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TO: The Chairman, IGAD Council of Ministers  
The Chairman, JMEC

FROM: The Chairman, CTSAMM


DATE: 7 July 2018

**SUBJECT: CTSAMM REPORT 2018/23 – MURDER AND RAPE IN GOLI,  
CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE.**

Your Excellencies,

Please find attached a report on violations of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access (21 December 2017), specifically incidents that took place at GOLI in Central Equatoria State on 14 May 2018.



  
Major General Ibrahim Abduljellil  
Chairman

# Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism

## CTSAMM REPORT 2018/23

### MURDER AND RAPE IN GOLI

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Southern Central Equatoria has been subject to extensive violations of ARCSS and ACOH since December 2017. On 14 May 2018 SPLA soldiers entered the area of the Emmanuel Christian College at GOLI and, using the excuse that they were looking for “rebels”, subjected civilians to murder, rape and looting.

The perpetrators of the violence were identified as members of the SPLA Tiger Division.

CTSAMM finds the SPLA to in clear and blatant violation of the ACOH, not only by violating many of its articles, but also because it has clearly failed in its most basic obligations to protect civilians.





## VIOLATIONS AT GOLI CENTRAL EQUATORIA

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background: GOLI is a town 30 Km North West of YEI town and located along the YEI – TORE – MARIDI road. It is known that the SPLA have forces in TORE, but the area between TORE and YEI is controlled by the SPLA-IO (RM). Since 2016, Emmanuel Christian College (ECC) has been hosting approximately 4,000 IDPs from YEI, TORE and surrounding towns and villages. ECC runs a clinic and a secondary school in GOLI. In early 2017, ECC moved its college to YEI at the Reconcile International Compound due to security concerns.

1.2 Allegation: On 15th May 2018 the MVT received a Press Release from Wayi Godwill Edward (Spokesperson, Office of the SPLA-IO (RM) Governor of what is known as Yei River State) indicating that the Government Forces had “brutally massacred” 10 civilians at GOLI in TORE Payam of Yei River State (Tore County as it is known by the Government since the creation of 32 States). The Press Release went further to request that CTSAMM investigate the killings.

1.3 Aim: The aim of this report is to describe the findings of a CTSAMM investigation into events which took place on 14 May 2018 in GOLI, to attribute responsibility for violations of the ACOH where appropriate and make recommendations.

### 1.4 Methodology:

- The MVT conducted an investigation of the incident beginning with a patrol to YEI and GOLI on 18 May 2018. The patrol was conducted jointly with UNMISS which provided force protection. The site of the alleged violations was the Emmanuel Christian College (ECC) in GOLI (Coordinates: N 4° 12' 56" E 30° 26' 36").





- Meetings and Interviews.

- At GOLI: The MVT met ECC Staff, civilians from the community and IDP's who were present during an attack on 14 May 2018. The witnesses were very clear on the events of 14 May and gave detailed accounts. All accounts corroborated that the attacks took place and described how and where the incidents occurred.
- In YEI. The MVT met the County Commissioner of TORE and the Acting Commander of SPLA forces in what is known as Yei River State.

## 2.0 Findings

- 2.1 At about 07.30 Hrs on 14 May 2018 a number of SPLA soldiers entered the ECC in GOLI and for the next hour proceeded to shoot civilians from the ECC and nearby. While the shooting took place soldiers also committed rape, abduction, theft and destruction of property. ECC is surrounded by a fence and has a metal and cement entrance gate.
- 2.2 Using the excuse that they were looking for 'rebels', the soldiers forced members of the ECC and IDP community from their homes, gathered them together and interrogated the men. The children and some of the women were allowed to leave. Seven of the men gathered together were lined up against a wall and in groups of 3 and 4 and shot. Three other individuals were killed in their homes or in the open. Amongst those killed was a boy between the ages of 10 and 14 who was shot and killed in his bed and his body mutilated before or after death by the insertion of a stick into his anus. From those civilians gathered together by the soldiers four men were taken away from GOLI and their whereabouts remains unknown.
- 2.3 A young girl was raped by 2 of the soldiers in the course of which she suffered internal injuries. Her age is not specified in this report in order to protect her identity.
- 2.4 Soldiers seized money from individuals and from the ECC kitchen and office. In attempting to take money one of the soldiers shot at the safe in the office and was wounded in the leg after the bullet was deflected. He was subsequently



treated by a member of the ECC clinic staff, although this did not stop the soldiers from accusing the ECC clinic staff of being "rebels" and threatening them accordingly.

- 2.5 Soldiers ordered the slaughter of a cow which they cooked and ate during the course of the day. Some of the soldiers ate a meal in the home of the rape victim in front of her family. Soldiers also took other foodstuffs, laptops and non-food items from ECC and individual homes.
- 2.6 Whilst searching and looting the compound, the soldiers claimed to have found an AK47 rifle and accused a man of owning it. He was taken to the commander and beaten, but denied any knowledge of the gun and was eventually released. None of the witnesses interviewed by CTSAMM knew anything about the alleged rifle.
- 2.7 The soldiers stayed in the area of the ECC and IDP from 07.00 until 20.00. At 20.00 they departed, and on leaving were seen and heard to be cheering and firing multiple shots into the air in a celebratory fashion.
- 2.8 The full scale of the atrocity became apparent at 06.00 on 15 May 2018. The villagers were mobilised to gather the bodies and bury the dead. Photographs were taken in the immediate aftermath once daylight permitted on 15 May 2018. The incident was reported to the ECC head office in Yei at 08.00. Contact was made with the County Commissioner for Tore County and the State Security Officer who were all in YEI. The Deputy Governor stated that the killings would be followed up.
- 2.9 Multiple witnesses stated that the attacks were carried out by the SPLA. Conversations between soldiers were conducted in the Dinka language.
- 2.10 Sources in YEI town confirmed to CTSAMM that the perpetrators of the attack were members of the Tiger Division. The MVT was informed that a company-sized unit of the Tiger Division operated from TORE. The County Commissioner and Acting SPLA Commander informed the MVT that Tiger Division forces operated under the direct command of the Divisional Headquarters in Juba, and were not under the command of the local





commander. The Tiger Division Commander is believed to be Major General [REDACTED] The identity of the Company commander in TORE is not known.

### 3.0 Assessment

- 3.1 The attack on the ECC and IDP settlement in GOLI took place as described. The bodies and names of the 10 people killed are recorded. Bullet marked walls and empty cartridge cases are consistent with accounts that 7 civilians were executed after been lined up against buildings. Evidence of the killing and mutilation of a boy and the multiple rape of a girl was observed and documented by witnesses.
- 4.2 The attack was perpetrated by SPLA personnel. All the evidence indicates that soldiers from the Tiger Division soldiers were specifically responsible for the atrocities committed. The Tiger Division is known to have forces in TORE.
- 4.3 The alleged presence of a single AK47 rifle and the weak assertion by the soldiers that the ECC and IDP settlement were "supporting rebels" is irrelevant and provides no excuse for any of the actions of the soldiers. A civilian community which provided support to a large number of displaced families was deliberately targeted, and widespread atrocities committed by Government soldiers.

### 4.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 CTSAMM finds the SPLA in clear violation of all those prohibited actions and in the ACOH which pertain to the Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Provision of Humanitarian Access. Specifically:

- Article 1 (2) & 11 (6) Failing to freeze its forces and moving without notification or authority of CTSAMM.
- Article 2 (1) – failing to implement the agreement in full and in good faith by procuring attacks on civilians and SPLA – IO.
- Article 2 (4) and Article 3 (1) – failing to abide by international human rights law and humanitarian law that prohibits targeting and attacking civilians.
- Article 3 (2) Carrying out hostile military actions prohibited under this Article, against Civilians.



- Article 5 (1), (2), Article 6 (a), (e) and (i) by attacking and killing civilians and perpetuating other human rights violations.

## **5.0 Observations and Recommendations**

- 5.1 Let us be clear: what took place at GOLI in Central Equatoria State on 14 May 2018 was an atrocity. The actions of those soldiers involved were not only in clear violation of the ACOH, but also of national and international law.
- 5.2 Those responsible should be held to account. CTSAMM recommends that this be addressed at the political level: the TGoNU must take responsibility for the actions of the national army – the SPLA – and see that even rudimentary discipline is imposed and implemented. The soldiers who committed murder and rape at GOLI should face the consequences. How can the people of South Sudan have any faith in the SPLA if incidents such as this are allowed to go unpunished? Until now CTSAMM has found no information to suggest that any substantive action has been taken by either the Government civil or military authorities.
- 5.3 Instances such as that which took place at GOLI can only help fuel mistrust, and hatred, and provide the catalyst for future conflict.
- 5.4 The four men taken by the soldiers should be returned to their homes, and those people affected by incident should be recompensed and the money and goods stolen from them returned.



Annex:

A: Map of YEI area, Central Equatoria showing the location of the violation.

B: Photographs taken in GOLI on 15 May 2018.





Abbreviations:

ACOH: Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access signed 21 December 2017.

MVT: CTSAMM Monitoring and Verification Team

SPLA: Sudan People's Liberation Army. Military forces under the command and control of the Transitional Government of National Unity, including those opposition forces under the First Vice President Taban Deng Gai now with the Government.

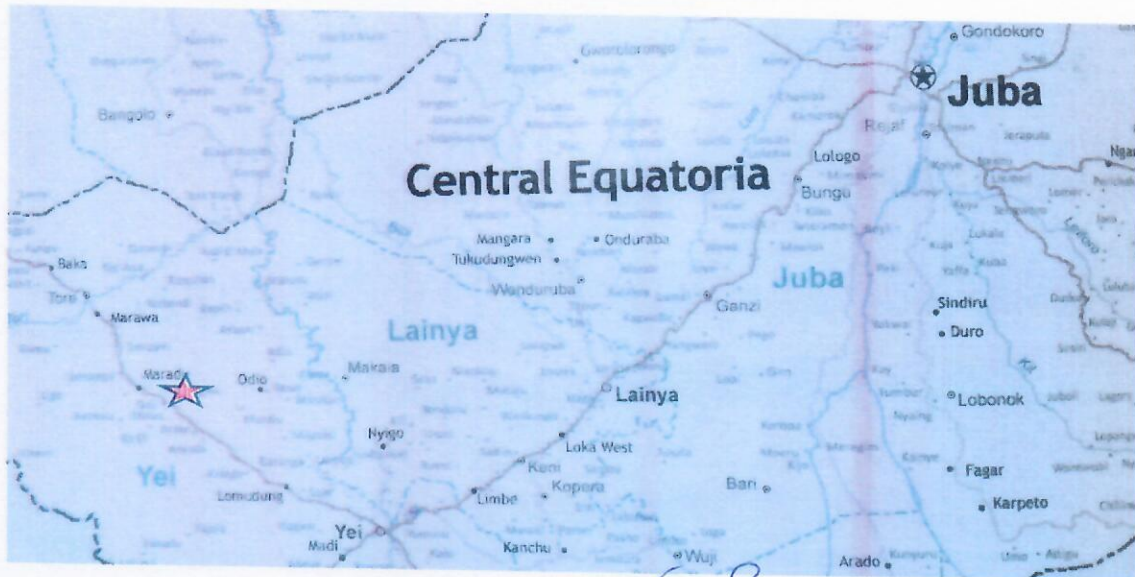
SPLA-IO (RM) Sudan People's Liberation Army In Opposition and under the command and control of Dr Riek Machar.





ANNEX A TO  
CTSAMM REPORT 2018/23  
Dated JUNE 2018

Map of YEI area, Central Equatoria showing location of violation



*[Handwritten signature]*



ANNEX B TO  
CTSAMM REPORT 2018/23  
Dated JUNE 2018

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY ECC STAFF 15 MAY 2018

