

Trial Hearing  
WITNESS: UGA-D26-P-0119

(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  
6 Judge Raul Cano Pangalangan  
7 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 3  
8 Tuesday, 13 November 2018  
9 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.32 a.m.)  
10 THE COURT USHER: [9:32:41] All rise.  
11 The International Criminal Court is now in session.  
12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:07] Good morning, everyone.  
13 Could the court officer please call the case.  
14 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:33:13] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.  
15 Situation in the Republic of Uganda, in the case of The Prosecutor versus Dominic  
16 Ongwen, case reference ICC-02/04-01/15.  
17 And for the record, we are in open session.  
18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:27] Thank you.  
19 I call for the appearances of the parties. Mr Gumpert, for the Prosecution.  
20 MR GUMPERT: [9:33:32] Good morning, your Honours.  
21 With me today, Julian Elderfield, Adesola Adeboyejo, Pubudu Sachithanandan,  
22 Jasmina Suljanovic, Grace Goh and Laura de Leeuw.  
23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:47] Thank you.  
24 And for the representatives of the victims.  
25 MR COX: [9:33:49] Good morning, your Honours.

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- 1 With me Mr James Mawira, Ms Maria Radziejowska, and myself Francisco Cox.
- 2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:57] Thank you. And Mr Narantsetseg.
- 3 MR NARANTSETSEG: [9:33:58] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
- 4 For the common Legal Representative of Victims, myself Orchlou Narantsetseg, and
- 5 Ms Caroline Walter.
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:05] Thank you.
- 8 And finally for the Defence, Ms Bridgman.
- 9 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:34:11] Good morning, Mr President and your Honours.
- 10 Abigail Bridgman for the Defence, with Rachael Bouwma, Krispus Ayena Odongo,
- 11 Chief Charles Achaleke Taku, Beth Lyons. And our client, Mr Ongwen, is in court.
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:25] Thank you very much.
- 13 And the Defence is now calling Defence witness 119 as its next witness.
- 14 Madam Witness, on behalf of the Chamber I would like to welcome you in the
- 15 courtroom.
- 16 I will now read out the solemn undertaking every witness has to take when they
- 17 appear before the Court, so please listen to me and then I ask you if you have
- 18 understood and if you agree. So please listen. I solemnly declare that I will speak
- 19 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.
- 20 Do you understand, Ms Witness?
- 21 WITNESS: UGA-D26-P-0119
- 22 (The witness speaks Acholi)
- 23 THE WITNESS: [9:35:08] (Interpretation) Yes, I understand.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:12] Do you agree?
- 25 THE WITNESS: [9:35:16] (Interpretation) I beg your pardon.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:21] Do you agree? Do you agree to the  
2 undertaking?  
3 THE WITNESS: [9:35:23] (Interpretation) Yes, I agree.  
4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:24] Thank you very much. Then you are  
5 sworn in now.  
6 Before we start with your testimony I would like to explain several things to you.  
7 First of all, the protective measures that the Chamber has put in place for you. We  
8 have put in place face distortion. Face distortion means that no one outside the  
9 courtroom can see your face during your testimony.  
10 We will also use what a call a pseudonym. That means we don't address you with  
11 your real name, but as "Ms Witness" or "Madam Witness," as I do at the moment, and  
12 the reason is that the public should not know your name.  
13 When you answer questions that don't give away who you are, that don't reveal your  
14 identity, then we do this in open session, so that the outside world and everyone can  
15 hear it. When on the other side you are asked something that -- in which the answer  
16 would reveal who you are, then we do this in private session. Private session means  
17 that there is no broadcast and no one outside the courtroom can hear your answer.  
18 A few practical matters, please, shortly. Everything we say here is written down and  
19 interpreted, and therefore I would ask you to speak at a relatively slow pace so that  
20 the interpreters can follow.  
21 If you have any question yourself, you can raise your hand, and then we know that  
22 you want to speak to us and I will give you the floor.  
23 Thank you very much for the moment, Ms Witness.  
24 And I give now the floor, the Defence, Ms Bridgman, for the examination.  
25 MS BRIDGMAN: Thank you, Mr President.

1 QUESTIONED BY MS BRIDGMAN:

2 Q. [9:37:16] Good morning, Ms Witness.

3 A. [9:37:19] Good morning.

4 Q. [9:37:23] We have met previously. My name is Abigail. And like I have  
5 mentioned to you before, if you feel uncomfortable, if you feel tired, please raise your  
6 hand and let the judges know so we can take a break. Is that okay?

7 A. [9:37:46] I have understood.

8 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:37:52] Your Honours, I request to go into private session for the  
9 first questions.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:37:56] Yes. Private session.

11 (Private session at 9.37 a.m.)

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24 (Open session at 9.43 a.m.)

25 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:43:27] We are back in open session, Mr President.

1 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:43:35]

2 Q. [9:43:36] Now, Madam Witness, can you briefly tell us about the day you were  
3 abducted.

4 A. [9:43:52] Thank you once again. About my abduction, let me explain. I was  
5 abducted in 1993 from my mother's household. This is how I was abducted. It was  
6 not a very smooth abduction. One of my parents was killed during my abduction,  
7 my father was killed, and they abducted many of us. We were only girls. It was  
8 not possible to take the men, because they were all killed. Seven girls were abducted  
9 and taken to the bush. It was not very smooth for us. When we moved with them,  
10 many horrible things happened that happened to us.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:44:59] If you feel able to tell us, Ms Witness,  
12 please proceed.

13 THE WITNESS: [9:45:11] (Interpretation) Thank you very much.

14 When we were abducted, we moved to areas that were unknown to us. At that time  
15 when I was abducted I was still young and I did not know places. We moved and  
16 crossed a waterbody called Aswa. We crossed it three times. We went to a place  
17 called Ranch. I came to learn about it, that was a ranch, later.

18 We were under attack from the enemy soldiers and we used to move a lot. We  
19 moved and met another group, a bigger group in the same area. They started to  
20 split us into groups, and on the third day we were given to different groups. When  
21 we were split, we went to the commander's homes where we were taken. We started  
22 staying there and we kept moving, and we are under pursuit from the enemy forces.  
23 Later they started distributing us to men, men who were already big, that they will be  
24 our husbands. They would ask us, that between life and death, which one do you  
25 choose? And you choose life. And they tell you, if you choose life, go and live with

1 this man as your husband. From there, you try your level best to resist as a human  
2 being that you are not yet able to be a wife and you are still young. But they will  
3 assure you that, when you are brought to me what were you told? And they  
4 tell -- they will tell me that I was -- you were told to come and cook for me, look after  
5 me as a wife, therefore you must live with me as a wife. If you understand, please  
6 follow. As a human being, if you love your life, you must do as you're told. Even if  
7 you're not able to, you must perform the tasks of a wife. That was difficult for us.  
8 That is how we are abducted by the rebels.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:47:40] Thank you, Ms Witness.

10 Ms Bridgman.

11 Q. [9:48:00] Madam Witness, do you know approximately how old you were when  
12 you were abducted?

13 A. [9:48:22] Thank you again. When I was abducted I did not know my age. But  
14 I was told later that I must have been 12 or 13 at the time I was abducted.

15 Q. [9:48:41] You mentioned that your father was killed and many other people.  
16 But do you recall - I know it's a long time ago - do you recall how many people were  
17 killed on the day of your abduction?

18 A. [9:49:11] I do not remember. But according to what I heard when we were  
19 taken away at that time, they killed nine people in our area there.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:49:23] Did you witness the killing,  
21 Madam Witness?

22 THE WITNESS: [9:49:38] (Interpretation) I witnessed it. I did not know my father  
23 was part of the group being killed.

24 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:49:46]

25 Q. [9:49:48] Do you know why those people were killed, Ms Witness?

1 A. [9:49:58] What I understood later was that the reason they were killed was  
2 because every time they passed through that area they would report their presence to  
3 the government, and government would follow them and attack them.

4 Q. [9:50:29] Now, when the LRA came to your house, did they know your family at  
5 all? Did they know you?

6 A. [9:50:53] I understood later also that they knew, because I was called by my  
7 name, (Redacted). They said "(Redacted), come out." So I don't know whether it was  
8 somebody who knew our family or someone who was abducted earlier and was told  
9 to mention our names, so I don't know how they knew my name.

10 Q. [9:51:40] Now, you said that you witnessed these killings. How did that make  
11 you feel?

12 A. [9:51:55] The killings which I witnessed, these happened at night. We were  
13 bound together with a rope and we were put on the way. And near us, we heard  
14 people crying. They were beating them, they were hitting them with machetes and  
15 clubs and hammers.

16 And then the one that I saw personally is when we started moving, we found people  
17 by the roadside. Their blood was still fresh and the bloodstains remained on our feet.  
18 In the morning we found bloodstains on our lower parts of the garment.

19 Q. [9:53:06] Now, when you found this, were you told anything by the LRA?

20 A. [9:53:25] The LRA said that the reason they did that was because they were  
21 attacked in that area. And secondly, because they -- every time they passed there  
22 they would be reported to the government.

23 Q. [9:53:44] Now before this had you ever seen a dead body?

24 A. [9:54:03] No, I had not seen.

25 Q. [9:54:17] Did this create any feelings or emotions in you, witnessing these



1 events?

2 A. [9:54:39] When I saw that, it was not easy for me. When we moved we were  
3 frightened. And when we had moved far away from our home and we have stayed  
4 for about a week, they reminded us of the death that took place and told us that  
5 whoever tries to escape to go back home, a similar thing would happen. They said  
6 that if they caught two or three people escaping, you would be made to kill each other.  
7 It frightened me, and I thought it would happen to me if I tried to escape. It was not  
8 easy for me.

9 Q. [9:55:40] Did you ever find out which LRA unit attacked your village that day?

10 A. [9:55:47] No, I never got to know the unit, but I got to know a few people who  
11 were there. People were taken from different units and it was a joint operation, they  
12 went and did the operation together. The person who -- who did that was there.  
13 I was with that person. And when I came back home he had also come back home.  
14 I was heartbroken. Every time I saw that person in the community I would be  
15 heartbroken. Every time I see him from the centre. And I explain that. And then  
16 they call that person together with me and we were made to reconcile and forgive  
17 each other. We were counselled and said it was not the intention of that person to  
18 kill. But I am still heartbroken. Up to now I am still heartbroken.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:56:59] May I shortly?

20 This reconciliation that you spoke of, from your side was it heartfelt? Was it true?  
21 Did you really forgive him? If you want to say that.

22 THE WITNESS: [9:57:33] (Interpretation) When I explain to the authorities there and  
23 asked me to forgive that person, I said it is difficult to forgive. I know it was not his  
24 intention, but he is the one I saw and he was the one who abducted me from the  
25 house. And I'm not happy with him. He asked for forgiveness. I also asked for

1 forgiveness, but it was not easy. I saw him coming back alive and healthy and yet he  
2 did what he did to my parents.

3 MS BRIDGMAN: [9:58:19] Your Honours, I request to go into private session briefly.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:58:23] Yes, please. Private session.

5 (Private session at 9.58 a.m.)

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23 (Open session at 10.02 a.m.)

24 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:02:30] We are back in open session, Mr President.

25 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:02:45]

1 Q. [10:02:45] Ms Witness, these girls that we have just been talking about, how old  
2 were they, if you remember?

3 A. [10:03:01] According to my observation, there were four girls who were a little  
4 mature. One of them was my uncle's wife, she had come from my mother's home to  
5 come and visit my mother, and she got abducted.

6 Another one was a fairly grown up girl. I also saw other girls who were above 16.

7 Q. [10:03:44] Were you the youngest in that group or there were people who were  
8 younger than you?

9 A. [10:03:57] We were two girls of fairly the same age, we were younger than the  
10 rest of the abductees.

11 Q. [10:04:16] You mentioned that some of them died when they came back from the  
12 bush. But did you see them, were you with them while you were with the LRA?  
13 Did you continue to see them?

14 A. [10:04:38] I kept on seeing them while we were in the bush. The reason I  
15 confirm that she died was because she was the daughter of my uncle, she had escaped,  
16 and then she was beaten, and then abducted and taken back. When she back in the  
17 bush she contracted AIDS, and then eventually she was released to come back home.  
18 She came home, didn't stay for a while before she passed on.

19 Q. [10:05:26] You told us the name that you gave while -- the name that you were  
20 known by in the LRA. Can you explain why you were known by that name. You  
21 don't have to say it.

22 A. [10:05:53] The reason I was referred to by that name was because I thought if  
23 I were to escape they would not possibly be able to rediscover where I was abducted  
24 from. I used that name so that they would not trace me.

25 Q. [10:06:19] You also told us about this person who was involved in your

- 1 abduction, the one you reconciled with. Did you continue to see him in the LRA  
2 while you were in the bush?
- 3 A. [10:06:40] Yes.
- 4 Q. [10:06:45] Did you ever learn his rank or his position in the LRA?
- 5 A. [10:06:59] Well, I didn't learn about his rank, but he was an officer.
- 6 Q. [10:07:15] You said that when you came back you kept seeing him around.  
7 Would I then be correct that he is from your community in which you live?
- 8 A. [10:07:34] When I returned, the reason I saw him was because we were  
9 supposed to reconcile. I was still at World Vision centre.
- 10 Q. [10:07:52] Now, on the day of your abduction, apart from -- no. Did the LRA  
11 did anything else in your village, apart from the -- from your own abduction in the  
12 killings?
- 13 A. [10:08:15] Well, that happened because when they abducted us they set on fire  
14 the houses, including the food items that were in the houses all got burned.
- 15 Q. [10:08:38] You also briefly told us about the journey to the ranch and other  
16 places. Were you injured during that journey?
- 17 A. [10:08:59] When I was just abducted I did not sustain any injuries. But when  
18 I was given out to another household I think there was a lot of walking around and  
19 then I got injured on the leg. I was not able to continue walking. My feet had  
20 swollen and it was not easy for me.
- 21 Q. [10:09:25] So what happened with your injuries? Where did you go?
- 22 A. [10:09:39] I have not understood the question.
- 23 Q. [10:09:44] Following the injuries on your leg, did you get a chance to rest?
- 24 A. [10:09:58] Well, I had already stayed for some time after my abduction. The  
25 movements were quite much. The first problem was that I sustained some injury on

1 my leg.

2 Secondly, the person I was living with, if you look at him, he was much older than me  
3 and it was very difficult for me to live with him as his wife.

4 I had the injury on my, on my leg, and I had the other problem of staying with that  
5 man as his wife. So he felt it upon himself that it was necessary for me to be taken to  
6 a group that does not move that much, and I was taken to that group.

7 Q. [10:10:44] Did that group have a name? And if so, can you please tell us.

8 A. [10:11:01] When I was taken there, well, I was not told what the name of the  
9 battalion was, but I was only told that is a place where the sick were kept and was  
10 called sickbay.

11 Q. [10:11:18] And who was the commander of that sickbay?

12 A. [10:11:28] The commander of the sickbay was a gentleman called Binany.

13 Q. [10:11:42] Did Binany have any other names that you remember?

14 A. [10:11:54] Well, I don't know his other name. But from there you would not  
15 call a commander with his own name, but would only refer to them as "Lapwony".

16 Q. [10:12:19] Now, in this sickbay, was it a permanent place or did you continue to  
17 move around?

18 A. [10:12:40] The sickbay is not a permanent place, only that you do not move for  
19 very long distances. You can stay at one place for one or two days and then you  
20 move and stay in another place for like a week, but you make sure you don't move so  
21 far.

22 Q. [10:13:07] Now, you said that this group was a group that does not move much.  
23 What kind of people stayed in this group?

24 A. [10:13:37] That group was composed of mothers, and those who sustained  
25 serious injuries, those who couldn't move far distances.

1 Q. [10:13:50] And if you recall, how many people were in that group?

2 A. [10:14:04] Well, I can't quite recall, but I think it was a good number.

3 Q. [10:14:20] Do you remember how long you stayed in that group?

4 A. [10:14:31] I stayed in that group for about two years.

5 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:14:41] Your Honours, I request that we go into private session  
6 for a few minutes.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:14:46] Yes. Private session.

8 (Private session at 10.14 a.m.)

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1 (Open session at 10.19 a.m.)

2 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:19:17] We are back in open session, Mr President.

3 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:19:25]

4 Q. [10:19:26] Madam Witness, how soon after your abduction were you given to  
5 person number 1?

6 A. [10:19:44] I had not taken long, because when we were abducted we walked to  
7 the other area. It was not -- it was not even a month. Then I was given to that man.  
8 Thereafter, as we kept on walking and the travelling was too much, I had the two  
9 problems that I mentioned earlier, and then he felt it within himself that I should be  
10 taken to another group that does not move as much. I went and started staying  
11 there. I had not even taken long, then I heard that that person also died.

12 Q. [10:20:34] If you recall, how long did you live with this person number 1? Was  
13 it a few weeks, a few months?

14 A. [10:20:53] If I can recall, it was not long. I stayed with him for about two  
15 months.

16 Q. [10:21:08] Who decided that you should go and live with this person, do you  
17 remember?

18 A. [10:21:23] The instruction came from a commander. When we were abducted  
19 we moved and then eventually came in contact with a bigger group. The  
20 commander then was called Otti Lagony.

21 Q. [10:22:01] Do you recall seeing this person number 1 before you were given to  
22 him as a wife?

23 A. [10:22:16] I had not seen him.

24 Q. [10:22:23] Now, you mentioned that you were too young, you were still young  
25 at the time you were given to this person. Do you recall if you had seen your first

1 menstruation at the time you were given to this person?

2 A. [10:22:51] I had not yet.

3 Q. [10:23:02] Now, when he sent you to the sickbay, who made the decision that  
4 you should be given to the second person?

5 A. [10:23:26] The reason I went to person number 2 was because they were aware  
6 that person number 1 was already deceased. And while I was there at the sickbay,  
7 that person came, he was also injured, he was at the sickbay. I stayed for a while.  
8 I didn't know what was happening and what they were planning about me. But  
9 later on they picked me and took me to that man's household. I went to provide  
10 house help. I was preparing food, doing laundry. And then later on they started  
11 telling me that I should be living with that person as my husband.

12 Q. [10:24:12] Do you recall who made that decision?

13 A. [10:24:21] I thought it should have been the person who was the overall  
14 commander of the sickbay, it should be the person who told person number 2 to  
15 become my husband.

16 Q. [10:25:02] Now, for person number 1, did you ever know if he asked for you to  
17 become his wife?

18 A. [10:25:23] That happened.

19 Q. [10:25:29] Do you know if person number 2 asked you to be his wife?

20 A. [10:25:45] He did not ask me; but I think he received the instruction from above.

21 Q. [10:26:08] Can you please explain what you mean when you say you think he  
22 received instructions from above?

23 A. [10:26:29] It's because, in the bush, you cannot begin living with a person you've  
24 abducted. I had stayed there for a while, then I saw what was happening. The  
25 reason I said he sought for permission from above was because nobody had the

1 permission to abduct and then begin living with a girl as his wife. If that is done  
2 you -- you risk being punished.

3 So I think it was not his intention to get me to his household as his wife, but it was the  
4 interest of the overall commander at the sickbay.

5 Q. [10:27:18] Now I think I understood you to say that he did not ask you to  
6 become his wife; is that correct?

7 A. [10:27:33] That's correct.

8 Q. [10:27:36] Did anybody ask you if you want -- for instance, did the commander  
9 ask you if you wanted to be his wife?

10 A. [10:27:55] That did not happen. He only told me that I should leave the  
11 household where I was; I should go and provide help in the other person's household.

12 Q. [10:28:23] When person number 1 died, do you remember anyone coming to ask  
13 you -- or, approaching you, asking you to be their wife?

14 A. [10:28:48] Where I was in the bush that would not happen. Because if they  
15 came to discover that you were in love with someone, you would be subjected to  
16 firing squad.

17 Q. [10:29:10] Now, do you recall the year in which person number 1 died? Or  
18 when you became a wife to person number 2?

19 A. [10:29:32] Well, I do not recall the year person number 1 died. But with person  
20 number 2, because I had stayed in the sickbay for quite some time, he came, got me,  
21 and then he took me to his household.

22 Q. [10:29:53] And how long did you stay with person number 2?

23 A. [10:30:05] I stayed with person number 2 for quite some time, because I was able  
24 to bear a child with him.

25 Q. [10:30:21] You mentioned the difficult relationship you had with person number

1 1. But how was your relationship with person number 2?

2 A. [10:30:49] Well, for person number 2, I was a little older at that time when I got  
3 to live with him. I had already started seeing my menstrual period.

4 Q. [10:31:11] So was it an easier relationship than the first one?

5 A. [10:31:31] With person number 2, compared to person number 1, I was really  
6 young when I was with person number 1, I couldn't stay with a man as a husband.  
7 Secondly, I had not yet even experienced my menstrual cycle. I was also frightened  
8 with person number 1, and it appeared as if I had just chosen life over death. I  
9 surrendered to him that he should do whatever he wanted with my body.

10 Q. [10:32:23] Now, what happened to person number 2? Why didn't you continue  
11 living with him?

12 A. [10:32:41] The man passed away.

13 Q. [10:32:46] And how did you then end up with person number 3?

14 A. [10:33:09] This is how it happened with person number 3. When I was alone at  
15 the home of the deceased, he took me from that coy and took me to his household. I  
16 started living in his household. Unfortunately, the first child died while I was at his  
17 household. I was also troubled because there was war and there was -- the child was  
18 hit by helicopter gunship. I was not there, close to the child.  
19 When the other person died, I lived with person number 3, and we moved with him,  
20 going towards Sudan. When we were in Sudan, he asked me whether I could live  
21 with him. I told him I'm afraid, because here courtship is not allowed. I told him, if  
22 you want me to be with you, you should first get permission from the high authorities.  
23 He was also a person of high ranking, but he told me that, by the time he asked me,  
24 he had already been given permission from above and Kony had allowed him to stay  
25 with her. As a human being, I started living with person number 3, until I escaped

1 and left him in the bush.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:34:58] When you said, you said as a human  
3 being you started living with him; also as a woman, as a wife?

4 THE WITNESS: [10:35:10] (Interpretation) Yes.

5 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:35:20]

6 Q. [10:35:21] Now, you said that he was also of a higher rank. What rank and  
7 position was he at the time he came to ask you?

8 A. [10:35:45] (Redacted) was not a low ranking person. But I do not know how to  
9 differentiate ranks. But when I was living with (Redacted) he had a high rank, but I  
10 do not know what rank it was.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:36:06] I think it's not a problem to leave it at that.  
12 I think we understand it.

13 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:36:36]

14 Q. [10:36:37] When person number 3 asked you to live with him, did he tell you  
15 that he was in love with you?

16 A. [10:36:53] When person number 3 started living with me he never told me he  
17 loved me. At that time I was also weak. I was pregnant, but it was not his  
18 pregnancy. Sometimes I carry a heavy load and he sympathised with me. When I  
19 saw the way he was treating me, I saw it was fit for me to be with him, that he can  
20 take care of me. The way he treated me was good at his household, he never  
21 segregated against me.

22 Q. [10:37:43] Now, you just said that you were pregnant. Was this from person  
23 number 2 before he got killed?

24 A. [10:37:57] Yes.

25 Q. [10:38:03] And you also mentioned that your child was killed by helicopter

1 gunship. Was that the first child that you bore with person number 2?

2 A. [10:38:19] Yes.

3 Q. [10:38:22] You also said that in the LRA one would be put on firing squad for  
4 being in love with someone without permission. Can you explain why, if you know,  
5 this was the case?

6 A. [10:39:00] What I learned later, and after also learning some of the rules, I heard  
7 them say that the reason why courtship is not allowed was because, first, a soldier  
8 should not woo a woman, because if two or three soldiers started courting you, they  
9 can start a struggle and create enmity, and therefore courtship is not proper within  
10 the army. It can lead to injuries or even death amongst them.

11 Q. [10:40:02] So, from what you have said, how did those soldiers get the women?  
12 Did they ask for particular women from the commanders, or how did that work?

13 A. [10:40:34] What I know is that when I was there I saw how I was given out.  
14 A commander is the one who gives out a woman.

15 Q. [10:40:52] Now, if a woman lost her husband, did she have an opportunity to  
16 choose her next husband?

17 A. [10:41:08] No, it was -- it will not be her will.

18 Q. [10:41:16] You mentioned that when you stayed and started learning the rules,  
19 and then gave us examples. But can you give me more examples that were in the  
20 LRA about sexual relations between men and women.

21 A. [10:41:49] About sexual relationships between men and women, I learnt a few  
22 rules. I thought there would be courtship. But when you are abducted, like I said  
23 earlier, you are taken to a commander's household. That commander would tell you  
24 why you were taken there and you have no choice in what you are told. And that is  
25 what I learnt later.

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1 Q. [10:42:34] Do you know if a man could refuse the woman they were given to as  
2 a wife?

3 A. [10:42:53] I saw also what happened with some girls; sometimes you are given  
4 to a man who doesn't like you. But the man has no choice to say "Go back to where  
5 you were brought from." You have to try and live with the person much as you will  
6 not have very good relationship.

7 Q. [10:43:25] If a man or a woman disobeyed these rules what was the typical  
8 punishment in the LRA?

9 A. [10:43:46] If a man or a woman violates these rules, for example, by starting to  
10 stay with someone without authority, you would be subjected to a firing squad.

11 Q. [10:44:06] Now, Ms Witness, did you find these rules in existence at the time of  
12 your abduction, or were they created while you were already in the LRA?

13 A. [10:44:27] When I arrived there, I can confirm that these rules were already in  
14 existence, because the person whom I was given to did not woo me, I was just taken  
15 to his household, did not even talk to me, didn't even know me, and I started living  
16 with him.

17 Q. [10:44:52] Did you ever get to learn who established these rules? Where did  
18 they come from?

19 A. [10:45:09] I did not find out where the rules came from, but I think, personally I  
20 think that it is Kony who came out with the rules.

21 Q. [10:45:29] You mentioned several times in your own particular instance, but also  
22 generally, that when you -- when you are taken to a commander's household, that  
23 commander would tell you why you were taken there. But do you know if the  
24 commanders --

25 MR GUMPERT: [10:45:49] This is going to be a leading question, and I object to it.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:45:53] Yes. Perhaps you can try to rephrase it  
2 a little bit.

3 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:45:57] Thank you, your Honour.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:46:02] So just a short remark, Mr Gumpert.  
5 So from yesterday you have obviously thought about it, and now you are going to  
6 object while the questioning is still ongoing and not even waiting on after the Defence  
7 has asked. I am just remarking that. It's okay, because it's correct what you did,  
8 but I just remark that you immediately -- yes, I will not say learned it, but you at least  
9 note it, what happened there.

10 MR GUMPERT: [10:46:34] Yes, I am happy to adopt the learnt lesson suggestion.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:46:41] Yes. But as you know from the Chamber,  
12 we are not so formal. It is simply on a case-by-case basis. But it is absolutely  
13 correct at the moment. So please rephrase it, Ms Bridgman.

14 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:46:54]

15 Q. [10:46:59] You said that you were taught rules when you were in the LRA.

16 Were these rules taught to everyone, including commanders?

17 A. [10:47:26] I do not know from the commanders, but the way I see it, like I said,  
18 you are given to someone, and I learnt that that is the rule.

19 Q. [10:47:52] When person number 3 told you that he had already sought  
20 permission, did you confirm this? Or you just believed him?

21 A. [10:48:18] I confirmed. When he first told me that I thought he had actually  
22 said the truth. At that point I did not agree to start living with him. But Kony also  
23 came to the area where I was, in our position, and talked to him and also talked to me.  
24 Then I confirmed that he had got authority from Kony himself.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:48:57] I think that is quite clear on that point.



1 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:49:03]

2 Q. [10:49:03] You also just mentioned that the ultimate punishment was firing  
3 squad. Were commanders also -- senior commanders, were they also subject to such  
4 firing squad for violating the rules?

5 A. [10:49:30] I did not see that happen to a commander. But I saw it happen to  
6 two lower ranking soldiers, and it made me believe that that rule existed.

7 Q. [10:49:51] Apart from sexual relations within the LRA, were there rules  
8 regarding sexual relations between LRA and civilians?

9 A. [10:50:26] It is not easy for me to know that, because when people are sent for  
10 operation I do not know what takes place between the civilians and the soldiers who  
11 have been sent for operation. So for that matter, I have no knowledge of that.  
12 But I hear they say that any LRA soldier should not be found having a sexual  
13 relationship with a civilian without permission.

14 Q. [10:51:28] Now, during your time in the LRA, did you ever see Sudanese  
15 women in LRA households?

16 A. [10:51:48] No, I did not see.

17 Q. [10:51:53] Do you know why?

18 A. [10:52:01] I cannot say anything about that. I do not know.

19 MS BRIDGMAN: [10:52:17] Your Honours, looking at the time, I think this is a good  
20 place to stop for now, because I will be moving on to a different topic.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:52:25] Okay, I pick that up.

22 So we then have the coffee break until 11.30.

23 THE COURT USHER: [10:52:32] All rise.

24 (Recess taken at 10.52 a.m.)

25 (Upon resuming at open session at 11.32 a.m.)

1 THE COURT USHER: [11:32:40] All rise.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:33:08] You still have the floor, Ms Bridgman.

3 Please proceed.

4 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:33:21]

5 Q. [11:33:22] Ms Witness -- and for the record, your Honours, Thomas Obhof has  
6 joined the team, and Roy Titus Ayena.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:33:32] Indeed, yes. Visible at first glance, I  
8 would say.

9 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:33:38]

10 Q. [11:33:39] Madam Witness, you mentioned being in Sudan. Do you remember  
11 the year you went to Sudan?

12 A. [11:33:55] Well, I cannot clearly recall the year. But we stayed there for many  
13 years.

14 Q. [11:34:09] Do you remember when you came back from Sudan?

15 A. [11:34:20] I remember the year I came back, because after I returned I didn't take  
16 long, then I delivered the child I currently have. If I can remember, we came back  
17 and then returned. And then the final time we came back to Uganda was during an  
18 attack. Everyone had left Sudan, every single person, mothers, children, and  
19 everyone else had left Sudan.

20 Q. [11:35:16] So did I understand you correctly that you travelled from Sudan two  
21 times?

22 A. [11:35:32] Well, I didn't come to Uganda only two times. When I was still alone,  
23 I came to Uganda. And then when I lost the first child I came to Uganda on two  
24 more occasions.

25 Q. [11:35:58] Did you come alone or did you come in a group?

1 A. [11:36:08] I came in a group.

2 Q. [11:36:25] We will discuss the very last time you came back from Sudan later on,  
3 but do you remember the reasons you travelled from Sudan these other times that  
4 you mention?

5 A. [11:36:56] Well, it is difficult for me to explain why we came to Uganda. But,  
6 you know, as women, they would pick you and, for you, in your own thinking you  
7 might think they want you to come and provide some help in preparing foodstuff,  
8 carrying luggage and all that, but we were not told what reasons they had in mind for  
9 us to come back.

10 Q. [11:37:28] Did you in fact carry out the duties that you mentioned, preparing  
11 foodstuff and carrying luggage?

12 A. [11:37:46] The bulk of such roles are done by women. For instance, carrying  
13 ammunition, carrying food, all these things are done by women who do not have  
14 children. They are the ones who carry out those tasks, together with other junior  
15 soldiers.

16 Q. [11:38:13] Do you remember the places you went to when you were in Uganda  
17 during some of these journeys?

18 A. [11:38:33] You know, whenever we are leaving they wouldn't tell us that today  
19 we are going to this place, we are going to go and station in this place. They will not  
20 tell you that, because you will move and then you will be having -- thinking that we  
21 might go to such-and-such a place and stay for one or two days. But that doesn't  
22 happen. You will be walking and thinking possibly now we are going to station  
23 here and spend the night here, but they don't spend the night there. So it's all a mix  
24 of things that it's difficult for me to understand.

25 Q. [11:39:10] During these journeys did you travel with Joseph Kony?

1 A. [11:39:26] Previously Joseph Kony was in Uganda, only that he was in another  
2 group, I was not with him.

3 Q. [11:39:39] Now, can you briefly explain what happened the first time you  
4 arrived in Sudan.

5 A. [11:39:56] In my observation, when we entered Sudan for the first time, I kept on  
6 thinking that possibly we were taken there for a training on how to become a military  
7 person, because when we went there, several people were trained. We, as women,  
8 were also trained, especially those who were physically fit. We were told that we are  
9 supposed to know how to conduct combat operations, but it was a bit difficult for us  
10 as women.

11 Q. [11:40:39] So do I understand you correctly that you also participated in that  
12 training?

13 A. [11:40:57] Well, they would train you. But, as women, we didn't have adequate  
14 time for the training, because also, being able to comprehend the kind of things that  
15 were being trained on was difficult for us.

16 Q. [11:41:13] Can you please give me examples of some of the things you were  
17 being trained in.

18 A. [11:41:28] What I know well was -- or, we were being trained on how to  
19 disassemble a gun. Secondly, they say in an event of an attack, and you are caught  
20 unawares, you are supposed to know how to crawl and take cover so that you can  
21 survive such an attack.

22 Q. [11:41:55] A short while ago you mentioned carrying ammunitions and food.  
23 Did you ever carry ammunitions in the context of an operation?

24 A. [11:42:16] Yes, that would happen. But, personally, I did not carry ammunition,  
25 but I carried food. Though there are very many other women who would carry

1 ammunition during a battle. And in such operation they are supposed to be nearby,  
2 or they could move with these ammunition and station somewhere near so it can be  
3 used during such an operation.

4 Q. [11:42:48] Were there any women who actually went to battle, that you know of?

5 A. [11:43:00] Yes, that happened. Because I would give you an example, that  
6 there are some of them who came back home and then joined the military again. It  
7 was, I think, in their own intention to go back and continue doing military work.

8 Q. [11:43:29] Do you remember any of these women's names?

9 A. [11:43:39] There was one woman I stayed together with, (Redacted)  
10 (Redacted) Now she has enroled again, she's in the military.

11 Q. [11:44:12] Now, you said that Kony used to be in Uganda, but did you at any  
12 point -- no. I will rephrase.

13 You mentioned --

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:44:30] Mr Gumpert was on the jump already, so  
15 you -- now this is, this is now really interesting so that, that you correct yourself while  
16 talking because of this, what happened before the break.

17 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:44:46] Well I guess we are all learning while we go.

18 Q. [11:44:52] Ms Witness, did you interact with Joseph Kony during your time in  
19 the LRA?

20 A. [11:45:10] I could not interact with him because I did not have the authority, or  
21 power, to talk to him.

22 Q. [11:45:26] When you were receiving the training that you mentioned was  
23 Joseph Kony present, or around?

24 A. [11:45:43] While we were in Sudan, he was in Sudan as well. But he was not  
25 with us during the training.

1 Q. [11:46:02] Did you undergo any ritual when you joined the LRA?

2 A. [11:46:21] Yes, that happened.

3 Q. [11:46:27] Was that while you were still in Uganda or in Sudan?

4 A. [11:46:41] I will give an example. When you are freshly abducted, they would  
5 mix shea butter with some white substance, and they call it camouflage, and they  
6 would smear it on your chest and forehead.

7 Q. [11:47:03] Do you know the purpose of this ritual?

8 A. [11:47:15] They say that is normally done, especially when they have abducted  
9 girls, some fairly mature girls who are sometimes thought to not be very healthy.  
10 They say the camouflage will be used to cleanse you and make you be a clean person.

11 Q. [11:47:41] Do you know who made the determination of the mixture, what  
12 mixture to be used for cleansing?

13 A. [11:47:59] I think that must have been Kony.

14 Q. [11:48:07] And did you ever learn how Kony got this formula, let me call it that  
15 way?

16 A. [11:48:28] What I know is shea butter is something we use in Uganda. It's like  
17 cooking oil. But for the white substance, I failed to understand what is.

18 Q. [11:48:57] Now, did the LRA have any other medicines that they used?

19 A. [11:49:10] For medicines, it's a bit difficult for me to talk about it, because many  
20 times they would go into the bushes and get some herbs. And they claim that if you  
21 have any ailments these are the herbs that can set you free.

22 Q. [11:49:36] Did you ever hear or learn about Kony's spirits?

23 A. [11:49:51] Well, the issue around the spirits and Kony, what we used to be told  
24 was that whenever there is a situation, even when Kony is not present in the vicinity  
25 he would relay information to his commanders instructing them that everyone should

1 go and pray. For us, as women, we would be asked to pray to Silindi, because  
2 Silindi was the spirit for women. For the men, they are supposed to pray to Who  
3 Are You because that is the spirit for combat.

4 Q. [11:50:36] Madam Witness, just to take you back briefly, did you ever receive  
5 a rank after your training in the LRA?

6 A. [11:50:51] No, I didn't get any rank.

7 Q. [11:51:05] Now, focusing more on Silindi, what kind of help was that spirit  
8 meant to give the women, if you know?

9 A. [11:51:23] What I know, based on what he used to tell us, was that Silindi would  
10 do a lot of things. Number one, if you wanted any problem to be sorted out, for  
11 instance, if you have infertility problems, pray to Silindi, you will be able to conceive  
12 and have a child.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:51:48] May I shortly?

14 Ms Witness, how did you get to know the spirits and their power and their  
15 possibilities and their potential?

16 THE WITNESS: [11:52:16] (Interpretation) I do not necessarily confirm that I came to  
17 know about the spirit because it could work well. But whenever there were prayers  
18 everyone was meant to pray. I never witnessed any of the results of the prayers on  
19 anyone. But we kept -- were being told every single time that if there is a problem  
20 we needed to pray so that we can get help.

21 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:52:51]

22 Q. [11:52:53] If you know, what kind of help in combat would Who Are You give?

23 A. [11:53:07] What he used to say was that Who Are You was the spirit that would  
24 encourage the fighters to be very brave, especially when they go for battle.

25 Q. [11:53:29] Do you recall if Kony had any predictions -- made any predictions?

1 A. [11:53:48] For instance, the battle that uprooted us from Sudan, he told us at  
2 some point that there's going to be a very fierce battle and people needed to pray.  
3 They should pray to Silindi who will lead the women. Then the spirit for combat  
4 will be leading those who will lead us to Uganda. And then, after some time, the  
5 battle came to pass. I don't know whether he came to know about the battle prior to  
6 it, or he was told by the spirits. I don't know exactly.

7 Q. [11:54:34] Thank you, Madam Witness.

8 Now, while you were in the LRA did you ever meet Dominic Ongwen?

9 A. [11:54:51] While I was in the LRA I used to know Dominic Ongwen. I even met  
10 him.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:55:02] Do you recall when you met him?

12 THE WITNESS: [11:55:12] (Interpretation) I do not recall the period I met him, but I  
13 know Dominic Ongwen. I was staying close by while in the bush.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:55:25] It's absolutely understandable,  
15 Ms Witness, that you do not know the exact time. But can you tell us, perhaps,  
16 a time frame when it was. Was it in the 1990s still, was it in the 2000 years?

17 THE WITNESS: [11:55:51] (Interpretation) What I know is -- well, I do not recall  
18 which period exactly, but I remember I was told at some point that Dominic Ongwen  
19 sustained some injuries on his leg and I never came to know where he was taken after  
20 he was injured. But I used to know Dominic Ongwen even from Sudan, and when  
21 we came back to Uganda as well.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:56:19] I think you will follow up from there.

23 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:56:29]

24 Q. [11:56:30] Can you briefly describe Dominic Ongwen as you remember him.  
25 You said you lived close by.



1 A. [11:56:50] What I know about Dominic Ongwen is that -- well, I don't know  
2 which year he was abducted, but I only came to realise that he was already in the  
3 bush. I came to realise his presence in the bush quite some time early, because he  
4 was in a battalion that was called Sinia. I started seeing him from there. And when  
5 he was transferred to Control Altar he stayed there, he didn't stay very far away from  
6 where I was when he was at Control Altar. I started knowing him from there as well.  
7 What I knew about Dominic Ongwen was that he was a good person, because, first,  
8 while we were leaving Sudan to come to Uganda Dominic Ongwen was helping  
9 several women. The kind of help he was providing included something like if he  
10 stayed back following the group and he finds somebody who is now failing to  
11 continue walking, he would not do like others would do. Because what the other  
12 people would do, when you find somebody who has failed to continue walking, they  
13 would say "Let's have this one rest here," and then they have the person killed.  
14 I can confirm. It actually happened to me. He came to me, picked a baby I was  
15 carrying. He moved with me. We climbed a hill. And then we climbed down to  
16 the next side of the hill and then handed the baby back to me. That was the kind of  
17 help he gave to me. He didn't give help only to me, but to very many other people.  
18 I saw the way he was treating people. He was not a harsh commander. He was  
19 a good person. I can confirm that he was a very good person.

20 MS BRIDGMAN: [11:58:55] Your Honours, out of caution I would like to ask  
21 a follow-up question in private session.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:59:01] Private session.

23 (Private session at 11.59 a.m.)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

1 (Redacted)  
2 (Redacted)  
3 (Redacted)  
4 (Redacted)  
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17 (Redacted)  
18 (Redacted)  
19 (Redacted)  
20 (Redacted)  
21 (Redacted)  
22 (Redacted)  
23 (Redacted)

24 (Open session at 12.01 p.m.)

25 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:01:47] We are back in open session, Mr President.

- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:01:55] Perhaps I have one follow-up question.
- 2 Madam Witness, when you met him in Sudan were you together with person 3?
- 3 THE WITNESS: [12:02:13] (Interpretation) When I met Dominic Ongwen I was with  
4 (Redacted), together.
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:02:23] Please.
- 6 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:02:31]
- 7 Q. [12:02:32] Now, Madam Witness, did you ever attempt to escape from the LRA?
- 8 A. [12:02:45] I attempted, but it was not easy for me.
- 9 Q. [12:02:52] How many times did you try before you were successful?
- 10 A. [12:03:13] I had not yet stayed long, I tried to escape. When I wanted to escape,  
11 I moved -- when we had reached the position where we were, I moved as if I was  
12 going to collect firewood. When I left and reached the valley, I crossed the valley  
13 and went up the other side and noticed that I was far away from the main group.  
14 I was convinced that no one would catch me if I escaped. But when I moved a little  
15 bit someone was observing me and started running after me. He told me that,  
16 "Before you move the next step, please turn back." I told him I was looking for  
17 firewood. Then he said, "Why are you going that far to look for firewood? Please  
18 come back."  
19 I came back to the base and then he narrated what had happened. It was not easy. I  
20 suffered punishment because of that. That was the first time.  
21 The second time, I agreed with a lady called (Redacted). We were far  
22 away near a big waterbody and she told me, "(Redacted), I know this place." Then I  
23 told her, "Well, if you know this place, then we can escape, since there are only people  
24 in the sickbay who are here."  
25 When we agreed that we were going to escape in the evening, it was not easy because

1 they came to know about it. We were bound and blindfolded and they were taking  
2 us to be killed. I surrendered my life in God's hands and just decided that if it was  
3 the day that I was going to be killed, let it be.  
4 When we were being taken to be killed, they took three people. Two of us were  
5 supposed to be killed. Before they reached the place where they should have killed  
6 us, we heard gunshots. There were lots of gunshots. Then we heard helicopter  
7 gunships also, hovering over us. People fled. And that is how we survived,  
8 because we had also -- we had already been bound together and blindfolded. Our  
9 hands were untied and they also removed the blindfold and we ran. That is how we  
10 survived. When we settled again the person leading us called us and said that "Your  
11 God is indeed great, because he has saved you, because the people you were escaping  
12 to go to are the ones who attacked us. For that matter, God has agreed that you  
13 should live. Next time anybody who tries to escape will be killed." When he  
14 forgave us we thanked him, and we asked him to forgive us, and promised not to  
15 repeat.

16 Q. [12:06:36] Now, were these two attempts both in Uganda? Or in Sudan?

17 A. [12:06:44] This was from Uganda.

18 Q. [12:06:53] What about the first time, was it also in Uganda?

19 A. [12:06:58] Yes, it was from Uganda also.

20 Q. [12:07:24] What kind of punishment did you get for the first attempt of  
21 escaping?

22 A. [12:07:38] I was caned numberless strokes of the cane. They carried a big heap  
23 of -- a big heap of canes, and I was whipped with it. I was whipped several times. I  
24 could no longer cry. That is what happened.

25 Q. [12:08:02] How many people whipped you? Was it one person or several

1 people?

2 A. [12:08:11] There were three men. They even used machetes to whip my back.

3 Q. [12:08:22] You said you were whipped to a point of no crying. Did you sustain  
4 physical injuries?

5 A. [12:08:35] Yes, on my back. If you see my back now you will see scars of sticks  
6 and machetes.

7 Q. [12:08:47] Who ordered for these beatings?

8 A. [12:08:59] The person who ordered for the beating, at that time we were with  
9 a commander called Odhiambo.

10 Q. [12:09:11] Do you remember Odhiambo's other name?

11 A. [12:09:19] I do not know. We only referred to him as "Lapwony".

12 Q. [12:09:28] Do you know if he was also called Okot, Okot Odhiambo?

13 A. [12:09:42] Yes, I remember the name Okot Odhiambo. Except that the name  
14 Okot, some of us you cannot call him Okot Odhiambo, but you only refer to him as  
15 Lapwony Odhiambo.

16 Q. [12:10:07] Now, these three people that whipped you, did they volunteer to  
17 whip you?

18 A. [12:10:23] It was an order given to them.

19 Q. [12:10:26] Now, you have told us two different escape attempts and two  
20 different punishments. Was there a typical punishment in the LRA for attempting to  
21 escape?

22 A. [12:11:01] Yes, there was. If you attempt to escape, if you are unfortunate, they  
23 will kill you. I believe it was God that protected us. Sometimes you are given  
24 a heavy load to carry for a long time, because that would be part of the punishment.

25 Q. [12:11:33] Do you know if people escaped from Sudan?

1 A. [12:11:49] It was difficult. But if you are lucky and God helps you, and you  
2 surrender to the Arabs, you would be grateful to God, because the Arabs would take  
3 you to the Ugandan soldiers. But if you are unfortunate and you land on tribesmen  
4 of Lutugu who are in Sudan, they will not spare you. Sometimes they will just beat  
5 you until you die, sometimes they kill you. So it was not easy to escape from Sudan.

6 Q. [12:12:45] We discussed earlier briefly about Kony's predictions. But do you  
7 know if he also could predict escapes?

8 A. [12:13:12] It used to happen. Sometimes he would say that he has foreseen that  
9 you have plans of escaping, and he would warn you that you should not escape.  
10 Because he has warned you; and if you escape you would die.

11 Q. [12:13:36] When he said that if you escape you would die, what would kill you,  
12 according to him?

13 A. [12:13:55] The way I see, when you are captured he would say that -- he told you  
14 about your plans to escape. For that matter, he had warned you, and there would be  
15 no other punishment. Since he had stopped you from escaping, he would just give  
16 an order to be killed, because he had already warned you in the past.

17 Q. [12:14:24] Do you recall any incidences when Joseph Kony predicted an escape  
18 and it actually happened?

19 A. [12:14:45] I did not personally see that happen, that Kony predicted that  
20 so-and-so would escape and the person escaped. But every time they gathered  
21 people for a prayer or a meeting, and he would say that if someone has plans of  
22 escaping, like so-and-so, it will not be easy for him or her. But to see that someone  
23 attempted to escape or someone escaped, I did not see. But if you escape and they  
24 find out they would kill you. You know, for us women we fear. For instance,  
25 moving from Sudan to Uganda is not easy. Even if Uganda even if you escape from

1 a place which is unknown to you, it will not be easy for you to reach a main road.  
2 You can only escape in a place you are familiar with, or when you are about to cross  
3 a main road. That's what happens with women.

4 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:15:59] Your Honours, I request to go into private session for  
5 the next set of questions.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:16:06] Private session.

7 (Private session at 12.16 p.m.)

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23 (Open session at 12.27 p.m.)

24 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:27:56] We are back in open session, Mr President.

25 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:28:06] Madam Witness, just a few follow-up questions on what

1 you have narrated to us. First of all, how old was your baby at the time of your  
2 escape?

3 A. [12:28:26] The child was -- I -- he was born in -- he was born in 1999. That is  
4 when the child was born. So the child could have been about four years old, four  
5 years and some months.

6 Q. [12:28:46] And just for the record, which year did you escape from the LRA?

7 A. [12:28:57] I escaped in the year 2004.

8 Q. [12:29:03] Do you remember the month in which you escaped?

9 A. [12:29:12] I do not recall. But I think it should -- it was almost independence  
10 celebration. When I arrived it didn't take long and there was independence  
11 celebration.

12 Q. [12:29:29] Now, you mentioned a woman whose name I won't mention again,  
13 who reported you to the escort. Do you remember that?

14 A. [12:29:47] Yes, I do.

15 Q. [12:29:50] Now, was this common in the LRA, that if you shared your plans  
16 your colleagues would report you? Your escape plans.

17 A. [12:30:12] That would happen. Sometimes when you share your plans, you  
18 would say that -- would be afraid that if they find out that you shared with me, that I  
19 knew about your escape, I would also be part of the problem. So the person you  
20 shared with would go and report so that he would -- he or she would not be part of  
21 your punishment.

22 Q. [12:30:48] You also mentioned that when you met the old man you did not want  
23 him to take you to the government because you -- you were afraid you'd be killed.  
24 Why did you believe this?

25 A. [12:31:11] I feared so, because from there they would tell us that, if you find

1 yourselves in the hands of government soldiers, they would not leave you, they  
2 would kill you.

3 Q. [12:31:32] Now, did this old man actually take you to the LC?

4 A. [12:31:39] Yes, he did.

5 Q. [12:31:43] And what happened after that? Without mentioning names.

6 A. [12:31:56] When that person took me to the LC, I saw he treated me so well,  
7 because when I arrived there the LC welcomed me, they brought for me something to  
8 eat. But before that I was given water to go and take a bath, which I did. After  
9 eating, he asked me, "Right now I am going to take you to the military barracks."  
10 But I told him if he took me there he will have to come back with me, because I was  
11 really frightened. I ask him if he took me, will he be coming back with me. He said  
12 yes. Then we went to the barracks. When we arrived there the soldiers were  
13 saying that, having been the wife of the other person I must be highly knowledgeable,  
14 so I will not be allowed to go back to the LC. I would have to stay with them. But  
15 I was so frightened I couldn't stay in the barracks. So when the LC wanted to leave, I  
16 told them without the presence of the LC I will not stay.

17 They had brought for me soda and some bread to eat. But I rejected the items.

18 From the bush we were told that each time you are given something to eat you have  
19 to be very cautious, because they will give you poison. So I thought the things that  
20 were given were laced with poison. I rejected them.

21 When the LC was leaving I told them I am not staying behind. I told him, "If I'm to  
22 stay here, they are going to kill me." The LC assured me that I could stay, they  
23 wouldn't kill me. But I objected to that. Then they handed me over to the LC and  
24 then they gave some escorts to go with us and they kept providing security for us at  
25 the LC's place. But each day I would go to the barracks to go and talk to them.

1 Then, after the third day, they took me to Gulu barracks.

2 Q. [12:33:57] And just to be clear, you said you were taken to the soldiers before  
3 being taken to Gulu barracks. Where were these other soldiers based at?

4 A. [12:34:18] If I can mention the name, then yes, I will mention it. They were in  
5 (Redacted).

6 Q. [12:34:29] When you were taken to Gulu barracks how long did you stay?

7 A. [12:34:41] I stayed at the CPU in the barracks for about three days. Then I was  
8 taken to World Vision.

9 Q. [12:34:59] Did anything happen while you were at CPU?

10 A. [12:35:09] What happened from the CPU, which was very difficult, was that  
11 when my uncle came around he came and started asking me, he told me, "Thank you  
12 very much for coming back home." I also responded, saying I am also happy and  
13 thank you. I was very excited. When I arrived at (Redacted) and then I was eventually  
14 taken to Gulu I was very happy.

15 When I went to CPU they took me to go and speak on radio. I went and spoke on  
16 radio. I mentioned my names, the names of my parents, where I was born from.

17 And I gave them my name, my real names. Then my uncle heard me on radio. The  
18 next day he came. When he came I saw him, I was very excited and happy. But  
19 what happened that angered me a lot was that when my uncle -- my uncle arrived,  
20 the way he treated me was not proper. Because I was looking for solace, but my  
21 uncle came and started telling me that, "Well, it's good that you've come back." But  
22 before he could say anything more about home, he said, "You have come home, good.  
23 But, unfortunately, your mum is no longer there. The children who were here, who  
24 have survived by -- the children who were alive are there, but your mum is no longer  
25 there." She died in such-and-such a manner.

1 And I had already previously been told something about my father. I had been told  
2 by those who abducted later on that my father was killed, but they never told me how  
3 he was killed. They only told me that in confidence. They couldn't tell me that  
4 openly about what happened to my father. So the uncle told me that "At the time of  
5 your abduction your father was killed. Your mum has also died and she has left  
6 a young child."

7 That broke me down. I started crying. I lost it all. Then people came and started  
8 talking to me and asking me why I was crying. Then they started telling me that,  
9 well, if you wanted -- they were telling my uncle that if you wanted to talk to this  
10 person who has just returned from the bush, you don't come and begin telling them  
11 this kind of information. You could have waited for another time to tell this lady the  
12 information you gave her.

13 So when he came and told me these things, it broke me down.

14 Q. [12:37:51] When you were finally transferred to the World Vision how long did  
15 you stay?

16 A. [12:38:03] I stayed in World Vision for quite some time. The problem was that  
17 when I returned, World Vision looked for a place where they could take me where I  
18 could be comfortable, but they couldn't identify any place. And then the way my  
19 uncle came and talked to me and the kind of things he was doing in his life, he was  
20 not a very serious person, he was a drunkard actually, so World Vision could not find  
21 a good place where they could reintegrate me. And my village was very far away,  
22 we didn't have anybody staying within the town. So one thing that happened was  
23 that one of the staffers of World Vision kept on talking to me, and then one woman  
24 was able to come to me and talk to me and told me "I am going to pick you and take  
25 you to your uncle's place. Thereafter I will also take you to another place where

1 you are going to be staying with your children, together with your brothers. Do you  
2 accept?" I told her, "Well, if you did that to me I will be very grateful." Then I  
3 accepted that.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:39:26] I think there is enough information in  
5 that.

6 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:39:40]

7 Q. [12:39:41] Earlier, when we were discussing some of the girls you were  
8 abducted with, you mentioned that one of them, when she became sick, she was  
9 released and sent back home.

10 I just want to follow up on that, and that's from about page 15 of the transcript.

11 Who ordered for her release, if you remember?

12 A. [12:40:14] Well, I do not know who exactly ordered for her release, but when I  
13 had already returned I was told that the woman was released, but she was already  
14 ailing. They knew even if she had stayed back there in the bush she would  
15 eventually die. They were very happy that she was released to come back home.  
16 When she arrived they tried to give her treatment, but she did not respond and  
17 eventually died.

18 Q. [12:40:45] So do I understand you correctly that you did not know about her  
19 release until you came back home?

20 A. [12:40:58] Yes.

21 Q. [12:41:12] You also mentioned that when you came back home the soldiers  
22 thought you have a lot of information because of your relationship with person  
23 number 3. Did they ask you a lot of questions in that regard?

24 A. [12:41:35] Yes, they did.

25 Q. [12:41:41] What kind of information were they interested in?



1 A. [12:41:52] When I returned, the first thing they asked me was that they knew  
2 very well I was moving about with that person, in every movement that person must  
3 have been there, in person. When they asked me I told them, "Well, that's correct.  
4 The last time I was walking with that person was yesterday when we came under  
5 attack and then we were split up. At the time I was escaping he was no longer  
6 where I was." Then they also asked me where we were going. They asked me if we  
7 were going to meet at an RV somewhere. Well, I was aware of that. They were  
8 asking me if I was aware of that, then I told them, "No, I am not aware of any RV."  
9 Those were the kind of questions they were asking me.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:42:46] I think that's also enough on that subject.

11 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:42:52] May I ask one more question.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:42:54] Let's listen to the question. Yes.

13 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:42:58]

14 Q. [12:42:58] Did they ever ask you about an attack at Pajule?

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:43:02] Good. Okay.

16 THE WITNESS: [12:43:12] (Interpretation) Well, out of the soldiers who I interfaced  
17 with after my escape, none of them asked me such a question.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:43:23] That of course was absolutely  
19 objectionable -- unobjectionable.

20 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:43:38] Thank you, Mr President.

21 Q. [12:43:39] Do you know of an attack at Pajule?

22 A. [12:43:49] When they said Pajule was attacked, during that period I was not with  
23 the convoy, I was at the sickbay, and the convoy had stayed away from us for quite  
24 a while, then somebody sustained an injury during the Pajule attack. That person  
25 was a boy who was in Otti's group. He was called Odonga Wod Lango. He

1 eventually died because of the seriousness of the injury. Then I asked them, "Where  
2 had you gone? Had you gone to attack Pajule?" Said, "Yes." I asked them, "With  
3 whom were you in Pajule?" I only asked him as somebody I was living together  
4 with. So he told me they went and attacked Pajule. At that time it was Otti's group  
5 than went and attacked Pajule. So I was told about that by that boy. But I was not  
6 in that convoy.

7 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:44:53] I'll move on.

8 Q. [12:44:56] Since your return from the bush did you have any information  
9 regarding person number 3?

10 A. [12:45:14] When I returned, before I could hear anything about him, there was  
11 a man during the peace talks who came and started asking me, that (Redacted)- that  
12 was the name I was using - he asked me, he told me that person number 3 was asking  
13 me to return to the bush. Then I ask him, "You want me to return when you know  
14 very well I escaped? You want me to be killed?" The person told me that, "Well,  
15 there is no more problem. Nowadays there is peace talks and these people are about  
16 to come back home." But I told that gentleman that that will not happen, I will not  
17 go back there. And that's where it ended.

18 Later on, after quite some time, I think I don't remember how long exactly it had  
19 taken, but I was told later on that (Redacted) had died.

20 A lucky thing was that one person I was staying with, who was called (Redacted),  
21 were close to each other, during the peace talks the lady came to me and told me that,  
22 (Redacted), "I want to go back to" -- she was coming from Kitgum, from a place -- well,  
23 I don't clearly remember. It was Padibe. She told me that "I am going back to my  
24 mum in Padibe." Then I told her, "If you go back to Padibe, go and greet your  
25 mum." But when (Redacted) came to me I think she had a different intention (Redacted)

1 came to me at that time and yet she wanted to go back to the bush instead, not to her  
2 mother. She went back to the bush but it was not simple for her. Later on I was  
3 told that she eventually died from the bush. But before she died, (Redacted) died.  
4 After the death of (Redacted), life changed for (Redacted) and then eventually she also  
5 died. That was one thing I came to know about one of the ladies with whom I had  
6 stayed in the bush.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:47:34] Thank you.

8 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:47:36] Mr President, there is one more question I would like to  
9 follow up in private session.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:47:42] Private session.

11 (Private session at 12.47 p.m.)

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13 (Open session at 12.50 p.m.)

14 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:50:41] We are back in open session, Mr President.

15 MS BRIDGMAN: [12:50:46]

16 Q. [12:50:47] Madam Witness, as we conclude my own questions, I just -- is there  
17 anything that I haven't asked you? Why did you come to testify today?

18 A. [12:51:15] The reason I came to testify, well, is because, while I don't remember  
19 the exact date, but one of the ladies with whom I used to live very well came to me.

20 She told me, (Redacted)-- she actually used the name I currently use at home. She told

21 me that there is a lady who wants to meet with you. Then I ask her, "Where does she

22 stay?" Then she told me, "The lady comes from Gulu, she lives within." Then I ask

23 her, "Why does she want to meet with me?" Because what I know is, for us, as

24 returnees, we can land into problems. If somebody asks you, they want to meet up

25 with you, then you want to think maybe they want to support you in one way or the

1 other. Then I ask her, "Why does she want to meet with me?" But she only told me,  
2 "Please, just go and meet her and then you will find out from there."  
3 I decided to accept and go because I thought maybe that lady wanted to give me  
4 some support. I got the number of that lady, but she had also given my number to  
5 that lady. The lady called me and ask me, "(Redacted), are you okay?" I said, "Yes,  
6 I am." Then she said she wanted to meet with me. Then she asked me if I am ready  
7 to meet with her. I said, "Fine, I have no problem." Then I set off to go and meet  
8 her at a place called Saint Monica. I arrived there. She picked me from there and  
9 took me to Lacor. When we arrived at Lacor she started asking me, she asked me  
10 very many questions about my stay, about my -- in the bush, about my abduction,  
11 and I told her everything. I told her -- she told me that "I want to talk to you. If  
12 they ask you if you can go and give a testimony, if you can go and testify in Court  
13 about what you have told me, will it be possible?" I told her, "Well, I have no  
14 problem with that, because everything I have told you here is things I have passed  
15 through, things I have experienced. So I have no problem, I can go." Then she said,  
16 "Fine, I will meet you again next time."  
17 Then later on she called me and met with me again. I told her, "Fine, these are the  
18 things that I experienced. If you want me to go and testify in court about this, I have  
19 no objection to that." That is how and why I am here.

20 Q. [12:53:48] Thank you, Madam Witness.

21 Your Honours, lead counsel says he has about five minutes of questioning.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:53:53] Yes, no problem. Thank you,  
23 Ms Bridgman. Please, Mr Ayena.

24 QUESTIONED BY MR AYENA ODONGO:

25 Q. [12:54:16] Madam Witness, I am called Krispus Ayena Odongo, and I have a few

1 questions for you. Madam, I will begin from Odongo Wod Lango. When you had  
2 occasion to talk to him before he died at the sickbay, did he tell you the names of  
3 those who led the attack at Pajule?

4 A. [12:54:57] Well, I didn't get into those details because he was already ailing.  
5 They shot him on the back and then the bullet came and tore his chest, so he didn't  
6 have energy to speak a lot. I only ask him where he sustained his injury from. I ask  
7 him so because I was living with him. Then he told me it happened from Pajule,  
8 they had gone to attack Pajule.

9 Then I ask him, "With whom did you go to Pajule?" He told me Mr Otti was also  
10 there. Then I told him, "Well, sorry about your injury." And then he didn't stay for  
11 long. The injury was grave and then eventually he died. I did not enquire about  
12 the details of the people who went to Pajule. But Odongo was together with Otti  
13 because he was the one in charge of Otti's security.

14 Q. [12:56:00] And, Madam Witness, from what you have said, having lived with  
15 person 3 as man and -- I mean, as man and wife, did you get to know whether he had  
16 some contacts with collaborators among the civilians?

17 A. [12:56:40] Well, that's a bit difficult for me, because, for instance, if I looked at  
18 the shoes that we would put on, I would see us receiving pairs of shoes but I would  
19 not be able to establish where they were coming from. It was not possible for us to  
20 ask these commanders where these items were coming from. But I would see new  
21 pairs of shoes, and many other things, but I couldn't establish who exactly was  
22 providing the linkage.

23 Q. [12:57:18] Did you sometimes hear him talking on, on telephone to people who  
24 could have been within the civilian population?

25 A. [12:57:43] Well, that's, that's difficult for me to answer, because if you see

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1 somebody is speaking on the phone, they would not allow you -- especially him,  
2 whenever he is speaking on phone, he would not speak on phone when he is near us,  
3 he speaks when he is far away, so it's difficult to know whether he was speaking to  
4 this or the other person.

5 Q. [12:58:10] Last but -- last, I think the last question. Madam, during your stay in  
6 the bush, especially after you came from Sudan, did you get to know somebody  
7 called Rwot Oywak? Do you know somebody called Rwot Oywak? And if you do,  
8 can you tell Court some things you know about him.

9 A. [12:58:47] Well, I do not clearly recall, but I remember hearing the name  
10 Rwot Oywak. Even during the peace talks I could hear his name. But the  
11 interaction between him and person number 3 I could not establish.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:59:09] Thank you, Mr Ayena. Thank you.  
13 Any questions by the Prosecution?

14 MR GUMPERT: [12:59:14] None.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:59:16] By the representatives of the victims?  
16 No, I don't see anybody.

17 So, Madam Witness, this concludes your testimony. On behalf of the Chamber I  
18 would like to thank you that you have taken it upon you to come to this courtroom to  
19 give your testimony and to help the Court establish the truth. And we wish you  
20 a safe trip back home.

21 (The witness is excused)

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: This concludes also the hearing for today. We  
23 continue on Monday, 9.30, with D-60 I think it is.

24 THE COURT USHER: [12:59:57] All rise.

25 (The hearing ends in open session at 1.00 p.m.)