

IGAD

INTERGOVERNMENTAL
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ON DEVELOPMENT



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOYS
FOR SOUTH SUDAN

**Summary of Latest Reports of Violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) of 23 January 2014
Investigated and verified by the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism in South Sudan
From 31 January – 28 February 2015**

Reference	Date of Violation	Location	Nature of Violation	Responsible Party
V027	1 February 2015	Unity State Bentiu	<p>Incident: Shelling in Bentiu. 2 civilians killed. On 31 January 2015 and 1 February 2015, an MVT team reported a series of clashes between the two Parties in Bentiu, Unity State. While the details of some incidents could not be confirmed, the MVM Joint Technical Committee (JTC) was able to determine, as a result of field investigations, that SPLM/A (IO) Forces were responsible for firing rockets into Bentiu town on 1 February 2015. This attack caused two civilian fatalities, including a woman.</p> <p>Articles of COHA Violated: <i>1.1 The Parties agree to cease all military actions aimed at each other</i> <i>3.1 The Parties shall refrain from attacks on the civilian population</i></p>	SPLM/A (IO) Forces
V028	10 February 2015	Unity State Bentiu	<p>Incident: Exchange of indirect fire in Bentiu An MVT reported an exchange of fire between Government and SPLM/A (IO) Forces in Bentiu, Unity State on 10 February 2015, which took place in the context of ongoing tensions. It was impossible to determine which party initiated the shelling.</p> <p>Articles of COHA Violated: <i>1.1 The Parties agree to cease all military actions aimed at each other</i></p> <p>Recommendation: The JTC recommends that IGAD Special Envoys, as a matter of urgency, urge both Parties to exercise restraint in the Bentiu area and respect the provisions of the COHA.</p>	NOT VERIFIED

V029	8-12 February 2015	Upper Nile State Nassir	<p>Incident: Clashes in Nassir; burning of buildings Nassir in Upper Nile has been the focus of verified violations in the previous two months, reflecting the tense and unstable situation in the area. (see V21, V22, V24, V25). As a result of investigations, the JTC has determined that during the latest military hostilities in Nassir, both parties committed violations of articles of the COHA.</p> <p>An exchange of mortar fire between Government and SPLM/A (IO) Forces across the Sobat river took place on 8 February 2015. The MVT field team was unable to verify which Party started this exchange.</p> <p>However, JTC determined there was sufficient evidence to confirm that the SPLM/A (IO) fired two RPG rockets at a Government supply flight as it landed on the airstrip on 12 February 2015. This constituted a clear violation of the COHA. There was also enough evidence to confirm that Government Forces then set fire to some hospital buildings and a WFP food store, constituting another violation.</p> <p>Articles of COHA Violated: <i>By Government Forces</i> 1.2.b refrain from taking any actions that could lead to military confrontations 3.1 refrain from attacks on the civilian population and commit to the protection of Human Rights, life and property</p> <p><i>By SPLM/A-IO Forces:</i> 1.1 The Parties agree to cease all military actions aimed at each other</p>	Both GRSS and SPLM/A (IO) Forces
V030	20 and 26 February, 2015	Upper Nile State Duk Duk and Renk town, Renk County	<p>Incident: Shelling of Duk Duk and Renk town, Upper Nile State As a result of investigations, the JTC determined that the SPLM/A (IO) fired shells at the government-held areas of Duk Duk on 20 February 2015 and Renk town on 26 February 2015.</p> <p>Articles of COHA Violated: 1.1 The Parties agree to cease all military actions aimed at each other 3.1 The Parties shall refrain from attacks on the civilian population</p>	SPLM/A (IO) Forces

V031	15 February 2015	Upper Nile State Malakal County	<p>Incident: Conscription of Child Soldiers After information from local sources and media reports, the JTC initiated an investigation and determined that conscription of child soldiers, aged 11-18, took place on February 15th 2015 in Wau-Shilluk payam, Malakal County, Upper Nile State; militia carried out house-to-house searches and visits to a local school. The forced conscription was carried out by Shilluk militia, affiliated to Government Forces.</p> <p>Articles of COHA Violated: <i>1.2.c The parties shall ensure all forces or armed groups under their influence, control or/and command shall observe this agreement</i> <i>3.4 The Parties shall cease acts of violence including...recruitment of child soldiers.</i></p> <p>Recommendations: The JTC recommends that the IGAD Special Envoys demand the immediate release of the conscripted children, and remind both parties of their obligations to project children according to the COHA and the international prohibition on the use of child soldiers.</p>	GRSS Forces
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Attribution and Type of Violations for the period of February 2014 to February 2015

As of March 4th 2015, in the past year the MVM has reported a total of 31 incidents which resulted in violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. This includes 16 violations by the GRSS and 19 violations by the SPLM/A (IO). Some incidents include violations by both Parties and of more than one article.

Reported Violations	Attributed to Government Forces/GRSS	Attributed to SPLM/A(IO)	Article 1 Cessation of Hostilities	Article 2 Cessation of Hostile Propaganda	Article 3 Protection of Civilians	Article 4 Humanitarian Access	Article 7 Operations of the MVT
31	16	19	25	1	18	6	3

Violation by Location	UPPER NILE	UNITY	JONGLEI	JUBA
	18	11	6	2