

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

Last Name: OTTOBER

Gender: Male

First Name: Mario

Father's Name: Onying JUSTINO

Other names used: Otto

Mother's Name: Akello SANTINA

Place of Birth: Olam, Gulu, Uganda

ID number: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth/Age: 30 /12/1960

Nationality: Ugandan

Ethnicity: Acholi

Religion: Catholic

Languages Spoken: Acholi and some English

Language(s) Written: Acholi

Language(s) Used in Interview: Acholi and English

Occupation: Catechist in Opit Parish and small scale farming

Place of Interview: [REDACTED] Gulu, Uganda

Dates and Times of Interview: 15/07/ 2016 – 14:04-14:37 and 15:17-15:30; 16/07/2016 – 09:11-09:50.

Names of all persons present during interview: Mario OTTOBER (Witness), [REDACTED] (Investigator), [REDACTED] (Associate Investigator), [REDACTED] (Psychosocial Expert) and [REDACTED] (Interpreter)

Signatures:

M. Ottober

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Witness statement of Mario OTTOBER

UGA-OTP-0267-0174



UGA-OTP-0283-1320

WITNESS STATEMENT

Procedure

1. I was introduced to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and told that they are investigators with the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC). I was introduced to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and told that they are psychosocial expert and interpreter with the OTP of the ICC.
2. The investigators explained to me what the ICC is and described its mandate. They explained the role and mandate of the OTP within the ICC.
3. The investigators explained to me that they are investigating events that took place in Uganda since July 2002. I was informed that the OTP is contacting me because they believe I may have information relevant for establishing the truth.
4. I agreed that the interview would be conducted in Acholi. I fully understand and speak Acholi.
5. The investigators explained to me that I do not have to answer to their questions. The investigators explained to me that they are seeking to find out the truth. I agree to tell the truth and that my answers to their questions are as complete as possible and reflect the best of my knowledge and recollection.
6. I was informed that any information I give to the OTP, including my identity, may be shared with the parties of the proceedings at the ICC; in particular the Judges, Accused persons, the Counsel of the Accused and the legal representatives of the victims.
7. The investigators have explained to me the reasons and importance of keeping my contacts with the OTP confidential, which I fully understand.
8. Having understood all the above issues, I confirmed my willingness to answer the investigators' questions.
9. The investigators explained to me how the interview was going to be conducted. I was told that I needed to be as accurate as possible in my account and that I should state when I do not know the answer to or do not understand the question. I understand that I need to distinguish between what I have experienced or seen myself and what I have heard or learned about from someone else.
10. I was told that at the conclusion of the interview, I would be asked to sign a written statement after having had the opportunity to review it, make any corrections, or add additional information.

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UGA-OTP-0267-0175



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UGA-OTP-0283-1321

Background

11. From 28 to 30 September 2015, I was interviewed by investigators of the OTP of the ICC.
12. During the interview, I was asked whether I had any documents or records related to the residents of the Odek camp before the attack in April 2004. I informed the investigator's that I will look through my documents and whenever I find any relevant documents I will be willing to provide a copy.
13. As a Camp Leader, I was in charge of writing various documents related to the camp residents. I was also in charge of liaising with the block leaders of the different sub-villages which were in Odek camp. Each sub-village referred to the village of origin of people registered in the camp.
14. Before the attack in Odek camp in April 2004, there were six blocks within the camp in total. The same number of blocks remained after the attack.
15. I have explained to the investigators that the following are the documents that I have managed to find regarding the Odek camp. I consent for the investigators to take photographs of the relevant pages of the notebooks to be annexed to this statement.

ANNEXES

Annex 'A'

16. The first document I have shown to the investigators is a notebook. On the cover it is written 'Rwot Kweri Tec-waa Odek Camp OLWENY Charles'. The words 'Rwot Kweri' means leader. 'Tecwaa' refers to the name of one sub-village and Odek camp makes reference to the camp. OLWENY Charles is the name of the leader who used the notebook. These kinds of notebooks were initially given to the leaders of sub-villages to register residents of their respective areas. Later on, I recovered the notebook and used it to write other information.
17. The cover of the notebook have a stamp with date 13/5/2005. This is because we did not have stamps before 2005, and all the old notebooks were stamped when we received stamps in 2005. Information contained in the notebook is from January and February 2004.
18. The investigators took photographs of the relevant pages of the notebook. I have explained that the photographed pages contain information about sub-villages, households and number of people on each household. The total number of sub-villages within the Odek camp was 24, meaning that people in the camp came from 24 different villages.



19. In the pages, the First Column lists the sub-villages with numbers. The Second Column includes the name of the sub-villages within the Odek camp. The Third Column is titled "H/H" and includes the information regarding the number of households within each sub-village. The Fourth Column is titled "Pop" and states the population on each household within each sub-village. All the sub-villages mentioned in the Second Column were part of the Odek camp in January and February 2004 as well as after the attack in April 2004.
20. One of the pages gives information in the total number of households and population in the camp in January and February 2004. According to the information in the notebooks, the number of households in January and February 2004 was 1,165 and the population was 6,394. I did the additions myself. I do not know if the additions are correct. The investigators have told me that according to their additions, the total number of households was 1,156 and the population was 6,393.

Annex 'B'

21. The second document I have shown to the investigators is also notebook. On the cover it is written 'Odek camp, Rwot Kweri, Tee-Lucoro sub-village'. On the cover is also written the name 'ORYEM Bosco'. As explained before, these types of notebooks were initially given to sub-village leaders. In the cover is written leader and Tee-Lucoro is the sub-village. It also includes the name of the camp leader of that sub-village, ORYEM Bosco. I collected it later on and used it to write some other information.
22. The investigators took photographs of the relevant pages of the notebook. I have explained that the pages contain a summary of the number of households and population within each of the six blocks. The page is dated 13/5/2005. I dated the page with the same date of the stamp, but the information contained in the pages was produced before 13/5/2005. The data contained in the pages is based on information collected from the Odek camp in January and February 2004. I wrote the date 13/5/2005 in the photographed page after I located the notebook following the interview with OTP in September 2015.
23. The photographed pages detail that the camp was located at Palaro Parish, Odek sub-county, Gulu district. That was the location of the camp at the time of the attack. It indicates that the camp size was 800 square meters. It contains the name of the leaders of each block, the names of the camp officials and the camp committee members. The notebook also gives information of number of households and population within each block in the camp.
24. The notebook includes the total of boys and male adults and girls and female adults in the camp. I did the additions myself. I do not know if the additions are correct. The investigators have explained to me that they have done the additions based on the numbers in the notebook and total number of population was 5,810 (2,623 boys and men and 3,187 girls and women).

Closing Procedure

25. I was informed that individuals, who according to the judges, qualify as victims will be entitled to participate in future Court proceedings and potentially to receive reparations. I was informed of the existence of the Victims' Participation and Reparation Section and its function, as well as of the procedure for applications. I consent to my personal data being shared with the Victims' Participation and Reparation Section.
26. I was informed that I may be called to testify before the Court. It was brought to my attention that ICC trials are held in public and explained to me that, as an exception to the principle of public hearings, the judges may apply protective measures to those testifying if circumstances require.
27. The investigators informed me of the protective measures that may apply during and after the investigation and/or trial proceedings.
28. I have nothing to add to the above statement nor do I have anything to clarify. I am available to be contacted in the future for clarifications or questions on topics not covered during this interview.
29. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.
30. There has not been any form of coercion, duress, threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my account.
31. I have no complaints about the way I was treated during this interview.

WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This statement has been read over to me in the English and Acholi language and (it) is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have given this statement voluntarily and I am aware that it may be used in legal proceedings before the International Criminal Court and that I may be called to give evidence in public before the International Criminal Court.

Signed: Amotaber

Dated: 16th July-2016.



INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

1. I, [REDACTED] certify that:
2. I am duly qualified to interpret from the Acholi language into the English language and from the English language into the Acholi language.
3. I have been informed by Mario OTTOBER that he speaks and understands the Acholi language.
4. I have orally translated the above statement from the English language to the Acholi language in the presence of Mario OTTOBER who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this statement.
5. Mario OTTOBER has acknowledged that the facts and matters set out in his statement, as translated by me, are true to the best of his knowledge and recollection and has accordingly signed his signature where indicated.

Signed: [REDACTED]
Dated: 16.10.7 | 2016