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TO: Special Envoys to South Sudan
FROM: Chairman, Joint Technical Committee, Monitoring and Verification Mechanism,
Juba, South Sudan
DATE: 6 March 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 Upper Nile State.

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



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JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (JTC)

INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN BENTIU, UNITY STATE

(V030)

PRESENTED TO:

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

6 March 2015



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Executive Summary

On the 20th and 26th February 2015 there were two alleged shelling incidents, the first at Duk Duk and the second at and near Renk in Upper Nile State. In both incidents shells were fired into areas controlled by Government Forces.

It is the opinion of the JTC that these incidents constitute clear violations of the COHA by SPLM/A-IO Forces.



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INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN RENK COUNTY, UPPER NILE STATE

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background: For some time there has been tension in the north of Upper Nile State. The last reported incidents being an attack against Imtidad and the shelling of Renk (both attributed to the SPLM/A-IO) on 17-26 January 2015 (JTC Report V026).

1.2 Incident: There were reported incidents of shelling, allegedly by the SPML/A-IO, in Duk Duk on 20 February and Renk on 26 February.

1.3 Aim: The aim of this report is to inform the Special Envoys about the incidents and apportion responsibility where appropriate.

1.4 Methodology:

- The incidents were investigated by the team in Melut, which is some distance from both sites. However, the MVT was recently in the Renk area undertaking investigations which led to JTC Report V026 and have a good knowledge of and relationship with the UNMISS MLO's based there. They followed up the initial information they received by contacting the UNMISS MLOs and getting first-hand accounts of the incidents.
- The MVT had received no information at the time about the alleged shelling in Duk Duk on 20 February until the GRSS Chief Negotiator made a complaint in a letter dated 21 February 2015 and received by JTC some time later. Once the complaint was received the MVT was tasked to investigate accordingly.
- The MVT in Melut was initially made aware of the alleged shelling on 26 February by reports on the radio and Government Forces following the incident. They found out more and this was followed up by a full investigation following a complaint by the GRSS Chief Negotiator contained in a letter dated 2 March 2015.

2.0 Violations of COHA

2.1 Shelling in Duk Duk 20 February 2015:

Duk Duk was a Disputed Area according to the Report on the IGAD COHA Implementation Workshop signed 17 November 2014. It was visited by an MVT on 10 December 2014 who verified that it was under the control of Government Forces, and that there was a Government Forces battalion stationed there.



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The MVT obtained confirmation from the MLO based in Renk that Duk Duk was indeed shelled on 20 February 2015. There were no reports of casualties.

2.2 Shelling 26 February 2015:

- The MVT in Melut initially heard about the shelling at Renk in a report on Radio Maraya. They contacted the UNMISS MLO based in Renk who confirmed that between 19.00 Hrs and 2000 Hrs on 26th February 6 shells fired by the SPLM/A-IO impacted in Renk, and at 20.15 Hrs 3 shells landed in Abucadra (near Renk). There were no casualties, and Government Forces did not respond.
- This was witnessed by the UNMISS MLO

2.3 **Assessment:** The MVT in Melut was not able to visit to sites of the alleged violations, but as previously stated they have a good relationship with the UNMISS MLO who gave clear reports of both incidents. It is the assessment of the JTC that the SPLM/A-IO did shell Duk Duk on 20 February and Renk on 26 February, and that these incident constitute a clear violation of the COHA.

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 Renk County on 20 and 26 February 2015:

- 1.1 The Parties hereby agree to cease all military actions aimed at each other
- 3.1 The Parties shall refrain from attacks on the civilian population

3.2 Recommendations: The situation in northern Upper Nile State remains tense. At time of writing there have been further reports – so far unverified – of shelling in Renk. It is recommended that the IGAD Special Envoys take urgent action in response to these violations of the COHA and remind both Parties of their obligations under the COHA.

