## Witness Statement of ODONG Johnson

## INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT DEFENCE FOR DOMINIC ONGWEN

## WITNESS STATEMENT PROVIDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRIAL IN THE CASE OF

## THE PROSECUTOR & DOMINIC ONGWEN

Last Name(s): ODONG
Gender: Male
First Name(s): Johnson
Father's Name: Okot Otunu
Other Names Used: Odonga
Mother's Name: Anna Angeyo
Place of Birth: Coorom
Marital Status: Married
Date of birth/Age: 1952
Spouse: Madeline Akot
Nationality: Ugandan
Place of Residence:

Ethnic Origin/Tribe: Pagak Pacunge

Religion: Catholic

Children: Eight

Language(s) spoken: Acholi

Language(s) written (if different from spoken):

Language(s) used in interview: Acholi and English

Language of statement: English

Proposed language of testimony: Acholi

Current occupation: Farmer
Former occupation:

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riace of interview:	Oganda
Date(s) of interview:	11 August 2015
Start of Interview:	10h17 EAT
End of Interview:	11h22 EAT
Name and signature of	of individual(s) conducting the interview:
1. Thomas Obhof, 2	Assistant to Counsel
2.	Case Manager
Names of all persons	present during interview: (witness, counsel, investigator,
interpreter, legal assista	nt etc):
1. Thomas Obhof, As	ssistant to Counsel
2. Ca	se Manager
3. Odong Johnson, W	Vitness .
4. Inter	preter
Place of Interview:	Amuru, Uganda
Date(s) of interview:	24 December 2015
Start of Interview:	12h37 EAT
End of Interview:	13h00 EAT
Name and signature	of individual(s) conducting the interview:
1. Thomas Obhof, As	ssistant to Counsel
2. Ca	ise Manager
Names of all persons	s present during interview: (witness, counsel, investigator
interpreter, legal assista	The second secon
1. Thomas Obhof, A	
4	ase Manager
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3. Odong Johnson, V	

WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This statement consisting of six pages is true to the best of my knowledge and

recollection. I have given this statement voluntarily and I have not been

influenced by any coercion, duress or threat.

I am aware that this statement may be used in legal proceedings before the

International Criminal Court (the "ICC"). I understand that if I have knowingly

provided false information, I may be liable to prosecution for false testimony

under solemn declaration.

I have been informed by the interviewers about the procedures available to the

ICC of ensuring the protection of confidential information provided to the

Court. I have also been briefed about the procedures that may be available to

ensure my own protection and security.

I have been informed that I may be called to testify in public before the ICC. I

have also been informed that the ICC may exceptionally order protective

measures on my behalf, provided such protection is required. Those

interviewing me have also explained that even with protective measures, my

identity will be disclosed to the Court and the parties. With knowledge of the

above, I agree to testify and appear before the ICC if called to do so.

Print name: Odong Johnson

Signed: ODONG ZONNOW

Date: 24 December 2015

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1		Witness Statement of ODONG Johnson
2		
3	Dominic's C	hildhood
4	1. Dominic	was born at the family home in Coorom in May 1978. He was born
5	about 10-	15 metres from where his cousin, Onekalit, lives today. There used
6	to be a h	ome where he was born, but it was torn down because it became
7	dilapidat	ed,
8		
9	2. I am the	uncle of Dominic Ongwen. He is the son of my elder brother, Paul
10	Opobo. I	Dominic's mother was Rosetta Lalar. Dominic was a quiet and
11	playful c	hild. Until the war, he had a normal childhood.
12		
13	3. Dominic	started off in school in Coorom. The school no longer exists. The
14	old school	ol was moved. It closed down during the early days of the rebels,
15	before D	ominic was arrested. It shifted for about a year, but then everyone
16	was told	to go to Alero P-7 Primary School.
17		
18	4. At the tit	me of his abduction, Dominic was in F-3. He should have been in
19	P-4, but	he had troubles the first year in school and had to repeat P-1. The
20	year was	1987. I cannot remember what month, but I think it was in the first
21	third of t	the year. I remember the year because I was studying at Saint Pope
22	in Anaka	, which is about 12 miles from Coorom on the Gulu-Pakwach Road,
23	heading	towards Pakwach. I was home at that time because of the
24	insurger	icy.
25		
26	Dominic's A	Abduction
27	5. The last	time I saw Dominic was the morning he was abducted. He had a
28	normal	routine. He would wake up, brush out the compound and go to
29	school. A	As stated, his school was in Alero, which is around one and a half to
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1		two miles (2-3 km) away. At that time, a walking path existed at that time
2		directly to the school. The path was about 1 metre wide.
3		
4	6.	Dominic left the compound for school shortly before 10h00. I heard he was
5		abducted around 13h00. I heard this from others that were close to him on
6		the path and saw him arrested. I do not know who specifically abducted
7		Dominic, but we blame it on Kony. Dominic was abducted with two other
8		people. One person died in the bush and I cannot remember his name. The
9		other one is called Kakanyero Joe, also known as Odong Audi. He has since
10		returned to Coorom.
11		
12	7.	After hearing of this, Dominic's parent immediately began to search for
13		him. Unfortunately, both his parents were arrested that day. Dominic's
14		mother was allegedly shot by the rebels. Dominic's father was killed by the
15		NRA because they thought he was a rebel.
16		
17	8.	I do not know whether Dominic witnessed this. We were told though by
18		returnees that he did not learn for a few months that this parents were
19		murdered.
20		
21	<u>C</u>	ontact with Dominic since his Abduction
22	9.	Like I said before, I have not seen Dominic since his abduction. To the best
23		of my knowledge, no one in the immediate family has seen Dominic. Also,
24		Dominic has never written to anyone either.
25		
26	10	In 2006, some Americans came to talk about the ICC indictment and our
27		opinion on it. They came a few times, and promised to come back, but they
28		never did.
29		
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1	11. Later in June or July 2007 whilst we were in Olwal IDP Camp where
2	someone tried to get a message to us from Dominic. There were two white
3	Americans that came to us in the IDP Camp, the same from 2006. One was
4	named Katy. They came to tell us that Dominic was still alive.
5	
6	12. They also brought a message that Dominic wanted a way to return home.
7	They came three more times after that. I do not know if they were lying or
8	telling the truth. They said they saw him in Sudan twice during the Juba
9	Peace Talks.
10	
11	13. The first three times they came to see us were within a short period. The last
12	time they talked to us, it took them a month to get back. They kept saying
13	that they wanted to help Dominic to come back home.
14	
15	14. They only talked to my wife, Onen Nicodemis and myself. Onen was killed
16	during the war after this encountered. Onen was my nephew on my
17	mother's side.
18	
19	DNA Swabs
20	15. After Dominic was reported dead, and the government allegedly found his
21	body, Dominic's grandmother was taken to Gulu to have her DNA taken.
22	
23	Name: Odong Johnson
24	18/2 = 1/4/2
25	Signature: ODONG downson
26	
27	Date: 24 December 2015
28	
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