

Date: 1594, October 21

Theme: Testimony about the smuggling of black slaves near Bayajá, village on the *Banda del Norte*, in La Española

Source: Archivo General de Indias, Escribanía de Cámara 17-A. CUNY DSI Dominican Colonial Documents Collection

[Imagen 00349?]

+ /

Graciano de

[Luis?] Osorio

Justinian/

R^{do} /

And after the above said, on twenty /
and one days of the month of October of /
the said year, for the said inquiry /
the said *señor oidor* ordered to appear before /
him Graciano, mulatto, slave of /
Luis Osorio Justinián, from whom,
an oath was taken and received /
according to law. And after having /
sworn, and being asked /
as per the content of the complaint and the /
first part of this business, he was asked /
the following questions. /
He brought before his honor /
Antonio Ramirez in compliance with/
~ his decree /

Asked whether he knows or has seen /
or has heard which persons,
both denizens of this city as well as of /
the other towns of the inland /
of this Española island, /
have bartered, slaves, *ruan*, *brin* and /
cañamazo and other commodities /
themselves or through /
third parties, with Frenchmen, /
Britishmen that have been and are /
in the ports of the inland /
within the last two years, /

[Image 00350]

and bartered different /
commodities, and whether they have brought them /
to this city, and where do they have them /
and if they have sold them, to which /
persons and at what price /

he [the witness] must say and declare /
what happens regarding this. He said /
that this witness has been in/
the city of Bayahá serving /
and accompanying his said master /
for a year and a half and that during this tiem/
this witness saw that the said /
Luis de Osorio and Juan Cid, denizens of /
Baya [sic], together they went /
before a Frenchman that was anchored/
at the Bayahá point /
and they bartered twenty three /
Bozal blacks, two *Jolofos*, /
and three *Angolas* and *Branes* /
and *Biafras*. And also this witness /
saw that the above said ones /
bartered with the Frenchman /
six bundles of *ruan* and twenty /
nine *varas* of *telilla* /
and a piece of black *pañño fino* /
of twenty eight *varas* /
and three *pipas* of wine, all /
of which this witness saw /
the above said ones by /
work of the said Juan Cid. And /
in exchange for the said bartering /
they gave him [the Frenchman] three /

[Image 00351]
[fo. 3r.]

thousand hides that the said Luis Osorio /
had in Bayahá of Juan [Aguión?] /
Osorio, denizen¹ of Seville. /
And also part of the said /
bartering were twenty nine botijas /
of honey from Castille, all of which /
this witness saw that /
they brought to Bayahá and there /
it was split between both in equal /
amounts, and Juan Cid's part /
was cashed at the said city /
of Bayahá, and the part of the said /
Luis Osorio was brought by /
the above said to this city, and this /

¹ Change to "vesin^o" (in singular) in the transcription.

witness came with it and a /
lad named Pedro Cardoso /
who is the overseer at the /
small cattle ranch of La Canoa de Doña /
Paula. And with this also came /
Pero Bautista Laque and a /
Jolofo black man that belonged /
to the *depositario*. And the ten blacks /
that corresponded to the said Luis /

[Image 00352]
[Fo. 3v.]

Osorio, he hid them at the farm /
of La Isabela of his mother, /
and they are kept over there by Juan /
Vinadero, slave of the said Luis Osorio, /
and by Manuel Ríos, overseer of the farm. /
And when, by instructions of this /
real audiencia Antonio /
Ramirez and Francisco Marmolejo /
went to search for bartered goods /
throughout the rural areas, the said /
blacks were in the said farm /
and the said his master sent this /
witness with [] and /
so that he hid them, and thus /
they were hidden in a mountain. /
And at present the said blacks are /
at the farm of Najayo, /
which is of the said *depositario* /
brother-in-law of the said Luis Osorio /
and the *paño* that corresponded to him came to this /
city with the *ruan* and other things /
and, of the *paño*, he sold a /
capote to Pero de Ledesma, /
public notary, and two hundred /
varas of *ruan*. And this witness himself /
delivered it to him as per mandate of /

[Image 00353]
[Fo. 4 r.]

his said master one night, /
and the said his master cut out two *capotes* /
that were cut by Franco the /
tailor, and the rest of the *paño* /
this witness does not know what was done /
with it. And the rest of the *ruan* /
the said Luis Osorio had it hidden /

at the house of Elena Perez, mulatto woman /
who lives with her mother Dios, /
and Leonicia Corredera sells it in the street. /
Today she delivered more than five hundred *reales*. /
And this witness also saw /
that the said his master around five /
/ojo. nights ago gave Pero Trejo /
denizen of Santiago, transient /
in this city three hundred *varas* /
of ruan to give to licenciado Lorenzo /
Bernaldez, which he gave him on behalf of /
Juan Cid, who owed them to the /
Said Licenciado Bernaldez for /
three hundred hides, and because /
he bartered them he did not deliver them and /
it was agreed that for the said three /
hundred hides he gave her [sic] the said /
three hundred *varas* of *ruan*. And thus /
the said Juan Cid ordered the said /

[Fo. 4r. Missing]
[Image 00354]
[Fo. 5r.]

[...]
Mari Nuñez bartered by hand /
of the said Juan Cid nine *varas* /
of *raja leonada*, and from it she made/
a faldellín, and the remaining *raja* /
the above said one has it in her /
house. And also this witness saw /
that the said Mari Nuñez bartered /
through the said Juan Cid ten or /
twelve small coffers and writing /
chests from Flanders, which were from /
the ones the French took from /
the *urca* that was lost, and the said /
blacks were being held by the said Luis /
Osorio in the said farm to /
ship them out in this French [vessel] /
that is about to depart to /
Cartagena. And this witness /
saw that from another French /
vessel that had loaded in Isabela /
the said Juan Cid bartered
Contra juan çid eight *Bran* blacks in exchange for two hundred /
bull hides that he had at the *Hato de los* /
Guayacanes, which are at six *leguas* /

from where the French [vessel] was. /
The said Juan Cid had the said hides /
to give them to his said master, and /
because he bartered them /

[Image 00355]
[Fo. 5v.]

he did not give them to him. And /
his said master asked the said Juan /
Cid to give him one half of the /
said blacks since he had /
bartered them with the hides that /
he kept to give to him, and because /
he did not give them to him nor they divided them, /
they argued. The said Juan Cid has /
the said blacks at a farm /
that he has near Bayahá /
in an enclosure that he has within /
a palm field. And this witness /
also saw that the said Juan Cid /
bartered with the vessel from which /
they bartered the first blacks /
six pipas of wine, and he sold them /
publicly in Bayahá in the same way /
as the ones he bought from captain /
Pajés. And this witness also saw /
that Pero Bautista Laque /
transient in this city /
had in Bayahá three hundred /
hides, which this witness saw /
he bartered at Puerto Bueno /
which is in Bayahá, with the /
Frenchmen that had Alonso de Cáceres /
imprisoned, and in exchange for them /
they gave them seven hundred /
varas of *ruan* and eight /

[Image 00356]

or nine *varas* of *raja leonada* /
and one piece of camel's hair, /
of which he wears a vest, /
all of which he brought /
to this city, and this witness with him /
and he took it to the house /
of Moya, mason. And this /
witness was present /
at everything that was said. /

And while this witness was /
In Bayahá he saw in the hands of /
Bartolomé Alfonso, denizen, /
six Angola *Bozal* blacks /
who had the P and the R /
and this witness talked with them . /
They said they were bartered /
from Frenchmen. And one day,
this witness going to Puerto Bueno /
and the said Bartolomé /
Alfonso also going to the said port /
and carrying certain quantity of hides /
[this witness] saw that he was carrying /
twenty nine hides of Mari Nuñez /
and there was there a Frenchman /
and he bartered it for /
ruan and he gave her part to the said /
Mari Nuñez , which was fifty /

three varas of ruan. An this /
witness himself took them away and /
this witness saw that Juan de Toro, /
city council member of Bayahá /
bartered with the Frenchmen, /
in exchange for hides, three blacks, two /
Bran ones and one Angola and three /
pipas of wine, and all of it he /
brought it from Bayahá, and the /
blacks he has them in his cattle ranch and /
throughout the town, and the wine he /
sold by quartillos. And this /
witness going from the city /
of Bayahá to a cattle ranch of Alonso /
de Caceres to get a horse /
that had run away, and staying in the /
said cattle ranch that is called /
Juana Mendez, he saw in the said ranch /
eight *Bozal* blacks next to /
the river washing themselves and /
after the said blacks saw /
this witness they ran away /
and got into a bohío. /
The said blacks this /
witness knows are bartered /

because he saw them being taken out /
from the Frenchmen's vessel /

[Image 00357]
[Fo. 7r.]

that was at Bayahá Point, /
for the said Alonso de Cáceres /
through work of Zamora /
his servant and of Francisco González, /
slaves of the said Alonso de /
Cáceres and cowboys of the said ranch. /
And the said Alonso de Cáceres /
owing to the said Luis Osorio, /
master of this witness, three hundred /
hides before the said French [vessel] /
came to the Point and /
after his said master came /
he requested the said three hundred /
hides to the said Cáceres, /
the latter said that he could not /
give them to him. The said three /
hundred hides this witness /
saw that the said Zamora /
bartered them with the said
French [vessel] in exchange for /
ruan and pipas of wine /
for the said Alonso de Cáceres. /
The said wine was seeing by /
this witness being brought /
to Santiago on drove [of beasts] /
in botijas which were brought by /
Francisco Canua, criollo, /
and Gonzalo, overseer, slaves /
of the said Alonso de Cáceres. And /
this witness also saw /

[Image 00359]
[Fo.]

in a farm of Juan R[]s de /
Segura, denizen of Bayahá, six /
Bozal blacks, Angola with the /
P and the R, and this witness /
knows that they are bartered /
because Gaspar, a mulatto slave /
of his, told him, and that his /
master had bartered them at /
Puerto Bueno. And this witness /
also saw that Diego Osorio, the old one, /

denizen of Bayahá /
brought in a female black bartered /
from the French, of the Biafara /
land, because this witness saw her /
in his own house and the female black /
herself told it to this witness /
because she was very ladina and /
he always had her in shackles /
inside a bedroom . /
And this witness also saw in /
the kitchen and house of Sebastián /
Paez, denizen of Bayahá, ten blacks /
nine Bozal Biafara /
and one ladino, which this /
witness knows that they are bartered /
because the said ladino black /
told it to him, that they had been bartered /

[Image 00360]
[Fo. 8r.]

from Frenchmen by the said Paez in the/
port of Jamu, and that also /
this witness saw that the said /
Paez took out from a chest /
where there was quantity /
of ruan, fifty varas of it/
and he gave it to the master of this /
witness for him to bring them/
to this city and give them /
to Gaspar de Rivera, and thus he /
brought and gave them to him. /
This witness knows the said ruan /
is bartered because this witness /
saw the said Paez bartering it /
with the Frenchmen /
that were at Puerto /
Bueno. Also as this witness /
passed by La Canoa, /
which is a cattle ranch of Juan Carrasco that is /
within the district of Bayahá, while /
the said Juan Carrasco was there, /
this witness saw that he had thre /
three Bozal female Biafara blacks /

one of them Ladina² named La /
Clara. These said female blacks /
this witness knows are bartered /
because the Ladina black woman /
herself would say it, and because, /
while owing the said Juan Carrasco /
certain quantity of hides to the master /
of this witness, he gave him as payment of those /

[Image 00361]

the said black *Ladina* woman, and the said /
his master did not want her because he said /
they were bartered, since /
the black woman was *Ladina* and she would /
say it. And at that same place this witness saw /
that the said Juan Carrasco opened a large box /
and there he had quantity /
of *ruan* and cloths and purple *raja* /
and blankets. This witness does not know /
the quantity of it, except that /
he saw that, out of the said ruan, the /
said Juan Carrasco gave Mari Núñez /
eleven *varas* so that she bought /
sugar for him in this city /
and he sent it [*sic*] to her with his black /
Baltasar Zape of Juan Carrasco. /
The latter also gave to the said Mari Nuñez /
a blanket for herself. This witness knows /
these said commodities were bartered /
because it was talked about publicly /
that they had been bartered by /
the said Juan Carrasco. And this witness /
knows and saw that Francisco /
Jiménez, denizen of Montecristi, /
brother-in-law of Juan Cid bartered /
with a vessel of Frenchmen that was /
at the Bayahá Point /
three Jolofo blacks and in/

[Image 00362]
[Fo. 9r.]

exchange for them he gave
forty hides for each black. /

² The witness seems to define this African woman as Bozal and Ladina at the same time, maybe meaning that she had recently arrived straight from Africa but knew how to speak Spanish already.

And he also saw barter/
with the said French three /
pipas of wine at twenty six /
hides each *pipa*, all of which he/
bartered in the presence of this /
witness, and he also saw the bartering /
of nine *botijuelas* of honey from /
Castille and twelve *vacinillas* of /
azófar. And all of it was brought /
and he saw it being brought to Bayahá /
by Juan Casanga and Miguel /
Manicongo, slaves of Juan Cid. /
And he also saw that Cristóbal /
P[]ez, brother of the said Francisco /
Jiménez bartered with the Frenchmen/
a black man of Biafara land /
and gave for him forty hides /
and two *botijas* of honey from Castille /
and two *vasinicas*. And he also /
saw that Alonso de Villardiga, denizen /
of Bayahá bartered with the said /
French vessel three *pipas* of wine /
and gave twenty six hides for each /
of them == Also he saw as well /
that Bartolomé Juan, denizen of /
Bayahá, bartered with the said /
French [vessel] two *pipas* of wine and gave /
for each one of them twenty six hides. /

[Image 00363]
[Fo.]

All these said *pipas* /
of wine, slaves, and other things /
that he has said, this witness /
was present [at them] at the /
time it [sic] was bartered and he saw /
it being brought to Baya [sic] and there /
the wine was sold publicly == Also [...] /