

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: UGA-OTP-P-0024

(Open Session)

ICC-02/04-01/15

1 International Criminal Court
2 Trial Chamber IX
3 Situation: Republic of Uganda
4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen - ICC-02/04-01/15
5 Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt, Judge Péter Kovács and Judge Raul Pangalangan
6 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 3
7 Friday, 2 June 2017
8 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.31 a.m.)
9 THE COURT USHER: [9:31:30] All rise.
10 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
11 Please be seated.
12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:51] Good morning, everyone.
13 Good morning, Madam Witness. Welcome again in the courtroom.
14 WITNESS: UGA-OTP-P-0024 (On former oath)
15 (The witness speaks Acholi)
16 THE WITNESS: [9:32:05] (Interpretation) Good morning. Thank you very much
17 as well. Thank you.
18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:09] Could the court officer please call the
19 case.
20 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:32:12] Good morning, your Honours.
21 The situation in Uganda, in the case of the Prosecutor versus Dominic Ongwen, case
22 reference ICC-02/04-01/15.
23 And for the record, we are in open session.
24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:26] Thank you very much.
25 I ask for the appearances of the parties. We start with the Prosecution.

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1 Mrs Nuzban.

2 MS NUZBAN: [9:32:33] Good morning, your Honours. Yulia Nuzban for the
3 Prosecution. With me in Court, Ben Gumpert, Pubudu Sachithanandan, Beti Hohler,
4 Colin Black, Paul Bradfield, Elizabeth Flatley, Yya Aragon, Ramu Bittaye, Adesola
5 Adeboyejo and Yeasin Khan. Thank you.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:01] Thank you very much. And for the
7 Legal Representatives of the Victims.

8 Mrs Hirst first.

9 MS HIRST: [9:33:05] Good morning, your Honours. For the Legal
10 Representatives of the Victims, I am Megan Hirst. With me is James Mawira.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:09] Thank you.

12 Mr Narantsetseg.

13 MR NARANTSETSEG: [9:33:12] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
14 For the Common Legal Representatives, myself, Orchlou Narantsetseg, and with me,
15 Ms Caroline Walter.

16 Unfortunately, Ms Paolina Massidda is unable to come today because of her illness,
17 and she conveys her apology for her absence. Thank you.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:30] Please convey by the Chamber, and I
19 think by everybody in the courtroom, our wishes that she might feel better soon.

20 MR NARANTSETSEG: [9:33:33] I will do so, your Honour. Thank you.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:38] Thank you. And now the Defence,
22 please.

23 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:33:41] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours. My
24 name is Abigail Bridgman, and with me I have Thomas Obhof, Michael Rowse, Chief
25 Charles Achaleke Taku, and our client, Mr Ongwen, is in Court.

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- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:53] Thank you, Ms Bridgman.
- 2 I assume that you are conducting the examination by the Defence.
- 3 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:33:58] Yes, your Honour.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:00] Then I give you the floor.
- 5 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:34:06] Thank you.
- 6 The questions that I'm starting off with shall be in open session so I request that we
- 7 do so.
- 8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:11] We are in open session so we simply
- 9 continue.
- 10 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:34:14] I'm sorry, I meant private session.
- 11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:16] You meant private session?
- 12 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:34:19] Yes, your Honour.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:20] Then we go to private session, yes.
- 14 (Private session at 9.34 a.m.)
- 15 (Redacted)
- 16 (Redacted)
- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 (Redacted)
- 19 (Redacted)
- 20 (Redacted)
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8 (Open session at 10.04 a.m.)

9 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:04:39] We are back in open session, Mr President.

10 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:04:48]

11 Q. [10:04:48] Madam Witness, do you remember when you moved to Lukodi
12 camp?

13 A. [10:05:02] Well, I do not recall. I only know that people were told to return
14 back home because the situation had normalised. We went back to the village and
15 first stayed at one elder's place. He is called (Redacted). We stayed there for some
16 time and then we later on went back.

17 Q. [10:05:28] I think there is misunderstanding. I'm sorry. I'm going to ask the
18 question again. Before the attack, do you remember when you moved to Lukodi?

19 A. [10:05:44] To come from Laco-anga to go back to the school in Lukodi, I do not
20 recall. We only moved there when the situation was bad. So if they tell us to move,
21 then we relocate, so I do not recall the date because we were really -- the government
22 was telling people to move here, go here because of the situation. So you were only
23 concerned with your own protection, and you wouldn't know what certain things as
24 they were happening.

25 Q. [10:06:20] Do you remember how long you had stayed in Lukodi before the

1 attack?

2 A. [10:06:36] We were moving between the places. We would move from
3 Lukodi and go back to Laco-anga. We stayed there for quite a long time because
4 I was staying there as a housewife in that area. Even when the war started, we were
5 already there because we were together there and the market is close by.

6 Q. [10:06:58] How far away was the Laco-anga?

7 A. [10:07:06] It's about 2 miles from Lukodi centre.

8 Q. [10:07:13] Yesterday, you told Court that you were living in the same camp
9 with your uncle and mother and other family members; is that correct?

10 And, your Honours, I'm referring to realtime transcript at page 47.

11 A. [10:07:33] Yes. We were together with them because we were in the villages
12 before we came to that school, area close to the school. So we all came and stayed
13 within the neighbourhood before we were sent back to stay behind the school. Some
14 people were taken from Coopee and we were all put to stay at the school.

15 Q. [10:08:12] Yesterday, you also mentioned that they were living in Lalweny.
16 Was that still near the school?

17 A. [10:08:24] Yes, it's near. It's within the same area. Lalweny is the one same
18 centre which is close to Lukodi.

19 Q. So would I be correct to say that Lalweny, Lukodi and Laco-anga are within the
20 same vicinity?

21 A. [10:08:47] Yes, correct.

22 Q. [10:08:51] Is Coopee also within the same vicinity?

23 A. [10:09:02] Yes, it's all within Bungatira. So whatever comes, it will affect all
24 within the same area.

25 Q. [10:09:19] Was the camp divided in zones when you were living there before

1 the attack?

2 A. [10:09:28] No, we -- we were in the villages, so we came back to my husband's
3 sister, then from there, that's when -- because of the attacks in the villages, then you
4 would come and stay in the camp because it was difficult to sleep with the children in
5 the bush. So we had to come to where there was protection because the army was
6 within the centre near the school. So it was the government soldiers that brought
7 people from the villages, gathered people from the villages to come and stay within
8 the area so that it is easy to protect them.

9 Q. [10:10:10] Thank you, Madam Witness. If I say zone F or zone E, does that
10 ring is bell?

11 A. [10:10:22] I do not -- I do not really fully understand because we were just
12 staying. We were just staying there. At the time when people were now relocated,
13 that is when probably it was named, but we were staying with the -- we were really
14 having -- we were having difficulties.

15 Q. [10:10:49] If I say Rwodi Kweri, does that mean anything to you?

16 A. [10:10:59] Yes, I know Rwodi Kweri.

17 Q. [10:11:05] Can you please tell the Court what it is?

18 A. [10:11:19] Rwodi Kweri is a leader who helps to understand and know how
19 many people are in his area.

20 Q. [10:11:30] Do you know who Rwot Kweri was?

21 A. [10:11:38] Are you talking about Rwot Kweri from Laco-anga? If it is the one
22 from Laco-anga, then he was called Ojera.

23 Q. [10:11:48] Do you know who Lajabu Okumu was?

24 A. [10:12:03] I do not know. I don't know the Okumu you are talking about.

25 Q. [10:12:09] What about Abola Oryem?

- 1 A. [10:12:16] Abola, the one in Lukodi? No, I don't know. I don't know many
2 people in Lukodi.
- 3 Q. [10:12:24] Madam Witness, please indulge me with just a few more names and
4 you can -- I'm going to mention a name and you can tell me if you know them, and
5 you if you don't, that's okay. Do you know someone called Ojara Samuel?
- 6 A. [10:12:44] I don't know.
- 7 Q. [10:12:45] Abola Wilson?
- 8 A. [10:12:48] I don't know.
- 9 Q. [10:12:50] Okello Rose?
- 10 A. [10:12:53] I don't know.
- 11 Q. [10:12:58] Okello Vincent?
- 12 A. [10:13:02] I don't know all those. If I don't know, I don't know.
- 13 Q. [10:13:09] That's okay, Madam Witness. What about Atto Vasloda?
- 14 A. [10:13:16] I don't know.
- 15 Q. [10:13:22] Lastly, Kilama Wilson?
- 16 A. [10:13:30] I don't know all those ones.
- 17 Q. [10:13:33] Madam Witness, you testified yesterday that Lukodi had about 30
18 soldiers.
19 And that's realtime transcript 77 at page 33.
20 Is that correct?
- 21 A. [10:14:18] Yes, there were about 30 government soldiers.
- 22 Q. [10:14:21] How do you know the number?
- 23 A. [10:14:31] They are the ones who would tell us that they have this number of
24 people to protect the population. So when they are sent to work in the villages, they
25 have to be introduced to the people, and the community should be able to also

1 cooperate with them, so they would tell the people.

2 Q. [10:14:49] When you say they would tell the people, who would -- who would
3 be doing the telling and under what circumstances? Would it be, for instance, a
4 meeting?

5 A. [10:15:06] Yeah, they would call for meetings. Because usually, they will
6 have got information of something that is going to happen, so then they would
7 inform people. Sometimes when they are changing, replacing, the group with a new
8 group that will come, they would make that information. Some of them would stay
9 in Lalweny, some of them will stay deep at -- close to on Unyama river. And the last
10 group that came, they just stayed for a week, and then the attack happened. So
11 people were just staying within the camp, and there was nothing else that would
12 happen if you -- if you don't eat or if you have not had anything to eat and the attack
13 gets you, that's how you would stay. So they had to find a way of ensuring that
14 people are protected. So the attack happened and some people did not -- some
15 people were -- had to leave the place, came and stayed within Gulu town. Then
16 afterwards people had to be, you know, taken back home because it was difficult to
17 put everybody in the same area, in the same camp.

18 Q. [10:16:21] Was there any particular place where the meetings would be held
19 within the camp?

20 A. [10:16:33] There was no particular place where the meetings would happen,
21 but when they come they would just -- people would just be mobilised. The Rwot
22 Kweri and other leaders, other community leaders would remind people and would
23 tell people that these are good people, you have to stay well with them.
24 So usually when they ask you and you, you tell them what you have and what
25 information you have. But it was a difficult life, we had difficult life, because

1 sometimes you don't have any means of livelihood so you would just stay like that.

2 Q. [10:17:20] Madam Witness, there was a military barracks at Lukodi camp,
3 correct?

4 A. [10:17:31] The barracks were -- before the attack the army was staying within
5 the school, then after when the camp was put, then the camp -- the barracks was
6 moved to the hill in Lukodi there. Then people continued staying like that within
7 the camp, so we are even still there.

8 Q. [10:18:00] Did some of the meetings that you just mentioned earlier happen at
9 the school when the military was still there or at the hill when they moved?

10 A. [10:18:18] I do not know. We only -- you only see when the camp leaders and
11 the community leaders are coming to you and they are talking. You only now
12 follow and see -- you follow what you are being told to do. So if they say you do this
13 you have to do it exactly the way they have said it.

14 Q. [10:18:40] Now just to go back to something you just said a few minutes ago,
15 the soldiers were at the school and then they moved to the top of the hill; is that
16 correct?

17 A. [10:18:57] Yes, they went back onto the hills and that's where the camps -- they
18 put the barracks.

19 Q. [10:19:04] So would I be correct to say that none of the soldiers stayed at the
20 school?

21 A. [10:19:13] From the school in Lukodi they, they were only there temporarily
22 because they were not yet given a location where to stay, so that's where -- that's
23 where they are. So when the attack occurred, they were still even at the Lukodi
24 school. They hadn't moved to the hills. They were at the school. They were
25 exactly at the school even at the time of the attack.

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- 1 Q. [10:19:46] And am I right to say that your home was near the school?
- 2 A. [10:20:02] Yes, our home was close to the school.
- 3 Q. [10:20:07] How far away was it?
- 4 A. [10:20:14] Just about 1 miles.
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:20:29] I think we can just continue for the
6 moment, Mrs Bridgman.
- 7 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:20:36]
- 8 Q. [10:20:37] Yesterday you testified that one of your children was going to
9 school, correct?
- 10 A. [10:20:44] Yes, was going to school.
- 11 Q. [10:20:47] Is it at this school where the barracks was that he was going or was
12 it another school?
- 13 A. [10:20:55] The child was staying with my sister in town and the school was in
14 town, so he only came to me.
- 15 Q. [10:21:09] Were there any children going to that school where the barracks was
16 located?
- 17 A. [10:21:18] My children, all my children were still very young. (Redacted)
18 was the one that had started at Lukodi, but they found that he was still -- he was still
19 very young and he wouldn't manage. Then later on (Redacted) also tried, but with
20 the attack the school -- this school was disorganised and they all came back home.
- 21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:21:47] Madam Witness, generally, not looking
22 at your children, at the time when the attack occurred, was the school still also a
23 school for pupils or were only the military stationed there?
- 24 THE WITNESS: [10:22:09] (Interpretation) At that time there was no schooling
25 because the situation was bad. Only the military was at the school. We wouldn't

1 even -- it was not easy for us to get food. We were only relying on Caritas to give us
2 food. So that place was only military. It was a military place and there was no
3 teacher who would be able to even go to school. So there was no teacher and it was
4 only the military.

5 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:22:39]

6 Q. [10:22:40] Thank you, Madam Witness. Now the soldiers, did they wear a
7 particular uniform?

8 A. [10:22:51] The soldiers that were at Lukodi?

9 Q. [10:22:55] Yes, Madam Witness.

10 A. [10:22:58] Yeah, all of them had uniforms because they were sent from town to
11 come and protect the people. So they came and gathered people to come and stay in
12 the school so that they would work in the villages. So when people want to go to the
13 garden they will first go ahead to check the area and ensure that there was security.
14 Otherwise, it was not easy to stay, it was not possible to stay in the villages. People
15 had been killed. About seven people had been killed before and also within our
16 compound there somebody was killed, so it was not possible to stay in the area there.
17 We just continued with our plight and it was not easy at all.

18 Q. [10:23:53] Did the soldiers every now and then come to the camp?

19 A. [10:24:03] That was a school so they were actually staying at the school. They
20 would only come to protect the people and they were rotated frequently. So when a
21 group stays for some time they are taken back, another lot would come. So that 30,
22 that group of 30 soldiers had just been transferred to that point. So that is -- those
23 are now the people who were there when the attack occurred and we all met our
24 problems when in their hands.

25 Q. [10:25:04] Did the soldiers have any family members living amongst the

1 civilians?

2 A. [10:25:17] The soldiers were alone in the school. Well, of course there were
3 other people nearby there who moved and stayed closer to the school, but for them
4 they were at the school alone. In the surrounding there were other civilians, people
5 were moving closer to them so that they would be able to get security because they
6 were short of security. Mostly the people were in the villages so they moved, people
7 moved to stay closer so that they would be able to fill enough security.

8 Q. [10:26:03] When you say people were moving closer to the school, would you
9 say it was as close, let's say, to the distance between where you are seated and the
10 judges?

11 A. [10:26:20] No, it's a little further, at least probably -- they were actually just at
12 the edge of the school compound, because within the compound itself that's where
13 the military barrack was. You know, the school is large and so the people were
14 staying at the edges of the school compound.

15 Q. [10:26:46] Now, you mentioned that Caritas was providing food to the
16 civilians in the camp. Did the soldiers ever have to share that food with you?

17 A. [10:27:04] No. Caritas brought food for those of us who were not able to go
18 out to collect food in the villages because it was difficult to go out. It was not
19 possible to go out to the villages. Even the people within Lukodi itself, it was
20 difficult for them to go to their own fields to do their farming, so Caritas brought the
21 food items to help people for a temporary period. And when they brought the food
22 we just spent like two nights and the following day we had the attack and the foods
23 were taken.

24 Q. [10:27:44] Now, you mentioned that the soldiers were staying at the school
25 and in the compound of the school. Would I be correct to say that when we talk

1 about the compound of the school, it's like the playground where the children play
2 maybe football?

3 A. [10:28:04] Yes, the school playground.

4 Q. [10:28:08] Would I also be correct to say that the soldiers had pitched some of
5 their tents within that playground?

6 A. [10:28:19] Yes, they erected their tents within the compound.

7 Q. [10:28:25] Now, you mentioned that the civilians were on the edge of the
8 compound, correct?

9 A. [10:28:34] Yes, they were close to the compound, to the field.

10 Q. [10:28:38] Was there a fence around the compound of the school to separate
11 the civilians from the soldiers?

12 A. [10:28:48] No, there were no fence -- there was no fence there. With the
13 situation it was -- because when you -- when the -- when the fences were put, it was
14 feared that it could probably hurt people, so there were no fences. The fence has just
15 been put recently, but at that time there were no fence. The school was open. It
16 was actually destroyed.

17 Q. [10:29:19] Madam Witness, do you recall if there were any instances where
18 there were disputes between the government soldiers and the civilians?

19 A. [10:29:35] From Lukodi before the attack I did not hear about it.

20 Q. [10:29:54] And you told the Court this morning that the government made you
21 move to Lukodi; is that correct?

22 A. [10:30:04] Yes.

23 Q. [10:30:08] Now, before moving to Lukodi, when you were still in your village,
24 before the conflict became worse, how was life like in the village?

25 A. [10:30:33] We were just at home in the village, we would do our farming, we

1 even have cattles, and even while they were still -- they were already stabbing people,
2 but because you are living in your home life was okay, because you would have your
3 items, you know how to manage it, but after the war all our properties were
4 destroyed, home was destroyed because it was not easy to stay at home.

5 Q. [10:31:04] What kind of challenges did you experience while living in the
6 camp?

7 A. [10:31:24] Are you asking about Lukodi camp? Yeah, there was -- the main
8 problem was the -- the war and the way we were mistreated. Those were the main
9 problems we encountered.

10 Q. [10:31:42] Was it possible for you to go back home to the village?

11 A. [10:31:50] No, you could not go. How could you go? Which direction
12 would you take? You're in the camp to protect your life. No, it wasn't possible to
13 go.

14 Q. [10:32:02] Did you go back to do some farming maybe?

15 A. [10:32:05] No, it wasn't possible. If things are bad, things are bad. Nobody
16 went, nobody went to continue their farming. We all stayed in the camp. Because
17 government soldiers also told us that nobody should go to the villages, people should
18 stay in the camps so that if the problems continue then people would be moved
19 further. And we stayed there until the events happened. It wasn't a long time
20 before we were moved that the problem happened. We hadn't even been there for a
21 few weeks before we were attacked. Our lives were all in peril. We were all living
22 in the camps, everything was volatile.

23 Q. [10:32:58] Madam Witness, yesterday you testified, and at real transcript 77,
24 page 71, that sometimes you stealthily had to go to the farms; is that correct?

25 A. [10:33:23] Yes, that was before the situation became worse. When the

1 situation became worse, we were told -- we were prohibited from going because then
2 people would get injured.

3 (Counsel confers)

4 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:33:58]

5 Q. [10:33:59] You also testified that your son was working in the field at the time
6 of the attack; is that correct?

7 A. [10:34:10] Yes, he'd gone to check on his garden because he wanted to plant
8 some sweet potatoes in a location near where we were staying in Lukodi. So he
9 wanted to find a little plot so that we could start planting some sweet potatoes. He
10 had just come back from town. He was staying with my sister. We actually had
11 stopped him, we told him do not go because the situation it's very insecure but he
12 insisted and he went and he encountered problems on the way.

13 Q. [10:34:48] So even with the bad situation you were still able to plant crops,
14 including sweet potatoes and cotton and cassava and tobacco; is that correct?

15 A. [10:35:05] Yes, we did.

16 Q. [10:35:19] You also talked about the food portions from Caritas. Did you ever
17 receive any food from the government?

18 A. [10:35:34] No. At the time the government had not yet started providing
19 people with food. It was Caritas that was supplying us. It was only Caritas that
20 was supplying us food. They gave us beans, they gave us maize, they gave us
21 cooking oil and they gave us clothes. We did not have clothes at the time. So they
22 gave us some blankets to help with the children and other provisions to help us
23 survive.

24 Q. [10:36:06] Was there any time where the government soldiers took away your
25 crops or destroyed your gardens?

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1 A. [10:36:20] No. The government soldiers did not destroy our things. If they
2 went, for example, if they are out on surveillance, if they are hungry, they would
3 take -- if they came across some crops in the field, then would use them because they
4 used to go trek long distances. So if they came across anything, if they were hungry,
5 if they came across food, then they would eat it because they would go, they would
6 collect people and bring them back. If they see people in the bush then they tell
7 people to run. So their jobs became extremely difficult as well.

8 Q. [10:37:32] Madam Witness --

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:37:34] Mrs Hirst is rising, so I give her the
10 floor shortly.

11 MS HIRST: [10:37:40] Your Honour, I apologise to Ms Bridgman for interrupting
12 her questioning. It's not an objection to the line of questioning, it's in relation to the
13 recommendation of the VWS regarding the length of sessions for this witness. And I
14 understand and appreciate that your Honour has indicated that the witness should
15 feel free to indicate if she's distressed or uncomfortable, my concern is that she may
16 not feel proactive to raise that unless asked, and I wonder whether your Honour
17 might be willing to ask her how she's feeling. Yesterday after the session she did
18 indicate that she wasn't feeling well, and it occurred to us that she may not volunteer
19 that information unless asked. It may be that's she's fine, but I thought it might be
20 useful to check with her.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:38:19] Madam Witness, you have heard what
22 Mrs Hirst has said. Do you feel well enough to continue for a couple of minutes?

23 THE WITNESS: [10:38:31] (Interpretation) Yes, you can -- you can continue with
24 the questioning. Yeah, keep on going I'm still okay.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:38:36] Thank you very much, Madam Witness.

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1 Mrs Bridgman, do you have an estimate how long your questioning would take?

2 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:38:43] Your Honour, we were -- I was actually starting to be
3 distressed --

4 THE WITNESS: [10:38:52] (Interpretation) I do not have any -- I'm here, I do not
5 have any -- any authority, but I'm here, so I'll answer the questions.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:38:58] Thank you, Madam Witness.

7 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:39:03] I was mentioning that the remarks from my colleague
8 were making me a little anxious because we intend to try and finish today and that
9 would give the witness the chance to just be done with the ...

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:39:15] Yeah. I really think we should finish
11 today, that should be clear. So please continue and we will -- perhaps you continue
12 for another 15 minutes now and then have a break.

13 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:39:27] Thank you, your Honour.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:39:28] Please continue.

15 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:39:32]

16 Q. [10:39:33] Madam Witness, had you ever been aware of any people in the
17 camp that supported the LRA?

18 A. [10:39:49] We stayed in the camp, we had no knowledge of anything. You
19 were just there, you live your life without doing anything else. I was weak, I'd just
20 had a baby, I did not go any place because I was -- I had children, I had to take care of
21 children, so I had no knowledge of anything. I just minded my own business, kept
22 on with my life. If they tell you go this place, you follow the instructions. If they
23 tell you go this side, you follow instructions. But I do not know if there was
24 anybody within the camp who was an informer. That's the problem that happened
25 to us.

1 Q. [10:40:33] Madam Witness, you testified yesterday and I think you've
2 mentioned it today about other attacks, would you please clarify for the Court if these
3 attacks happened within or around Lukodi before the attack in question in which you
4 were abducted?

5 A. [10:40:58] Yes it was in Lukodi because next to the school that's where I was
6 abducted and that's where I was tied. They did not abduct me from anything else.
7 It was -- it happened in Lukodi next to the soldiers.

8 Q. [10:41:16] Madam Witness, before that attack, had there been other attacks?

9 A. [10:41:28] No, they would -- they would just walk around in the fields.
10 Lacoanga was where there was a problem because they killed seven people but, no,
11 not -- not in Lukodi. We kept on moving with the soldiers. There was nothing
12 going on. It was only on that occasion that they attacked the camp. But they would
13 come to the gardens, they would come to the periphery of the camp, disturb people.
14 And they kept on moving us, they told us "Okay, there's a problem. This way, move
15 to this direction" and we kept on moving. But that's what -- that's what happened,
16 but otherwise I do not know of anything else. I do not know if there were any other
17 attacks.

18 Q. [10:42:18] There was a marketplace in Lukodi; is that correct?

19 A. [10:42:23] Yes, there was a market. The market still exists up to today.

20 Q. [10:42:31] The disturbances that you talked about, did some of them come as
21 close as to the marketplace?

22 A. [10:42:44] Well, if -- sometimes they would come by, so if they came by the
23 marketplace, then, yeah, there were problems, but the thing is that they took
24 everybody else, they put us all in one place, so we were all next to the school. The
25 furthest from the soldiers -- you could not stay anywhere further than from where the

1 soldiers were because they would go, they would check. Before people left the
2 camps, they would go, they will survey and then tell people to go. And that's what
3 we used to do. We went, we collected -- when they were given food, we did not
4 even use the food, it was taken. And those were the problems that we encountered.
5 People would leave their homes, people would creep to the gardens, people would
6 get cassava, but when you're in the garden, when you go to the garden to try and
7 bring some food you're constantly under fear because you knew that you were going
8 to be attacked. That was our predicament, that was our plight and that was problem
9 that we continue to encounter today.

10 Q. [10:43:57] So, to be clear, every time there would be a disturbance, you would
11 be asked to move closer to the soldiers or be moved around within the camp; is this
12 correct?

13 A. [10:44:12] We kept on staying in the homesteads. If you're -- if you're in one
14 the homesteads, then you have to move closer to the schools. We stayed (Redacted)
15 (Redacted) they kept on telling us, "Stay in
16 this place", you would stay there and then they would move us. So, people left,
17 people left because there were no men and they would take us to another place. So
18 we stayed.

19 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honour, could the witness please be asked to slow down
20 a little bit.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:44:53] Madam Witness, again the interpreters
22 ask me to ask you to slow a little bit down when you give your answer so that they
23 can follow. Thank you.

24 Mrs Bridgman, please continue.

25 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:45:10]

1 Q. [10:45:11] Yesterday you briefly mentioned a child just before the attack.

2 I believe that's transcript 77, at page 24. Can you tell us more about this child that
3 you saw just before the attack.

4 A. [10:45:35] A child? Is that the child that was killed? Is that somebody that
5 was killed? If I do not know, then I do not know.

6 Q. [10:45:54] Perhaps read out the transcript exactly the reference and perhaps
7 this triggers the memory?

8 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:46:04]

9 Q. [10:46:05] Madam Witness, yesterday when the Prosecutor was asking you
10 about the events just before the attack, you said -- and, your Honours, I'm going to
11 jump around just a little bit to give context. So from page 23, then to page 24.

12 You said:

13 "We saw a group of soldiers coming and we thought they were coming to reinforce ...
14 At that time a child came. We couldn't even know the child. As we tried to follow
15 the child to see what was going on. All of a sudden we saw so many soldiers, and
16 there were bullets ..."

17 That is the child that I am talking about. Can you tell us more about that child?

18 A. [10:46:57] When I went to hospital, I do not know that child. Nobody knew
19 that child because things happened to people and nobody knows that child.

20 Nobody went to ask the child because nobody knew the child. The child ran. I do
21 not know which direction the child ran. The child kept on running. They said,
22 "Okay, run and ask the child", but the child just kept on running and disappeared. If
23 anybody spoke to the child, then they did, but I did not -- I personally did not speak
24 to the child because I had just had a baby and I was still recovering.

25 Q. [10:47:39] So this child was not a resident of the camp, correct? He was a

1 stranger?

2 A. [10:47:48] Yes.

3 Q. [10:47:52] Just before the attack, maybe days before, had you heard of a
4 woman who had been abducted and returned about three days before?

5 A. [10:48:04] Yes. Yes, somebody was abducted and she came back. I do not
6 know, I did not go and see her. But she was abducted from Unyama. I did not
7 have the strength to go and see her, so I did not have -- I wasn't able to talk to her.
8 There was quite a distance between the homesteads.

9 Q. [10:48:40] Did you also hear about a man that had been briefly abducted and
10 he made an alarm that attracted the soldiers just days before the attack?

11 A. [10:48:56] Yes, I did. He had gone to his field to look for food. It was some
12 time in the evening. Maybe approximately 7 or 8. The soldiers ran after him. He
13 ran and he came back. They tried to fire some bullets after him. There were
14 gunshots after him. People were told to take care. So we took care. Soldiers
15 started firing their guns. We moved into our houses. I had just had my baby. I
16 did not have any strength. I did not -- I wasn't able to go anywhere because
17 I still -- just delivered my baby.

18 Q. [10:49:39] So there were rumours of LRA operations around the area just
19 before the attack, correct?

20 A. [10:49:50] Yes, there were many. People could not go anywhere.
21 They -- I think they -- there were about seven or -- but you didn't know anything.
22 You just stayed where you were staying. Sometimes you hear -- you know, even
23 when you're hungry, you just sit there because you did not have anything. I'd just
24 had a baby. Everything was in the field, so, yeah, I just stayed there. That
25 was -- there wasn't anything. So when they brought us food, yeah, that was brought

1 to help us. There was nowhere where we could go. The life was really bad. There
2 was nowhere people could go. It was -- it was unsafe.

3 Q. [10:50:38] Did your leaders or the government soldiers ever inform you that
4 people from Gilva brigade of the LRA were operating around Lukodi at the time?

5 A. [10:50:55] The soldiers were there. The 30 soldiers were there. They are the
6 ones who were taking care of the camp. They told us to stay there, to stay there
7 together because -- and they are the ones who actually informed Caritas and asked
8 Caritas to come and help people, because people were in a bad state, so they told us to
9 stay. Caritas brought us some supplies and it was only two days after Caritas
10 brought the supplies that we were attacked.

11 Q. [10:51:27] Now, Madam Witness, with all this going on days before the attack,
12 you -- I know you mentioned that the 30 soldiers had just been brought in. Were
13 they more than the soldiers that had been previously assigned to the barracks?

14 A. [10:51:50] There were -- there was actually a bigger number of soldiers before
15 there. There was a whole battalion. There was -- there were quite a lot of soldiers.
16 Life was a lot easier at the time. We would go to Laco-anga. We would come home.
17 People would go -- do whatever they had to do and then come back to the camp.
18 There was a larger number of soldiers, but then eventually they -- they reduced the
19 number of soldiers and it became -- life became a little bit more difficult because it
20 became difficult to go to -- go to the gardens. But at the time when we had a larger
21 troop of soldiers in the area, life was easier. We would go the gardens. We
22 would -- we had -- we had a life, but after that, when the soldiers were reduced, life
23 became unbearable.

24 Q. [10:52:39] So despite the small disturbances that you testified to, the
25 soldiers -- the number of soldiers was reduced, correct?

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- 1 A. [10:52:50] Yes.
- 2 Q. [10:52:54] Thank you, Madam Witness.
- 3 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:52:55] I think, your Honour, this is a good place to stop.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:52:59] And we resume at 11.30, I would
5 assume. And just a remark by me, I had not expected, to put it in this way, that you
6 would need a further two full sessions. But it's up to you. I think you can -- you
7 will conduct it as you have planned it.
- 8 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:53:19] Your Honour, that would be best for us.
- 9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:53:24] Of course, but we really expect now to
10 say that we can comfortably finish today.
- 11 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:53:32] Yes, your Honour.
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:53:34] So that the witness can return home.
- 13 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:53:36] Yes, your Honour.
- 14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:53:41] Okay, thank you. Break until 11.30.
- 15 THE COURT USHER: [10:53:43] All rise.
- 16 (Recess taken at 10.53 a.m.)
- 17 (Upon resuming in open session at 11.30 a.m.)
- 18 THE COURT USHER: [11:30:40] All rise.
- 19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:31:01] Mrs Bridgman, you have the floor.
- 20 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:31:03] Thank you, your Honour.
- 21 Q. [11:31:09] Madam Witness, before the attack were there any LDUs or home
22 guards within the camp?
- 23 A. [11:31:21] No, they were not there. It was only government soldiers.
- 24 Q. [11:31:27] Do you recall the uniform the government soldiers used to wear?
- 25 A. [11:31:39] They had their uniform, the ones that were in -- at the school, they

1 have a uniform which is a brown, brown, red in colours. It's difficult to differentiate
2 the uniform, but I see they were all having similar uniforms.

3 Q. [11:32:00] Were the uniforms a solid colour or was it madoa-madoa? With
4 prints?

5 A. When they were all patched up the uniforms were kind of multicoloured, so
6 that that is what they were wearing.

7 Q. [11:32:23] Madam Witness, do you know a place called Lugore hill?

8 A. [11:32:43] I don't know.

9 Q. [11:33:02] Now we are moving on to another portion, Madam Witness. I'm
10 going to ask you just a few more details about the attack. Just before the attack was
11 your house located at the edge of the school or was it farther inside? In relation to
12 the school and the playground, where was your house located?

13 A. [11:33:34] It was a little further away, approximately one mile, but not very far
14 away.

15 Q. [11:33:42] Can you please describe your house, the inside of your house to the
16 Court?

17 A. [11:34:00] My house was a grass thatch house, because we were staying at
18 somebody else's home that was just a house with only one room. We were just
19 staying there temporarily because we knew at some point we would still go back
20 home when the situation normalises. So it was just one house.

21 Q. [11:34:22] Now, when the attack started, were you inside your house or were
22 you outside?

23 A. [11:34:34] When they came, we were seated in the compound, so when this
24 person passed running, passed by us running, people were still just walking about.
25 Then immediately we see -- we saw this group enters our compound, then we ran

1 inside, so we all ran inside together with the children. And the neighbour's children,
2 their mother had just gone out briefly, but because they were with me I collected them
3 and we all entered inside my house.

4 Q. [11:35:12] Apart from this child that you saw running, did you see the other
5 rebels?

6 A. [11:35:26] The rebels came and they just started the operation on -- in our place,
7 at our place. They started -- they captured us, they started firing. So what they did,
8 they put me to sit down, they tied me and -- with my beans which I, which was in my
9 house, and my child, my young child which I was carrying, they carried the child and
10 throw the child away because they said I made noise, I shouted. I think they are just
11 taking me, then they wanted to kill me. And then the other children who were
12 thrown into fire, I even saw. I did not have any strength because my child was
13 thrown away and I was -- I did not see anything else. That is what I saw and that's
14 what is in my memory. That's what I went through. It was really, really terrible for
15 me.

16 Q. [11:36:26] Madam Witness, I'm so sorry for what you went through, but -- and
17 I apologise for seeking just a few more details about things you saw, your memory
18 today, and especially the statement you made to the Prosecution in 2005. The reason
19 I'm asking, for instance, is at tab 1 of the Defence binder, the ERN number for the
20 statement is UGA-OTP-0069-0189 at paragraph 9, and I'll read to you what you said
21 briefly: "I was inside my house cooking food."

22 And at paragraph 11 you said: "I was cooking when I and other persons in the camp
23 saw a group of people coming into the camp."

24 So, Madam Witness, I just want to clarify if you saw the rebels approaching and if at
25 that time you were inside or outside of your house. That's all.

1 A. [11:37:46] At that time food was cooking, I was already cooking food and the
2 food was on fire. Then I see this child running, then we were told that some soldiers
3 were coming, so as I came out and -- as I came out, then immediately I was -- I was
4 met with gunfire. They were shooting all around and then I started getting the
5 children, putting them down and telling them not to cry. Then immediately I found
6 myself captured and they tied me and started asking me to give beans, but everything
7 was open in the -- we were all in the room in the open place. So they put me to sit
8 down in the compound and they tied me together with eight other -- seven other
9 people.

10 I was the eighth person who was tied last. They did not even want me to carry or
11 even to touch my child who was on my back. So I used only my left arm. The right
12 arm, I couldn't use it because it was tied. And there was no way I could even try to
13 hold my child at the back because -- and yet the child was crying. But with God's
14 grace I was able to survive.

15 So I don't have much to say because I was already in hospital. I did not even know
16 I was going to survive. So I am happy and thank you for giving me time to come
17 and talk to you. I am the one here in your presence. I have suffered for
18 these 13 years, I don't have much, anything much to tell you.

19 Q. [11:39:36] Madam Witness, do you remember the direction from which the
20 child came running from?

21 A. [11:39:46] He came from the direction of Unyama, from the east. We just
22 sudden -- we found they were suddenly in the compound. We do not know from
23 which direction they came, but this person who came running came from the eastern
24 direction. And immediately this group of soldiers followed him, because as he
25 passed immediately these soldiers came following him and they started firing.

1 Q. [11:40:13] Do you recall if the government soldiers exchanged fire with the
2 rebels at all?

3 A. [11:40:28] Well, at that time now I couldn't differentiate. It was terrible. It
4 was really terrible. Fire was -- the houses were burning, gun fires were rocking the
5 place so I couldn't differentiate. I don't know whether -- I have to tell the truth, I
6 have to tell what I know.

7 Q. [11:41:00] Madam Witness, I appreciate your candid statements in this Court
8 but I just want to seek clarification from you, because in your 2005 statement -- and,
9 your Honours, this is at tab 1 and paragraph is 11 -- you stated among things
10 that -- and I will read this to you:

11 "When I first saw them, they were around 500 metres ... away from the camp. They
12 were many people, certainly more than a hundred. They just came as one big group
13 surrounding the camp. Everyone in the camp was looking at them, including the
14 soldiers who were in the camp to protect us. As they were coming, the soldiers
15 realised that there were too many rebels and I saw them running away."

16 Madam Witness, is this what you saw or is it your testimony today that you do not
17 remember any of the things that are reflected in your statement?

18 A. [11:42:06] Yeah, that is exactly how I explained it. I explained it as I was able
19 to tell at that time. That is actually what I explained.

20 Q. [11:42:19] So the government soldiers just ran away, they did not try to protect
21 the civilians, correct?

22 A. [11:42:32] Yes, because we already entered inside I do not know what
23 happened -- what was happening outside.

24 Q. [11:42:44] Yesterday you testified, and you do not have to mention any names,
25 but you testified about carrying your youngest child on your back. Do you

1 remember if you were carrying your child before the attack started?

2 A. [11:43:06] When we entered inside, I carried -- I carried the baby and carried
3 the baby on my back. And the other child -- the other child was still young, so I
4 carried the child, I carried the child on my back and then the rest of the children, I
5 gathered them around me so that they would not cry.

6 Q. [11:43:36] Where was your husband at this time?

7 A. [11:43:40] He was not there. He was not there at that time, because when
8 people realised that this person passed running, everybody else was on their lot.
9 They had, I think he had gone to see, to follow and find out who was this person
10 running. So when this person passed running, everybody else also started taking
11 cover.

12 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:44:18] Your Honours, I request to go into private session for
13 about two minutes or so.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:44:25] Private session, please.

15 (Private session at 11.44 a.m.)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

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1 (Redacted)

2 (Open session at 11.54 a.m.)

3 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:54:56] We are back in open session, Mr President.

4 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:55:07]

5 Q. [11:55:08] Now, I recall yesterday, Madam Witness, you stated several times
6 that during the attack there was a lot of smoke, you were -- you were in a lot of pain
7 and shock and confusion and you were not able to see a lot. Is that correct?

8 A. [11:55:31] Yes, correct.

9 Q. [11:55:35] And, your Honours, for the record, I'm referring to realtime
10 transcript 77, page 24 at line 22; page 26, line 16; page 27, line 24; page 30, line 1;
11 page 41, line 12; page 43, line 14; page 44, line 13; and page 44, line 22.

12 So, Madam Witness --

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:56:08] That was very complete and we
14 remembered it also. Thank you very much.

15 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:56:13] Thank you, your Honour.

16 Q. [11:56:15] So as a matter of fact, Madam Witness, you did not see much in
17 terms of details, correct?

18 A. [11:56:29] I do not see because I was -- I was already brought to the hospital.
19 I do not know much. I was tired, I was taken. Then when they carried me, they
20 brought me to the hospital. So anything that happened afterwards, I was only told.
21 Even my child was buried when I was not there. I was told that these children have
22 already been buried.

23 But at the time when they were killed, I was still there. Then afterwards they were
24 exhumed and they were taking their photographs and -- so all this happened when
25 I was in the hospital. Because there are those things that happened in Lukodi,

1 maybe it will need other people to explain, but for me I was already injured and I
2 wasn't well. I wouldn't understand a lot because everything suddenly came, so it
3 was difficult to explain. I only explained what I went through personally.

4 Q. [11:57:36] Thank you, Madam Witness. Now, you mentioned that
5 you -- most of the things that you testified about and that you stated in your
6 statement were from other people. Do you recall those other people that told you
7 the things that happened during the attack?

8 A. [11:58:03] No, I am not aware of that. I only got information about the issue
9 of the burial of the children. So that report came to me while I was in the hospital.
10 But to know anything afterwards? No, I did not.

11 Q. [11:58:23] Do you recall the names of the people who gave you this report?

12 A. [11:58:30] From whom? Well, from whom, I think it was my husband,
13 because the men had remained behind. They are the ones who came and were
14 talking about the burial because they were present. They actually told me when
15 I was in the hospital. So my husband was home, was the one who explained that
16 while I was in the hospital.

17 Q. [11:58:58] Now, let's focus more about your own circumstances. You said
18 that when you were tied, you were tied together with seven other people, correct?

19 A. [11:59:13] Correct.

20 Q. [11:59:15] And that you moved in seven groups, is that correct?

21 A. [11:59:24] Yes, I was the eighth person.

22 Q. [11:59:34] In your group of eight people -- excuse me, let me rephrase that.
23 Your group in which you were tied, was it the only group or there were other groups?

24 A. [11:59:52] There were -- there were many people, many people. Those of us
25 who were tied were in that group, but there were other people also walking besides

1 us. They were in another line. For me, I was tied together with the main because
2 I had shouted, I had made noise, because they were -- because they did not want
3 anybody to make noise. But how could you not make any noise when there was
4 something wrong going on? So they wanted me to just keep quiet. They did not
5 want me to shout, but why would you not shout when there was something wrong?

6 Q. [12:00:30] Do you recall how many rebels were with your group?

7 A. [12:00:36] There were so many, there were so many. They gathered us
8 together, put us in one place while they were doing whatever it is that they were
9 doing, taking things, and then we all started walking in a whole -- in a group as a
10 whole. So we walked towards Unyama. There were other people saying,
11 "Oh" -- there were about four people who said we should go and help people. They
12 all turned at the same time. They were saying "Oh, it's ototong" and then there were
13 four people who said they should come and help us, but I was among the group.
14 There were so many. Those people are so many. You know, when somebody's
15 committing atrocities on you you do not open your eyes. How do you open your
16 eyes to look and see who they are? Because if you do that you're going to be slapped.
17 If you even try and call them and tell them "Look, my child is crying," or if you talk to
18 somebody say "You, young man, why are you doing this?" or, "You, child, why are
19 you doing this?" They will -- they will slap, they will slap you, because that's what
20 they were doing. They had no respect at all. Some of the mothers were begging,
21 saying "Why are you behaving like this? Why are you treating us like this?" But
22 they would not listen. So how can you look around?

23 We suffered. We really endured a lot of suffering, we endured a lot of suffering.
24 It's God, it's only God who helped us through it. But it's not good. We -- the
25 children have all gone through a lot of trouble. They are all traumatised. We do

1 not know how we can help our children.

2 Q. [12:02:23] So you are tied in your compound and you started moving towards
3 the Unyama bridge, correct?

4 A. [12:02:38] Yes.

5 Q. [12:02:39] Did you get to the bridge?

6 A. [12:02:43] No, we -- we did not. The gunships came. The gunships came
7 before we reached Okoya's homestead. We had just left Unyama. Unyama was in
8 front of us, so the gunships came before we reached -- we reached the bridge, and
9 that's when we were instructed to break leaves and cover the bags, cover the bags
10 of -- the sacks of beans, because they said if we do not cover those they will be visible
11 to the gunships. So somebody went, somebody fell, but he was hit and the person
12 fell. I survived, I survived by God's grace. I just jumped into a ditch and I survived.
13 They said "If you find that lady, kill her." But I stayed there and I survived. I was
14 lucky. Because somebody came, they were looking for me, but luckily they did not
15 find me. I spent the night in the ditch and in the morning the soldiers came and find
16 me there. And that's how I survived. That's what I can tell personally about what
17 happened to me.

18 The soldiers -- nobody fought with the soldiers. If somebody had -- if there was
19 crossfire between the soldiers, then I do not think anybody would have survived in
20 Lukodi. I do not know what they thought. Because there were so many hills.
21 They came all the way from Awach, they came from Palaro. I do not have any idea
22 why they came to Lukodi. Maybe you should ask the people who were
23 commanding this attack. Ask them why did they come to Lukodi? Why did they
24 target Lukodi? They are the ones who committed these crimes. This is, this is what
25 I have to say.

1 Q. [12:04:45] You testified yesterday that by the time the helicopter gunship came
2 it was 8 p.m., correct?

3 A. [12:04:59] Yes, it was around 8 p.m.

4 Q. [12:05:01] Do you know how far the Unyama bridge is from the camp, Madam
5 Witness?

6 A. [12:05:11] It's a bit of a distance. Approximately 5 miles. From Lukodi
7 school to Unyama bridge is approximately 5 miles.

8 Q. [12:05:24] Is the bridge directly east of Lukodi on Awach road?

9 A. [12:05:49] Yes, it's on the east. It's towards -- it's eastwards. You cross
10 Unyama bridge and go towards Awach.

11 Q. [12:06:06] What if I told you, Madam Witness, that the Unyama bridge is about
12 2.2 kilometres from the camp and not 5 miles, what would you say about that?

13 A. [12:06:25] Well, I do not know. For me, I just get up and I move. You move
14 without knowing your miles or the kilometres. You don't take that into account.
15 When you are walking you do not think about stopping and counting how many
16 miles or how many kilometres, you're walking, you just keep on walking, you go do
17 what you have to do and then come back. If you're going to the hospital you go to
18 the hospital, if you're going to the centre, you go to the centre, and then you come
19 back. It was while I was going to the hospital that I noticed the bridge, but, yeah, I
20 do not know the distance. I did not cross -- I did not cross Unyama bridge.

21 Q. [12:07:14] So, Madam Witness, with what you have just told the Court would I
22 also be correct to say that you cannot estimate how far away your house was from the
23 school? You had previously given us about 1 kilometre -- 1 mile, I believe.

24 A. [12:07:37] Yes, I do not know. We -- it was close, but I do not know, I do not
25 know the metres or the kilometres. For me I just stayed there.

1 Q. [12:07:56] Do you recall if the helicopter gunship fired at all when it arrived?

2 A. [12:08:09] There was -- there was gunfire everywhere. We did not hear that.

3 We were being beaten, we had luggage on your heads, so we weren't actually paying

4 attention to anything. Whatever -- the only person was thinking about, everybody

5 was thinking about life, about survival, so you are not paying attention to whether the

6 gunships are firing, you are just concentrating on what's happening to you in the

7 moment. But when the soldiers came they started shining their lights, we thought

8 we -- you know, we thought we had all gone. And that's the way things happened.

9 Q. [12:08:49] So would I be correct to say that it was the arrival of the helicopter
10 gunship that made it possible for you to escape?

11 A. [12:09:00] Yes, it is. Yes, it was because of the gunships that I survived. I do

12 not think -- I think if the gunships had not come, I would have survived. The person

13 who was behind me had two guns and the person kept on telling me that me "You're,

14 you're being, you're misbehaving, you're not listening to us, so you're going to suffer."

15 I kept on pleading and say "Please help me. At least let me tie my child properly."

16 But they did not, they were not paying any heed to what I was saying. You have

17 guns, you are being beaten, people are dragging their luggage, a guy with the goats

18 was being beaten. So it was chaotic. That's what happened, the whole situation

19 was chaotic.

20 Q. [12:09:52] And you spent the entire night hiding by the roadside, correct?

21 A. [12:10:02] Yes, I spent the night in the ditch till morning.

22 Q. [12:10:05] Do you remember if the rebels were still within the vicinity or they
23 had fled?

24 A. [12:10:16] We saw government soldiers. It was the government soldiers who

25 came and found me at around 7 a.m. They came at night. I think loads of soldiers

1 came at night to Lukodi. I don't know how they came, but maybe somebody called
2 them, but there were cars, there were a lot of soldiers in Lukodi and they came, they
3 were following the rebels and they came across us. I was lucky because I thought it
4 was the rebels. It was 7 a.m. and I thought it was the rebels. I got up, I did not
5 have any strength. I got up, sat down, and I thought, okay, if it's the rebels then I'm
6 ready to die. And then I realised it was the government soldiers. They started
7 collecting the kids, they took the kids, the two kids that I spoke about and they took
8 my child as well, and some of them continued to follow them, to follow the rebels and
9 some of were put in the car and taken. When I got into the car I found the two
10 soldiers that had been shot, the soldier carried my child until we were taken to
11 hospital.

12 And that's what happened. I do not -- I do not understand anything else. I do not
13 know anything else. I'm talking about personal events.

14 Q. [12:11:40] So, Madam Witness, even when the helicopter gunship arrived and
15 even though you believe government soldiers came in the night, they did not pursue
16 the rebels that night; is that correct?

17 A. [12:12:01] No, they did not go anywhere. It was in the morning that they
18 started following Unyama Road. At night, they spent the night in Lukodi. But
19 luckily, when they came they did not fire any, they did not fire any shots, because
20 I think they had been told that there was nobody else. So it was in the morning that
21 they started following the rebels, people were running, because you do not know
22 what was going on, you were just trying to survive. But we heard -- when we heard
23 the guns -- when we heard the cars, then we assumed that it was the government
24 soldiers because the rebels did not have cars.

25 Q. [12:12:42] So, Madam Witness, from what you've just told us, you did not meet

1 any of the rebel commanders during your short captivity, correct?

2 A. [12:13:07] Yes, I did not meet them. It was the people that -- the people that
3 were torturing us, the people that were beating us, the people that were ordering us
4 to carry luggage. Yeah, I do not know anything. I told them I was pleading with
5 them, "Please, do not take my child off, do not throw my child." They told me, "If
6 you continue talking, then you are going to see, you are going to see what will
7 happen to you later."

8 There was one man, one elderly man who was pleading and saying, "Please, the lady
9 is just crying because she's trying to save her baby." But the younger ones were not
10 listening, they said "No, we'll take the baby and throw the baby." They told me that
11 "If you keep on talking you're going to face the consequences later." I did not have
12 anything to say, so I just decided to keep quiet. I heard them laughing. I heard
13 them saying that they should not have wasted their guns in Lukodi, they should have
14 just hit people on their skulls, they should have beaten the soldiers, they should have
15 killed the soldiers, they should have killed the civilians as well. That's what they
16 were doing. They said they wasted their bullets. That's what they were doing, they
17 were joking, they were laughing about the attack, saying that they should have killed
18 us, they should have used other means to kill us. We were tied up. At the time we
19 felt that we were dead anyway, we felt that we were walking dead. There was
20 nothing that we could do.

21 Aleka was dead but I was lucky that I survived. It was God who helped me to
22 survive, God. So that my mother had been killed. I did not have anybody else so
23 he decided that I should survive. I did not have anybody. All my family had gone.
24 It was God who saved me.

25 There is nothing more that I can say. That's all I have to say.

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1 Q. [12:15:12] Thank you, Madam Witness. Did you ever get to hear about who
2 the commander of the attack was?

3 A. [12:15:28] Me? I was in Gulu, I did not know. I heard that it was the rebels.
4 I heard it was Lakwena. I heard it was the rebels. If people see rebels they would
5 always say, "Oh, Lakwena has arrived" and people would run. Even if that person is
6 there, if the person is torturing you, if the person is mistreating you, if the person does
7 not tell you his name you do not know who it is because the person is beating you,
8 the person is torturing, you do not know who they are. So unless they mention their
9 names, you do not know who the person is.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:16:03] So she has not seen anything in that
11 respect and has no information, I would say.

12 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:16:31]

13 Q. [12:16:32] Madam Witness, do you have any thoughts to statements from some
14 people who say that the government is to blame for the attack because they did not
15 provide adequate security to the camp and they did not follow the rebels that night
16 after the attack?

17 A. [12:17:04] I heard that all the government soldiers did was to come and collect
18 us. They came and helped us. I do not know -- I cannot give you any more
19 information. I cannot only tell you the truth, because I was in hospital. I do not
20 know anything else. I was taken to hospital. I do not know anything else that
21 happened.

22 There is nobody who came to me and told me anything else. They knew that
23 I was -- I was in hospital. They knew that I was injured. They knew that my child
24 was also injured.

25 So there are some people who survived. I was injured. I had an injury. I'm telling

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1 you what happened to me. I'm telling you what I saw and something that happened
2 to me personally and what happened to Lukodi.

3 There are certain people, people left Lukodi and people did not come back. You see,
4 there were some people who are lost forever, but you see funerals as well, you see
5 graves, you see how people were being beaten. What kind of life is that? If
6 somebody would go to their homes and do that in their homes, would they like it?
7 That makes me really mad.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:18:19] I think you have asked for an opinion
9 and we have allowed the question, but you should move now to another point,
10 please.

11 MS BRIDGMAN:

12 Q. [12:18:31] Madam Witness, in your statement to the Prosecution, and that's
13 tab 1 at paragraph 27, you stated that you saw Aleka and Akello Nancy being shot; is
14 this correct?

15 A. [12:18:57] Akello Nancy was taken. Six of them, they up to today, they
16 haven't recovered their bodies. It's only Alero whose body was brought back.
17 Akello Nancy has not been recovered. She's among the six people that have
18 completely disappeared. She was a young girl, approximately 10 years, maybe even
19 younger than 10. Up to today her body has not been recovered. The six people
20 have not been recovered. I'm the only one who came back, I'm the only one who
21 came back alive.

22 Q. [12:19:34] You also stated that you presumed that they had been thrown in the
23 river, correct?

24 A. [12:19:44] I do not know. I did not think about that. I was thinking about
25 how they brought me to hospital. I do not know what happened after I had left that

1 place. I do not know what happened afterwards. I do not know.

2 Q. [12:20:10] Madam Witness, are you familiar with the memorial site that was
3 constructed in Lukodi to remember the attack?

4 A. [12:20:22] Yes, yes, there is. There is one. There is one in Lukodi.

5 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:20:30] Your Honours this is (Redacted)

6 Q. [12:20:42] Have you visited this site, Madam Witness?

7 A. [12:20:51] On the 19th of this month, before coming here, on the 19th of May,
8 we went and held a memorial service. Every 19th of May we -- it's an anniversary,
9 so we go and commemorate them. So we try not to go there that often because it's
10 extremely painful, but on 19 May we usually do, because there are other people who
11 are also going to grieve and mourn with you.

12 Q. [12:21:27] Do you know if the names of your loved ones who lost their lives
13 during the attack are listed on the names on that memorial stone?

14 A. [12:21:43] (Redacted)

15 (Counsel confers)

16 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:22:11]

17 Q. [12:22:12] Madam Witness, do you have any idea why the names of your
18 father -- I'm sorry, your uncle and your mother and your father-in-law are not
19 reflected on this memorial stone in?

20 A. [12:22:30] You know, my mother was killed first, they first killed my mother.
21 They killed her brother. (Redacted) They killed my child (Redacted)

22 That one was killed -- was taken and killed in the bush. These are all the problems I
23 have had. So it was extremely difficult because all those are my problems, all those
24 are my people, my people that they killed. So I do not know. My mother was
25 killed there, my uncle was killed there. All their graves are there.

1 If it's not -- if it's not been written there, if it's not reflected there, then I do not know
2 why it's not reflected. I assume they took into account the events that happened
3 on 19 May.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:23:34] I think we have it on record and you can
5 move to another point.

6 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:23:46]

7 Q. [12:23:48] Madam Witness, do you know if the government of Uganda
8 conducted an investigation about the attack soon after it happened?

9 A. [12:24:03] I do not know. I told you that I was in hospital, so I do not know
10 anything that happened after that. I do not know. I was sick. I was in hospital.
11 If anything that happened after I was in hospital, then you need to ask the people that
12 were present. I was in hospital. I'm sure that if there is something that I did not
13 mention, other people may have mentioned this to you.

14 Q. [12:24:33] Yesterday the Prosecution showed you two photographs, that you
15 recognised one as your own and the other one as your youngest child's. Do you
16 recall where they were taken?

17 A. [12:24:53] They took them from hospital, when we were in hospital. I noticed
18 that because at the time I was bare-chested. I did not have anything on my -- I did
19 not have a top on, and my child was covered. My child was covered because the
20 child was cold, and they wanted to warm up the child. We had just come to the
21 hospital.

22 Q. [12:25:18] Do you have any recollection who took those photographs?

23 A. [12:25:26] No, I do not know anything. Whatever happened to me what
24 happened while I was in hospital.

25 Q. [12:25:35] Do you recall ever being interviewed by the police or the

1 government soldiers while you were in hospital or after you left the hospital?

2 A. [12:25:50] Soldiers, no, nobody else questioned me. Nobody else who
3 questioned me, no soldiers, no police came and questioned me. I was in hospital,
4 I was sick. My child was sick. My child had suffered from cold or hypothermia.
5 So nobody came, nobody came to ask me any questions. No soldiers or no police.

6 Q. [12:26:25] You talked about --

7 Perhaps, your Honours, we should go into private session, briefly.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:26:47] Private session.

9 (Private session at 12.26 p.m.)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

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9 (Open session at 12.31 p.m.)

10 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:31:50] We are back in open session, Mr President.

11 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:32:13]

12 Q. [12:32:17] Madam Witness, you talked yesterday about the impact of the attack
13 on your community and how you are struggling to survive and start all over again.
14 I'm curious to know, has the government provided any form of compensation to the
15 community since the attack?

16 A. [12:32:38] From home? I don't know. Me, I was staying in town. Maybe it
17 was given to those who had stayed in the camp at Coopee because with my sickness I
18 only returned and stayed in town. All I saw and I know was that the bodies should
19 be exhumed and taken back home for burial. And some people were given some
20 goats for that ceremony because I cannot say anything which I do not know. I have
21 to explain something that I went through personally. Because if you are talking on
22 one thing, then you have to only concentrate on that. So for me, I was in town with
23 my sick child. So maybe we have to ask somebody from home because I did not see
24 anything that was given to me.

25 Q. [12:33:38] Yesterday you told the Court that you did not go back to Lukodi

1 after leaving the hospital for eight years. Is this correct?

2 A. [12:33:50] Yes, yes. I stayed eight years without going back home because it
3 was not easy because there was -- there was nowhere to go to. So I just stayed in
4 town, just stayed in town and until the child -- the children were able to grow. The
5 children, the three children were growing and they were growing well, but they were
6 not going to school so we had to return to Lacoanga where we are staying now.

7 Q. [12:34:27] Do you recall the time of the peace talks between the rebels and the
8 government?

9 A. [12:34:48] It could have happened, it could have happened, I do not know. It
10 could have happened because if it had not happened we would not go back home, we
11 would not even stay at Lacoanga. Even the people in Lukodi would not even stay
12 because how would you stay? It would not be possible. Maybe it happened like
13 that because now I see we can even sleep in our own houses. The only problem now
14 is the harsh weather, the harsh climate which we are experiencing.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:35:18] I think, Ms Bridgman, larger perhaps,
16 let me word it like that, political issues and these things this witness would not be the
17 best informed about these matters, perhaps.

18 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:35:33] Thank you for your guidance, your Honour.

19 Q. [12:35:38] Madam Witness, do you have friends or relatives whose loved ones
20 were also abducted and never returned home?

21 A. [12:36:14] There's no person, there's no child from us there who was abducted
22 and never returned. Those of us who were in Lukodi were just there. But there's
23 only one child who was abducted much earlier. We're not sure whether he's still
24 alive or not, it has now taken some years, but even the mother has confirmed and said
25 that he is not there. Recently his father died and -- but nobody knows whether he's

1 still alive or not. So there's nobody from our area who is in the bush.

2 Q. [12:36:58] Do you know of any people who had been abducted that have since
3 returned home?

4 A. [12:37:30] It could be there, but I don't know. I don't know because in our
5 area that -- anybody that has returned that I know of in Lacoanga I have not seen. I
6 have to tell the truth. I have not seen any from Lacoanga that somebody was
7 abducted and returned. I have not seen. Maybe it could be from other areas
8 because that place is a large area and there are many people in that area.

9 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:38:08] Your Honours, I request just a minute to consult.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:38:13] Yes, please do that.

11 (Counsel confers)

12 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:38:35] Your Honours, we have no further questions for the
13 witness.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:38:39] Thank you very much, Mrs Bridgman.

15 Madam Witness, you have heard that the Defence has concluded the questioning.

16 This also concludes your testimony in this courtroom.

17 Madam Witness, let me shortly address you.

18 You have taken upon you the enormous burden of leaving your country and your
19 family to come to this foreign and faraway country, to come to this courtroom, which
20 must be for you an alien environment. And you have come here to help the Court to
21 establish the truth. We appreciate that very much and thank you for your assistance.
22 We wish you all the best and we wish you a safe trip back home.

23 (The witness is excused)

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: Thank you and this concludes, as I said, the
25 testimony of this witness. We resume on Monday at 9.30 with a new witness I have

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- 1 now not exactly -- 249. Thank you very much.
- 2 THE COURT USHER: [12:39:44] All rise.
- 3 (The hearing ends in open session at 12.39 p.m.)