

## IGAD JTC MVM

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY  
ON DEVELOPMENT

AUTORITÉ INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE  
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT



TO: Special Envoys to South Sudan  
FROM: Chairman, Joint Technical Committee, Monitoring and Verification Mechanism,  
Juba, South Sudan  
DATE: 27 October 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 Panyikang County and Manyo County, Upper Nile State between 10 and 19 October 2014.

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

IGAD CONFIDENTIAL (HIGHLY SENSITIVE) REPORTS ARE NOT FOR REPRODUCTION OR  
ONWARD DISTRIBUTION WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN JTC



**IGAD JTC MVM**

**JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (JTC)**

**INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF  
HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN PANYIKANG AND MANYO COUNTIES  
UPPER NILE STATE**

**(V015)**

**PRESENTED TO:**

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

**27 October 2014**



## IGAD JTC MVM

### Executive Summary

- Following the receipt of reports from the Monitoring and Verification Teams (MVTs) based in Malakal and Melut that described violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) in Upper Nile State at Doleib Hill, Panyikang County and Thor Gwang, Manyo County, the JTC initiated formal investigation and verification processes.
- Reports indicate that hostilities between SPLM/A-IO and Government Forces took place in the area of Doleib Hill, Panyikang County on Friday 10 October and Saturday 11 October 2014, and at Thor Gwang, Manyo County on 19 October.
- 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 Upper Nile State, over the period **10-11 October 2014** in Panyikang County and **19 October 2014** in Manyo County:

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



## IGAD JTC MVM

### INVESTIGATIONS INTO VIOLATIONS OF THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT IN PANYIKANG AND MANYO COUNTIES, UPPER NILE STATE

#### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 The scope of this report covers violations of the COHA in Panyikang County, Upper Nile State on 10 and 11 October 2014 and in Manyo County, Upper Nile State on 19 October 2014

1.2 The aim of this report is to provide IGAD Special Envoys with the information acquired by the MVM about the incidents.

1.3 This report outlines the investigation and verification methodology. It summarises 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 MVT based in the UNMISS Camps in Malakal town initiated the investigation / verification sequence with a series of reports beginning with a flash report on 10 October 2014. Subsequently, the JTC formally issued Investigation and Verification Orders to the MVT in Malakal. JTC issued Investigation and Verification Orders to the MVT based in the UNMISS Camp in Melut following reports received from them on 19 October 2014.

2.2 The MVTs 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 into the Panyikang incident was an initial MVT Investigation and Verification Report submitted on 13 October and further information subsequently sent in daily and other reports. Following the initial report on 19 October the MVT in Melut sent further information on 20 and 22 October. Following both these incidents the Reports Officer from JTC together with the Security and Information officer visited Malakal and Melut respectively and were able to debrief the teams directly, and well as speak with other sources. All relevant MVT reports are referenced in this document and available for additional scrutiny if required.

#### 3.0 Violations of COHA – Panyikang County

##### 3.1 Friday 10 October 2014:

- At around 0550hrs the MVT team heard the sounds of indirect fire coming from the south of Malakal town. They made enquires at the Government Forces HQ in Malakal and were told by that there was “an exchange of fire between the Government Forces and the SPLM/A – IO” in the Doleib Hill area.



## IGAD JTC MVM

- Following enquiries made and reports received from a variety of sources later in the day, it became apparent that three Government-held defensive positions on Dolieb Hill had been captured, together with some weapons and equipment, by SPLM/A-IO Forces that had crossed the Sobat River.

### 3.2 Saturday 11 October 2014

- At 0610hrs the sound of direct and indirect fire was again heard coming from the Dolieb Hill. This was later confirmed by the Government Forces HQ in Malakal who again said there was an exchange of fire between the Government Forces and SPLM/A – IO Forces.
- Reports received by UNMISS Military Liaison Officers (MLOs) from the Government Forces at 1515hrs suggested that the Government Forces had recaptured the Doleib Hill area and cleared SPLM/A – IO Forces from the north of the Sobat river. Later information from the UNMISS MLOs and other sources confirmed that Government Forces were in possession of the Doleib Hill area and the SPLM/A-IO Forces pushed back over the Sobat River.
- The MVT was unable to contact or get any comment from the SPLM/A-IO Forces involved in the incident.
- Patrols by the MVT during the day witnessed the arrival at the airport of ammunition resupplies and the evacuation of wounded Government soldiers. They also witnessed the delivery of Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs). This continued on **Sunday 12 October** when the MVT also saw the arrival of Government reinforcements.

### 3.3 Assessment

- The MVT was able to access a great deal of information. Although there is no contact in this area with SPLM/A-IO Forces, the fact that SPLM/A-IO Forces crossed the Sobat River is in itself a clear indication that in this case they initiated hostilities and carried out offensive operations against Government Forces. Media reports indicated that a Government Forces armoured vehicle that was destroyed by SPLM/A-IO Forces north of the Sobat River.
- Reports received from the Government Forces indicated that SPLM/A-IO Forces deliberately attacked and captured Dolieb Hill, which they held for a day before being repulsed by a Government Force counter-attack. All other reports received from



## IGAD JTC MVM

international sources – specifically the relevant departments of UNMISS (MLO, UNDSS) – and national sources corroborate this version of events.

- Due to the nature of the engagement and the indication of reports from a wide variety of sources, the evidence suggests that SPLM/A-IO Forces initiated the fighting against Government Forces and were therefore responsible for the outbreak of hostilities in this area.

### 4.0 Violations of COHA – Manyo County

#### 4.1 Sunday 19 October 2014.

- The MVT team in Melut received reports of hostilities to the north. They made enquiries at the HQ of the Government Forces 7 Division where they were told that between 0400hrs and 0700hrs SPLM/A-IO Forces attacked Government Forces at Thor Gwang near Torakit, about 75 Km downriver of Melut. It was understood that the SPLM/A-IO had successfully taken Thor Gwang.
- The MVT made further enquiries with a variety of sources, in particular the UNMISS Senior Military Liaison Officer (SMLO) and obtained initial confirmation of what they had been told.
- The MVT was unable to make any contact with the SPLM/A-IO Forces in the area, and was therefore unable to get any statements from the other party involved in the hostilities.

#### 4.2 Monday 20 October 2014

- The MVT continued with their enquiries, and from several sources learnt that the Government Forces had retreated towards Kaka where there is another Government position. Fifteen Government Forces casualties were evacuated to Melut, and subsequently Paloich, before being flown to Juba.

#### 4.3 Assessment

- Everything the MVT was able to discover from a wide variety of sources indicates the reports they received from Government Forces were correct, and that SPLM/A-IO Forces managed to displace Government Forces in Thor Gwang.
- The withdrawal of Government Forces towards Kaka and the admittance that they lost control of Thor Gwang, together with all the other available evidence, suggests that SPLM/A-IO initiated hostilities. So far there have been no reports of a counter-attack by Government Forces.



## IGAD JTC MVM

### 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 Forces violated the following articles of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, 23 January 2014, over the period **10-11 October 2014** in Panyikang County (Upper Nile State):

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

5.2 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, 23 January 2014, on **19 October 2014**, in Manyo County (Upper Nile State):

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

5.3 It is therefore recommended that the IGAD Special Envoys take the appropriate action in response to the violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement

