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4 LIBERIA TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION
5 DIASPORA PROJECT
6

7 PUBLIC HEARING
8 June 13, 2008
9 St. Paul, Minnesota

10 TESTIMONY OF
11 JANE ALLISON SAMUKAI
12

13
14 TRC Commissioners: Chairman Jerome Verdier
15 Vice Chairperson Dede Dolopei
16 Oumu Syllah
17 Sheikh Kafumba Konneh
18 Pearl Brown Bull
19 Rev. Gerald Coleman
20 John H.T. Stewart
21 Massa Washington

22
23
24
25
26 Court Reporter: JoAnn Wahl

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1 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Will all kindly stand
2 for the administration of the oath.

3 JANE ALLISON SAMUKAI

4 [being first duly sworn/duly affirming to tell the truth],
5 testified as follows:

6 TESTIMONY OF JANE ALLISON SAMUKAI

7 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Please be seated. I
8 want to say good afternoon, Madam Witness, and welcome to the
9 public hearings of the TROC in Minnesota and the U.S. here.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: We say thanks for coming
12 because we are convinced that these hearings are, for
13 Liberians, the best opportunity yet to share common
14 experiences of the past, and to get a learning from our
15 mistakes, and finding a way forward to sustain the current
16 peace and build national reconciliation processes in our
17 country. So we are very, very grateful that you could take
18 of your time to come and share with us.

19 I would take this time to introduce commissioners
20 here present to you: Commissioner Pearl Brown Bull,
21 Commissioner Gerald Coleman, Commissioner Dede Dolopei, Massa
22 Washington and John Stewart. I am Jerome Verdier. I will
23 ask you some preliminary questions before you move into your
24 testimony. For example, kindly repeat --

25 HEARING OFFICER TEAYAH: Yes.

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1 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: -- your name again.

2 THE WITNESS: My name is Jane Allison Samukai.

3 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Can you comment to us a
4 date of birth?

5 THE WITNESS: I was born October 19, 1963.

6 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Where do you currently
7 reside?

8 THE WITNESS: I live in the state of New Jersey.

9 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: What's your vocation;
10 what do you do?

11 THE WITNESS: Right now I work with the state of
12 New Jersey. I work with troubled youth.

13 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: You work with --

14 THE WITNESS: Troubled youth.

15 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: When did you migrate to
16 the U.S.?

17 THE WITNESS: June 8, 1998.

18 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Thank you very much.

19 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

20 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: You can proceed now with
21 your testimony.

22 THE WITNESS: Well, I want to -- I want to take
23 this time to say thank you to -- for allowing me the
24 opportunity to share my story with you and with the world,
25 and this is my story.

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1 In December of 1989, civil war broke out in
2 Liberia after military forces of the National Patriotic Front
3 of Liberia led by Charles Taylor invaded the country from
4 neighboring Ivory Coast, with the stated purpose of
5 overthrowing the government of Samuel Doe. Within six
6 months, the NPFL troop has surrounded the capital of Monrovia
7 and cut off the major highways leading out of the capital.

8 On the morning of July 2nd, 1990, Charles Taylor
9 and his rebels, referred to as "Freedom Fighters," attacked a
10 suburb of Paynesville where we resided. The fighters
11 practically dictated our day-to-day activities, and we were
12 discouraged from leaving our homes. They constantly harass
13 us, threaten to kill us, including the children, when we
14 refused to submit to their demands. In addition, they force
15 some members of my family to lie down in the sun naked for
16 several hours while they amuse themselves with laughter.
17 Those who resisted were shot and killed; therefore, we dared
18 to disobey. We witness the death of three neighbors, family
19 members, and the torture of another, who fled from the
20 capital to his family, and died later from severe bleeding.

21 On July 21st, 1990, the rebels force us out of our
22 homes with nothing except what we had on. They forcibly
23 possess our house and took over our vehicles, personal
24 belongings, food, et cetera. We sought refuge at a nearby
25 mission school compound, the Soul Clinic Mission Academy,

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1 where we later joined -- where we were later joined by my
2 mother-in-law and her family. They, too, had been forced to
3 leave their home and seek safety at the same mission because
4 of the fighting.

5 Since Paynesville was -- was and still is the site
6 of the main government radio and television station, there
7 was intense fighting between the NPFL militants and the
8 government army for control of the broadcasting facilities.
9 For days our families -- our both families, of about 22
10 persons, were held up at the mission while both sides battled
11 for control. There was constant danger from automatic
12 gunfire and grenades. When both sides could not gain
13 advantage after several days of fighting, the confrontation
14 escalated with mortars and artillery fire being used.
15 Several civilian homes in our neighborhood were hit and
16 destroyed by these weapons with civilian lives being lost.
17 The danger was acute.

18 The both families remain at Soul Clinic Mission
19 for approximately two weeks, hoping and praying that the
20 fighting will settle down for us to return to our homes.
21 Instead, it intensified day by day, reaching closer and
22 closer to where we were seeking refuge.

23 Finally, around the end of the third week of July,
24 we decided to have -- to move further inland because things
25 were too dangerous and volatile for us to remain where we

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1 were. Although this may taking us deeper into the NPFL
2 territory, we reasoned that we would be further behind the
3 front lines, and thus, safe from immediate threat of bullets,
4 bombs, and harassment. Little did we know that the worst was
5 yet to come.

6 We walked for two -- two and a half days in the
7 forest, living on unfamiliar fruits and vegetables, crossing
8 rivers and streams. It was tough walk -- I mean, actually,
9 it was a tough walk, particularly for the young children and
10 adults. We managed to persevere. We passed numerous NPFL
11 checkpoints along the way. Army checkpoints were set up in
12 the bushes. At these checkpoints, people who were traveling
13 through the forest were stopped, singled out for summary
14 execution by the militants, because they were told to be
15 allied with -- to the government.

16 After marching for two and a half days through the
17 bushes, we reached Du-Side, part of the Firestone/Bridgestone
18 Rubber Plantation complex. As the Du-Side Hospital was near
19 by, and being partly operated by medical relief agency, we
20 decide to remain in Du-Side. By now some of our children
21 were suffering from malaria, diarrhea and other diseases.

22 We then took refuge at the Du-Side school
23 building, which had been turned into a makeshift camp for
24 displaced persons. There were already hundreds of other
25 displaced persons there. The camp was also a distribution

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1 center where agencies would come from time to time to
2 distribute bits of food and supplies. We were directed to
3 report to the security officer for routine check and register
4 for daily ration.

5 We slept on the floor in the school building. The
6 women and children slept in a large main hall in the front of
7 the building, while the men slept in a smaller classroom at
8 the rear of the building.

9 Although -- although life was not ideal, we were
10 thankful that the family was together and that all the
11 children were in good health by then. Our main fear was that
12 if the fighting got more and more intense on the front lines
13 in Monrovia, the NPFL would forcibly gather all the
14 able-bodied men in the displaced center to fight for them.
15 As a result, the men spent most of their days away from the
16 center to avoid NPFL fighters who came to patrol that area
17 from time to time. The men usually went into the surrounding
18 forest to dig for wild yams, gather sugarcane to augment our
19 food supply, and to also gather firewood to help us prepare
20 meals.

21 After we have been at the camp for five to six
22 weeks, on August 31st at about 11 p.m, we were awakened by a
23 very loud banging on the door. All the women and children
24 were frightened. Group of NPFL fighters forcefully opened
25 the door and started rounding up some of the women. At

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1 gunpoint we were led out of the room. Soon it became clear
2 to us that the rebels intended to take us away from our
3 families when we saw pickups in the front of the building.

4 (Pausing.)

5 By this time our families were crying. They were
6 convinced that we would be killed by the rebels since there
7 have been a pattern of such killings of women and children in
8 the displaced camps. When the men that came out tried to
9 intervene, they were attacked by -- they were attacked. And
10 my fiance, who became my husband later, were hit with a gun
11 butt and was threatened to be -- to be shot.

12 I was led to one of the parked vehicles, a pickup,
13 by one of the rebels. We later got to know that his name was
14 Anthony, and he was the bodyguard of Charles Taylor's known
15 fighter and Commanding Officer, CO Peter Duo, commonly called
16 "Gio Devil." We were loaded in white pickup trucks and taken
17 away. Among us was a young girl that had just given birth.
18 I was in a state of total shock and confused about the whole
19 ordeal. While our families were crying, we were being taken
20 away into the dark night. Before entering a pickup, I turn
21 around to look at my family. And this Anthony came closer
22 and said, "Whether you cry or not, you are going to die."

23 (Pausing.)

24 While I was being led into the rubber plantation,
25 I was ordered to remove all my jewelry and give it to him:

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1 Anthony. We were driven into a swampy dark area, and I was
2 asked to exit the vehicle. I hesitated and immediately began
3 pleading for my life tearfully, because by this time I knew
4 they were going to kill me. While I was pleading with them
5 tearfully, one of them said, "If you don't want to die, you
6 have to do what the CO asks you to do." Anthony then walked
7 over to me and slapped me in the face. He forced me to
8 undress and lie on the ground. He later tied me -- tied my
9 hands and dragged me closer to a running creek. He slapped
10 me several times because I was resisting and fighting to
11 untie myself, and he tore my underclothes. (Pausing.)

12 He pointed a gun to my chest as though he was
13 going to pull the trigger. I still didn't give up pleading
14 and crying, even though by this time I knew within myself
15 that they were going to kill me. (Crying.)

16 One of the rebels slapped me again to keep quiet
17 while the other -- the other prepared to rape me. I was
18 repeatedly raped by Anthony, while his subordinate look on
19 with their guns pointed at me. While I was being raped, I
20 continued to plead tearfully for my life. I received another
21 slap and was ordered to shut up. As I was lying there
22 helplessly, I didn't know if I was going to die or be set
23 free, but I could no longer fight. I didn't have the
24 strength to plead anymore. I was now awaiting the worst and
25 prayed that my family would find my body the next day.

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1 After Anthony was done raping me, he point the gun
2 to my chest. At this point, all I wanted was to die. I
3 finally just closed my eyes, awaited death. Then one of the
4 guys that were with him said, "Man, that's enough. Haven't
5 you done enough damage to her already? My man, let her go."

6 The rebel that was pleading on my behalf came over
7 and untied me. He asked, "Can you find your way back?" I
8 didn't say a word and left -- and they left me in the dark to
9 find my way back. I was very weak by this time and couldn't
10 even speak. (Pausing.)

11 After the pickup pulled away, I stood in the dark
12 crying, reflecting on the ordeal. I didn't know what to do.
13 What came to mind was to commit suicide because I felt that I
14 could not face my fiance and the rest of the family to talk
15 about the horrible experience. I could not face the
16 community because there was going to be lots of talk about my
17 being raped. It wasn't easy, but I had to pull myself
18 together and find a way out of the dark because I didn't know
19 if they would come back. Since the area was completely
20 unfamiliar, I struggled to find my way back to the school.
21 During the struggle through the bushes, I sustained huge cuts
22 and bruises, which left me with scars on my knees, and I lost
23 my left toenail.

24 Upon returning, I found my mother-in-law in front
25 of the school building looking towards the dark. We both

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1 tearfully hugged and wept bitterly. By this time, after, my
2 mother-in-law, my fiance and his brother broke the night
3 curfew for civilians and walked through the dark about a
4 mile, to the home of Dr. Traub. He was the eye doctor, one
5 of the head doctors at the Du-Side Hospital. Since he had a
6 radio, with which he could communicate with the hospital,
7 they thought it was wise to seek his assistance. Upon
8 reaching the doctor's house, they explained what had
9 happened. According to them, the doctor made a call to the
10 checkpoint at the hospital and was told that the ladies had
11 not been brought there. Their worries increased and with
12 there being little they could do at the doctor's house, they
13 risked their safety and returned to the school.

14 While I was still sobbing, my fiance and his
15 brother returned. They managed to calm me down a bit. I
16 then tearfully explained my ordeal to them. They were all
17 devastated. But there was little anyone could do. I told
18 them I didn't want to stay in that camp anymore. I was taken
19 to the hospital and was admitted for observation because I
20 was in a state of total shock, and I also had to get -- also
21 had a very bad infection and was put on antibiotics.

22 My family and I reported the incident to the
23 commanding officer, CO Peter Duo. Unfortunately, nothing was
24 done to the culprit, Anthony; but instead, the commanding
25 officer accused me of lovin to his boy. And these were his

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1 actual words: "When you all sleep with my boys, then you all
2 come to complain that they -- come to complain to me, say
3 they rape you." I was really shocked. When I heard his
4 response, it felt that I was being raped again. Looking
5 directly into his eyes I asked three times, "Me?" Very upset
6 and angry, I exited the room and was followed by my family.
7 By this time I was totally angry and destroyed. I didn't
8 want to see or talk to anyone, including my family.

9 Since the incident was reported to the various
10 NPFL commanders, we became a target for trying to seek
11 justice for what had happened. We were even visited by the
12 then Health Minister Dr. Kou Gbokolo, who promised us that
13 the culprit and his command -- his commander, will be brought
14 to justice. But they took no action and failed to discipline
15 their men who had carried out the act.

16 Soon it was clear to us that it wasn't safe for us
17 to remain inside, as some of the fighters involved were
18 threatening to come and get us at night for trying to get
19 them arrested and punished? As our group was large, we were
20 offered refuge by families who lived on the plantation. The
21 families were the Traubs, the Allison, the Peals, and
22 Massaquois. My fiance and I moved with Dr. Traub and his
23 family, where I could be closely monitored, while the rest of
24 the group stayed with other families. Dr. Traub did a
25 wonderful job of screening the entire guests that stopped by

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1 to see me. We were warned by our friends from the camp never
2 to come back or to be seen around. With this information, I
3 was devastated and emotionally destroyed. Our stay at the
4 Traub place was brief because he had to relocate. We then
5 moved with the Allison family on the plantation and stayed
6 out of sight because we were still being hunted.

7 After a couple -- after a couple of months, my
8 family talked me into getting out of the house. It was very
9 difficult to do at first because a fear of the rebels had
10 taken over me. I just could not stand to see anyone,
11 thinking they were coming to get me. I was really
12 traumatized and, therefore, avoided social gathering or
13 social contact. My family still persuaded me to get out and
14 face my fear by helping out in the hospital since I was a
15 registered nurse. I reluctantly gathered all the courage and
16 strength I needed to beat my fear and took a night job at the
17 hospital on the maternity floor.

18 It took a great deal of strength to step out of my
19 hiding place every night to go to work. Even though my
20 family would escort me to the hospital entrance, it was very
21 difficult taking that walk, not knowing what would happen if
22 I was spotted. People were singled out and killed in the
23 front entrance of the hospital daily, and their bodies dumped
24 in the valley below the hospital. There were armed men
25 sitting at the entrance of the hospital at all times. I had

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1 to be very careful because the rebels, they had their
2 families and their lawyer friends around. Fear penetrated me
3 every morning after work and every night. It was a horrible
4 experience, like a nightmare that would never go away. And
5 because of this, I wasn't regular at work. The trauma was
6 too much.

7 Since everyone knew that I was raped, it even made
8 it more difficult to interact with people. Du-Side was
9 attacked by the forces of Prince Johnson, another rebel
10 leader, in November of 1990. We all left the homes and
11 buildings in which we were residing and sought refuge in the
12 hospital. After several days of fierce fighting, Johnson's
13 forces captured the hospital. We then seized this
14 opportunity to move, to make our way back to Monrovia with
15 the -- with the anticipation of having a normal life, but no.
16 Things continued to get worse with a lot of harassment,
17 arrests and abuses.

18 I continued to live every day in fear, not knowing
19 what the next day holds. On August 31st, 1994, I began
20 attending the counseling sessions with the AWAG, Abused Women
21 And Girls. They put me in the AWAG project, commonly called
22 "My Sister's Place" located on Camp Johnson Road. I narrated
23 my ordeal to the counselors, and we spent time discussing
24 coping methods. After ten sessions I was discharged. Even
25 though the sess -- the sessions were over, I still lived with

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1 the feelings of uncertainty because the rebels or soldiers
2 were now in control.

3 After the elections that brought Charles Taylor
4 into power, the rebels, now turned security -- national
5 security officers, begun a daily search of innocent civilians
6 that they have harmed or committed atrocities against. There
7 were mysterious disappearance and murders of people in the
8 Liberian society who were considered a threat to them. Some
9 was forcibly taken from their homes, by government security
10 officers, to unknown destinations and murdered. Some were
11 killed under the pretense of "armed robbers."

12 There was an emotional relapse again for me.
13 Seeing the rebels in total control, and doing whatever they
14 wanted to do to anyone at any time, put me into another cage.

15 Those murders were committed because the
16 perpetrators knew that some of the cases have been referred
17 to other civil and human right organizations. And there were
18 rumors that these organizations have planned to introduce
19 those crimes; therefore, the rebels, now turned government or
20 national security officers, were doing everything possible to
21 destroy the evidence.

22 On the morning of March 22nd, 1998, I was on my
23 way to church when I saw Anthony, the fellow that raped me,
24 dressed in Special Security Service uniform, in my
25 neighborhood. I immed -- I immediately had a flashback and

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1 almost pass out. He recognized me and walked over to me
2 saying, "You still alive? I'll see you later." I
3 immediately returned home in fear, using a different route.
4 After that encounter, on March 31, 1998, some unidentified
5 armed men came to our home asking for me specifically. We
6 had to move to another part of the city for safety where I
7 remained until my departure to the United States on June 8,
8 1998.

9 I want to take this time to pay a tribute to all
10 the women and children that were raped in the Liberian war.
11 The time has come for our voices to be heard. The time has
12 come for our sisters', that departed this world, souls to
13 rest in peace. The time has come for us to step out of the
14 closet and speak out about the harm that was done to us that
15 night. The time has -- the harm that took the lives of our
16 innocent mothers, friends, sisters, and loved ones.

17 I am the voice for the voiceless, those who cannot
18 speak for themselves, victims of trauma and abuse, some of
19 whom are young children and elderly. They aren't mute in a
20 physical sense, but they were afraid and confused, which left
21 them voiceless.

22 Now we know we are not alone in the task of
23 speaking out. Now our voice is being heard. May I speak on
24 behalf of those who cannot find a voice, especially those
25 that are not with us today, to witness the rebirth of

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1 justice. May my voice help to bring justice and comfort to
2 the innocent. No one deserve to be raped. Their fight for
3 freedom destroyed and ruined every aspect of our lives.
4 Living in denial is a terrible thing.

5 Justice is what I'm demanding. It's taking so
6 long to heal because those who torture, rape and kill
7 innocent civilians, are still in our communities pretending
8 not to be victims themselves. They and their leaders must be
9 brought to justice so we can have our lives back, so the
10 nightmares can stop, so we can function again without fear in
11 our communities, so the pain can go away.

12 And lastly, so the souls of our departed mothers,
13 friends and sisters and loved ones, can rest in peace. Thank
14 you.

15 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Commissioner Bull.

16 COMMISSIONER PEARL BROWN BULL: Madam witness,
17 thank you for telling your story. As you said, it wasn't
18 easy. I say to you, thank God you made it. And your tribute
19 that you just read, to the rape victims and survivor of
20 Liberia during the civil war, and your petition that the soul
21 of the departed ones would rest in peace. You speak and you
22 represent the voiceless. You also pay homage and memory to
23 My Sisters' Place, the counseling section for rape victims in
24 Liberia. And since then, many of those who spoke quietly
25 have been able to hear some -- find some remedy with the

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1 Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia, and other women
2 groups, including International Partners. The new rape bill
3 for Liberia have been passed by the legislature, and tougher
4 sanctions have been placed on those who go around raping.

5 Not much question I can ask or can say, that you
6 have placed yourself in history. Thank you for the courage,
7 and may God continue to give you the strength to speak out.
8 And don't feel that you have a scarlet letter, because you
9 didn't do nothing. And today you have the victory. You have
10 your power that those men, those cowards -- or we can't
11 qualify them too much because our report will speak for
12 itself, and our recommendations. We are proud of you.
13 Continue to speak out for the voiceless. Thank you.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER GERALD COLEMAN: Again, on behalf of
16 a civilized man society, I'd just like to say sorry. The
17 things that happened to you were done during a time of war,
18 where the evil and debased part of us came out in all human
19 beings. And that's why the TRC, we're concerned about how to
20 make sure this type of thing never happens again. And so
21 sometimes in that course, we need to ask hard questions to
22 people. But I'm concerned, I don't know -- I have some
23 questions, but I think I will let it pass today because I
24 feel it may not be appropriate at this time. But I hope
25 another time we can share, so that we can know how to protect

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1 the future of all women in our country from now on. Thank
2 you again.

3 VICE CHAIR DEDE DOLOPEI: Jane --

4 THE WITNESS: (Nodding head.)

5 VICE CHAIR DEDE DOLOPEI: I just want to say sorry
6 for what happened to you. In your life at that time, when
7 the candle of hope -- sorry, the candle of family, the candle
8 of love, the candle of protection, the candle of freedom, all
9 went out. You got into a car. That also went out. You
10 continued to plea for your life, and that was the candle of
11 hope. You did not give up. Despite everything that was done
12 to you, you continued to plead for your life. There's a
13 reason, and that reason is that you have the opportunity to
14 come here today to not only talk for yourself, and all of
15 those other women who were with you, but to talk for every
16 Liberian woman. Be it whether you experienced rape, between
17 a war or not, you came to talk for us, because all of those
18 candles, including rape, were taken away from us as Liberian
19 women.

20 And so you are the symbol of that one woman who
21 was determined to live just by the fact that you went through
22 so much trauma afterwards. You survived. You are a
23 survivor, and today you celebrate as survivor. And so I want
24 to thank God for your life. I want to thank God for taking
25 that plea of hope that you extended to him. He made it into

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1 life for you.

2 We all have questions to ask, but like we said,
3 like my colleague said, we can meet you later. It's just
4 better information that we need, and we can get that from
5 you. So we say thank you for coming. And we hope that in
6 time to come, he will give you that strength to release all
7 of what happened to you, and that you will be able to live by
8 faith and know more life. Thank you so much.

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Jane, I'm very
11 sorry for what you went through, and I salute your courage
12 for coming out here today to share with us your experience.
13 I have a few questions. You can choose to answer them if you
14 feel like. If you don't feel like, you don't have to.

15 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

16 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: After you
17 encountered Anthony on your way to church and he recognized
18 you, and he made a comment to you that you are still alive,
19 did you ever encounter him again?

20 THE WITNESS: No. I left the neighborhood. I
21 moved out.

22 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: But you never saw
23 him again anywhere around here?

24 THE WITNESS: No. I never saw him again.

25 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Okay. Do you know

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1 whether -- I mean, I know you're here in the United States
2 now, but did you ever hear or do you know whether he is still
3 in the Special Security Service?

4 THE WITNESS: Well, when I -- 'cause my little
5 sister still live in the neighborhood, and I try to talk to
6 her. His sister was living around there, so I don't know if
7 he's still in the -- I don't know if he's still in it. But
8 it was during the time Charles Taylor was in power, so I
9 don't still know whether he still, you know, a member of the
10 Security Services, but I can, I mean, find out. I don't know
11 if he's still there.

12 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Okay. Taylor was
13 president from 1997 to 2003. Around what time are you
14 talking about that you saw Anthony last?

15 THE WITNESS: I -- I saw him --

16 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: What year --

17 THE WITNESS: -- on my way to church. That was
18 the last time I saw him.

19 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: What year? Do you
20 think you remember the year?

21 THE WITNESS: It was March '98, I said; it was in
22 March.

23 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Okay. March,
24 1998.

25 THE WITNESS: March 22nd, 1998.

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1 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Okay. Do you know
2 the name of his sister, and can you tell us the neighborhood
3 where his family lives?

4 THE WITNESS: It was around Soul Clinic -- with us
5 around Soul Clinic area, Coca-Cola factory area there. I
6 don't -- I don't know the name -- the sister's name, but for
7 a cousin in Liberia, you know who -- all his brother and
8 sister live around there. That why he came around there, but
9 I don't know the sister. I didn't even bother to ask
10 anybody. I just fled the area for my own safety.

11 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: I don't remember
12 you calling his full name. Do you know his full name?

13 THE WITNESS: I only know his Anthony name --

14 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Only Anthony.

15 THE WITNESS: -- and he was a bodyguard for Peter
16 Duo. Peter Duo was a well-known man, and his nickname "Gio
17 Devil," but I don't know Anthony. And actually Anthony, I
18 got to know his name Anthony -- when the rape occur, I didn't
19 know his name. But after I went to the hospital, and then my
20 uncle, Mr. Allison I work with, Tommy (Ph.) Allison, they
21 knew his sister in Du-Side area. They right behind Du-Side
22 Hospital. That's how we got to know that his name were
23 Anthony. And that we knew that he was Peter Duo bodyguard
24 because he was in the office there with Peter Duo when we
25 went to complain.

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1 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Okay. Peter Duo,
2 he seems to have been a popular person. Do you know, by any
3 chance, whether he's still alive, whether he still lives in
4 Liberia?

5 THE WITNESS: Well, tell you the truth, I don't
6 know whether Peter Duo is still alive, because he was one of
7 the big commanding officer in Du-Side area there. After we
8 left and went to Monrovia, I don't know. I didn't see him.
9 I don't know what -- whether he still -- where he was still
10 working or, I mean, doing anything. I don't know whether
11 he's still alive.

12 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: When you worked at
13 the hospital, you explained that they were killing a lot of
14 people there in the front of the hospital and around the
15 hospital compound.

16 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

17 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: If at all you can
18 remember or you know, would you know what kind of people --
19 what kinds of people they were killing, where these people,
20 they were bringing them from, whether they were military
21 people, whether they were fighters, civilians, women,
22 children, boys?

23 THE WITNESS: Well, there were -- actually there
24 were -- they were going in the hospital and taking out
25 patients from in the hospital, bringing them to the front and

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1 killing them. Some of the people, we hear them say, "I'm not
2 Army man," and -- "I'm not Army man; I'm not Army man," you
3 know. And we just, yaa-puh-puh-puh-puh; they just kill the
4 person. And they were just running out people and killing
5 them. I remember at one point they kill somebody right in
6 the bed, where they call Dr. Brisbane to bring the hospital
7 list to see who all were in there. You know, the patients,
8 they would want to find out whether they were military
9 people, and I think that many were not on the list or
10 something, and they kill him right in the bed. Well, I
11 didn't -- I didn't know him, and they shot him in the bed.

12 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Was Dr. Brisbane
13 the hospital administrator at the time?

14 THE WITNESS: Yeah, Dr. Brisbane.

15 COMMISSIONER MASSA WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank you
16 very much.

17 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

18 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Thank you very much,
19 Jane, for the courage to come forward and speak and expose
20 all of what happened. Again, please accept our deepest
21 empathy for all the trauma you went through. Besides Peter
22 Duo, who was the commander, who was the second in command?
23 Can you remember?

24 THE WITNESS: No. I don't know who was the second
25 in command. Peter Duo had Firestone, the Du-Side area, like,

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1 in control. So I don't know any second person there. But he
2 and the -- he and the boys were all over, and he was like all
3 over the plantation. So I don't even know who was the second
4 person in command. I already have fear there, so I didn't
5 even know who was second, but he was like in total control.

6 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Would you have any
7 idea whether Firestone was working and producing rubber at
8 the time? Were people going to work? Were people tapping?

9 THE WITNESS: There were displaced people there.
10 The only thing I know of is the hospital were running. They
11 were bringing the women and soldiers in the hospital. So the
12 hospital was running. Dr. Traub was there saying they're our
13 patients; those are our wounded. They had probably aides
14 were taking care of them. I don't know if the Firestone
15 plantation itself, they were -- if they were running; I don't
16 know about that. I only know that the hospital was running.

17 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: You do not recall
18 seeing any tappers in the area during the war?

19 THE WITNESS: No. Because I went as far as the
20 Division 11. I didn't see any -- any people -- I didn't see
21 them tapping rubber. There were all displaced people 'cause
22 we all ran away, and I don't know. I don't know if they were
23 tapping any rubber. I didn't see that. I just saw people
24 who looking for food and, you know, people going about
25 selling those, market and fish and stuff. I don't know if

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1 they were tapping rubber.

2 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: So you would not know
3 whether any other components of Firestone was working, other
4 than the hospital that was running?

5 THE WITNESS: Beside the hospital. Because we
6 live close to the hospital. My uncle's house was right
7 behind the hospital. Like I say, after the incident, I just
8 didn't focus on what else was happening around me, just go to
9 the hospital and come home and stay there. I didn't know --
10 even for us to go to Du-Side 11 at night, it was not an easy
11 walk. And my boyfriend at that time, he had family in
12 Du-Side in the NPFL party and they Kissi. We had to go to
13 Lofa then. And I don't know anything about any other company
14 functioning there at that time beside the hospital, because I
15 worked at the hospital -- after while I worked, and so I
16 know -- didn't know about the rubber plantation functioning.
17 I don't know anything else.

18 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Can you -- did you
19 have any idea how this hospital was being supplied with
20 drugs?

21 THE WITNESS: Well, they brought -- they
22 brought -- they brought basic supply from other hospitals. I
23 see -- I used to see them loading stuff coming from -- I
24 mean, taking medical supplies from the -- from their truck,
25 from their trucks and carrying it to the hospital. I don't

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1 know where they were getting it from, whether we had other
2 agency -- I mean, the doctors are -- that fled from Monrovia,
3 they were working in the hospital. We have a lot of doctors.
4 We have a lot of nurses, but I don't know if we have -- there
5 are other agents in medical supply being brought there. I
6 don't know if they were agents that are bringing it, but I
7 used to see trucks bring medical supply.

8 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Can you briefly
9 describe how general conditions at the hospital were, how --
10 a day in the hospital. Can you just describe a day in the
11 hospital, in the life of the hospital, how --

12 THE WITNESS: It was terrible because ev --
13 people -- they had -- the hospital had -- we were -- there
14 were -- patients were all mixed up. We didn't have any male
15 or female ward except for the maternity ward was all the way
16 in the back of, you know, the hospital. But it -- people
17 were mixed up, rebels. And then we had -- the rebels had
18 their own ward, and they were divided. They had it Mano boys
19 and the Gio boys, because the reconnaissance and the fighters,
20 they couldn't make it, so they separated them. So they had
21 the Mano boys in one -- on one floor, and the Gio boys on one
22 floor. And then the civilians were all mixed up; that I
23 remember giving medication -- you know, one time I had to
24 give medication in one of the ward, and when I saw man and
25 woman, man and woman, man and woman, you know. And one woman

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1 that have breast cancer and she was really in excruciating
2 pain, I had to give the med -- the medicine that I gave for
3 her was -- it couldn't even work. So the patients were all
4 mixed up. And then when Prince Johnson captured Du-Side, it
5 were worse, because all the people are living in the area,
6 around the area, they all moved into the -- we all were
7 living in the hospital. Patients on the bed and we were
8 sleeping on the floor. So when Prince Johnson captured the
9 area, who all move in Du-Side Hospital were all living in
10 Du-Side Hospital.

11 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: And you say that
12 Dr. Traub was -- or Dr. Brisbane was the one in charge of the
13 hospital?

14 THE WITNESS: At the time, yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: And you don't have any
16 idea to whom he was reporting?

17 THE WITNESS: To NPFL government; I don't know. I
18 think so.

19 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Okay. Thank you very
20 much.

21 COMMISSIONER OUMU SYLLAH: Thank you very much,
22 Jane, for coming to share your experience. I will say sorry
23 for what's happened to you. Your experience has just
24 confirmed how women from all sector in Liberian society were
25 affected, especially with this terrible crime of rape. For

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1 the courage for speaking, I will say thank you.

2 You said Duo was the leader at that time, "Gio
3 Devil," the commander?

4 THE WITNESS: Peter Duo.

5 COMMISSIONER OUMU SYLLAH: Yes. When this thing
6 happened, did you tell him? Did you report the incident and
7 what did he do?

8 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh. It's enclosed in what I
9 read. We went to him -- after I got treatment, I went to him
10 to report the case. That's when he said that when we sleep
11 with the boys, then we go complaining that his boys rape us.
12 That's what he said. So I got angry and I walk out.

13 And we talked to other -- and one in Du-Side --
14 how do you put it, one of the other -- other commanders that
15 NPFL people that we talk, we have to talk to them. But it --
16 it didn't help. So they were looking for us now because we
17 put out a case. And when Dr. Gbokolo came, she heard about
18 the raping and she came -- she heard about the incident, she
19 came. And then when she -- we explain what happened, she
20 promised that they were going to, you know, bring the boys
21 and talk to them and punish them for what they did, and they
22 didn't do anything. And the people from the camp kept
23 telling us, when they come to visit me, you - the post - not
24 supposed to see me. When the post see - "They're looking for
25 you, Jane, they were there today again. They still looking

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1 for you. They ask me all where you are at," so we had to
2 really stay, you know...

3 And Dr. Traub did a wonderful job, from what I
4 said, because when we were staying with him, if anybody came
5 to see me, he will question them how they know me, where they
6 know me from. Before then, he would come back to my
7 boyfriend and ask my boyfriend, "John Brown here. You all
8 know John Brown?" You know, then he would describe John
9 Brown before we could see the person. So that's...

10 He didn't do anything. That's what he said, he
11 said to me, "When -- when you sleep with my boys, then you
12 all come and complain say they rape you." That's what he
13 said. He didn't do anything.

14 COMMISSIONER OUMU SYLLAH: I'm so sorry for what
15 happened to you, and thank you for speaking out.

16 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

17 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Excuse me, one last
18 question. Did it come to -- were you aware at any time that
19 the NPFL use the hospital as a military base? Was it used
20 for any such purpose, to store ammunition or anything like
21 that?

22 THE WITNESS: I'm not aware of that.

23 COMMISSIONER JOHN STEWART: Thank you very much.

24 COMMISSIONER GERALD COLEMAN: I would just like to
25 get your opinion, if you would, to recommend to the TROC how

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1 we should be going about this. We have a lot of information
2 about people and what they have done. But in your opinion,
3 what would be the best form of justice for this kind of
4 situation?

5 You know there are different levels of leadership
6 in the war. We have the high command, those who funded and
7 gave political vision, and then there are the foot soldiers
8 who ended up doing some of the things.

9 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

10 COMMISSIONER GERALD COLEMAN: So when you think in
11 your heart, how do you -- what do you feel about this? Can
12 you recommend something to us or give your comments?

13 THE WITNESS: I don't know. For me, I mean, to be
14 a leader, you have to be in control. And then you have to be
15 in control of the people you're leading. And like you said,
16 a foot soldier, the leader that had a foot soldiers, he
17 wasn't in control of the foot soldiers. And the foot
18 soldiers did more damage to innocent civilians. And right
19 now, like, I was being asked about some of the foot soldiers,
20 and I don't even know someone -- I don't even know Anthony
21 whereabouts right know. I would not lie. I don't even know
22 where Peter Duo is because those are the foot soldiers.

23 However, I mean, if you're in control and
24 something goes wrong, you are going to be held responsible
25 for what went wrong because you should be in control of your

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1 people or your troops at all times. Whether you have other
2 assistants, everybody should be in control. Because those
3 things that happened, if they were in control, they were not
4 going to happen.

5 So for me, if you guys can find the leaders, they
6 should be brought to justice. And let's give birth to
7 justice and let Liberia go back to the way it used to be.

8 COMMISSIONER GERALD COLEMAN: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Or even better. I want
10 to thank you, Jane, for coming and sharing all of this with
11 us. We share your vision for a new and better Liberia. We
12 share your aspirations for justice. We share your conviction
13 that all of this will make us better, and that those who
14 innocently died should be remembered and all of that. Above
15 all we admire your courage to come forward. Normally, our
16 victimizers expect us to die, expect us to be in loss period,
17 expect us to hate ourselves because of what they have done.
18 But whenever we stand up, whenever we fight back, whenever we
19 show courage and spirit, we defeat them.

20 Today thousands of them are cowards. They are now
21 running away, ducking for cover. They used pseudonyms
22 throughout the conflicts because they knew that this day for
23 accounting will have come. And all the things they did in
24 the dark, fortunately for us, we have this process and they
25 are being exposed. Justice may take so many forms.

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1 THE WITNESS: I know.

2 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Even just naming the
3 perpetrator and publishing their names and their deeds is a
4 form of public conviction. So we should take solace in what
5 we do then. And you should also continue what you're doing,
6 advocating for those who don't have voice, for those who
7 cannot talk, because you are in a better place to provide
8 that healing. And we hope your coming here will be more than
9 one step forward towards your personal healing.

10 We thank you very much for coming. We have
11 learned so much. You have added so much to our work in ways
12 you never imagined. But better still, we are glad that you
13 came and you shared of this with us. If there's anything
14 else you'd like to say before you leave, this is the time.

15 THE WITNESS: No. I just want to say thank you
16 for hearing me out. Like I said, I'm the voice for the
17 voiceless and I will always be. I've always look at -- I was
18 terrified, as the day everything was ripped apart from me.
19 But now I don't look at it like that anymore. I look at it
20 now as the day that I was set free to stand up and speak out.

21 For some reason I was let go, and maybe this is
22 the reason why I was let go. So, like I said, to that mother
23 who will never see her daughter again, to that husband who
24 will never see his wife again, to the children that will
25 never see their mother again, hey, we have to do something.

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1 We have to speak out. We been in the dark for so long. And
2 it's -- like I say, it's horrible to live in denial. And
3 nobody knows it except those of us that have been through it.
4 So I'm happy to be here. And I'm happy to at least
5 contribute something. I hope I did. And I just want people
6 to know that, like Commissioner Coleman said, they are very
7 uncivilized men. And when they invade your privacy, they
8 don't rest until they destroy your emotion. And when you are
9 emotionally destroyed, you don't know who to turn to and what
10 to say, so you concede everything. The lady that brought me
11 from the airport yesterday, I told her, I said, Liberians are
12 very strong. We're very powerful. We came to this country,
13 every time we go to parties, we dress up, we looking so nice.
14 But remove our clothes and remove the black skin, and so much
15 hurt and so much pain that we carry around and nobody know.
16 We try to deal with it in our own special way. We try to
17 work towards our emotional success, but it's been a long
18 walk, and this is the time and the time has come, like I said
19 in my statement, for the rebirth of justice. And we have to
20 do it; we have to do it together. And we have to reconcile;
21 we have to reconcile together.

22 They are there. They're home. They're wearing
23 uniform. They're wearing other things, pretending that they
24 are the victims now. They're using, like you said, pseudo
25 names. They're pretending to be who they're not. They don't

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1 have their guns anymore, so they're powerless.

2 What do we have? We have our voice, so we speak
3 out and let the world know that this is the time. And for
4 TROC, TROC is a rebirth of justice for Liberians. So I'm
5 happy to be here, and I want to say thank you for listening
6 to me, and let's go back home, take care of our people, and
7 safe trip back home.

8 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, JoAnn Wahl, Official Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages of typewritten material constitute an accurate verbatim stenographic record taken by me of the proceedings aforementioned before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia, on the 13th day of June, 2008, at the time and place specified.

DATED: July 30, 2008.

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