- WITNESS: UGA-D26-P-0105
- 1 International Criminal Court
- 2 Trial Chamber IX

filed in the case

- 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 Thursday, 1 November 2018
- 8 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.38 a.m.)
- 9 THE COURT USHER: [9:38:17] All rise.
- 10 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
- 11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:38:34] Good morning everyone.
- 12 Could the court officer please call the case.
- 13 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:38:43] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
- 14 Situation in the Republic of Uganda, in the case of the Prosecutor versus Dominic
- 15 Ongwen, case reference ICC-02/04-01/15.
- 16 And for the record, we are in open session.
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:38:58] I ask for the appearances of the parties.
- 18 First of all, Mr Sachithanandan.
- 19 MR SACHITHANANDAN: [9:39:03] Good morning, your Honour. Appearing
- 20 today, I am Pubudu Sachithanandan, with Beti Hohler, Ben Gumpert, Julian
- 21 Elderfield, Hai Do Duc, Yulia Nuzban, Jasmina Suljanovic, Sina Etezazian, Grace Goh,
- 22 Adesola Adeboyejo, Milena Bruns and Laura de Leeuw.
- 23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:39:25] Thank you.
- 24 And for the Representatives of the Victims, Mr Manoba first.
- 25 MR MANOBA: [9:39:30] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.

- 1 Joseph Manoba, James Mawira, Anushka Sehmi and Maria Radziejowska.
- 2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:39:38] Thank you.
- 3 Mr Narantsetseg.
- 4 MR NARANTSETSEG: [9:39:41] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
- 5 Orchlon Narantsetseg for the Common Legal Representative of Victims. Thank you.
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:39:45] Thank you.
- 7 And Mr Obhof for the Defence.
- 8 MR OBHOF: [9:39:49] Good morning, your Honour, happy Movember 1st. Today
- 9 with -- my name is Thomas Obhof. Today with me, of course, is our counsel Krispus
- 10 Ayena Odongo, Ms Abigail Bridgman, Ms Beth Lyons and Chief Charles Achaleke
- 11 Taku. And Dominic Ongwen, our client, is in court.
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:40:09] Thank you very much.
- 13 The Defence is now calling D-105 as its next witness.
- 14 The Chamber turns to his testimony.
- 15 Mr Opio, good day at the video link. And we are welcoming you at the courtroom
- 16 via video link. Good morning.
- 17 WITNESS: UGA-D26-P-0105
- 18 (The witness speaks Lango)
- 19 (The witness gives evidence via video link)
- 20 THE WITNESS: [9:40:38] (Interpretation) Good morning, Mr President.
- 21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:40:39] Mr Opio, you are going to testify before
- 22 the International Criminal Court. I will now read out the solemn undertaking every
- 23 witness has to take when they appear before this Court, so please listen to me.
- I solemnly declare that I will speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the

25 truth.

- 1 Mr Opio, do you understand the undertaking?
- 2 THE WITNESS: [9:41:06] (Interpretation) Yes, I understand.
- 3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:41:10] And do you agree with it?
- 4 THE WITNESS: [9:41:15] (Interpretation) Yes, I do agree.
- 5 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:41:17] Thank you, Mr Witness. You have now
- 6 been sworn in.
- 7 And before we start with your testimony, I would like to tell you some few practical
- 8 matters.
- 9 You are aware that everything we say here in this courtroom is written down and
- interpreted, and to allow for the interpretation, everyone has to speak at a relatively
- slow pace. And please only start speaking when the person who has asked you
- 12 something has finished. This is simply because otherwise the interpreters cannot
- 13 follow. If you wish to say something yourself, if you wish to address the Chamber,
- please raise your hand and I will give you then the floor.
- 15 Thank you for your patience. Now enough of the preliminaries. And we start now
- 16 with the testimony.
- 17 And I give Mr Obhof the floor.
- 18 I understand that -- I have just been informed that you would like to have a short
- 19 break. Is this correct, Mr Witness? Before we start.
- 20 THE WITNESS: [9:42:32] (Interpretation) Yes, that is correct, yes.
- 21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:42:34] So then have a short break until -- and we
- 22 will be informed. Perhaps five, let's say five minutes, and we come back in five
- 23 minutes. So you have your break before we start. That happens.
- 24 THE COURT USHER: [9:42:47] All rise.
- 25 (Recess taken at 9.42 a.m.)

Trial Hearing (Private Session) ICC-02/04-01/15

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- 1 (Upon resuming in open session at 9.45 a.m.)
- 2 THE COURT USHER: [9:45:59] All rise.
- 3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:46:09] Now, Mr Opio, we start with your
- 4 testimony and I give Mr Obhof from the Defence the floor.
- 5 MR OBHOF: [9:46:29] Thank you, your Honour.
- 6 QUESTIONED BY MR OBHOF:
- 7 Q. [9:46:32] Good morning, Opio.
- 8 A. [9:46:37] Good morning.
- 9 MR OBHOF: [9:46:40] Your Honour, if we could take maybe 5 minutes to go into
- 10 private session just about his personal information, please.
- 11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:46:46] Of course. We go shortly to private
- session. Shortly means really shortly. In a couple of minutes we'll be back in open
- 13 session.
- 14 (Private session at 9.47 a.m.)
- 15 (Redacted)
- 16 (Redacted)
- 17 (Redacted)
- 18 (Redacted)
- 19 (Redacted)
- 20 (Redacted)
- 21 (Redacted)
- 22 (Redacted)
- 23 (Redacted)
- 24 (Redacted)
- 25 (Redacted)

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- 2 (Open session at 9.48 a.m.)
- 3 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:48:47] We're back in open session, Mr President.
- 4 MR OBHOF: [9:48:56]
- 5 Q. [9:48:56] Now, Mr Witness, how old were you when you were abducted?
- 6 A. [9:49:07] I was 8 years old.
- 7 Q. [9:49:10] Without saying the name of the place, were you living then in the same
- 8 place as you live now?
- 9 A. [9:49:31] Yes.
- 10 Q. [9:49:38] Now, do you remember when you were abducted?
- 11 A. [9:49:48] Yes, I do remember.
- 12 Q. [9:49:49] Could you please tell the Court when you were abducted, sir?
- 13 A. [9:49:58] I was abducted on 3 March in the year 2000.
- 14 Q. [9:50:04] Now, during that time, the time around your abduction, were people
- 15 living in the camps?
- 16 A. [9:50:25] No. There were no camps yet.
- 17 Q. [9:50:32] Now, around that same time, do you remember how the LRA was
- 18 operating?
- 19 A. [9:50:47] Yes, I do remember.
- 20 Q. [9:50:56] Could you please tell the Court how the LRA was operating around the
- 21 time of your abduction.
- 22 A. [9:51:08] At the time of my abduction, they abducted me. We had heard that
- 23 there were rebels around, so we went and took -- and hid behind the homestead. It
- 24 was about 6 p.m. It was no longer clear enough. From our hiding place, we found
- 25 someone was coming towards our direction and the person was holding a gun. I

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- started fleeing together with my sister. My sister was older than me. We started
- 2 running, but she overpowered me. The person wanted to abduct my sister, and my
- 3 sister dropped the child she was carrying and fled. The person turned back and
- 4 abducted me instead.
- 5 Should I continue?
- 6 Q. [9:52:28] That's your choice. I could ask you some follow-up questions if that's
- 7 okay with you.
- 8 A. [9:52:42] You can ask, then I can continue later.
- 9 Q. [9:52:45] Okay. Now, this person who abducted you, do you remember this
- 10 person's name?
- 11 A. [9:52:55] Yes, I do remember.
- 12 Q. [9:53:02] What was this person's name?
- 13 A. [9:53:09] I remember that he was called Kenneth.
- 14 Q. [9:53:16] Now, you mentioned that your younger sister -- I'm sorry, that your
- sister, they were also trying to abduct her. Did they abduct your sister eventually?
- 16 A. [9:53:34] No. She was not abducted.
- 17 Q. [9:53:37] Now, your little brother who was dropped, did they abduct your little
- 18 brother?
- 19 A. [9:53:51] No. He wasn't abducted because he was just 3 years old.
- 20 Q. [9:54:02] Did Kenneth, this person from the LRA, did he do anything to your
- 21 little brother?
- 22 A. [9:54:13] No, he did not do anything to my little brother.
- 23 Q. [9:54:19] After your abduction, where were you taken to?
- 24 A. [9:54:37] When I was really abducted, there is a route which comes from Lamin
- 25 Onami and passes through the centre of Bar-Rio and goes towards Acokora. I was

- 1 brought to that location and found a bigger group in that place.
- 2 Q. [9:55:01] Now, this place that you were taken to, does it have a name?
- 3 A. [9:55:23] I thought I mentioned it. Are you talking about where they finally
- 4 took me after my abduction?

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- 5 Q. [9:55:39] Never mind. I'm sorry, I was reading the transcript and the location
- 6 was not spelled, so I missed it. It's my fault, Mr Witness. Sorry about that.
- 7 Now at Acokora, you said you were taken to the larger group. Who was in charge of
- 8 this larger group in Acokora.
- 9 A. [9:56:07] When I found them at the junction of the road, they had come for
- 10 operations and there -- I did not know who their leader was at that time.
- 11 Q. [9:56:32] Did you ever come to find out who the leader of that group was?
- 12 A. [9:56:38] Yes. When I was already in the bigger group, I later learned who the
- 13 name of the leader was.
- 14 Q. [9:56:57] And could you please tell the Court the name of the leader?
- 15 A. [9:57:02] The person who was leading that group was called Lubul.
- 16 Q. [9:57:15] Now, what happened to you when you encountered the larger group?
- 17 A. [9:57:33] When we encountered the larger group, we moved and they continued
- 18 walking. We went to a place called Aloni after Acokora and took some things from a
- 19 store there. When we came back from that location, we were now taken to a much
- 20 bigger place where they were staying.
- 21 Q. [9:58:04] Now, this much bigger place, do you know the name of this bigger
- 22 place and, if so, could you please tell the Court?
- 23 A. [9:58:20] When they finished the operation, they took me to a place called Loyo
- 24 Ajonga.
- 25 Q. [9:58:36] Now, when you reached Loyo Ajonga, what happened there?

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- 1 A. [9:58:50] When we reached Loyo Ajonga, we found there were many groups
- 2 near us. There was a big population there.
- 3 Q. [9:59:09] Now, you said the group went on mission in Aloni. Did they bring
- 4 anything back to Loyo Ajonga from Aloni?
- 5 A. [9:59:25] When they went to Aloni, they took things and came back from the
- 6 same route they used and proceeded to Loyo Ajonga.
- 7 Q. [9:59:40] When you say "things," what do you mean by "things"?
- 8 A. [9:59:59] There were foodstuff. They took beans. There were also mattresses.
- 9 Two mattresses were taken.
- 10 Q. [10:00:08] Now, when you arrived in Loyo Ajonga, did you happen to notice if
- 11 the LRA had its own gardens or fields with crops?
- 12 A. [10:00:28] No. There were no crops in the field. It was just a thicket where
- they used to live at the time.
- 14 Q. [10:00:48] When you arrived in Loyo Ajonga, did you come to find out the name
- of the group which abducted you?
- 16 A. [10:01:03] Yes. I was about to know the name of the place once I arrived there.
- 17 THE INTERPRETER: [10:01:23] Your Honour, the interpreter's correction. The
- 18 witness says he was able to know the name of the group once he arrived at the place.
- 19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:01:35] Thank you.
- 20 MR OBHOF: [10:01:38]
- 21 Q. [10:01:38] Mr Witness, what was the name of the group which abducted you?
- 22 A. [10:01:43] The group was called Trinkle.
- 23 Q. [10:01:52] Now, when you arrived in Loyo Ajonga, what happened to you
- 24 personally?
- 25 A. [10:02:12] Once I arrived at Loyo Ajonga, the person who abducted me, Kenneth,

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- 1 was the one who was second to command -- in command to the group, that was
- 2 in -- the commander who was in charge of the Trinkle. So he called to me to go to
- 3 him to live with him, and he started teaching me how to dismantle a gun, cleaning it,
- 4 reassembling it, and then also how to fire the gun and also how to march. These
- 5 were the things that he was training me to do.
- 6 Q. [10:02:56] Now, this Kenneth, do you remember Kenneth's other name?
- 7 A. [10:03:05] I was not able to establish his other name because most times the
- 8 bosses there, you do not ask their names; so you only go with the name that you hear
- 9 people mentioning.
- 10 Q. [10:03:31] Could you describe Kenneth? Was he light skinned, dark skinned,
- 11 was he tall, short? Could you describe him for us, please?
- 12 A. [10:03:40] Because Kenneth was second in command to that commander, he was
- tall, slim bodied and brown.
- 14 Q. [10:04:03] Now, when you say "tall", could you give maybe an estimate of his
- 15 height?
- 16 A. [10:04:09] Well, I cannot really estimate his height. He's not very tall, tall. I
- 17 think I can describe him to be size 24. He's just medium size.
- 18 Q. [10:04:27] Now, you discussed a little bit about your training with Kenneth.
- 19 Now, did Kenneth, did Kenneth train you on using code language over the military
- 20 radio?
- 21 A. [10:04:55] No, he did not.
- 22 Q. [10:05:10] Did he train you on how to use the large military radios?
- 23 A. [10:05:16] No, he did not.
- 24 Q. [10:05:23] Now, Mr Witness, when you were being trained, was Kenneth

25 training just you or was he training dozens of people?

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- 1 A. [10:05:41] At that time when I went, I was abducted alone, because from that
- 2 same village, three of us were abducted, but the other two were taken to other groups.
- 3 So I was alone, left in this group, so he only trained me.
- 4 Q. [10:06:09] Did you see larger groups of persons being trained together?
- 5 A. [10:06:20] I did not see that.
- 6 Q. [10:06:32] Now, how often were you trained?
- 7 A. [10:06:43] The training that he would give me, sometimes I wake up in the
- 8 morning, then he would show me what to do. Then the next day, I would rehearse it.
- 9 So it's usually once a day.
- 10 Q. [10:07:13] Now, being an adult now, Mr Witness, did it appear to you at that
- 11 time you were being trained for self-defence or for attack when you first arrived?
- 12 A. [10:07:33] Yes, I think so.
- 13 Q. [10:07:49] Just so we're clear, do you mean you think you were being trained for
- 14 self-defence?
- 15 A. [10:08:03] They could be training me to -- for self-defence, but also to protect the
- other people so that in case there's any incident, then it means I would have to use
- 17 that skill to also protect the other people.
- 18 Q. [10:08:18] And when you say "just in case there's any incident," do you mean in
- 19 case the UPDF attacks your location?
- 20 A. [10:08:30] Yes, that's correct.
- 21 Q. [10:08:46] After being taken to Kenneth, what were your main duties with
- 22 Kenneth?
- A. [10:08:57] When I was with Kenneth, after he completed the training, then he
- 24 made me to become his escort.
- 25 Q. [10:09:13] And what were your functions as Kenneth's escort?

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- 1 A. [10:09:25] My roles were to carry his bag containing his clothes, his chair and
- 2 also carry his gun.
- 3 Q. [10:09:42] Now, Mr Witness, have you ever heard the term or the expression
- 4 "batman"?
- 5 A. [10:10:05] Did you say "bad man"? Could he say it again.
- 6 Q. [10:10:12] Batman, B-A-T-M-A-N; otherwise known as Michael Keaton.
- 7 A. [10:10:21] No. I did not hear that.
- 8 Q. [10:10:41] During the next year or so of your time in the LRA, what was the
- 9 main purpose of the group you were in with Kenneth?
- 10 A. [10:10:47] That group mostly just stationed there, but mostly they had people
- 11 who were injured. Then there were some pregnant women who were also mostly in
- 12 that group.
- 13 Q. [10:11:16] Now during the next year or two, did you spend more time attacking
- 14 the UPDF or more time searching for food?
- 15 A. [10:11:35] Most of the things that we would do, we were not so much engaged
- in fighting. We'd only go to collect food, except when we came under very close
- 17 UPDF attack, then that's when we respond, when they attack us.
- 18 Q. [10:12:07] Now, when you collected this food, if you abducted or if the group
- 19 abducted an adult to help carry the food to a certain location, what would normally
- 20 happen to the adult after the food was carried to where the LRA wanted it to be
- 21 carried to?
- 22 A. [10:12:29] For the old people, the adults who are seen not to be capable of doing
- 23 work, once they have helped us to carry the luggage, we don't allow them to come to
- 24 the position. We leave them to stop at some distance and then release them, because
- 25 we fear that if we bring them to our station, then they could later on lead the UPDF to

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- 1 our position. So because of that fear we would not allow them to come to that
- 2 position. We just leave them from a distance and release them.
- 3 Q. [10:13:18] When you were collecting these foods, did everyone that went to
- 4 collect food, did they usually have a gun?
- 5 A. [10:13:36] Not everyone had a gun.
- 6 Q. [10:13:57] Now, if you had to estimate, how long was it before you received a
- 7 gun from Kenneth?
- 8 A. [10:14:14] I spent three years.
- 9 Q. [10:14:19] During your searches, during the group's searches for food, what
- 10 would the group do if they saw or they came across UPDF, and the UPDF did not see
- 11 the group?
- 12 A. [10:14:49] Most times when we meet them and they did not see us, we only saw
- them one-sided, we don't attack them.
- 14 Q. [10:15:08] Did your group stand still or did they hide somewhere?
- 15 A. [10:15:29] Once we have seen our enemies, we just continue with our movement
- 16 where we are going.
- 17 Q. [10:15:44] What would happen if you came across UPDF and the UPDF saw you?
- 18 Would it always be the same thing or it might be a different reaction?
- 19 A. [10:16:02] If they see us and they start firing at us, if it doesn't press us so much,
- 20 for us, we just flee. We don't respond. But if we find that we are under pressure
- 21 and serious attack, then we also respond to them.
- Q. [10:16:33] When the UPDF noticed the group, did they always attack or did they
- 23 sometimes do other things?
- 24 A. [10:16:50] When they are aware of our position, they are the one who start firing
- 25 at us. So if they're in a distance, in a longer distance which is not very close to us, for

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- 1 us, we just flee. But if it is very close range, then that's when we respond.
- 2 Q. [10:17:21] When the UPDF engages and the group you were in ran away, how
- 3 would they know where to meet at a later time?
- 4 A. [10:17:41] Sometimes they don't press us so much that it will make us to flee and
- 5 scatter. But once we get scattered there is usually a place which is, which is already
- 6 agreed upon as an RV where people go and meet.
- 7 Q. [10:18:18] Was there always an RV agreed upon before the group left to collect
- 8 food?
- 9 A. [10:18:33] Yes, that's usually agreed upon before we leave, because sometimes
- when the UPDF come and attack the group that remained behind, then they would
- 11 flee and go to that new location. So when we return and don't find people at the old
- location, then we know they have moved to the new location.
- 13 Q. [10:19:02] Mr Witness, without saying what you did personally, was your group
- ever involved in any type of engagement with the UPDF in Kitgum?
- 15 A. [10:19:34] Yes, that happened.
- 16 Q. [10:19:54] Do you remember the season of the attack, or what crops were being
- 17 harvested around that time?
- 18 A. [10:20:07] That time the people were harvesting sorghum.
- 19 Q. [10:20:21] And do you know around which month or months sorghum is
- 20 harvested?
- 21 A. [10:20:46] Well, that depends on the farmers, the season which they planted.
- 22 For instance, in Acholi, people plant sorghum a lot.
- 23 Q. [10:21:01] Do you remember if it was rainy season or the dry season?
- 24 A. [10:21:07] It was rainy season.
- 25 Q. [10:21:19] Had the mangos started to bloom, started to drop from the trees, or

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1 was mango season over?

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- 2 A. [10:21:31] There were no mangos.
- 3 Q. [10:21:44] Do you know how long you had been held captive in the LRA
- 4 before -- before this battle in Kitgum happened?
- 5 A. [10:22:00] By that time I had already spent two years.
- 6 Q. [10:22:12] Do you remember who the overall was for this attack?
- 7 A. [10:22:26] Yes, I know.
- 8 Q. [10:22:35] And who was the overall for the attack?
- 9 A. [10:22:43] It was Odhiambo.
- 10 Q. [10:22:50] Now, do you remember if this attack happened before or after he
- 11 went to Teso?
- 12 A. [10:23:04] It was before going to Teso.
- 13 Q. [10:23:17] Do you remember who was the leader of the group that you were a
- 14 part of?
- 15 A. [10:23:38] Yes, I do recall.
- 16 Q. [10:23:48] And who led the group to which you were assigned?
- 17 A. [10:23:58] Could you say the question again?
- 18 Q. [10:24:11] In this battle in Kitgum, who was your -- the leader of your specific
- 19 group?
- 20 A. [10:24:22] Are you talking about the Trinkle group in which I was?
- 21 Q. [10:24:38] Sorry, Mr Witness. Let me explain. I do need to explain better.
- 22 A. [10:24:45] (No interpretation)
- 23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:24:48] Perhaps it's easier simply to cite here.
- 24 Mr Witness, you have been asked: "Do you remember who was the leader of the

25 group that you were part of?"

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- 1 And your answer was: "Yes, I do remember."
- 2 And who was the person? That is my question.
- 3 THE WITNESS: [10:25:12] (Interpretation) The group I was in was called Trinkle
- 4 and the leader was called Lubul. But at the time to go for the attack, people were
- 5 selected to go.
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:25:30] And with whom did you go?
- 7 THE WITNESS: [10:25:37] (Interpretation) People were selected from Trinkle, and
- 8 these were taken to the convoy that came from Odhiambo's group and they joined
- 9 together.
- 10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:25:53] Mr Obhof.
- 11 MR OBHOF: [10:25:58]
- 12 Q. [10:25:59] Did Okot Odhiambo, did he go into the battle himself, or did he select
- 13 somebody to lead the group which went into battle?
- 14 A. [10:26:12] In that battle, he was there himself.
- 15 Q. [10:26:22] Now, do you remember what the objective, what the purpose of this
- 16 battle was?
- 17 A. [10:26:38] At that time the people who were there who should have a gun were
- 18 there. But the guns were few, so their main purpose was to go and collect guns.
- 19 Q. [10:27:10] Now, were there any other commanders who were selected to go to
- 20 this battle?
- 21 A. [10:27:34] Yes, they were there, but I do not recall their names.
- 22 Q. [10:27:48] Did Kalalang go to this battle?
- 23 A. [10:27:55] He did not go.
- 24 Q. [10:28:06] Did Kenneth go to this battle?
- 25 A. [10:28:14] Kenneth, Kenneth went, because I was his escort.

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- 1 Q. [10:28:25] Was this battle, was it successful?
- 2 A. [10:28:49] It was not very successful because they didn't get enough guns as was
- 3 required.
- 4 Q. [10:29:07] How long after this battle did your group take before it went to Teso?
- 5 A. [10:29:23] It didn't take a long time. Probably it took about two to three weeks.
- 6 Then the plan to go began.
- 7 Q. [10:29:52] Had you ever been to Teso before?
- 8 A. [10:30:09] No, I had not been there before.
- 9 Q. [10:30:17] Do you know which commander or commanders planned the move
- 10 of your group to Teso?
- 11 A. [10:30:31] I was not part of the meeting that took place when they were planning,
- but we would hear in hearsay that there was an activity coming up, and people were
- 13 going for operations in such and such a place. That is what we could hear.
- 14 Q. [10:31:05] You just stated you were not part of that meeting. From what you
- 15 remember as an escort, was it common for escorts to partake in these meetings
- 16 between commanders?
- 17 A. [10:31:26] Sometimes we would go where they are going to have them, hold
- their meeting, but if it's top secret, we would be put aside and then they would go
- 19 and sit alone.
- 20 Q. [10:31:52] Now, you state "top secret". Could you give an example of a
- 21 top-secret meeting?
- 22 A. [10:32:12] When they have their top-secret meetings, we usually go with them,
- 23 all right, but then we sit on the side. Even the guns that we hold on their behalf, they
- 24 take it away from us and they hold the guns themselves because we will not be close

with them when they're holding their meeting.

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- 1 Q. [10:32:42] During your group's move to Teso, which, if any, groups
- 2 accompanied you to Teso?
- 3 A. [10:33:01] There were many groups at that time that had combined together.
- 4 We were very many in the whole group.
- 5 Q. [10:33:26] Do you remember the names of any of the larger groups which
- 6 accompanied your group to Teso?
- 7 A. [10:33:42] I remember a group which was called Stockree. There was Gilva,
- 8 Convoy. There were many groups. I do not recall all the names of the groups.
- 9 Q. [10:34:05] Now, you were in a group called Trinkle. Do you remember if all of
- 10 Trinkle went to Teso?
- 11 A. [10:34:25] Yes, all members of Trinkle went.
- 12 Q. [10:34:38] Do you know which commander or commanders selected the persons
- or the groups which were chosen to go to Teso?
- 14 A. [10:34:55] It was not like a selection because all the groups were going, that
- meant that there was no selection which took place. Everybody in the group moved.
- 16 Q. [10:35:12] Do you remember how long you spent in Teso?
- 17 A. [10:35:39] We did not take long in Teso.
- 18 Q. [10:35:48] Now we'll talk a little bit more about the death of Charles Tabuley
- 19 later. Were you in Teso though when Charles Tabuley died?
- 20 A. [10:36:09] Yes, I was.
- 21 Q. [10:36:19] I'm going to take one quick second step back. Do you know who
- decided to send all of these groups to Teso?
- 23 A. [10:36:38] No, I do not know.
- 24 Q. [10:36:46] Which commanders did you travel with when you went to Teso?
- 25 A. [10:37:01] There were many commanders of the different groups, but the person

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- 1 who was leading the whole delegation was called Odhiambo and his deputies who
- 2 were following him.

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- 3 Q. [10:37:26] Did Otti Vincent go to Teso with one of these groups?
- 4 A. [10:37:37] No, Otti did not go.
- 5 Q. [10:37:48] Now you mentioned Odhiambo's deputies. If you know, could you
- 6 tell the Court who Odhiambo's deputies were?
- 7 A. [10:38:03] The person who was second in command was Tabuley, because
- 8 Tabuley also had a high rank. And then there were many other people whose names
- 9 I do not recall.
- 10 Q. [10:38:25] Do you remember the area in which you entered Teso?
- 11 A. [10:38:39] I recall that we entered through a place called Obalanga. That is
- 12 where we entered from.
- 13 Q. [10:38:58] Now, when your specific group entered Teso, who was the
- 14 commander of the group in which you were in?
- 15 A. [10:39:18] When we went to Teso, the person who was leading our particular
- 16 group, since everyone was moving, every group had a leader, but we all moved
- 17 together as a team. At that time, Lubul was the one who was leading the group in
- 18 which I was moving.
- 19 Q. [10:39:53] Now, before you left Acholi and Lango, was your group on its way to
- 20 Teso, did it ever meet with Otti Vincent?
- 21 A. [10:40:20] We met him at around some mountainous place near a place called
- 22 Lacekocot, but it was much earlier than the time we went to Teso.
- 23 Q. [10:40:49] Now, when you arrived in Teso, was Charles Tabuley, was he already
- 24 there?
- 25 A. [10:41:03] We moved together with them.

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- 1 Q. [10:41:20] Now, without talking about specifically what you did, did your group
- 2 go to fight anywhere when you arrived in Teso?
- 3 A. [10:41:42] When we arrived in Teso, we found some soldiers who were, who
- 4 were on the move. Many of the bigger group had remained behind, and since we
- 5 had already sighted the enemy soldiers, we decided not to disturb them and they
- 6 proceeded. When they moved and left our location, we entered and crossed the
- 7 road. It appears as if the group wanted us to attack a barracks there, but this was
- 8 abandoned, this plan was abandoned. It was, however, the enemy soldiers who
- 9 started attacking us.
- 10 Q. [10:42:34] Now, do you know why the plan to attack the barracks was
- 11 abandoned?
- 12 A. [10:42:42] No, I have no idea.
- 13 Q. [10:43:07] Now, these enemy soldiers that started to attack you, were they
- 14 UPDF?
- 15 A. [10:43:16] When we were arriving, we were already almost approaching the
- barracks, but before we entered the barracks, we were asked not to attack. When we
- 17 turned to move back towards where we had come from, it is the soldiers who were in
- 18 the barracks who started to attack us.
- 19 Q. [10:43:48] You said "we were asked not to attack". Who gave that order not to
- 20 attack?
- 21 A. [10:44:02] I cannot know who gave the order, because at that particular moment
- 22 other people had radio calls, especially the commanders were the ones who had radio
- 23 calls. The only thing I had was that who were stopped from attacking the barracks.
- I do not know who gave the order.
- 25 MR OBHOF: [10:44:32] Now, Your Honour, I would like to refresh the witness's

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- 1 memory at tab 1.
- 2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: Yes, please.
- 3 MR OBHOF: [10:44:34] That's UGA-D26-0021-0300 at page 0306, the page is -- or
- 4 paragraph is 15.
- 5 Q. [10:44:49] Now I'm just going to read you a small section of your statement,
- 6 Mr Witness. It states:
- 7 "We had begun fighting when Tabuley told us to stop. Word from the big boss was
- 8 that should not fight. It was Kony who used to decide whether a battle should go
- 9 ahead or not. For us, we only got the information from the commanders on the
- 10 ground; we never heard anything directly from Kony."
- 11 Now, Mr Witness, did you hear anything from the commanders about Kony ordering
- the stop of the fight, or was this an assumption?
- 13 A. [10:45:48] In regard to that, it was stopped because at that very moment we
- should have started, we should have started attacking, but we were stopped. But as
- soon as we stopped the attack, the enemy soldiers started shooting at us.
- 16 Q. [10:46:16] Now, these enemy soldiers, do you remember the colour of their
- 17 uniforms?
- 18 A. [10:46:20] The soldiers who attacked us from the barracks, we were not able to
- 19 see their uniform, because we had not yet reached close to the barracks. But the
- 20 people who attacked us when we were coming back, the people who shot Tabuley
- 21 were wearing uniforms which are between pink and brown in colour.
- 22 Q. [10:46:51] Now, Mr Witness, during your time in the LRA, did you notice was
- 23 the UPDF wearing these colour uniforms or were they wearing camouflage uniforms?
- 24 A. [10:47:11] At that time the army had different types of uniforms. Others used
- 25 to wear that one which is between pink and brown. And then the full UPDF soldier

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- 1 had camouflage. But that group that wore a different type which was between pink
- 2 and brown, I did not know what kind of army they were.
- 3 Q. [10:47:43] Did you ever come to, after leaving the bush, after escaping, did you
- 4 ever come to find out what type of people, what type of government soldiers would
- 5 wear these brown and pink uniforms?
- 6 A. [10:48:10] I did not inquire, because many times when they realise you've come
- 7 back from the bush, many people do not talk to you. I was not able to ask. I also
- 8 feared that if I asked, it would identify me.
- 9 Q. [10:48:39] Now, these people who attacked you, this group, what happened,
- 10 what happened during this attack on the group?
- 11 A. [10:48:57] When the soldiers in the barracks started shooting at us, we had
- 12 already been informed that we shouldn't fight. So we started fleeing. Now, when
- we were fleeing, that's when we entered another ambush.
- 14 Q. [10:49:21] And what happened, did anything significant happen during this
- 15 ambush?
- 16 A. [10:49:31] What happened during that ambush is Tabuley was killed in that
- 17 ambush.
- 18 MR OBHOF: [10:49:59] Your Honour, if we could, I would like to go into private
- 19 session for two quick questions, please.
- 20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:50:05] And why?
- 21 MR OBHOF: [10:50:07] I realise the gentleman was definitely under the age of 18
- 22 when the next situation happened. I don't know whether or not there might be some
- 23 kind of psychological issues with him discussing what he did next.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:50:20] I think we can lift it later on. So shortly

25 to private session, yes.

- 1 (Private session at 10.50 a.m.) \*(Reclassified entirely in public)
- 2 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:50:40] We're in private session, Mr President.
- 3 MR OBHOF: [10:50:43]
- 4 Q. [10:50:43] Mr Witness, what did you and people in your group, after Tabuley
- 5 died, what did you do to the person who killed Charles Tabuley?
- 6 A. [10:50:51] The person who shot Tabuley was someone who was a soldier. We
- 7 entered the ambush and those soldiers were few. We outnumbered them and that is
- 8 why we were able to pass. The injured one hid under a tree, under a big tree.
- 9 When we were now passing from that place, we just realised that we were being shot.
- 10 People dispersed and then we realised our commander was shot and had fallen down.
- We could not go there because the soldier was still firing. We therefore surrounded
- 12 the tree.
- 13 After that we found that he was under that tree. Then he was shot from under that
- 14 tree.
- 15 Q. [10:52:06] Did you personally partake in the surrounding and killing of the
- 16 soldier who killed Charles Tabuley?
- 17 A. [10:52:18] No, I was not part of them.
- 18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:52:23] Back to open session.
- 19 MR OBHOF: [10:52:24] Yes, please.
- 20 (Open session at 10.52 a.m.)
- 21 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:52:33] We are back in open session, Mr President.
- 22 MR OBHOF: [10:52:51]
- 23 Q. [10:52:51] Now, Mr Witness, what happened to Charles Tabuley's body?
- 24 A. [10:53:01] When we realised that he was dead and the soldier had also been
- 25 killed, the body was carried. Some of the soldiers from among us were chosen, and

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- 1 we carried the body to bring it back. When we came, we reached a place called
- 2 Omot. That is where we rested.
- 3 Q. [10:53:38] Now, do you know to where the body was carried?
- 4 A. [10:53:49] When we reached Omot we rested a little bit and continued to move.
- 5 There was another defence where you cross Aswa and then you reach that place.
- 6 Q. [10:54:20] Do you know if Tabuley's body was ever buried?
- 7 A. [10:54:25] When we were there, I heard them talking about taking the body to
- 8 bury in Sudan.
- 9 Q. [10:54:45] Thank you.
- 10 MR OBHOF: Now, your Honours, considering the time, I think this would be a
- 11 perfect spot to break.
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:54:51] I think so, you have just finished one
- topic. Then we have the coffee break until 11.30.
- 14 THE COURT USHER: [10:54:59] All rise.
- 15 (Recess taken at 10.55 a.m.)
- 16 (Upon resuming in open session at 11.32 a.m.)
- 17 THE COURT USHER: [11:32:19] All rise.
- 18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:32:26] Mr Obhof, you still have the floor.
- 19 MR OBHOF: [11:32:49] Thank you, your Honour.
- 20 Q. [11:33:08] Good afternoon for you, Mr Witness.
- 21 Now, Mr Witness, you mentioned -- we discussed earlier today about the place in
- 22 Loyo Ajonga. Could you describe to Court what a sickbay is?
- 23 A. [11:33:39] Did you say "sickbay"? Could you repeat the question.
- 24 Q. [11:33:53] Yes.
- 25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:33:55] Mr Obhof, we have had really an

- abundance of evidence on the question what a sickbay is. I think if you don't have
- 2 any specific question that derives from that, I would say to establish what a sickbay is,
- 3 we don't need the testimony of this witness (Overlapping speakers)
- 4 MR OBHOF: [11:34:12] What he described earlier with the women and children and
- 5 injured people in Loyo Ajonga.
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:34:17] But then simply continue directly asking
- 7 him what you want to know.
- 8 MR OBHOF: [11:34:23]
- 9 Q. [11:34:25] Mr Witness, that place in Loyo Ajonga, was that a sickbay?
- 10 A. [11:34:33] It was not a sickbay, but it was a place where those women were
- being kept. But there were two places where pregnant women were kept. There
- was a place in Trinkle, and then there was another group which name I have now
- 13 forgotten, but there were two places where pregnant mothers would be kept.
- 14 Q. [11:35:10] Now Opio, when you returned back to Acholi, with whom did you
- 15 return?
- 16 A. [11:35:23] To return to Acholi from Teso?
- 17 Q. [11:35:34] Yes. Which commander led you back from Teso back to Acholi?
- 18 A. [11:35:42] The person who was commanding us was Odhiambo, he was still the
- 19 overall.
- 20 Q. [11:35:56] After your return to Acholi, did your group ever go to Lacekocot?
- 21 A. [11:36:17] Our own group when we returned from Teso, I was with them and
- 22 they said we should take Tabuley's body to Sudan. But I did not go to Sudan, I was
- 23 selected to remain in the convoy. So my group went back with them there.
- Q. [11:36:46] After the return from Teso did, your group that remained, did it go to

25 Lacekocot?

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- 1 A. [11:37:04] Yes, our group that remained behind went to Lacekocot.
- 2 Q. [11:37:16] Did anyone die in Lacekocot?
- 3 A. [11:37:28] Yes, the person who died was actually Lubul. And Kenneth, who
- 4 was his 2IC.
- 5 Q. [11:37:51] Now this Lubul person, could you briefly describe what he looked
- 6 like?

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- 7 A. [11:38:04] Lubul was a tall person, build in body and light in colour. He lost
- 8 one, one of his eyesight.
- 9 Q. [11:38:25] Do you happen to know where, from where Lubul came? His home
- 10 village.
- 11 A. [11:38:40] I heard that he comes from Lacekocot.
- 12 Q. [11:38:56] Do you remember how long after your return from Teso were Lubul
- 13 and Kenneth killed?
- 14 A. [11:39:14] It didn't take a long time, probably about a week.
- 15 Q. [11:39:36] After Kenneth's death were you sent to another group?
- 16 A. [11:39:52] As they were going back I remained in another group.
- 17 Q. [11:40:04] Do you remember the name of this group?
- 18 A. [11:40:10] Yes. That group was Odhiambo's group, it was Convoy.
- 19 Q. [11:40:29] Do you remember if it had any other name other than "Convoy"?
- 20 A. [11:40:41] That was the name that was used.
- 21 Q. [11:40:48] Now, Mr Witness, without going into any detail, do you remember
- 22 going to a fight at Abok?
- 23 A. [11:41:10] I do recall.
- 24 Q. [11:41:23] Do you remember which season it was?
- 25 A. [11:41:31] That was in the year 2004.

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- 1 Q. [11:41:49] Do you remember if it was rainy season or dry season, or maybe the
- 2 type of food which was being harvested?
- 3 A. [11:41:58] That was rainy season.
- 4 Q. [11:42:14] Did you ever come to find out the date in which this attack happened?
- 5 A. [11:42:31] Yes, I did.
- 6 Q. [11:42:42] Which date did this attack happen?
- 7 A. [11:42:49] It happened on 6 August 2004.
- 8 Q. [11:43:05] Mr Witness, how did you learn what the date was when this attack
- 9 happened?
- 10 A. [11:43:14] After that attack, it took about three days after that, because when
- people were going for that operation I was taken back as an escort, so I heard over the
- 12 radio when it was being communicated.
- 13 Q. [11:43:45] Now, how chose the people who were going to fight at Abok?
- 14 A. [11:43:59] At that time I was in the Convoy. I saw myself and other people
- were selected to go and collect food. After the selection, we were added to another
- 16 group which was headed by Kalalang.
- 17 Q. [11:44:30] Do you remember the name of the person who selected you and the
- others to go to collect food at Abok?
- 19 A. [11:44:39] Since I was with Odhiambo as the commander I was in his adaki.
- 20 Sometimes I would be his escort, sometimes he would take me to the adaki, that's
- 21 where I would stay. So he was the one who organised the meeting because we were
- running out of food; so he said a group should be assembled to go and collect food in
- 23 Abok.
- Q. [11:45:23] Can you estimate for the Court about how many people from your

25 group were selected to collect food at Abok?

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- 1 A. [11:45:44] About 200 people were sent to Abok.
- 2 Q. [11:45:53] Does that number include the people in Kalalang's group?
- 3 A. [11:46:05] Kalalang moved with his people as well. It was combined, the two
- 4 teams were combined.
- 5 Q. [11:46:24] Now, Mr Witness, considering where you grew up, are you -- or at
- 6 that time were you familiar with Abok?
- 7 A. [11:46:47] Could you say the question again.
- 8 Q. [11:47:02] At the time around the Abok attack, were you familiar with the
- 9 village Abok? Had you ever been there before?
- 10 A. [11:47:23] Abok was a place that was close to our area, but since I was young, I
- 11 had not been there before.
- 12 Q. [11:47:35] Now you mentioned that your group joined with Kalalang's. The
- group that went to Abok, did they go as one large group?
- 14 A. [11:48:05] It went as one large group.
- 15 Q. [11:48:10] Who was the commander of the Abok attack on the ground?
- 16 A. [11:48:23] It was Kalalang.
- 17 Q. [11:48:39] Do you remember who Kalalang's number 2 was?
- 18 A. [11:48:49] I -- I do not recall because that was a different group and we just went
- 19 and joined with them.
- 20 Q. [11:49:00] If you can remember, could you at least describe Kalalang's number
- 21 2?
- 22 A. [11:49:15] I did not see his number 2, because even at the time when we went
- 23 and joined them, I was not in position to see him because the people -- the people
- 24 were very many; so I couldn't establish what colour he was.
- 25 Q. [11:49:49] You briefly mentioned the purpose, but could you give the purpose as

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- 1 you knew it of going to Abok?
- 2 A. [11:50:08] When we were assembled together, Kalalang addressed us and said,
- 3 "We are going, but we are not going for a fight. We are just going to collect food."
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:50:42] Mr Witness, what did this mean, to collect
- 5 food, in your understanding?
- 6 THE WITNESS: [11:50:53] (Interpretation) When we go to collect food, it means
- 7 these were food items because by that time we would have run out of food so we
- 8 would go to collect items that we would use to eat.
- 9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:51:12] And where would these food items
- 10 belong to, to which persons?
- 11 THE WITNESS: [11:51:19] (Interpretation) These were civilians.
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:51:27] And did you expect that the civilians
- would deliberately give you the food items?
- 14 THE WITNESS: [11:51:38] (Interpretation) In -- if in our thinking and if it was in the
- interests of the civilian, they would probably give us, but because they were staying
- with the government, they wouldn't give us -- they wouldn't give us to us voluntarily,
- 17 that is why we have to now sometimes go and forcefully take the food items.
- 18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:52:09] Please continue, Mr Obhof.
- 19 MR OBHOF: [11:52:11]
- 20 Q. [11:52:13] Now when you left -- when you were selected to go to and you left to
- 21 meet up with Kalalang's group, how long did it take you to meet with Kalalang?
- 22 A. [11:52:34] Since we didn't take a long time in Teso, people were positioned in
- 23 different locations, but they were nearby, we didn't take a long time. It was just like
- in the morning and then went to his group.
- 25 Q. [11:53:03] Now what happened when you met with Kalalang's group?

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- 1 A. [11:53:16] Kalalang gave us a report that we are going to Abok only to collect
- 2 food.
- 3 Q. [11:53:33] When he gave you this report, did you go directly into Abok right
- 4 then?
- 5 A. [11:53:48] Yes, we left in the morning of that day and went to Abok.
- 6 Q. [11:53:55] And did you go directly to Abok or did you stop before going in to
- 7 collect food?
- 8 A. [11:54:11] After we left, we went and rested in a forest called Akelo Alyek which
- 9 is close to Abok.
- 10 Q. [11:54:36] Now for how long did you rest at the Akelo Alyek forest?
- 11 A. [11:54:52] It was probably an hour.
- 12 Q. [11:55:03] If you remember, could you tell Court the approximate time in which
- 13 you left Akelo Alyek forest to go to Abok?
- 14 A. [11:55:18] We left between 6 to 7 p.m. because it was getting dark so you
- 15 couldn't see the distance ahead of you.
- 16 Q. [11:55:44] Now from the time you left Akelo Alyek forest to just before entering
- 17 Abok camp, could you please explain the way in which you walked to the camp?
- A. [11:56:04] When we went to Abok, we followed a footpath that leads from Abok
- 19 to that forest. But before we left, two girls were sent ahead.
- 20 Q. [11:56:39] Were you told why those two girls were sent ahead?
- 21 A. [11:56:46] These two girls were sent on a reconnaissance mission to survey the
- 22 place and see what the place looks like.
- 23 Q. [11:57:06] Did they come back before you left?
- 24 A. [11:57:18] Yes, they -- they returned and then we left after they'd returned.
- 25 Q. [11:57:35] Now you discussed taking a footpath from the Akelo Alyek forest

- 1 towards Abok, did you remain on this footpath up to the time right before the group
- 2 attacked Abok?

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- 3 A. [11:57:53] We followed only that road up to Abok because along that road, we
- 4 knew that there were no soldiers along that road.
- 5 Q. [11:58:24] Now while coming close to Abok, did you have to cross any roads?
- 6 A. [11:58:37] There was a road, the road from Bar-Rio to Ngai, and then there was
- 7 one from Abok school coming to Abok. So there was a junction and at that junction
- 8 there was four roads that were crossing at that junction.
- 9 Q. [11:59:19] Now, during this trip did you have to cross any swamps?
- 10 A. [11:59:33] Before we reached Abok, that place where we were at Akelo Alyek,
- 11 there was -- there was a rail, a rail that was crossing that forest, and we -- we moved
- 12 along that.
- 13 Q. [12:00:05] Now you discussed about a junction towards Abok primary. Is there
- 14 any village which is further away from Abok along that same path, from Abok to the
- 15 primary? Is there another village after that?
- 16 A. [12:00:27] From -- is it from the junction, or from -- the junction that I am talking
- about, it was a crossroad. We had actually reached Abok already.
- 18 Q. [12:00:55] Now, between Abok primary school and the trading centre, is there
- 19 any swamps in that area?
- 20 A. [12:01:28] Yes, there was a swamp in that area.
- 21 Q. [12:01:37] Could you describe that to the Court, please. What it looked like in
- 22 2004.
- 23 A. [12:01:46] That swamp was covered by grass. It was more of a stagnant water,
- 24 full of mud, at that time.
- 25 Q. [12:02:05] Did you see any hibiscus growing?

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- 1 A. [12:02:11] Yes, there was.
- 2 Q. [12:02:20] Now, Mr Witness, when your group went to collect food at Abok, did
- 3 everyone go or did some people remain behind?
- 4 A. [12:02:50] When we left that group, Kalalang came with his group. For us,
- 5 some members of our group remained behind. Only a few of us were selected to
- 6 join Kalalang's group.
- 7 Q. [12:03:14] Now at that point when you -- when the group went in to Abok to
- 8 collect food, did the 200 or so people, or the people who were selected, those people
- 9 who left Akelo Alyek forest and went down near the swamp towards the P7 school,
- 10 did all of those people go into the camp to collect food?
- 11 A. [12:03:45] I beg your pardon, let he just go back behind a bit.
- 12 Q. [12:04:01] Please, go ahead.
- 13 A. [12:04:05] Earlier I said that at the time we returned they selected people from
- 14 the convoy and they joined Kalalang's group. Kalalang then told us that, for us who
- were going to Abok, we are not going to fight, we shall just go to collect food. When
- we started to move towards Abok, we came to the -- the thicket at Akelo Alyek.
- 17 Before we left that place, two girls were sent to monitor. We started moving towards
- 18 Abok thereafter. When we reached near the centre where there is a camp, there
- 19 a crossroad; one goes to Ngai, other to Abok school, another is now a main road, and
- 20 then there is another one goes to Bar-Rio. This is how the road was connected.
- 21 Q. [12:05:12] Thank you. It clears a few things up for me. I appreciate that.
- 22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:05:21] Mr Witness, did you expect that soldiers
- 23 would be there in the camp?
- 24 THE WITNESS: [12:05:29] (Interpretation) We did not expect to find soldiers there.
- 25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:05:37] Please, Mr Obhof.

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- 1 MR OBHOF: [12:05:39]
- 2 Q. [12:05:41] Now, after you entered the camp to collect food, how long was it
- 3 before the soldiers arrived?
- 4 A. [12:05:56] It took us between one or two hours. When we reached the
- 5 crossroad, we went straight to the camp now.
- 6 Q. [12:06:14] Now, when your group entered the camp, how long were you in the
- 7 camp collecting food before the soldiers arrived? Before the UPDF or the
- 8 government soldiers arrived.
- 9 A. [12:06:30] It took about one hour.
- 10 MR OBHOF: [12:07:07] Your Honour, if I may read a short passage from paragraph
- 11 20 of the witness's statement.
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:07:13] Yes, please proceed.
- 13 MR OBHOF: [12:07:14]
- 14 Q. [12:07:16] Mr Witness, I'm going to just maybe refresh from your statement, and
- this is in reference to Abok. It's paragraph 20, page 0308:
- 16 "We did not capture any citizens. We barely had time to do anything before the
- 17 soldiers were upon us."
- Now, Mr Witness, because maybe I am asking the question incorrectly, when you
- 19 entered the camp to collect food, did the soldiers arrive immediately or did you have
- an hour before they arrived?
- 21 A. [12:07:59] When we entered the camp we collected food. As we were about to
- 22 leave the camp with food, we started hearing gunshots.
- 23 Q. [12:08:24] And what did you and your group -- first, sorry, where did those
- 24 gunshots come from?
- 25 A. [12:08:36] The gunshots were coming from the crossroad, but the one

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- 1 towards Ngai.
- 2 Q. [12:08:55] Now these gunshots, were they firing at the LRA who were in the
- 3 camp?

filed in the case

- 4 A. [12:09:04] Yes. The gunshots were towards the LRA who were in the camp.
- 5 Q. [12:09:19] Now what happened in a little detail sorry. Sorry about that,
- 6 Mr Witness. After you heard the gunshots, what did you and your group, what
- 7 happened next?
- 8 A. [12:09:46] When we heard gunshots we started fleeing, but still carrying our
- 9 load. But when the gunshots intensified and houses were burning, we had to
- 10 discard the luggage we were carrying. The food that we were carrying were thrown
- 11 off.
- 12 Q. [12:10:09] Do you remember in which direction you fled?
- 13 A. [12:10:20] When we left the place where the gunshots were coming from, we
- 14 followed the road going to Abok school.
- 15 Q. [12:10:31] Now you also mentioned a fire. Do you remember when this fire
- 16 started?
- 17 A. [12:10:43] When the gunshots were really intensified and the huts were burning,
- 18 I remember that was the day that the battle took place there.
- 19 Q. [12:11:03] Just let me try to clear this up. Before the gunshots, did you see a fire
- in the camp?
- 21 A. [12:11:19] No, there was no fire, and the civilians were already asleep.
- 22 Q. [12:11:30] Opio, do you know what a stretcher bullet is? A stretcher round.
- A. [12:11:41] Yes, I do know a stretcher bullet.
- 24 Q. [12:11:49] Did you see any rounds from a stretcher bullet that night?

25 A. [12:12:02] Yes.

- 1 Q. [12:12:12] Could you please tell the Court from which direction these stretcher
- 2 bullets came from?
- 3 A. [12:12:21] The stretcher bullets were coming from the southern side, where the
- 4 rest of the bullets were coming from. When they fire the bullets it comes with some
- 5 form of fire with it.
- 6 Q. [12:12:46] If you know, could you tell the Court who or what group was firing
- 7 these bullets?
- 8 A. [12:13:00] It was dark at that time, and I couldn't see who was firing the bullets.
- 9 Q. [12:13:21] Now you stated that when you exited the camp you went towards
- 10 Abok primary. Could you continue your journey from when you started exiting the
- camp and was heading to Abok primary. Where did you go next?
- 12 A. [12:13:45] When we reached Abok we reached a school and took the route that
- 13 crosses the Ngai road. We crossed Ngai road. And after the swamp, there is
- 14 a swamp near Abok centre there, which is on the western side. We found that the
- soldiers had settled there that evening actually.
- 16 Q. [12:14:22] Now when you say "the soldiers had settled there that evening,"
- 17 which soldiers are you referring to?
- 18 A. [12:14:32] According to what we found, they were government soldiers, because
- 19 the rebels could not stay near the camp at daytime.
- 20 Q. [12:14:53] Now Opio, do you know how the fire in the IDP camp started?
- 21 A. [12:15:09] I cannot know how it started because gunshots were already being
- 22 heard. We were only fleeing to save our lives away from where the bullets were
- 23 coming.
- Q. [12:15:34] Did you see anyone in the LRA intentionally light a hut at Abok

25 camp?

- 1 A. [12:15:45] No, I did not see.
- 2 Q. [12:15:49] Now, these government soldiers which you came upon, did you fight
- 3 them or did you go somewhere else?
- 4 A. [12:16:07] We did not fight them, because when we left Abok, after they shot at
- 5 us, we went and crossed their path in the place where we found they had stayed.
- 6 We went back to the thicket at Akelo Alyek without the luggage which we had.
- 7 Q. [12:16:41] Now what happened when you arrived back at Akelo Alyek forest?
- 8 A. [12:17:00] When we reached Akelo Alyek, it was dark and we could not
- 9 continue moving at that time. We rested there and we spent the night there. At
- about 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. in the morning, we heard gunshots again.
- 11 Q. [12:17:25] Who fired these gunshots that you heard in the morning?
- 12 A. [12:17:36] I did not know who shot the gun, who fired the gunshots. We were
- in the thicket and we just left and fled away. And three people were injured.
- 14 Q. [12:17:58] Now when you returned, you mentioned that you had no luggage.
- 15 Did the group which you returned with, did you have any abductees?
- 16 A. [12:18:15] No, there were no abductees.
- 17 Q. [12:18:20] Now when you went to Abok to collect food, how many people
- 18 would you estimate from the LRA had guns?
- 19 A. [12:18:41] There were between about 20 people who had guns.
- 20 Q. [12:18:58] Now is this 20 people out of about the 200?
- 21 A. [12:19:08] Yes.
- 22 Q. [12:19:11] Now on the next morning, you mentioned that three people were
- 23 injured. Do you remember the names of these people who were injured?
- 24 A. [12:19:27] Those who were injured, one of them was called Onek Biding, another

25 was Lakony, and Kalalang was also shot, but he died.

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- 1 Q. [12:19:58] Now how do you know that Kalalang died?
- 2 A. [12:20:05] Because I saw.
- 3 Q. [12:20:18] Now after this attack -- one clean-up question. Do you know the
- 4 names of the two persons who went to Abok before the attack?
- 5 A. [12:20:33] Yes, I do know their names.
- 6 Q. [12:20:41] Could you tell the Court, please.
- 7 A. [12:20:48] One of them was called Atim Christine, she was Tabuley's wife, and
- 8 then Ojede.
- 9 Q. [12:21:08] These two persons, how old were they?
- 10 A. [12:21:15] I beg your pardon, can you repeat the question?
- 11 Q. [12:21:21] This Atim and Ojede, how old were they? An estimate of their age?
- 12 A. [12:21:35] Atim was already mature and Ojede was already someone mature.
- 13 Q. [12:21:51] Now after the morning attack, when you fled, where did your group
- 14 go then? Or where did you go then?
- 15 A. [12:22:07] Afterwards, we followed the same route with which we came and we
- 16 went back to the defence where we had come from. We had people who were
- injured and also somebody who had been killed.
- 18 Q. [12:22:36] Do you remember the name of the place where you met up with
- 19 everybody?
- 20 A. [12:22:45] Yes, I do remember.
- 21 Q. [12:22:50] And what was that name?
- 22 A. [12:22:53] It was called Defence Auma.
- 23 Q. [12:23:06] And who took you? Did you go by yourself or who took you?
- 24 How did you get there?
- 25 A. [12:23:20] I do not recall the name of the person. It was someone who was the

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- 1 second in command to Kalalang.
- 2 Q. [12:23:36] And this is the same number two of Kalalang we discussed earlier; is
- 3 that correct?
- 4 A. [12:23:48] Yes, that is correct.
- 5 Q. [12:23:52] Now when you arrived there, did this 2IC, this number two, what did
- 6 he do?
- 7 A. [12:24:06] When we arrived there, he sat down with Odhiambo and they had
- 8 plans to bury Kalalang.
- 9 Q. [12:24:24] Now did you stay there for long?
- 10 A. [12:24:28] We didn't take so long there.
- 11 Q. [12:24:37] After this, to which group did you report?
- 12 A. [12:24:45] We went back to the Convoy where Odhiambo was.
- 13 Q. [12:24:55] And for how long did you remain in that Convoy after the Abok
- 14 attack?
- 15 A. [12:25:09] I was in the Convoy for about one month.
- 16 Q. [12:25:24] After this Convoy, do you know the name of the group to which you
- 17 went?
- 18 A. [12:25:33] Later I went to Stockree.
- 19 Q. [12:25:44] Did you remain in Stockree until you escaped?
- 20 A. [12:25:51] Yes.
- 21 Q. [12:25:56] Now Opio, I want to talk, I would like to talk a little bit about our
- 22 client, Mr Ongwen. Did you ever while in the LRA meet Dominic Ongwen?
- 23 A. [12:26:19] In regards to Dominic Ongwen, yes, I met him but once.
- 24 Q. [12:26:31] Do you remember where you met Dominic Ongwen?
- 25 A. [12:26:40] Yes, I do remember.

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- 1 Q. [12:26:48] Could you tell the Court where that was?
- 2 A. [12:26:57] I met them in Lacekocot, which was a bigger RV where many people
- 3 were meeting. Even Otti Vincent was a part of that meeting. I do not know about
- 4 the meeting though, I mean, what it was about.
- 5 Q. [12:27:30] Do you remember when you met Mr Ongwen?
- 6 A. [12:27:37] I don't recall exactly when.
- 7 Q. [12:27:44] Do you remember if it was before or after you went to Teso?
- 8 A. [12:27:54] We had not yet gone to Teso.
- 9 Q. [12:28:04] How long was your group with Mr Ongwen in Lacekocot?
- 10 A. [12:28:15] We stayed for only two days.
- 11 Q. [12:28:33] Now, Mr Witness, earlier you used the word "mature" in reference to
- 12 two persons. Could you give a little bit more of a definition to "mature", first for
- 13 a woman. When you said this Atim was mature, what does that mean to you?
- 14 A. [12:29:01] Atim was already at the age where she could get married.
- 15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:29:17] And what age would that be, in your
- 16 understanding?
- 17 MR OBHOF: [12:29:43] Are you hearing us, Mr Witness?
- 18 THE WITNESS: [12:29:48] (Interpretation) Yes, I'm hearing.
- 19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:29:50] So have you understood my question? I
- 20 asked you: In your understanding, at what age would it be possible for this woman,
- 21 or any woman in the LRA, to be married?
- 22 THE WITNESS: [12:30:10] (Interpretation) Someone who could get married could be
- about 25 years and above.
- 24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:30:20] Mr Obhof.

25 MR OBHOF: [12:30:21]

1 Q. [12:30:23] Mr Witness, we are going to talk a little bit about your escape. Could

- 2 you tell the Court when, a date or maybe a season, of when you escaped.
- 3 A. [12:30:48] I escaped. I don't remember the date I escaped, but I escaped from
- 4 a place where they sent us to go and collect cassava in Kalongo.
- 5 Q. [12:31:14] Do you remember in which year you escaped?
- 6 A. [12:31:18] I escaped in 2006.
- 7 Q. [12:31:32] Do you remember how old you were when you escaped?
- 8 A. [12:31:42] At the time of my escape I was 16 years old.
- 9 Q. [12:31:54] And finally, do you remember in which season you escaped?
- 10 A. [12:32:09] I mentioned that I escaped in May 2006.
- 11 Q. [12:32:32] Can you please tell the Court how you escaped, Mr Witness.
- 12 A. [12:32:39] At that time I was in Stockree. Sixty-five people were selected.
- 13 Upon that selection, only five had guns. So when we started our move, we went and
- 14 collected cassava. That day it rained heavily from morning -- from evening until
- 15 morning.
- 16 Q. [12:33:26] So what happened with you that morning?
- 17 A. [12:33:38] So as we were moving in the morning, we left the cassava garden
- 18 while it was still raining, and that was in the morning. We reached a certain water
- 19 point which is used by the community where they collect their water from. But
- 20 there was an ambush, there was an ambush at that water point. I had remained
- 21 behind and three people were in front. The three had guns. And then there was
- 22 another person in between us. So when those people entered the ambush, I heard
- 23 the gunshots, and in the middle of the heavy gunshots I untied the cassava that I was
- 24 carrying on my back, tried to move forward. Then I found that the three, the three
- 25 soldiers who had guns who were in front of me were all shot dead. At that time we

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- 1 got scattered, everyone was fleeing on their own. So I also started fleeing in another
- 2 direction, now on my own.
- 3 So those soldiers who put the ambush started pursuing me, I could see they were
- 4 following me, and I kept on running until I managed to get out of their sight. I
- 5 just -- a branch of the bush and hid there. And then when they came they just
- 6 passed me, and they never found me.
- 7 Q. [12:35:39] Now they never found you, so where did you go after successfully
- 8 hiding from the UPDF?
- 9 A. [12:35:53] So after my -- that time when they passed and they never found me, I
- started reflecting on how I could now move, because at that time the UPDF, even
- 11 when you surrender, they would just shoot you. They would not forgive you. So it
- was difficult for you to just surrender at that time because they will shoot you. So
- 13 the best thing would be for you to run and run away, because if you surrender at that
- time when you are still in that engagement, they would just shoot you.
- 15 Q. [12:36:40] Mr Witness, could you please tell the Court where you came upon
- this information that the UPDF would shoot somebody, even if they tried to
- 17 surrender, while they were in an engagement?
- 18 A. [12:36:55] That was happening, even I would personally see it. Even some of
- 19 the girls, many girls that were moving with, many of them would surrender, would
- 20 put up their hands in surrender. But then you will just see that when -- when you
- 21 continue moving and when you return, you find that the girl is dead. And because
- 22 usually those dead bodies are not carried away, you come and find that, you know,
- 23 the dead bodies are lying down there.
- Q. [12:37:38] Would those girls that you just spoke about, were those -- were those

25 girls armed? Did they have weapons?

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- 1 A. [12:37:53] They were not armed. Most times -- sometimes they are just carrying
- 2 a bag on their back, but they would not carry guns.
- 3 Q. [12:38:14] Now, Mr Witness, after hiding, evading the UPDF, where did you
- 4 eventually surrender? At which barracks?
- 5 A. [12:38:28] When I tried to follow up my colleagues but could not get them, I
- 6 started following now the footpath of the government soldiers. I started reflecting
- 7 and thinking that I should now have come back home, because I even had my own
- 8 gun, I had my gun with me. So I started following these soldiers. Luckily, where
- 9 we were, the barracks was not very far away from the camp. So I continued
- 10 following those soldiers that morning, then I reached at some point and I climbed on
- 11 a tree. When I climbed the tree I spent the night and slept up on the tree until
- 12 morning. Then, again I came down to start following those soldiers. I moved for
- some distance, then I found a path that is used by the civilians as they go to collect
- 14 water at the well.
- 15 Then I heard some people, I heard some voices, people were talking. When I heard
- 16 those -- the voice, then I looked into a hole, and I found there were some civilians in
- 17 that hole. And there was one person amongst those ones who were in the hole,
- down, saw me. So when that civilian saw me, he came out and asked me, "What is
- 19 the problem?" Then I told them that I am a returnee from the bush, "Can you help
- 20 me and take me to the camp?" Then that person agreed and also called those ones
- 21 who had remained who were down in the water, collecting water from that hole,
- 22 came out, and then we started moving to go to the camp.
- 23 Q. [12:41:00] Mr Witness, you said that the barracks was very close to the camp.
- 24 How close for you is very close?
- 25 A. [12:41:13] The distance -- you know, when you are moving under fear you have

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- 1 to move slowly because, you know, you're -- you're scared.
- 2 Q. [12:41:40] But the distance from the military barracks to the camp, do you
- 3 remember about how far apart they were?
- 4 A. [12:41:58] It was not very far apart, because when I reached the camp and the
- 5 camp leader took me to the barracks, I found -- I realised that the distances were not
- 6 very far apart.
- 7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:42:19] I think, Mr Obhof, we can move on.
- 8 MR OBHOF: [12:42:22]
- 9 Q. [12:42:24] Now, how did the UPDF treat you when you were taken to the
- 10 barracks?
- 11 A. [12:42:35] When we reached the barracks, they warmly welcomed me. I
- 12 handed over the gun that I had and they took me to one of the officer who started
- 13 questioning me. He asked me that the people that were -- were ambushed, where
- are some of them -- where have some of them gone? But because people were
- scattered, so I told them, "No, I don't know where they went."
- 16 Q. [12:43:20] For how long did you remain at the barracks?
- 17 A. [12:43:28] I spent about one week in the barracks.
- 18 Q. [12:43:38] And were you treated well by the UPDF the entire time?
- 19 A. [12:43:49] They were treating me well, but some of the things they were saying
- 20 was not good, because I was amongst some of them who speak Acholi, but I would
- 21 hear what they would say.
- 22 Q. [12:44:11] Can you remember what they were saying? And could you please
- 23 tell the Court if you remember?
- 24 A. [12:44:18] You will excuse me, I did not record that down.
- 25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:44:35] I think yes, it is fair enough, the answer,

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- 1 so to speak.
- 2 MR OBHOF: [12:44:44] It was a very good answer.
- 3 Q. [12:44:51] Now after this one week, where did you go?
- 4 A. [12:44:55] I was at a barracks called Ladinge. Then I was taken to another
- 5 barracks called Acuru, which is also within Pader district.
- 6 Q. [12:45:28] Did you ever end up going to a rehabilitation centre?
- 7 A. [12:45:37] Yes, I was taken there.
- 8 Q. [12:45:46] Do you remember which rehabilitation centre you stayed?
- 9 A. [12:45:54] The first time I was taken to Pader GUSCO, and I spent one month at
- 10 Pader GUSCO. Then a report was sent to Lira, and then the people from Lira collect
- me and took me to Rachele, to Rachele reception centre.
- 12 Q. [12:46:39] When did you finally return home?
- 13 A. [12:46:43] I do not recall the exact date, but I spent about a month in Rachele.
- 14 Then my parents also came to visit me, because I was doubtful if they were still alive.
- When they saw me, I also, I was happy, I became happy. But I spent one month at
- 16 the centre.
- 17 Q. [12:47:18] Do you remember in which month that you returned home?
- 18 A. [12:47:27] I do not recall the month.
- 19 MR OBHOF: [12:47:39] Instead of reading his paragraph, could I just put a month to
- 20 him?
- 21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:47:47] Yes, why not.
- 22 MR OBHOF: [12:47:48] Thank you, your Honour.
- 23 Q. [12:47:49] Do you remember if it was around December of 2006?
- 24 A. [12:48:02] Yeah, it could be that month.
- 25 Q. [12:48:14] Now did you ever file for amnesty?

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- 1 A. [12:48:24] I did not fill the amnesty form, because at that time in Lira, people
- 2 who were applying for amnesty were not now existing, there were not many. But
- 3 from Rachele, I was given a card, and my photograph was taken, a passport-size
- 4 photograph was taken and then was put in that form and stamped. That is what I
- 5 was given.
- 6 Q. [12:48:59] Finally from me, I believe our counsel has a few follow-up, but from
- 7 me, did you ever meet Joseph Kony while in the bush?
- 8 A. [12:49:17] No, I did not meet him. But maybe if I met him, then maybe I didn't
- 9 know that he was the one, because even then when you had a meeting, and if he was
- 10 there, they would not introduce who and who were present.
- 11 Q. [12:49:39] I would like to thank you for your time talking to me. And now our
- 12 counsel, Krispus Ayena Odongo, will ask you a few follow-up questions.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:49:50] Please, Mr Ayena.
- 14 QUESTIONED BY MR AYENA ODONGO:
- 15 Q. [12:49:55] Opio, I want to thank you for being available to help Court to
- 16 establish the truth in this case. Now I just wanted some clarification about one or
- 17 two things.
- 18 You said when you went to Abok, you were sent specifically to get food. Now when
- 19 you were sent, were you in any case told to harm or kill any civilian? Was that part
- 20 of the instruction?
- 21 A. [12:50:53] No, it was not given.
- 22 Q. [12:51:06] Were you told to destroy any property that you came across, like
- 23 burning houses or --
- 24 A. [12:51:27] No.
- 25 Q. [12:51:32] Can you tell Court what would happen to whoever overstepped the

1 bounds of the instruction to pick food and killed or harmed civilians or destroyed

- 2 their properties? What would happen to them?
- 3 A. [12:52:02] A person who does such, violates such instructions would be
- 4 punished. If the person had a gun, that gun would be taken away from him. So he
- 5 would get a status of a trainee.
- 6 Q. [12:52:32] And you told Court that you returned home around December of
- 7 2006. By that time, Mr Opio, were you -- had you heard about peace talks between
- 8 the LRA and the government of Uganda?
- 9 A. [12:53:07] I, when I returned, when I -- when I returned, yes, there was those
- 10 issue of peace talks was going on. But even when I was in the bush, I would also
- 11 hear that that process was going on.
- 12 Q. [12:53:32] Now, Mr Opio, can you tell Court when you were -- the last time your
- 13 position was attacked and people dispersed and you ended up now returning home,
- was it already during these peace talks?
- 15 A. [12:53:55] Yes, the peace talk was going on.
- 16 Q. [12:54:15] And during the peace talks, did you hear about a declaration of
- 17 cessation of hostilities?
- 18 A. [12:54:24] I heard, I heard about it, because that is why at some point when we
- 19 would meet with the government soldiers we would not attack them, but they would
- attack us one-sided.
- 21 Q. [12:54:50] And last, but maybe the last question, Mr Opio, you spent about 4 and
- 22 a half year or about 6 years, between 4 to 6 years, why didn't you escape?
- A. [12:55:20] The reason why I didn't have opportunity to escape, first, I was very
- 24 young, so if I could -- I would be told that don't think about home, don't mind about
- 25 home, so or sometimes you would be told that if you escape, then they will go and

- 1 kill everyone in your home so that we see where you are going to go. So that, that's
- 2 one of the things that also made me fear, so I did not escape.
- 3 Q. [12:55:57] And for those -- did you ever see anybody who tried to escape and
- 4 was captured?
- 5 A. [12:56:11] Yes, I saw someone who escaped and was recaptured.
- 6 Q. [12:56:22] What happened to him?
- 7 A. [12:56:26] When a person escapes and then is again reapprehended, sometimes
- 8 he is given a very harsh punishment, beaten harshly and then allowed to return. If
- 9 the person had some injuries, then would undergo treatment.
- 10 Q. [12:56:58] Would such a person sometimes be killed, or at least did you get to
- 11 know that there was such a rule in the LRA that if you tried to escape and you are
- 12 recaptured, you would be killed?
- 13 A. [12:57:19] That rule was there, but it was there to stop you from escaping.
- 14 Q. [12:57:33] And, Mr Opio, when you were abducted, did they perform some
- 15 ceremonies on you to make you fit in the LRA soldierhood?
- 16 A. [12:58:03] Yes, there was a ceremony performed.
- 17 Q. [12:58:11] What was that ceremony?
- 18 A. [12:58:20] What they do, they get the shea nut oil and they smear it in your front
- of your head with the sign of the cross and on the back of your hand and on the leg
- 20 with the sign of the cross, and then you are given a uniform. Now you have been
- 21 initiated into the LRA.
- 22 Q. [12:58:51] Now after that initiation, did you have any impact -- did it have any
- 23 impact on your mind? Did it change your mind -- or, rather, maybe we begin from
- 24 the beginning. What was it meant to be or what was it meant to do to you?
- 25 A. [12:59:15] Well, I do not understand very deeply the -- the whole thing of this

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- 1 ceremony, but what happens is that once this oil is -- you are smeared with this oil
- 2 and in the case that you went for a battle and was a serious engagement, you may not
- 3 be injured.
- 4 MR AYENA ODONGO: [12:59:49] That's all, Mr President and your Honours.
- 5 Thank you very much, Mr Opio. Greet everybody at home.
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:59:57] I thank you, Mr Ayena.
- 7 We have now the lunch break until 2.30.
- 8 Do you know already, Mr Sachithanandan, how long your examination will last?
- 9 MR SACHITHANANDAN: [13:00:10] It will be short, your Honour. We will finish
- 10 today.
- 11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [13:00:14] Thank you. 2.30.
- 12 THE COURT USHER: [13:00:17] All rise.
- 13 (Recess taken at 1.00 p.m.)
- 14 (Upon resuming in open session at 2.35 p.m.)
- 15 THE COURT USHER: [14:35:57] All rise.
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:36:17] It's now the turn of the examination by
- 17 the Defence. I give Mr Sach --
- 18 MR SACHITHANANDAN: By the Prosecution.
- 19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: By the Prosecution, Of course. I give
- 20 Mr Sachithanandan the floor. Thank you.
- 21 MR SACHITHANANDAN: [14:36:29] Thank you, your Honour.
- 22 QUESTIONED BY MR SACHITHANANDAN:
- 23 Q. [14:36:34] Good afternoon, Mr Witness.
- 24 A. [14:36:37] Good afternoon. Thank you.
- 25 Q. [14:36:40] Do you remember we met recently?

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- 1 A. [14:36:47] Yes, I do remember.
- 2 Q. [14:36:50] So I'm going to be asking you a few questions on behalf of the
- 3 Prosecution, and I'll begin by showing you a few documents.
- 4 Could we please pull up tab number 5 of the Prosecution binder. This is not for the
- 5 public. This is UGA-OTP-0285-0287.
- 6 Mr Witness, do you see that document in front of you?
- 7 A. [14:37:50] It's still being sought.
- 8 Q. [14:38:04] Just let me know when you can see it.
- 9 A. [14:38:10] I am seeing it now.
- 10 Q. [14:38:12] Could you tell us what this is.
- 11 A. [14:38:18] Yes, I can.
- 12 Q. [14:38:22] Please go ahead.
- 13 A. [14:38:26] I can see my photo in it.
- 14 Q. [14:38:34] And this document, it says "Voter Location Slip". To whom does this
- 15 document belong?
- 16 A. [14:38:44] It is mine.
- 17 Q. [14:38:52] Thank you. I'm going to show you a different document now.
- 18 Could we please pull up tab number 6, Prosecution binder, and that is
- 19 UGA-OTP-0285-0230.
- 20 Do you have it in front of you?
- 21 A. [14:39:45] Yes, I do.
- 22 Q. [14:39:48] Could you tell us who this is in this picture?
- 23 A. [14:39:56] That is my photo in the picture.
- Q. [14:40:01] Am I correct that this was taken after you escaped from the LRA?

25 A. [14:40:11] Yes, that is correct.

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- 1 Q. [14:40:14] And it was taken at the Rachele centre; is that right?
- 2 A. [14:40:21] Yes.
- 3 Q. [14:40:27] You mentioned during your direct examination that you escaped in
- 4 2006. So am I correct in thinking that this photo was taken in 2006?
- 5 A. [14:40:47] Yes, that is correct.
- 6 Q. [14:40:51] Thank you, Mr Witness. We can put the picture to a side now.
- 7 I want to go back to the very beginning of your time in the LRA when you were first
- 8 abducted. You said you were abducted when you were about 8 years old, correct?
- 9 A. [14:41:28] Yes, that is correct.
- 10 Q. [14:41:32] And so, when you were serving under Lubul, you were
- 11 approximately 8 years old?
- 12 A. [14:41:45] When they started training me after abduction, I was 8 years old.
- 13 Q. [14:41:55] So when you were in Lubul's group under Kenneth, you were not a
- senior officer in that group, were you?
- 15 A. [14:42:05] That is correct.
- 16 Q. [14:42:07] You didn't have a rank like, let's say, lieutenant, captain, major? You
- 17 didn't have a rank like that, right?
- 18 A. [14:42:21] I did not have a rank.
- 19 Q. [14:42:24] And you only had the duties of a junior soldier. That's correct, isn't it?
- 20 A. [14:42:36] Yes.
- 21 Q. [14:42:37] Now, sometime after the Teso campaign, you said you joined
- 22 Odhiambo; is that right?
- 23 A. [14:42:53] That is correct.
- Q. [14:42:56] And assuming the Teso campaign was in 2003, you would have been

about 10 years old at the time; does that sound right?

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- 1 A. [14:43:17] Yes, that should be correct.
- 2 Q. [14:43:21] Can you tell us how much time elapsed after the Teso campaign
- 3 before you joined Odhiambo's group?
- 4 A. [14:43:43] It did not take a lot of time. It could have been about one week.
- 5 Q. [14:43:53] Now, again, in Odhiambo's group, you only had the duties of a junior
- 6 soldier, that's right, isn't it?
- 7 A. [14:44:07] That is correct.
- 8 Q. [14:44:10] And you still didn't have a rank like lieutenant, captain, major,
- 9 et cetera?

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- 10 A. [14:44:20] I did not have any rank.
- 11 Q. [14:44:23] And the officers didn't ask you for any input when they were
- 12 planning attacks or things like that?
- 13 A. [14:44:38] No.
- 14 Q. [14:44:42] Now, sometime after joining Odhiambo, you were sent for the Abok
- attack and you said the Abok attack was in 2004; so that would make you about
- 16 11 years old at the time; that's right, isn't it?
- 17 A. [14:45:16] Yes, that is right.
- 18 Q. [14:45:21] So again, when you were in Kalalang's group at that time too, you
- only had the duties of a junior soldier; that's correct, isn't it?
- 20 A. [14:45:37] Yes.
- 21 Q. [14:45:43] When you moved to Kalalang's group, you were accompanied by
- 22 Lakony and Onek Biding, that's right, isn't it?
- 23 A. [14:45:58] Yes.
- Q. [14:46:05] Was Lakony younger than you, your age or older than you?
- 25 A. [14:46:17] Lakony was younger. It was Onek Biding who was older.

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- 1 Q. [14:46:30] About how old was Onek Biding?
- 2 A. [14:46:33] Onek Biding could have been 15 or 16.
- 3 Q. [14:46:39] You also moved with Odong and Ojok, that's right, isn't it?
- 4 A. [14:46:48] Yes.
- 5 Q. [14:46:52] Was Odong younger than you, your age or older than you?
- 6 A. [14:47:03] We were at a similar age bracket.
- 7 Q. [14:47:09] Now the same question for Ojok, younger than you, your age or
- 8 older?

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- 9 A. [14:47:17] Ojok was much older.
- 10 Q. [14:47:25] And this transfer happened about a day before the Abok attack, that's
- 11 right, isn't it?
- 12 A. [14:47:37] Yes.
- 13 Q. [14:47:40] Now, when you joined Kalalang's group, Kalalang already had a
- 14 number of fighters under him; that's right, isn't it?
- 15 A. [14:47:54] Yes, he had his soldiers with him. They were many.
- 16 Q. [14:48:03] And when you joined Kalalang's group, the most senior officer in that
- 17 group was Kalalang; that's right, isn't it?
- 18 A. [14:48:19] Yes.
- 19 Q. [14:48:21] And the people in that group called Kalalang "Lapwony"; is that
- 20 right?
- 21 A. [14:48:31] Yes, that is correct.
- 22 Q. [14:48:36] When you joined Kalalang's group, did you see anyone of your age or
- 23 younger than you?
- 24 A. [14:48:56] I saw Odongo and he was more or less my age. The rest were older.
- 25 Q. [14:49:15] It's correct, isn't it, that there were women in Kalalang's group?

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- 1 A. [14:49:25] Yes, there were women.
- 2 Q. [14:49:28] Now, these women, were they ting tings or had they been assigned to
- 3 some commander or was it a mixture of both?
- 4 A. [14:49:47] It was a mixture of both. There were some women who even had
- 5 children already and then there were younger girls who were also there.
- 6 Q. [14:49:59] Did Kalalang have any wives?
- 7 A. [14:50:07] He had wives, but when we were going to Abok, he had only one
- 8 wife with him.
- 9 Q. [14:50:16] Now, at some point, Kalalang instructed all of you to move towards
- 10 Abok; that's correct, isn't it?
- 11 A. [14:50:34] Yes, that's correct.
- 12 Q. [14:50:35] And you and everyone else obeyed Kalalang's instructions and
- 13 started moving towards Abok?
- 14 A. [14:50:47] Yes, that is correct.
- 15 Q. [14:50:50] During this movement, the most senior officer with you was Kalalang;
- 16 that's right, isn't it?
- 17 A. [14:51:01] That is correct.
- 18 Q. [14:51:04] Sometime later, you arrive at Akelo Alyek?
- 19 A. [14:51:13] Yes.
- 20 Q. [14:51:15] And the most senior officer there too, is Kalalang?
- 21 A. [14:51:23] Yes, it was Kalalang.
- 22 Q. [14:51:26] Now, you stayed there and after darkness falls, Kalalang orders the
- 23 attack on Abok; that's correct, isn't it?
- 24 A. [14:51:40] Yes, that's correct.
- 25 Q. [14:51:44] Now, you and some other people with you, you started taking food

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- 1 from places in Abok; that's right, isn't it?
- 2 A. [14:52:00] That's correct.
- 3 Q. [14:52:02] Could you describe to us a little bit what sort of things you took?
- 4 A. [14:52:13] The things that we took from Abok include foodstuff like beans; we
- 5 actually wanted beans more from that place.
- 6 Q. [14:52:31] And was it just you or were other people also doing this?
- 7 A. [14:52:39] The group that went, all went to collect food.
- 8 Q. [14:52:49] Can you remember what was the age of the youngest person who was
- 9 collecting food at Abok?
- 10 A. [14:53:06] The youngest person who went there was about 11 or 12.
- 11 Q. [14:53:16] And how many people of that age group, say 11, 12, 13, were
- 12 collecting food at Abok?
- 13 A. [14:53:36] There were not many people, only two of us were young.
- 14 Q. [14:53:51] Now, sometime afterwards, you started hearing gunshots. That's
- 15 right, isn't it?
- 16 A. [14:54:01] Yes, that's correct.
- 17 Q. [14:54:04] And the people headed back to Akelo Alyek?
- 18 A. [14:54:14] That's correct.
- 19 Q. [14:54:16] And the most senior officer back at Akelo Alyek was still Kalalang.
- 20 That's right, isn't it?
- 21 A. [14:54:28] Yes, it was still Kalalang.
- 22 Q. [14:54:33] And you said today that Kalalang was shot; that's correct?
- 23 A. [14:54:42] Yes, he was shot.
- 24 Q. [14:54:47] And you said that he died.
- 25 A. [14:54:53] He died, yes.

- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:54:56] Mr Sachithanandan, it may be necessary
- 2 that every once in a while you repeat what the witness said, but we don't have to go
- 3 through all of the witness evidence we have already had this morning.
- 4 MR SACHITHANANDAN: [14:55:08] I appreciate, your Honour.
- 5 Q. [14:55:14] You know he died because you saw his dead body. That's correct,
- 6 isn't it?
- 7 A. [14:55:23] Yes.
- 8 Q. [14:55:28] And, in fact, you said today and this is the -- sorry, this is final thing
- 9 I'm going to say about what you said today.
- 10 My apologies, your Honour, I'm just trying to set up a question.
- 11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:55:44] Yes, I said when you try to set up a
- 12 question, but you know this, otherwise we go through all we have already on the
- 13 record. That is definitely not necessary. Please continue.
- 14 MR SACHITHANANDAN: [14:55:58]
- 15 Q. [14:55:58] In fact, you said that at some point the deputy to Kalalang discussed
- the burial of Kalalang's body with Odhiambo. That's right, isn't it?
- 17 A. [14:56:16] That's correct.
- 18 Q. [14:56:16] I just want to take you to two paragraphs in your statement, the
- 19 statement you gave to the Defence.
- 20 And this is tab 1 of the Prosecution binder, your Honour, paragraph 21.
- 21 Mr Witness, you say in your statement to the Defence, "They shot Kalalang and some
- 22 people carried Kalalang and went with him. I do not know if he died but I never
- 23 saw Kalalang again ..."
- 24 Could you help us understand, Mr Witness, so did you see him die or did you not?
- 25 A. [14:57:17] I saw -- I saw his body when he was already dead. When he was

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- shot, he fell down and never got up. Then he was carried. The two who got
- 2 injured were the ones who were carried on stretchers while they were sitting. But
- 3 for him, he was already dead when he was carried on the stretcher because blood was
- 4 flowing from his chest.
- 5 Q. [14:57:42] I want to read a small part of paragraph 22. Here you say:
- 6 "It was the second in command to Kalalang who led us back to Loyo Ajonga. He
- 7 gave the report of the attack to Oboke, who must have given the report to Odhiambo.
- 8 No, we did not meet Odhiambo."
- 9 So could you help us understand, Mr Witness, did you, did you meet Odhiambo after
- 10 the attack or not?
- 11 A. [14:58:29] After that attack, when Kalalang had already died, we went back to
- Odhiambo, because the person who had sent -- the person whom he had sent us with
- had now died and we needed to take back the body of Kalalang up to there. That's
- 14 why we went up to there.
- 15 Q. [14:58:53] Thank you, Mr Witness. We'll move to a different topic now. And
- these are a number of attacks that I want to mention to you. You don't know, do you,
- 17 Mr Witness, who ordered the Barlonyo attack?
- 18 A. [14:59:25] I don't know.
- 19 Q. [14:59:27] And you don't know which group participated in this attack?
- 20 A. [14:59:38] I have no knowledge of that because I did not go for it.
- 21 Q. [14:59:44] And you don't know who ordered the Abia attack, do you,
- 22 Mr Witness?
- 23 A. [14:59:54] I don't know.
- 24 Q. [14:59:56] And you don't know which group participated?
- 25 A. [15:00:03] I have no knowledge of it.

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- 1 Q. [15:00:06] And the final example, you don't know who ordered the Lira-Palwo
- 2 attack, do you?
- 3 A. [15:00:19] I don't know the person who ordered Lira-Palwo attack, we just
- 4 entered an ambush when we had gone to collect food around the rocky areas there,
- 5 but we did not have a battle or an attack in the camp.
- 6 Q. [15:00:35] So you don't know which group had gone to attack Lira-Palwo?
- 7 A. [15:00:43] I don't know the group that attacked Lira-Palwo.
- 8 Q. [15:00:54] Would it surprise you, Mr Witness, to know that these were attacks
- 9 ordered by Odhiambo shortly before the Abok attack?
- 10 MR OBHOF: [15:01:04] Objection, your Honour, that's an interpretation. "Shortly"
- 11 is four months. I mean it's --
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:01:13] I think you can move on, yes.
- 13 MR SACHITHANANDAN: [15:01:17] I'll move on, your Honour.
- 14 Your Honour, I'm going to put a brief factual proposition to the witness. The
- evidence underlying the proposition can be found at tab 7 and 8 in the binder. I'm
- 16 not going to mention the evidence to the witness, but I'm just saying this so that the
- 17 Bench and parties can take a look if they want. There are a number of logbook pages
- 18 with some little tabs.
- 19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:01:51] Yes, please proceed.
- 20 MR SACHITHANANDAN: [15:01:53]
- 21 Q. [15:01:55] Mr Witness, it's correct, isn't it, that Mr Odhiambo was in Sudan
- during the months of May and June 2004?
- 23 A. [15:02:18] He was not there.
- Q. [15:02:24] All right. I'm going to move on, I think, to perhaps the final topic of

25 your examination today.

- 1 You described to us your escape from the bush and you told us --
- 2 A. [15:02:49] (No interpretation)
- 3 THE INTERPRETER: Could the witness say again the statement.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:03:02] Please repeat it, Mr Witness.
- 5 THE WITNESS: [15:03:08] (Interpretation) This is how I escaped. I left from that
- 6 group. That is why I was confirming to you that in that year Odhiambo was not in
- 7 Sudan, because I was in that group. I was transferred to that group and we were
- 8 taken to go and collect cassava from Kalongo. That day there was rain from evening
- 9 until morning. We even uprooted the cassava in the rain. So after the activity we
- started returning back, and came in an ambush at the -- at a stream called Akobo.
- 11 MR SACHITHANANDAN: [15:03:59]
- 12 Q. [15:04:00] Thank you, Mr Witness. I'm sorry to stop you. I'm just going to -- I
- 13 know you have discussed this before when Mr Obhof was examining you. I just
- want to ask you a few, a few clarifications about that.
- Now you told us, didn't you, that escape was forbidden and that there were many
- 16 punishments for escaping?
- 17 A. [15:04:25] Yes, that's what I explained earlier. It was what used to happen. I
- even witnessed it with my own eyes that it would happen.
- 19 Q. [15:04:40] But, Mr Witness, you said today, and I'm going to quote the transcript
- 20 for you, this is from page 49 of this morning's transcript, "I started reflecting and
- 21 thinking that I should now have come back home". Could you tell us what you were
- 22 thinking, Mr Witness, when you decided to come back home?
- A. [15:05:13] At the time that I made up my mind to come home, because since
- 24 I had already separated from the rest of my colleagues, the distance between me and
- 25 them was now quite big, I could not walk to catch up with them. So something came

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- 1 up to my mind and said "Let me try." Even though they used to tell us, even when
- 2 you return home they would disturb you, they will stigmatise you. But I just said,
- 3 "Well, let me try my luck this time." So I took some time. I decided to leave. I
- 4 came and found some civilians. The civilians brought me to the camp leader, and
- 5 the camp leader then took me to the soldiers in the barracks. So that's how I
- 6 escaped.

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- 7 Q. [15:06:03] Mr Witness, I just want to clarify one thing that you said earlier. You
- 8 said that Odhiambo was not in Sudan because that was the year you escaped. So
- 9 I think I want to put the question to you again. Now, you escaped in 2006. That's
- 10 correct, isn't it?
- 11 A. [15:06:49] That's correct.
- 12 Q. [15:06:51] Right. So I'm not asking about 2006, actually. I'm asking about
- 13 2004. It's correct, isn't it, that Mr Odhiambo was in Sudan during the months of May
- 14 and June 2004?
- 15 A. [15:07:13] He was not there.
- 16 MR SACHITHANANDAN: [15:07:26] Thank you, your Honour. No further
- 17 questions.
- 18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:07:29] Thank you very much.
- 19 Any questions by the Legal Representatives of the Victims?
- 20 MR MANOBA: [15:07:34] I have a few questions, Mr President.
- 21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:07:38] Please continue.
- 22 QUESTIONED BY MR MANOBA:
- 23 Q. [15:07:42] Mr Witness, I represent victims in this case and I would like to put
- 24 some questions to you.
- 25 At the time you were abducted, were you in school?

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- 1 A. [15:07:57] (No interpretation)
- 2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:08:12] We did not hear interpretation.
- 3 THE WITNESS: [15:08:16] (Interpretation) Yes, I was in school.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:08:17] Thank you.
- 5 MR MANOBA: [15:08:18]
- 6 Q. [15:08:19] Which school were you going to?
- 7 A. [15:08:22] It was Bar-Rio primary school.
- 8 Q. [15:08:29] And in which class were you in at the time?
- 9 A. [15:08:38] I was in primary 3.
- 10 Q. [15:08:44] When you were abducted and taken to the bush, was there any form
- 11 of education that you received?
- 12 A. [15:08:57] I did not receive any form of formal education.
- 13 Q. [15:09:04] Is there an explanation for this?
- 14 A. [15:09:18] Yes, I can explain briefly.
- 15 Q. [15:09:20] Please go ahead.
- 16 THE INTERPRETER: [15:09:22] Your Honour, could counsel speak up a bit so that
- 17 the Acholi booth can hear him clearly.
- 18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:09:30] I think you have heard it, Mr Manoba.
- 19 MR MANOBA: [15:09:32] Thank you.
- 20 Q. [15:09:33] Please do explain, give us the explanation why you had no education
- 21 in the bush?
- 22 A. [15:09:44] I did not get any formal education while in the bush because there are
- 23 no schools there, and that's why I didn't go to school while in the bush. But if there
- 24 was -- there were schools there, I would have continued with my education.
- 25 Q. [15:10:05] Thank you for that answer.

.,....

- 1 A. [15:10:11] Thank you too.
- 2 Q. [15:10:14] I understand there were no formal schools, but were there individuals
- 3 that were teaching children of your age, you know, giving them some form of
- 4 education?
- 5 A. [15:10:38] What used to happen at that time was that if you are abducted, they
- 6 would just train you how to shoot a gun, how to clean, how to dismantle a gun and
- 7 reassemble it, and how to march. That's basically.
- 8 Q. [15:11:00] Okay. Now, this abduction that you experienced, did it have an
- 9 impact on you, on your life?
- 10 A. [15:11:14] Could you say the question again.
- 11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:11:17] I think "impact" is too abstract. Perhaps
- be a little bit more specific.
- 13 MR MANOBA: [15:11:24]
- 14 Q. [15:11:25] Were you affected by the abduction from your home and taken to live
- in the bush?
- 16 A. [15:11:44] It didn't have any impact on me. I was just concerned about my life,
- 17 that I should be alive, and I'm here alive.
- 18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:12:00] I think that it -- still a misunderstanding,
- 19 but I think that's an answer, I would say.
- 20 MR MANOBA: [15:12:09]
- 21 Q. [15:12:09] Mr Witness, was someone from your family other than you abducted
- when the camp in Abok was attacked?
- 23 A. [15:12:30] Could you say the question again.
- Q. [15:12:34] Among the people that were living in your home, was there any other

25 person that was abducted other than yourself?

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- 1 A. [15:12:52] From Abok camp no one was abducted. But from our village three
- 2 of us were abducted. And the three of us, we were separated, we were taken to
- 3 different groups.
- 4 Q. [15:13:12] Was there anybody killed from your family or someone close to your
- 5 home, to your immediate family?
- 6 A. [15:13:34] Yes, that happened, but it was not that they wanted to intentionally
- 7 kill the person. But the person tried to escape and was beaten, and I think as a result
- 8 of the beating sustained injuries, which was -- they tried to manage it, but they
- 9 couldn't, and the person succumbed to the injuries.
- 10 Q. [15:14:08] Do you know who beat him and caused these injuries to him?
- 11 A. [15:14:24] Because we were in different groups, my colleague with whom I was
- used to was the one who told me that he tried to escape and was beaten. They tried
- to treat him, but it was not possible and he died.
- 14 Q. [15:14:45] How did you feel knowing about the fact that he died as a result of
- 15 the injuries that he sustained?
- 16 A. [15:15:08] When I heard that he lost his life, well, at that time there was nothing
- much I would think about, I wouldn't think deeply. When I heard of his death, I
- didn't take it in any other light because I took it that he was not killed intentionally.
- 19 Q. [15:15:39] Now, Mr Witness, at the time the Abok camp was attacked, do you
- 20 know if your family was living in the camp?
- 21 A. [15:16:02] You will excuse me a bit. Let me take you back a bit.
- 22 Q. [15:16:12] Please go ahead.
- 23 A. [15:16:15] At the time when I was abducted, there were no camps yet. So the
- camp that our parents went to was Bar-Rio. It was not Abok camp. It was Bar-Rio.
- 25 Q. [15:16:39] So you knew they were living in the camp, in the Bar-Rio camp?

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- 1 A. [15:16:57] Yeah, at that time even when -- even if you moved in any other place,
- 2 you would not find people in the village. Everybody was in the camp.
- 3 Q. [15:17:12] Did you have any relatives in the camp in Abok, or friends?
- 4 A. [15:17:30] I had one relative there.
- 5 Q. [15:17:40] Would you mind to tell us what you thought about attacking the
- 6 camp while the relative was living in the camp? What did you feel knowing that
- 7 there is someone that is related to you in the camp, but still this is the camp that the
- 8 LRA group that you are in was going to attack?
- 9 A. [15:18:14] Since we had gone not to kill civilians, we had gone to only collect
- 10 food, not to kill them.
- 11 Q. [15:18:31] So you had no feelings about the fact that you were going to collect
- 12 food from perhaps your relatives and take the food away from them?
- 13 A. [15:18:47] The food that we collect, we don't collect everything that we find in
- 14 the house. For instance, when we come to a camp, we just pick some areas, some
- camps and some houses, and when we get food, we don't pick everything that we're
- 16 just going to waste. We just pick what is enough and we go.
- 17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:19:22] I think, Mr Manoba, you have to move
- 18 on.
- 19 MR MANOBA: [15:19:25]
- 20 Q. [15:19:25] Mr Witness, my last question to you is have you heard about victims
- 21 applying to participate in the proceedings before this Court?
- 22 A. [15:19:48] Yes, I heard about it.
- 23 Q. [15:19:54] Why were you not interested in applying to participate as a victim?
- 24 A. [15:20:07] I heard about it, but the person who was -- who should have
- connected me to the people who were responsible with the registration, I didn't have

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- 1 someone who could connect me to the people who were doing the registration.
- 2 MR MANOBA: [15:20:33] That's all, Mr President.
- 3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:20:35] Thank you very much.
- 4 Mr Narantsetseg.
- 5 MR NARANTSETSEG: [15:20:39] No questions, your Honour. Thank you.
- 6 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:20:42] Thank you very much. Then this
- 7 concludes -- I would assume no further questions?
- 8 This concludes then the testimony of this witness.
- 9 MR AYENA ODONGO: [15:20:52] My Lord, we have some questions.
- 10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:20:54] You have some questions?
- 11 MR AYENA ODONGO: Yes.
- 12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: Okay. So please then proceed.
- 13 QUESTIONED BY MR AYENA ODONGO:
- 14 Q. [15:21:05] Mr Opio, I have a few re-examination questions for you.
- 15 Counsel for the OTP asked you about the body of Kalalang. And in your statement
- today you said, "I saw his body when he was dead." But in the statement that you
- 17 were referred to the paragraph, "They shot Kalalang and some people carried
- 18 Kalalang and went with him. I do not know if he died, but I never saw Kalalang
- 19 again."
- 20 So that we may understand this, at the time when you saw him being carried, did you
- 21 conclude that he was already dead?
- 22 A. [15:22:28] Yes, I confirm that he is dead, because when he was shot, we took his
- 23 body up to the person who organised the plan for collecting food was and that was
- 24 Odhiambo. So when we reached him and he said, he told us that he should be
- 25 buried. So that's why I can confirm that he was dead.

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- 1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:22:50] I think we have explored this sufficiently
- 2 now.
- 3 MR AYENA ODONGO: Yes.
- 4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: And he has answered three times now to the
- 5 question.
- 6 MR AYENA ODONGO: [15:23:01]
- 7 Q. [15:23:01] Now in terms of meeting Odhiambo, in your position as a rank and
- 8 file soldier, was it possible for you to go and directly meet Odhiambo or was it the
- 9 case that you would just be in the company of people who went to meet Odhiambo?
- 10 Would you go directly to him?
- 11 A. [15:23:32] I was in the company of the people who went there.
- 12 Q. [15:23:37] Counsel for the OTP asked you about whether you were sure
- 13 Odhiambo was in Sudan or in Uganda. Can you tell Court in the position of
- 14 Odhiambo or people who were at the rank of Odhiambo, whether it was always the
- case that once he was in Sudan, he wouldn't come to Uganda?
- 16 A. [15:24:21] Let's say when a person has already gone to Sudan, most time he
- 17 would go with the whole of his group. But even after that, he would still come back
- 18 to Uganda and continue with those who had remained behind.
- 19 Q. [15:24:43] And we are talking -- let's examine what you said about escape and
- 20 thinking about escape. Counsel for the Prosecution asked you to probe whether -- I
- 21 mean in view of the fact that you said it was extremely difficult and dangerous to
- 22 escape, can you tell Court whether the fact that one was aware that it was dangerous
- 23 to escape stopped him from nevertheless thinking about escape, however improbable
- 24 it was?
- 25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:25:30] I think that's not easy to understand for

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- 1 the witness what the question was because it was -- direct him, what did he think?
- 2 What was his thinking about that? He said he feared the whole thing. Why did he
- 3 nevertheless decide, for example, why did he nevertheless decide to escape
- 4 whatsoever? I think it was too abstract for this witness.
- 5 MR AYENA ODONGO: [15:25:56] My Lord, there is a dichotomy between thinking
- 6 and escaping, taking a decision to escape.
- 7 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:26:10] Indeed, indeed. The decision is a result
- 8 of the thinking normally.
- 9 MR AYENA ODONGO: [15:26:15] Yes, because it would appear like he was being
- 10 asked: You said you could not escape because it was very dangerous to escape, but
- 11 why did you think, why did you say you were thinking of escaping? That's what I
- wanted to put to him.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:26:31] Give it a try, but I think we should not
- 14 explore this too far. I think it's relatively clear.
- 15 MR AYENA ODONGO: Okay.
- 16 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: We had such evidence a lot of times.
- 17 MR AYENA ODONGO: [15:26:41] Yes.
- 18 Q. [15:26:43] Now, Mr Witness, in respect to what counsel for the victims,
- 19 Mr Counsel Manoba asked, were you aware that, I mean in respect to application for
- victims' reparation, were you aware that that would only, reparation would only be
- 21 due upon conviction of the accused?
- 22 A. [15:27:36] I was not aware of that.
- 23 Q. [15:27:41] And, Mr Witness, was this concept of victim participation widely
- 24 advertised and publicised? To the people who may have been affected, was it

25 widely advertised and publicised?

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- 1 A. [15:28:18] It was not widely publicised.
- 2 MR AYENA ODONGO: [15:28:22] That's all.
- 3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:28:23] Thank you very much, Mr Ayena.
- 4 Then this concludes your testimony, Mr Witness, Mr Opio.
- 5 On behalf of the Chamber I would like to thank you that you came to the video-link
- 6 location and that you made yourself available as a witness and helped the Court to
- 7 establish the truth. We wish you a safe trip back to your home.
- 8 (The witness is excused)
- 9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [15:28:45] This concludes also the hearing for today.
- 10 We continue on Monday, 9.30, with the next witness, who is also called D26 I am
- joking a little bit which is really a strange concept, that everything is D26, but I think
- 12 it's D26-24, yes? Or not? Not. Then this is the one incident where it really
- 13 matches, D26-26.
- 14 Okay. We see each other on Monday, 9.30.
- 15 THE COURT USHER: [15:29:16] All rise.
- 16 (The hearing ends in open session at 3.29 p.m.)
- 17 RECLASSIFICATION REPORT
- 18 Pursuant to the Trial Chamber' IX's instructions, ICC-02/04-01/15-497, dated 13 July
- 19 2016, the public reclassified and lesser redacted version of this transcript is filed in the

20 case.