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## Commanders tell how the Kisangani fighting broke out

TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2009 18:57 BY THE INDEPENDENT TEAM



### RE: STATEMENT ABOUT HOW THE WAR STARTED AT SOTEXKI

On the evening of Sunday 15/8/99 war started in town of Kisangani at around 13.00 hrs. My unit was stationed at Sim-Sim. I moved with some forces to go and block UPDF in Sotexki, in order not that force of UPDF to reinforce its other friendly forces in town.

When I reached near the factory I found OP groups which did not fight but joined the main group inside the factory. We fought there, and we pushed them out of the factory to the main body down their permanent defence in Sotexki residences.

On Monday morning we still had some fights but at a small scale, and mostly UPDF was always attacking us being supported by their tank. At night we used not to fight. On Monday morning I was instructed obey cease-fire.

The cease-fire could partially be observed because UPDF with its tank could at times advance on us and at times keep in their trenches, and keep shelling us with the tank.

On Tuesday morning there was no fighting, but around 0900 Hrs there was small fighting which after I was instructed to again cease -fire. I ceased fire, but after some time like an hour a group of UPDF came from town wanted to join Sotexki group, I had to give them way in, in that process of giving them way in they flanked my force and killed 03 of my soldiers. I insisted not to fight until the whole group entered. This was on 17/08/99. On 20/8/99 I was instructed by A/COS to pull **my force from Sotexki back to the original place before fighting. And immediately I pulled back.**

#### Stated by

**Capt. GATAMA Co 61stBn 25/8/1999 (RPA)**

À

**03 BN INF BN KISANGANI AIRPORT BANGOKA 25/8/99**

#### RE: STATEMENT

RO/5775

**NAMES: SAM KOSIA KUTESA**

**RANK: CAPT**

**OPT. 2i/c CO**

**UNIT 3 Bn**

**OC: MILITARY OFFR AGE: 32 yrs**

#### TRIBE MUNYANKORE

I am of the above particulars. It was on 14/8/99 when I came from Gbadolite aboard Ukrainian Air Cargo arrived in Kisangani Airport Bangoka with À C Coy and some officers/soldiers of support Coy. On arrival I met Maj. MUGENYI who told me to go and occupy one defense position. The major gave me Lt. KAGUMAHO to guard the soldiers to that position. I ordered company command of C coy with guard to go and occupy that position. On the way to that position RPA soldiers attacked my force killing 3 soldiers injuring 2 on close range. The OC communicated and informed of the attack. I ordered him to pull back and take another position. RPA continued shell firing mortars and guns of different calibre, mainly from Kisangani Town Road.

On 15/8/99 RPA shelled my positions and advanced but were repulsed. We followed them and overrun their positions on Kisangani road. In the afternoon I received orders from COS for cease-fire. On 15/8/99 one civilian aircraft was shot at, 7 bullets hit the aircraft. Then our aircraft arrived with officers/soldiers from Gbadolite. It was shot at with RPG, machine gun, mortars and 77 bullets hit the aircraft killing 02 soldiers, injuring 7 others. I communicated to COS of whatever was taking place.

On 16/8/99 is fairly calm but with some shooting and bombing. On 17/8/99 we were attacked and decided to do counter attack and we managed to overrun their two defenses. Then I received orders that should pull back from COS. That is what I did. Since then I have maintained cease-fire. All officers/soldiers from different forces be UPDF and RPA have been interacting free. This can be shown by officers comds RPA troops from KISANGANI road and on the end of runway how we been freely interacting.

#### This what can state.

**Signed.**

À

**A/NO: 476**

**RANK: Major**

**NAMES: MD SENTONGO**



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0:00 / 0:00

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**ventajas de las lentas progresivas** Says:  
2012-03-04 06:03:43

I don't even know how I stopped up right here, but I believed this publish was once great. I don't know who you're but certainly you are going to a well-known blogger if you aren't already. Cheers!

**josh** Says:  
2012-03-02 15:24:24

Just wanna know how well structured the kickboxing is within your country.

APPT: COMMANDING OFFICER

OSH

65 BN HQS

SOTEXKI-KISANGANI

AUG 1999

STATEMENT

I am of the above mentioned particulars and an Army officer of Sound Mind. I state as follows.

My unit was tasked on the evening of 6 Aug 99 to protect a civil gathering that was to take place on the 7 Aug 99 at Hotel (Vagenia which was to be addressed by Prof Wamba Dia Wamba and a delegation of South African and Zambia, Minister.

We moved from SOTEXKI early in the morning on 7 Aug 99 and reached the area between Congo Palace and Hotel Wagenia by 08.00 hrs while the point group was still moving ahead to start occupying and securing the area surrounding the Hotel. By now the last group had reached the area of the round about. I remember vividly that at this point a group of Congolese soldiers whom I later on come to understand as ONDEKANE soldiers started advancing towards our position. I estimated them to be of a Platoon + strength. On reaching our position they took the road to the right as you face the direction of Wagenia Hotel. About 20 metres away they formed into fighting formation and there after started firing into our direction. One soldier in my group died on the spot and a few others injured.

We also organised very quickly and managed to suppress the fire. Fighting however continued that day for about 5 hours and I could see the RPA Mamba moving in the fore ground and firing into our direction. By about 1500 Hrs fire had subsided and we managed to secure the area for the meeting to take place.

After the meeting we took positions in the surrounding areas for Prof. Wamba dia Wamba was to stay in the hotel with a number of his dignitaries. Part of my force was also detached to Hotel Palm Beach, Mosque that evening

In the days that followeI started receiving intelligence information that RPA and Ondekane forces were planning an attack on Sunday or Monday. This prompted me to start preparing fighting positions in case the attack was eminent. I received this information and I realised an atmosphere of panic amongst the civilian population. By Friday 13 Aug 999 nearly all shops in Kisangani city had closed down.

On Sunday 15 Aug 1999 at about 14.00 Hrs gunfire broke out from one of the tall buildings overlooking Hotel WA GENI A. A rocket also hit the Hotel from the same direction. On realising that we had been attacked we also responded very quickly and for the time being managed to contain the situation. This fighting however continued from Sunday up to Monday with only a brief lull of about one hour on Saturday afternoon.

Reacting on instructions I had received on Saturday at around Midi-Night to the effect that we cease all fighting, I summoned my subordinate commanders and I relayed the instructions. This however became very difficult to implement because the RPA continued to assault us from the direction of the Etat Major and the area on the left on the road to Kaparat. This fighting continued throughout the night up to Sunday morning 17 Aug 1999.

Sunday 17 Aug 1999 was day of intensified shelling. By now the RPA/ONDEKANE alliance had concentrated their Mortars and canons on the position of Wagenia Hotel. They continued the shelling through midday. By 14.00 hrs I realised that the Hotel and all its occupants were in danger and a quick decision was taken to abandon the area to prevent a catastrophe. We started pulling out of the area at around 14.30 Hrs and took the direction of SOTEXKI.

On our way to SOTEXKI we went fighting through 3 ambushes one of which had been laid just at the main entrance to the place.

I certify that the above statement has been made under my handwriting and confirm it is correct.

MD SENTONGO

Major

Commanding Officer.Â

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Confused
written by Mugalu, September 30, 2009
This goes to show how lives can be lost when politicians fail to do their jobs. Clearly Kampla failed to see the dangers that lay in the so called alliance with treacherous Rwandese. You can give food to a hungry munyarwada to save him from starvation but he will still stab you in the back! They should have pulled out of this alliance long before. Secondly they failed to reinforce our troops in time and this led to so many deaths. We should have had a division there. Only then would be able to rid that city of RPA and their allies and to protect the civilians. Our government must never again comit our forces to a war without enough resources.

Contact
written by Jean-Luc Ernst, October 01, 2009
Dear Sirs,
I'm searching for contact with people who were in Kisangani. I'm searching for photos or documents for my website :
www.stanleyville.be
Best regards,
Jean-Luc Ernst

Makes you wonder
written by Bila, October 02, 2009
I wonder why this officer found it necessary to include his tribe in describing himself! Does that make whatever he was saying more believable or there is another officer with the same names but of a different tribe?

RO/5775
NAMES: SAM KOSIA KUTESA

Kampala | Weather

Mostly Cloudy
Humidity: 58%
27°C Wind: SW at 16 mph

POLL

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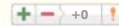
RANK: CAPT  
OPT. 2i/c CO  
UNIT 3 Bn  
OC: MILITARY OFFR AGE: 32 yrs  
TRIBE MUNYANKORE



Bila, these are statements written by kato, October 05, 2009  
Bila, if you have ever given a statement to police in uganda you should know that specifying your tribe is a requirement. The officer must have have given his on the assumption that inclusion of his tribe was necessary.  
Lets also appreciate that as a capt. in a military operation he was doing his job. It does not matter whether the job was the right one or not because that was not his call.



re  
written by Potts18Carissa, September 16, 2010  
Do not enough money to buy a car? Worry no more, just because it's real to take the loans to resolve all the problems. Hence get a auto loan to buy all you need.



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