kalalang's group and Odomi's group. In

20 Kalalang's group there were other people, there were other commanders as well.

21 And in Odomi's group there would also be other commanders. But the two

22 senior-most commanders were Odomi as the head and then -- as the commander, but

23 also there was also Kalalang also as the commander. But of the two Odomi was

24 senior in rank.

25 Q. [9:54:53] Now for my next question just focus your mind at the time you were

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1 in the sickbay, in the bay area. You told us in your statement that you were there
2 approximately for two months.

3 I'm referring to paragraph 93, your Honours.

4 And you also told us that in the bay there were about 20 households and that the
5 leaders of Sinia would still have meetings in the bay. And then you told us that after
6 those meetings people in bay would leave to go to different areas. What were these
7 people sent to do in these different areas?

8 A. [9:56:05] Could you say the question again?

9 Q. [9:56:18] Yes.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:56:19] Perhaps we can make it shorter.

11 Madam Witness, when you said these people went to different areas, did you know
12 why they went to these areas? The reason why they went there, did you come to
13 know that?

14 THE WITNESS: [9:56:54] (Interpretation) The different areas where they would go,
15 some would go to their different meetings, some would go to eat, especially where
16 the commanders would usually meet from.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:57:15] I think we can move to another point. I
18 don't think this is very promising.

19 MR ZENELI: [9:57:21] If you indulge me with just another try, because I don't
20 think the question was received in the context of the paragraph.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:57:32] Yeah. Try it.

22 MR ZENELI: [9:57:33] Thank you, your Honour.

23 Q. [9:57:34] Now, Madam Witness, just think about the time you spent in the bay.
24 You told us that there were about 20 households there and that the leaders would
25 meet and that, after those meetings, people would be sent to different areas. So my

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1 question is: What would these people be sent to do in these different areas?

2 MR OBHOF: [9:58:03] Objection, your Honour. Again, it calls for speculation.

3 He's asking her to hypothesise what these people might have done, not what she

4 actually knows was done or told was done.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:58:14] No, no. But she can simply answer that,

6 Mr Obhof. And I said this is the last try, she can simply say "I don't know where

7 they were sent to." So this is also an option.

8 THE WITNESS: [9:58:38] (Interpretation) The places where most times people

9 were sent mostly were to go and collect food and to go and loot items from civilians,

10 items such as soap, salt, which were used at the time when we were still in the bush.

11 MR ZENELI: [9:59:10] Your Honour, I think I'll leave at that. No more questions

12 from the Prosecution at that stage.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:59:18] Thank you, Mr Zeneli.

14 And I assume that Mrs Adong will have questions.

15 MS MASSIDDA: [9:59:25] This is correct, your Honour. Thank you very much.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:59:29] So I give Mrs Adong -- I don't know if it

17 would be the correct word to say, since you are so far away from here, to give you the

18 floor. But nevertheless you have the word, Mrs Adong.

19 MS ADONG: [9:59:43] (Via video link) Grateful, your Honour.

20 QUESTIONED BY MS ADONG:

21 Q. [9:59:54] Good morning, Witness.

22 Witness, I will begin by asking you questions about your abduction. Could you

23 briefly please describe your life before your abduction (inaudible)?

24 A. [10:00:20] Before I was abducted my life was very simple. We would go play

25 about, we would go to school, we would eat well, and life was all very easy. Life at

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1 home was very good.

2 Q. [10:00:35] Now, you mentioned that by 2003 your father and your eldest
3 brother had been killed by the rebels. What impact has their death had on the
4 family?

5 A. [10:00:57] The killing of my father and that of my brother came with a lot of
6 problems in our family. First of all, all of us were mourning the death of the
7 breadwinner in the house. My mother, who had remained, couldn't do much. My
8 father was a teacher, he was able to provide for the family. But when he was killed,
9 when they were killed, we were no longer able to fend for ourselves.

10 The other problem was that, on the day my father was killed, on the day they were
11 killed, other people in the neighbourhood were also killed. But the other people
12 who were killed in the neighbourhood -- the other people in the neighbourhood who
13 were telling us that my father and my brother who were killed were the ones who
14 directed the killers to the other people. They were saying that if my father and
15 brother were not killed, they were going to come and kill all of us. And as I speak
16 right now, our neighbours are not happy with us.

17 Q. [10:02:38] Now, going back to your abduction, were you injured in any way
18 during your abduction?

19 A. [10:02:54] When I was abducted, I sustained some injuries. I was pricked by
20 thorns, I was cut by grasses and at some point I was not able to walk.

21 Q. [10:03:13] At the time of the abduction, did the rebels do anything to you?
22 Did they hurt you in any way?

23 A. [10:03:28] When we were abducted and we were walking, they kept on beating
24 us, telling us to hurry and walk fast. They also gave us very heavy loads to carry
25 and it was very difficult for us to carry. And every time you're trying to walk, the

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1 weight of the luggage that you are carrying would overbear you and every time we
2 would be complaining because of the difficulty with which you were carrying the
3 load. And you would be wondering every now and then what kind of life you are
4 being subjected to and what you will have ahead of you as you walk.

5 Q. [10:04:11] Let us look at the time when you were in the bush. How would
6 you describe the living conditions of abductees like yourself?

7 A. [10:04:35] In the bush, life was very hard because there was a lot of walking.
8 You would walk from morning up to about 2 or 3 p.m. before you can settle down to
9 prepare something small to eat. Thereafter you would continue with the journey
10 until sometime late in the night, when you will settle and sleep. The next morning
11 you will rise up and start walking again.

12 There were also a couple of confrontations and battles. We would come under
13 attacks several times and every now and then you would be on the run. You
14 wouldn't be sure about your life any minute.

15 Q. [10:05:30] Now, you were beaten many times for various reasons. Did you
16 sustain any injuries?

17 A. [10:05:48] Most times when we are beaten using sticks in the bush. For
18 instance, when I was beaten, I sustained injuries on my buttocks. We did not have
19 any drugs for treatment. You would just live with the injury until eventually it gets
20 cured without any medical attention.

21 Q. [10:06:20] Now, regarding to person number 1, you mentioned how he raped
22 you repeatedly and that he exerted violence on you. Were you injured as a result of
23 those sexual violence?

24 A. [10:06:54] At the time when he was raping me, he kept on beating me, he kept
25 on slapping me, he kept on beating me. And every time he would be sleeping with

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1 me, I would sustain injuries on my private parts, so much so that every time I'm
2 trying to walk, I would experience pain and I would not be able to walk freely. And
3 I also had pain on my lower abdomen, but because I feared that he would eventually
4 kill me, I would try and live with the pain just like that.

5 Q. [10:07:40] Do you still suffer from this pain?

6 A. [10:07:51] Even right now I still experience the pain on my belly. I keep on
7 experiencing that pain. It comes on and off and I persevere because I do not have
8 any other way of dealing with this. Sometimes I take some drugs, but the pain does
9 not cease entirely.

10 Q. [10:08:23] How has this sexual encounter affected you psychologically?

11 A. [10:08:37] I am psychologically tortured. I keep on thinking about several
12 things, because I remember this person kept on sleeping with me when I was still
13 young and these memories keep coming back. Sometimes I have also been thinking
14 that while he was raping me, he could have been infected or he could have infected
15 me with some STDs.

16 Q. [10:09:22] Now, you also mentioned that you witnessed violent events, lots of
17 people being killed. Now, how has this experience made you feel?

18 A. [10:09:48] Having witnessed gruesome acts like killings have impacted me
19 negatively. For instance, now as I speak, sometimes when I'm sleeping, I begin
20 having nightmares. I dream about people who were killed and I feel so bad,
21 sometimes I wake up in the night and fail to sleep till morning. I only keep on
22 thinking about the things that were happening, the bad experiences in the bush.

23 Q. [10:10:26] Is there anyone you can share these experiences with?

24 A. [10:10:40] There is no one I can talk to about this.

25 Q. [10:10:48] I'll now go to questions about the time after you were released.

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1 Now, following your return, could you reunite with members of your family?

2 A. [10:11:14] When I returned, I went back and started living with my family
3 members. But when I returned -- immediately I returned, I had lost touch and I
4 didn't know my biological mother. My life had changed and I had failed to
5 recognise my mother. But I returned and started living with them. And amongst
6 the people who were in the neighbourhood, some of them didn't want me to play
7 with their children because they felt I had returned from the bush and I could be
8 having either evil spirits or I could have killed people when I was in the bush, and
9 they feared that if I was playing with their children, there were risks that I could
10 somehow kill their children as well.

11 Q. [10:12:18] Now, have you received any psychological treatment or support
12 since you came back home?

13 A. [10:12:38] When we had just returned from the bush, we stayed in centres like
14 World Vision and Rachele centres and they kept on counselling us. But the
15 counselling was not adequate because I still keep on reflecting and remembering all
16 the bad experiences that I went through.

17 Q. [10:13:15] Do you mix freely with people in your village?

18 A. [10:13:29] The way we live back at home is that you feel like living freely and
19 mixing freely with others, but the people out back there have it at the back of their
20 minds that I was abducted and I stayed in the bush and I could be having evil spirits,
21 and people really fear living freely with me. Many times if I recognise, if I notice
22 that people are not freely living with me or they are talking about my life in the bush,
23 I choose to stay aloof.

24 Q. [10:14:10] Now, you were able to continue with your education. Were you
25 able to socialise with the other students?

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1 A. [10:14:34] Most times we would stay together with the rest of the children at
2 school, but if they got to realise that -- because the people who were paying us at
3 school were known for paying children who had returned from the bush. Whenever
4 children realise that I was one of them, they begin stigmatizing me. They would
5 begin saying, "This one is a returnee", and for that reason, many other people will fear
6 living with me freely.

7 Q. [10:15:14] Witness, what did you want to become before your abduction?

8 A. [10:15:23] Before I was abducted, I was going to school and in my interest, I
9 wanted to become a teacher like my father.

10 MS ADONG: [10:15:38] (Via video link) Your Honour, I request a brief closed
11 session for about five minutes, please.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:15:49] Private session.

13 (Private session at 10.15 a.m.)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

18 (Redacted)

19 (Redacted)

20 (Redacted)

21 (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

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11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 MS ADONG: [10:21:50] (Via video link) Thank you.

14 If we could go back to open session.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:21:57] Yes, we can go back to open session.

16 And we can later think on in how far this can be lifted. I'm not sure it's -- but I think

17 we are all a little bit more comfortable that it has been firstly addressed in private

18 session.

19 But now open session please.

20 (Open session at 10.22 a.m.)

21 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:22:15] We are back in open session, Mr President.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:22:17] Please, Mrs Adong.

23 MS ADONG: [10:22:21] (Via video link) Thank you, your Honour.

24 Q. [10:22:23] Witness, you're no longer living with your mother and you have

25 relocated. How many dependents do you have?

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1 A. [10:22:47] As of now, I am living with four other people in my home.

2 Q. [10:22:54] Without giving details, what are the age range?

3 A. [10:23:09] The other three people are ranging between 18 and 22 years of age.

4 One person is four years old.

5 Q. [10:23:27] Witness, do you feel that you have been groomed enough to take
6 care of others?

7 A. [10:23:42] I do not really have the capacity, because while I was growing up
8 I was abducted when I was still very young. I did not have the capacity to learn to
9 be groomed on how to raise or be a responsible person. But I keep on trying my best
10 because I do not have any way out. We are orphans and there is no way out, we just
11 have to struggle to make life carry on.

12 Q. [10:24:19] Do you have a steady source of income?

13 A. [10:24:31] I don't do anything else other than doing farming activities for
14 subsistence, just to make us live.

15 Q. [10:24:44] What are your wishes and hopes for the future?

16 A. [10:25:03] My interest is that, first of all, if I could be supported in terms of
17 counselling so that I can have some psychological rehabilitation, that would be very
18 good for me. Secondly, I'm also thinking if I could be taken back to school so I can
19 engage in some training that can eventually give me some employment to be able to
20 fend for the people I am supporting.

21 Thirdly, I also feel, if it's possible, I should be -- we should be taken away from the
22 location where we are living now because the people in the neighbourhood do not
23 like or love our family because of the things that happened way back during the days
24 when my father and my brother were killed. They are not living well with us, it's a
25 very hostile environment.

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1 Q. [10:26:09] Witness, what are your expectations from these proceedings?

2 A. [10:26:23] I feel that, basing on the testimony that I have given, there is need
3 for justice. More to that is that, if it was possible, we should be supported so that the
4 things that we lost during the period of the war can be recovered. We lost a lot of
5 things at that time and if it's not possible to compensate, for instance, because if
6 somebody was killed, there is no way you can return the person, but if our lives could
7 be rehabilitated and we are given some form of support, that would be able to help us
8 to re-establish our lives.

9 Q. [10:27:42] Thank you, Witness.

10 MS ADONG: [10:27:44] (Via video link) Your Honours, I have no further questions
11 of this witness.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:27:48] Thank you, Mrs Adong.

13 It is now the turn of the Defence.

14 We'll have now a break until 11 o'clock. Okay. No problem.

15 THE COURT USHER: [10:28:05] All rise.

16 (Recess taken at 10.28 a.m.)

17 (Upon resuming in open session at 11.16 a.m.)

18 THE COURT USHER: [11:16:01] All rise.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:16:23] Good morning again, Madam Witness.

20 We continue now with the examination by Defence and I give Mrs Bridgman the floor.

21 And we have planned to go normally until 1 o'clock and then have, so to speak,
22 normal lunch break and finish in the afternoon.

23 Yes. Please, Ms Bridgman.

24 QUESTIONED BY MS BRIDGMAN:

25 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:16:43] Thank you, Mr President.

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1 Q. [11:16:47] Good morning, Madam Witness.

2 A. [11:16:53] Thank you.

3 Q. [11:16:59] I would like to start with tab 2 of the Prosecution binder, the one you
4 recognised as your birth certificate.

5 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:17:34] (Via video link) Your Honours, the item is
6 currently displayed.

7 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:17:40] Thank you.

8 Q. [11:17:44] Now, Madam Witness, at the place where it says occupation, teacher,
9 can you please explain to the Court who it refers to as being a teacher on that
10 document?

11 A. [11:17:59] That is my father's occupation.

12 Q. [11:18:29] Thank you.

13 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:18:32] Your Honours, I would like to go into private session
14 for just -- briefly.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:18:37] Of course, private session.

16 (Private session at 11.18 a.m.)

17 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:18:49] We are in private session, Mr President.

18 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:18:54]

19 Q. [11:18:57] Madam Witness, we are going to discuss your statement in detail, but
20 I would like to give you some guidance, with permission from the Court, about some
21 of the names that will come up and how we are going to refer to them. (Redacted)

22 (Redacted)

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

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2 (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 Q. [11:21:02] Now, I might have some questions relating to this brother, so during
9 my questioning I will call him your eldest brother; is that all right?

10 A. [11:21:16] I have understood.

11 Q. [11:21:22] Thank you.

12 MS BRIDGMAN: We can go back to open session.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:21:25] And thank you, this is a very reasonable
14 proposal and much appreciated.

15 We go back to open session.

16 (Open session at 11.21 a.m.)

17 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:21:43] We are back to open session, Mr President.

18 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:21:47]

19 Q. [11:21:49] Now, Madam Witness, you speak the Luo language; is that correct?

20 A. [11:22:03] I speak Lango.

21 Q. [11:22:10] Do you speak Acholi or Alur?

22 A. [11:22:21] I also speak Acholi because, while in the bush, people would speak
23 in Acholi, but I do not know Alur.

24 Q. [11:22:46] You mentioned that you have, among your dependents, you have
25 a 4-year-old, is that 4-year-old going to school now?

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1 A. [11:23:02] He's not yet going to school.

2 Q. [11:23:14] Can you tell the Court when you expect that person to start going to
3 school?

4 A. [11:23:24] I think he can start school in this current year, he would go to start the
5 nursery education.

6 Q. [11:23:50] In your statement -- and, your Honours, this is in reference to
7 paragraph 14 -- you said that you were in primary 6 and was almost 10 years old.
8 Can you tell us when you -- at what age you started going to school?

9 A. [11:24:13] When I was going to school I was still young, but I think I started
10 going to school at the age of five or six.

11 Q. [11:24:43] Do you remember if you skipped through some classes or you went
12 through primary 1 to primary 6 in the usual course of education?

13 A. [11:25:18] I -- I do not recall that, I do not recall it.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:25:26] Mrs Bridgman, I would not object if you
15 go directly to the point that you want to enquire, meaning that for a 10-year-old being
16 in primary 6 would be relatively advanced. Why not simply go quicker to that
17 point?

18 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:25:43] Thank you, your Honour.

19 Q. [11:25:47] Madam Witness, can you then explain how you were in primary 6
20 when you were almost 10 years old?

21 A. [11:26:08] What I know is that at the time I was abducted I was in primary 6.

22 Q. [11:26:33] Now, when you went to the rehabilitation centre at Rachele -- and,
23 your Honours, this is in reference to tab 4 of the Defence binder, UGA-OTP-0244-2258,
24 at page 2260, the very second line it shows date of birth.

25 Madam Witness, on that document it indicates your date of birth to be 1992, and yet

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1 you testified that you were born in 1993. Can you explain the difference?

2 A. [11:27:45] When I was abducted I was still young, I would not be able to
3 comprehend things very well. That is probably why I indicated that age. But when
4 I returned and asked my mother, she told me that I was born in 1993.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:28:14] I think we can move to another point.

6 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:28:25]

7 Q. [11:28:25] Do you remember the closest IDP camp that was near where you
8 lived before your abduction?

9 A. [11:28:44] I recall that before my abduction I was not aware of any camp that
10 was present.

11 Q. [11:29:03] In your statement you said that on the day of your abduction you
12 went to your grandmother's place. Did you also have a grandfather?

13 A. [11:29:31] Are you talking about my grandfather? I did not get your question
14 very well.

15 Q. [11:29:43] I will try to rephrase the question: Were both your grandmother and
16 your grandfather alive at the time of your abduction and living together?

17 A. [11:29:58] No, they were not living together.

18 Q. [11:30:13] So did you run to your grandmother's house or to your grandfather's
19 house?

20 A. [11:30:28] I went to our grandmother's house.

21 Q. [11:30:42] Do you remember filling out an application or signing an application
22 to participate as a victim in this case?

23 A. [11:31:09] I request that you repeat the question.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:31:22] I think also you, please, directly, it's
25 shorter. And if she says she has never heard of a victim's application, yes.

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1 MS BRIDGMAN: This is in reference to tab 3 of the Defence binder,
2 UGA-D26-0012-0250.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:31:46] You could simply say that there it reads
4 that it was perhaps another one's place and continue from that.

5 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:31:53] I'm guided, your Honour.

6 Q. [11:31:56] In this document, which appears to be related to you, it is consistently
7 mentioned that you run to your grandfather's house and it was with your grandfather
8 at the time of your abduction. Do you have any explanation for this?

9 A. [11:32:21] What I know that I said, I said we went to our grandmother's house,
10 not our grandfather's house.

11 Q. [11:32:45] Now your grandmother's house, in relation to your own house, was it
12 closer to the trading centre or further away from the trading centre?

13 A. [11:33:03] Our grandmother's house was a bit far away from the centre, but
14 not -- but not very far away. It is like -- it's like about 1 mile.

15 Q. [11:33:42] Before your abduction, how often did you go to your grandmother's
16 place?

17 A. [11:33:51] We would go -- we would go there quite often to go and help collect
18 or fetch water for her.

19 Q. [11:34:15] That evening when you left, do you remember if you intended to stay
20 there for a few days, one night or a few weeks?

21 A. [11:34:36] I do recall that we had gone there to hide, to seek a place for refuge
22 because there were rumours that the rebels were close, were coming to our area. So
23 we had gone to -- to seek refuge that night.

24 Q. [11:34:59] Apart from the beddings that you carried do you remember anything
25 else that you took with you to your grandma's place?

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1 A. [11:35:18] I recall that we carried some clothings which were in a small bag;
2 these were our clothes that we would put on.

3 Q. [11:35:37] Now you mentioned that later you saw someone in the bush wearing
4 your mother's clothes. Did you also ever see your own clothes while in the bush?

5 A. [11:36:00] I did not see my own clothes, but I saw the ones of my mum, someone
6 was wearing.

7 Q. [11:36:18] Do you know if the rebels made it to your own house?

8 A. [11:36:28] Our own home was close to the roadside, but I am not sure if the
9 rebels went to that home. But for us, we were at our grandmother's house.

10 Q. [11:36:58] You said that when you arrived at your grandmother's place you
11 found neighbours from the village. Do you recall if these neighbours stayed through
12 the night or did they leave?

13 A. [11:37:15] At the time when our grandmother told us that the rebels were
14 coming, all of us who were inside, we scattered. But also, since I thought that
15 everyone was scared, so they could have all ran away and no one was left inside.

16 Q. [11:37:54] And just to clarify, that night when you went to bed even the
17 neighbours remained in your grandmother's house; is that correct?

18 A. [11:38:07] Yes, all the people were sleeping in one house.

19 Q. [11:38:16] So would I be correct to understand that the information about the
20 presence of rebels was known throughout the village before you were abducted?

21 A. [11:38:38] I think that people had received the rumours that rebels were coming,
22 just like we also heard that the rebels were coming. So I think everyone heard of that
23 rumour; that is why they thought of going to hide at our grandmother's place.

24 Q. [11:39:18] Now when your grandmother alerted you to the rebels and you went
25 out running with your siblings, how far did you run? For instance, could you still

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1 see your grandmother's house from your hiding spot?

2 A. [11:39:42] There was a small field that was close to our grandmother's home, so
3 we just ran for a short while and then hid in the bush that is nearby; it was not far
4 away from home, it was very close to the house, because the rebels had already
5 reached where we were. So we were scared, if we continued running they would
6 also chase after us. So when we came out of the house we just ran for a short while
7 and then we hid in the nearby bushes.

8 Q. [11:40:38] Can you estimate how long you remained in your hiding spot before
9 the rebels came and found you?

10 A. [11:40:50] I think we hid for close to one hour.

11 Q. [11:41:11] Now you testified that while you were hiding the rebels walked by
12 you going to the trading centre. Can you estimate the number of rebels that you saw
13 walking to the trading centre?

14 A. [11:41:27] At that time I had not -- I had not yet seen the rebels who were going
15 to the centre, but we would hear their footsteps as they would pass by.

16 Q. [11:41:54] If I may read to you your statement, and this is at paragraph 20. You
17 said:

18 "I saw the rebels passing by. I think they must have seen us but because they were
19 heading to the trading centre they did not abduct us then."

20 Is it your testimony today that you did not see them, but only heard their footsteps?

21 A. [11:42:38] We heard their footsteps, and also saw the flash of their torches,
22 which they were flashing as they were moving along the road. They were walking
23 in a line towards the centre.

24 Q. [11:43:11] Now you just told us that the distance from your grandmother's place
25 to your home was about 1 mile. Can you approximate for us the distance from your

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1 grandmother's place to the trading centre?

2 A. [11:43:26] I think it could be about one and a half miles.

3 Q. [11:43:53] While you were hiding, did you hear any fighting or any shooting
4 from the trading centre or from any other direction?

5 A. [11:44:04] I did not hear any gunshots, but we would hear something which was
6 the sound of something which was happening, like poom, pim, pim, pim (phon), as if
7 some iron bar or timber was being cut.

8 Q. [11:44:49] Now you said while you were hiding the rebels returned and they
9 found you. And you said at paragraph 25 that you were uncovered, pulled up and
10 kicked all the way to your grandmother's place. What happened to your siblings at
11 this point?

12 A. [11:45:16] At that time I did not know where my brothers and my sister were. I
13 did not know where. Which direction they took I did not see, because they were
14 flashing our faces with their torches.

15 Q. [11:45:55] When you were taken to your grandmother's house, was it at this
16 point that the rebels entered and looted the items?

17 A. [11:46:11] At the time they pulled me out of the bush and brought me to the
18 compound, I didn't see whether they were entering the house or not because we were
19 all gathered in the middle.

20 Q. [11:46:40] Can you estimate the number of people that were gathered in your
21 grandmother's compound?

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:47:00] Yes?

23 MR ZENELI: [11:47:00] Your Honour, just before with your guidance on previous
24 occasions, that's already asked and answered, if we look at paragraph 26, the second
25 sentence.

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:47:10] Yes, but -- yes, indeed, that is answered,
2 yes. It's correct, Mr Zeneli, I agree.

3 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:47:20] Thank you. That had escaped my attention.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:47:24] Not answered, I think, absolutely correct,
5 but it's on the record already, because it's not -- if you are very strict it's not answered,
6 but it's similar to asked and answered.

7 Please continue.

8 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:47:45]

9 Q. [11:47:46] And just to be clear, Madam Witness, your brother whom you were
10 hiding with was not abducted, correct?

11 A. [11:48:04] That was my brother, he was not abducted. That is what I can say.

12 Q. [11:48:22] At paragraph 27 you said that your cousin was about the same age as
13 your brother. Do you know why your cousin was abducted and not your brother,
14 even though they were the same age?

15 A. [11:48:42] I don't know why it happened that way.

16 Q.[11:49:02] You talked about (Redacted) who was abducted with you at paragraph 29.
17 How old was she?

18 A.[11:49:22] I don't know how old (Redacted)was, but I think she was of the same age
19 as myself.

20 Q. [11:49:56] Was she also tied with you while you were moving?

21 A. [11:50:03] No, she was not tied together with us. I was tied together with my
22 brother who was called (Redacted).

23 Q. [11:50:38] I'm going to move on to person number 1. Did you ever learn of his
24 other names, apart from the ones you've already provided?

25 A. [11:50:54] Yes, I got to know his other name.

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1 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:51:09] Your Honours, may we go into private session for this.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:51:12] Private session.

3 (Private session at 11.51 a.m.)

4 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:51:23] We are in private session.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:51:26] Thank you.

6 Just for the name, I would assume.

7 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:51:29]

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:51:50] Back to open session.

11 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:51:53] Yes, your Honour.

12 (Open session at 11.52 a.m.)

13 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:52:09] We are in open session, Mr President.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:52:37] Perhaps a short remark by me for the

15 sound quality at the video-link location. I think it would be best to move as less as

16 possible in the video-link location because it's -- the noise is out of proportion, if

17 somebody moves there. This was of course not directed to Madam Witness, but to

18 other people in the room.

19 So, please, Madam Bridgman.

20 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:53:05]

21 Q. [11:53:06] Now Madam Witness, at paragraph 43 of your statement you were

22 discussing person number 1. And I will read to you what is said but I will redact the

23 name of person number 1. It says:

24 "The investigators have shown me a copy of the form marked UGA-OTP-0244-2258

25 that was completed when I was at Rachele Rehabilitation Centre, where it states that

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1 the name of the commander I was given to was ..." and you mention -- and the full
2 name of the commander is mentioned. "... but I do not know this name and I do not
3 know why it is written in that file." Can you help us explain why this is different
4 from what you have just told the Court today?

5 A. [11:54:26] Yes. At the time when I returned from the bush, I was very excited
6 for having come back home. And what I recorded at that time, I think I still fairly
7 recalled very well the name, but at the time when I was now recording my statement I
8 think I had already forgotten the name and -- and then when I was shown the name
9 again and was told that I recorded that name when I was at Rachele, I started
10 thinking again. And there was also another time when we were talking about some
11 of the things that had happened, I was having a chat with my brother with whom I
12 was abducted, he reminded me again because he had mentioned that name.

13 Q. [11:55:39] This chat that you were having with your brother, was it after you
14 met with the investigators and provided your statement?

15 A. [11:55:57] Yes, that was afterwards.

16 Q. [11:56:09] Before providing your statement, did you also previously chat with
17 your brother about your time in the bush?

18 A. [11:56:21] Before I recorded my statement I was not living with my brother,
19 because I was in Lira while he was in the village -- in our village, which village I am
20 now living in.

21 Q. [11:57:03] At paragraph 54 of your statement you talk about the boys that were
22 in person number 1's household and you mentioned -- you estimate their ages. How
23 did you come to that estimation?

24 A. [11:57:37] Basing on your own judgment, if you saw somebody, you can be able
25 to estimate the age, you would say this person would be ranging between this and

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1 that age. That was the criteria I used to estimate the ages.

2 Q. [11:58:12] Did you ever learn the age of person number 1?

3 A. [11:58:38] I don't know his age, but I can estimate.

4 Q. [11:59:03] You said that the morning after your abduction you arrived at
5 a certain location where a commander addressed the people. Did he also address
6 the abductees at this point, that commander?

7 A. [11:59:35] At that time that I mentioned that the commander addressed the
8 people, there was a time when all of us were walking, we made a stop, and then the
9 commander or the leader addressed the people and then we settled down and started
10 cooking. People were distributed to various areas to begin cooking and we also
11 went where we were allocated.

12 Q. [12:00:16] When you say "the leader", who are you referring to?

13 A. [12:00:27] When I say "the leader", I am referring to Nyero.

14 Q. [12:00:49] Did you see Odomi at this location?

15 MR ZENELI: [12:01:03] Your Honour.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: Yes.

17 MR ZENELI: [12:01:04] Simply to draw the attention of my colleague opposite to an
18 answer given by the witness in paragraph 40 that's specifically relating to that
19 question.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:01:16] Yes, but she might test it.

21 But only shortly, Mrs Bridgman, because the witness has said that she not -- let me
22 put it really carefully, that she has not had a lot of contact with Odomi and she met
23 him only later.

24 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:01:39] Thank you, your Honours. And because of the
25 numerous contradictions of what to me appears to be --

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:01:46] I did not say that I would object to the
2 question, but I think we should not, if the answer is in the line that we have on paper
3 here, I think I would not follow it too long.

4 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:02:00] Much obliged. Your Honours, I seek to ask the
5 question again because I have a follow-up question.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:02:16] Yes, please.

7 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:02:18]

8 Q. [12:02:18] Madam Witness, at this location do you remember seeing Odomi?

9 A. [12:02:31] I do -- I do not recall having seen him.

10 Q. [12:02:48] At paragraph 36 you talk about the smearing ritual where you were
11 smeared with shea butter. I just want to clarify, was it only you and the other
12 woman, or all the abductees, that had to go through the smearing ritual?

13 A. [12:03:18] Well, where we were at that time, let's say in the household where I
14 was, I saw myself and the other woman, we were taken through the ceremony. I did
15 not see whether the rest of the people were given the same.

16 Q. [12:03:48] And I'm sorry if I sound repetitive in this regard, but you also said
17 that your cousin was also sent to the same household as you were. Do you know if
18 he was ever smeared?

19 A. [12:04:04] Well, I -- if I can remember, I did not say I was taken to the same
20 household as my sister.

21 Q. [12:04:32] I'm sorry, I think there is a misunderstanding. My question is:
22 Your cousin was taken to the same household as you; isn't that correct?

23 A. [12:04:50] Yes, we were taken to the same household with him. But he used to
24 stay where the boys would be, not where I was living, because I was staying where
25 the women were, but within the same household.

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1 Q. [12:05:15] So do you know if he also was smeared, or you don't know?

2 A. [12:05:21] I don't know.

3 Q. [12:05:28] When you were undergoing the smearing, were you told anything?

4 A. [12:05:42] Yes. They didn't tell us anything much, but they would talk about it
5 in the bush that the smearing ceremony that is given, that is done to people, was done
6 for a purpose of cleansing the people so that they can share items with those who
7 were already in the bush. Because they used to say that if you are freshly abducted
8 you would not yet be clean to be using the things that are there in the bush.

9 Q. [12:06:36] At paragraph 37 you testified about the location where you arrived on
10 the second evening of your abduction and found about 500 people. Can you
11 describe the area: Did it have permanent houses? Did it feel like a camp where
12 people had been staying for a while?

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:07:22] Mrs Bridgman, this all has also been
14 answered, so to speak, because she has said "... that was like a camp. I saw many
15 small temporary houses without roofs distributed close to each other."

16 So this applies what we had earlier on, and also quite often with other witnesses who
17 provided their statements via Rule 68(3). So simply we have to take this as the
18 evidence that has been provided by the witness already and, from there on, using this
19 as the point of reference, from there on ask questions.

20 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:08:00] I will move on.

21 Q. [12:08:10] Were these temporary houses that you mentioned in your statement,
22 were they divided into households?

23 A. [12:08:21] These houses were in different households; for instance, each of the
24 leaders had their own. That's what I thought.

25 Q. [12:08:50] Do you remember how long you stayed at this location?

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1 A. [12:08:58] I cannot clearly recall that. But if -- I think if we didn't stay for a day,
2 then possibly two days, but I cannot clearly recall that.

3 Q. [12:09:41] When you eventually left did you leave some people at that location,
4 or the entire group moved?

5 A. [12:09:59] At that location there were very many people. At the time when
6 people are setting off, they would whistle and then everyone would gather together,
7 and then they would tell them the movement planned. Because there were so many
8 people, I don't know whether some remained behind or not.

9 Q. [12:10:41] At paragraph 39 of your statement you mentioned the names of some
10 of the commanders that you saw at this location. Did you also get to learn their
11 ranks and positions?

12 A. [12:11:17] At the time I saw them I could not establish their ranks and positions.
13 But after staying there for a while I started learning of their different ranks.

14 Q. [12:12:00] Let's go through them one by one. What was Ojoko's rank?

15 A. [12:12:16] The way he was referred to in the bush, he was called Lapwony. But
16 the kind of clothes he would put on, he would be wearing pips on the shoulder.

17 Q. [12:12:46] And what about Kobi?

18 A. [12:12:54] Kobi, too, would sometimes put on pips.

19 Q. [12:13:05] I would imagine Kalalang and Nyero also would put on pips,
20 correct -- sorry, and Oyenga?

21 A. [12:13:26] No, I didn't see that. That's what I know.

22 Q. [12:13:38] So between Kalalang, Kobi, Ojoko and Oyenga, did you ever come to
23 learn who was more superior to the other?

24 A. [12:13:57] No, I didn't get to know who was more superior than the other.

25 Q. [12:14:04] As you testify today, do you have any recollection when you first saw

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1 Odomi?

2 A. [12:14:25] I remember one evening when we arrived at a camp and we were put
3 to sit down, some commanders came to rest. They were a bit many. And then -- out
4 of the commanders at that time I didn't know any of them. But I remember later on
5 that among the commanders, they pointed out to me that that person walking there is
6 Odomi. Then I remembered that out of the commanders who came before us he was
7 also there, but at that time I did not know he was the one.

8 Q. [12:15:48] And just so I'm sure about what you are talking about, is that the
9 camp that we were discussing just a few minutes ago? Is that where you remember
10 seeing Odomi?

11 A. [12:16:04] Yes. It's the first camp that we went to when we were just freshly
12 abducted.

13 Q. [12:16:24] And you testified that it was at this camp that the abductees were
14 distributed to the different households. Do you know where person number 1
15 received instruction to do the distribution?

16 A. [12:17:08] When we arrived there we were told to sit down. And then the
17 commanders came and talked to us and I just saw them distributing people. But I
18 don't know where exactly he received the orders from, because he came back from the
19 other commanders and turned to us and started distributing the people.

20 Q. [12:17:53] Now you said the commanders came and talked to you. Do you
21 remember what they told you?

22 A. [12:18:00] They came, stood on the sides. And then Nyero, who abducted us,
23 went to them and talked to them. But I didn't get to know what exactly they were
24 talking about. More so, I was also very tired and I could not concentrate on what
25 exactly they were talking about.

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1 Q. [12:18:51] Now at paragraph 41 you said that the escorts were helping with the
2 distribution. And you learnt later that, when you were told to go to a certain place,
3 it was the role of the escorts to take you there. Did you ever receive any instructions
4 of what you were going to do at the time of your distribution?

5 A. [12:19:24] I was not told anything. I was only told that get up, get up and go.
6 I stood up and started following the people who were leading me.

7 Q. [12:19:55] Now you mentioned that the women that you found in person
8 number 1's household, did you ever get to learn where they came from?

9 A. [12:20:29] No, I didn't get to learn where they came from.

10 Q. [12:20:41] You said that they were giving you instructions on how to conduct
11 yourself in the household. Would I be correct then to say that they were senior to
12 you and you had to follow their instructions?

13 A. [12:21:05] I don't know whether they had stayed in the bush for quite some time
14 or not, but I used to take them like people who were superior to us as the girls; they
15 were more superior to us as we were the girls in there.

16 Q. [12:21:46] You say that sometimes these women handed out punishment to you.
17 Now considering what you have just said, that you thought they were superior to you,
18 could you go to them for guidance? Or if you had any problem, would they be the
19 kind that you would talk to?

20 A. [12:22:15] It was that even when you had a problem, there was no one you could
21 go to to tell them your problems. You would stay with it because these women
22 would tell us what to do. Most times, they will also be doing something.

23 Q. [12:23:05] You mentioned that two of them were released later at some point,
24 but did you ever hear them discussing escape plans?

25 A. [12:23:25] I didn't hear them planning to escape.

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1 Q. [12:23:48] Before the distribution were the rebels aware of the relationship you
2 had with your brother?

3 A. [12:24:01] I don't know if they knew relationship between me and my brother.
4 I don't know.

5 Q. [12:24:19] At paragraph 56 you said that you heard about the beating of your
6 brother, but I just want to ask you did he ever tell you himself about the beating?

7 A. [12:24:43] He didn't tell me by himself that he was beaten. But a girl who had taken
8 food there told me that (Redacted) was being beaten, he was the person who was
9 being beaten.

10 Q. [12:25:23] At paragraph 47 of your statement you said that you only knew
11 Odomi as the leader of Sinia, but also said that you did not know who he was until
12 you had been in the bush for some time. I just want to clarify from you, did you
13 hear that Odomi was the group of Sinia from the time that you were abducted?

14 A. [12:26:16] From the day I was abducted I didn't know.

15 Q. [12:26:26] Did you hear people speaking of him as the leader?

16 MR ZENELI: [12:26:42] Your Honour.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:26:46] Mrs Bridgman, this is already in 47.

18 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:26:52] Your Honours, that is true. But the way she has
19 answered the question, I just want it to be clear from her testimony today. Because
20 there seems to be a contradiction of whether he was the leader at the time of her
21 abduction or what she learnt about later.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:27:05] But she has, she has given two answers:
23 She has given here in the courtroom the answer that she did not know from the start,
24 and she has given in 47 the answer that people only ever spoke of Odomi as the
25 senior leader. So the only question that remains, if you really want to be very exact,

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1 is when did she come to learn or when did people first speak to her about Odomi as
2 the leader. So I have worded it, but perhaps you repeat it, because the witness might
3 not have understood that this was the wording by the Presiding Judge.

4 Thank you, Mr Zeneli.

5 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:27:44] Thank you.

6 Q. [12:27:45] And, Madam Witness, my question is: At the time of your abduction
7 or when you were at that camp that we talked about earlier, did you hear people say
8 Odomi was the leader of Sinia?

9 A. [12:28:08] When we arrived at the camp and when we continued from
10 there -- walking from there, I heard people say that Odomi was the leader of Sinia
11 because we were moving as members of Sinia. The reason I was able to establish
12 that was, when we met with other groups, a group of people composed of as many
13 people as we were in our group, I was then able to establish that I was in a group
14 called Sinia and the leader of that group was called Odomi.

15 Q. [12:29:07] While you were in the bush did you ever hear of someone called
16 Icaya Loum?

17 A. [12:29:23] No, I didn't hear of that.

18 Q. [12:29:30] Did you ever hear of someone called Buk Abudema?

19 A. [12:29:43] Yes, I did. And I would also hear that he was a commander of one of
20 the groups. But there were several groups and I didn't know which particular group
21 he was commanding.

22 Q. [12:30:03] What would you say if I told you that Buk Abudema was indeed the
23 leader of Sinia at the time of your abduction?

24 A. [12:30:19] Well, I wouldn't know. But what I know is that I was abducted and I
25 was in Sinia group. And what I also knew was that the leader of Sinia was Odomi.

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1 Q. [12:30:45] And what would you say if I told you that Odomi was attached to
2 Control Altar, and not in Sinia, at the time of your abduction?

3 A. [12:31:05] Well, I don't know that and I cannot say anything about it.

4 Q. [12:31:22] At paragraph 69 of your statement you talked about the training you
5 received, together with others. How soon after your abduction did this training
6 occur, if you remember?

7 A. [12:31:42] I do not recall how long the training took, but we hadn't stayed for
8 a long time. Since our abduction we had not yet stayed for a very long time.

9 Q. [12:32:19] Would you say it was within a month of your abduction?

10 A. [12:32:24] I think it happened in the same month I was abducted, but I do not
11 know the exact date.

12 Q. [12:32:50] In paragraph 71 of your statement you talk about OPs. Do you know
13 what an OP means?

14 A. [12:33:29] I do not know the meaning of OP, but what I know is that OP are
15 people -- when people are in the position they are sent to the sides at the very,
16 very -- where people are seated. So they would climb up the tree to see if soldiers
17 were coming, but I do not know the meaning.

18 Q. [12:34:07] What would you say if I told you that OPs did not carry guns while
19 they were on duty acting as OPs? Contrary to what you said in your statement.

20 A. [12:34:45] What I know is that OPs have guns. At some times they also do not
21 have guns. That's what I know.

22 Q. [12:35:15] You also said that some of the boys would go to attacks. How would
23 you come to know about this?

24 A. [12:35:37] Most times when roles were being given, for instance, to go and loot
25 the camp, or the centre, or the shops, they take young girls and boys and also some

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1 adults to go to the centre. That is how I came to know that even boys are taken to

2 loot the centre or to go and attack a camp or anything.

3 Also, in addition, my brother told me that he would also go to loot at the centre or to

4 go to loot, just like that.

5 Q. [12:36:40] Now you also testified that you belonged to the subgroup of Sinia

6 called Terwanga. Do you know what Kalalang's role was within Terwanga?

7 A. [12:37:15] In Terwanga, I knew that Kalalang was also a commander, he was

8 also one of the commanders of Terwanga.

9 Q. [12:37:41] So reading paragraph 44 of your statement would I be correct to

10 assume that Ojoko, Kobi and Kalalang were all leaders of Terwanga at the same time?

11 A. [12:38:27] At that time they were all commanders. But of the three I did not

12 know how to differentiate who was the overall commander, because they were all

13 commanders. But there would come a certain time when Ojoko would not be with

14 us, it would only be Kalalang and Kobi. But also at some point, at some point Kobi

15 and Ojoko would not be present, so it would only remain Kalalang.

16 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:39:59] Your Honours, just give me a moment.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:40:04] Yes. Take your time. It might be two

18 moments, but not three perhaps.

19 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:40:50]

20 Q. [12:40:52] I would like to clarify from you, Madam Witness, at paragraph 37,

21 when you were talking about that camp that you arrived at with the temporary

22 houses, you said:

23 "... I learned we were in a forest in Gulu and that we were going to move to Lango."

24 And yet, at paragraph 74, you said:

25 "The day after I was sent to live at person number 1's home we began travelling to

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1 Soroti."

2 I just want to clarify from you what instructions did you receive about your next
3 move?

4 A. [12:41:44] I was not given any information as to where people were going, but I
5 would hear when people were saying we were moving to go to Lango. And I would
6 also know that this is Lango because there are some places when it is mentioned, I
7 would know that it is in Lango.

8 Later on, when we were reached -- after we reached Lango, then you would hear
9 people talk about going to Teso. But I was not told that we were leaving to go to
10 such and such a place.

11 Q. [12:42:49] So were you ever given any tasks during the move, whether it was to
12 Teso or to Lango?

13 A. [12:43:19] I was not told the roles I was going to play, but what happens is that
14 people will whistle and then people would be in the mood to move. So once the
15 whistle is made, you have your luggage, which is distributed, so you carry your
16 luggage, carry your bag, you also carry a saucepan and also a jerrycan and you start
17 moving.

18 Q. [12:44:06] Now just to clarify, I asked you earlier about attacks. Did these
19 attacks occur when you were stationed in some place or were in the course of your
20 movement, let's say, from Gulu to Lango, or to Soroti?

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:44:39] Or both.

22 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:44:41]

23 Q. [12:44:41] Or both.

24 A. [12:44:47] I did not understand the beginning of your question.

25 Q. [12:44:54] Earlier I asked you about the attacks that the boys went to participate

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1 in. You said that when roles were being given, that is when you came to know that
2 the boys went for attacks. I just want to know from you, were these attacks
3 happening while on the move or would you have stopped somewhere for days to
4 rest?

5 A. [12:45:33] At the time when we were on the move, we would run out of food,
6 we would also run out of salt or soap, because we would be consuming them every
7 day. So I -- I do not know what time people would be sent to go and loot food or
8 some items, but all you realise is that the group has met another group and I would
9 hear when people are talking and say, "These people are from standby." So when
10 they talk about standby it means these people had returned from some looting
11 activity.

12 Q. [12:46:32] So, indeed, to go back to my question earlier, the information about
13 boys participating in attacks was received from your brother but you did not see, as
14 you said, roles being given, for instance, to go and loot; is that correct?

15 A. [12:47:02] At the time I was at a place called operation room. I do not very well
16 recall the time, but I remember I was in the operation room. And this is where
17 people come and gather and it is where roles are given out and people are sent to go
18 for an operation. So I see people come and gather and then, after, it is said that
19 people are going for a standby. So what I know when they say they were going for
20 standby, it means they are going for a looting spree, or to go and collect food, or
21 uproot cassava.

22 Q. [12:48:09] At paragraph 78 of your statement you talk about the beating that you
23 received for attempting to escape.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:48:30] I don't think that she has said that she
25 attempted to escape. Other people --

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1 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:48:35] Allegedly.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:48:37] Other people had assumed or alleged that
3 she escaped, to be correct.

4 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:48:43] Thank you, your Honour.

5 Q. [12:48:46] You also said that you had not planned to escape, but had you
6 thought about escaping?

7 A. [12:48:59] Before I was abducted I would hear people say that when they abduct
8 you and you try to escape, you will be killed. So at the time when I was already
9 abducted and we were moving and crossed river Aswa, I saw someone who was
10 killed and was lying by the roadside and it was said that this person was trying to
11 escape.

12 Also, (Redacted) told me that if I escape I will be killed, just like this person who was
13 killed, should I try to escape. So this made me scared. I did not think of escaping
14 because I was fearing that, if I try to escape, people will kill me.

15 Q. [12:50:18] Do you know if there was -- let me call it a spy network -- about
16 people who attempted to escape or thought about escaping?

17 A. [12:50:41] I do not know if there was someone spying those who wanted to
18 escape. But what they want is that you stay, you should not stay isolated, because
19 they think if you are staying in isolation then you are thinking of home or you are
20 planning to escape. So if you are staying you have to show that you are happy all
21 the time and you are interested in staying in the bush.

22 Q. [12:51:28] Did you ever learn how the older soldiers were prevented from
23 escaping?

24 A. [12:51:49] No, I do not.

25 Q. [12:51:56] You also related the circumstances under which your father and your

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1 brother -- your eldest brother were killed. And at paragraph 78 you said that your
2 eldest -- that your father's brother, who was abducted some time before you but had
3 escaped, was later -- was later killed at the same -- on the same day with your father.
4 First of all, I want to clarify, was this your elder brother or another -- or another
5 cousin at this point who was killed together with your father?

6 A. [12:53:09] The person that I spoke about is a relative; is different from my
7 brother and my father who was killed, but is also a relative to us. So on the day my
8 father was abducted, they were at our home at that time, they were guests at our
9 home.

10 Q. [12:53:51] This morning you told the Court about the living conditions,
11 especially the relationship between your neighbours and your family, and you said,
12 and I quote at page 15 of the transcript:

13 "The other problem was that, on the day my father was killed, on the day they were
14 killed, other people in the neighbourhood were also killed. The other people in the
15 neighbourhood were telling us that my father and my brother who were killed were
16 the ones who directed the killers to the other people. They were saying that if my
17 father and brother were not killed, they were going to come and kill all of us."
18 What do you mean by this? What happened?

19 A. [12:55:03] This is what happened: On the day that my father and brother were
20 abducted and killed, they were taken from home; because when there's an operation
21 and people are abducted, you are taken. So at that time, when the rebels are finished
22 the operation and abducted people and were returning, they killed these people in
23 addition to my father. But later on, after the killing, information started coming that
24 my father and my brother were the ones who took the rebels to go and kill people in
25 their village. But I think that was not true. I think my brother and my father

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1 cannot say "Let me take you to go and abduct those people or kill those people"
2 because, from what I know, is that when the rebels abduct you, you have no power.
3 So once they say you move, you move. You do not have any power to do anything.
4 But since these people were saying that my father and my brother are the ones who
5 took the rebels to go and kill their family.

6 Q. [12:56:59] Thank you, Madam Witness.

7 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:57:03] Your Honours, I think is a good place to stop.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:57:06] Indeed. I agree. We have now the
9 lunch break until 2.30.

10 THE COURT USHER: [12:57:12] All rise.

11 (Recess taken at 12.57 p.m.)

12 (Upon resuming in open session at 2.30 p.m.)

13 THE COURT USHER: [14:30:21] All rise.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:30:44] Mrs Bridgman assumes correctly that it
15 is still her turn.

16 Please continue.

17 MS BRIDGMAN: [14:30:52]

18 Q. [14:30:53] Good afternoon, Madam Witness.

19 A. [14:31:00] Good afternoon.

20 Q. [14:31:03] I'm going to continue with the conversation regarding escape.

21 Now, apart from fear of punishment or being killed if you tried to escape, did you
22 have any other worries regarding coming back home?

23 A. [14:31:34] I would request you to repeat the question.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:31:40] (Microphone not activated) little bit in
25 the open. Perhaps you can be more outspoken, I would say.

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1 MS BRIDGMAN: [14:31:48]

2 Q. [14:31:49] While you were in the bush, were you ever warned that if you came
3 back home you would be tortured or killed by the UPDF soldiers?

4 A. [14:32:09] I could hear of that from people. They would say if you escaped
5 and surrendered to the government soldiers, you would be killed by them.

6 Q. [14:32:28] Isn't it in fact true, Madam Witness, that when you -- when you
7 were released, you were almost raped by a UPDF soldier that you reported to?

8 A. [14:32:43] It happened exactly that way. When we returned and met the
9 soldiers, he was behaving as if he wanted to do something wrong to us, but he didn't
10 do it.

11 Q. [14:33:14] And do you know if he did not do it because you were two people,
12 not one?

13 A. [14:33:32] No, that soldier didn't sleep with us.

14 Q. [14:33:43] And my question, Madam Witness, is: Do you think he was
15 prevented from doing it because you did not escape alone -- sorry, you were not
16 released alone?

17 A. [14:34:07] I don't know.

18 Q. [14:34:12] When you, when you reported to the UPDF detachment, did you tell
19 this -- did you report this behaviour to anyone?

20 A. [14:34:44] Which issue?

21 Q. [14:34:52] Did you report the conduct of the soldier when you reported to the
22 UPDF barracks?

23 A. [14:35:15] No, I did not report that.

24 Q. [14:35:22] Why not?

25 A. [14:35:30] I didn't bother so much because the fact is he did not rape us, even if

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1 he wanted to rape us, but he did not actually rape us. So when I arrived to the rest
2 of the soldiers, some of the soldiers who understood our language, I felt there was no
3 longer any problem because they were able to understand us. Yet the other soldier
4 we had met before was failing to understand our messages to him.

5 Q. [14:36:07] Now, I will take you back to your statement where you talked about
6 the big RV where you met with people from Gilva and Stockree after crossing the
7 Aswa river. You mentioned that at that RV you saw someone hanging a wire which
8 the leaders used to communicate with Joseph Kony. How did you know who they
9 were communicating to?

10 A. [14:36:58] Most times when they throw the wire up and they begin speaking,
11 they would say they are communicating to Lakwena, and when they say Lakwena,
12 they would be referring to Kony.

13 Q. [14:37:20] Did you hear what they talked about during that communication?

14 A. [14:37:30] I did not hear the communication because they were a bit far and
15 there were so many people. I was not sitting near them, so I was not able to hear
16 what they were talking about.

17 Q. [14:37:51] Do you remember if Odomi was present at that RV?

18 A. [14:38:03] I don't know whether he was there at the RV, but what I know is
19 that whenever there is an RV for Sinia or Gilva or Stockree, the commanders of these
20 groups would all come together. I know whenever they are gathered together before
21 the rest of the soldiers, all of them would be there together.

22 Q. [14:38:38] Now, at paragraph 81 you talk about Tulu and Okot Odhiambo.
23 Which groups did -- which group did Tulu lead?

24 A. [14:38:58] I don't know which group he was leading, but I would hear his
25 name, Tulu, or I would hear about his group, but the particular group I am not

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1 aware of.

2 Q. [14:39:13] Did you ever hear of any attacks that were conducted by Tulu?

3 A. [14:39:28] No, I didn't hear.

4 Q. [14:39:35] Did you ever hear of any attacks led by Okot Odhiambo?

5 A. [14:39:45] I heard that. There was a camp called Barlonyo. Okot Odhiambo
6 led a group that went and attacked that camp.

7 Q. [14:40:20] Do you know when the attack on Barlonyo happened?

8 A. [14:40:39] I don't know when Barlonyo was attacked.

9 Q. [14:40:50] If we may try to put things in perspective, that meeting at the RV,
10 was it before or after the attack on Barlonyo, if you remember?

11 A. [14:41:17] It happened after quite a while, after meeting at the RV, it happened
12 after that, after quite some time.

13 Q. [14:42:06] At paragraph 89 of your statement you said that you were -- the
14 groups were separated and you were sent to the bay and that Kalalang stayed with
15 you because he had a sick leg. Do you know what happened or how Kalalang's leg
16 got injured?

17 A. [14:43:07] No, I didn't get to know how he sustained his injury, but I was told
18 that he was shot in the leg at a time when government soldiers attacked the rebels.

19 MS BRIDGMAN: [14:43:25] And, your Honours, my apologies, because I
20 mentioned a paragraph and combined it with another paragraph, but the reference to
21 Kalalang's injured leg is at paragraph 92.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:43:40] But it was not wrong, 89 was good
23 enough, but 92 was more precise.

24 MS BRIDGMAN: [14:43:52]

25 Q. [14:43:53] So, Madam Witness, did Kalalang stay with you for the two months

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1 that you testified while you were in the bay?

2 A. [14:44:11] Yes, he stayed with us.

3 Q. [14:44:15] So would I be correct to assume that Kalalang's injury happened just
4 before you being sent to the bay? Was it a fresh injury?

5 A. [14:44:44] The injury did not appear a new one because I used to see him.
6 Whenever the movements were not very much, he would walk with a walking stick;
7 he would not be carried.

8 Q. [14:45:07] Now, which commander led the group that moved to Teso while
9 you remained in the bay?

10 A. [14:45:28] I don't know the commanders that led the groups.

11 Q. [14:45:36] While you were in the bush, did you ever hear of a commander
12 called Tabuley?

13 A. [14:45:54] Yes, I heard of the name Tabuley, but I didn't get to know anything
14 more about him. I only heard that he was a commander just like Odomi.

15 Q. [14:46:15] While you remained in the bay, you mentioned that there were
16 several leaders with several homesteads. Did you ever see Odomi in the bay?

17 A. [14:46:33] I don't know whether I saw him. I do not actually remember.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:46:48] And since it is not, if I recall correctly,
19 mentioned in the Rule 68(3) statement, if you combined this, I think you can continue.

20 MS BRIDGMAN: [14:47:01]

21 Q. [14:47:18] You talked about person number 1 releasing his wives. Do you
22 know if he got permission from anyone before releasing his wives?

23 A. [14:47:43] I don't know whether he received or he got permission from
24 someone else, but what I know was that many times when they are releasing some
25 people, that would happen after the commanders have sat and agreed on what

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1 exactly to be done.

2 Q. [14:48:11] Did you ever hear of an instruction from Joseph Kony saying that
3 women should be released because they were slowing down the operations?

4 A. [14:48:33] No, I did not hear of that.

5 Q. [14:48:39] Before person number 1 took you as his wife, do you know if he got
6 permission from any one of the leaders?

7 A. [14:49:01] I don't know.

8 Q. [14:49:07] For the period that you were person number 1's wife -- let me
9 rephrase this. You mentioned that at some point you were taking food to the leaders
10 and that is where you saw Odomi. Were you a wife to person number 1 at this point
11 or not yet?

12 A. [14:49:33] I was already his wife.

13 Q. [14:49:50] Before you were made a wife, did you sometimes take food to the
14 leaders or that was only for wives?

15 A. [14:50:19] The task to take food to the leaders mostly laid with the ladies, the
16 girls who were the ting tings. But there were also moments when the wives would
17 also take food. However, most of the times it was girls who would take the food to
18 the home of the leader where the rest of the commanders would eat.

19 Q. [14:51:02] Now, you said that you did not stay -- that Odomi did not stay with
20 you at all times; you only met every now and then. With what you have just said, is
21 it possible that Odomi was never aware that you were a wife to person number 1?

22 A. [14:51:36] Well, I don't know whether he knew that or not.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:51:43] I think that's fair enough as an answer
24 and I think you can move on. It's also relatively clear.

25 MS BRIDGMAN: [14:51:50]

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1 Q. [14:52:06] At paragraph 101 and 102 you describe the first time that person

2 number 1 attempted to make you his wife. And you said at paragraph 102 that you

3 did not tell one of the girls in the household about what he had told you; you kept

4 quiet about it. My question is: Why did you not share this information?

5 A. [14:52:50] I did not tell her because I was very angry and having to talk about

6 that would make me more angry. I also didn't want anyone to ask me about

7 anything in reference to that issue.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:53:08] Mrs Bridgman, just a comment. I think

9 that might also be an issue that a woman does not want to share with anybody else.

10 So I a little bit would say the answer has suggested itself.

11 MS BRIDGMAN: [14:53:44]

12 Q. [14:53:48] Regarding Odomi's wives, you talked about hearing about a girl

13 called Fatuma. Did you ever see Fatuma yourself?

14 A. [14:54:13] She was pointed out to me at some point when we were walking.

15 They showed me that that person is Fatuma, Odomi's wife.

16 Q. [14:54:32] When you saw her, was she wearing a uniform or was she not?

17 A. [14:54:49] She was dressed in a uniform.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:54:54] Mr Zeneli, I think it has --

19 MR ZENELI: [14:54:56] Already been answered.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:54:59] -- been answered.

21 MR ZENELI: [14:55:00] But I just wanted to also draw the attention to

22 paragraph 124. No further comments from my side on this.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:55:07] We simply move on.

24 MR ZENELI: [14:55:08] Yes.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:55:09] And as it sometimes happens in the

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1 courtroom, sometimes things are repeated. It should not happen too often, but it's
2 also not a big issue.

3 MS BRIDGMAN: [14:55:23]

4 Q. [14:55:23] Now, you mentioned that Odomi had a limp when you saw him.
5 How many other LRA soldiers did you see limping?

6 A. [14:55:55] The people I saw and can confirm were three.

7 Q. [14:56:05] Do you remember their names? And if so, can you tell us?

8 A. [14:56:20] Those I saw included (Redacted). There was also
9 Kalalang and then Odomi.

10 Q. [14:56:52] And just to confirm, Madam Witness, did you ever see Tulu?

11 A. [14:57:10] Seeing him face to face, no, I did not.

12 Q. [14:57:24] Following the death of person number 1, do you know who ordered
13 that you move to (Redacted)

14 A. [14:57:44] I don't know.

15 MS BRIDGMAN: [14:58:04] Your Honours, may we move into private session for a
16 few questions?

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:58:11] Yes, private session.

18 (Private session at 2.58 p.m.)

19 THE COURT OFFICER: [14:58:19] We are in private session, Mr President.

20 MS BRIDGMAN: [14:58:29] Your Honours, I apologise. I just realised my error.
21 I should not have opened that discussion in open session.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:58:38] That can happen and I think there will
23 also be another redaction coming.

24 Are we in private session? Page 66 and, my colleague has informed me, line 19. So
25 it's absolutely okay. Please continue.

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1 (Redacted)

2 (Redacted)

3 (Redacted)

4 (Redacted)

5 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 MS BRIDGMAN: [15:00:47] Your Honours, we can go back to open session.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:00:50] Open session.

16 (Open session at 3.00 p.m.)

17 THE COURT OFFICER: [15:00:58] We are in open session, Mr President.

18 MS BRIDGMAN: [15:01:14]

19 Q. [15:01:15] Madam Witness, you told the Court this morning about your recent
20 troubles with your family members that led you going to the police. Since your
21 return, has this always been the case or they were very supportive for the time that
22 you returned from the bush?

23 A. [15:01:49] When I returned from the bush, my mother was still supportive of
24 me. She wouldn't talk the kind of things she began saying later. But even then at
25 the time when my father was killed and at the time I was abducted, she developed

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1 some mental problems. And sometimes when she is annoyed she starts, you know,
2 talking all the things that I went through in the bush, she would abuse me. But then
3 I have to persevere because she is my mum.

4 Q. [15:02:51] When you returned and went to World Vision and Rachele, did you
5 meet other people from your village that you recognised?

6 A. [15:03:11] No, I did not see them.

7 Q. [15:03:18] Apart from your brother and of course your family, have you shared
8 your story with anyone else about you being distributed to an LRA soldier?

9 A. [15:03:43] Upon my return from the bush, while I was still at World Vision,
10 they asked me and I told them. When I also came to Rachele, they asked me and I
11 also told them. So they were the ones who took this information and gave to my
12 mother.

13 Q. [15:04:12] The document I showed you earlier for victim participation -- and,
14 your Honours, this is at tab 3. I already read out the ERN number. But the very
15 first page on the number 2, you said or at least it is written that "Others called me a
16 murderer or a wife to a murderer." And we are talking about people in the village.
17 How did they get to know about your status in the bush?

18 A. [15:05:43] I think they heard from, from my mother. But to know that I am a
19 murderer or I was a rebel, they knew previously that I was abducted. But on the
20 issue of being a wife to a rebel, I think they heard when my mother would be
21 speaking at the time when she would be annoyed.

22 Q. [15:06:37] Regarding the distribution of girls and women at paragraph 110 of
23 your statement, you said that in the bush if a boy or a man was given a wife -- sorry,
24 you said that if you are a boy or a man, you would be given a girl or a woman, even if
25 you did not want this. Did you personally witness this?

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1 A. [15:07:18] I heard this from one of the women with whom we would stay.

2 We were chatting and she said she was also given to a man with whom they have one
3 child. She was given to that person when she was still very young. It was not her
4 wish.

5 I also hear when people say that when they want to give you to a man, they would
6 give you and you become a wife to that man. Then for the boys they would see if
7 you are ready to be given a wife and then you would be given a wife.

8 Q. [15:08:19] Did you see boys being given wives just because someone thought
9 they were ready to have wives?

10 A. [15:08:32] I did not see.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:08:36] 111. To be a little bit quicker than
12 Mr Zeneli this time.

13 MS BRIDGMAN: [15:08:51] Thank you, your Honours. Some of these things are
14 not really clear in the statement.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:08:57] It's no problem, yes.

16 MS BRIDGMAN: [15:09:02]

17 Q. [15:09:02] Now, at some point you mentioned that your group split up into
18 smaller groups. Did you -- did the groups often meet -- no, sorry. I think that is
19 already in the statement.

20 And you also said that once in a while the groups would meet led my Kobi, Ojoko
21 and Odomi. Do you remember if this split happened before or after the attack on
22 Barlonyo?

23 A. [15:09:44] The split began before the attack on Barlonyo. Sometimes when
24 the government soldiers are frequently pursuing the group, then the groups would be
25 split. But also after the attack on Barlonyo, followed by several other engagements,

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1 there were a constant split, but the split was actually very frequent. Most often the
2 groups would split up.

3 Q. [15:10:32] Now, when these groups split up, how did they maintain
4 communication with each other?

5 A. [15:10:50] Most times when the groups split there would be communication of
6 a place where the group would meet and they would say on such a day or after these
7 days the group would go and meet. These points are referred to as RVs. So at
8 these RVs, the locations are usually known to these commanders. So when people
9 would want to meet, that is where they go and meet up.

10 Q. [15:11:34] If you remember, how often would these RVs happen? Would it be
11 once every week, every three days, every two weeks?

12 A. [15:11:53] Many times the RVs, let's say it can happen any time because when
13 people are leaving to go to a particular place or they are stationed at a certain place,
14 most times it is said that when there is an attack on the group, then the group should
15 split. So the RV could be at a point which is agreed upon. But if the government
16 soldiers does not pursue the group after a long time, still they would still go and meet.
17 If the group leaders or the commanders were interested in meeting, yes, they would
18 still go and meet.

19 Q. [15:12:48] While you were in any of these groups, did they have the radio with
20 the wire?

21 A. [15:13:15] The radio that usually have the antennas most times is not with all
22 the groups, it is majorly with the main groups, for example, the whole of Sinia or the
23 whole of Stockree, just like that. But for groups like Terwanga or operation room,
24 they usually don't have this radio.

25 Q. [15:13:53] So when you split up and your group wants to go and collect food,

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1 would they need to request for permission or to notify the bigger group about the
2 planned attack, or they would just go ahead with whatever they have planned?

3 A. [15:14:27] From what I would hear and as I see happen, if there is any standby
4 where people are going to loot food, then if they say people should be selected from
5 all the groups, what happens is that information is sent, people are called and then
6 the different people selected from the groups would come and meet or one group
7 would move to the next group and they meet and then they go. But also sometimes
8 if you are in a group, for instance Terwanga, if you run out of food and people are
9 going to uproot cassava or sweet potatoes or to go for an operation in the centre, then
10 people would leave from that group and go for such an operation.

11 Q. [15:15:43] So for the latter example, if Terwanga wanted to go and get food, it
12 was not necessarily the case that they would receive permission from the leader of the
13 entire Sinia, correct?

14 A. [15:16:06] Sometimes it is not like that. But in some situation if people are
15 going to places where the civilians are or where there are government soldiers and
16 they think that there will be some engagement, people collect together. For instance,
17 if you take Sinia, they will take people from all the small groups under Sinia and then
18 get one team and they will go for that activity.

19 Q. [15:17:04] At paragraph 112 of your statement you said that if you were given
20 an order by the leaders or the big boys you had no right to refuse or say anything, but
21 you had to obey, otherwise you would be beaten or killed.

22 I want you to focus on the big boys. If they received an order from the leader, could
23 they say no?

24 A. [15:18:07] I think they would not refuse because they are also under command.

25 Q. [15:18:18] You talked about enjoying a little more freedom for those who had

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1 stayed longer in the bush. What kind of freedoms did they enjoy?

2 A. [15:18:40] Most times the people I see that are a bit free and I think they are
3 free most especially was a certain woman whom I think she was very free because
4 when there was any movement she would just walk freely without carrying anything,
5 without carrying anything on the head or even in the hand. Also when people are
6 doing some activities, I also hear people say that she does not do if she is at the
7 position where she is. She also likes to give orders and also to teach people, for
8 instance, to read. Like for those of us who were young, if she finds that you were
9 dirty or your clothes are dirty, she would even pick a stick and beat you up.

10 Q. [15:20:04] At paragraph 115 of your statement you talked about punishment
11 for sexual relationships that were not authorised by the leaders and even gave an
12 example of a boy and a girl that were beaten. How did you learn about the rules
13 regarding sexual relationships in the LRA?

14 A. [15:20:35] At the time I was abducted I was not told about these rules, but later
15 on when these people were beaten up, (Redacted)told me that if you have not been given
16 to a man, you should not sleep with him.

17 Q. [15:21:20] And did he tell you that these rules applied to fresh abductees and
18 soldiers with ranks and even those who had stayed in the bush for a long time?

19 A. [15:21:42] He did not tell me the details of the rules, but from my own thinking
20 is that that rule applied to everyone who, who are the lower ones, who are in the
21 lower ranking. It only applies to those ones who do not have ranks.

22 Q. [15:22:21] But, Madam Witness, in your statement at that paragraph 115 you
23 said that the boy was big and he had a rank. So his rank did not save him from
24 punishment; isn't that correct?

25 A. [15:22:57] Even though he had a rank I also think that that rule did not also

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1 allow him because, because I think he had not yet been given a wife.

2 MS BRIDGMAN: [15:23:43] Your Honours, I have no other questions for the
3 witness.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:23:47] Thank you very much. This concludes
5 the testimony of this witness.

6 So you have heard, Madam Witness, that the Defence has concluded their questioning.

7 This means that we have finished your testimony for today and you can go home.

8 On behalf of the Chamber I would like to thank you that you came to the video-link
9 location and helped us with your testimony to establish the truth. We wish you,

10 Madam Witness, a safe trip back to your home.

11 THE WITNESS: [15:24:24] (Interpretation) Thank you very much.

12 (The witness is excused)

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:24:27] And this concludes also the hearing for
14 today. We continue tomorrow with a new witness, this would be P-410, at 9.30.

15 THE COURT USHER: [15:24:47] All rise.

16 (The hearing ends in open session at 3.24 p.m.)

17 RECLASSIFICATION REPORT

18 Pursuant to the Trial Chamber' IX's instructions, ICC-02/04-01/15-497, dated 13 July
19 2016, the public reclassified and redacted version of this transcript is filed in the case.