

Witness statement of OTIKA Terence Kanyum

Current Occupation: Lapul IDP camp commandant

Former Occupations: Youth councillor in Pajule sub-county

Place of Interview: [REDACTED] Lira

Date of Interview: 17 April 2005, 1035 hrs – 1710 hrs

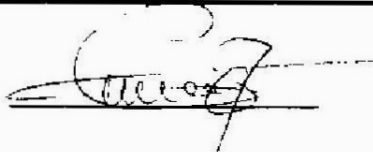
18 April 2005, 0825 hrs – 1255 hrs


Interviewers: Dianne Luping, Paula Mattila

Interpreter: [REDACTED]

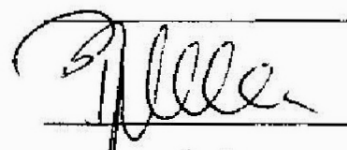
Names of all persons present during Interview: Dianne Luping, Paula Mattila, [REDACTED]
Otika Terence Kayum

Signature(s):


18-4-2005


18/4/05

[REDACTED]
18-04-05


18/4/05



WITNESS STATEMENT

Procedure

1. I was introduced to Dianne Luping, Associate Investigator, and Paula Mattila, Associate Analyst, and told that they work with the Office of the Prosecutor ("OTP") of the International Criminal Court ("ICC").
2. The investigators explained what the ICC is and described its mandate. They also explained the role and authority of the OTP within the ICC.
3. I was told that this interview is voluntary and that I may end the interview at any time. I confirm that I agreed to answer the investigators' questions of my own free will.
4. I was asked if I had concerns regarding my protection and security. The security measures which are available to me have been explained.
5. I was explained that individuals who in the judgement of 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 Unit and its function.
6. 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 and add any corrections or additional information.

Statement of facts

Background information and previous attacks on the camp:

7. I came to the area originally in 1990 from my home village Koyo Lalogi in fear of abductions by the 'Lakwena' the 'Holy Spirit' (known now as the LRA), and moved to Olam-pur located about one mile from the trading centre. I have lived in my present house located inside the trading centre since 1992. In 1997 my parents and half of the residents of what became Lapul came to the location of the current camp, but in the year 2000 most of the people went back home. I remained with my wife and children. Lapul IDP camp, which includes my home that I have lived in since 1992, came into existence in 2002.
8. There have been many attacks on the Pajule-Lapul IDP camps and it is hard for me to remember the dates. One attack took place on 23 January 2003, and I was present during this attack. There have been other attacks when I have been present, and others when I have not been present in the camp.
9. I am not aware of any previous approaches on the camp prior to the attack in October 2003.

Attack on the camp in October 2003:

10. I was present in the camp when an attack took place on 10 October 2003. I was in my house with my wife and children, and the children were sleeping in the

UGA.00147.216



UGA-OTP-0283-0039

OK
PM DL

Witness statement of OTIKA Terence Kanyum

other two rooms. My parents who also live in the camp were in a different house. My house is located on the Lapul IDP camp side of the main road, within the trading centre.

11. I first became aware of an attack beginning when I heard guns being fired around five o'clock in the morning. I am not sure of the time, because I do not have a watch, but I am usually awake at that time. In addition to the sound of guns I also heard the sounds of whistles being blown and ululations of the 'kijera' style. The sounds seemed at first to be coming from the west side of the camp, from the direction of the barracks. After a while, I heard gunshots and ululations coming from all other directions.
12. When the sounds of the gunshots ceased for a period, I heard loud hitting on the doors of houses. Then the gunshots went off again. This continued for a while. Every time the guns fell silent, I could hear the hitting of the doors again. After about thirty minutes, I heard my elder boys in my house calling for me shouting that we should run out. Three of them began to run, but I managed to pull one of them into my room and stuck him under a bed. After five minutes I heard a bullet hitting the padlock of my door and the door being opened. My thought was that this time I would either be killed or abducted, and I told my wife to pray. I began to make the sign of the cross. I heard somebody saying that there was nothing in here and they went away. These rebels were speaking in Acholi. I also heard someone else saying not far from my house "let that Muzee carry the sodas". Then these rebels went away.
13. I know the attackers to the camp were rebels because of the noises they were making. They were blowing whistles and they had girls with them making the sound of 'kijera' ululations. This is what usually happens when the rebels attack.
14. The gunshots continued in the same intermittent way until about six o'clock in the morning. That is when I heard gunshots coming from the side of Lira, from the main road. I could also hear shouting in Ki-Swahili, which I do not understand. After that I heard a helicopter roaring above, but I did not see it because I was still in my house. The government soldiers shouting in Ki-Swahili began to pass my house; some were moving on the main road; and some on the other side of the main road. I could hear them moving, although I did not see them. After they had passed my house, I could hear the sounds of guns going off again.
15. After the soldiers had passed I got up because I thought it was clear now and it was also past daybreak. I am not aware of the exact time, but I assume it was around seven o'clock in the morning. I went outside where I could see also other people coming out of their houses. I could see the community leaders beginning to gather to see what had happened. I headed off to see my parents, and met them inside their house. After their place I proceeded to my brother's house to check on his wife and children, and found them all outside. I asked whether anything bad had happened, and they told the door was not broken, but a bullet had been shot through. Then I returned home.



TH OIK
DL



Witness statement of OTIKA Terence Kanyum

16. On the way to my parents' and my brother's place, I did not see any dead or injured people. I could see many houses and shops that had been broken into. I also saw houses burning in the Pajule camp, but not in Lapul.
17. When I left to check on my parents and my brother's family, I could hear gunshots coming from a distance, from the Pajule side, going towards east. The sounds were still audible when I returned. I think the gunshots went on until about eight o'clock in the morning.
18. When I returned home I heard people had died near the barracks. I started going towards the barracks, because I was worried for my two children, who had run out of our house and had not yet come back. When I reached the shelter, the soldiers were refusing to let the people move ahead and blocking the way to the barracks. At that time I heard that one of my sons OCAYA had returned, so I did not proceed all the way to where the soldiers were and went back home where I found both my sons had returned.
19. When I got back home, people were seated outside. We understood the commander of the government army. Paul LOKECH, had arrived and gone to the barracks.
20. When the government soldiers returned to the camp we began to look around and see what had happened. That is when we began to hear news of the abductions. I was told my neighbour OYAT Masimino had been taken to carry sodas. At the time I got back home, OYAT had returned, so I went up to him and asked how he had returned. He told me he had escaped when the helicopter had hovered around them causing the rebels to seek cover. He had escaped during one of these moments, like certain other abducted people. OYAT told me that he saw many abducted people escape this way but he had also seen the rebels go off with a large number of people. OYAT also said that when the helicopter came the rebels had begun torching houses on Pajule side.
21. Among the abductees was also Rwot OYWAK Joseph. When people heard he had been abducted, they began to gather in his home, thinking he would return soon. Towards the evening we received the word that some people had returned, but that the rebels had refused to release the Rwot. After hearing this, some of the people began to go back to their homes to finish off the food and drinks, since the previous day had been Independence Day and there had been celebrations.
22. I know abducted people were killed on the way when they were taken by the rebels. Among the killed was a typist from Pajule who had been born in Lapul and was called LACUNG. I could see the family of LACUNG gathering to go and see the place where he had been killed. They set off and collected his dead body. He was buried the next day; we all attended the funeral. When I saw the body, it was wrapped, but the brother of the dead person, OKEMA O Ben, told me LACUNG had been shot in the back. OKEMA told me he had collected the body from the road. He also told me that the leaders had told him the body should just have been left where it was and covered with leaves according to the Acholi custom, but OKEMA had refused and brought the body home.



PA OTH
DL



Witness statement of OTIKA Terence Kanyum

23. We also heard that people had died on the Pajule side, and the parents of the dead began to go to that direction. One of the dead people in Pajule called OJOK Patrick was from Lapul side and his name is included in the records of the dead people I have provided to the investigators.
24. Another person I heard being killed was APANG, and he was from the Pajule side of the camp. I am not aware of any details of his death. The people who brought the news of the death of LACUNG told us about this other death.
25. Around five o'clock in the afternoon we began to hear gunshots again. The gunshots were coming from the middle of the trading centre. I hid in the bush with my family, but the next day I was told that it had been the government soldiers shooting in the air. I was wondering why the government soldiers would be shooting in the air after something bad had happened, but I was told then that the commander, LOKECH, had entered the barracks and congratulated his soldiers on how they had repelled the rebels who entered the barracks. The soldiers were drunk and shooting for joy.
26. I have no knowledge of the LRA commanders or groups taking part in the attack of October 2003.

Sources of information pertaining to attacks on camps:

27. When an attack happens in a camp, the information of the attack is passed on to the office of the camp commandant, the office of the LC3, and the Disaster Management Committee, which are three separate chains of reporting.
28. Information reaching the camp commandant is collected directly and/or through block leaders, who in turn collect it from village leaders. Blocks are equivalent to parishes. There are four blocks in Lapul sub-county. Ogole parish is referred to as Block G, Atoo as Block H, Koyo as Block I, and Lukaci as Block J. All block leaders who were in office during the attack are still around.
29. The previous camp commandant of Lapul was called ANYWAR Joseph, and he died in March 2003 of disease. I was elected camp commandant on 12 December 2003, and I assumed office on 20 December 2003. During the attack in October 2003, the deputy to the camp commandant, ONEKA David, was acting camp commandant. He was replaced at the time I was elected, and he left to Bweyale in Masindi District.
30. The office of the LC3 (sub-county level) collects its information through the Local Council (LC) structure, i.e. through parishes (LC2) and villages (LC1). The LC structure is separate to the camp structure in acquiring information. However, my predecessor as camp commandant, ANYWAR, held also the position of the chairperson of LC3, and during the time of the attack since ANYWAR was dead, the vice LC3 chairperson was in charge. The vice LC3 chairperson is called Mrs Helen OPWAR, and she is also the vice LC3 chairperson today. The current LC3 chairperson is called OTOO Paul Komakech, and he has been elected only recently to the office. In addition to holding the office of LC3, OTOO is also my deputy camp commandant in the



PK OTIK
AK

Witness statement of OTIKA Terence Kanyum

Lapul camp. LC3's office will have originals of their own records received through the LC structure pertaining to the attack in October 2003.

31. The Disaster Management Committee, which is a sub-county level management committee, is headed by the Sub-county Chief. The Committee represents a third separate source of information, and it receives its information either directly from individuals or from the parish chiefs. During the attack of October 2003 the Committee was headed by the previous Sub-County Chief called OYET, who was also present during the attack. OYET has been transferred and he is now the Sub-County Chief of Parabongo sub-county in Agago County, Pader District. I believe the current Sub-County Chief should have access to any records, which would have been compiled in relation to the October 2003 attack. The current Sub-County chief is called AKONGO Eunice and she took office in 2004.
32. A fourth source of information for records pertaining to attacks on camps are the community volunteer councillors (CVC), a concept introduced by an Italian NGO called AVSI. The CVC's are local volunteers who compile their records e.g. when attacks take place in the camps. The CVC's provide these records directly to AVSI, but also keep their own copies.
33. When I came into office, I asked the acting camp commandant ONEKA to hand over all records to me. The only records he provided to me were the numbers of the people in the camp in the document, which I have provided to the investigators. I never saw any records that may have been kept by my predecessor ANYWAR.
34. My secretary OKEMA O Ben, brother of the late LACUNG, is a community volunteer councillor in addition to being the secretary of the camp. I assigned OKEMA, on about 25 June 2004, as responsible for recording any abductions from Lapul IDP camp and recording return of abductees.
35. After the request from the ICC for me to provide records relevant to the attack on Lapul IDP camp in October 2003, I asked OKEMA O Ben to provide this information.
36. OKEMA wrote down the information I requested, copying it from original records to which he had access at the office of the CVC. This information he copied is contained in documents that I have provided to the investigators as originals. As OKEMA copied the information at the CVC offices, I believe the CVC records would have been his primary source of information. OKEMA might have had access or included through some other means also certain records of the former vice camp commandant or camp commandant, but I am not sure. In his position as the secretary of the camp, OKEMA would have had access only to information related to the camp structure, not to the LC structure information.
37. I have provided the investigators the original documents the camp secretary OKEMA compiled on my request, as described above. All the documents I have



PH OTIK
DL

Witness statement of OTIKA Terence Kanyum

provided to the investigators are attached to the pre-registration form, which includes my signed witness statement. The number of the form is 00488.

Abductions of people:

38. The first document I have provided is titled 'Data of abducted people from 2003 and 2004'. The document includes information from three of the four parishes of Lapul sub-county: Ogole, Koyo, and Lukaci. I am not certain if OKEMA has further information about abductions from Atoo parish for 2003.
39. I cannot say the exact number of people who were abducted in October 2003. I was not yet at the time the camp commandant and was not involved in the process of calculating numbers abducted or of those who returned. I did not make any notes of the numbers or other information pertaining to the abductions at the time. The records I showed to the investigators indicate that seven individuals from Lapul IDP camp were reported as being abducted on 10 October 2003. In my view this cannot be the total number, since I am aware that many more were abducted from Lapul IDP camp during the October 2003 attack.
40. I never saw abductees being taken out of the camp, because I was still inside my house when this happened. However, I estimate that around 700 people were abducted altogether from both of the camps on 10 October 2003. I am basing my estimate on the information given by the people who returned and on the information conveyed to me by the Rwot upon his return.
41. The primary source of information about an abducted person is usually the relatives of that person, who report the abduction either directly to the camp commandant or to the lower levels. Only information about an abduction that has been specifically reported to one of these officials is recorded. Some relatives never report the abductions, which means information can be missing from the official records.
42. I am not aware of the number of groups of abductees, which were taken out of the camp and in which direction they left, since I was not outside my house when this happened.
43. I was not present when the released people came back, but the Rwot told me the same day he was released that he came back with about 400 people. He came back with elder people and women with children who had been abducted. Most of those released were women.
44. The second document I have provided is titled "Data of people abducted in the year 2002", and the information pertains to the parishes of Ogole, Koyo, Lukaci and Atoo.

People killed:

45. The third document I have provided is a list titled 'Data of people killed in the camp attack 10.10.2003'. The list includes four names: OJOK Patrick (27 years), LACUNG Ben Kinyera (48 years), KOMAKECH Justine (16 years), and ORACH James (15 years). In my view, this list is not exhaustive, since it



PM OJK
OL

Witness statement of OTIKA Terence Kanyum

includes only the persons reported dead by their relatives, and again the relatives are usually the primary source of information about people killed and they might not all report the death of their family members.

46. From the names on the list, I was informed that Patrick OJOK was shot. I cannot remember the names of the people who told me this. I did not see the body, but I attended his funeral at the Mission cemetery. I saw the body of LACUNG myself, and attended also his funeral, which was at the Protestant cemetery.
47. I never saw the bodies of ORACH and KOMAKECH, but the parents reported the death of their sons. I know they were buried according to the Acholi custom of placing leaves on the dead bodies at the place of death. I am not aware how ORACH and KOMAKECH died.
48. I have no information of people having been killed on the subsequent days of the attack. Any reports made would most likely have gone to the LC 3's office. I am not aware if any reports of people killed went to the vice camp commandant at the time.
49. The fourth document I have provided is a list titled 'Data of people killed in the camp attack 23-1-2003'.
50. The fifth document I have provided is titled 'Data of people killed in Lapul IDP camp from 2002 – 2005 not in direct camp attack'. The list of those killed includes three reported by their relatives as having been killed by the UPDF. For example, according to the relatives of Opio A Justine, the UPDF had suspected him of being an LRA collaborator and he was killed at the UPDF barracks at Achol Pii.

Houses burnt:

51. The sixth document I have provided is titled 'Names of those whose houses were burnt during Lapul IDP camp attack on the 23rd-Jan-2003 by LRA'.
52. I am not aware of records taken by the previous vice camp commandant, LC 3 or CVCs in relation to burning of houses.

Looting of the camp:

53. I am not aware of records from the camp structure pertaining to looting of houses and shops during the October 2003 attack.
54. I believe the LC 3 and CVC records include records of looting.

Documents pertaining to population figures of the camp:

55. The seventh document I have provided to the investigators includes population figures as of 26 November 2003, and includes a title called 'Summary on the total number of households and population of the s/county'. The document is referenced as being compiled by ONEKA David, Camp Commandant. This was the only document provided to me by ONEKA David, as I described previously. The back of the document has information about food distribution at Lapul IDP



TH OTH
DL

Witness statement of OTIKA Terence Kanyum

camp written in Acholi and dated 22 December 2003. I am not certain whose handwriting this is.

56. The eighth document I have provided shows population figures for Lapul IDP camp, which was compiled by my office in April 2004. I wrote the document.

Closing Procedure

57. I have nothing to add to the above statement nor do I have anything to clarify.
58. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.
59. There has been no threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my answers.
60. I have no complaints about the way I was treated during this interview.
61. I was informed that I might be called to testify before the Court and that, if called as a witness, my identity may have to be disclosed to the Court, the accused, and to defence counsel of the accused. I am currently willing to appear as a witness in Court, if called to testify.
62. I was informed of the procedures available to the Court of ensuring the protection of confidential information provided to the Court, as well as for my own protection and security.
63. It has been explained to me that if a case commences, and a nation asks the Court for a copy of my witness statement, the Court may decide to transmit my statement to the requesting nation. I was informed that protective measures may be available in such an event. I agree that my statement may be transmitted to law enforcement authorities of nations who might request it, including the Government of Uganda.

WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

Signed: 

Dated: 18-11-2005





Fal OL

INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

1.  certify that:

1. I am duly qualified to interpret from the Acholi language into the English language and from the English language into the Acholi language.
2. I have been informed by OTIKA Terence Kanyum that he speaks and understands the Acholi language.
3. I have orally translated the above statement from the English language to the Acholi language in the presence of OTIKA Terence Kanyum, who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of the Statement.
4. OTIKA Terence Kanyum 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.

Dated: 18-01-2005

Signed: 



DL
O.T.K.
PM