

CTSAMM Headquarters

CEASEFIRE AND TRANSITIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS MONITORING MECHANISM



TO: The Chairman, JMEC

FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM

DATE: 7 February 2017

SUBJECT: CTSAMM report 028 – Alleged violations of the PCTSA in Digala Boma, Central Equatoria

Excellency,

Please find attached a CTSAMM report on alleged violations of the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements that took place in Digala Boma, Rajaf County.

This report was discussed at the CTSAMM meeting on 25 January 2017. It was decided that in this instance no further action was required, as the issues involved were for local civil and military authorities to address. However, there were some useful recommendations that were discussed and which can be taken forward.

Major General Molla Hailemariam
Chairman

Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism

CTSAMM REPORT NUMBER 028
ALLEGED VIOLATIONS IN DIGALA BOMA

1. Allegations and investigations

- 1.1 In line with the Peace Agreement that Juba should be demilitarized and SPLA units relocated 25 km away from the city, 700 soldiers of the 3rd Division were redeployed to Digala Boma, Rajaf County in Central Equatoria without informing and consulting the community elders and chiefs in advance. This took place in March 2016.
- 1.2 The local people accused the SPLA soldiers of taking their land, looting crops and materials, harassment and displacement of local villagers. In particular, there were credible reports of the attempted rape of two women.
- 1.3 General concerns over the behaviour of SPLA soldiers were raised by the Chief of Digala Boma, who sent complaint letters to JMEC, and by the County Commissioner who sent his personal report to the State Governor. The police also submitted a security investigation report. These concerns were communicated to CTSAMM and the JUBA MVT were instructed to conduct an investigation.
- 1.4 An interim report was presented to the CTSAMM meeting on 9 June 2016. The question was asked whether this was an issue for CTSAMM under the PCTSA: at the time representatives from the SPLM/A-IO asked that the investigation should be continued and a report completed.
- 1.5 The Juba MVT had undertaken extensive investigations and spoken to all stakeholders involved, but further work on this issue was interrupted by the

events of July 2016, after which the troops concerned moved from the redeployment site.

2. Assessment and conclusion

2.1 There is no doubt that the lives of civilians living in Digala were significantly affected by the presence of the SPLA soldiers. There is also no doubt that the discipline of these soldiers was bad. They were also not well administered, which led to their stealing food from the local people and harassing women. The MVT concluded that the alleged attempted rape did take place, but that it was not possible to identify the perpetrators.

2.2 CTSAMM concluded that the issues between the civil population in Digala and the SPLA garrison should be dealt with by local civil and military authorities rather than under the PCTSA. With people in other parts of the country suffering so much it would not have been right to continue with the investigation.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Planned cantonment sites remain an option for the future implementation of the PCTSA. When such sites are established, it is important that they are kept away from civilian settlements, and that every effort is made to ensure the troops remain disciplined and good relations are maintained with local communities.