



Report of Cinqué's Testimony

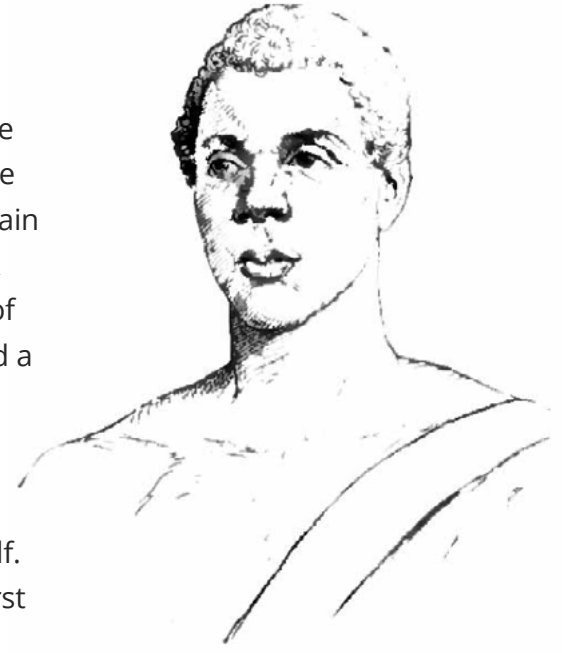
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This report of Joseph Cinqué's testimony in court was published in the New York Journal of Commerce on January 10, 1840.

Cinque, the leader of the Africans, was then examined. Cinque told Captain Gedney he might take the vessel and keep it, if he would send them to Sierra Leone. His conversation with Captain Gedney was carried on by the aid of Bernar, who could speak a little English. They had taken on board part of their supply of water, and wanted to go to Sierra Leone. They were three and a half months coming from Havana to this country.

Cross examined by General Isham. Cinque said he came from Mendi. He was taken in the road where he was at work, by countrymen. He was not taken in battle. He did not sell himself. He was taken to Lomboko, where he met the others for the first time. Those who took him—four men—had a gun and knives. Has three children in Africa. Has one wife. Never said he had two wives. Can't count the number of days after leaving Havana before the rising upon the vessel. The man who had charge of the schooner was killed. Then he and Pepe sailed the vessel. Witness told Pepe, after Ferrer was killed, to take good care of the cargo.

The brig fired a gun, and then they gave themselves up. When they first landed there they were put in prison. Were not chained. They were chained coming from Africa to Havana, hands and feet. They were chained also on board the Amistad. Were kept short of provisions. Were beaten on board the schooner by one of the sailors. When they had taken the schooner they put the Spaniards down in the hold and locked them down.



ARTICLE SOURCE: Spartacus Educational. "Amistad Mutiny Primary Sources." <https://spartacus-educational.com/USASamistad.htm>.

IMAGE SOURCE: Jacques Reich (based on the 1840 portrait by Nathaniel Jocelyn), *Portrait drawing of Joseph Cinqué, the African leader of the "Amistad" revolt*, 1900, Appletons' Cyclopædia of American Biography, 1900, v. 1, p. 616, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Appletons%27_Cinque.jpg.