

**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR**

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

**WITNESS INFORMATION:**

Last Name: [REDACTED]	Gender: Male
First Name: [REDACTED]	Father's Name: [REDACTED]
Other names used:	Mother's Name: [REDACTED]
Place of Birth: [REDACTED]	Passport / ID number: N/A
Date of Birth/Age: [REDACTED] 2000	Nationality(s): Ugandan
Ethnicity: Lango	Religion: Catholic

Language(s) Spoken: Lango and limited English

Language(s) Written: English

Language(s) Used in Interview: English / Lango

Occupation: Student

Place of Interview: Lira

Date(s) and Time(s) of Interview: 21/04/2016 13:30 - 16:50; 22/04/2016 10:40 – 12:00

Names of all persons present during interview [REDACTED] (Investigator), [REDACTED] (Assistant Investigator), [REDACTED] (PSE), [REDACTED] (Interpreter), [REDACTED] (Witness)

Signature(s):	[REDACTED]	2022/04/2016
	[REDACTED]	22/04/2016
	[REDACTED]	22/04/2016
	[REDACTED]	22/04/2016

## 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, respectively 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 Northern Uganda between 2002 and 2004. 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 Lango. I fully understand and speak Lango.
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

[REDACTED]

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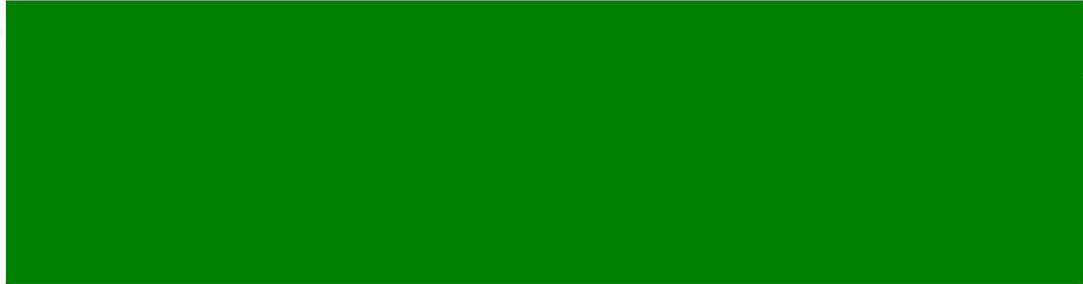
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understand that I need to distinguish between what I have experienced or seen myself and what I have heard or learned about from someone else.

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.

### Background

11.



### Attack on Abok Camp

12. Abok was attacked on Tuesday 08 June 2004 in the evening as it was already getting dark. I remember this date because this is what the adults were referring to this as the date of the attack. I remember the day because it was a market day at Ngai and my Dad had gone to sell fish.
13. The first time I realised that the camp was under attack was when I heard gunshots. I was still awake in the house with my mother and brother. My father had not yet returned from the market. He returned just as the attack was starting, took his bicycle in the house and then went back outside and left before my mother ran out. We didn't know where he went. As the gunshots intensified, our neighbours started running. My mother also first got up and ran with my little brother. She left me in the house. When my mother ran, I lay down in a hole that was in the hut. The hole was there because the soldiers had told people to dig holes so that if there was an attack, they would lie in the hole to avoid getting shot. My mother returned very shortly to the hut and took me with her. I ran behind her towards the bush. There were other people also running. I knew the people who were running but cannot remember their names as they have since moved back to their villages.
14. The rebels were shouting in Acholi, '*maka amaka, celo bongo,*' meaning just catch them, shoot and check. The camp became lit from the burning huts. The rebels were speaking Acholi but I do not know where they were coming from. I know that it was Acholi because some Acholi used to come to Abok to perform Acholi traditional songs and dances.
15. As I was running behind my mother, I saw huts burning. I saw the rebels setting the huts on fire. I do not know what they were using to set the huts on fire but I could



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see the huts burning. Several huts were burnt but I cannot remember the names of the owners of these huts or how many. A hut next to ours was also burnt but our one was not.

16. I saw some people being shot as they were running. They were shot by the rebels. The rebels were in combat but since it was not daytime I could not really see what they looked like. Some of the rebels were running with guns and shot people as they ran. I saw people fall down after being shot. They were bleeding. The people who were shot were not armed. I saw at least five people as we were running. I do not remember the names of these people but they were neighbours. The first person I saw being shot was a man but I do not remember which part of his body had been shot. He was lying at the side of the house. I know that he died because he fell and did not get up and the next morning after the attack we found him still lying in the same place.
17. I also saw another man who had also been shot lying on the other side of the same hut. A woman was also shot as we were running. I do not know on which part of the body she was shot and I cannot describe her or remember her name. She shouted once, fell down and never got up so I believe she died. I could see the rebel and the woman he shot at the same time. People were running together in between the huts and as my mother and I were breaking off to another route, another man got shot. I cannot remember which part of the body was shot because it was difficult to see clearly at that time. I know that these people died because they were buried the following morning and one of them was even buried next to our hut. The rebels also tried to shoot at us but the bullet got someone else. It was a bit dark so I could not clearly see the rebel who tried to shoot us.
18. I continued running with my mother towards the bush but the rebels came in front of us and stopped us. We were at the edge of the camp where there is a swamp when we got stopped. There were many rebels but I cannot remember how many they were. Some of the rebels had guns and others had sticks that were as thick as a pounding stick. The rebels took us with them and we passed by the church and walked on in the direction of Bung Agweo. I was not carrying anything. My mother was carrying my brother. We continued walking with the rebels for some time until it was deep into the night.
19. At some point, the rebels asked my mother for money but she said that she did not have any money. The rebels grabbed her and searched her and found some money. I do not know how much it was. Two rebels then started beating her using the thick stick. They were hitting her on the head. My mother clung onto my little brother as she was being beaten. She was beaten so badly that she fell down and was left behind with my little brother. She was very weak and could not walk properly. I was so scared and felt bad when they were beating my mother. One of the rebels



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said they should leave my mother there. The rebel who said this was dark and wore an army combat. I cannot remember any other description because it was dark. There were many other abductees but I did not count how many.

20. The rebels took me and other abductees with them and made the bigger people carry the very young ones. I was given to someone who had been abducted from the camp. We continued moving past Agweo into Acholiland until we got to Odipo. I now know that the place was called Odipo because [REDACTED] and I have been there several times since the attack.
21. The government soldiers led by OKELLO Engola came after us and started shooting at the rebels. I was thrown down and the rebels started running. It was already light by this time. I saw the rebels well and could tell the difference between the rebels and the soldiers. The rebels were very dark, had long unkempt hair and spoke Acholi. The government soldiers wore caps with a peak at the front which was the same colour as their uniform. The shooting was for a very short time.
22. Once the rebels had fled, OKELLO Engola took the children and put them in a vehicle. It was a double cabin a bit dark in colour like an army vehicle. I know that it was OKELLO Engola who brought us back to Abok camp because soon after in the same year he became the chairman LC5.

#### Return to the camp

23. When we returned to the camp, I saw several dead bodies, dead animals and burnt huts. I saw burnt bodies of children that had been taken out of the burnt huts. There were about three. I saw a dead man whose neck had been cut. Some of the goats were tied on the side of the huts so they got burnt. Some of the cows had been shot and were lying on the ground dead. I was with other children from the camp walking through the camp and seeing how the bodies were being collected.
24. The soldiers then left the camp. I think they went back to Oyam. The people who had remained in the camp started digging graves to bury the dead. The bodies were then gathered in an open space within the camp. They also started putting out some of the fire that was still burning in some huts. They also carried out some of the people who been burnt in the huts. I saw some people who had suffered injuries. I saw a girl who was shorter than me who had been burnt on the head. My parents were also there and I'd been reunited with them. It was only my mother who was in pain. She was taken to the hospital by my father but I remained in the camp with my grandparents.



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**Aftermath**

25. 

**ANNEXES**

*Annex A – Guardian’s consent to be interviewed.*

**Closing Procedure**

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. 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.
28. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.
29. There has not been any form of coercion, duress, threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my account.
30. I have no complaints about the way I was treated during this interview.

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**WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This statement has been read over to me in the Lango 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.



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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 22/04/2016

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### INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 22/04/2016

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