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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 Reporting Period: 1-27 May 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 report of the most recent verified violation.

Reference	Date of Violation	Location	Nature of Violation	Responsible Party
V040	15 to 21 May 2015	Malakal, Melut, Upper Nile State	<p>SPLM/A (IO) Offensives in Melut and Malakal</p> <p>On 15 May, SPLM/A (IO) Forces attacked Government Forces' positions on Dolieb Hill south of Malakal. Later on the same day, SPLM/A (IO) Forces, together with Shilluk militia loyal to Maj. Gen. Johnson Olony, attacked Government Forces' positions in Malakal and forced them out. SPLM/A (IO) Forces then occupied the position.</p> <p>It has been evident in recent weeks, that Maj. Gen. Johnson Olony and his militia have switched allegiance from Government Forces to SPLM/A (IO) Forces.</p> <p>On 18 May, a spokesman for the SPLM/A (IO) stated that SPLM/A (IO) Forces were planning to attack the Paloich oilfields. On 19 May, SPLM/A (IO) Forces launched an attack against Melut, capturing the town after heavy fighting. Government Forces counter-attacked the following day and re-took it, again after heavy fighting.</p>	SPLM/A (IO) Forces

		<p>During the fighting, mortar rounds and bullets impacted in and around the UNMISS camp, causing civilian casualties amongst the IDPs sheltering in the POC. At least 8 civilians were killed in the crossfire, and some 16 people wounded.</p> <p>Whilst it is impossible to say which side fired the fatal rounds, the fighting was initiated by the SPLM/A (IO) and these casualties were therefore a result of SPLM/A (IO) actions.</p> <p>It is the clear opinion of the JTC that the attacks against Malakal and Melut were part of deliberate and planned offensives by SPLM/A (IO) and a clear and significant violation of the COHA.</p> <p>Articles of COHA violated</p> <p>Article 1.1: ‘The Parties hereby agree to cease all military actions aimed at each other’. The deliberate and planned offensive operations started by SPLM/A (IO) Forces in Upper Nile State constitute a clear and significant violation of the COHA.</p> <p>Article 3.1: ‘The Parties shall refrain from attacks on the civilian population...’. Attacking an area with a well-known concentration of IDPs constitutes a violation of the COHA.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>The JTC welcomed the statement made by the IGAD Special Envoys on 16 May strongly condemning the SPLM/A (IO) for a serious violation of the COHA.</p> <p>The JTC recommends that the Special Envoys to further take all steps to ensure that the Parties understand their responsibilities under International Law and under the COHA, to protect the lives and property of civilians, and to hold to account, those responsible for violations.</p>	
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Attribution and Type of Violations for the period of 28 February 2014 to 27 May 2015

As of May 27, 2015, in the past 15 months the MVM has reported a total of **40** incidents which resulted in violations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. This includes **20** violations by the GRSS and **24** 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
40	20	24	34	1	20	6	7

Violation by Location	UPPER NILE	UNITY	JONGLEI	JUBA
	23	14	7	2

NOTE: A summary of all verified IGAD MVM violations can be found on the website of the Office of the IGAD Special Envoys

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