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Situation Case	Central African Republic 01/05-01/08 The Prosecutor vs. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo	<i>Mouvement pour la libération du Congo</i> (Movement for the Liberation of the Congo) (MLC).
Hearing Chamber	Trial Proceedings Trial Chamber III: Judge Sylvia Steiner (Presiding Judge), Judge Joyce Aluoch and Judge Kuniko Ozaki	Participants: 1713 victims represented by Legal Representatives for Victims: Ms. Marie Edith Douzima-Lawson and Mr. Assingambi Zarambaud
Parties:	OTP: Ms. Bensouda, Ms. Kneuer and team Defence: Mr. Nkwebe Richard Liriss, Mr. Aimé Kilolo-Musamba and team	Alleged crimes: <u>Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo</u> is allegedly responsible, as military commander, of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Crimes against humanity: Murder and rape.○ War crimes: Murder, rape and pillaging.

Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo: born in 1962 in Bokada, Equateur Province; National of the DRC; Alleged President and Commander-in-chief of the

Start of Trial: 22 November 2010

This week one witness testified:
Witness 47 (32nd Prosecution witness), Cyprian Francis Osibien: a technician who managed river transport in the CAR.

24 - 26 October 2011
No Hearings

27 October 2011
The Prosecution began its' examination-in-chief of witness 47.

During examination-in-chief by the Prosecution, witness 47 provided testimony on:

- **Encounters with the Banyamulenge¹:** The witness testified that in October 2002, he first met the Banyamulenge, after he was allegedly forced by his supervisor to transport the Banyamulenge troops back and forth across the Oubangi River, which connects the city of Zongo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Bangui in the Central African Republic.
- **Time Frame and Soldiers:** According to the witness, he transported the Banyamulenge troops over a span of 19 days, averaging 150 - 200 soldiers per trip.
- **Weapons carried by the Banyamulenge:** The witness alleged that the Banyamulenge carried AK-47s, along with an assortment of other assault rifles. They also used the ferry to transport boxes of ammunition.

¹ Banyamulenge is a term historically describing the ethnic Tutsi Rwandans, concentrated on the High Plateau of South Kivu, in the eastern region of the DRC but is also used for certain troops, who were allegedly under the control of Mr Bemba.

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- **Language spoken by Banyamulenge soldiers:** The witness testified that the Banyamulenge spoke primarily in *Lingala*². The soldiers also used *Lingala* to communicate with the witness when giving instructions.
- **Mr Bemba's use of the ferry:** The witness testified that on an occasion during the 19-day span, Mr Bemba used the ferry to travel from Zongo to Bangui and back. The witness alleged that Mr Bemba travelled with a security entourage, which consisted of both Banyamulenge soldiers and Libyan security guards. Mr Bemba stayed in Bangui for a period of 2 hours, before returning to Zongo.

28 October 2011

The Prosecution continued its examination-in-chief of Witness 47.

During the examination-in-chief of the Prosecution, witness 47 provided testimony on:

- **Rape and Sexual Violence:** The witness alleged that he had witnessed 2 incidents of rape by the Banyamulenge on Central African women, during the period of October 2002.
- **First Incident of alleged rape:** The witness alleged that a group of 8 women, brought from PK 12³, aged between 13 - 60, were forced onto the deck of the ferry by the Banyamulenge, who proceeded to torture, physically and sexually abuse, and ultimately rape these women. The witness further alleged that these soldiers were uncontrolled, and that they would take turns raping each woman. Additionally, the witness alleged that this incident occurred after Mr Bemba paid a visit to Bangui.
- **Banyamulenge mentality:** The witness alleged that the Banyamulenge, before and during their acts of rape, clearly stated thanks to their 'President'⁴ for allowing them to abduct and rape Central African women.
- **Punishment of Banyamulenge soldiers:** When asked whether or not the Banyamulenge soldiers were punished or reprimanded for their alleged acts of brutality and rape, the witness responded that to his knowledge and from what he witnessed personally, they did not receive any sort of punishment or reprimand for their actions.

² *Lingala* is a Bantu language spoken primarily in the northern area of the DRC

³ PK 12: Point Kilometre 12, a suburb of Bangui in the Central African Republic.

⁴ Allegedly being Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo

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