



JEAN-PIERRE BEMBA GOMBO

INFORMAL WEEKLY SUMMARY

MAY 30 - JUNE 3, 2011

Situation Case	Central African Republic 01/05-01/08 The Prosecutor vs. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo	<u>Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo</u> : born in 1962 in Bokada, Equateur Province; National of the DRC; Alleged President and Commander-in-chief of the <i>Mouvement de 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	Alleged crimes: <u>Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo</u> is allegedly responsible, as military commander, of:
Parties:	OTP: Ms. Bensouda, Ms. Kneuer and team Defence: Mr. Nkwebe Richard Liriss, Mr. Aimé Kilolo-Musamba and team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Crimes against humanity: Murder and rape.○ War crimes: Murder, rape and pillaging.
Participants:	1312 victims represented by Legal Representatives for Victims: Ms. Marie Edith Douzima-Lawson and Mr. Assingambi Zarambaud	Start of Trial: 22 November 2010

This week, **witness 209** (OTP's 21st Witness) continued to give evidence, mostly in private session and under protective measures.

30th May 2011

The Prosecution continued its examination-in-chief of **witness 209**.

In between closed sessions, the witness made references to:

- **The alleged killing of three men:** The witness claimed he was not present when this occurred but maintained that the killings were committed by the *Banyamulenge*.¹ The witness further alleged that others were burnt to death by the *Banyamulenge*, although their identity remains unclear.

31st May 2011

The Legal Representatives of Victims (LRV) questioned witness 209. Nearly the entire day's proceedings were in closed session.

- **Alleged Pillaging:** The witness' testimony mainly related to alleged pillaging by MLC forces in the town of Damara (CAR).
- **Bemba Control:** The witness stated that he heard on the radio that Mr. Bemba was "a high-ranking person who had control over a large part of the territory in the Congo."

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 Democratic Republic of the Congo.

1st June 2011

The Defence began its cross-examination of witness 209

The witness testified mainly on statements made to ICC investigators in 2009 and 2010.

- **Objective of Bozizé's Forces:** The witness alleged that the initial objective of General Bozizé's² forces was not to conquer the town of Damara, but to overthrow then-President Patassé.
- **Origin of Bozizé's Forces:** According to the witness, General Bozizé's forces were from Chad and wore military uniforms; they were armed and heading towards Bangui. When met with resistance by local government forces, they would withdraw and return to Damara. The witness explained that he knew this because he was in hiding some 200-300km away from Damara at the time.
- **Occupation of Damara:** The witness alleges that 27 October 2002 was the date on which General Bozizé's forces came back to and occupied Damara, after being met with resistance by local government forces in Bangui. He stressed that General Bozizé's forces did not touch the possessions of the inhabitants, or "other people's wives" and restricted their seizure to government assets.
- **Governmental Offices:** The witness alleged that governmental offices were destroyed and their contents confiscated by Bozizé's men. He maintained that Bozizé's men did not break into private homes and that only the administrative offices were ransacked.
- **Denial of Rape:** The witness denied that Bozizé's men raped women. Rather, he alleged that they attacked administrative buildings. He accused the Bemba Defence of attempting to take him down a 'slippery slope.' The witness attested to previous statements that he made to ICC investigators in which he alleged that women were not raped but themselves "came to them." [i.e. to the *Banyamulenge*].

2nd June 2011

No hearing

3rd June 2011

No hearing. Trial to resume on Monday 6 June 2011.

² General François Bozizé is the President of the Central African Republic who came to power in 2003 after leading a rebellion against President Ange-Félix Patassé. He was also President Patassé's former Chief of Staff.