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TO: Special Envoys to South Sudan

FROM: Chairman, Joint Technical Committee, Monitoring and Verification Mechanism,
Juba, South Sudan

DATE: 21 August 2014

SUBJECT: Report on Violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement

Your Excellencies,

Please find attached the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) report on violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (23 January 2014) in Ayod County, Jonglei State on 15 August 2014 (V011).

Gebre Egziabher Mabrahtu
Major General (Retired)
Chairman, Joint Technical Committee

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JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (JTC)

**INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF
HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN AYOD COUNTY, JONGLEI STATE
(V011)**

PRESENTED TO:

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

21 August 2014



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Executive Summary

- Following the receipt of Monitoring and Verification Team (MVT) reports that described potential violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) in Ayod County, (Jonglei State) the JTC initiated formal investigation and verification processes. The results of the investigation and verification process are contained in this report.
- Reports indicate that hostilities between Government Forces and forces loyal to Sudan People's Liberation Movement / Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) took place in the area south of Ayod town, Ayod County (Jonglei State), on 15 August 2014.
- Reports indicate that SPLM/A-IO Forces conducted a deliberate attack on Government Forces in Ayod, without provocation, but were subsequently repelled by the Government Forces with the loss of many casualties. Government Forces continue to defend their position south of Ayod town.
- As a result of investigations, and the weight of evidence collated, it is the opinion of the JTC that SPLM/A-IO violated the following articles of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, 23 January 2014, on 15 August 2014, in Ayod County (Jonglei State):
 - 1.0-1.2 (inclusive) *Declaration of Cessation of Hostilities*



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INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN AYOD COUNTY, JONGLEI STATE

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The scope of this report covers violations of the COHA in Ayod County, Jonglei State on 15 August 2014.

1.2 The aim of this report is to provide IGAD Special Envoys with an analysis of the issues surrounding the violations. And, where relevant, apportion responsibilities for violations of the COHA to either of the parties.

1.3 This report outlines the investigation and verification methodology, citing key documents in the process. It summarizes the main events surrounding the potential violations and makes an assessment based on the evidence gathered. It concludes with the JTC's opinion on the attribution of responsibilities for the violations.

2.0 Investigation / Verification Methodology

2.1 Employing Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) Standard Operating Procedures, the JTC initiated the investigation / verification sequence on 15 August 2014, following the receipt of a Flash Report from the MVT based in Bor.¹ Subsequently, the JTC formally issued Investigation and Verification Orders to the MVT based in Bor, following direction from the JTC Chairman.

2.2 The MVT conducted investigations in accordance with the orders, in order to augment the information already provided and corroborate reports received from other sources. The result of investigations is contained in Investigation and Verification Report (Bor) 004 (20 August 2014). This report is based on the combined analysis of all reports and evidence received by the JTC until 1800hrs on 20 August 2014. All relevant MVT reports are referenced in this document and available for additional scrutiny, if required.

3.0 Violations of COHA – Ayod County²

3.1 Reports indicate the following main events took place on 15 August 2014 relating to the COHA violations in Ayod County:

Approximately 0640hrs: SPLM/A-IO Forces initiate an attack against the Government Force's defensive positions close to Ayod town (exact location: Lat. N08°08'19.11" Long. E03°25'.36").

Approximately 0910hrs: The fighting subsides with SPLM/A-IO Forces withdrawing after

¹ MVT Bor Flash Report, 15 August 2014

² MVT Investigation and Verification Report 004 (Bor) 20 August 2014.



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receiving multiple casualties. Unconfirmed reports indicate that up to 120 armed personnel from SPLM/A-IO Forces were killed during the attack.

3.2 Unconfirmed reports indicate that Brigadier James Otong is the local commander of SPLM/A-IO Forces, with Lieutenant Colonel Malual Mading the commander of the Government Force's defensive position in Ayod.

4.0 Assessment

4.1 Reports indicate that SPLM/A-IO Forces deliberately attacked the Government Forces defensive position in Ayod on 15 August 2014, without prior provocation, before being repelled, and after losing many lives in the process.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 As a result of investigations, and the weight of evidence collated, it is the opinion of the JTC that SPLM/A-IO violated the following articles of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, 23 January 2014, on 15 August 2014, in Ayod County (Jonglei State):

- 1.0-1.2 (inclusive) *Declaration of Cessation of Hostilities*

5.2 It is therefore recommended that the IGAD Special Envoys take the appropriate action in response to the violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, and urge the SPLM/A-IO and GRSS to disengage and separate their forces in the area of Ayod as soon as possible.

