

CTSAMM/JMEC CONFIDENTIAL
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TO: The Chairman, JMEC

FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM

DATE: 3 November 2017

**SUBJECT: CTSAMM REPORT 054 – CTSAMM MONITORING REPORT
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017**

Your Excellency,

Please find attached a CTSAMM monitoring report which covers issues arising from CTSAMM Monitoring Activity for August and September 2017. This report was discussed at the 14th CTSAMM member's meeting on 24 October and again at the follow-up meeting of 30 October 2017.

A written response dated 2 November 2017 by the Government members of CTSAMM is attached.


Major General Molla Hailemariam
Chairman



Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism

CTSAMM REPORT NUMBER 54
CTSAMM MONITORING REPORT AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017

Executive Summary

CTSAMM continues to monitor the security situation in South Sudan in particular with regard to the provisions of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA).

The period can be characterised as being relatively quiet, however while there may have been relatively few outbreaks of ceasefire-related violence this does not translate into a period of peace and stability. Acts of criminality, intercommunal fighting and random attacks by unknown armed groups are increasing

Fighting between the Parties continues throughout large areas of the country. Combined with increased levels of intercommunal fighting and widespread criminality the country continues to present a dire security situation.

CTSAMM MONITORING REPORT AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background:

- CTSAMM continues to monitor the security situation in South Sudan with regard to the provisions of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA).
- The International Observers conduct routine patrols in the local vicinity of their bases and more sustained patrols by air or vehicle to gather information and conduct investigations where appropriate. MVTs have a network of contacts to assist in gathering information which include, Civil Society Organisations, state level government sources, media outlets, and through interaction with civilians and soldiers in their areas of operation.
- MVTs also make use of locally contracted Community Liaison Officers who provide early warning of potential fighting and other incidents. While the gathering of information is carried out by an array of actors the MVT International Observers are responsible for verifying incidents and conducting investigations and submitting reports.

1.2 Aim: The purpose of this report is to summarise CTSAMM monitoring activity and findings for the period August to September 2017.

2.0 Findings

2.1 Overall Security Assessment. While there is no recognised baseline for security, the period can be characterised as being relatively quiet. Unfortunately, while there may have been relatively few outbreaks of ceasefire-related violence this does not translate into a period of peace and stability. As of 1 October, there are over 1.8 million IDPs (<http://www.unocha.org/south-sudan>), and 1.9 million South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries, the majority of whom cite hunger

and insecurity as the reasons for relocation. Acts of criminality, intercommunal fighting and random attacks by unknown armed groups are increasing. Recruitment of male youth by the armed forces continues, and as ever the brunt of the violence falls upon those vulnerable groups of women, children and the elderly who have little recourse but to flee from the violence.

2.2 Upper Nile State. For the period covered in this report there were MVTs operating in RENK, BUNJ, MELUT, MALAKAL and NASSIR. Planned patrols were conducted to the locations shown below. Multiple attempts have been made to conduct a joint patrol with UNMISS to PAGAK during September but to date Flight Safety Assurance has not been granted.

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Dolieb Hill | 25 August |
| Tonga | 8 August |
| Owachi | 22 August |
| Kaldak | 11 August |
| Wau Shilluk | 8 August, 26 Sep |
| Ditang | 12 September |
| Kodok | 5 August |
| Wadkona | 24 August |
| Doro | 11 September |

- Ceasefire violations have continued during the period. There have been reports of clashes in the area of PAGAK. Following on from CTSAMM Report 048 is apparent that the SPLA control the town and bridge into Ethiopia; it is hoped that at the CTSAMM meeting of 24 October we will be able to present a report from a visit to PAGAK planned for today 20 October 2017. There has also been fighting in the ABUROK area in what is known as Fashoda State as will be described in another report.

- Protection of Civilians Violations. There has been widespread displacement of civilians with large scale movement across the border into Ethiopia in the vicinity of TELE where it is reported by MVT sources that there are 6000 refugees awaiting registration. The ABUROC fighting has resulted in the temporary displacement of civilians and an unverified number of civilian casualties.

2.3 Unity State.

- Ceasefire Violations.
 - MVT Bentiu conducted a patrol to Kuergweng on 23 Aug and confirmed that on 18 Aug there were clashes between SPLA/SPLA-IO (TD) and SPLA-IO (RM) units at Tor in what is known as Northern Liech State (located between Tharwangyiela and Tomor).
 - MVTs Leer and Bentiu received reports from reliable sources that there were clashes in the vicinity of GUIT on 24 Aug between SPLA and SPLA-IO (RM).
 - Multiple sources reported violent clashes at PAKUR on 7 Sep. MVT Bentiu visited PAKUR but needs to investigate this issue further before being able to submit a report.
 - In NHIALDHU established sources confirmed a substantial armed clash on 18 Sep between SPLA-IO (RM) and SPLA/SPLA-IO (TD). MVT Bentiu and Leer have yet to conduct a detailed investigation as to the circumstances of the violence and its consequences. They have so far been unable to visit.
- Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access impact: As a result of the fighting in PAKUR there has been extensive civilian displacement and the work of agencies delivering HA was severely disrupted. On 8 September, 35

staff relocated to Bentiu from surrounding areas southwest of Bentiu. It is likely there were civilian casualties as a result of fighting in NHIALDHU, and several NGOs also reportedly relocated on 18 September due to insecurity caused by the warring Parties.

2.4 Jonglei State. There are 3 MVTs assigned to cover monitoring tasks in the legacy Jonglei State. BOR and PIBOR teams are in situ and AYOD team based in JUBA.

- Ceasefire Violations. A significant clash between the SPLA and SPLA-IO (RM) was reported in WAAT in mid-August with further clashes thereafter. These incidents are the subject of a separate report.. On 4 Aug it is likely that there were clashes at PADIENG between SPLA-IO (RM) and SPLA units.
- Protection of Civilians Violations. There are multiple allegations of rape committed by SPLA and other armed groups. The worst allegation was that 4 women were raped by 10 SPLA soldiers on 05 September 2017. The allegation is under investigation along with other allegations of rape in areas controlled by SPLA in FANGAK state. There are reports of parties using Child Soldiers; CTSAMM is hoping to provide a separate report on the issue of child soldiers in due course.
- MVT Movement issues. MVT AYOD has not been able to visit AYOD, OLD FANGAK , NEW FANGAK, WAAT and AKOBO because UNMISS has been unable to get Flight Safety Assurances.

2.5 Greater Equatoria. There are 4 MVTs covering the region, JUBA, YAMBIO and TORIT teams are in situ and YEI operates from Juba.

- Ceasefire Violations.

- Western Equatoria. In early August there were reports of an armed clash between SPLA-IO (RM) and SPA-IG in the vicinity of LANYI. Since then there have been small scale outbreaks of violence between parties especially in the area of MUNDRI. MVT YAMBIO has not been able to conduct full investigations of the allegations during the period due to issues of roads and the availability of Force Protection but patrols are planned in the near future.
- Central Equatoria. There was a major clash at KAYA on 26 Aug between SPLA-IO (RM) and SPLA forces during which a US journalist was killed. A clash on 28 Aug at LOGOBERO near YEI resulted in the death of civilians. MVT YEI has been planning joint patrols with UNMISS to conduct a thorough investigation but road access problems have resulted in major delays to patrol activity.
- Eastern Equatoria. There have been no major clashes between parties in Eastern Equatoria but the recurring ambushes as reported in CTSAMM Report number 49 have not abated.

- Protection of Civilian Violations.

- There are reports of parties using Child Soldiers in YEI state. As stated earlier CTSAMM hopes to submit a report on this issue in due course.
- In almost any clash between parties, civilians are involved with innocent bystanders caught in crossfire and there are reports of people being killed, wounded or abducted simply because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

- There are multiple complaints from the farming community who repeatedly have their freedom of movement impeded both on the way to their fields and when returning to villages at the end of the day.
- Freedom of Movement.
 - MVT YEI has not been able to conduct investigations due to road access conditions caused by heavy rain.
 - MVT YAMBIO has been unable to patrol MUNDRI because of road conditions and insufficient UNMISS force protection resources.
 - MVT AYOD has been unable to conduct air patrols to AYOD, OLD FANGAK, WAAT, NEW FANGAK and AKOBO because UNMISS has been unable to gain Flight Safety Assurances.
 - MVT TORIT was impeded on 20 Sept 2017 from moving from Nimule to Moli, Pageri, and Loa despite having a JVMM representative on the patrol. The team were informed by the SPLA commanders in the area of restrictions on their planned route and that the team was not allowed to stop and meet with the local population.

3.0 Assessment: CTSAMM Monitoring indicates clearly that the provisions of the PCTSA continue to be ignored by all Parties in large areas of the country. There are signs of improvement in some areas, but overall the security situation remains dire and the people of South Sudan continue to suffer as a result.

4.0 Observations and Recommendations:

4.1 Fighting between parties continues throughout large areas of the country. Combined with increased levels of intercommunal fighting and widespread criminality the country continues to present a dire security situation.

- 4.2 All parties should commit to stopping the killing, wounding and threatening of innocent civilians as 'collateral damage'.
- 4.3 Freedom of movement: Access is difficult enough due to road conditions and the wet season, but the deliberate impediment of MVT Patrols in Upper Nile and Eastern Equatoria by the Parties is particularly frustrating and unacceptable.
- 4.4 Lack of effective liaison with SPLA-IO (RM) remains a considerable obstacle to CTSAMM operations and particularly to the effective investigation of PCTSA violations.
- 4.5 The lack of sufficient UNMISS Force Protection resources is proving a significant impediment to the operations of MVT's. CTSAMM should be able to respond to incidents in a timely manner, but too often it takes a long time to coordinate with UNMISS whose resources are stretched.
- 4.6 A written response to this report by SPLA members of CTSAMM is attached.

**Sudan People's Liberation Movement
Sudan People's Liberation Army
SPLA GHQ'S – Bilpam
Juba, South Sudan**

Date: 2nd November 2017

Government CTSAMM representatives

To: Maj. Gen. Molla Hailemariam Chairman
Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism

Subject: Government Response to the CTSAMM Draft Report #053 – 056 alleged violations of the PCTSA

Honorable members of the CTSAMM

The Government response to the CTSAMM Draft Report 053-056 alleged violations of PCTSA are as follows;

1. Report 053 KASIA and RINEZE areas

The SPLA regrets the incident, which occurred in KASIA, RIMENZE, MAKPANDU and KAPANGARIOKPO villages, which resulted into the displacement of 162 families totaling 833 individuals. The SPLA command has taken corrective measure to improving friendly coexistence between the civil population and the military unit deployed in the area. The SPLA force deployed in the area is only one platoon and the area is so big that a platoon cannot be enough to cover it. There is also presence of many rebel groups operating in the area such as LRA and the rebel groups of the Central African Republic and that is the reason for which the area has experienced a lot of criminal activities.

Right now the security situation has improved as the coordination between the civil authority and the local military command are now managing the security issues jointly.

The SPLA forces in the area have been ordered to abide by the agreement on cessation of Hostilities and protection of civilians as well as giving free access to the humanitarian deliveries. Currently, there is a better co-ordination and regular security meetings between the Security forces and civil authorities are being held.

2. Report 054 Flight safety

- a. Flight Safety: With regards to the security clearance the flight safety assurance is always granted when requested by the CTSAMM especially in the areas under the SPLA control, but in the areas controlled by the rebels we always grant permission to go at their own risk.
- b. The SPLA is in full control of Pagak and is abided by COHA. However, the SPLA can only fight on self-defense. There are reasons which compelled the government to go to Pagak and are mainly three; 1) Protection of vital national installation of oil fields that are constantly coming under attacks planned from Pagak; 2) Protection of foreign workers operating in the area from Pagak terrorist group who in one incident took two foreign workers as hostages and asked a ransom for their release and; 3) The government wanted to install a responsible civil administration in Maiwut State to provide services and development in the area.

3. Report 055 Fighting in WAAT, JONGLEI STATE

In Waat area the IO (RM) rebels attacked the positions of our forces and the SPLA has only acted in self-defense.

4. Report # 056 FIGHTING IN ABOROC

The SPLA is not in control of Aboroc. The fighting, which occurred in Aboroc is an internal rivalry of power between the rebel Commander GEN. OLONY and his Late Deputy GEN. YUANIS UKIEC. However, the fragmentation of "IO" leadership brought about a difficulty of control of their forces on the ground and also some of rebel groups do not abide by the ARCISS and COHA.

Regards,

Maj. Gen. Simon Ananias -----
Representative CTSAMM Government

Maj. Gen. Marshal Stephen Babanen -----
CTSAMM member

Maj. Gen Samson Mabior Lual -----
CTSAMM member

CC: JMCC

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