

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Last Name: ODORA | Gender: Male |
| First Name: Zakeo | Father's Name: OKUTU Among (deceased) |
| Other names used: N/A | Mother's Name: ALOBO Nekolina |
| Place of Birth: Odek | Passport / ID number: ██████████ |
| Date of Birth: 10/10/1966 | Nationality: Ugandan |
| Ethnicity: Acholi | Religion: Catholic |

Language(s) Spoken: Acholi, a little English

Language(s) Written: Acholi, a little English

Language(s) Used in Interview: Acholi, English

Occupation: Peasant farmer

Place of Interview: ██████████ | Gulu, Uganda

Date(s) and Time(s) of Interview:

22 May 2016 (15:21-16:55)

23 May 2016 (09:30-11:00; 11:10-11:27; 11:37-12:05; 12:14-13:15; 14:26-15:45)

24 May 2016 (10:05-11:14; 11:26-13:00)

Names of all persons present during interview: Zakeo ODORA (Witness), ██████████
██████████ (Investigator), Paul BRADFIELD (Assistant Legal Officer) and ██████████
██████████ (Interpreter).

Signature(s): _____ Zmadabane Odora Zakeo.
 _____ ██
 _____ P. Bradfield Paul Bradfield
 _____ ██

Witness statement of Zakeo ODORA

UGA-OTP-0264-0242
1 78945 1515 1515 1515 1515 1515

WITNESS STATEMENT

Procedure

1. I was introduced to [REDACTED] and Paul BRADFIELD and told that they are investigator and a lawyer working with the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC). I was introduced to [REDACTED] and told that he is an interpreter with 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 from 1 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 agree that this interview will be conducted in the Acholi and the English language. I fully understand and speak the Acholi language.
5. The investigators explained to me that I do not have to answer to their questions but if I do, I have to tell the truth.
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 need to be as accurate as possible in my account and that I state when I do not know 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.

ICC RESTRICTED Page 2 of 10

OZ



Background and move to Odek IDP camp

11. I moved to the camp together with my family in 2002, including my two wives, ADONG Margaret and LAKOT Florence, and our children.
12. The names of the children I had with Margaret ADONG who came with us to the camp were: OJOK Denis, aged 20, LAKICA Gloria, aged 15, OTTO Richard, aged 8, OPIO Kenneth, aged 6, AKULLU Monica, aged 1, ALIMO Concy, aged under 1 year and OKUMU Richard, aged four.
13. The names of the children I had with LAKOT Florence who came with us to the camp were: OPIO Kennedy, aged 3 and AROMO Irene, aged under 1 year.
14. My neighbors also moved to the camp at the same time. We received orders from the local UPDF commander called GOBARACH and the Local Chairperson ("LC-3"), OLOBO Matthew, to move to the camp. Prior to moving to there, my home was in Kal, which was about half of a kilometer from the site of the camp. My former home was situated beside the barracks, and we were told we could not live so close to the barracks.
15. In the camp, I lived in a hut which was situated on the lower side of the barracks. At the time, there were about 1,000 huts in the camp, with a population of around 3,000 people. It was divided into three blocks: A, B and C. The camp leader was named OTTOBER Mario. He was elected leader when the camp was established, and remained in the position until the camp was disbanded. Nine executives assisted him, as well as a secretary-general, named OLANYA Martin. ALING Mary was the vice-camp leader.
16. I was the leader of Block A, OJOK Lakini was the leader of Block B and OTTO ENCIO was the leader of Block C. As Block leaders, our role was to register the number of residents within our own Block. We also played a role in resolving conflicts, such as petty theft. ODONG Naku, OJOK Mark and ODOKI Severino were elders who advised us on cultural matters.
17. My family lived in four grass thatched huts, all of them close to each other. The camp did not have many facilities, but there was a Health Centre. The World Food Programme ("WFP") also distributed food to the camp, beginning in 2002.
18. Before the attack on 29 April 2004, there were incidents of local people being abducted by the rebels when they were digging in their gardens. The UPDF mobile unit and LDU soldiers would patrol the camp at night to ensure security. I would estimate that there were around 200 soldiers based at the camp. The government soldiers wore two kinds of uniforms. One type of uniform had green camouflage, while the other had a plain color. They carried guns and bombs when they moved; one of the guns was called "AKA".

02

Attack on Odek IDP camp

19. There was no prior warning of a rebel attack on the camp. People were just doing their normal activities, and working in the gardens close to the camp. About two weeks before the attack, the WFP had distributed yellow corn, beans and cooking oil to the camp residents.
20. On 29 April 2004, at around 5pm, the rebels of Joseph KONY attacked Odek IDP camp. I learned the identity of the attacking group from people who were abducted during the attack and later returned. When the attack began, I was seated outside my hut with OWING Obol, a teacher at Odek P-7 School. My children were also at home. The rebels entered from the side of the barracks, attacking and dispersing the government soldiers. I saw the soldiers running away. The rebels burned the huts surrounding the barracks. I saw myself the barracks go up in flames, as my own hut was close by. After killing some of the soldiers, I myself saw the rebel attackers from less than a kilometre away as they approached the camp. They started shooting at civilians. Anyone the rebels saw, they shot at them. They even opened the doors of huts and shot people inside.
21. The rebels moved in a line as they attacked. They were pointing their guns at us, shouting in Acholi: "catch these drunkards." Some of the government soldiers in the camp were drinking at the time. The rebels had similar uniforms to the government soldiers, with patches of green, and also wearing gumboots. But I could tell they were not government soldiers. For example, I saw that one of the rebels was a woman, carrying a child on her back, pointing her gun at us. The attackers also had twisted dreadlocks in their hair, and were shouting in the Acholi language, whereas most of the government soldiers in the camp spoke Swahili. Some of the rebels were also young, some around 18 years old. The attackers were also shooting directly at civilians. Government soldiers did not do this.
22. I began running towards the Odek River with my two wives and children. OWING Obol and his family also ran away, as did many other camp residents. As we ran, I personally saw two civilians being shot by the rebels.
23. The first civilian I saw being shot was named OKOYA, who was aged 20 and newly married. He was shot in the back as he ran away. I saw him fall down ahead of me. Blood started flowing out of him. I have marked the location of his shooting on a sketch of Odek IDP camp that I have drawn with the word "Okoya". This sketch is annexed to my statement (Annex A).
24. The second civilian I saw shot was a pregnant lady called ACIRO Monica. She was aged around 26 years. I saw as she was shot in the legs as she ran. She was shouting for help, but we could only keep running for our lives. The following day, her husband, named ORACH Michael, took her to Odek Health Centre, but she died

OZ

from her injuries. She was heavily pregnant. Because she died, the baby also died. I have marked the location of her shooting on a sketch of Odek IDP camp that I have drawn with the words "Aciro Monica". OKOYA and ACIRO Monica were the two people that I saw being shot during the attack.

25. I and my family all ran to the Odek River to hide from the bullets. I could hear people crying and wailing in the camp. They were crying out from their injuries, and for missing family members. We could do nothing but wait. I and many other camp residents sat low in the river, fearing for our lives. I could then hear government soldiers approaching from the direction of Awere. I heard them exchanging fire with the rebels. Later, I learned from some of the abducted women that the rebels departed in the direction of Lakim. I have marked the direction of Lakim on a sketch of Odek IDP camp that I have drawn with the words "Lakim Road". As the sun was setting, the gunfire stopped. It then began to rain heavily. We stayed in the river through the night, as we were too afraid to move.

Aftermath

26. The following day, on 30 April 2004, civilians began moving back to the camp as the sun was rising. As I approached Block C of the camp, I saw that my two bulls were shot dead, with bullet wounds in the head and body. My bulls were very important to me, as I used these bulls to dig and farm my land with a horse-plough. Without them, I was unable to cultivate my land. Other residents also had livestock that were killed. Two years passed before I was able to replace the bulls I lost.
27. As I moved into the camp, I heard the cries of ALAKA Kerobina, the wife to my uncle, OKOT Valentino. She was crying: "Okot, you have left me now!" When I arrived, I saw that OKOT Valentino had been shot in the chest. He was lying face down, and covered in blood. I began looking for a blanket to cover OKOT's body. I have marked the location where I found OKOT Valentino's body on a sketch of Odek IDP camp that I have drawn with the words "Okot Valentino".
28. I was then told by my neighbour that APIYO Doris, the wife to my nephew OJOK, was also shot dead. I went and saw APIYO Doris' body. She was also lying face down on the ground, shot in the back of the head. Her baby boy, named OPIRA, was still tied to her back. He was crying so loud, I removed OPIRA from his mother's back, and wrapped him in a blanket. He was not more than one year at the time. He is now living in Odek. APIYO Doris was a mother to two young children, and was aged around 22 at the time. I have marked the location where I found APIYO Doris' body on a sketch of Odek IDP camp that I have drawn with the word "Apiyo".

02

29. My brother in-law, OBANGOMOKO, who was a Catechist, also died from gunshot wounds. I saw his body covered in blood. I found him close to the latrine in Block B. He was aged around 37 at the time. He left behind a wife and three young children, but the wife has since died. I have marked the location where I found his body on a sketch of Odek IDP camp that I have drawn with the word "Obangomoko".

Burying of the deceased

30. We began looking for a suitable place to bury the victims, as the sun was strong and the bodies were starting to decompose in the heat. I volunteered a piece of my land to be used as a grave site. I discussed this with my family members, OJOK Cement, OJERA Walter, ODONG Naku and ODONG Alfonsio. We agreed that the land be offered as a grave site.

31. Around 16 bodies were buried on a plot of my land, which was about an acre in size. I saw all of these bodies myself; as I helped to carry the bodies to the grave site and directed the digging of the graves. Other camp residents who helped to dig graves on my land included: OLAM Wilberforce, OJOK Francis, OKELLO Oyik, ODONG Alfonsio, ODOKI Benson, OCAN Christopher, ODOCH Patrick and ACAYA Patrick. People from the nearby Acet and Awere IDP camps also came to help us to dig the graves.

32. Of those buried on my land after the attack, I remember the names of my relatives OKOYA, OKOT Valentino and OBANGOMOKO. APIYO Doris and ACAYO Kerobina were among the women buried there. Also buried on my land were the wife of AGUDU and her grandson, aged around 4 years. She was found with her grandson wrapped around her back. She had been shot in the breast. The bullet had passed through her, and killed the boy on her back. We buried them in separate graves beside each other.

33. All of the bodies we buried were covered in blood. Most of the dead buried on my land were middle-aged women and children. I have marked the location where the bodies were buried on my land on a sketch of Odek IDP camp that I have drawn with the words "Graves on my land". Another grave site was located on the other side of the Gulu-Moroto Road, just before the start of Odek trading centre. I marked this location as "Graves" on the same sketch.

34. In the Acholi culture, when someone suffers a violent death, we dig a shallow grave and place wooden logs which are tied together and put over the body. This is to allow the spirit of the person to move freely. Big stones are also placed around the grave, so that people know a person is buried there.

⓪ z

35. The LC-1, ONEKALIT Salim, drafted a death certificate for APIYO Doris. I have this certificate in my home. The certificate for OKOT Valentino is with his wife, ALAKA Kerobina, who still lives in Odek. The camp leader, OTTOBER Mario, registered the numbers of dead in the camp, block by block.
36. Around 48 civilians were shot dead in the camp. One 12 year-old girl died in the Odek River. The names of the four people are missing from the Odek memorial monument, as only 44 names are currently listed. However, I cannot recall the missing names right now.
37. Civilians also died in Odek trading centre. The day after the attack, I went there and saw the bodies of OKECH Kicikia and his wife, whose name I don't now recall. They had gunshot wounds on their bodies. I saw their two bodies lying in front of their small shop. Both of them were in their 70's. OKECH Kicikia was a retired prison warden. I have marked the location of their bodies on a sketch of Odek IDP camp that I have drawn with the words "Okech Kicikia".
38. We didn't count the bodies of the UPDF soldiers, as we were not allowed to enter the barracks, but the soldiers told us that seven UPDF soldiers were killed. LAPII Paleo and his son OKENY are the names I know of two government soldiers who died in the attack. They were taken away to be buried in Acet IDP camp. I also saw the bodies of two rebels who were killed during the attack. I could tell they were rebels because their hair was twisted in dreadlocks. They were not buried, as some angry camp residents burned their bodies on stones. I saw the burning of the bodies happen myself.
39. Some civilians were also injured, but their names were not recorded like the deceased. One lady I know was shot in the mouth, and she survived. I cannot remember her name, but she still lives in Odek.

Abducted people

40. Many civilians were abducted from Odek during the attack. The names of two of the abducted women that I know are ALUKU Doreen, then aged around 38, and AKELLO Ventorina, then aged around 58. Both of them are from my clan. They told me they were each made to carry bags of beans and posho weighing 50 kilograms each. They said they were led away by the rebels in the direction of Lakim. After about two days, ALUKU Doreen and AKELLO Ventorina were released. They confirmed to me that the attackers were KONY's rebels.
41. Men were also abducted from Odek, but none of the men returned. Of them, I remember the names of OTTO Fabio, ATII, OTIKU and AYELLA. ALUKU Doreen and AKELLO Ventorina told me that they saw these men being killed in the bush.

07

They told me that some of the abducted men were killed out of revenge, because a LRA commander, who was injured in the attack, later died in the bush.

42. Young boys and girls were also abducted during the attack. I am aware of only one boy who came back. His name is ODONG Pai-Pai, he is around 22 years old now and is living in Odek. I know his age as he is of a similar age to my son OTTO Richard, who is around 21 today. They grew up at the same time.

43. [REDACTED] After he returned from the bush, ODONG Pai-Pai used to have angry outbursts for no reason. The community took him for prayers to try and calm his feelings. I am also aware of one girl from Binya in Odek sub-county who was abducted during the attack and returned around two years later. I don't know her name, but I would estimate her to be in her late 20's. She lives in Binya.

Pillaging

44. During the attack, the rebels stole lots of food from the camp, such as cooking oil, maize, beans and posho, which is the staple food of the local people, it is made from maize flour. Almost all of the food that had been recently distributed by the WFP was taken by the rebels. The day after the attack, I went to Odek trading centre and saw all the doors to the shops had been broken. The rebels had broken into the shops and stolen items like salt and sugar. I could see myself that the shops were empty inside.

45. The camp residents suffered so much as result of the rebels stealing the food. Many people suffered from intense hunger, including my own children. Other nearby IDP camps in Awere, Acet and Aromo donated some of their food to assist us.

Visit of local officials

46. Local government officials including the LC-3, OLOBO Matthew, the speaker of Gulu Local Government, Ben ACELLAM and the local UPDF Commander from Gulu came to visit the camp after the attack. They told the civilians to be calm, and that they would increase security at the camp. Government soldiers also cleared a new piece of land to erect a new barracks beside the camp. Additional soldiers were deployed to secure the camp.

47. I was asked whether I am aware of any official military or police investigation into the attack on Odek. I am not aware.

02

Victim Application

48. Last year, I filled out a victim's application form with a lady who visited from the ICC, where I described the harm that I suffered during the attack on Odek on 29 April 2004. I have not given any other statement to an NGO or other person.

Annexes

49. I drew a sketch of Odek IDP camp as it was on 29 April 2004 during the attack. This sketch is annexed to this statement as "Annex A". I utilized my knowledge of the camp as it was then and the information provided to me by other camp residents to indicate the movement of the rebels during the attack.

Closing Procedure

50. 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 on the procedure for applications. I consent to my personal data being shared with the Victims' Participation and Reparation Unit.

51. 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.

52. The investigators informed me of the protective measures that may apply during and after the investigation and/or trial proceeding.

53. 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.

54. I have given the answers to the questions of my own free will.

55. There has not been any form of coercion, duress, threat, promise or inducement which has influenced my account.

56. I have no complaints about the way I was treated during this interview.

02

WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, Zakeo ODORA, have had this statement read over to me in the 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: Emadalenus

Dated: 24/05/2016

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 Zakeo ODORA 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 Zakeo ODORA, who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this statement.
5. Zakeo ODORA 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: 24 | 05 | 2016
