

## IGAD JTC MVM

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY  
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TO: Special Envoys to South Sudan  
FROM: Chairman, Joint Technical Committee, Monitoring and Verification Mechanism,  
Juba, South Sudan  
DATE: 31 January 2015

**SUBJECT: Report on Violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement**

Your Excellences,

Please find attached the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) report on violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (23 January 2014) in Nassir, Upper Nile State.

Major General (Retired) Negash Dagnev Ayele  
Chairman, Joint Technical Committee



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### **JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (JTC)**

**INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF  
HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN NASSIR, UPPER NILE STATE  
(V025)**

**PRESENTED TO:**

**THE SPECIAL ENVOYS TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**31 January 2015**



**IGAD CONFIDENTIAL (HIGHLY SENSITIVE)**

## IGAD JTC MVM

### Executive Summary

Since the deployment of MVM 6 of the 24 violations so far reported have involved incidents in or near Nassir. There is a high level of tension between the Government Forces in Nassir and the surrounding SPLM/A-IO forces which results in frequent clashes.

This reports concerns yet another incident. On 30 January at 13.20 Hrs SPLM/A-IO forces fired mortars from positions south of the Sobat River, initially at the airstrip and then towards the market place and Government Forces positions. This triggered an exchange of fire which continued for half an hour. There was a further exchange of fire in the evening which lasted one and a half hours.

It is the clear opinion of the JTC that SPLM/A-IO forces initiated the engagement, and in doing so violated the COHA.



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### INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN NASSIR, UPPER NILE STATE

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Background: There has been ongoing tension in Nassir for some time, with the first of 6 previous incidents reported in June 2014. Since 10 December there have been 3 clashes between Government Forces and SPLM/A-IO forces as reported in Violation Reports V021, V022 and V024.
- 1.2 Incident: At 13.20 Hrs on 30 January 2015 and then again at 19.15 hours there were exchanges of mortar and heavy machine-gun fire between SPLM/A-IO forces south of the Sobat river, and Government Forces stationed in Nassir.
- 1.3 Aim: The aim of this report is to provide IGAD Special Envoys with a summary of the incident that took place in Nassir on 30 January 2015, and apportion responsibility for violations of the COHA.
- 1.4 Methodology:
- Following a flash report received at 14.00 Hrs on 30 January 2015 from the MVT based at the UNMISS camp at Nassir and employing Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) Standard Operating Procedures, the JTC immediately initiated the investigation / verification sequence on by ordering the MVT to investigate the incident as soon as practical and report accordingly.
  - The MVT monitored events and conducted investigations in accordance with the orders. They observed the incident from watchtowers where necessary, and discussed what had happened with other witnesses, particularly UNMISS personnel and the MLO's. They also discussed the issue with the Government Forces commander, but were unable to contact any representatives of the SPLM/A-IO. An Investigation and Verification report was submitted at 22.46 Hrs 30 January.

#### 2.0 Violations of COHA – NASSIR

- 2.1 At 13.20 Hrs two mortar rounds were heard impacting to the west of the UNMISS camp towards the airfield. Members of the MVT rushed to the UNMISS watchtowers where they were able to observe what was happening. UNMISS personnel showed them where the rounds had landed, and that they had been fired from south of the Sobat River.
- 2.2 The mortaring continued and moved to the area of the market place, and the MVT was

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able to confirm that the rounds were being fired from the south of the Sobat and to the west of Nassir. They estimated the firing point to be about 3 km from Nassir.

2.3 Government Forces eventually responded to the mortar fire and there was an intensive exchange of mortar fire between the Government Forces positions in Nassir and those of the SPLM/A-IO south of the Sobat River. This exchange lasted until 13.50 Hrs. Government Forces reported no casualties; it is not known whether SPLM/A-IO suffered any.

2.4 At 19.15 there was a further exchange of mortar fire which lasted until 20.50 Hrs. Government Forces also employed 23mm heavy machine gun fire.

### 2.5 **Assessment:**

- There is no doubt that SPLM/A-IO forces initiated the exchange of fire that started at 13.20 Hrs on 30 January. The MVT was unable to confirm which of the Parties started the second exchange of fire in the evening, but this can be seen as a continuation of the first incident.
- There was a further short exchange of fire in the early morning of 31 January 2015. It is possible there will be further clashes in the coming days.

### 3.0 **Conclusion**

3.1 As a result of investigations, and the weight of evidence collated it is the opinion of the JTC that SPLM/A-IO forces violated the following articles of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA), 23 January 2014 in Nassir on 30 January 2015:

- 1.1 The Parties hereby agree to cease all military actions aimed at each other

3.2 Recommendations: It is recommended that the IGAD Special Envoys take the appropriate action in response to these violations of the COHA.

