

CTSAMM/JMEC CONFIDENTIAL

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TO: The Chairman, JMEC

FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM

DATE: 31 March 2016

SUBJECT: CTSAMM report 013 – Violations of the PCTSA in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State

Your Excellency,

Please find attached CTSAMM report on violations 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) that took place in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State.

This report was discussed with CTSAMM members at a meeting on 30 March 2016.

Major General Molla Hailemariam
Chairman

Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism

CTSAMM REPORT NUMBER 013
VIOILATIONS OF THE PCTSA IN NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZAL STATE

Executive Summary

On 12 March 2016 a Government Police Station at Kang Abar in Northern Bahr el Ghazal was attacked by a group armed personnel from the SPLM/A-IO. At the time of the attack there was a Government Forces patrol in the area who reinforced the police and a clash developed that resulted in one Government fatality and several wounded. Casualties amongst the SPLM/A-IO were not confirmed.

Information about the incident was corroborated by UNISFA and several other sources. It is the opinion of CTSAMM that this incident did take place. Furthermore, CTSAMM members agreed that because members of the SPLM/A-IO were involved, whether they were acting under the orders of the SPLM/A-IO command or not, the SPLM/A-IO remains accountable and therefore in violation of the PCTSA.

VIOLATION OF THE PCTSA IN NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZAL STATE

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background:

- The situation in the Northern Bahr el Ghazal region has been relatively quiet, although there was an incident on 8 March in the Kir Adem area involving the capture by Government Forces of 12 SPLM/A-IO soldiers. There was no fighting involved, and the SPLM/A-IO soldiers - who were interviewed by the MVT – claimed they had surrendered.
- Kir Adem and indeed Kang Abar where the incident that is the subject of this report took place is within the area between Sudan and South Sudan which is monitored by The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

1.2 Allegations: The allegations investigated and covered by this report are as follows:

- Information received by the MVT from GRSS authorities: On 13 March 2016 the MVT based in Aweil received information from the Aweil North County Commissioner about an incident that took place on 12 March at Kang Abar (near Kir Adem) involving an attack by SPLM/A-IO forces against a police station.
- Allegation by SPLM/A-IO: JTC was passed a letter 2016 “*Occupation of Kang Abar by Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) Forces*” addressed to JMCC from Lt Gen Dau Aturjong Nyuol dated 16 March, which alleged:

“...on March 12 2016 GRSS forces (SPLA) and Darfur rebels coordinated a joint attack on our positions in Kang Abar, which is one of the selected cantonment area in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and have occupied it since March 12, 2016”.

1.3 Aim: The aim of this report is to outline the details of the incident and investigations for JMEC with assessments and recommendations.

1.4 Methodology:

- The MVT visited 3 Division Government Forces where they spoke to SPLA officers and were also able to interview soldiers wounded in the incident.
- The MVT visited Gok Machar where they spoke to and got corroboratory information from the UNIFSA Sector Commander and local civil and military authorities.
- Other sources of information both local and international were also approached to corroborate information received.

2.0 INCIDENT IN NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZAL STATE

- 2.1 On 12 March 2016 the Police station at Kang Abar was attacked. The Police Station is also used as a revenue collection point from where taxes are imposed on fishermen. All the evidence suggests that the attackers were SPLM/A-IO.
- 2.2 Government Forces sent reinforcements to the area in order to defend the Police Station and a clash ensued. According to Government Forces there was a routine patrol which happened to be near Kang Abar when the attack developed.
- 2.3 During the fighting 4 Government policemen and two soldiers were wounded, and 1 Government Forces soldier killed. Casualties amongst the SPLM/A-IO forces were not confirmed.

3.0 Assessment:

- 3.1 It is the assessment of CTSAMM that the attack on the Police Station did take place, and that there is sufficient corroborated evidence to suggest that SPLM/A-IO soldiers carried out the attack.
- 3.2 There is no evidence to suggest that in this instance Government Forces attacked SPLM/A-IO forces as alleged in the SPLM/A-IO letter.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 By taking action against the Government Police Station in Kang Abar SPLM/A-IO Forces violated article 1.7 of the PCTSA.

5.0 Recommendations and observations:

5.1 CTSAMM recommends that SPLM/A-IO commanders ensure that all sub-units and affiliated groups under their command understand and observe the provisions of the PCTSA.