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TO: The Chairman, JMEC

FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM

DATE: 15 May 2017

**SUBJECT: CTSAMM REPORT 040 – INTERIM REPORT ON THE KILLING OF NGO
PERSONNEL ON 25 March 2017**

Your Excellency,

Please find attached an INTERIM CTSAMM report on the killing of GREDO NGO personnel on 25 March 2017 near the Gorikidi Checkpoint on the Pibor road. This report was discussed at the 11th CTSAMM meeting on 5 May 2017.


Major General Molla Hailemariam
Chairman

Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism



CTSAMM REPORT NUMBER 040
INTERIM REPORT ON THE AMBUSH OF NGO WORKERS

Executive Summary

Early in the morning of 25 March 2017 a vehicle belonging to Grassroot Empowerment & Development Organisation (GREDO), a national NGO, was ambushed on its way to Pibor from Juba and 7 people killed. The ambush took place on the Pibor road about 4 Km from the Gorikidi checkpoint, which is approximately 45 Km from Juba by road.

The CTSAMM MVT based in Juba has been investigating this incident. So far no conclusive evidence has been found to indicate who was responsible for this crime. This short interim report summarises what is known so far.

INTERIM REPORT – KILLING OF AID WORKERS

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background: The area where the ambush took place had experienced several incidents in the few months before it happened. On 11 February a child was killed in an attack on a Landcruiser, and on 13 March two MTN workers were murdered.

1.2 Incident: On 25 March a Landcruiser belonging to GREDO was ambushed on the Pibor Road about 4 Km from the Gorikidi checkpoint, the seven occupants murdered and the vehicle stolen.

1.3 Aim: The aim of this interim report is to describe the incident, and to give an overview of information gathered so far.

2.0 Methodology:

- As soon as the details of the incident became known the MVT based in Juba was immediately tasked to investigate, and started on 28 March with a visit to the site and initial interviews.
- Over the following few weeks the MVT visited the site of the incident, the state authorities in Bor and from Boma, the police in Juba and all the organisations and people involved with the incident. Information was obtained from a wide range of sources, and from those who heard the shooting and were first on the scene.

2.0 Investigation – initial findings

2.1 Timeline: The timeline of events is as follows:

- 15.30 Hrs 24 March: The GREDO convoy consisting of four trucks and the Landcruiser left Juba. It arrived at Mogir at about 18.00 Hrs where it spent the night.
- 0500 25 March: The convoy moved off towards Pibor. The Landcruiser went on ahead, arriving at Gorikidi Checkpoint at 06.45 Hrs. It passed through the checkpoint and continued on the Pibor road. According to the checkpoint commander the occupants of the Landcruiser were warned that the security situation was bad.
- About 0700 Hrs 25 March: The four cargo trucks arrived at the checkpoint and found the Landcruiser had gone on ahead. The drivers got out of the truck and began negotiating payment to pass through it. Shots were then heard from the direction of the Pibor road. The checkpoint commander requested back-up.
- 10.00 Hrs 25 March: Two Landcruisers full of armed soldiers arrived at the checkpoint. The checkpoint commander went with the soldiers down the Pibor road towards where the shots were heard. The four trucks followed on behind.
- About 3.7 Km down the road the checkpoint commander and soldiers arrived at the ambush site and found 7 bodies about 30 metres from the road. The checkpoint commander immediately recognised the bodies as being from the GREDO Landcruiser. The four trucks continued on their way to Pibor.

- The incident was reported. The bodies remained in place until 26 March when the County Commissioner made arrangements with MI and NSS to have them collected.

2.2 The area where the ambush took place is controlled by the Government. There are no SPLM/A-IO forces in the vicinity. The MVT were told by the checkpoint commander that there is a Bor Dinka youth training camp about 11 Km north of the Gorikidi checkpoint.

2.3 Evidence from the site of the ambush suggested that the Landcruiser had been driven off the road, and the occupants then taken from it. Six of them had been shot in the head; the seventh had broken limbs and could have been run over. The tracks of the vehicle were followed for some distance by the Gokridi checkpoint commander who said they swung back to the west towards the Juba Bor road.

2.4 The checkpoint commander reported that military boot prints were found at the scene of the ambush. Fired cartridge cases observed by the MVT indicate that AK47 rifles were used by the murderers. There was also a military-style shirt left at the scene, but it had no identifying badges.

3.0 Initial Assessment:

3.1 The initial assessment of CTSAMM is that there has been no firm evidence found so far to incriminate any particular group. Both criminal and political motives have been suggested but none confirmed. The MVT have found no first-hand or eye-witness accounts of the ambush or subsequent movements of the stolen Landcruiser.

3.2 CTSAMM hopes that the Government Police and Military authorities will continue

to investigate this incident with vigour. The MVT will endeavour to gather more information and requests the active cooperation of the Government authorities.