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OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOYS
FOR SOUTH SUDAN

Summary of Latest Reports of Violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) Investigated and verified by the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism in South Sudan From 1 March 2015 – 16 March 2015

Background: The IGAD Monitoring & Verification Mechanism (MVM) was set up in February 2014 to monitor implementation of the COHA by the two Parties to the Agreement, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and the SPLM/A In Opposition, as well as any armed groups under their control or invited to support them. The MVM has 6 Monitoring and Verification Teams (MVTs) deployed to the states of Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity, where hostilities have occurred. The Teams monitor violations through direct observation and investigation, including information-gathering from varied sources. There is an extensive process of fact-checking before each violation is verified and submitted to the Office of the IGAD Special Envoys for South Sudan, who carry out a further review. The following is a summary of the most recent violations verified by the MVM between 1-16 March 2015.

Reference	Date of Violation	Location	Nature of Violation	Responsible Party
V032	6-7 March 2015	Upper Nile State Nassir	<p>Incident: Incursion of SPLM/A (IO) Forces towards Government-held areas</p> <p>Nassir, Upper Nile State, has been the site of numerous violations in previous months, as a result of clashes between Government (GRSS) Forces and SPLM/A (IO) Forces.</p> <p>After a night of heavy shelling between the two Parties on 6 March 2015, there was an incursion by some 500 SPLM/A (IO) affiliated Forces towards Nassir town, an area under the accepted control of Government Forces. Nassir was designated a Special Arrangement Area (SAA) during the IGAD Cessation of Hostilities Implementation Workshop of November 2014 and as such, it was agreed by both Parties that it would be under the control of Government Forces. The SPLM/A (IO) incursion, which was verified by MVM, resulted in further clashes.</p> <p>The MVM Joint Technical Committee (JTC) recommends that IGAD Special Envoys issue a warning to SPLM/A (IO) regarding this incident, and advise both Parties to respect the COHA in Nassir, in order to prevent the further deterioration of security in the area.</p> <p>Articles of COHA Violated:</p> <p><i>1.1 The Parties agree to cease all military actions aimed at each other</i></p>	SPLM/A (IO) Forces

V033	5-7 March 2015	Upper Nile State Manyo and Renk Counties	<p>Incident: Shelling at Duk Duk and Renk by SPLM/A (IO) Duk Duk, Upper Nile State was originally designated a Disputed Area but verified by the MVM in December 2014 to be under the control of Government Forces.</p> <p>In the early hours of 5 March 2015, SPLM/A (IO) Forces shelled the town of Duk Duk, Renk County, then carried out a limited ground attack. The following day, SPLM/A (IO) Forces initiated an exchange of indirect fire with Government Forces in Renk. On 7 March 2015, SPLM/A (IO) Forces fired shells at Abukadra, Renk County (about 3 miles north of the UNMISS camp), from a position on the western side of the Nile in Manyo County. There is no doubt that these attacks by the SPLM/A (IO) constitute clear violations of the COHA.</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 put pressure on SPLM/A (IO) Forces to refrain from any further offensive operations in Upper Nile State.</p>	SPLM/A (IO) Forces
V034	7-16 March 2015	Upper Nile State Manyo County	<p>Incident: Government Forces advance through Manyo County and capture of Wedakona At the end of February, the MVM observed a build-up of Government (GRSS) troops in Manyo County, Upper Nile State. On 7 March 2015, Government Forces attacked from Kaka clearing in northern Manyo County and captured the area of Wedakona from SPLM/A (IO) Forces. Government Forces publicly claimed they had taken Wedakona and the SPLM/A (IO) publicly admitted they had withdrawn from it.</p> <p>Wedakona town, Mayo County, Upper Nile State, was designated an SPLM/A (IO) Special Arrangement Area (SAA) during the IGAD Cessation of Hostilities Implementation Workshop of November 2014. As such, it was agreed by both Parties that Wedakona be under the control of the SPLM/A (IO). The advance into northern Manyo County and the deliberate capture of Wedakona by Government Forces constitutes a clear violation of the COHA.</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 put pressure on Government Forces to refrain from all offensive military action.</p>	GRSS Forces

V035	12 March 2015	Upper Nile State, Nassir	<p>Incident: Declared use of anti-personnel mines by Government Forces and threat to fire into the UNMISS compound.</p> <p>On 12 March 2015, a meeting was called by senior GRSS Forces officers in Nassir, Upper Nile State at a Government-held camp on the Sobat River, and attended by observers of the IGAD MVM and staff members of UNMISS (UN Mission in South Sudan). During this meeting, a GRSS Forces Officer stated clearly that anti-personnel mines had been deployed in the area around Nassir. Government Forces officers also alleged that SPLM/A (IO) soldiers were being harboured in the UNMISS base, which had resulted in bullets being fired at the base by Government Forces. He warned that Government Forces would continue to fire on the UNMISS base to attack SPLM/A (IO) soldiers harboured there.</p> <p>The GRSS has, to date, failed to respond to a formal request from the JTC for clarification on the claimed use of anti-personnel mines. Whilst the actual deployment of anti-personnel mines has not been verified, the claim that they are being used by Government Forces constitutes a blatant disregard for not only the COHA, but for international conventions. It is the clear opinion of the JTC that the use of anti-personnel mines would constitute a significant threat to the civilian population and an alarming escalation of the present conflict. Threats to fire at a UNMISS base also constitute a clear violation of the COHA.</p> <p>Articles of COHA Violated:</p> <p>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... 7.2. The MVT shall also: a) enjoy the full protection of the Parties. b) enjoy complete freedom of movement and unhindered access</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>It is recommended that the Special Envoys take urgent and robust action regarding the claim by Government Forces that anti-personnel mines have been deployed in Nassir. This includes a demand that Government Forces remove the mines from the Nassir area and take the appropriate action against the officers involved. It is further recommended that the Special Envoys issue a strong statement against the use of any sort of landmines by the Parties to the present conflict. It is also recommended that the Special Envoys remind Government Forces about the status of the UNMISS camp, including its use as a base by the IGAD Monitoring & Verification Team, and the Party's duty under the COHA and Status of Mission Agreement (SOMA) to guarantee the security of the MVT in Nassir and support them in their tasks.</p>	GRSS Forces
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Attribution and Type of Violations for the period of 28 February 2014 to 16 March 2015

As of March 16th 2015, in the past year the MVM has reported a total of 35 incidents which resulted in violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. This includes 18 violations by the GRSS and 21 violations by the SPLM/A (IO). Some incidents include violations by both Parties and of more than one article and in more than one state.

Incidents including 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
35	18	21	29	1	19	6	4

Violation by Location	UPPER NILE	UNITY	JONGLEI	JUBA
	22	11	6	2