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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 16th June 1857.

No. 11. Read the following papers.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Mauritius, 4th May 1857.

SIR,

In continuation of my previous correspondence relative to the act of piracy committed at Six Islands, towards the close of last year, by certain Indians; I have now the honor to forward, for the information of the Madras Government, copy of the depositions, taken before the Procureur and Advocate General of this Colony, of certain Creoles of Mauritius who have recently arrived here from Six Islands and who were residing there at the time of Mr. Hugon's murder.

I should point out that although none of these witnesses can give any evidence or information respecting this murder, yet their statements respecting the piracy and robbery committed subsequently by the Indians may be of use in the event of the Madras Government deciding upon prosecuting such of these Indians as may have been captured, for the last mentioned offences.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

(COPY.)

Depositions taken by the Acting Senior District Magistrate of Port Louis respecting the piracy committed at Six Islands in 1856.

In the District Court of Port Louis, Mauritius, on the twenty-second day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and before me Victor Esmouf, Acting Senior District Magistrate in and for the District of Port Louis appear the following witnesses:—

First—Lindor of Plaine Verte, Port Louis, Stone Mason, who being sworn says as follows, through the interpretation of Henry Ritter, sworn Interpreter for the French and Creole languages into English and vice versa.

My name is Lindor, I am a native of Mozambique, I was introduced into this Colony so far back as the year one thousand eight hundred and ten. I was first a slave, afterwards an apprentice and lastly manumitted by the Act of Parliament abolishing slavery throughout the British Colonies. On Friday last the seventeenth day of April Instant, I arrived from Six Islands where I had been engaged as a laborer by Mr. Gérard for three years. Mr. Gérard was acting for the Duperrel family to whom the Six Islands belong. When Mr. Hugon, the Manager of those Islands was murdered, on the Island called Lubine, I was on the Main Establishment situate on the "Sud Est" Island, distant about three miles from the former. I personally know nothing about the particulars of the murder. At that time there were on the Six Islands forty-two Indians, from Cochin, inclusive of women and children, and fifteen Creoles or Mozambiques introduced from Mauritius. The Indians, after Mr. Hugon's death assumed the command over the Six Islands, seized upon the keys of the stores, ceased working and compelled the Creoles to leave work and ill treated them. When Roman Rodriguez of the "Alexandre Auguste" arrived at Six Islands, about one month after Mr. Hugon's death, the Indians caught hold of him, forced him to remain on shore and drove away from him all the Creoles. They compelled the Captain to send for the money he had on board the vessel, it was landed by three Creoles who had been sent on board for that purpose. As soon as the money came on shore, the Indians being armed claimed that it be distributed amongst them, which was complied with by the Captain. I cannot say what was the precise amount of money Captain Rodriguez gave them, but I observed a large quantity of sovereigns. No money was given by the Captain to any of the Creoles. The next day all the Indians embarked on board the vessel, the Captain at the time attempted to conceal himself in the wood, but having been discovered, he was requested by the Chief Mate to come on board to give him his instructions. The Captain then went on board with Mrs.

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Hugon and children, but the Indians who were on board did not allow Mrs. Hugon to embark, threatening to kill her and the Captain, if she insisted upon embarking. Thereupon the Captain and Mrs. Hugon returned on shore where Mrs. Hugon was left. Captain Rodriguez again returned to the vessel; after a long conversation with his Chief Mate and the Indians, I saw him take his prayer book and swear upon it, at the request of the Indians, that if they would spare his life, he would navigate the vessel to Cochin. I was then sent back on shore together with two of my comrades. Two days afterwards the vessel set sail. In the first instance, the Indians wanted to leave the Captain on shore and have the vessel navigated by the Chief Mate, but the latter having protested of his inability so to do, they compelled the Captain to take charge of the said vessel as aforementioned. They were all armed and appeared to be very hostile to the Captain; and had he refused to comply with their demand, he would unavoidably have been killed. The said Indians were introduced into Six Islands during my stay there, on two different occasions by Captain Roman Rodriguez himself, direct from Cochin.

Deponent declares that he can neither write nor sign.

Taken and sworn before me the undersigned Magistrate on the day and year aforesaid, the same being first read over and interpreted to deponent.

(Signed) V. ESNOUF,

*Acting Senior District Magistrate,
Port Louis.*

(Signed) E. NOLIN,

Acting District Clerk.

(Signed) H. RITTER,

Interpreter.

Next is called Edouard of the Eastern suburb, Port Louis, laborer, who being sworn, says as follows, through the interpretation of Henry Ritter, sworn Interpreter for the French and Creole languages into English and vice versa.

I am a native of Madagascar, I was employed for ten months on the Six Islands with Mr. Hugon, the late Manager of the said Islands. I was on Sud Est Island when Mr. Hugon was killed on the Lubine Island. After his death the Indians took possession of the whole Islands, caused the keys of the stores to be delivered to them under threats of death to Mr. Dumazel, the Overseer, and for a whole month, until the arrival of the "Alexandre Auguste," they abstained from work and kept all the Creoles away from any work. On the arrival of Captain Roman Rodriguez he was made a prisoner by the Indians who by threats, compelled him to send for the money he had on board his Schooner and to distribute the same amongst them. They afterwards embarked on board the same Schooner and required the Chief Officer to navigate the vessel to Cochin. On his declaring that he was unable to do so, Captain Rodriguez was forced to take the command. Had the Captain refused either to give up the money or to take the command of the Schooner, he would have been put to death, as the Indians appeared to be infuriated and were all armed.

(Signed) EDOUARD.

Taken and sworn before me the undersigned Magistrate on the day and year aforesaid, the same being first read and interpreted to deponent before he subscribed the same.

(Signed) V. ESNOUF,

*Acting Senior District Magistrate
in and for Port Louis.*

(Signed) E. NOLIN,

Acting District Clerk.

(Signed) H. RITTER,

Interpreter.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 16th June 1857.

In the District of Port Louis, Mauritius.

On the twenty-fourth day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven and before me Victor Esnouf, Acting Senior District Magistrate in and for Port Louis, personally appears Gustave Pampan, late of the Six Islands, a laborer, who upon his oath says as follows, through the interpretation of Henry Ritter, sworn Interpreter, for the French and Creole languages into English and vice versa.

I am a native of Mauritius, I was employed at Six Islands for about five years, I left for Mauritius about a month ago. I cannot say anything relative to Mr. Hugon's murder as I was not on the Lubine Island at the time. After the death of Mr. Hugon, all the Indians came to the Main Establishment, the Sud Est Island, claimed money, seized the keys of the stores, abstained from working, ill treated all the Creoles and threatened Mrs. Hugon and Mr. Dumazel to take their lives, until the arrival of the Schooner the "Alexandre Auguste," commanded by Captain Roman Rodriguez. The Indians then arrested the Captain on his landing and took possession of the Schooner, knowing that there was money on board, they compelled the Captain under threats, to send his hat ribbon and handkerchief on board as a token to serve for getting delivered all the money. When the money was taken on shore (a large sum in gold) the Indians compelled the Captain to divide it amongst them, not admitting the Creoles to any share therein. The next day they embarked with weapons, and when the Captain and Mrs. Hugon went alongside the Schooner they were not allowed to embark. They came back on shore and the Captain having returned to the Ship accompanied by a few Creoles only, remained on board; I do not know what took place there. I never since saw the Captain, but the Creoles returned to the shore. A few days after the Schooner set sail.

Deponent declares that he cannot sign.

Taken and sworn before me the undersigned Magistrate on the day and year aforesaid, the same being first explained and interpreted to Deponent.

(Signed) V. ESNOUF,

*Acting Senior District Magistrate
in and for Port Louis.*

(Signed) E. NOLIN,

Acting District Clerk.

(Signed) H. RITTER,

Sworn Interpreter.

Next is called St. Giles, late of Six Islands, now of Canal street, Port Louis, a cook, who, upon his oath, says as follows, through the interpretation of the above named Interpreter.

I have been employed at Six Islands as a cook for about twenty-two months, I am a native of Mauritius, I know nothing of the circumstances attending the death of Mr. Hugon; at the time he was murdered at Lubine Island, I was on the Main Establishment. After the death of Mr. Hugon all the Indians came to the Main Establishment, struck work, seized all the keys and stores, ill treated and threatened the Creoles until the arrival of the Schooner "Alexandre Auguste" with Captain Roman Rodriguez. As soon as Captain Rodriguez was landed, he was made a prisoner by the Indians who forced him to send for the money he had on board and to divide it amongst them. Then they went on board, took possession of the vessel and desired the Chief Mate to navigate her to Mauritius, but the Chief Mate having declined to take charge of the Schooner, owing to his incompetency, the Indians sent for the Captain who was on shore and prevailed upon him, by threatening his life, to take the command of the vessel, which he did; and they left Six Islands a few days after.

Deponent declares that he cannot sign.

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Taken and sworn before me the undersigned Magistrate on the day and year aforesaid, the same being first read over and interpreted to Deponent.

(Signed) V. ESNOUF,

*Acting District Magistrate
in and for Port Louis.*

(Signed) E. NOLIN,
Acting District Clerk.

(Signed) H. RITTER,
Sworn Interpreter.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. G. CUMMINS,

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

No. 12.

ORDER THEREON, No. 681; dated 13th June 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Honorable Company's Solicitor, in reference to previous correspondence on the same subject.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,

Acting Chief Secretary.

m 681

*Ordered to be communicated to the
Honble Company's Solicitor, in reference
to previous correspondence on the same
subject.*

*Fort St. George, }
13th June, 1857 }*

*Copy to Honble Company's Solicitor, Despatch 18th
with letter & Encls.*

Indom. 21st April 1857. No 2552.
19th May - 1852.

Ind. Dr. to Eng 20. Oct.
No 26 of 1857

Page 9
Repts. to in 1858 P. 8.

In Dr. to Com. H. L. L.

Judicial - 1857 Departt

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From the Colonial Secretary
at Mauritius. 11/7/57.

21st May
19th June 1857.

No 902.
Encle

Forwards copy of the deposition
taken before the Procureur and
Advocate General of the Mauritius,
of certain Creoles of the Colony
who have recently arrived from
the Six Islands and who were
residing there at the time of
M^r Hugon's murder, and
states that it may be of use
in the event of this Govt
deciding upon prosecuting
such of those Indians as
may have been captured,
with an Order for

for the offences of piracy
and robbery committed
by them —

11 June
1212
11/4/12

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	681	Press
		~~Mis.~~
	11-12	
Dated	13-6-1918	

Not to be folded or roughly handled