

**CTSAMM/JMEC CONFIDENTIAL**  
**NOT TO BE RELEASED WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN**



TO: The Chairman, JMEC

FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM

DATE: 27 July 2017

**SUBJECT: CTSAMM REPORT 041 – ATTACK AT KUAJENA, WESTERN BAHR EL GHAZAL STATE**

Your Excellency,

Please find attached a CTSAMM report on a violation of the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements (Chapter II of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan of 26 August 2015), specifically an attack at Kuajena, Western Bahr el Ghazal State, which took place on 27 April 2017.

This was discussed at the CTSAMM meeting of 20 July 2017.

  
Major General Molla Hailemariam  
Chairman

**Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism**



## **CTSAMM REPORT NUMBER 041**

### **ATTACK AT KUAJENA**

#### **Executive Summary**

In the early morning of 27 April 2017 a number of uniformed armed men attacked the village of Kuajena, which is about 46 Km South East of Wau. Two civilians were killed in the attack. The attackers withdrew when engaged by local SPLA-IG forces.

There are SPLA-IO (RM) forces in the area, and it is evident that elements of these forces mounted the attack. All the evidence gathered indicates that attack did take place and that this was in violation of the PCTSA.

## ATTACK AT KUAJENA

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background: Kuajena is a small town about 46 Km south east of Wau on the Rumbek road, not far from Mapel. It is home to Kuajena County headquarters and a Government Forces checkpoint. CTSAMM has no reports of any previous violations in the area.

1.2 Incident: The incident covered by this report is an attack that took place at Kuajena on 27 April 2017

1.3 Aim: The purpose of this report is to describe what happened and to attribute responsibility for violations of the PCTSA where appropriate.

1.3 Methodology:

- On the afternoon of 27 April 2017 the MVT based in Wau heard reports about an alleged attack at Kuajena early that morning. The MVT was then able to join an integrated patrol that went to Kuajena the following day (28 April).
- At Kuajena the MVT was able to meet with local civil and military authorities, as well as members of the civilian population and the families of the victims. The MVT in Wau has no effective liaison with opposition forces in the area, and so all information gathered from officials and officers was from Government sources.

### 2.0 Investigation – findings

2.1 It is verified that the attack took take place and two people were killed. The MVT recorded witness evidence from a number of sources, saw the places where the killing had taken place and found spent cartridge cases where rifles had been fired. The attack took place at about 06.00 Hrs on 27 April. After a short

engagement the attackers were repulsed by SPLA-IG troops. There was no looting.

2.2 There were varied reports about the number of attackers involved. Initial reports received by the MVT suggested 15, but witnesses on the ground said there were many more. There could have been as many as 50 involved; some said 70. All witnesses described them as being in uniform and armed with AK47's and PKM machine-guns.

2.3 The MVT asked local government officials and SPLA-IG commanders about the identity of the attackers and they all said they were SPLA-IO (RM).

### **3.0 Assessment:**

3.1 It is the opinion of CTSAMM that the attack took place as reported. Credible sources have reported SPLA-IO (RM) forces in the area and the scale of the attack indicates a military capability. It is assessed that SPLA-IO (RM) forces carried out the attack.

3.2 It is difficult to understand what the objective of the attack might have been. It was unprovoked. Two civilians were killed for no reason, and the attackers either left or were repulsed before taking any military objectives.

### **4.0 Conclusion:**

4.1 It is the opinion of CTSAMM that the attack which took place at Kuajena was a violation of the PCTSA by Opposition Forces, particularly:

Article 1.1 of the COHA: "The parties shall cease all military operations....."

Article 1.7.5 of the PCTSA: “Acts of hostility, intimidation, violence or attacks against the civilian population....”

**5.0 Observations and Recommendations:**

- 5.1 The situation in the Kuajena are is described by locals as ‘tense’. There are SPLA-IO units operating in the area. According to the local authorities there are about one thousand IDP’s living in Kuajena. Attacks such as described in this incident will increase the fear prevalent in the civilian community.